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ANTIGUA:
APPRENTICED AFRICANS.

RETURN to an Address to HIS MAJESTY, dated 9 August 1832 :—*for*,

COPY of any REPORT of a Committee of the Council and Assembly of *Antigua*,
respecting the State of the APPRENTICED AFRICANS Liberated by the Crown in
1828, and of the Manner in which they employ themselves.

Colonial Department, Downing-Street, }
15 August 1832. }

R. W. HAY.

(*Mr. Burge.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
16 August 1832.

SCHEDULE.

- 1.—Copy of a Despatch from Major-General Sir Patrick Ross to Viscount Goderich, dated Antigua, 15 November 1831 :—(With Six Enclosures) - - - p. 3
- 2.—Copy of a Despatch from Viscount Goderich to Major-General Sir Patrick Ross, dated Downing-Street, 3 January 1832 - - - - - p. 18
- 3.—Copy of a Despatch from Viscount Goderich to Major-General Sir Patrick Ross, dated Downing-Street, 4 January 1832 - - - - - p. 20
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- 5.—Copy of a Despatch from Viscount Goderich to Major-General Sir Patrick Ross, dated Downing-Street, 15 June 1832 - - - - - p. 24

ANTIGUA :—APPRENTICED AFRICANS.

COPY of any REPORT of a Committee of the Council and Assembly of *Antigua*, respecting the State of the APPRENTICED AFRICANS Liberated by the Crown in 1828, and of the Manner in which they employ themselves.

— No. 1. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Major-General Sir *Patrick Ross* to Viscount *Goderich* :—(With Six Enclosures).

My Lord,

Government House, Antigua,
15 November 1831.

IT is necessary I should bring under your Lordship's notice a copy of certain Resolutions which passed the House of Assembly of this island on the 10th instant, and of a Report which has been prepared by a joint Committee of the Legislature in consequence of those Resolutions.

No. 2.
No. 3.

The Resolutions have been grounded on a recent communication from the Colonial Agent, Mr. Browne, dated the 10th of September, a copy of which is also enclosed; and your Lordship will observe that the whole of this extraordinary proceeding on the part of the Assembly has originated in the circumstance of Lord Howick having, on the 17th of last August, in the House of Commons, referred to a letter written by me to Sir George Murray, relative to the liberated Africans, and dated so far back as the 25th of May 1829.

No. 1.

I also beg to enclose copies of the only two letters I have ever addressed to the Secretary of State relative to the liberated Africans; the first of those on the 17th of January 1829, reporting the measures which had been adopted by me in Council in obedience to the King's commands, and the other that of the 25th of May of the same year. By these it will be seen how far I have been from "conveying to the Secretary of State for the Colonies any information which has led to conclusions vitally affecting the interests of the colony, or materially at variance with every known fact in relation to the subject of the Agent's communication of the 10th September last," or from raising any fallacious expectations that the negroes in question were willing to apply themselves to agricultural labour, or were in any degree advanced either in civilization, or in moral and religious instruction; as to my second letter, it was written to satisfy Sir George Murray that from the *facts* therein stated, and which cannot be controverted, there was reason to believe that those African apprentices who had received their papers of dismissal would not again become burthensome to the Crown.

Nos. 4 & 5.

With respect to the Report of the Committee contained in No. 2, I have only to observe, that up to the date of my letter of May 1829, and for two subsequent months, not one of those people had been committed by a magistrate to gaol, nor had there been a single application for permission to restore their papers.

The evidence given by Mr. Bindon, in document No. 10, attached to the Report, in the 6th clause of that paper, is remarkably at variance with the return I have received from the Deputy Provost-Marshal, by which it appears, that from the 17th of January 1829, to the 11th of this present month, a period of nearly three years, 14 only of these people have been committed to gaol, at the same time I feel no hesitation in confirming the Report generally, as to the unhappily demoralized state and idle habits of life of the liberated Africans.

No. 6.

The Resolutions of the House of Assembly have been passed without a single document before them on which to ground the unfair and unmerited imputation against me which the first of them contains, and I have only been prevented

from expressing myself to that body in terms of strong indignation upon a proceeding so hostile and unfounded, from the desire of avoiding as much as possible any collision which might prove prejudicial to the public tranquillity, or embarrassing to your Lordship and His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Patrick Ross.*

(Enclosure 1 in No. 1.)

LETTER from *A. Browne*, esq., Colonial Agent, to the Commissioners of Correspondence, Antigua.

Pembroke Square, Kensington,
10th Sept. 1831.

Honourable Gentlemen,

WHEN I had the honour of writing by the last packet, under date of the 18th of August, I was not aware that a similar order to that which I announced to you as having been lately sent out to Demerara for the emancipation of the slaves belonging to the Crown, had been previously sent out to Antigua, and acted upon there partially in 1828, and more generally in this year. Lord Howick, however (on the very evening, I believe, of the date of my letter), when communicating to the House of Commons that directions had been given by His Majesty's Government for the emancipation of all the slaves in the Crown Colonies, the property of the Crown, added, that the same measure had been carried into effect in the Island of Antigua in the year 1828, when 36 slaves, the property of the Crown, had been liberated by the authority of the Crown, and in the present year not less than 371 had been liberated in the same manner; and that he had received a despatch from his Excellency the Governor of Antigua, which stated, "that they had been industriously employed in providing for their own support, and that, although their number was 371, no case of crime had occurred amongst them, nor were there any complaints of poverty."

I own I was not aware of either of the circumstances so stated by Lord Howick, nor indeed was I aware that the Crown possessed a property in 36 slaves in the year 1828, or a property in 371 in the year 1831; both these circumstances were new to me. As far as regards the number liberated in 1828, I am so much at a loss to account for that number, that I strongly suspect an unintentional error has been committed in this respect; and, as far as regards the 371 liberated this year, it strikes me this fact is incorrectly, or not sufficiently, stated and explained. I resided in Antigua about 12 years; and though, in some humble measure, acquainted with the then state of things, I feel a confident persuasion that the Crown had not the legal or equitable right to a single slave for the whole of that time. I have traced the matter, in my own mind, over and over again, and I am only the more confirmed in my first impression, that the Crown had not the right of property in a single slave in that space of time. Still, it may be, that since I have been absent from the island, the Crown might have acquired the right and title in 36; though I am a little puzzled to account for that number, recollecting and believing that, for the 12 years I was there, the Crown did not possess one. I mention the circumstance, from the mere possibility of an error having crept into this statement. There is something, however, in the statement respecting the 371 liberated this year, that seems to me more unequivocally to require further explanation. In the first place, did the Crown possess this property in the year 1828, if so, why were they not then liberated? If they did not possess it, how has it procured this property since? Has it been by escheat or forfeiture, or has it been under the capture of African negroes, under the authority of the Abolition Act?

It is material that this inquiry should be answered, because the nature of the property, the legal right and title to the 371 negroes rests upon the fact: if they came to the Crown by escheat, they were the property of the Crown, and would be dealt with at their pleasure; but if they came by capture under the Abolition Act, they were not the property of the Crown, and could not be made free by the like act of grace which made the 36 free in 1828; they were

were under the control and management merely of the Crown, but not their property; they had no legal right or title which they could abandon. If I am right in supposing that they were captured Africans, undoubtedly the case was not correctly or sufficiently stated by Lord Howick. He leads the public to think that the Crown had relinquished a claim or right of servitude in these 371 negroes, whereas, in point of fact, they had no claim or right of servitude, and consequently no emancipation to bestow.

It is material that the most accurate information should be had on these points, because inferences have been drawn from this statement on the part of Lord Howick, in connection with the very favourable report of their industrious habits and good conduct, from the high authority of your much respected Governor, tending to show that cultivation can be maintained under a system of free labour, and that the time is arrived, when, from civilization and good conduct on the part of the slaves, general and unqualified emancipation may take place, consistently with the spirit of the resolutions of Parliament in the year 1823.

