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MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

RETURN to an Address to HIS MAJESTY, dated 19 July 1831;—*for,*

A COPY of any CORRESPONDENCE which may have taken place between His Majesty's SECRETARY OF STATE and the GOVERNOR of the *Mauritius*, respecting the SLAVE REGISTRY of that Island, since 1st January 1826; and the Causes which have led to the Failure of that part of the REGISTRY ACT of 30 January 1826, which requires that regular Triennial Returns of its POPULATION be made to the Secretary of State.

Colonial Department. }
12 March 1832. }

HOWICK.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
30 March 1832.

L I S T.

- No.
- 1.—Copy of a Despatch from Earl Bathurst to Lieut.-General the Honourable Sir G. L. Cole, dated Downing-street, 26 February 1826:—(One Enclosure) - p. 3
 - 2.—Copy of a Despatch from Sir G. L. Cole to Earl Bathurst, dated Mauritius, 3 October 1826 - - - - - p. 16
 - 3.—Copy of a Despatch from Sir G. L. Cole to Earl Bathurst, dated Mauritius, 31 October 1826:—(Four Enclosures) - - - - - p. 16
 - 4.—Extract of a Despatch from Viscount Goderich to Sir G. L. Cole, dated Downing-street, 1 May 1827 - - - - - p. 24
 - 5.—Copy of a Despatch from Sir G. L. Cole to Earl Bathurst, dated Mauritius, 23 December 1826:—(Six Enclosures) - - - - - p. 25
 - 6.—Copy of a Despatch from the Right hon. Sir G. Murray to Sir C. Colville, dated 19 July 1828 - - - - - p. 29
 - 7.—Copy of a Despatch from Sir G. L. Cole to Earl Bathurst, dated 28 January 1827: (One Enclosure) - - - - - p. 30
 - 8.—Copy of a Despatch from Sir G. L. Cole to Earl Bathurst, dated Mauritius, 14 May 1827:—(Five Enclosures)- - - - - p. 32
 - 9.—Copy of a Despatch from Sir G. L. Cole to Earl Bathurst, dated Mauritius, 20 June 1827;—(Two Enclosures) - - - - - p. 35
 - 10.—Copy of a Despatch from the Right hon. W. Huskisson, addressed to Sir G. L. Cole, dated Downing-street, 30 September 1827 - - - - - p. 37
 - 11.—Copy of a Despatch from Lieut.-General Sir Charles Colville to the Right hon. W. Huskisson, dated Mauritius, 20 July 1828:—(One Enclosure) - - p. 37
 - 12.—Copy of a Despatch from the Right hon. Sir G. Murray to Sir Charles Colville, dated Downing-street, 25 February 1829 - - - - - p. 40
 - 13.—Copy of a Despatch from Sir C. Colville to the Right hon. W. Huskisson, dated 5 October 1828:—(Two Enclosures) - - - - - p. 40
 - 14.—Copy of a Despatch from the Right hon. Sir G. Murray to Sir C. Colville, dated Downing-street, 3 June 1829 - - - - - p. 42
 - 15.—Copy of a Despatch from Sir C. Colville to the Right hon. W. Huskisson, dated Mauritius, 24 October 1828:—(Two Enclosures) - - - - - p. 43
 - 16.—Extract of a Despatch from Sir C. Colville to the Right hon. Sir G. Murray, dated Mauritius, 12 October 1829:—(Two Enclosures) - - - - - p. 44
 - 17.—Copy of a Despatch from Sir C. Colville to the Right hon. Sir G. Murray, dated Mauritius, 20 January 1830:—(Five Enclosures) - - - - - p. 45
 - 18.—Copy of a Despatch from the Right hon. Sir G. Murray to Sir C. Colville, dated Downing-street, 30 May 1830 - - - - - p. 60
 - 19.—Copy of a Despatch from Sir C. Colville to the Right hon. Sir G. Murray, dated Mauritius, 9 February 1830:—(Five Enclosures) - - - - - p. 60
 - 20.—Copy of a Despatch from Sir C. Colville to the Right hon. Sir G. Murray, dated Mauritius, 20 May 1830:—(Ten Enclosures) - - - - - p. 73

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

3

— No. 1. —

COPY of a Despatch from Earl *Bathurst* to Lieut.-General the Honourable Sir *G. L. Cole*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 26th February 1826.

I HAVE the honour to enclose an Order of His Majesty in Council, which was made on the 30th ultimo, for amending the order of the 24th September 1814, for establishing a Registry of Slaves in the island of Mauritius and its dependencies.

Your Excellency is aware that I have had occasion to make frequent communications to your predecessors in the government of Mauritius, respecting the imperfect manner in which the commands of His Majesty on this subject have been carried into execution; and the recent returns from the office of the registrar unfortunately prove, that the registry still continues in so defective a state as to be nearly useless for every practical purpose.

Although, therefore, there is no room to doubt that the measure of registration has failed to a very considerable extent in the Mauritius, I have found myself unable to discover with equal certainty the cause to which this ill success is to be attributed. My attention was first called to the general disregard and misconception of the provisions of the Order in Council throughout the colony, by the despatches of Major-General Hall and of Lieutenant-General Darling, during their successive administrations of the government. From the communications of those officers, however, I was led to conclude that the defects in the registry were to be attributed, not to any material error or omission in the law itself, but to the culpable negligence of the persons more immediately entrusted with the administration of it. I had indeed considerable reason to suppose that the law itself was properly adapted to ensure the general and punctual obedience of the inhabitants to its various provisions. Similar Orders in Council had previously been made for establishing a registry of slaves in the islands of Trinidad and St. Lucia. In each of those colonies the success of the measure was complete; and it seemed reasonable to anticipate, that a law which had proved effectual in St. Lucia, would, under a proper administration, accomplish its purpose in the Mauritius, the language of the two colonies being the same, and their laws and institutions closely resembling each other.

Under these impressions General Darling, with my approbation, issued a commission to Sir Robert Barclay, Mr. Hart Davis, and three other English gentlemen, authorizing them to investigate the manner in which the business of the office of registrar of slaves had been conducted; and it was satisfactory to find in the papers transmitted to me on that occasion, sufficient evidence that the Commissioners entered upon their office with no prepossessions, either in favour of the registrar or otherwise, which would give an undue bias to their judgment. From the report ultimately made to General Darling, the Commissioners appear to have been engaged in a very full investigation of the subject referred to them. They attributed the delay which had occurred in completing the triennial returns, partly to causes wholly accidental; in part to the inadequate establishment of clerks in the registrar's office; to the pressure of other duties connected with the public revenue, which the registrar was then required to discharge; and to the very frequent interruptions occasioned by persons applying to inspect the books of registry.

They also reported their opinion, that the verification of the triennial returns, by a comparison with the general returns, was a process so laborious, as to afford a considerable apology for the delay which had taken place. They stated that the registrar appeared to have conformed generally to the forms prescribed by the "Order in Council," except in certain particulars, which were not of principal importance; and they did not find that the failure of the measure was to be imputed to the misconduct of the registrar.

The Commissioners, in general, professed themselves incompetent to offer any advice for ensuring a more punctual obedience to the Order in Council in future. Sir Robert Barclay, however, one of their number, delivered in a

separate paper, in which he made some suggestions for promoting regularity and despatch in the execution of the law; and the registrar himself, upon his examination, stated, that it did not appear to him "that any other alteration would be consistent with the object of the ordinance, than an extension of the period fixed for the completion of the registry."

In consequence of this report, Lieutenant-General Darling authorized an increase of the clerks in the registrar's office, and made regulations for preventing, as far as possible, the recurrence of those accidents to which the Commissioners had partly attributed the imperfect state of the registry.

On Sir Robert Farquhar's return to resume the government, he was especially charged with the duty of correcting any abuses which might be detected in this department, and of suggesting such amendments of the law as might appear to him necessary. Accordingly, he transmitted to me very full reports on the subject from the registrar and the Chief Judge, with a draft, prepared by the latter of those gentlemen, of a new Order in Council in amendment of the previous Order. Without intending to disparage the memory or professional abilities of the learned gentleman who prepared that draft, I must observe that the leading provisions of it were such as could not have been adopted without a direct violation of the most important constitutional and legal principles: such an error was the more to be regretted, as many of Mr. Smith's suggestions were apparently well calculated to accomplish the object with a view to which they had been framed. Shortly after the arrival of this document in England, His Majesty's Government decided on sending Mr. Bigge and Major Colebrooke, as Commissioners to inquire into the administration of the governments of the Cape of Good Hope, the Mauritius, and Ceylon. It was (as you are aware) originally intended that they should first proceed to the Mauritius, although from circumstances to which it would be needless to refer, that determination was subsequently altered.

Among the first duties to which their attention would be called was that of devising measures for the more effectual registration of the slaves in that colony.

Events which could neither be foreseen nor controlled, have detained the Commission at the Cape of Good Hope for a period far exceeding my expectations; and among other consequences of this delay has been the postponement of the measures necessary for improving the registry law in the Mauritius. This delay having already extended to so considerable a length, it has been deemed right rather to forego the advantage which the report of the Commissioners would have afforded, than to desist any longer from introducing such amendments in the existing system as have appeared safe and practicable. In the Order in Council which I transmit to you, the various suggestions which have been made for the improvement of the law by your predecessors in the government of the Mauritius, and by Mr. Smith, the late Chief Judge, have been adopted as far as they appeared consistent with the spirit of the original measure. For your guidance, it will be convenient to explain in general the nature and the reasons of the new regulations which are now to be established.

The imperfect manner in which the returns have been hitherto made by the proprietors of slaves, whether attributable to the difficulty of understanding the duty required of them, as the defaulters themselves are stated to allege, or to causes of a more discreditable nature, as has been suggested by others, is the first evil against which it has appeared necessary to take securities for the future. For this purpose, it has been decided to establish in each of the quarters of the island an officer, who will be called the Assistant Registrar of Slaves of the quarter. This addition to the civil establishment of the colony appears unavoidable; but as the projected amendments in the law respecting the general condition of the slaves will require the employment of an assistant guardian of slaves in every quarter, that office will be conveniently united with the office of assistant registrar, and the additional expense of the present measure will, I trust, therefore be inconsiderable.

Until I shall receive a report from you on the subject I shall not be prepared to issue any instructions respecting the remuneration to be received by the assistant registrars for their services. You will, therefore, with the advice of your Council, establish such temporary regulations for that purpose as a due regard to the public interest, and to the reasonable claims of the persons to be employed, may suggest.

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

5

The defects in the existing registry of slaves appear so numerous and considerable, that after the most serious attention to the subject, I have found myself compelled to lay before His Majesty my humble advice to commence again the whole process of registration from the beginning. For very obvious reasons, I should have desired to avoid this measure, if possible; but I fear it would be vain to anticipate any effectual observance of the law hereafter, if future returns were to be verified by a comparison with such a registry as I am led to conclude exists at present in the island.

The Order in Council has therefore directed you to appoint, by a proclamation, a day on which the registrars of slaves in their several quarters are to inspect the whole slave population, with this distinction, that the personal slaves must be brought to the registrar or assistant registrar at some convenient place in the quarter, and that the plantation slaves are to be mustered each on the estate to which they belong. At the time of this inspection a return is to be made on oath by every proprietor, in the form prescribed by the former Order respecting original returns. You will observe, that to secure the punctual performance of this duty, it is required that printed blank forms of the returns should be left at every house and plantation in the island, with printed instructions for the guidance of all persons in filling them up. The registrars are also required to assist all owners of slaves with every necessary advice as to the proper modes of proceeding.

The assistant registrars are authorized to accept or reject the returns thus to be delivered to them, and it will be their duty to reject all which are not made out in the prescribed form, or which do not contain all the requisite entries, or which, upon the personal inspection of the slaves to which they refer, may appear to be fraudulent or false. The assistant registrars will be required to sign at the foot of each return they may receive, a certificate of its apparent accuracy.

The returns, thus received, are to be transmitted to the general registry office at Port Louis, with a list of all defaulters, and of all returns rejected, with the reasons of the rejection in each case.

The rules for registering all certified returns, with the process for verifying and authenticating the registry, will be the same as were laid down in the previous Order in Council.

Among the difficulties in the execution of his office of which the present registrar complains, none has been stated so frequently or with so much earnestness, as that which arises from the necessity of tracing to his former registered owner, each slave returned at the triennial registration as acquired by purchase. It is said that the same slave is frequently the subject of many intermediate sales, of which no record is preserved, and that therefore almost each return at the triennial registration gives rise to questions which cannot be resolved without all the delay and inconvenience arising from the production of witnesses at the office of the registrar, whose attendance he has no power to compel. To obviate this inconvenience or evasion for the future, the present Order in Council requires that no sale or alienation of a slave shall have any effect unless it be registered in the office of the registrar of slaves. It is further required, that the birth or death or enfranchisement of any slave shall be immediately made known to the registrar, and recorded in his office. I refer you to the Order itself for an explanation of such subordinate rules as it has been thought necessary to make for enabling the registrar to keep an accurate record of all such transactions and occurrences.

The interval of three years between each periodical registration is represented as inconveniently long, and as multiplying needlessly the number of mutations which are to be recorded at each successive period. The present Order has therefore required the repetition of the returns at intervals of two years.

At the recurrence of each biennial registration, the assistant registrars will be employed in their various quarters to inspect the slaves, to accept or reject returns, to certify the accuracy of such as are accepted, and to transmit them together with lists of the rejected returns to the general registry office at Port Louis, in the same manner as is required with regard to the original returns.

The mode of registering the biennial returns is adopted from the former Order in Council, without alteration, excepting that no biennial returns can be received which are inconsistent with the records of sales, alienations, births, deaths, and enfranchisements in the office of the registrar, unless where some satisfactory explanation

explanation of the inconsistency can be given. With regard to the penalties and other sanctions of the law, they are in general taken from the former Order, nor is it necessary that I should enter into any explanation of them here.

I have however to observe, that the responsibility which will attach to the assistant registrar may be expected to operate strongly as a check to abuses. It has also been deemed right to devise some effectual security against the possible misconduct of these functionaries themselves. For that purpose, it is provided, that the fees of the registrar and his assistants shall be paid into the public treasury, and they shall be remunerated by salaries, which, however, you are strongly enjoined not to pay either to the registrar or to any of his assistants, as long as any of the duties which the party applying for payment is appointed to execute, may be unperformed or in arrear, and the salary is at length to be paid without any interest in respect of that period during which the payment may have been so suspended.

It is in general to be observed, that the present Order does not repeal the former Order in Council, although of course it supersedes some of the provisions of it, and that the present Order contains no clause remitting any penalties which may have been already incurred.

His Majesty's Government are not insensible of the extreme difficulty of framing with propriety an Order which is to take effect in a colony of which the population, language, and laws differ entirely from those of England. It has not escaped observation that the present Order in Council may therefore have to encounter difficulties which have not been anticipated in this country. The delay incident to all communications with the Mauritius is such, that any impediment to the success of the measure which may be detected there, might be productive of the most injurious consequences before any remedy could be applied by the authority of His Majesty in Council. It has therefore been deemed right to commit to you, acting with the advice of your Council, the power of making such rules as may be necessary for giving effect to the intentions of His Majesty's Government, relative to the registration of slaves in the Mauritius, and you are authorized, with the advice of your Council, to suspend the execution of any of the provisions of the Order in Council, which may in practice be found to defeat those intentions.

I need scarcely point out to you the necessity of exercising this power with the greatest caution and forbearance; nor is it necessary that I should remind you of the propriety of transmitting to me, by the earliest opportunity, the fullest explanation of the reasons of every departure from the rules of the Order in Council, which may be authorized by any local ordinance.

In conclusion, I have to impress upon you the urgent importance of giving effect to the wishes of His Majesty's Government on this subject, by every exertion it may be in your power to make. There is no duty connected with the administration of the government of the Mauritius, to which your attention could be more advantageously directed, and I shall anxiously expect your report of the measures adopted in compliance with the present Order in Council, and of the consequences resulting from it.

I have, &c.
(signed) BATHURST.

(Enclosure 1, in No. 1.)

At the Court at Carlton House, 30th January 1826.

