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SLAVERY ABOLITION ACT

COPY OF ORDER IN COUNCIL, declaring that adequate and satisfactory provision has been made by Law, in the Island of *Jamaica*, for giving effect to an Act of Parliament made in the third and fourth Year of His present Majesty, for the ABOLITION of SLAVERY in the Colonies.

AT THE COURT AT SAINT JAMES'S, the 19th of March 1834;

PRESENT,

THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY IN COUNCIL.

WHEREAS by an Act of Parliament made and passed in the third and fourth year of the reign of His present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves," it is enacted, that from and after the 1st day of August 1834, all persons who, in conformity with the Laws now in force in the said Colonies respectively, shall on or before the 1st day of August 1834, have been duly registered as Slaves in any such Colony, and who, on the said 1st day of August 1834, shall be actually within any such Colony, and who shall by such Registries appear to be, on the said 1st day of August 1834, of the full age of Six Years or upwards, shall by force and virtue of the said Act, and without the previous execution of any Indenture of Apprenticeship, or other Deed or Instrument for that purpose, become and be apprenticed Labourers: And whereas by the said Act it is further enacted, that subject to the obligations imposed by the said Act, or to be imposed as therein mentioned, upon such apprenticed Labourers as aforesaid, all and every the persons who on the said 1st day of August 1834 shall be holden in Slavery within any such British Colony as aforesaid, shall, upon and from and after the said 1st day of August 1834, become and be to all intents and purposes freed and discharged of and from all manner of Slavery, and shall be absolutely and for ever manumitted; and that the Children thereafter to be born to any such persons, and the offspring of such Children, shall in like manner be free from their birth; and that from and after the said 1st day of August 1834, Slavery shall be and is thereby utterly and for ever abolished and declared unlawful throughout the British Colonies, Plantations and Possessions abroad: And whereas by the said Act it is provided, that the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury may raise the sum of £.20,000,000 Sterling towards compensating the persons entitled to the services of the Slaves to be manumitted and set free by virtue of the said Act, for the loss of such services:

And whereas in the said Act it is recited that various Rules and Regulations are or may be necessary for the purposes therein specified, and that such Regulations could not without great inconvenience be made except by the respective Governors, Councils and Assemblies, or other Local Legislatures of the said respective Colonies, or by His Majesty with the advice of His Privy Council, in reference to those Colonies to which the Legislative Authority of His Majesty in Council extends; and it is therefore by the said Act enacted and declared, that nothing in the said Act contained should extend or be construed to extend to prevent the enactment by the respective Governors, Councils and Assemblies, or by such other Local Legislatures as aforesaid, or by His Majesty with the advice of his Privy Council, of any such Acts of General Assembly, or Ordinances or Orders in Council, as might be requisite for making and establishing such several Rules and Regulations as aforesaid, or any of them, or for carrying the same or any of them into full and complete effect:

And whereas it is by the said Act further enacted, that no part of the said sum of £.20,000,000 Sterling shall be applied or shall be applicable to the purposes therein aforesaid, for the benefit of any person entitled to the services of any Slave in any of the Colonies therein aforesaid, unless an Order shall have been first made by His Majesty, with the advice of His Privy Council, declaring that adequate and satisfactory provision hath been made by Law, in such Colony, for giving effect to the said Act by such further and supplementary enactments as therein mentioned; nor unless a copy of such Order in Council, duly certified by one of the Clerks in Ordinary of His Majesty's Privy Council, shall by the Lord President of the Council have been transmitted to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or to the Lord High Treasurer for the time being, for their or his guidance or information; and every such Order shall be published three several times in the London Gazette, and shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament within six weeks next after the date thereof, if Parliament shall be then in Session, and if not, within six weeks from the then next ensuing Session of Parliament:

And whereas, in order to carry into effect the objects of the said recited Act, an Act hath been passed by the Governor, Council and Assembly of the Island of *Jamaica*, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery in this Island, in consideration of Compensation, and for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and to declare the 52d Geo. III. c. 155. in force in this Island:"

And whereas, by the said Act of the Governor, Council and Assembly of the Island of *Jamaica*, it is enacted, that from and after the 1st day of August 1834, all persons who in conformity with the Laws in force in the said Island, shall, on or before the said 1st day of August

COPY OF ORDER IN COUNCIL.

August 1834, have been duly registered as Slaves in the said Island, and who, on the said 1st day of August 1834, shall be actually within the said Island, and who shall by such Registries appear to be, on the said 1st day of August 1834, of the full age of Six Years or upwards, shall by force and virtue of the Act now in recital, and without the previous execution of any Indenture of Apprenticeship or other Deed or Instrument for that purpose, become and be apprenticed Labourers :

And whereas by the said Act now in recital, the same obligations are imposed on the said apprenticed Labourers as are imposed upon them by the said Act of Parliament ; and by the said Act now in recital it is further enacted, that subject to the obligations imposed thereby upon such apprenticed Labourers, all and every the persons who, on the said 1st day of August 1834, shall be holden in Slavery within the said Island, shall, upon and from and after the said 1st day of August 1834, become and be to all intents and purposes free and discharged of and from all manner of Slavery, and shall be absolutely and for ever manumitted ; and that the Children thereafter to be born to any such persons, and the offspring of such Children, shall in like manner be freed from their birth, and that from and after the said 1st day of August 1834, Slavery shall be and is thereby utterly and for ever abolished and declared unlawful in the said Island of *Jamaica* :

And whereas His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of His Council, hath by an Order in Council, bearing even date herewith, been pleased to confirm the said Act of the Governor, Council and Assembly of the Island of *Jamaica* : And whereas the said Act of the Governor, Council and Assembly of the Island of *Jamaica*, doth contain divers further and supplementary enactments establishing Rules and Regulations for the purposes hereinbefore mentioned, to be specified in the said recited Act of Parliament, and it is considered by His Majesty in Council, that adequate and satisfactory provision hath been made by Law, in the Island of *Jamaica*, for giving effect to the said recited Act of Parliament, by such further and supplementary enactments as therein mentioned, according to the true intent and meaning of the said Act :

His Majesty is therefore pleased, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, to Declare, and it is hereby Declared, That adequate and satisfactory provision hath been made by Law, in the Island of *Jamaica*, for giving effect to the said recited Act of Parliament, by such further and supplementary enactments as therein are mentioned. And the Right Honourable the Marquis of Lansdowne, the President of His Majesty's Privy Council, and the Right Honourable Edward G. S. Stanley, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, are to give the necessary directions herein as to them may respectively appertain.

(signed) C. C. Greville.

SLAVERY ABOLITION ACT.

ORDER IN COUNCIL

RELATIVE TO

THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY
IN THE COLONIES.

(JAMAICA)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,

24 March 1834.