How necessary, then, that the fact from which these inferences are drawn should be correctly known, these mighty results to the interest of the colonies. The anti-slavery society have circulated the statement in the several monthly magazines and other periodical publications under their influence, and already we hear that the long depending question between the colonies and the anti-slavery party, as to the practicability of cultivating the colonies by free labour, is decided by the authority of this statement, and moreover that the slave population are so far advanced in civilization, good conduct and moral habits, as to render general emancipation safe and practicable.

If these conclusions are drawn from what has been stated by Lord Howick, it is surely most necessary that the facts should be accurately known, not merely as regards their liberation, but as regards the nature and title of the Crown, and moreover the nature of that employment and those industrious habits which place them above the influence of crime and the complaints of poverty. If they do not employ themselves as field labourers, no argument can be deduced from their industry in other employments favourable to the practicability of cultivation by means of free labour. Among the Parliamentary Papers printed not very long ago, there is an extract of a letter from the Judge of the Court of Vice Admiralty of Antigua to George Wyke, esq., the collector of the customs, under date the 8th of May 1828, in which the then character of these African negroes was very differently described by that distinguished judge. He represents them "as ignorant, immoral, and, in short, savage:" the letter is before me, I quote the very words. He tells the collector, "they ought to be treated like great children, and led by some humane course of correction into a more decent and respectable line of deportment."

Are these the negroes which in 1825 were represented by the judge as requiring to be led by correction into a respectable and decent line of deportment, the self-same negroes which are represented in 1831 to be free from the commission of crime and above the complaints of poverty?—There was great room for improvement, no doubt, between the years 1825 and 1831; but still, looking at the vast difference in the description of character and condition, a difference as wide as the Poles asunder, one is almost led to doubt whether they relate to the same persons.

If you should judge this subject as important, as it appears to me, you will see the necessity of giving me every full and necessary information under the authority of the two houses. I am far from supposing there was any intentional omission or error in what has been said or written upon the subject either on your side of the water or this. Your excellent Governor is as highly esteemed here as he is beloved with you, and Lord Howick is also above even the suspicion of an intentional mis-statement; still there has been an inaccuracy in the statement, or a want of distinction in the classes said to have been made free in 1828 and 1831, and an insufficient explanation of those industrious employments which have raised them above crime and poverty. It is with a view to a revision of the first statement, and to the correction of any misunderstanding of it, that I have addressed this letter to you.

I enclose copies of two memorials from the West India agents to the Government; one with reference to the duties under the 6th Geo. 4, the other to the

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four-and-a-half duties. These memorials have been presented to His Majesty's Ministers, but no answer had been as yet received.

I send a Scotch newspaper containing the best article on the present state of the colonies that I ever met with.

I have, &c.
(signed) *A. Browne.*

(Enclosure 2 in No. 1.)

EXTRACT from the Journals of the House of Assembly,
10th November 1831.

ON motion of Mr. Taylor, duly seconded, the Speaker quitted the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, on the communication of the Colonial Agent of the 10th September last (Mr. Ottley in the Chair). The Speaker resumed the Chair, and the Chairman reported that the following Resolutions had been adopted by the Committee; viz.

Resolved, That the Committee cannot but feel extreme regret at learning from the Colonial Agent, that information has been conveyed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, which has led to conclusions so vitally affecting the interest of this colony, and so materially at variance with every known fact in relation to the subject of the Agent's communication of the 10th September last, now under consideration of the Assembly:

Resolved, That in the absence of more authentic documents, we consider it to be our duty, without however imputing anywhere any intentional misrepresentation or omission, to take every measure for collecting the fullest information with regard to the present state and numbers not only of the Crown negroes said to have been emancipated, but also of the Africans who have been liberated under the Abolition Act, in order that His Majesty's Government may be made more effectually acquainted with the actual past and present state of such slaves and Africans.

On motion made and seconded, the foregoing Resolutions were allowed and seconded by the House.

On motion by Mr. Attorney-General, duly seconded, the following message was ordered to be sent to the Board of Council:

The Gentlemen of the Assembly to his Honour the President and Council.

A despatch from the Colonial Agent of the 10th of September last, relative to certain liberated Africans, having been taken into consideration in this House, and the same appearing to contain matter of the deepest importance to the interests of this and the other colonies, we suggest to your Board the urgent necessity of an appointment of a joint committee of the two Houses, to take this matter into consideration, (with a view to reply to such communication of the Agent by the present packet,) with power to such committee to send for and examine witnesses, and to call for books and papers in the prosecution of their inquiry; and should your Board concur herein, this House has nominated the Hon. John D. Taylor, the Hon. Samuel Otto Baijer, the Hon. Francis F. Brown, George S. Martin, and Owen Pell, esquires, to join such member or members as your Board may please to select on the occasion.

(signed) *Thos. F. Nibbs,*
Speaker, *pro tempore.*

His Honour the President and Council to the Gentlemen of the Assembly.

Gentlemen,

The despatch from the Colonial Agent of the 10th September last, relative to certain liberated Africans, having been also taken into consideration at this Board, and the same containing matter of the deepest importance to the interests of this and the other colonies, it concurs with your House in the urgent necessity of appointing a joint committee of the two Houses to take the matter into consideration, (with a view to reply to such communication by the present packet), with power to such committee to send for and examine witnesses, and to call for books and papers in the prosecution of their inquiry.

This

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This Board has nominated the Hon. Samuel Harman and the Hon. Bertie E. Jarvis to meet the Hon. John D. Taylor, the Hon. Samuel Otto Baijer, the Hon. Francis F. Brown, George S. Martin, and Owen Pell, esquires, the members appointed by your House to form such committee.

By command,
(signed) *Thos. S. Warner,*
Clerk of Council.

Council Chamber, 10th Nov. 1831. Extracted from the Journals,
(signed) *N. Humphrys, C. A.*

(Enclosure 3 in No. 1.)

REPORT from the Joint Committee of the Legislature, with Enclosures.

THE joint committee of the two Houses of Legislature, appointed to take into consideration the despatch from the Colonial Agent of the 10th September last, relative to certain Crown negroes said to have been emancipated, and also of the Africans who have been recently liberated under the Abolition Act, beg leave to report, that they are unable to trace by any evidence or documents that any Crown slaves were liberated by authority of the Crown in the year 1828.

Your committee however find, that 13 out of 17 slaves which had escheated to the Crown about the year 1822, were in the month of January 1829 made free by the authority of the Crown; and your committee beg to refer most particularly to the evidence of the Hon. Paul Horsford, the Escheator-General, as to the moral character and conduct of the said slaves, more especially to the terms in which he describes them, as "idle, abandoned profligates, and that he has in various instances, in the course of his correspondence with the Colonial Executive, expressed himself to the same effect."

Your committee have also received an official letter from Mr. John Gilbert, the naval storekeeper, to which they beg to refer, in which it is stated, that although he possesses a recollection of the establishment for more than 50 years, only seven slaves have ever been manumitted by the Crown, and this took place in May 1831.

Your committee, in reference to the moral character and conduct of this description of persons, beg to point out the evidence of Mr. Roach, the keeper of the gaol, and also the evidence of Mr. Jones, the superintendent of the criminal gang, by which it appears that many of those slaves have been at different times sentenced to work in the criminal gang.—See Mr. Roach's evidence and Mr. Jones's evidence.

Your committee beg to state, that of these 24 persons, the only Crown slaves in the island, 20 only have ever been liberated by the authority of the Crown.