Present,—The King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS his late Majesty was pleased, by and with the advice of his Privy Council, to issue an Order in Council, bearing date the 24th September 1814, for establishing within the Isle of France an Office for the Registration of Slaves.

And whereas in pursuance of the said Order in Council, an office hath been established in the said island for the purpose aforesaid, and returns have from time to time been made of the slaves therein, which returns have been registered in the said office, but nevertheless the said returns or divers of them have been inaccurately

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

7

inaccurately and improperly made, and the records of the said office of registration have not been compiled and kept in the manner prescribed and required in and by the said Order in Council, by reason whereof the beneficial objects of the said Order have not been attained; and it is necessary to make further and more effectual provision for insuring due obedience to the provisions of the said Order in Council, and for that purpose it is expedient that the original or general registration therein directed to be made of all the slaves within the said island should be repealed, His Majesty, by and with the advice of his Privy Council, is hereby pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that within the term of one calendar month next after the arrival of this present Order at the Isle of France, and the receipt thereof by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or other person having the chief civil command under His Majesty within the island, the same shall be publicly notified, both in the French and English languages, to the inhabitants of the said island and its dependencies, in such manner as to the said Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or civil Commander-in-Chief, shall seem most fit and effectual, and shall be enrolled at length in the records of the several courts of justice in the said island.

And it is hereby further ordered, That within three calendar months next after such public notification of this Order as aforesaid, a full and complete revision, correction and renewal of the first and original registry of slaves, made under the said Order of the 24th of September 1814, shall in manner hereinafter mentioned be begun and completed within the said island.

And it is hereby further ordered, That such Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or civil Commander-in-Chief, shall nominate and appoint one fit and proper person to act as assistant to the registrar of slaves in each of the quarters of the said island; and the persons so to be appointed, shall from time to time be suspended or removed from such their offices by the said Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or civil Commander-in-Chief, and other persons appointed in their place and stead, as occasion may require.

And it is hereby further ordered, That no such assistant registrar as aforesaid shall be appointed in or for the quarter of _____ in the said island, but that in the said quarter of _____ the registrar of slaves appointed under the said Order in Council of the 24th of September 1814, shall execute in person the duties to be executed in the other quarters of the said island by the said assistant registrars.

And it is hereby further ordered, That the said Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or civil Commander-in-Chief, shall by a proclamation to be by him issued for that purpose, appoint one or more day or days, upon which all personal slaves within the several quarters of the said island aforesaid, shall be brought, produced and exhibited to the registrar or assistant registrar of slaves, within the several quarters aforesaid.

And it is hereby further ordered, That the said Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or civil Commander-in-Chief, shall by a proclamation to be by him issued for that purpose, also appoint certain days upon which the said registrar and assistant registrars of slaves, shall personally visit, examine and inspect all plantation slaves, within the several quarters as aforesaid, at and upon the several plantations to which such plantation slaves may respectively belong.

And it is hereby further ordered, That the days so to be appointed for the production and inspection of such personal slaves and plantation slaves respectively, shall not be later than one calendar month from and after such public notification as aforesaid of this present Order.

And it is hereby further ordered, That for the purposes of this present Order, personal slaves shall be distinguished from plantation slaves, in the same manner as is prescribed, and according to the same rules, provisions and directions, as are made and given in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814.

And it is hereby further ordered, That on the day or days so to be appointed as aforesaid for that purpose, every person who shall then be resident in any such quarters of the said island, and who shall be in possession of any personal slave or slaves, whether as proprietor, mortgagee, trustee or receiver, manager or attorney, whatever their title, trust or interest therein may be, or who then shall own or possess any personal slave whatsoever within the said island or its dependencies, shall, at the place within the said quarter, to be for that purpose appointed by the said proclamation, bring, produce or exhibit all such his, her

her or their personal slaves, before the registrar or assistant registrar of slaves for every such quarter.

And it is hereby further ordered, That on the day or days so to be appointed as aforesaid for that purpose, every person who shall then be resident in any such quarter as aforesaid, and who shall be in possession of any plantation slaves or slave within any such quarter, whether as proprietor, mortgagee, trustee or receiver, manager or attorney, whatever their title, trust or interest therein may be, shall produce and exhibit before such registrar or assistant registrar as aforesaid, all such his, her or their plantation slaves, upon the plantation or estate upon which such slaves may be usually worked, or to which they may be attached or belong, or with which they may be owned, held or possessed; and a general muster or assemblage of all such plantation slaves shall thereupon take place upon each and every such plantation, in the presence of such registrar or assistant registrar as aforesaid.

And it is hereby further ordered, That upon the production in manner aforesaid of any such personal slaves or plantation slaves as aforesaid, before any such registrar or assistant registrar, the person producing any such slave or slaves shall, at the same time deliver, upon oath, to such registrar or assistant registrar, a return of all his, her or their personal and plantation slaves, which return shall be made out in such and the same form as in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th of September 1814 is prescribed and required, for or in reference to the first or original returns thereby directed to be made; and the said return of slaves so to be made as aforesaid under this present Order, shall contain all and every the entries, declarations, descriptions, statements, matters and things, of what kind and nature soever, which, in and by the said Order of the 24th day of September 1814, are directed and required to be contained in the said first or original returns therein mentioned.

And His Majesty is hereby further pleased to order, That for the better enabling all persons to comply with the provisions of this present Order, and to make the first returns hereby required of them, the said registrar and assistant registrar shall, in their several quarters, distribute gratuitously to all persons applying for the same, and shall leave or cause to be left at or upon each plantation, and at every house within their said respective quarters, printed copies in blank of the forms of the returns both of personal and of plantation slaves so to be made by them, together with such printed instructions as to the proper mode of filling up such blank returns, as may be necessary or convenient for enabling such persons fully to understand the duty to be performed by them: Provided nevertheless, That no such printed instructions as aforesaid shall be so distributed by or under the authority of any such registrar or assistant registrar, until the same hath been first approved by the said Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or civil Commander-in Chief of the said island: And provided also, That no difference or distinction shall be made between the printed instructions which may be issued for the purpose aforesaid in the several quarters of the said island.

And it is hereby further ordered, That immediately upon receiving any such returns as aforesaid, the said registrar and assistant registrars respectively, shall proceed to ascertain whether each and every such return is made out and completed in the manner and form required in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th of September 1814, and whether the same comprises all such matters and things as ought to be comprised and included therein; and shall also, by a personal examination and inspection of the said slaves, ascertain as far as may be possible, whether each and every slave in every such return mentioned and comprised, is or is not truly and accurately described therein, in the several particulars of names, surnames, colour, employment, age, stature, country, marks and relations, specified in the said Order in Council; and it shall be the duty of the said registrar and assistant registrars of slaves, to assist all such persons as aforesaid with all necessary explanations and advice, as to the proper manner of making and filling up the said returns; and the said registrar and assistant registrars are hereby authorized and required to reject any returns which may be so made to them as aforesaid, which shall appear to them, or either of them, not to be made out and completed in the manner and form required in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th of September 1814, or which shall appear to them not to comprise all the matters and things which ought to be comprised and included therein, or which shall appear to them, or either of them,

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

9

not to contain a true and accurate description of the slaves therein mentioned and described in the several particulars in the said Order, and hereinbefore referred to.

And it is hereby further ordered, That the said registrar and assistant-registrar shall respectively set and subscribe their names to a certificate to be endorsed upon every return received by them respectively, and not so rejected as aforesaid; and which certificate shall be in the following words, (that is to say), "I, *A. B.*, Registrar or Assistant Registrar of slaves for the quarter of in the island of Mauritius, do hereby certify, that the within written return was delivered to me on this day of by of the said quarter of and that I, the said *A. B.*, have verified the said return by the personal examination and inspection of the slaves therein mentioned and referred to; and that the said return, to the best of my belief, contains an accurate description of the said slaves, in the several particulars mentioned and required in and by the said Order in Council, bearing date the 24th day of September 1814. *A. B.* Registrar or Assistant Registrar for the quarter."

And it is hereby further ordered, That the said registrar and assistant registrars respectively, shall, with all convenient and practicable dispatch, transmit to and deposit in the office of the registrar of slaves in the town of Port Louis aforesaid, all the returns so received and certified by them as aforesaid; and the whole of such returns shall be actually transmitted to and deposited in the said office, within the term of four calendar months next after the notification of this present Order made in the said Isle of France in manner aforesaid.

And it is hereby further ordered, That together with the said returns so certified as aforesaid, the said registrar and assistant registrars shall, within the said period of four months, transmit to and deposit in the said office, certificates, under their respective hands, of the names and descriptions, and places of abode, of all persons within their respective quarters, who may have omitted to make the returns required of them within the period hereinbefore limited for that purpose, and of all persons whose returns were tendered and rejected by any such registrar or assistant registrar, as having been improperly made, with a statement of the particular grounds and reasons upon which the same were so rejected.

And it is hereby further ordered, That within four calendar months, to be computed from the expiration of the time hereinbefore appointed for completing the delivery to the said Registrar's office of the said returns, every such return that shall have been duly made to the said registrar and assistant registrars, and certified by them in manner aforesaid, shall by the said registrar, his clerks or assistants, be entered and copied, in a fair, distinct and legible manner, in books to be provided by the said registrar for that purpose, in such manner as in the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, is particularly mentioned.

And it is hereby further ordered, That all and every the rules, regulations, provisions and directions, in the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, made, contained, given and prescribed, with respect to the mode of compiling the books of original registry therein mentioned, and with respect to the contents and form of the said books and the entries to be made therein, or otherwise in any manner relating to such books, shall be and the same are hereby declared to be applicable and in force, in reference to the books of registry hereby directed to be made, compiled and kept.

And it is hereby further ordered, That when and so soon as the original returns, which shall have been transmitted to or deposited in the office of the said registrar at Port Louis aforesaid, pursuant to this present Order, shall have been fairly entered and registered as aforesaid, which shall be done and completed within the term of eight calendar months from and after the first notification of this present Order in the Isle of France, the said registrar shall give notice thereof forthwith to the said Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Civil Commander in Chief of the said island, who shall thereupon proceed to give such public notification, that the said registry of slaves is ready to be verified before him, as is required in and by the said Order of the 24th day of September 1814, in reference to the original registry of slaves therein mentioned; and such Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Civil Commander in Chief as aforesaid, shall

shall, in the cases particularly mentioned and provided for in and by the said former Order in Council, have power under this present Order, to authorize the admission and registration of the returns of slaves omitted from accident or unavoidable impediment.

And it is hereby further ordered, That at the end of twelve months next after the public notification of this present Order in the said island of Mauritius, the said registrar shall proceed finally to close and authenticate the said first registration of slaves, to be made in pursuance of this present Order, and for that purpose, all such and the like proceedings shall be had and taken as are prescribed and directed in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th of September 1814, in respect to the authentication of the primary registration of all the slaves in the said island thereby required to be made.

And it is hereby further ordered, That indexes and duplicates of the said books of registry, so to be compiled as aforesaid, under this present Order, shall be made out, subscribed, dealt with and disposed of, in such and the same manner and form, as in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th September 1814, is directed and prescribed, in respect to the indexes and duplicates thereby required to be made of the books of original registry therein mentioned.

And whereas great irregularity hath prevailed in the said island, with regard to the annual returns of slaves required to be made in and by the said Order in Council, His Majesty, for the prevention of such irregularities in future, is hereby further pleased to order, That no conveyance, sale, mortgage, transfer or other alienation of any slave or slaves, within the said island or its dependencies, shall be valid or effectual, or of any force or virtue in the law, unless the same be registered at the office of the said registrar of slaves at Port Louis aforesaid, at or within the times and in the manner hereinafter mentioned; that is to say, every such conveyance, sale, mortgage, transfer or alienation shall be so registered at the said office within the period of one month from the date thereof, if all or either of the parties to any such conveyance, sale, mortgage, transfer or alienation, are at the time of effecting the same resident within the said island or its dependencies, or within the period of twelve months, if all such parties are at that time resident beyond the limits of the said island and its dependencies; and such registration shall be made in manner following, that is to say, when all such parties as aforesaid are at the time of effecting any such conveyance, sale, mortgage, transfer or alienation, resident within the said island, some one of such parties shall within the said period of one calendar month, personally deliver to the said registrar or assistant registrar of the quarter to which such slave belongs, a written note or memorandum, signed and subscribed by them, him or her, stating the registered name or names of the slave or slaves so conveyed, sold, mortgaged, transferred or alienated, with the names, descriptions and places of abode of the parties, by, to, in favour of or in trust for whom such conveyance, sale, mortgage, transfer or alienation may have been made, and whether such slaves or slave are or is attached to any and what plantation, or not, and when and by whom such slave or slaves were or was first registered; and if none of such parties as aforesaid are at the time of effecting any such conveyance, sale, mortgage, transfer or alienation, resident within the said island or its dependencies, then it shall be sufficient if such note or memorandum as aforesaid be delivered to the registrar of slaves, at his office at Port Louis aforesaid, by some person lawfully appointed for that purpose to act as the attorney or agent of the person or persons by whom any such slave or slaves may have been so conveyed, sold, mortgaged, transferred or alienated, and signed and subscribed by such attorney or agent.

And it is hereby further ordered, That every person in possession of any slaves or slave in the said island or its dependencies, whether as proprietor, mortgagee, sequestrator, trustee, receiver, manager or attorney, shall within one calendar month next after the birth, death or enfranchisement of any such slave, transmit or deliver to the registrar or assistant registrar of slaves of the quarter in which they, he or she may be resident, a note or memorandum of every such birth, death or enfranchisement, stating the registered names and ages of the slaves or slave so dying or enfranchised, and when and by whom such slave or slaves were first registered in the said island; and further stating the names of the persons or person by whom any such slaves or slave may be so enfranchised, and stating the occasion or cause of the death of any such slaves or slave, and
the

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

11

the registered names of the parents or supposed parents of any slave so born, and the times or time when, and the person or persons by whom such parents, or either of them, were or was first registered as slaves or as a slave.

And it is hereby further ordered, That the said registrar and assistant registrars shall deliver gratuitously, to all persons applying for the same, printed forms in blank of the notes or memoranda of conveyance, sales, mortgages, transfers or alienations, or of births, deaths or enfranchisements of slaves so required to be transmitted or delivered to such registrar or assistant registrar as aforesaid; and it shall be the duty of such officers to assist all persons with all necessary advice as to the mode of filling up any such notes or memoranda; and the same shall be received by the said registrar and assistant registrars in the manner and form prescribed in such printed notes, and in none other.

And it is hereby further ordered, That the said registrar and assistant registrars do, by the first convenient opportunity, transmit to and deposit in the office of the said registrar at Port Louis aforesaid, every note or memorandum of the alienation, death, birth or enfranchisement of any slave or slaves so delivered to them as aforesaid; and the said registrar of slaves, his clerks and assistants, shall, in four distinct and separate books, to be provided for that purpose by the said registrar, transcribe the said notes or memoranda, one of such books being intituled, "*The Registry of Sales of Slaves;*" another of such books being intituled, "*The Registry of Enfranchisement of Slaves;*" one other of such books being intituled, "*The Registry of the Deaths of Slaves;*" and one other of such books being intituled, "*The Registry of the Births of Slaves;*" and in each of the said three first-mentioned books shall be made references to the volume and page of the volume in which the original and every subsequent registry is to be found, of every slave so alienated, dying or enfranchised; and in the fourth of the said books are to be made, in like manner, references to the volume and page of the volume in which the original and every subsequent registry is to be found, of the parents or parent of every slave so born as aforesaid.

And it is hereby further ordered, That at the expiration of two years, to be computed from the time when the first registry of slaves to be made under the present order shall be completed and authenticated as aforesaid, every person resident in the said island or its dependencies, who shall own or possess any slave or slaves within the same, whether as proprietor or mortgagee, sequestrator, trustee or receiver, manager or attorney, or whatever their, his or her tenure of or title to the same may be, shall make and deliver upon oath to the registrar or assistant registrar of slaves of the quarter in which they, he or she may be resident, an account or schedule in writing, to be by them, him or her subscribed, to be called "*The biennial Return of Slaves;*" which biennial return shall contain all such statements and particulars, and shall set forth and discover all such matters and things as in and by the said Order in Council, of the 24th day of September 1814, are required to be contained, set forth and discovered in the annual return of slaves therein mentioned; and such biennial returns as aforesaid shall, in every respect and particular, be made out in the manner and form required by the said Order in respect to the said annual returns.

Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby further ordered, That in every such biennial return as aforesaid, in which any slave or slaves shall be stated to have been sold, born or enfranchised, or to have died since the last preceding return, the person or persons making such biennial return shall, in a separate and distinct column to be provided for that purpose, also state when and by whom any note or memorandum of such sale, birth, enfranchisement or death, was transmitted or delivered to any such registrar or assistant registrar as aforesaid.

And it is hereby further ordered, That all persons making such biennial returns as aforesaid shall, on such day or days as may be appointed for that purpose, within the said several quarters, by any proclamation to be issued by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or civil Commander-in-Chief of the said island, bring, produce or exhibit before the registrar or assistant registrar of such quarter, all their, his or her personal slaves and plantation slaves, in such manner and form in every respect as is hereinbefore directed and required with regard to the production of such slaves, upon making the first or original returns of slaves under this present Order; and such and the like muster or assemblage of all plantation slaves shall thereupon take place and be held in the presence of every such registrar or assistant registrar of slaves, upon each and every planta-

tion within the said island, as is hereinbefore directed in reference to the before-mentioned original returns; and such registrar and assistant registrars shall thereupon proceed to administer to all persons making such returns such and the same oath as is prescribed in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, and shall proceed in manner hereinbefore mentioned in reference to the said original returns to ascertain the accuracy and truth of such biennial returns, affording to the parties making the same all necessary advice and assistance as hereinbefore directed in reference to the said original returns; and such registrars and assistant registrars shall also proceed to reject or receive the biennial returns which may be so made to them, to certify the correctness thereof, and to transmit and deposit the same to and in the office of the registrar of slaves in the town of Port Louis aforesaid, in such and the same manner in all respects as is hereinbefore directed and prescribed in reference to the original returns to be made in pursuance of this present Order.

Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby further ordered, That the time of making the said biennial returns shall be fixed by proclamation of the said Governor or Lieutenant-Governor, or civil Commander-in-Chief, upon some day or days within one calendar month next after the 1st day of January in the year in which the same shall be so made; and that the time for transmitting all such biennial returns to or depositing the same in the office of the said registrar of slaves at Port Louis shall be fixed by such proclamation, at some period not more than two calendar months distant from such 1st day of January.

And it is hereby further ordered, That the said registrar, on the receipt of such biennial returns at his office, shall forthwith proceed to correct, enlarge and continue, pursuant thereto, the former registry of the plantation slaves and personal slaves to which such returns respectively relate, in the manner and the form particularly mentioned, prescribed and directed in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, in reference to the annual returns thereby directed to be made.

Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby further ordered, That if any such biennial returns as aforesaid shall exhibit any increase of the slaves of the person or persons making such return, by birth or purchase, or any diminution in the number of such slaves by enfranchisement or death, the said registrar shall further proceed to compare every such biennial return with the notes or memoranda so to be recorded as aforesaid in the before-mentioned four books of Sale, Births, Deaths and Enfranchisement; and in case such biennial returns shall appear to be inconsistent with such notes or memoranda, it shall be the duty of the said registrar, and he is hereby required to postpone the registration of any such biennial return, unless and until the person or persons making the same shall give to such registrar, or to the assistant registrar of their, his or her quarter, an explanation on oath of the causes of such variance and inconsistency, showing the same, to the satisfaction of the said registrar, to have arisen from accidental or unavoidable causes, and not from wilful disobedience to this present Order; and upon receiving any such explanation as aforesaid, but not before, such registrar of slaves shall, and he is hereby authorized to register any such biennial return as aforesaid, notwithstanding such apparent inconsistency, provided that no such explanation as aforesaid be received, and no such biennial return as aforesaid be registered by the said registrar after the expiration of three calendar months next after the time so to be appointed as aforesaid for the completion of any such biennial registration.

And it is hereby further ordered, That all and every the rules and regulations made and contained in the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, in reference to the registration of the annual returns therein mentioned, and in reference to the correction of accidental or unintentional errors occurring in any such annual returns, and in reference to the general account or abstract therein required to be made of all such annual returns, and in reference to the verification of such general abstract, and in reference to the transmission of such abstract to England, shall be and the same are hereby declared to be applicable to the biennial returns required in and by this present Order, save only so far as any such rules or regulations may be repealed or altered by or under the authority of this Order.

And it is hereby further ordered, That all and every the penalties and forfeitures declared and imposed in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th
September

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

13

September 1814, upon the said registrar, his deputies, assistants or clerks, shall extend and apply, under this present Order, to the said registrar and assistant registrars, his and their deputies, assistants or clerks, as fully as if the provisions of the said Order in Council imposing such penalties were herein repeated in reference to the returns hereby required to be made, and the books, accounts and abstracts hereby required to be kept, and the several matters and things hereby directed to be done and performed by such registrar and assistant registrars, and his and their deputies, assistants or clerks.

And it is hereby further ordered, That if any registrar or assistant registrar as aforesaid, shall, fraudently, corruptly or maliciously, or with intent to defeat and frustrate the objects of the present Order, or any of them, reject any return which he ought according to the provisions of this Order to receive, or receive any return which according to the provisions aforesaid he ought to reject, or shall set and subscribe any such certificate as aforesaid to any return to which according to the provisions of this present Order such a certificate ought not to be annexed, or shall accept or certify any such return, unless or until he has actually examined and inspected the several slaves therein contained, according to the provisions of this present Order, or shall in any manner act collusively and fraudulently, so as to defeat, or with the intent and purpose of defeating, the execution of this Order, or of the said former Order in Council, so far as the same can hereafter be acted upon, then and in each and every of such cases, such registrar or assistant registrars being thereof convicted, shall forfeit and pay any sum of money not less than 100 dollars, nor more than 5,000 dollars, or shall suffer imprisonment for any term not less than one month, nor exceeding twelve months, or shall suffer both fine and imprisonment within the limits aforesaid, at the discretion of the court before which such conviction may take place, and shall also forfeit such his office, and become incapable of serving His Majesty again in the same or the like capacity within the said island.

And it is hereby further ordered, That if any person or persons who, according to the provisions of this present Order, ought to bring, produce or exhibit, all their, his or her personal slaves or plantation slaves, before the said registrar or assistant registrar, shall omit or neglect, at the time so to be appointed at the time aforesaid for that purpose, so to bring, produce or exhibit any such slaves or slave, or shall not in fact so bring, produce or exhibit the same to any of them at the time aforesaid; or if any such persons or person shall refuse to allow, or shall not in fact allow any such registrar or assistant registrar as aforesaid, at any time or times so to be appointed for that purpose as aforesaid, to enter upon their, his or her plantation or estate, for the purpose of examining and inspecting any such slaves or slave, or verifying in manner aforesaid any return of any such slaves or slave made in pursuance of this present Order; or if any such person or persons shall not permit any such registrar or assistant registrar to complete any such inspection, examination or verification as aforesaid, or shall prevent him by force or threats, or otherwise, from remaining upon any such plantation or estate as aforesaid, quietly and peaceably, during such period as may be necessary for completing the objects aforesaid; or if any such person or persons shall advisedly and fraudulently seek or endeavour to deceive any such registrar or assistant registrar respecting the number, age, country, marks, employment, names or relations of any such slaves or slave, with intent to defeat or obstruct the execution of this present Order, then and in each and every of the several cases aforesaid the persons or person so offending shall be subject and liable to the payment of a fine not less than 5 dollars, and not exceeding 50 dollars, upon each and every slave owned or possessed by them, him or her, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months, nor less than one month, or to both, at the discretion of the court before which any such persons or person may be convicted of any such offence.

And it is hereby further ordered, That if any person or persons shall omit to transmit or deliver, or shall not in fact transmit or deliver, to the registrar or assistant registrar of slaves such note or memorandum of the birth, death or enfranchisement of any slave or slaves which, according to the provisions of this present Order, they, he or she ought to transmit or deliver, the person or persons so offending shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding 50 dollars, nor less than 5 dollars, for all and every the slaves or slave so born, dying or enfranchised, at the discretion of the court before which the conviction of any such offender may take place.

And it is hereby further ordered, That any person making any oath under this present Order, who shall be convicted of swearing falsely therein, with a wicked or corrupt intent, shall be subject and liable to all such and the same punishments, pains, penalties and forfeitures, as by any law now in force within the said island can or may be inflicted upon any person guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury.

And it is hereby further ordered, That all and every the penalties, fines and forfeitures, declared and imposed in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, upon persons falsely and wilfully inserting in the returns therein mentioned any name or names, description or descriptions, of any slave or slaves, or pretended slave or slaves, belonging to any plantation or plantations, owner or owners, and that all and every the provisions of the said Order in Council relative to the confiscation to His Majesty of all slaves not duly registered; and all and every the clauses in the said Order contained, requiring the owner or claimant of slaves to show, in any action, suits or judicial proceeding within the said island, that such slave or slaves hath or have been duly registered as therein mentioned; and all and every the provisions contained in the said Order for the protection and security of divers persons therein particularly mentioned, against the forfeitures therein and thereby imposed, and that all and every the penalties and forfeitures imposed and declared in and by the said Order upon persons keeping or holding in slavery any African or other negro or mulatto, or other coloured person, in the cases therein particularly mentioned, and also the provisions in the said Order contained, with regard to the admission in certain cases of the testimony of persons being or alleged to be slaves, and with regard to the admission in evidence of certificates from the said registrar, shall be and the same are hereby declared to be and continue in full force, virtue and effect under this present Order, as fully and effectually as if all and every such penalties, fines and forfeitures, provisions, clauses and enactments, were herein repeated and re-enacted.

Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby further ordered, That it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or person having the chief civil command in the said island, upon the petition of any person or persons who, under the provisions of the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, or of this present Order, shall or may have incurred the forfeiture or confiscation of any slaves or slave, to suspend the execution of any judgment, sentence, order or decree for any such forfeiture or confiscation, upon sufficient and reasonable cause to him for that purpose shown, until His Majesty's pleasure can be known in the premises; and that it shall and may be lawful for such Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and civil Commander-in-Chief, in obedience to any orders to him for that purpose issued by His Majesty through one of His principal Secretaries of State, either to remit such forfeiture and confiscation, or to substitute for the same any such pecuniary penalty as His Majesty may direct, or as, in default of such direction, may to such Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or civil Commander-in-Chief, appear just and reasonable.

Provided also, and it is hereby further ordered, That all the fines, forfeitures and penalties declared or imposed by the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, or by this present Order, shall be recovered, applied and disposed of by such person or persons, and in such manner and form, as are and is provided and declared in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, save only that it shall and may be competent to the person or persons commencing any action, suit or prosecution, for any such fines, penalties or forfeitures, at his or their discretion, to sue for and recover the same, either in the courts of ordinary jurisdiction of the said island; that is to say, the Court of First Instance and Court of Appeal, or in the Court of Vice Admiralty, established at the Isle of France aforesaid.

And it is hereby further ordered, That in lieu of the fees granted by the said Order in Council of the 24th day or September 1814, the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and civil Commander-in-Chief of the said island, shall publish a schedule of fees to be paid and payable to the said registrar and assistant registrars, and that such registrar and assistant registrars shall, and they are hereby required, on or before the last day in each month, to transmit to the public treasurer of the said island, an account on oath of all the fees by them respectively received since the first day of that month inclusive, and which accounts shall be verified by the oath of the said registrar and assistant registrars,

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

15

to be administered to them by such a treasurer or his lawful deputy; and the said treasurer shall, and is hereby required to open and keep a distinct account of the sums so paid into his office by the said registrar and assistant registrars as aforesaid; and the said registrar and assistant registrars shall respectively be entitled to receive from the said treasurer in lieu, and as a full compensation for all emoluments and fees of office whatsoever, such reasonable salaries as the said Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or civil Commander-in-Chief, in obedience to any orders to him for that purpose issued by His Majesty, through one of his Principal Secretaries of State, shall direct and appoint: Provided always, That such salaries shall be payable only in pursuance of warrants directed to the said treasurer by such Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or civil Commander-in-Chief; and that such Governor shall not issue, and he is hereby expressly prohibited from issuing, any such warrants or warrant in favour of any such assistant registrar unless and until such assistant registrars have transmitted to and deposited in the office of the said registrar the several returns and certificates which they are hereinbefore required to transmit and deliver to, or in favour of any such registrar unless and until he hath actually delivered to such Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or civil Commander-in-Chief, for conveyance to England, all such duplicate books of registry, accounts and abstracts, as at the time of issuing any such warrant in his favour ought, according to the provisions of the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, or of this present Order, to have been so delivered by him; and such salaries shall be payable upon the completion of such several duties as aforesaid, and not before, without any allowance or charge for interest for the time during which such payment may have been suspended, by reason of the non-completion of such several duties.

And it is hereby further ordered, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any person or persons, feeling themselves, himself or herself aggrieved, by the rejection by any such assistant registrar as aforesaid of any return which shall be so made to him, to apply by petition, in the nature of an appeal, against any such decision, to the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or civil Commander in Chief of the said island, praying for the admission of any such rejected return, and such Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or civil Commander in Chief, shall thereupon proceed, by and with the advice of his Council, to make such Order therein as may be just, and either to direct such disputed return to be received and registered by the said registrar, or to permit the same to be amended, or to reject or disallow any such return, and every such petition, together with the answer of such assistant registrar thereto, and the evidence, if any, adduced in support of, or in opposition to the same, together with the final adjudication thereupon, shall be transmitted to the office of the registrar at Port Louis aforesaid, and there preserved for safe custody.

And whereas, in the execution of this Order, unforeseen exigencies may arise, for which no provision is hereby made by His Majesty in Council, without great delay and inconvenience, it is therefore hereby ordered and declared, That it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or civil Commander in Chief, by and with the advice of his legislative council, to make, ordain and promulgate, all such laws and ordinances as may to him with such advice as aforesaid, appear necessary for giving full and perfect effect to the provisions of this present Order, or as may from time to time be necessary for insuring the complete and punctual registration of all the slaves within the said island, and for that purpose, if necessary, by any such laws or ordinances, to suspend the execution of any of the provisions of this Order which may by experience be shown to be inconsistent with the full and perfect accomplishment of the object aforesaid: Provided always, That all such laws and ordinances be transmitted, by the first convenient opportunity, to one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, for His Majesty's approbation or disallowance, and that no such law or ordinance shall be made permanent, or pass for more than two years, until His Majesty's approbation thereof shall have been signified by one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State to such Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or civil Commander in Chief, and all such laws and ordinances, until such approbation as aforesaid has been received, shall by a clause to be therein inserted for that purpose, be expressly declared to be in force only until such time as His Majesty's pleasure in the premises can be known.

And the Right honourable Earl Bathurst, one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, is to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

(signed) *C. Greville.*

— No. 2. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *G. L. Cole* to Earl *Bathurst*.

My Lord,

Mauritius, 3d October 1826.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that, conformably to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch dated the 26th of February 1826, the Order in Council of the 30th of January last, requiring an entire new registration of the slaves of this colony, has been published in French and English in the Official Gazette, and been recorded in the colonial courts.

No exertion will be wanting on the part of the local Government to render this measure, which appears to create general satisfaction, as effectual as possible, and I have every hope that it will meet with a corresponding feeling on the part of the whole of the inhabitants.

Some delay has already unavoidably arisen from the want of the requisite quantity of paper and registers; and I have been obliged to write to the colonial agent, and to the Cape of Good Hope, to request that some of both may be sent here as early as possible; but I hope shortly to be able to report to your Lordship that the new registration is in progress, and at the same time to lay before your Lordship the arrangements which have been adopted on the spot with a view to facilitate and accomplish this very important object.

I have the honour, &c. &c.

(signed) *G. Lowry Cole.*

— No. 3. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *G. L. Cole* to Earl *Bathurst* :—
(Four Enclosures.)

My Lord,

Mauritius, 31st October 1826.