Your committee now come to the statement in the Colonial Agent's letter, that 371 Crown slaves were made free in the present year: to this assertion they feel themselves bound to give the most positive contradiction. They are aware that a number of captured Africans have received papers conferring conditional freedom, under the authority of His Majesty's Government, in the month of January 1829, and to these persons alone can your committee trace any connection with the statement contained in the letter of the Colonial Agent. By the annexed document, No. 6, it appears that 262 Africans received free papers in 1829; that 67 are still retained and entirely maintained at the expense of Government; that 22 are creole slaves, who were libelled in the court of Vice Admiralty for some supposed illegal practices by their owners; 17 were condemned, being unclaimed, the remaining five were acquitted by the judge in this country, the acquittal was affirmed by Lord Stowell, and the owners were indemnified at the expense of His Majesty's Government, and that eight are fugitive slaves from Guadaloupe.

And here your committee are called upon to draw the serious attention of the Houses of Legislature, as to the character, conduct, and general course of life of these persons, as derived from the evidences attached to this Report.

In the first place, your committee beg to notice the important fact, that these persons, since the year 1821, have been maintained by His Majesty's Government at an expense amounting to upwards of 40,000*l.* currency. While, then, this enormous sum has been expended by His Majesty's Government in supporting these unfortunate people in indiscriminate idleness, it does not appear that the smallest provision has been made for their spiritual care, religious and moral instruction. The small number of these people who have made any progress, are indebted to the benevolence of the Moravian Mission for their instruction, and it is amongst these that any examples of good behaviour and industry are to be found. Can it then be expected that such persons, so lately removed from savage life, and unimproved by education, should readily and immediately fall into a course of industrious living and habits? But your committee beg to state most decidedly that the fact is so directly the reverse, that it is to be lamented, that even where the African has been apprenticed so long as to acquire a useful knowledge of some handicraft, the committee have learnt but of one instance in which he has, after his liberation, maintained himself by the exercise of his trade.

Your committee, in conclusion, consider it lamentable that the natural disinclination of the African to agricultural labour, should have been encouraged by a positive stipulation in the terms of all their various apprenticeships, that he should not be required to till the earth. (*See No. 8.*) So that up to the present time, there does not exist a single instance of a liberated African cultivating the soil.

As regards this singular production of indenture of apprenticeship, your committee cannot but advert to the absurdity of framing regulations to be observed in a distant part of His Majesty's dominions, without possessing a due and fit knowledge of those local circumstances by which alone those rules could be rendered useful and applicable. It is not a little striking that stipulations should be made to enforce that these African apprentices should alone be instructed in crafts, trades and employments, whereas there are no kind of manufactures carried on in these colonies by which they might eventually subsist themselves, and that restrictions should have been imposed to prevent their being instructed in the only employment by which their services could be rendered useful to the community and themselves, that is, the cultivation of the soil.

In submitting this Report, and the examinations taken before the committee, we cannot but feel that it is altogether imperfect, there not being sufficient time before the sailing of the packet to elicit all the points of necessary information.

Committee Room, }
14th November 1831. }

(signed) *Sam. Harman*, Chairman.
B. C. Jarvis.
John Duncombe Taylor.
Samuel Otto Baijer.
F. F. Brown.
O. Pell.

A true Copy, taken from the Minutes of the Council.

(signed) *Thomas Shirley Warner*,
Clerk of the Council.

(No. 1 in Enclosure 3.)

The Honourable *Paul Horsford*, Escheator-General, Examined.

WAS appointed to the office early in the year 1820; was not aware, on coming into the office, that there were any slaves in the possession of his predecessor, but soon after learnt that there was a man who had been in charge of his predecessor, but who had been sent to the criminal gang; that his period of punishment was expired, and that he would be delivered over to the escheator. The name of this slave was Joe Thaxter. That he was informed that there were more slaves belonging to the same family as Joe Thaxter, that had escheated

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escheated at the same time, in consequence of their former owner, Mary Thaxter, dying intestate and without heirs. That these slaves were wandering about the island, but from time to time appeared to the number of seven.

That a Commission of Escheat was held on the 9th day of August 1822, when a further addition of eight slaves were found to be escheated to the Crown; subsequently these numbers were increased by two births, making the total number of 17.

That 13 out of the above 17 slaves have been manumitted within the last three years by the Governor, by instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department; the other four being old and infirm, were left to be placed in charge of the collector of His Majesty's customs, in case they required.

That he does not know of any one of these slaves being, since their manumission, employed in agricultural labour, and is confident that none of them have been so employed, but on the contrary, they have always been idle, abandoned profligates; and that he has in various instances, in the course of his correspondence with the Colonial Executive, expressed himself to the same effect.

(No. 2 in Enclosure 3.)

Sir,

Naval Yard, 11th November 1831.

In answer to your letter of the present date, I have to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that my recollection of this establishment includes a period of more than 50 years, during which time not one slave belonging to the Crown, and employed in this department, has been manumitted, excepting those (seven in number) manumitted by his Excellency in May last.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Gilbert*, Naval Storekeeper.

Charles Taylor, esq., Private Secretary, &c. &c.
Government House.

(No. 3 in Enclosure 3.)

Mr. *Roach* Examined.

1. Abraham Roach.
2. Officer of police; was for many years keeper of the public gaol.
3. Ceased to be keeper of gaol in March 1829.
4. Has had many and frequent opportunities of observing the conduct of the liberated Africans.
5. A few individuals among them are well-behaved and industrious, but the generality are drunken, disorderly, riotous and idle; and believes that the major part of the robberies in town are perpetrated by them.
6. Have no regular means of support, but live from hand to mouth.
7. Remembers an instance of one of them, Tom Ronan, being convicted of larceny, and flogged and imprisoned.
8. Never heard an instance of any having been employed in agricultural pursuits; verily believes that there never were any so employed; nor would they even so employ themselves under any circumstances.
9. Knows them to be idle, dissolute and disorderly.
10. Does not know one employed in any trade, though several were apprenticed to handicraftsmen.
11. Remembers 20 of the Africans (when apprentices) being put in gaol for an attempt on Collector Whey's life about the year ———.
12. Looks upon them as a curse to the island.
13. Recollects on several occasions that the slaves belonging to His Majesty in the dock-yard, having been committed to the criminal gang under magistrates' warrants.

(No. 4 in Enclosure 3.)

John Henry Jones Examined.

Is superintendent of the criminal gang; that he is well acquainted with the African apprentices, about 60 of them were employed by the public in 1826; that their attendance was most irregular, never exceeding about 26; that they came and went as they pleased, and were under no control; that the object was to make their time available to their maintenance, but that they were dismissed as useless and intractable; that his acquaintance in the town is very extensive, and that he does not know one single instance of an African apprentice who served their time to trades earning their livelihood by working at such trade; that they were addicted to eating dead dogs, raw fish, and all sorts of carrion, in preference to cooked food; that the slaves belonging to the Crown at the dock-yard were repeatedly sent to the criminal gang by Commissioner Lewis and the neighbouring magistrates, for thefts of various kinds in His Majesty's dock-yard; that he is not aware of one individual employed in agricultural pursuits; that the hospital provided for them by Government is the greatest possible nuisance to the town, and, in fact, a den of filth, profligacy, plunder and drunkenness; that porters and occasional jobbing constitutes the ostensible employment of the males, and huckstering of the females; that many live with the slaves on the estates.

(No. 5 in Enclosure 3.)

By Command of the King.

THESE are to make known to all whom it may or doth concern, That an African, has become entitled to freedom under the Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade, and that henceforward he will be permitted to live in the colony precisely on the same conditions as any other free person of African birth or descent, subject only to the following exception, viz. :

The 31st section of the Statute 5 Geo. 4, c. 113, having authorized His Majesty in Council to make all necessary regulations for the disposal of apprentices after the indenture has expired or been cancelled, so as to prevent their becoming chargeable to the colony in which they have been bound apprentices, the within named African is hereby apprised that His Majesty will not exercise the powers thus entrusted to him by Parliament, so long as his own continued good conduct may render it unnecessary to resort to any measures of coercion; but he is given distinctly to understand, that if, within the period of seven years, he shall be convicted of theft, or any other offence against the peace of society, or should be found seeking subsistence as a common beggar or vagrant, or should become chargeable upon any parochial or public rates, except in cases of sickness or other inevitable accident, measures will be adopted for his removal from this colony to some other part of His Majesty's dominions, where he will be constrained to labour for his subsistence.

Given under my hand and seal, at the Government House, Antigua, this day of January, in the year of our Lord 1829, and in the ninth year of His Majesty's reign.

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(No. 6 in Enclosure 3.)

ABSTRACT showing the Disposal of all the Liberated Africans, Creoles and others, named in the foregoing List, under the Collector's Charge, on the 5th January 1829.

African males - - - - 95		Africans, males, capable of supporting themselves, and now free - - 79	
African females - - - - 119		African females - ditto - - 109	
Children of ditto - - - - 120		Children of ditto - ditto - - 69	
Orphan children - - - - 7		Orphan children - ditto - - 5	262
	341	Africans, males, incapable of supporting themselves, and to be maintained by Government - - 4	
Creoles, males - - - - 11		Africans, females - ditto - - 10	
females - - - - 5		Children of ditto - ditto - - 51	
Children of ditto - - - - 6		Orphan children - ditto - - 2	67
	22	Africans, males, apprentices who have two years to serve - - - - - 12	
Fugitives - ditto - - - - 8		Creoles, males, capable of supporting themselves, and now free - 11	
	371	Creoles, females - ditto - - 5	
		Children of ditto - ditto - - 6	22
		Fugitives, males, capable of supporting themselves, and now free - - 8	8
			371

(signed) *B. Parkhurst,*
Acting Collector.

(No. 7 in Enclosure 3.)

Mr. *Simpson* Examined.

1. William Simpson.
2. Acting Collector of His Majesty's Customs at St. John's.
3. Has acted about three years.
4. Has superintended the liberated Africans nearly 12 years.
5. In January 1829 there were 371, as follows :

African Males - - - - -	95
Females - - - - -	119
Children - - - - -	120
Orphans - - - - -	7
	<u>341</u>

Condemned to His Majesty :

Creole Males - - - - -	11
Females - - - - -	5
Children - - - - -	6
	<u>22</u>
Fugitives, Males, from Guadaloupe - - - - -	8
	<u>371</u>

Received free papers, Males - - - - -	79
Females - - - - -	109
Children - - - - -	69
Orphans - - - - -	5
	<u>262</u>
Left on hand - - - - -	79
	<u>79</u>

Decrepit, and unable of supporting themselves :

Males - - - - -	4
Females - - - - -	10
Children - - - - -	51
Orphans - - - - -	2
	<u>67</u> unliberated.
Two years apprenticeship yet to serve - - - - -	12
	<u>79</u>

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Free papers given to	-	-	-	262 Africans.
				22 Creoles.
				8 Fugitives.
				<hr/>
				292 - 5th Jan. 1829.
				12 in 1831.
				<hr/>
				304 Total.

6. Freedom conditional (*vide* Schedule No. 5).

7. Out of the 262 there are	-	-	-	32 dead.
Out of the decrepit and infirm	-	-	-	4
				<hr/>
				36

8. Births amongst the	-	-	-	262.
				67.

9. General employment of men as porters, and occasional fishermen.

10. Does not know of one employed in agriculture; does not believe that any are; and it was expressly stipulated by the indenture that no apprentice should, on any account whatsoever, be employed in any agricultural pursuit (*vide* 8); has heard of an application for that purpose on the part of Mr. Martin, which was refused by the parties; has heard of several instances where they live upon the estates, and supported by the slaves.

11. Number whose free papers have been taken back, 6 :

Male	-	-	-	-	1
Females	-	-	-	-	5
					<hr/>
					6
Children	-	-	-	-	6
					<hr/>
					12

12. Six have been received back, at the Governor's instance, as unable to exist from their own exertions, and miserable objects. Many more have applied, and have been rejected as being not quite so destitute. Six infants have been given up to the collector by their mothers as being unable to support them. Peter was picked up dead drunk in the streets three months ago.

13. St. Jose Animos	-	-	-	22 March 1811	-	-	-	211 slaves.
Eldos de Mayo	-	-	-	7 Dec. 1813	-	-	-	52 -
Brig Carlos	-	-	-	11 April 1814	-	-	-	402 -
La Belle	-	-	-	3 Oct. 1815	-	-	-	512 -
Brig Hermoine	-	-	-	19 Dec. 1818	-	-	-	211 -
Brig Louisa	-	-	-	21 Oct. 1820	-	-	-	130 -
Schooner Ocean	-	-	-	22 Jan. 1824	-	-	-	3 -
Schooner Alexandriana	-	-	-	7 Jan. 1819	-	-	-	1 -
Seized	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4 -
Brought by Captain Woolcombe, R. N.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 -
from Tortola	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8 -
Seized by Mr. Parkhurst	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 -

1,541

1814	-	-	to the Army	-	-	-	202
1815	-	-	ditto	-	-	-	512
1818	-	-	ditto	-	-	-	210
1813	-	-	ditto	-	-	-	30
1811	-	-	ditto	-	-	-	61
1820	-	-	ditto	-	-	-	2
Females	-	-	ditto	-	-	-	170
Sent to Trinidad	-	-	-	-	-	-	61
							<hr/>
							1,248

In 1822 there were - - - - - 293

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		<i>Currency.</i>		
		£.	s.	d.
In 1821, 1822 and 1823, the casual expenses amounted to	-	2,494	17	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
From 5 April 1824 to 5 April 1825	- - - -	3,651	11	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
		<hr/>		
		£. 6,146	9	4
There were on the 5 July 1825	- - - 175 Africans.			
Expense of subsistence from April to July	- - -	1,406	-	-
		<hr/>		
	Africans.			
July to October - 1825	- 206 - -	Subsistence	1,977	15 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
October to January 1826	- 274 - -	ditto	1,644	19 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
January to April - -	- 303 - -	ditto	1,727	9 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
April to July - - -	- 298 - -	ditto	1,740	18 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
July to October - - -	- 314 - -	ditto	3,943	10 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
October to January 1827	- 316 - -	ditto	2,329	- 6 $\frac{2}{3}$
January to April - -	- 317 - -	ditto	1,768	9 - $\frac{1}{2}$
April to July - - -	- 323 - -	ditto	1,793	2 7
July to October - - -	- 340 - -	ditto	1,940	15 - $\frac{1}{2}$
October to January 1828	- 340 - -	ditto	2,033	8 3
January to April - -	- 340 - -	ditto	1,814	10 6
April to July - - 1828	- 343 - -	ditto	2,107	6 6
July to October - - -	- 338 - -	ditto	1,668	6 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
October to January 1829	- 346 - -	ditto	1,859	19 5
January to April - - -	- 67 - -	ditto	400	19 -
April to July - - -	- 69 - -	ditto	338	2 7
July to October - - -	- 69 - -	ditto	290	15 3
October to January 1830	- 64 - -	ditto	393	9 10
January to April - - -	- 67 - -	ditto	346	17 9
April to July - - -	- 67 - -	ditto	416	11 6
July to October - - -	- 70 - -	ditto	391	17 6
October to January 1831	- 83 - -	ditto	418	9 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
January to April - - -	- 58 - -	ditto	558	12 6
April to July - - -	- 59 - -	ditto	358	19 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
July to October - - -	- 62 - -	ditto	344	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
		<hr/>		
Making a Total of Expenditure, from 1821 to		£. 40,168 19 5 $\frac{1}{2}$		
10 October 1831, of - - - - -		- } <hr/>		

(No. 8 in Enclosure 3.)