REFERRING to the despatch which I had the honour of addressing to your Lordship on the 3d instant, and to that which I have received from your Lordship dated the 26th of February last, I have now the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, the copies of two proclamations which I have issued conformably to His Majesty's Order in Council, requiring a new registration of the slaves of this colony.

By the first of these proclamations your Lordship will observe that the work of registration commenced on the 16th instant, and by the second your Lordship will be put in possession of the tarif of fees which has been established. Respecting the latter, I have taken upon myself (after consulting with the Council) to deviate from the original schedule of fees, in as far as relates to the charge for every search in the registry, and which, as your Lordship will remark, is now reduced to 1 s.

I also transmit to your Lordship a printed copy of the instructions which have been circulated throughout the colony, and I now proceed to report to your Lordship the arrangements which I have made, subject to your Lordship's confirmation, with a view of carrying into effect the provisions of the Order in Council.

For the town of Port Louis I have granted to the registrar of slaves two extra clerks, one at 10*l.* and the other at 8*l.* sterling a month, during the period that the registration shall continue in progress; and I have also authorized that officer to hire a house in the town of Port Louis for three months, it being not only inconvenient, but objectionable that large gangs of slaves should be assembled within the walls of the barracks, where the registrar's office has for some time been established.

In

Nos. 1 & 2.

No. 3.

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

17

In those districts of the colony where I have conceived that the civil commissaries were fit and proper persons to be employed in the slave registration, I have appointed them to be assistant registrars, viz.

Plaines Wilhems	-	-	-	-	-	Mr. Icery.
Moka	-	-	-	-	-	Mr. Beaugendre.
River du Rempart	-	-	-	-	-	Mr. Mangeot.
Flacq	-	-	-	-	-	Mr. Darné.
Black River	-	-	-	-	-	Mr. Bouic.
Pamplemousses	-	-	-	-	-	Mr. Prieur.

Granting to those officers, in addition to their present salaries of about 140 *l.* sterling a year, a further allowance of 12*l.* per month.

And I will here explain to your Lordship, that in making this arrangement, (on which I have taken the advice of the Council,) I have had two objects in view, viz. to save expense and to improve the situations of the civil commissaries. It would also have been very difficult, if not impossible, to have found eight competent persons willing to accept the assistant registrarships; and, had such a measure been attempted, the expense attending it would have been very considerable, as I do not think that a less salary than 20*l.* or 25*l.* sterling a month would have been a sufficient remuneration to have induced respectable persons to accept the situations alluded to; but had this arrangement been practicable, and its adoption deemed expedient, the emoluments of the assistant registrars would in such case have been better than those of the civil commissaries, and which, as the latter are the principal magistrates of the districts, would not, I conceive, have been desirable.

I have further to mention to your Lordship, that a doubt has arisen as to whether that clause of the old Slave Registration Ordinance, which prohibits the registrar from being a slave proprietor, is intended to be applied to the assistant registrars. This difficulty, however, on the opinions of the law officers, has been passed over for the present; but I conceive it my duty to state to your Lordship, that if it be the intention of His Majesty's Government that the assistant registrars should not be permitted to possess slaves, especially personal slaves, it will scarcely be possible to find respectable persons to fill those situations unless a considerable addition be made to their salaries, the hire of slaves here being so expensive that the sacrifice would be greater than the reward.

In the district of Savanne I have appointed Mr. Giguel, the suppléant civil commissary, (conceiving him to be better qualified for the office than the civil commissary, Mr. Ducray) to be assistant registrar of slaves, with a salary for this portion of his duty of 8*l.* sterling a month; and in the district of Grand Port, where the ordinary duties of the civil commissary and of his suppléant are very considerable, and occupy the whole of their time and attention, I have for the present appointed Mr. Abbott, one of the clerks in the slave registration department, to act as assistant registrar, receiving, in addition to his fixed salary of 12*l.* a month, a further monthly allowance of 10*l.* sterling for so long as he may be so employed.

To the more populous districts of Pamplemousses, River du Rempart, Flacq, and Grand Port, I have detached from the public offices in Port Louis four experienced clerks to assist in the slave registration of those districts, receiving, for the time they may be so employed, an allowance for their travelling expenses, additional to their respective salaries, of 10*l.* sterling a month each; and I have further authorized the registrar and the assistant registrars to employ two messengers each during the period that the work of registration shall continue.

Having within these few days received your Lordship's despatch of the 29th of May last, 1826, replying to mine of the 6th of February 1826, and wherein your Lordship has been pleased to authorize me to grant a small salary to the suppléant civil commissaries generally, I have the honour to report to your Lordship, that, as according to the arrangement which I have made (until your Lordship's pleasure shall be known) of employing the civil commissaries as the assistant registrars of slaves, a larger portion than heretofore of the district duties must now necessarily devolve on the suppléants, I have been induced, in order to stimulate their zeal and exertions, to grant to the latter officers (eight in number) a salary of 8*l.* sterling per month each. This sum certainly exceeds that which I had suggested to your Lordship in my despatch above alluded to, but I had not then in view the employment of the civil commissaries as the

assistant registrars, and I therefore hope that your Lordship will not disapprove of this augmentation.

No. 4.
The accompanying Statement will more fully explain to your Lordship the extra expense which these several arrangements will involve. I have particularly warned the assistant registrars of slaves that the greatest attention, exactitude and activity will be expected from them, and that any remissness of duty on their part will at once subject them to the serious displeasure of Government, I learn from the several districts that the work of registration is going on satisfactorily, and that the inhabitants at large evince the best feelings on the occasion. I trust, therefore, as no pains have been spared by the local Government, that the important object in view will be fully and completely attained, and that the measures which have been adopted here will meet with your Lordship's approbation.

I have, &c. &c.

(signed)

G. Lowry Cole.

(Enclosure 1 in No. 3.)

PROCLAMATION.

In the Name of His Majesty George the Fourth, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King.

His Excellency Lieutenant-General the Honourable Sir Galbraith Lowry Cole, Governor of the Island of Mauritius and Dependencies, &c. &c.

WHEREAS, by an Order in Council of His Majesty, bearing date the 30th day of January 1826, it is ordained, that certain days shall be fixed and determined on which the examination and inspection of the personal and plantation slaves shall take place.

And whereas it is likewise indispensable that a particular day should be fixed for the purpose of closing the returns of the number of slaves actually possessed or held, under whatsoever title it may be, on such day, by every inhabitant bound to furnish a return, in order that the regularity and end proposed by this operation may be effectually obtained.

His Excellency has decreed and decrees :

Art. 1. The examination, inspection and verification of all personal slaves belonging to, possessed, or held under any title whatsoever, by all and every person or persons resident in the town of Port Louis or its suburbs, shall begin on the 16th day of the present month of October, and shall continue until the 16th of the month of December.

Art. 2. To prevent the confusion and disorder which might result from a too great concourse of slaves at the same moment at the registry-office, the inhabitants shall be informed, either by the registrar of slaves or through the medium of the police, of the particular day upon which the registrar can receive their returns, and inspect and verify their slaves. On the day specified, the inhabitants shall be bound to present their returns and slaves to the registrar of slaves in the town of Port Louis, under pain, in cases of omission or negligence, of the penalties and forfeitures pronounced by the Order in Council.

Art. 3. The examination, verification, and inspection, of all personal and plantation slaves in the several quarters of the island of Mauritius shall begin also on the 16th of the present month of October, and shall continue until the 16th of the month of December.

Art. 4. The assistant registrars of slaves, appointed for such purpose in the said quarters, shall proceed in person to every plantation or establishment to which there shall be attached more than five slaves; they shall there receive from the inhabitants their returns, and shall proceed, in the first instance, to the examination and verification of all personal slaves required to be registered as such, and afterwards to the examination and verification of the plantation slaves; and in order that the returns to be produced may be ready and perfected,

fect, and that all the slaves may be assembled for the purpose of examination and verification as it is ordered, the assistant registrars shall give two days notice at the least to the owners of slaves of the day on which they intend to visit each plantation. In case of any refusal, negligence or omission on the part of the inhabitants, in case also of inattention to the notice which shall be given to them, or obstacle of any kind or description, on their part, to the fulfilment of the duties prescribed to the assistant registrars on each plantation, on the day they shall have fixed upon and announced for their visit and examination, the inhabitant or inhabitants offending in all or either of the above cases shall incur the pains and penalties set forth in His Majesty's said Order in Council.

Art. 5. In order to prevent the loss of time which would inevitably result from the assistant registrars visiting in person the residence of individuals possessing only a few acres of land, to which may be attached no more than five slaves, the assistant registrars are authorized to require these proprietors of small estates, by a notice sent to them to that effect, to bring and present their slaves, and to give in their returns on the days which shall be fixed for the examination and verification, in each quarter, of the personal slaves belonging to persons possessing no plantation. These days shall be the Mondays in each week during the period fixed for the completion of the returns, and, if necessary, the following day, but upon no other days; and as the most convenient spot for the assembling of the slaves to be examined must depend upon the progress the assistant registrars shall make in their visits to the plantations in their respective quarters, as before ordered, the said assistants shall make known every week to the inhabitants residing in the vicinity of the estates they shall have to visit, the place where the examination and verification of the personal slaves will take place on the above-mentioned days. This notice shall be further affixed at the residence of the civil commissary two days before that on which the examination shall take place. All persons who shall neglect or refuse to obey the summons which shall be made to them by the assistant registrar in pursuance of the present article, shall incur the pains and penalties ordained in and by the said Order in Council.

Art. 6. With a view of preventing the confusion and inaccuracy which may arise in the actual number of slaves possessed or held (under whatsoever title it may be) by each individual, and which might be occasioned by the mutations which may take place during the period accorded for the completion of the returns, particularly from sales and purchases, it becomes necessary to fix a day on which the actual number of slaves possessed or held, by virtue of any title, by every person required to furnish a return, shall be taken for making out and completing the said return, without reference to the mutations which may have taken place in the interval between such day and the day on which the returns may be delivered to the registrar or assistant registrars, whether the mutations arise from sales or purchases, or from births, deaths or emancipations.

Art. 7. In consequence of the preceding article it is ordered, that every person the proprietor of any slave or slaves, or having possession of any slave or slaves by virtue of any title whatever, in completing the return prescribed by the Order in Council of the 30th January 1826, shall insert in the said return the exact number of slaves possessed by him on the 16th October, (the day on which the return shall be dated), and no others; which slaves, accident by death excepted, he shall be bound to produce to the registrar on the day which shall be appointed to him for that purpose.

Art. 8. And whereas it is prescribed by the said Order in Council, that all mutations, of what nature or kind soever, which shall take place among the slaves possessed or held (by virtue of any title whatever) by the inhabitants, shall be declared by the owners resident in the colony, and registered at the slave registry-office, within one month from the day when such mutation shall take place: it is ordered by the present Article, that until the expiration of the period fixed for the completion of the original returns, that is to say, until the 16th of December next, it shall not be necessary for any proprietor of slaves to declare any mutation which may happen among his slaves up to that date; but it is expressly understood, and it is further ordered, that this declaration shall be made within one month from the said 16th day of December, and that the prolongation, in this particular case, of the period fixed by law, granted solely with the view of preventing confusion and irregularity, shall and ought not

not be considered or interpreted for any purpose, or under any pretext whatever, as retarding for the future the obligation imposed on persons owners of slaves or possessors thereof, to make their declarations of mutations among their slaves within the delay of one month; which said mutations, after the said 16th day of December, are to be declared in like manner and form as is prescribed in and by the said Order in Council, anything in this Proclamation contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Art. 9. The present Proclamation shall be read, published and registered in the courts; for which purpose a copy thereof shall be addressed to his honor the Chief Judge and Commissary of Justice.

Given at Port Louis, in the island of Mauritius, this 11th day of October 1826.

G. Lowry Cole.

By order,

A. W. Blane,

Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

(Enclosure 2 in No. 3.)

PROCLAMATION.

In the Name of His Majesty George the Fourth, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King.

His Excellency Lieutenant-General the Honourable Sir Galbraith Lowry Cole, Governor of the Island of Mauritius and Dependencies, &c. &c.

WHEREAS it is ordered by the Order in Council of His Majesty under date the 30th January 1826, that in lieu of the fees granted by the Order in Council of the 24th September 1814, the Governor or Commander-in-Chief should publish a schedule of fees to be levied and received at the office for the registry of slaves:

His Excellency has decreed and decrees:

Art. 1st. There shall be levied and received at the Slave Registry-office the Fees hereinafter established; viz.

	£.	s.	d.
For the registry of each biennial return	-	10	-
For every certificate of registry, and for every extract from the books of the registry	-	10	-
For every 100 words contained in any certificate or extract over and above the first 100 words	-	2	-
For every slave named and described in a copy of a return delivered from the Registry-office	-	-	1
For every search in the registry	-	-	1

Art. 2. The present Proclamation shall be read, published and registered in the courts; for which purpose a copy thereof shall be forwarded to his honour the Chief Judge and Commissary of Justice.

Given at Port Louis, the 11th day of October 1826.

G. Lowry Cole.

By order,

A. W. Blane,

Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

(Enclosure 3 in No. 3.)

AVIS DU GOUVERNEMENT.

Les Instructions suivantes ayant été rédigées en conformité des dispositions de l'Ordre en Conseil du 30 Janvier 1826, pour aider les habitans planteurs et propriétaires d'esclaves à faire leurs Recensemens, et ayant reçu l'approbation de Son Excellence le Gouverneur, il a plu à Son Excellence d'ordonner qu'elles soient publiées pour l'information générale.

INSTRUCTIONS fondées sur l'Ordre en Conseil du 24 Septembre 1814, pour servir à remplir les Recensemens des Esclaves d'Habitation et des Esclaves Personnels (1), en conformité de l'Ordre en Conseil du 30 Janvier 1826.

Tous les esclaves attachés ou appartenant à la même habitation ou au même propriétaire, seront nommés et décrits audit Recensement dans les listes et sections particulières (2) auxquelles elles appartiendront respectivement, de la manière et forme suivantes, c'est à dire : La feuille sera divisée par des lignes tirées de haut en bas, en neuf colonnes (3) perpendiculaires, chacune de la largeur convenable portant en tête : *Noms—Surnoms—Couleur—Emploi—Age—Taille—Pays—Marques—et Parens* ; et pour faire apercevoir plus clairement le signalement de chaque esclave individuel, il sera tiré, à une distance convenable, autant de lignes horizontales qu'il y aura d'esclaves, lesquelles, se croisant avec les lignes perpendiculaires, formeront autant de cases en face des noms de chaque esclave qu'il y aura de divisions en tête. Dans la première case, à gauche, on mettra le nom de baptême de chaque esclave qui a été baptisé, de celui qui ne l'a pas été, le premier nom par lequel il a été habituellement connu ou appelé ; dans la seconde case, suivant directement la ligne horizontale, le surnom ou second nom du même esclave, s'il a jamais porté aucun surnom ou second nom, et si non, alors au cas d'esclaves formant partie d'une famille quelconque, comprise dans les listes de familles ci-dessus mentionnées, le nom du chef de famille ; et au cas d'esclaves compris dans les listes générales d'esclaves mâles ou du sexe féminin, un nom tel que le propriétaire, ou la personne faisant remise du Recensement, jugera convenable d'y mettre pour lui servir de surnom ; lequel surnom, ledit esclave et ses descendans, soit légitimes, soit naturels, porteront toujours à l'avenir ; bien entendu, cependant, qu'au cas d'esclaves formant partie d'une famille, le propriétaire ou la personne faisant la remise du Recensement pourra, s'il le juge convenable, donner tout nom de famille ou surnom autre que celui de leur chef de famille, pourvu que deux familles sur la même habitation, ou appartenant au même propriétaire, ne portent pas le même surnom dans le Recensement ; mais pour tous les objets de cet Edit, le surnom sous lequel chaque esclave sera originairement recensé et enregistré, continuera toujours à être le surnom de cet esclave, et de ses descendans légitimes si c'est un mâle, et de ses descendans naturels si c'est une femme, et ne pourra être changé par la suite ; dans la troisième case, suivant toujours la ligne horizontale ayant en tête de sa colonne le mot Couleur, doit être mis le mot, noir ou noire, mulâtre ou mulâtresse, ou telles autres désignations des nuances intermédiaires de couleur, suivant les cas ; dans la quatrième case, ayant en tête de sa colonne le mot Emploi, devra être mis le métier ou la condition propre à chaque esclave, ou son occupation usuelle, spécifiant, dans les cas d'artisans, d'ouvriers ou de gens de métiers, l'art ou le métier particulier auquel il est habituellement occupé ; au cas d'esclaves domestiques, le service domestique ou département particulier dans lequel il est ordinairement employé ;

(1) Pour connaître d'une manière précise la distinction que la loi établit entre la désignation d'esclaves personnels et celle d'esclaves d'habitation, voyez ci-après l'extrait de la clause de la loi qui les définit.