THIS Indenture made the _____ day of _____ in the _____ year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the _____ by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, defender of the faith, and in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and _____ between _____ the collector of His Majesty's customs for the port of _____ in the island of _____ by appointment and authority of our said Lord the King, of the one part, and _____ of the island of _____ of the other part, witnesseth, that the said _____ according to the form of the statute made and passed in the 47th year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, intituled "An Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade," and of an order of his said late Majesty in Council, made and bearing date the 16th day of March 1808, hath put out and bound, and doth hereby put out and bind, a certain male African, named _____ about the age of _____ years _____ feet _____ inches in height, marked _____ or by whatsoever other name, age, height or marks the said _____ shall hereafter be known or distinguished, and lately condemned to His Majesty, in the Court of Vice-Admiralty of this island, apprentice to the said _____ from the date hereof, for and during the term of _____ years from thence next ensuing, if the said _____ shall so long live, to serve h _____ the said _____ in the craft, trade or employment of _____ in the said island of _____. And the said _____ in consideration of such apprenticeship, and in pursuance of the statute _____

statute aforesaid, and of the said orders of His Majesty in Council, doth hereby, for h self, h heirs, executors and administrators, covenant, promise and agree to and with His Majesty, his heirs and successors, in manner and form following; that is to say, that h the said shall and will diligently and faithfully instruct and teach, or cause to be instructed and taught, the said African apprentice, in the craft, trade or employment of and in all things whatever relating, incident or belonging thereto, during the said term; and also that h the said shall and will provide and allow to the said African apprentice sufficient, decent and comfortable food and clothing, medical assistance, medicines and other necessaries during the said term of service; and also shall and will cause the said apprentice to be carefully instructed, and as speedily as possible, in the Christian religion, and to be taken, when sufficiently instructed, to be baptized; and also shall and will permit and suffer and encourage the said apprentice to attend public worship; and also shall and will, from time to time, and at any time, when thereunto requested by the collector or chief officer of His Majesty's customs at produce the said apprentice for his inspection and examination, and shall not, nor will, alter or change the name of the said apprentice. And when the said apprentice shall have been baptized, that then and in such case h the said shall and will immediately cause notice thereof to be given to the said collector or chief officer for the time being of His Majesty's customs at the port of in the island of in order that the identity of such African apprentice may at all times thereafter be known and distinguished. And the said doth hereby for h self, h heirs, executors and administrators, further covenant, promise and agree to and with His Majesty, his heirs and successors, in manner and form following; that is to say, that h the said or any person or persons by h direction or permission, shall not, nor will, during the term or terms aforesaid, treat, or wittingly or willingly cause, permit or suffer to be treated with hardship or severity the said apprentice, nor will assign the said apprentice to any other person or persons whomsoever, or send, or permit, or suffer, or cause or procure to be sent the said apprentice to any other island, colony or place, than the said island of without the previous license in writing of the collector, or chief officer for the time being of His Majesty's customs at the port of in the island of aforesaid, and shall not, nor will, on any account, employ, or cause, permit or suffer the said apprentice to be employed in agricultural labour in any way whatsoever. And in case of any default or neglect in the due performance of all or any of the aforesaid covenants, which on the part and behalf of the said are to be done, kept and performed, all right and title to the further services of the said African apprentice shall, at the election of the collector or chief officer for the time being of the customs at be forfeited, and the terms of apprenticeship hereinbefore mentioned shall thenceforth absolutely cease and determine; provided always, and it is hereby declared and agreed, that in case the said shall happen to depart this life before the expiration of the said terms hereinbefore mentioned, then and in that case all right and title of the said h executors and administrators in and to the services of the said African apprentice shall thereafter cease and determine to all intents and purposes whatsoever, as if this indenture had not been made, and the said collector or chief officer for the time being of His said Majesty's customs at shall and may be at free liberty again to put out and apprentice the said African to such other person or persons as he in his discretion shall deem expedient for that purpose, for the remainder of the said term, without any molestation or interruption whatsoever from the executors or administrators of the said. And, lastly, for the due and faithful performance of all and every the several covenants, clauses and agreements hereinbefore mentioned and contained, which by and on the part and behalf of the said are to be done, kept and performed in manner and form aforesaid, h the said doth hereby covenant, promise and bind h self, h heirs, executors and administrators, lands and tenements, goods and chattels, to and with our Sovereign Lord the King, his heirs and successors, in the penal sum of pounds of current gold and silver money of the said island of (being double the

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the sum at which the said apprentice has been valued, if to be sold for a slave) And lastly, it is hereby further agreed and declared, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the collector or chief officer for the time being of His Majesty's customs at _____ to commence and prosecute, have, sue for, recover and receive, in the name of His Majesty, his heirs and successors, any action or actions, suit or suits, or other proceeding or proceedings at law or in equity, for obtaining redress, and for the protection and release of the said apprentice, according to the law of the said island, and to issue execution thereon, and the same when so had, sued for, recovered and received, to retain, but nevertheless to be to and for the use of His said Majesty, his heirs and successors, and to and for no other use, intent or purpose whatsoever. It witness whereof, the said parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

(No. 9 in Enclosure 3.)

MINUTES of Examination taken before the Joint Committee of the two Houses of Legislature.

Dr. Thomas Nicholson called, and Examined.

1. Thomas Nicholson.
2. Practitioner of physic.
3. Contracts for the medical attendance on the liberated Africans.
4. Has been in contract attendance since 1826, and occasionally for two years previous.
5. Has no particular knowledge of their character, except of the sick and infirm.
6. Generally speaking, considers their moral character bad; many of the men are addicted to drunkenness.
7. Has been in attendance upon them since the delivery of the certificate of freedom.
8. Thinks their moral character has retrograded since that period.
9. Does not know of any who devote themselves to any settled mode of earning a subsistence; some of the men employ themselves as porters, some are grave-diggers, some of the women employ themselves as huxters, but knows not of one employed in agriculture.
10. The whole are still entitled to medical assistance.
11. Considers their general state of health worse than before delivery of certificate. Many are addicted to drunkenness, and subject to the consequent disease. Several have died of epilepsy, and one in a state of insanity.
12. Considers them incapable from their habits to provide for their wants in sickness; and it is occasionally necessary to supply them with clothing, as well as medical assistance.
13. Many women have applied to give up their certificates of freedom, stating, that they were incapable of supporting themselves and their children.

(No. 10 in Enclosure 3.)

Mr. Bindon Examined.

1. Joseph Bindon.
2. Clerk of the police.
3. The liberated Africans are sometimes brought before the magistrates.
4. Crimes, drunkenness, disorderly conduct and fighting.
5. Has frequent opportunities, as police-officer, to judge of their general conduct. They are averse to labour, and without any ostensible means of living; very few of them earn their bread by any steady pursuit. Believes them to be decidedly averse to agricultural labour; has never heard of an instance of their being so employed.
6. Whenever brought before the magistrates, their general conduct so bad, that they cannot obtain sureties, and are invariably sent to the common gaol, a burthen

a burthen to the public. Does not recollect a single instance of any one becoming surety for them, unless occasionally the officers of the customs, but which they have declined of late.

7. Considers their general conduct very bad; and verily believes that the major part of the robberies committed in town are committed by them.

8. Considers the African Hospital a nuisance to the town, and a receptacle of idlers and thieves. The women particularly troublesome.

9. Believes them to be detested by the island negroes, who employ them as drudges, and look upon them as an inferior race.

(No. 11 in Enclosure 3.)

Mr. *Rannie* Examined.

1. James Graham Rannie.

2. Carpenter and millwright.

3. First arrived in the island in 1809.

4. Had two apprentices out of the *Hermoine's* cargo.

5. For the first two years they conducted themselves like savages, addicted to eating carrion, were thieves and runaways, notorious for stealing fowls, which they consumed raw; that they were of no use whatever for two years; that subsequently they did a little as labourers; that he never was able to teach them any branch of his trade; that they became so bad, that he was obliged to request the collector to take them back about three years before the indentures were expired; that he knew of his own knowledge several handicraft men in a similar situation to himself respecting like apprentices, and that he does not know of one who has succeeded better than himself; that in fact, out of the whole number of African apprentices, there is not now a single one, to the best of his knowledge and belief, capable of earning a livelihood by a trade.

(No. 12 in Enclosure 3.)

Mr. *Nelson* Examined.

1. Thomas Nelson.

2. Blacksmith. Came to the island in 1813, and worked with his brother.

3. Remembers three Africans being apprenticed to his brother; that at first starting were constantly under his eye. They behaved tolerably well; that gradually grew worse; were addicted to thieving; began by plundering sugar and molasses, and then indiscriminately tried their hands upon every thing within their reach; that they became habitual drunkards, and were constantly quarrelling; finally, that they became a nuisance; that the indenture of one was given up; that the other became a tolerable workman, but quitted the shop on getting his free paper, and has never worked at his trade since; that he is now living with a female slave, and would have died of sickness and misery but from the support and care she bestowed upon him.

4. Does not know of a single individual of that class that lives by a trade, and verily believes that there is not one.

(Enclosure 4 in No. 1.)

LETTER from Major-General Sir *Patrick Ross*, to the Right Honourable Sir *George Murray*, K. C. B.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 17th January 1829.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that the instructions contained in your circular despatch of the 16th October, relating to the liberated Africans and others, were carried into effect before myself and the Board of Council on the 5th and 6th of this month; and that the great expense which has been hitherto incurred by Government has been thereby diminished to the utmost possible extent.

The

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The accompanying documents, marked Nos. 1, 2 and 3, will distinctly explain the manner in which this duty has been performed ; and it will be seen that the former averaged annual expense, which amounted to above 8,000*l.* currency, will not exceed in the ensuing year the sum of 1,223*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, and that this will be of course gradually diminished as the aged and helpless die, and the children advance to an age at which they can earn their own livelihood.

The only branch which it has been deemed expedient, and this on the scale of humanity, to continue for the present quarter on the late scale, is that of the hospital, and of the medical attendance on all such cases of sickness as may occur amongst those who have received their certificates of freedom ; but as it is highly probable that a considerable proportion of the males will remove themselves from the island as sailors or otherwise previous to the 5th of April next, the existing contract for medical aid will then admit of a proportionate diminution, and I therefore recommend that the moderate proposal which has been made by Dr. Musgrave, of attending and providing medicine for the next year for 200*l.* currency, should be acceded to.

The people, naturally improvident, have been rendered for years past so utterly careless about the means of subsistence, that they will long find it difficult to do more than obtain by their own exertions the common necessaries of life ; but admitting it were otherwise, it is useless to suppose that in cases of protracted illness they will be possessed of the means even of sustaining life, far less of paying for medical advice should they from misfortune or other causes become afflicted with disease. They will differ very materially from the other classes of the poor in the colony. The white paupers are provided by contract with medical attendance, and the practitioner is empowered to order from the churchwardens wine, and any allowance of money he may think proper during his attendance, however protracted. The native free coloured and blacks are surrounded by their friends, connections and former owners, from whom they very generally obtain the necessary support ; but the Africans in question being without connections or claims to parochial relief of any kind, would in cases of absolute poverty too probably die destitute in the streets. These considerations render it necessary that the recommendations I have taken the liberty to submit should be immediately acceded to, and in the event of my not receiving your reply before the termination of the quarter ending the 5th of April, I shall not hesitate to accept the proposal for one year from that date.

No. 4 is one of the printed forms of certificate which were delivered to the Africans in presence of myself and the Council, and I am gratified in believing that, with the exception of perhaps six or eight notorious and incorrigible offenders of the male sex, who will probably ere long render themselves liable to removal to Trinidad or elsewhere, few of these people will be a burthen or inconvenience to the community.

As it would have been extremely difficult to conclude effectually these several arrangements without the presence and aid of Mr. Parkhurst, the acting collector, I presumed to detain that officer from his station at Barbadoes, where he has been lately appointed comptroller, but to which he will now immediately proceed ; and as I have the greatest reason to be satisfied with his zeal and exertions, I beg respectfully to hope that he will not be permitted to suffer any diminution of his salary from the period of his appointment at Barbadoes to his arrival there.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Patrick Ross.*

(Enclosure 5 in No. 1.)

LETTER from Major-General Sir *Patrick Ross* to the Right Honourable Sir *George Murray*, K. C. B.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 25th May 1829.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th January last, reporting the measures which had then been carried into effect regarding the liberated Africans, to whom, pursuant to your instructions, certificates of freedom were granted, it now affords me much satisfaction to have the honour of reporting to you, that

during a period of five months, which has expired since they were set at large, I have not received a single complaint against them, nor has one of them been committed by a magistrate for the most trifling offence.

There has not to my knowledge been any application from them on the score of poverty, and they appear to be in general industriously occupied in providing for their own livelihood.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Patrick Ross.*

(Enclosure 6 in No. 1.)

RETURN of Liberated Africans committed to Gaol from the
17th January 1829 to Date.

DATE.	N A M E.	BY WHOM COMMITTED.	OFFENCE.
1829: July 10	Present Martin	Thomas F. Nibbs, esq.	Assault and battery.
— — —	Sarah	- - Ditto	- - Ditto.
— — 30	Frances Martin	- - Ditto	Misdemeanor.
1830: Jan. 16	Patrick Cork	John Shiell, esq.	Assault and battery.
— May 15	Henry Bunn	The Hon. William Byam, and C. K. Dow	Misdemeanor.
— — 19	Eliza	James Scotland, jun. esq.	Assault and battery.
— — 27	Sarah	John Black, esq.	Misdemeanor.
— June 7	Church	James Scotland, jun. esq.	Lunatic.
— — 25	Kitt	- - Ditto	Assault and battery.
1831: Jan. 24	D. Allan, <i>alias</i> Gillan	John Black, esq.	Theft.
— Feb. 7	Kitt	George W. Ledeatt, esq.	Lunatic.
— — 24	Aberdeen	William Simpson, acting collector	Disorderly conduct.
— April 13	Church	His Excellency the Govern- nor	Lunatic.
— — 20	Lee	J. Shiell, esq.	Want of bail.

I certify the above to be a correct return.

Marshal's Office, }
11 Nov. 1831. }

Martin Nanton,
Deputy Provost-Marshal.

— No. 2. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Viscount *Goderich* to Major-General
Sir Patrick Ross.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3d January 1832.

I HAVE received your despatch of 15th November last, in which are enclosed certain Resolutions of the House of Assembly, with documents appended, relating to an inquiry into which the Assembly appears to have been misled by an erroneous representation transmitted to them by the colonial agent, of the part taken by Lord Howick in a discussion in the House of Commons, on the 17th August last, respecting the liberation of certain negroes.