(2) Ces listes et sections sont, 1°. Les familles d'esclaves qui doivent être portées les premières et à la suite les unes des autres dans le Recensement, en commençant par le chef de chaque famille, et ensuite sa femme, ses enfans et parens successivement. 2°. Tous les esclaves du sexe masculin qui n'appartiennent à aucune famille d'esclaves, qui seront insérés après successivement. 3°. Enfin, ceux du sexe féminin qui n'appartiennent à aucune famille, qui seront portés les derniers dans le Recensement ; ce qui explique pourquoi il n'y a pas de colonne indicative du sexe.

(3) Il y a une dixième colonne dans le Recensement personnel pour que, dans le cas qu'un esclave ait été acquis dans les sept précédentes années, le nom du dernier propriétaire y soit inséré.

ployé ; et dans les cas d'esclaves ordinaires d'habitation, on pourra les porter comme noirs de pioche ou manœuvres seulement ; dans la cinquième case, ayant en tête de sa colonne le mot Age, on doit insérer l'âge de l'esclave, selon la connaissance ou croyance du propriétaire ou autre personne faisant remise du Recensement ; dans la sixième case, ayant en tête de la colonne le mot Taille, devra être mise l'exacte taille de l'esclave en pieds et pouces Anglais, d'après un mesurage effectif, (4) lequel mesurage, dans les cas d'enfans ou de ceux qui n'auraient pas atteint leur entière croissance, devra être répété préalablement à la remise de chaque Recensement biennal qui sera fait par la suite ; dans la septième case, ayant en tête de sa colonne le mot Pays, on devra insérer, non seulement si l'esclave est Africain, ou créole, ou de tout autre pays, mais encore, au cas qu'il soit Africain, le nom du pays ou de la région d'Afrique d'où on l'a amené, et, s'il est créole, le nom de la colonie où il est né, ou d'où il a été amené, selon la connaissance ou croyance du propriétaire ou autre personne remettant le Recensement ; dans la huitième case, ayant en tête de sa colonne le mot Marques, on devra mettre si l'esclave a quelques cicatrices ou autres marques sur la figure, ou sur toute autre partie du corps, comme les esclaves Africains en ont ordinairement, et qu'on appelle généralement marques du pays, (5) ou s'il a quelques-unes de ces marques ou brûlures usitées en quelques colonies pour reconnaître plus facilement à qui appartient un noir qui pourrait être trouvé marron, etc., ou s'il a quelque singularité, défectuosité ou difformité du corps remarquable, toutes lesquelles devront être spécifiées avec une exactitude convenable, de manière à faire mention, au moins, de la partie de la figure ou du corps où paraissent lesdites marques, défectuosités ou autres singularités ; et enfin, dans la neuvième et dernière case, ayant en tête de sa colonne le mot Parens, devra être mis le degré de parenté qui existe entre l'esclave et le chef de famille, dont la section de la liste des familles à laquelle appartiendra ledit esclave portera le nom, comme il a été dit ci-dessus, avec tels autres détails de généalogie ou de parenté que le propriétaire ou celui qui fournit le Recensement jugera nécessaire d'y ajouter (6). A la fin de chacun de ces Recensemens sera relevé et mis en toutes lettres le nombre total (7) des esclaves appartenant à l'habitation, ou au propriétaire, dans le cas d'esclaves personnels.

Définition des Esclaves d'Habitation et des Esclaves Personnels.
(Voyez note 1^{re}.)

Il est de plus ordonné par le présent, que ledit Greffier se procurera de suite deux gros livres ou cahiers de papier blanc, reliés d'une manière solide et durable, pour servir à l'enregistrement ci-après prescrit : l'un de ces livres ou cahiers sera intitulé, *Registre des Esclaves d'Habitation* ; l'autre, *Registre des Esclaves Personnels, ou non y attachés*. Dans le premier de ces livres ou cahiers, seront inscrits et enregistrés, de la manière qui sera ci-après prescrite, les noms et signalemens de tous les esclaves qui appartiennent particulièrement à telle ou telles habitations, et qui y travaillent et y sont attachés ; dans le second de ces livres ou cahiers seront pareillement inscrits et enregistrés les noms et signalemens de tous les esclaves employés, soit aux travaux domestiques, soit aux arts mécaniques ou métiers, dans l'île, soit à la navigation ou à la formation des équipages des bâtimens ou des canots qui appartiennent aux ports de ladite

(4) Cette colonne devra être laissée en blanc, pour être remplie en présence du greffier ou de l'assistant, afin d'éviter toute erreur.

(5) Cette colonne devra être aussi laissée en blanc pour être remplie en présence du greffier ou de l'assistant.

(6) Il faut observer, qu'il n'est nécessaire de remplir cette colonne que dans le cas d'esclaves formant partie d'une famille. Et lorsqu'il se trouvera des individus d'une même famille d'esclaves, et recensés par le même maître, les uns comme esclaves d'habitation, et les autres comme esclaves personnels, il faudra faire mention de cette parenté dans la colonne des parens, sur les deux Recensemens d'esclaves d'habitation et d'esclaves personnels respectivement.

(7) A l'égard des esclaves qui seront en marronnage lors de la remise du Recensement, ils devront y être portés (en mentionnant qu'ils sont marrons, dans la colonne des noms), sauf les désignations de la taille et des marques, qui seront remplies immédiatement après leur rentrée, par l'assistant ou greffier, à qui les noirs seront envoyés à cet effet sans délai.

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

23

ladite île, soit de ceux qui sont loués par leurs propriétaires sur des habitations qui ne leur appartiennent point, pour des travaux d'agriculture ou d'exploitation, et enfin de tous les esclaves en général demeurant en ladite île, ou y appartenant, qui ne sont particulièrement attachés à aucune habitation, ou possédés avec icelle, (8) toutes lesquelles espèces d'esclaves seront, pour l'objet de cet Edit, distingués des esclaves d'habitation par le nom général d'esclaves personnels (9).

Secrétariat-Général, Port-Louis, 4 Octobre 1826.

Par ordre,

A. W. Blanc,

Secrétaire en Chef du Gouvernement par interim.

(Enclosure 4 in No. 3.)

STATEMENT, showing the Appointments made, and Extra Expense incurred, for carrying into effect the New Slave Registration.

DISTRICT.	SITUATION.	NAME.	Amount of Permanent Monthly Expense.	Amount of Expense to cease after Registration completed.	TOTAL.	REMARKS.
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Port Louis	Registrar of Slaves - -	Colonel Draper.				
	Hire of an Office in the Town of Port Louis for three months - -	- - -	- - -	12 - -		
	Two Clerks - - -	D. Virieux - - Fouquereaux	- - -	10 - - 8 - -		
	Two Messengers, at 3 <i>l.</i> per month - - -	- - -	- - -	6 - -		
				36 - -	36 - -	
Plaines Wilhems	Civil Commissary and Assistant Registrar - -	Icery - - -	12 - -	- - -		
	Suppléant ditto - - -	(not yet appointed)	8 - -	- - -		
	Two Messengers, at 4 <i>l.</i> per month - - -	- - -	- - -	2 8 -		
			20 - -	2 8 -	22 8 -	- - Salary of Mr. Grancourt, former Suppléant, was 6 <i>l.</i> per month increase.
Black River	Civil Commissary and Assistant Registrar - -	Bouic - - -	12 - -	- - -		
	Suppléant ditto - - -	Boucherville - -	8 - -	- - -		
	Two Messengers - - -	- - -	- - -	2 8 -		
			20 - -	2 8 -	22 8 -	
Moka	Civil Commissary and Assistant Registrar - -	Beaugendre - -	12 - -	- - -		
	Suppléant ditto - - -	M. Noel - - -	8 - -	- - -		
	Two Messengers - - -	- - -	- - -	2 8 -		
			20 - -	2 8 -	22 8 -	

(8) Tous les esclaves personnels possédés par le même maître à la ville et dans un ou plusieurs quartiers à la fois, ne pourront être portés que sur le Recensement personnel du propriétaire, au lieu de son domicile.

(9) On observera qu'il résulte clairement de tout ce qui précède, que tout esclave, soit domestique ou autrement, appartenant ou attaché à une habitation, doit être porté sur le Recensement des Esclaves d'Habitation; et que les esclaves personnels, et qui doivent être recensés comme tels, sont uniquement ceux qui n'appartiennent ou ne sont attachés à aucune habitation possédée par leur maître, ou qui sont loués par leur maître, soit à un habitant, soit à toute autre personne.

PAPERS RELATING TO THE

DISTRICT.	SITUATION.	NAME.	Amount of		TOTAL.	REMARKS.	
			Permanent Monthly Expense.	Expense to cease after Registration completed.			
			£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	
River du Rempart	Civil Commissary and Assistant Registrar - - } Assistant to ditto - - } Suppléant Civil Commissary Two Messengers - - }	Mangeot - -	12	- -			
		E. Lay - -	-	-	10	- -	
		Mr. Pelle - -	8	- -			
		- - - -	-	-	2	8 -	
				20	- -	12	8 -
Flacq	Civil Commissary and Assistant Registrar - - } Assistant to ditto - - } Suppléant Civil Commissary Two Messengers - - }	Darné - -	12	- -			
		Gerard - -	-	-	10	- -	
		Vallet - -	8	- -			
		- - - -	-	-	2	8 -	
				20	- -	12	8 -
Pamplémousses	Civil Commissary and Assistant Registrar - - } Assistant to ditto - - } Suppléant Civil Commissary Two Messengers - - }	Prieur - -	12	- -			
		Petit - -	-	-	10	- -	
		Mayon S. Elier - -	8	- -			
		- - - -	-	-	2	8 -	
				20	- -	12	8 -
Savanne	Suppléant Civil Commissary Assistant to ditto. Two Messengers - -	J. Giguel - -	16	- -			
		- - - -	-	-	2	8 -	
			16	- -	2	8 -	18 8 -
Grand Port	Suppléant Civil Commissary Assistant Registrar - - } Assistant to ditto - - } Two Messengers - - }	Bardet - -	8	- -			
		Abbott - -	-	-	10	- -	
		Chignard - -	-	-	10	- -	
		- - - -	-	-	2	8 -	
				8	- -	22	8 -
		£. 144	- -	105	4 -	249 4 -	Former salary of Mr. Bardet, 5 <i>l.</i> per month; 3 <i>l.</i> increase.

—No. 4.—

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Viscount *Goderich* to Lieutenant-General the Honourable Sir *G. L. Cole*; dated the 1st May 1827.

“ I HAVE laid before the King your despatch of the 31st October, accompanied by copies of two Proclamations which you had issued, dated the 11th of October 1826, and of a public Government Notice, dated on the 4th of the same month, for giving effect to a recent Order of His Majesty in Council for the registration of slaves in the island of Mauritius, and I have received His Majesty's commands to signify to you that he has been graciously pleased to approve of the same.”

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

25

—No. 5.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir G. L. Cole to Earl Bathurst.

My Lord,

Mauritius, 23d December 1826.

WITH reference to my despatches to your lordship of 3d and 31st October last, I do myself the honour to forward to your Lordship an Ordinance which has passed the Council, having for object to extend the period for receiving the Slave Registration Returns to the 16th of next month, accompanied by a copy of a letter from the Registrar of Slaves, pointing out some of the principal causes which have combined to render this measure absolutely indispensable. I was quite convinced, from the commencement, that the registry of the slaves could not be completed within the time allowed by His Majesty's Order in Council, and independent of the causes of delay which are stated in Colonel Draper's letter, it appeared to me extremely desirable, in a matter of such great importance, and in order to prevent errors, that hurry and precipitation should be avoided; I am now therefore induced to believe that the slave registration has proceeded with the most scrupulous strictness, and I am very happy in being enabled to report to your Lordship, that throughout its progress the best dispositions have been evinced by all classes of the inhabitants.

I have further the honour to forward to your Lordship the copies of various returns, which I have received from the Registrar of Slaves, showing the numbers of slaves which have been registered in Port Louis, and in the different districts of the island up to the 9th instant, amounting in the whole to 43,356; and under the very peculiar circumstances of the case, I trust your Lordship will be satisfied with the motives which have induced me, with the advice of the Council, to extend the period allowed for receiving the Slave Registry Returns, according to the authority for so doing conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch dated the 26th of February 1826.

I have, &c.

(signed)

Lowry Cole.

(Enclosure 1 in No. 5.)

No. 19.—ORDINANCE of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

FOR prolonging the period fixed by the Proclamation of 11th October last for the examination, inspection and verification of all personal and plantation slaves as well in the town of Port-Louis and its suburbs, as in the several quarters of the island, and for the giving in of the slave returns to be furnished conformably to the Order of His Majesty in Council, under date of the 30th January 1826. Title.

Having had under consideration the letter of the 6th instant, addressed to the Chief Secretary of Government by the Registrar of Slaves, wherein he represents the impossibility, arising from various causes, of completing by the 16th of this present month of December (the period fixed by the 1st and 3d articles of the Proclamation of the 11th of October last) the returns to be furnished by the inhabitants, as well of the town and its suburbs as of the several quarters of the island, of their personal and plantation slaves; and requests that His Excellency, exercising the power conferred upon him by the Order of His Majesty in Council, under date of 30th January 1826, would prolong the delay for the completion of the said returns until the 16th January 1827. Preamble.

By virtue of the powers and authority conferred upon his Excellency the Governor by His Most Gracious Majesty, His Excellency, in Council, has been pleased to order:

Art. 1. The period for the examination, inspection and verification of all personal and plantation slaves, as well in the town of Port Louis and its suburbs, as in the several quarters of the island, and for the final giving in of the returns to be furnished in conformity to the Order in Council of His Majesty under date of the 30th January 1826, is prolonged to the 16th January 1827. The period for the final giving in of the Returns prolonged to the 16th January 1827.

333.

Art. 2.

Maintain all the other dispositions of the Proclamation of 11th October 1827.

Ordinance to be read and registered in the Courts.

Art. 2. And the other dispositions of the Proclamation of His Excellency, under date of the 11th October last, are maintained, and are to be executed according to their form and tenor.

And to the end that no person may pretend ignorance of the same, the present Ordinance shall be read, published, and registered in the Courts; for which purpose a copy thereof shall be presented by the Procureur-General to His Honour the Chief Judge and Commissary of Justice.

God save the King !

Given at Port-Louis, in the island of Mauritius, this 13th day of December 1826.

G. Lowry Cole.

By order of His Excellency the Governor,

A. W. Blane,

Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

By order of the Council,

W. N. Leitch,

Secretary to the Council.

(Enclosure 2 in No. 5.)

Sir,

Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, 6 December 1826.

THE time fixed for the completion of the Census, both by the second clause of the Order in Council of the 30th January 1826, and by his Excellency's Proclamation of the 11th of October last, expiring on the 16th instant, it becomes my duty to report, that the entire revision of the original registry of slaves, or new general registration, will neither be completed in Port Louis, nor in the different quarters of the island, within that period.

The causes which prevent the execution of the Ordinance within the limited time, are multiplied and various; the most prominent of which has been the necessity of making out in the office of registry all the returns of slave proprietors in Port Louis; and in the districts of the island the same obligation has been imposed on the assistant registrars; indeed, in many instances, the returns have been made a second and third time, in consequence of repeated errors, on the part of the proprietors, in describing the families of their slaves.

To measure, to examine, and duly note the marks of every individual black, is no small labour; and in acting, in conformity with the Orders in Council, and with the Government printed instructions upon these points, the inspection ought not to be done lightly, nor with precipitation.

Since the commencement of the registration, viz. on the 16th October last, I have not completed more than 7,167 slaves in Port Louis, being 179 blacks per diem, and my office attendance has been regularly from seven to eight hours each day. The use of two standards, or measures, might have been adopted in Port Louis with additional clerks; but apprehensive of confusion from too great a crowd, I did not press, nor even recommend to his Excellency the trial.

Computing the slave population in Port Louis to be between 12,000 and 13,000, and in the eight districts 56,000, I consider, from the progress made, the completion of the new census within the prescribed time to be quite impracticable; I therefore beg leave to suggest to his Excellency the expediency of exercising the power vested in the Governor of the island, by the 43d clause of the Ordinance, and of extending the term of registration one month, viz. to the 16th of January 1827.

I have, &c.

(signed)

E. A. Draper,
Registrar of Slaves.

The Hon. A. W. Blane, Esq.
Acting Chief Secretary, &c. &c.

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

27

(Enclosure 3 in No. 5.)

Sir, Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, November 10, 1826.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the accompanying Return of the number of slaves who have been recensed in the colony to the 9th inclusive.

From the experience which I have had since the commencement of the new census, the time fixed for its completion will be much exceeded, from the unavoidable necessity of making out all the recensements for Port Louis at this office; and this obligation arises either from an incapacity of the recensing parties, or from persons not understanding the detailed minutiae of the Orders in Council. Were more clerks to be employed, and two standards to be in use at the office, the daily muster of slaves might be augmented; but I am apprehensive of some confusion in the measurement and in the designation of marks, especially as very intricate returns are now preparing in the office for the Commissioners of Inquiry, together with copies of sundry instructions, regulations, and orders which from time to time have been given, for regulating the duties of the department.

I have, &c.

(signed)

E. A. Draper,
Registrar of Slaves.

The Hon. A. W. Blane, Esq.
Acting Chief Secretary, &c. &c.

RETURN of SLAVES RECENSED in *Port Louis*, and in the Districts, from the 16th of October to 9th of November 1826, inclusive.

DISTRICTS.	To what Period.	Number of Slaves.
Port Louis - - - - -	November 9	1,874
Pamplemousses - - - - -	— - 4	1,276
Rivière du Rempart - - - - -	— - -	1,902
Flacq - - - - -	— - 2	695
Grand Port - - - - -	— - 6	876
Savanne - - - - -	— - -	1,400
Plaines Wilhems - - - - -	— - 4	3,000
Rivière Noire - - - - -	October - 30	1,196
Moka - - - - -	November 5	799
Total Slaves - - - - -		13,018

Port Louis,
10th November 1826. }

(signed) *E. A. Draper,*
Registrar.

(Enclosure 4 in No. 5.)

Sir, Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, 30th Nov. 1826.

IN consequence of interruptions in transmitting the weekly returns, my report on the progress of registration has been delayed, and I now have the honour to transmit a general Return of Slaves recensed in Port Louis, and in the different quarters, from the commencement to the 25th inst., amounting to 31,616.

I have, &c.

The Hon. A. W. Blane, Esq.
Acting Chief Secretary, &c. &c.

(signed) *E. A. Draper,* Registrar.

PAPERS RELATING TO THE

RETURN of the Number of SLAVES Recensed, from the 16th October to the 25th November 1826.

DISTRICTS.	Number of Slaves.
Port Louis - - - - -	5,049
Pamplemousses - - - - -	3,416
Rivière du Rempart - - - - -	5,106
Flacq - - - - -	1,952
Grand Port - - - - -	2,794
Savanne - - - - -	2,006
Rivière Noire - - - - -	2,561
Moka - - - - -	1,752
Plaines Wilhems - - - - -	5,980
Total - - -	31,616

Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, }
30th November 1826. }

(signed) E. A. Draper,
Registrar of Slaves.

Note :—The Flacq Return is only to the 14th November inclusive, on account of the death of Mr. Darné.

(Enclosure 5 in No. 5.)

Sir, Slave Registry-Office, Port Louis, 7th Dec. 1826.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for the information of his Excellency, the accompanying Return of recensed Slaves, showing the progress which has been made in the new registration to the 2d instant. Although no return has been received from Flacq, I should compute the number recensed not to exceed 3,000.

I have, &c.

(signed) E. A. Draper,
Registrar of Slaves.

The Hon. A. W. Blane, Esq.
Acting Chief Secretary, &c. &c.

RETURN of SLAVES Recensed since the last Report, with Grand Total to the 2d December inclusive.

DISTRICTS.	Number of Slaves Recensed from 25th Nov. to 2d Dec. 1826.	Grand Total of Slaves Recensed up to the 2d Dec. 1826.
Port Louis - - - - -	1,415	6,464
Pamplemousses - - - - -	1,053	4,469
Revière du Rempart - - - - -	1,033	6,139
Flacq - - - - -	—	—
Grand Port - - - - -	535	3,329
Savanne - - - - -	503	2,509
Rivière Noire - - - - -	1,078	4,639
Plaines Wilhems - - - - -	230	6,210
Moka - - - - -	407	2,159
Total - - - - -		35,918
N.B.—Number of Slaves Recensed at Flacq } on the 25th Nov. the date of last Return }		1,952
		37,870

(signed) E. A. Draper,
Registrar of Slaves.

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

29

(Enclosure 6 in No. 5.)

Sir, Slave Registry-Office, Port Louis, 15th Dec. 1826.

INTERRUPTION to a regular communication with the districts, partially arising from the absence of assistant-registrars at different plantations, has prevented my before sending the enclosed, showing the progress of registration to the 9th instant, which in number amount to 43,356.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. A. Draper*,
Registrar of Slaves.Hon. A. W. Blane, Esq.
Acting Chief Secretary, &c. &c.

RETURN of the Number of SLAVES Recensed since last Return, and Grand Total to the 9th instant, inclusive.

DISTRICTS.	Number of Slaves Recensed from 2d to 9th Dec. 1826, inclusive.	Grand Total of Slaves Recensed up to the 9th Dec. 1826.
Port Louis - - - - -	1,225	7,689
Pamplemousses - - - - -	989	5,458
Riviere du Rempart - - - - -	1,116	7,255
Flacq - - - - -	1,321	3,273
Grand Port - - - - -	524	3,033
*Savanne - - - - -	—	—
Rivière Noire - - - - -	594	5,233
Plaines Wilhems - - - - -	263	6,473
Moka - - - - -	274	2,433
		40,847
	Savanne -	2,509
Total - - -	-	43,356

Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, }
15th December 1826. }

(signed) *E. A. Draper*,
Registrar of Slaves.

* Note:—No Return received from Savanne: Number Recensed in that quarter by last Report, 2,509

E. A. D.

— No. 6. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir *G. Murray*,
to Sir *C. Colville*, G. C. B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 19 July 1828.

I HAVE received and laid before the King Sir Lowry Cole's despatch of the 23d December 1826, transmitting an Ordinance passed at the Mauritius in the month of December in that year, intituled, "An Ordinance of his Excellency the Governor in Council, for prolonging the period fixed by the Proclamation of 11th of October last for the examination, inspection, and verification of all personal and plantation slaves, as well in the town of Port Louis and its suburbs, as in the several quarters of the island, and for the giving in of the slave returns to be furnished conformably to the Order of His Majesty in Council, under date of the 30th of January 1826."

And I have received His Majesty's commands to acquaint you, that, under the circumstances which have rendered this measure necessary, he has been pleased to allow and confirm the same.

I have, &c.

(signed) *G. Murray*.

— No. 7. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir G. L. Cole to Earl Bathurst.
(With One Enclosure).

My Lord,

Mauritius, 28th January 1827.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, in reference to my despatch, of 23d Dec. 1826, the completion of the slave registry at the Mauritius, and that the slave population in this island, according to the enclosed Returns, amounts to 69,004 individuals, of both sexes and of all ages.

I am happy to state to your Lordship, that, as yet, I have heard of only a few instances of persons who have failed to register their slaves agreeably to His Majesty's Order in Council; and in these, plausible excuses have been urged, which will be duly investigated. In the district of Flacq, owing to the death of the assistant registrar (M. Darné) during the progress of the work of registration, it has become necessary that some of the returns, which he had left incomplete, should be verified by his successor; but, beyond what I have stated, I am not aware of any irregularity or omission to report to your Lordship.

The number of slaves borne on the collector's tax-roll amounts to about 62,000; and the difference between that number and the return of the registrar of slaves will be accounted for in the following manner, viz. that the latter contains the Government slaves (which the former does not), as also the old invalid slaves and young children, who, to avoid the capitation tax, have not been included by their proprietors in the numerical returns furnished to the collector of the revenue.

I will further mention to your Lordship, that Mr. Cardew, the sub-agent and assistant registrar at the Seychelles, is still employed on the work of registration in that dependency, and that his returns have therefore not yet been received; and, with regard to the other small islands dependant on this government, it is my intention, after the hurricane months (for it would be unsafe to do so at this season), to send an assistant registrar, in one of the government vessels, to all those islands, for the purpose of registering the slaves employed thereon.

I have had every reason to feel satisfied with the zeal and exertions which have been evinced by Colonel Draper, the assistant registrars, and the other officers of the slave registration department, during the progress of this important and laborious work; and, as I have already had the honour of observing to your Lordship, the best dispositions have throughout been manifested by the inhabitants.

I have, &c.

(signed) G. Lowry Cole.

(Enclosure in No. 7.)

GENERAL STATEMENT of the SLAVE POPULATION of the Island of *Mauritius*, conformably to Returns deposited in the Registrar's Office.

Port Louis, January 20, 1827.

DISTRICTS.	Number of Slaves.
Port Louis - - - - -	15,714
Pamplemousses - - - - -	10,031
Rivière du Rempart - - - - -	8,245
Flacq - - - - -	9,380
Grand Port - - - - -	6,707
Savanne - - - - -	4,014
Rivière Noire - - - - -	5,397
Plaines Wilhems - - - - -	6,677
Moka - - - - -	2,839
Total - - -	69,004

(signed)

E. A. Draper, Registrar of Slaves.

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

31

RETURN of the Number of SLAVES Recensed since the last Report, and Grand Total to the 6th January 1827, inclusive.

DISTRICTS.	Number of Slaves Recensed from the 23d Dec. 1826 to 6th Jan. 1827.	Grand Total of the Slaves Recensed up to the 6th January 1827.
Port Louis - - - - -	1,792	12,718
Pamplemousses - - - - -	1,036	8,568
Rivière du Rempart - - - - -	-	8,000
Flacq - - - - -	2,012	8,049
Grand Port - - - - -	1,494	6,575
Savanne - - - - -	-	3,587
Rivière Noire - - - - -	35	5,396
Plaines Wilhems - - - - -	85	6,655
Moka - - - - -	73	2,801
Total - - - - -		62,349

Slave Registry Office,
Port Louis, 10th January 1827. }

(signed) *E. A. Draper,*
Registrar of Slaves.

RETURN of the Number of SLAVES Recensed since the last Report, and Grand Total to the 23d instant, inclusive.

DISTRICTS.	Number of Slaves Recensed from 16th to 23d Dec. 1826 inclusive.	Grand Total of Slaves Recensed up to the 23d Dec. 1826.
Port Louis - - - - -	1,562	10,926
Pamplemousses - - - - -	1,005	7,532
Rivière du Rempart - - - - -	-	8,000
Flacq - - - - -	1,426	6,037
Grand Port - - - - -	-	5,081
Savanne - - - - -	-	3,587
Rivière Noire - - - - -	19	5,361
Plaines Wilhems - - - - -	-	6,570
Moka - - - - -	-	2,728
Total - - - - -		55,822

Slave Registry Office,
Port Louis, 28th December 1826. }

(signed) *E. A. Draper,*
Registrar of Slaves.

RETURN of the Number of SLAVES Recensed since the last Report, and Grand Total to the 16th December 1826.

DISTRICTS.	Number of Slaves Recensed from 9th to 16th Dec. 1826 inclusive.	Grand Total of Slaves Recensed up to 16th Dec. 1826.
Port Louis - - - - -	1,675	9,364
Pamplemousses - - - - -	1,069	6,527
Rivière du Rempart - - - - -	745	8,000
Flacq - - - - -	1,339	4,611
Grand Port - - - - -	644	3,677
Savanne - - - - -	-	-
Rivière Noire - - - - -	109	5,342
Plaines Wilhems - - - - -	97	6,570
Moka - - - - -	295	2,728
		46,819
Savanne - - - - -		2,509
Total - - - - -		49,328

Slave Registry Office,
Port Louis, 23d December 1826. }

(signed) *E. A. Draper,*
Registrar.

—No. 8.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir G. L. Cole to Earl Bathurst.
(With Five Enclosures.)

My Lord,

Mauritius, 14th May 1827.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship of 28 January 1827, I do myself the honour to forward to you herewith, the copy of a letter which I have received from the Registrar of Slaves, submitting a calculation of the probable period at which the registry of the slave population will be completed, and stating his opinion that the returns cannot all be entered on the registers before August next, or nearly three months beyond the period allowed by His Majesty's Order in Council, together with a copy of the reply which I directed should be made to Colonel Draper, calling upon him to state whether, by employing a further number of clerks, the work of registration might not be expedited, as three months beyond the period specified in the Order in Council appeared to me a long time. And I have also the honour to forward to your Lordship the copy of a second letter from the Registrar, stating, in reply to the Enclosure No. 2, that three additional clerks might be employed on the Seychelles returns, which were daily expected, by which means the work would in some degree be accelerated. In consequence of this letter, and on the advice of the Council, I have caused Colonel Draper to be informed that the period for entering the returns would be prolonged until the 16th of June, and that three additional clerks might be employed by him as suggested, but that it would not be in my power to sanction any further extension of the period, except under circumstances of the most pressing and unavoidable nature.

I have now to inform your Lordship, as will appear on referring to the copy of a further letter from the Registrar of Slaves, which I enclose to your Lordship, that the Seychelles slave returns have arrived, and that the numbers registered by Mr. Cardew, in the several islands forming that dependency, amount to 6,522 individuals, of both sexes and of all ages.

It is but justice to Colonel Draper to state, that every attention has been paid by him to the work of registration, and every exertion made to complete the entry of the returns within the time prescribed by the Order in Council; but so much care was necessary to avoid mistakes in the entries, and the calls of the Commissioners, and other demands, all tending more or less to occupy the registrar's time and attention, (although extra clerks have been employed for such duties,) have been so constant, that I am myself satisfied it was quite impossible to complete the registry within the time specified in the Order in Council.

I take the present opportunity of likewise acquainting your Lordship, that I have dispatched an assistant registrar, in the Government ship Erin, to the other small islands dependant on the Mauritius, in order to register the slaves employed thereon; and Mr. Werner, of the civil service, whom I have selected for this duty, is accompanied by Mr. Hoart, the sworn surveyor, for the purpose of at the same time surveying those islands in conjunction with Mr. Werner, who has instructions to report upon them generally for the information of Government.

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

(Enclosure 1 in No. 8.)

Sir,

Slave Registry Office, Port Louis,
April 18, 1827.

WITH an office sufficiently organized, as at present, in regard to the number of clerks for registering recensements, it becomes the duty of the registrar, from a daily experience in the progress of entries, to offer some calculation of the probable time of completing the registers.

In the first place, it is proper to notice the Sundays and fixed holidays which intervene

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

33

intervene between the 16th of January (the day of finishing the census) and the 16th of May, the limit of the registry.

Secondly, the days employed in furnishing returns for the Right honourable the Secretary of State, and the local Government, conformably to letters from the Chief Secretary, dated 22d January and 22d February, and from Lieutenant-Colonel Leitch, Secretary to the Council, the 28th of January 1827.

Thirdly, the number of days to correct faults and prepare recensements for registry, to affix the docket and number on each return, and to make indexes of districts in alphabetical order.