If the reports of Parliamentary proceedings (which are published in the Mirror of Parliament more fully than elsewhere) should have reached you, you will perceive, from the account given in that publication, however inaccurate in other respects, the real purport of that part of Lord Howick's statement, which has been, no doubt, unintentionally misrepresented by the colonial agent. To an inquiry from Mr. Burge, as to the manner in which certain slaves belonging to the Crown, whom it had been determined to manumit, were afterwards to be maintained, Lord Howick replied, that their manumission would be a measure of economy; and, as a proof of this, his Lordship referred to the result of the measure which had been adopted in 1828 for the liberation of the captured Africans;

Africans; and he quoted your despatches of the 17th January and the 25th of May 1829, to show that a considerable saving had been made by liberating those Africans, and that, for some months after they had been set at large, no complaint had been brought against them, no one of them had been committed to prison, and no application had proceeded from them, on the score of poverty, for assistance in providing for their livelihood. From these facts, relating, as they did, to a large number of Africans, Lord Howick argued that no dangerous consequences could be apprehended from manumitting a much smaller number of slaves, and those creoles. Some further remarks which his Lordship made had reference neither to the captured Africans, the escheated slaves, nor any other slaves in Antigua, but to certain negroes called Winkels, who were the property of the Crown in Berbice, and concerning whom his Lordship had received, on the morning of the day on which the discussion took place, a letter from a missionary, who had been employed in their religious instruction.

The inquiry instituted by the Assembly having thus originated in a total misconception of what took place in the House of Commons, it is not necessary that I should take into consideration the papers which you have transmitted, otherwise than as documents containing information accidentally elicited upon a subject of some interest and importance.

In this view I cannot but wish that there had been a greater appearance of impartiality in the manner of instituting and conducting the investigation which was made into the conduct and character of the negroes in question. It is stated by Mr. Vindon, on his examination before a Committee of the Legislature, that whenever the captured Africans have been brought before the magistrates, they have not been able to obtain sureties on account of the general bad character which they bear, and they are invariably sent to the common gaol. He adds, that he verily believes that the major part of the robberies committed in town, are committed by them; that he considers the African Hospital a nuisance to the town, and a receptacle of idlers and thieves. You have yourself brought the correctness of the opinions thus delivered to a test, to which the Assembly did not think proper to expose them. The returns which you called for from the provost-marshal established the fact, that out of the 371 captured Africans, who were liberated in January 1829, only 14 had been committed to gaol up to 13th November 1831, being in the proportion of less than two out of 100 in each year. It is not stated for what offences any of the 14 were committed to gaol; but when I bear in mind that none of them have been removed from the colony, and that you were authorized, by the instructions from my predecessor for their liberation, to take measures for the removal of any who, within a period of seven years, should be convicted of theft, or any other offence against the peace of society, or should be found seeking subsistence as a common beggar or vagrant, or should become chargeable upon any parochial or public rates, except in cases of sickness or other inevitable accident; I am led to infer, that the offences for which the Africans in question have been committed to gaol, are not of a serious complexion, and that they have not tended to bring upon the colony any considerable burden.

The Assembly have observed, that the Africans were, whilst in apprenticeship, by the terms of their indentures, exempted from agricultural labour, and that thus they have not been habituated to such labour, and have not, since their liberation, in any instance engaged in it. Had it been permitted to indent captured Africans to planters, for the purpose of being employed in the labour of the plantations, there was every reason to apprehend that no distinction would have been made between their condition and that of plantation slaves. Unless such a distinction could have been enforced, it would have been obviously inconsistent on the part of His Majesty's Government, at one and the same time to maintain that the labour allowed by law to be exacted from plantation slaves was excessive, and their rights ill-secured, and nevertheless to devote to that unprotected and possibly severe condition of servitude persons who were committed to the care of the Crown, for the purpose of being preserved from slavery, and prepared for the exercise of industry in freedom. If the plan of training them as apprentices to other crafts and occupations than those connected with agriculture, has not been generally successful, and if the negroes do not now pursue those occupations with diligence, this result is greatly to be regretted, but is not difficult to be explained. The number of the captured Africans who happened to be brought into the island of Antigua appears to have

have been disproportionate to the wants of the colonial society for mechanical or skilled labour; and by reason of this disproportion a large number of the Africans appear to have remained unapprenticed on the hands of the collector of the customs. If it be true, as the Assembly have stated, that the captured Africans, whilst under the care of the collector, did not receive any moral or religious instruction, this is a circumstance which ought undoubtedly to have attracted the attention of the Government, and to have been brought under the notice of the Secretary of State. I fear, however, that in this respect the captured Africans only shared the fate of a large proportion of the negroes in the colony. It would be a subject of sincere satisfaction to learn that the Assembly of Antigua have provided more adequate means of imparting religious instruction to the slaves generally; and it is their particular desire that the liberated Africans should be especially attended to by that portion of the church establishment in Antigua which is provided for by a Parliamentary grant.

These observations are not intended for communication to the Assembly, except in so far as you may consider it expedient to make them known to that body. It is not necessary or convenient that I should enter upon any controversy with the Assembly upon this subject. It is scarcely even necessary that I should correct any misconception of what passes in Parliament into which the Assembly may be betrayed, especially in a case in which a simple reference to the more accurate and copious of the publications containing the Parliamentary debates would be sufficient to dispel the error. But if you think it desirable to convey to them the explanations contained in this despatch, you are at liberty to do so.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Goderich.*

— No. 3. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Viscount *Goderich* to Major-General
Sir Patrick Ross.

Sir,

Downing-street, 4th January 1832.

I OBSERVE it to be stated in the evidence taken by the House of Assembly, and enclosed in your despatch dated 15th November last, respecting the character and conduct of the liberated Africans, that the women of that class of persons are particularly complained of. I have already reminded you in my despatch of yesterday's date, that under the instructions of my predecessor, which led to the liberation of these people, you were authorized to remove any of them from Antigua who should be convicted before any magistrate of theft, or of any offence against the peace of society, or should be found seeking their living as common beggars or vagrants, or who should have become burthensome to any parochial rates, except in cases of sickness or other inevitable accident. I have now to call your attention to the expediency of exercising the authority with which you are thus invested in the case of every female African, who may render herself liable to be removed; and I have to request that you will cause every such female African to be removed to Trinidad, there to be placed on one of the settlements, either of disbanded soldiers or of American refugees. The want of women upon those settlements has hitherto, more than anything else, militated against their prosperity and their moral well being; and such are the circumstances under which they are placed, that women even of indifferent character, and who are noxious and burthensome members of other communities, will have their value in these settlements, and from this very circumstance will probably have a fairer opportunity than elsewhere of retrieving their characters. When any occasion occurs of sending these women to Trinidad, you will be pleased to make an immediate communication of the measure you are about to take to the Governor of that colony, to whom I will forthwith transmit a copy of this despatch.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Goderich.*

ANTIGUA:—APPRENTICED AFRICANS.

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— No. 4. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Major-General Sir *Patrick Ross* to
Viscount *Goderich*:—(With Enclosures.)

My Lord, Government House, Antigua, 25th April 1832.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatches dated the 3d and 4th of January last, on the subject of removing to Trinidad such of the liberated Africans as may have forfeited the privileges derived from the liberty accorded them in the year 1829;

I have the honour to enclose a copy of a letter I have considered it necessary to address to the Governor, Sir Lewis Grant, on this subject; and it is a course of much satisfaction to me to be enabled to state, that the conduct of these people continues so much at variance with the character given of them in part of the evidence which was laid before the Houses of Legislature by their joint committee in November last, that there has not come to my knowledge a single case which could justify me in putting in force the penalty of removing them from a country in which they have been for so many years domiciled.

I beg to enclose some documents, from which your Lordship will observe, that the liberated Africans are progressively advancing in moral and religious improvement.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Patrick Ross.*

Many of the liberated Africans are members of the Samaritan Society, of the church of the United Brethren, and of the Male and Female Friendly Society.