The additional clerks which his Excellency the Governor has allowed to supply the multifarious requisitions of the Commissioners of Inquiry, and other extra work, have necessarily occupied a portion of my attention, diverting it, in some degree, from the returns for home; but I may be permitted to say, that no diligence nor official labour have been wanting in furtherance of His Majesty's Orders in Council, and in carrying them, as far as practicable, into complete and entire execution.

From the foregoing observations the following table of deduction is given :

25 days, Sundays and holidays.

20 days, in furnishing particular returns.

30 days, in correcting and preparing 5,919 recensements for registry.

Total - 75

There are now ten registry clerks, and calculating each to register 60 names per day, the number of slaves registered per month would be 18,000. Four months and eleven days, exclusive of seventeen Sundays and holidays, would be therefore required to complete the entry of the slave population of the island, in number 69,076.

The above deduction being admitted, and the manner of reckoning approved, I date my commencement of registry from the 1st instant, and the 28th of August to be its ultimate limit. If upon due examination,—a duty of perhaps 20 days not comprised in the computation of entries,—the registry be well completed, I shall consider myself extremely fortunate, well knowing the necessity of the greatest attention and circumspect caution in copying into registers, where no erasures nor faults are admissible, and by copyists too, with two exceptions, perfectly untrained in the duties, and new in the service.

The returns of Seychelles, and of the different islands in this Archipelago, are not included in this statement, but when received they may be registered during the period of verification.

The 43d clause of the Order in Council of the 30th January 1826, gives full discretionary power to Governors to change or alter any of the clauses when circumstances or difficulties interpose to prevent their execution; and I submit the observations which I have above made, in respect to holidays and other days to be deducted, to the consideration and judgment of His Excellency the Governor, and on which His Excellency's prerogative, conformably to the provisions of the Ordinance, may be fairly and legitimately exercised.

I have, &c.

Hon. A. W. Blane, Esq.
Acting Chief Secretary, &c.

(signed)

E. A. Draper,
Registrar of Slaves.

(Enclosure 2 in No. 8.)

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Port Louis, 28th April 1827.

WITH reference to your letter of the 18th instant, submitting a calculation of the probable period at which the registry of the slave population may be completed, and fixing the 28th August next as the period at which it may be brought to a close, I have His Excellency's directions to request that you will be pleased to state to me, for his information, whether, by the assistance of any additional

PAPERS RELATING TO THE

clerks, the work could be expedited, it appearing to His Excellency that three months beyond the period specified by the Order in Council is a very long time.

I have, &c.,

(signed) *A. W. Blane,*

Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

To E. A. Draper, Esq.,
Registrar of Slaves.

(Enclosure 3 in No. 8.)

Sir,

Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, April 28th, 1827.

IN answer to the question conveyed in your letter of this date, I have the honour to state, for His Excellency's information, that in the daily expectation of the Seychelles returns, three additional clerks may be employed in registering and in assisting the registry, and thus advancing in some degree its celerity. The only inconvenience which I foresee, is an extra supply of paper for duplicate registers, which should be in readiness at latest on the 16th of September next, but which inconvenience, I presume, may be remedied by an early order to the Cape of Good Hope.

Although the 17th and 19th clauses of the Order in Council of the 30th January 1826 are positive in regard to the time of completing the registry, yet I feel quite persuaded that the causes which I have assigned for retarding its operation will be weighed with every consideration; indeed I venture to think that the omissions in registration provided for in the 19th clause of the Ordinance will be regularly brought to account, and for the full observance of the registry authentication within the prescribed time.

I have, &c.

(signed)

E. A. Draper,

Registrar of Slaves.

Honourable A. W. Blane, Esq.,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

(Enclosure 4 in No. 8.)

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Port Louis, 2d May 1827.

HIS Excellency the Governor has had under consideration your letter of the 28th ult., stating, in reply to that addressed to you from this office under the same date, that in the daily expectation of the Seychelles returns, three additional clerks may be employed in registering and assisting the registry, and thus accelerating, in some degree, its final completion. And referring to your communication of the 18th April, I am directed to state, that under the strong representation made by you of the circumstances which have intervened to prevent your completing the registry of the slaves of this island within the period prescribed by His Majesty's Order in Council, his Excellency is pleased to extend the period therein fixed to five months instead of four, which will expire on the 16th June next. His Excellency hopes, that with the additional assistance of three clerks, for which you have applied, and for which I am now to convey to you his Excellency's authority, you will be able to make greater progress than you appear to have calculated upon, since it would be out of his Excellency's power to sanction any further extension of the period for the completion of the duty imposed upon you as registrar, which might not be borne out by circumstances of the most pressing and unavoidable nature.

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

A. W. Blane,

Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

To E. A. Draper, Esq., Registrar of Slaves.

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

35

(Enclosure 5 in No. 8.)

Sir,

Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, May 9th, 1827.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the receipt of the recensements of the Seychelles Isles, by the *Jeane Antoinette*, on the 7th instant, the number of slaves amounting to 6,522. The returns are made with much neatness and apparent accuracy, some little deviations from the usage of this office occurring, which, for the sake of uniformity, will be rectified previous to registry, but which by no means run counter to the Orders in Council.

Upon the authority of your letter of the 2d instant, I beg to report that I have engaged Messrs. Hamoneau and D. D. Lacoudray, as well as A. S. Kittery, Malabar; the two former have been employed since the 3d instant, and the latter will commence on the 11th, on salaries of 30 dollars each per month.

With this addition of clerks, the completion of the registry will be unquestionably accelerated; but to be able to give notice to his Excellency, on the 16th of the ensuing month, that the returns have been all fairly entered and registered, is morally and physically impossible.

I have, &c.
(signed) *E. A. Draper,*

To the Hon. A. W. Blane, Esq.
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

Registrar of Slaves.

— No. 9. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *G. L. Cole* to the Right Honourable the Earl *Bathurst*, K. G.—(With 2 Enclosures.)

My Lord,

Mauritius, 20th June 1827.

ADVERTING to my despatch to your Lordship of 14th May last, I have the honour to enclose the copy of a further representation from the Registrar of Slaves of this colony, stating the impracticability of completing the registry before some time in August next; as also the copy of a Minute of Council, under which I have extended the period allowed for the above work to the 11th of August.

I can only assure your Lordship, that this additional time would not have been sanctioned by me, had I not been convinced that it was indispensably necessary: and, beyond it, no further delay is likely to occur.

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

No. 1.

No. 2.

(Enclosure 1 in No. 9.)

Sir,

Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, 6th June 1827.

IN reference to my letters of the 26th March, 18th, 28th April, and 9th ultimo, and to your communication of the 1st of May, all relative to the new registry of the slave population of this island and its dependencies, I have only to repeat the total impossibility of effecting the completion of the registry by the 16th of the present month, the time fixed in your letter above-mentioned; and further to state my opinion, that the registrar's notification to his Excellency the Governor, conformably to the 19th clause of the Order in Council of 30th January 1826, cannot be made, at the earliest period, before some time in the month of August next.

My letter of the 9th ultimo detailed all circumstances which have unavoidably operated to retard the registry; and the causes, I venture to think, are sufficiently strong, if not in themselves peremptory, to induce a further extension of the period.

333.

With

With the experience I have had in registering returns, and on a scrupulous revision of the Ordinances, I can suggest no practicable way of obeying the Orders in Council, in point of time, were I to recommence the work but in fairly copying recensements on separate unbound sheets, and instead of 10, to employ 20 clerks. This mode, however, would run counter to the 17th and 18th clauses of the last Ordinance, which direct books to be provided, and the manner of their compilation.

Although the completion of the present registry, from enumerated causes, will exceed, by three months, the time prescribed by the last Order in Council, I am led to think that the duplicate books of registry (that is to say, if paper of a proper size, already ordered by Government, arrives in time, either from England or the Cape) will be ready for transmission to the Right honourable the Secretary of State, *within the time* limited by the Ordinances, which laws will be thus finally and effectually carried into execution, to answer all the purposes for which they were framed, and in full satisfaction of the ends of Government.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. A. Draper,*

To the Hon. A. W. Blane, Esq.
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

Registrar of Slaves.

(Enclosure 2 in No. 9.)

AT the Government House, Mauritius, Wednesday, this 13th day of June
1827;

Present in Council :

His Honour the Chief Justice and Commissary of Justice, presiding Member;
the Officer Second in Command, the Honourable A. W. Blane, Esq.

His Honour the Chief Judge laid on the table a letter from his Excellency the Governor, which was read, and the following copy thereof ordered to be recorded in the council-book.

Sir,

Reduit, 9th June 1827.

As I shall be absent at Mahebourg on Wednesday next, I request you will be pleased to preside at the meeting of Council on that day, and take into consideration the accompanying letter from the Registrar of Slaves, soliciting a further extension of the period allowed for completing the registry.

I have, &c.

(signed) *G. Lowry Colè.*

To his Honour Judge Blackburn, &c. &c.

The letter from the Registrar of Slaves under date the 6th instant, referred to in the preceding one from his Excellency the Governor, was read, reporting the total impossibility of effecting the completion of the registry by the 16th of the present month, and stating that in his opinion the Registrar's notification to his Excellency the Governor, conformably to the 19th clause of His Majesty's Order in Council of 30th January 1826, could not be made, at the earliest period, before some time in the month of August next.

The Council, after full consideration of the aforesaid letter, and with the full conviction on their minds that no exertion had been wanting on the part of the Registrar to conform to the terms of His Majesty's Order in Council, with regard to the time allowed for the completion of the census, and taking into consideration the difficulties the registrar had to encounter in the first place, as to the time unavoidably lost in preparing the printed forms of returns at the commencement of the operation, the difficulty of finding among a French population a sufficient number of persons qualified for being employed as assistant registrars, and finally the want of proper books to use as registers, and even of paper to make them in the colony;

Are of opinion, that a further extension of the period will not be contrary to the spirit of His Majesty's Order in Council, granting to the Governor, with the advice of his Council, a latitude in ordering such arrangements as unforeseen

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

37

seen circumstances might render necessary during the progress of the operation, with a view of completing and carrying fully into effect the object of the Legislature in obtaining a correct and accurate return of the slave population. The Council therefore resolves, that there do appear sufficient grounds for extending the period for the completion of the registry of slaves until the 11th August next.

Adjourned.

(signed) *W. N. Leitch,*
Secretary to the Council.

Approved.

(signed) *G. Lowry Cole.*

(A true copy.)

(signed) *F. E. S. Viret,*
Private Secretary.

— No. 10. —

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *W. Huskisson* to
Lieut.-General Sir *G. L. Cole.*

Sir,

Downing-street, 30th Sept. 1827.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches of the 14th of May and 20th of June last, on the subject of the delay which has taken place in the completion of the registry of the slave population at the Mauritius.

The explanations contained in the papers transmitted by you as to the causes which have led to the delay in question are satisfactory, although His Majesty cannot but regret that any circumstances should have arisen to retard a measure to which so much consequence is attached. It is therefore His Majesty's most anxious hope that the period mentioned in your despatches, viz. the month of August last, has been the utmost extent of time which has become necessary to allow for bringing the registry to a close.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Wm. Huskisson.*

— No. 11. —

COPY of DESPATCH from Lieut.-General Sir *Charles Colville* to the Right Hon.
W. Huskisson.— (With 1 Enclosure.)

Sir,

Mauritius, 20th July 1828.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you copies of two letters from Colonel Draper, the registrar of slaves, accompanied by abstracts, showing the establishment which he states will be required to conduct the various duties of his office, on the discontinuance of the services of the extra clerks who have heretofore been employed, under the authority of my predecessor, to complete the slave registration of this colony, and to prepare the duplicate returns: the which letters are : accompanied by a statement, explanatory of the duties of the several persons proposed to be permanently employed in the department in question.

I avail myself of the earliest opportunity of apprising you, that, pending your instructions on the subject, I have taken upon myself to authorize the establishment recommended by Colonel Draper, and to have effect from the 31st instant, with the exception of the seventh clerk; and, in his case, I have desired (as a portion of his duties is stated to consist in preparing returns for the Commissioners of Inquiry) that his employment should be temporary.

PAPERS RELATING TO THE

I have only to add, that, in granting my sanction to the before-mentioned establishment for the slave registration office, I have been actuated by a desire of ensuring a scrupulous execution of the important duties of that department; and I am happy to inform you, according to the registrar's report to me, that the duplicate Slave Returns will be ready for transmission to England in the course of the month of September next.

I have, &c.
(signed)

Chas. Colville.

(Enclosure in No. 11.)

Slave Registry Office,
Port Louis, May 31st, 1828.

Sir,

With a view to establish the office of registry in a manner so as to insure as far as possible the due execution of His Majesty's Orders in Council now in force in this colony, I beg leave to submit, for the consideration and approval of His Excellency the Governor, the accompanying Abstracts, to have effect as as soon as I am enabled to dispense with the services of the present extra employés.

With such an establishment the complicated mutation books can be kept with regularity, and the annual lists for the internal revenue office be provided with that exactitude which is so essential in the preparation of the colonial tax rolls.

When the Biennial Returns commence, agreeably to the provisions of the last Ordinance, the number of clerks must be necessarily increased.

I have, &c.

(signed)

E. A. Draper,
Registrar of Slaves.

To the Hon. A. W. Blane, Esq.
Acting Chief Secretary.

SITUATION.	NAME.	AMOUNT.
		£. s. d.
FIXED ABSTRACT:		
Registrar of Slaves, salary £. 1,500. } per annum	E. A. Draper, Esq. - - -	125 - -
Acting Writer, Civil Service, £. 300. } per annum	G. Elliott, Esq. - - -	25 - -
First Clerk - - - - -	Mr. L. B. Michel - - -	24 - -
Second Clerk - - - - -	Mr. C. Petit - - -	17 3 4
Total - - - £.		191 3 4
FIXED CONTINGENT ABSTRACT:		
Second Clerk, for balance of his pay	Mr. C. Petit - - - - -	2 16 8
- - - - -	Mr. C. Lahausse - - - - -	15 - -
- - - - -	Mr. C. Fouquereaux - - - - -	12 - -
- - - - -	Mr. J. A. Hamoneau - - - - -	10 - -
- - - - -	Mr. A. Sornay - - - - -	10 - -
- - - - -	Mr. C. Nicoleau - - - - -	8 - -
Peon - - - - -	Mr. Cassime - - - - -	2 - -
Total - - - £.		59 16 8

(signed)

E. A. Draper,
Registrar of Slaves.

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

39

Sir, Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, June 14th, 1828.

IN compliance with his Excellency's desire, intimated in your letter of the 7th instant, I have the honour to enclose a detailed Statement of the duties of all persons employed in the Slave Registry Office, showing the real necessity of the augmentation which I proposed on the 31st ultimo.

The salaries of the additional four clerks, namely Messrs. Fouquereaux, Hamoneau, Sornay and Nicoleau, have been submitted upon the most rigid principle of economy; and I must express a sincere hope, that at a future period they may be increased, not only as an encouragement to merit, but in more equal proportion to the ratio of other departments.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. A. Draper,*
Registrar of Slaves.

To the Hon. A. W. Blane, Esq.
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

SITUATION.	NAME.	AMOUNT.	TOTAL.
FIXED ABSTRACT :		£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Registrar of Slaves, salary } £. 1,500. per annum - -	E. A. Draper, Esq. - -	125 - -	
Acting Writer, Civil Service, } £. 300. per annum - -	G. F. Elliott, Esq. - -	25 - -	
First Clerk - - - -	Mr. L. B. Michel - -	24 - -	
Second Clerk - - - -	Mr. C. Petit - - - -	17 3 4	191 3 4
FIXED CONTINGENT ABSTRACT :			
Second Clerk - - - -	Mr. C. Petit, balance of his } pay - - - - - }	2 16 8	
Third Clerk - - - -	Mr. C. Lahausse - - - -	15 - -	
Clerk - - - - -	Mr. C. Fouquereaux - - - -	12 - -	
- - - - -	M. J. A. Hamoneau - - - -	10 - -	
- - - - -	Mr. A. Sornay - - - -	10 - -	
- - - - -	Mr. Nicoleau - - - -	8 - -	
Peon - - - - -	Mr. Cassime - - - -	2 - -	59 16 8
Total - - - -		£.	251 - -

G. Elliott, Esq. Acting Writer, is charged with the entry of the English correspondence; with keeping and making out the monthly accounts and abstracts; with the delivery of all certificates and copies of returns; the examination and entry of certificates of slaves imported from the dependencies; and, under the orders of the head of the department, with the general direction of the office.