P. R.

(Enclosure 1 in No. 4.)

LETTER from Major-General Sir *Patrick Ross* to Major-General
Sir *Lewis Grant*.

Sir, Government House, Antigua, 23d April 1832.

IN a despatch from Lord Viscount *Goderich*, dated the 4th January last, a copy of which I have the honour to enclose, I am directed to communicate with your Excellency respecting such of the liberated Africans resident under this government, who, from "being convicted of theft, or any other offence against the peace of society, or should be found seeking subsistence as common beggars or vagrants, or should become chargeable upon any parochial or public rates, except in cases of sickness," may have forfeited the privileges they have derived from the liberty which was accorded them by command of the King in the year 1829, as contained in the paper of which a copy is herewith enclosed.

As I am led to suppose from his Lordship's despatch, that he would likewise communicate with you on the subject, and as you may in consequence thereof expect the arrival in Trinidad of persons of this class, it is my duty to apprise you that there are not at this moment, nor have there hitherto been any cases of crime or misconduct on the part of these people, male or female, which could justify me in ordering their removal from this colony to Trinidad in the manner pointed out in the instructions of Sir George Murray of the 16th October 1828.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Patrick Ross.*

(Enclosure 2 in No. 4.)

Liberated African Women who attend the parish church of
St. John, Antigua.

Cleone Clarke, a woman of irreproachable character; can read well, attends her church regularly, and for a long time has been a communicant.

Sarah

Sarah Dow, has lived for many years past faithfully with a soldier of the 1st West India regiment, called Dowley, by whom she has a boy and a girl, both attending the Society's school. She is quiet and regular in her attendance at church, and been received at the Lord's Table.

Present Gore, was married on 4th January 1827 to John Grant, with whom she lived faithfully till his death, March 23, 1830, and had three children by him. At the close of last year she was married to her present husband, William Gore, a liberated African, and member of the Moravian Church. Her attendance at church has not been so constant as that of the two above mentioned; but she is industrious and her morals good.

Clara Halloran, attends her church regularly, and is of a quiet disposition. Has a son at the Conversion Society's school, called Grandterre. The father has left the island long since. For the last three years she has been living with George Lee, property of the Attorney-general; she supports herself by trafficking in the market.

Edy Jaggard, has lived some time past with the serjeant of the 1st West India regiment, called Dorset, and with no one but him. She attends her church regularly, and is an orderly, quiet woman.

Mary Kentish, has lived constantly with Augustus, a soldier of the 1st West India regiment; a washer.

Elizabeth Hunt, a quiet women, baptized about two years since; attends her church with tolerable regularity. Has a boy and a girl at the Conversion Society's schools.

Antigua, 27 February 1832.

(signed)

Robert Holberton,
Rector of St. John's.

List of Children born of African Parents, except such as are otherwise noted, who attend the Day Schools belonging to the Society for the Conversion, &c. of the Negroes.

John Daley.
Edward Perry.
Frank (father a white man.)
Joe.
Samuel Richards (ditto.)
J. B. Grandterre.
William Cable.

Louisa Daley.
Charlotte Fraser.
Jemima Rigg.
Rebecca Hunt.
Nancy Roach.
Jane Hardcastle.
Maria Scotland (father a white man.)

Antigua, 27 February.

(signed)

Robert Holberton,
Rector of St. John's.

There are no men among the liberated Africans, members of the Friendly Society, but of the women there are said to be 11; and the following is a copy of a note from the directress of the Friendly Society, in reply to the rector's application for information on this point.

Sir,

27 February, 1832.

As far as I know, the Friendly Society has 11 female African apprentices, and I am happy to say they are among the best subscribers for punctuality, and I have had to decide some little differences with them, and they have behaved with meekness, very much to my satisfaction.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Jean Warner*.

To the Rev. Rob. Holberton.

LIST OF COMMUNICANTS.

COMMUNICANTS.	BAPTIZED.	CATECHUMENS.	HEARERS.
MALES: Richard M'Craith, Director. John Scotland. Henry Kirvan. Benjamin M'Kay. Samuel Baker. Thomas Bunn. Walter Wyke. William Mason. Benjamin Nauton. George M'Kay. John Robert Simpson.	MALES: George Baker. Robert Proudfoot. Samuel Chatfield. Samuel Nauton. William Hart. Richard Thibon. Andrew Kentish. Cornelius Wyke. Gilbert Ronan. Isaac Julian. John Darby Martin.	MALES: Tho. Ronan (absconded) Drew Nelson. Green Martin. Dawson Henry Martin. Nelson Parkhurst. John Sam. Sheriff. Samuel Wyke. James Nauton.	MALES: Robessy Wyke, Ex. Thomas Kippen, Ex. Christ. Ronan, Ex. William Glover. John Crawford, Ex. Jack Chatfield, Ex. Joseph Parkhurst. Wallace Boyd. Guy Potter. Jack Greaves. Samuel Mason. Thomas Hill. Matthew Miller, Ex. John Elwin. William Ramsay. Thomas Curtain.
FEMALES: Patience Thompson. Rachel Greencastle. Sarah Clark. Susanna Clark. Rose Merchant. Eliza Kentish. Ann Hall. Ann Ryan. Elizabeth Halleron. Ann M'Kay. Maria Hill. Abigail Mercer or Bridges. Aneilla Wyke. Catharine Roach. Catharine Donaldson. Jenny M'Kay. Jennet Oliver. Mary Donaldson. Hannah Simpson. Frances Clark. Mary Wm. Schole. Louisa Sheriff. Nancy Wyke. Jenny Parkhurst.	FEMALES: Rachel Parkhurst. Rebecca Kentish. Sarah Parkhurst. Sally Parker. Susanna Walker. Catharine Ramsay. Betsey Davis. Jane M'Kay. Mary Glover. Helena Hall. Margaret Smith.	FEMALES: Eliza Prisco. Eliza Martin. Mary Nelson. Mary Gore. Charlotte M'Kay. Louisa Kentish. Fanny Wyke. Jane Simpson. Louisa Ray. Cecilia Kirwan.	FEMALES: Present Grant, Ex. Caroline Norman, Ex. Mary Ann Burras- ton, Ex. Grace Warner. Lydia Smith. Sally Rogers.

GRAND TOTAL - - - 97

The above Statement is as correct and extensive as our present knowledge of the subject will admit. We hope in a short time to be able to make a *complete return*, as we are taking measures to that effect. The rules and regulations of the Samaritan Society, under the immediate direction of Richard M'Craith, of which the above persons are members, being in accordance with those of our Church, are calculated, it is presumed, to bias the character of its members, agreeably to the word of God.

(signed) *Bennett Harvey,*
Charles Henry Zellner,
Charles Frederick Kuchte,
John Coleman,

Ministers of the Brethren's Church at Spring Gardens,
St. John's, Antigua, Feb. 27, 1832.

— No. 5. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Viscount *Goderich* to Major-General
Sir Patrick Ross.

Sir,

Downing-street, 15th June 1832.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch dated 25th April last; and I have to convey to you my approval of the course which you had adopted in communicating with Sir Lewis Grant on the subject of my instructions for the removal to Trinidad of any of the liberated Africans who might have misconducted themselves. I am much gratified to find that no cases of the kind have occurred, and that you are able to give so favourable an account of the conduct of these people.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Goderich*.

ANTIGUA:
APPRENTICED AFRICANS.

COPY of any Report of a Committee of the Council and Assembly of *Antigua*, respecting the State of the APPRENTICED AFRICANS liberated by the Crown in 1828, and of the Manner in which they employ themselves.

(*Mr. Burge.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
16 August 1832.

743.