Mr. L. B. Michel, First Clerk, is charged with the French correspondence, which has been much increased from the explanations continually required by the assistant registrars of the different districts; in addition to this, he keeps four indexes, showing all persons who have sold or purchased slaves, together with the several mutations of deaths and births. These indexes have been found absolutely necessary to enable the registrar to furnish the collector of internal revenues with a correct return of taxable slaves without references to every recensement, and to the different mutation registers.

Mr. Petit, Mr. Hamoneau, Mr. Nicoleau; to be charged with the mutation branch, which duty, requiring the undivided attention of three clerks, consists in receiving the declarations of the slave possessors in Port Louis, in examining those of the districts, and their entry into the four registers provided for sales, births, deaths and enfranchisements.

Mr. C. Fouquereaux; to enter, every three months, into the principal registers (17 in number) the various mutations in this colony and its dependencies, which take place during that period.

Mr. Lahausse, Mr. A. Sornay; to be employed in making out the annual return of taxable slaves for the internal revenue office; in making copies of recensements of Port Louis and the faux-bourgs; and in supplying any returns that may be now called for by His Majesty's Commissioners of Inquiry, and the Courts of Law.

Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, }
June 14th, 1828.

(signed) *E. A. Draper,*
Registrar, &c.

— No. 12. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir *G. Murray*
to Sir *Charles Colville*.

Sir, Downing-street, 25th February 1829.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 20th July last, transmitting copies of two letters from Colonel Draper, the registrar of slaves, accompanied by extracts showing the establishment which will be required to conduct the various duties of his office on the discontinuance of the services of the extra clerks, who have heretofore been employed in that department; and I have the honour of acquainting you, in reply, that the number of persons whom you have authorized Colonel Draper to retain on the establishment of his office is approved by His Majesty's Government. This establishment, however, will of course be open to revision after the Report of His Majesty's Commissioners of Inquiry on the Civil Departments of the Island shall have arrived, should such revision become necessary by their recommending a different arrangement from that which has been proposed by the Registrar.

I am, &c.
(signed) *G. Murray*.

— No. 13. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *C. Colville* to the Right Honourable
W. Huskisson.—(With 2 Enclosures.)

Sir, Mauritius, 5th October 1828.

ADVERTING to that part of my despatch to you, dated the 20th of July last, which stated that the duplicate slave returns would be ready for transmission to England in the course of the month of September, I have now the honour to forward to you a copy of a letter from the Registrar of Slaves of this colony, in which that officer reports the completion of those returns or registers, and requests, as the original books of registry have been duly authenticated and certified by him, in all respects, as directed in the original Slave Registration Ordinance, that a dispensation from a *second* examination of the duplicate registers (which examination would cause a delay of no less than 98 days), may be accorded to him.

Having advised with the Council on this subject, as will be seen by the enclosed extract from its Minutes, I have taken upon myself to grant to the registrar of slaves the dispensation he has solicited, and for the reasons specified, which I hope will be approved of by His Majesty's Government; and I have only further to remark, that the duplicate returns or registers will now be transmitted to England by the first good opportunity which may present itself, of which I shall not fail to apprise you.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Charles Colville*.

(Enclosure 1 in No. 13.)

Sir, Slave Registry Office,
Port Louis, 29th Sept. 1829.

WITH all practicable obedience to the Orders in Council of the 24th September 1814, and 30th January 1826, (page 10th of the former, and section 21st of the latter), I have the honour to report to his Excellency the Governor the completion of the duplicate registers of the slave population of the colony and its dependencies, the books being ready to be delivered to his Excellency for their transmission to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonial Department in England.

The

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

41

The registers are 15 in number, 8 of plantation and 7 of personal slaves, with indexes of plantations' and owners' names written at the beginning of each volume, accompanied with two small general index books. On the impracticability of making alphabetical indexes of the names and surnames of all registered slaves to be annexed to each register I addressed the Government on the 18th of October 1827; indeed, it may be fairly presumed that the original Order in Council, (24th September 1814, page 2), which directs such indexes, only applied to colonies where the slave population might be registered and comprised in two volumes. Indexes of this description were, *primâ facie*, set aside at the census in 1815, and no disapproval has been since expressed.

In thus announcing the duplicate register ready for delivery to his Excellency, I beg to state, that they have been once carefully examined by me, the original books of registry having been duly authenticated and certified by me in all respects as directed in the original Ordinance. In the full assurance of the accuracy of the registers, I ask a dispensation from a second examination, which would cause a delay in their transmission to England of no less than 98 days; and I request to be authorized so to frame my affidavit in the duplicate books.

From the locality of the dependencies, scattered as they are in this extensive Archipelago, no less than the necessity of awaiting a proper period for their visitation, the census has been, *ex necessitate*, retarded, and has exceeded in a very small degree the time limited by the Ordinances, both for the completion of the original and duplicate registers, an excess indeed only of 22 days, if during the period holidays and Sundays may be excepted.

In a calculation of time indispensably necessary for correcting recensements, and examining 4,929 pages three times over, viz. twice comparing the original books with the returns in the prescribed form and manner, and once the duplicates, the whole to be done personally by the registrar, and for which no specific time has been allotted, I venture to hope that I have performed the duty with zeal for the service, and with all possible celerity, and that nothing has been wanting, on the part of the registrar, to satisfy the ends of Government, and to execute with fidelity the trust which has been confided to him.

I have, &c.

(signed) E. A. Draper,
Registrar of Slaves.

Slave Registry Office,
Port Louis, 18th October 1828.

Sir,

ON perusing and re-perusing, with scrupulous attention, the Slave Registration Ordinances, there is one labour quite impracticable, to attempt which (if I may be permitted a classical expression), would be to heap another Ossa upon Pelion; I allude to the first Order in Council of the 24th September 1814, page 10, which directs alphabetical indexes both of the names and surnames of all registered slaves to be annexed to the last personal and plantation register. To the confusion which similar names would present, and to the delay which such indexes must necessarily create, the registers themselves would be of that ponderous size which defies description, and the consumption of paper would be prodigal and excessive; however, on this head I have no apprehension of incurring displeasure, such indexes having been, *primâ facie*, set aside at the census in 1815, and the manner of compiling the original books having been approved in England.

There is another labour on which I am now occupied, not quite Herculean, but almost of equal magnitude, that of *twice* comparing the new registers (near 6,000 pages of imperial paper), with the returns; a work of time, which, if I find it to retard the duplicate books, I shall think it my duty to represent, in order that the registry clerks may be joined with me in the oath prescribed by the Ordinance, as was the case at former examinations of this kind, and not disapproved at home. The final close of the registers cannot take place until all returns from the minor dependencies of this government have been received and registered; I have, therefore, some time to prosecute my labours of examination, which, as his Excellency well knows, are subject to frequent interruptions by the ordinary and current business of the office; viz. the signing of every slave transfer; the daily correspondence and instructions to assistants; returns for the interior revenue department, specifying all mutations of slave property,

PAPERS RELATING TO THE

property, and other returns required by the government archivist; and last, though not least, in the catalogue of interruptions, and repeated questions from, and an unceasing correspondence with, the Commissioners of Inquiry.

Agreeably to the 20th clause of the Order in Council of the 30th January 1826, twelve months are conceded for performing the different stages of registration, and for the final close of the registers; after which, six months are given to make duplicate registers; and notwithstanding the laborious course which I am now running, I hope so to manage the time of examinations as to report the completion of the registers for England within the prescribed period.

I have, &c.
(signed) *E. A. Draper,*
Registrar of Slaves.

The Hon. A. W. Blane, Esq.
Acting Chief Secretary.

(Enclosure 2 in No. 13.)

EXTRACT from the Minutes of Council.

Mauritius, Wednesday, this 1st October 1828.

His Excellency the Governor laid before the Council a letter, dated the 29th ult., from the Registrar of Slaves, announcing the completion of the duplicate registers of the slave population of the colony and its dependencies, and their being ready for transmission to England; and as those registers have been once carefully examined and certified by him, in the full assurance of their accuracy, requesting a dispensation from a second examination of them, which would cause a further delay of 98 days in their transmission to England. After having fully and maturely deliberated on and discussed the before-mentioned application of the registrar of slaves, his Excellency the Governor in Council was of opinion, that the second examination of the duplicate registers may be dispensed with, as much inconvenience might arise from 98 days further delay, and no equivalent advantage appears likely to be derived from a second verification of them.

(signed) *W. N. Leitch,*
Secretary to the Council.

(A true Copy.)

F. E. S. Viret,
Private Secretary.

— No. 14. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir *G. Murray* to
Sir *Charles Colville*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3d June 1829.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch dated the 5th of October last, reporting that you had thought it right to relieve the Registrar of Slaves of Mauritius from the necessity of making a second examination of the duplicate slave registries. Under the circumstances of the case, and especially adverting to the delay which a more rigid adherence to the letter of the law would have occasioned, this indulgence appears to have been judiciously granted.

I observe that another deviation has been made from the terms of the Order in Council, by the omission of indexes to the books of registry. Without denying the weight of the objection made to the enumeration in the index of every name occurring in the registers, it does not follow that this part of the law should have been totally neglected. An index, more or less complete, would seem an indispensable appendage to a manuscript comprising 15 folio volumes. For the future you will sanction, not the entire omission of the index, but only any diminution of its bulk which may appear to you compatible with its utility as a means of general reference to the contents of these volumes.

I am, &c.
(signed) *G. Murray.*

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

43

— No. 15. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *C. Colville* to the Right Hon. *W. Huskisson*.
(Two Enclosures.)

Sir,

Mauritius, 24th October 1828.

I HAVE now the honour to acquaint you, with reference to my despatch of the 5th instant, that the duplicate slave returns or registers have been shipped on board the *Hoogly*, Reeves, master, bound to England direct; and the receipt for the same is herewith enclosed.

I avail myself of this occasion to transmit a copy of the Oath which has been taken and subscribed by the Registrar of Slaves consequent on the dispensation from the second examination of the *duplicate* registers, which I had granted, as reported in my despatch before alluded to, and for reasons that I trust will be satisfactory to His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Charles Colville*.

No. 1.
Bill of Lading sent
to Col. Agent.
No. 2.

(Enclosure 1 in No. 15.)

Port Louis, Isle of France, 22d Oct. 1828.

RECEIVED on board the ship *Hoogly*, P. J. Reeves, commander, two large cases, said to contain as under-mentioned :

No. 1 - - - 7 registers, and 1 index, of personal slaves.

No. 2 - - - 8 registers, and 1 index, of plantation slaves.

The above are directed to the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, Downing-street, London.

(signed)

W. Henry Hawson,
Chief Officer.

(A true Copy.)

F. E. S. Viret,
Private Secretary.

(Enclosure 2, in No. 15.)

OATH annexed to Duplicate Registers.

BEFORE His Excellency Lieutenant-General the Honourable Sir Charles Colville, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, and of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, &c. &c., Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the island of Mauritius and its dependencies, Captain-General, Vice-Admiral, and Commander of His Majesty's Forces within the same, personally appeared Edward Alured Draper, the registrar of slaves in the Isle of France, who, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists, makes oath and says, that he the said Edward Alured Draper has *once* carefully examined and compared all the preceding entries in this book, and in the six preceding duplicate volumes or registers of personal slaves, with all the different returns of personal slaves delivered to him, or, to his knowledge or belief, to any deputy, clerk, or assistant lawfully appointed, *by reading the original returns while his clerks examined and compared the entries in this book, and in the preceding volumes as aforesaid, as well as the entries in the original registers*, and that he is enabled thereby to depose, and does depose, that the preceding duplicate of the original registry of the personal slaves of the Isle of France and its Dependencies is in all respects correctly and faithfully made.

PAPERS RELATING TO THE

OATH annexed to Original Registers.

BEFORE His Excellency Lieutenant-General the Honourable Sir Charles Colville, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, and of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, &c. &c., Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Island of Mauritius and its dependencies, Captain-General, Vice-Admiral, and Commander of His Majesty's forces within the same, personally appeared Edward Alured Draper, the registrar of slaves in the Isle of France, who, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists, makes oath and says, that he the said Edward Alured Draper has twice carefully examined and compared all the preceding entries in this book, and in the seven preceding volumes or registers of personal slaves, with all the different returns of personal slaves delivered to him, or, to his knowledge or belief, to any deputy, clerk, or assistant, lawfully appointed, first by examining the said entries while his clerk or assistant read the original returns respectively entered therein, and afterwards by examining the said returns while his clerk or assistant read the said entries in this book, and in the seven preceding volumes or registers of personal slaves respectively made therefrom, and that he is enabled thereby to depose, and does depose, that the preceding original registry of the personal slaves of the Isle of France and its dependencies is in all respects correctly and faithfully made.

—No. 16.—

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Sir *Charles Colville* to the Right Honourable Sir *George Murray* ; dated Mauritius, 12th October 1829.

“ I HAVE the honour herewith to forward to you the following Ordinance, which, having passed the Council, has been promulgated in this colony, viz :

Ordinance No. 52. For insuring regularity at the approaching Biennial Census, and for assisting the inhabitants in making accurate declarations of the various mutations which occur among their slaves.

To show the expediency of this regulation, I deem it desirable to enclose to you the accompanying copy of a representation which was submitted to me from the acting registrar of slaves, and having advised with the Council thereon, it was resolved that the measure proposed should be adopted. The registrar has in consequence been authorized to employ temporarily a sufficient number of extra clerks to prepare the extracts from the registers alluded to in the Ordinance, the expense of which, as stated in the registrar's letter, will be amply covered by the fees accruing to Government.”

(Enclosure 1 in No. 16.)

No. 52.—ORDINANCE of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

Title.

For insuring regularity at the approaching Biennial Census, and for assisting the inhabitants in making accurate declarations of the various mutations that occur among their slaves. An object of as great interest and advantage to the proprietors as of facility to the carrying on the duties of the slave registry-office.

Preamble.

Whereas by the last clause of His Majesty's Order in Council, under date 30th January 1826, it is stated : “ And whereas in the execution of this Order unforeseen exigencies may arise for which no provision is hereby made, nor could be made by His Majesty in Council, without great delay and inconvenience ; it is therefore hereby ordered and declared, that it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Civil Commander in Chief, by and with the advice of his Legislative Council, to make ordain and promulgate all such laws and ordinances as may to him with such advice as aforesaid, appear necessary for giving full and perfect effect to the provisions of this present Order, or as may from time to time be necessary for insuring the complete and punctual registration of all the slaves within the said island, and for that purpose, if necessary

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

45

necessary, by any such laws or ordinances, to suspend the execution of any of the provisions of this Order which may by experience be shown to be inconsistent with the full and perfect accomplishment of the object aforesaid."

His Excellency the Governor in Council has been pleased to order :

1. Every proprietor of slaves will be furnished by the registrar of slaves, and by his assistants in the different districts, with printed extracts of the original registry for every slave in his possession, which extract shall accompany the slave thereon described in the different changes he may undergo, and in case of his death or enfranchisement, shall be returned to the Slave Registry-office by the person in whose hand he may be at the time of such death or freedom taking place. A similar extract will be delivered at the Registry-office to every proprietor in return for the declaration which he is bound to make of every birth that occurs among his slaves.

Every proprietor of slaves will be furnished by the registrar of slaves, and his assistants in the different quarters, with printed extracts of the original registry, for every slave in his possession. The extract to follow the slave thereon described in the different changes he may undergo, and to be returned, in case of death or enfranchisement, to the Registry-office. An extract will be delivered for every birth to the person making the necessary declaration.

2. It is hereby further ordered, that the said registrar and assistant registrars shall, on application for that purpose, deliver gratuitously the above-mentioned extract to such persons as have taken a copy of their returns, and a fee of one penny sterling for each slave shall be levied from those who have neglected to take such copy, or who have become proprietors of slaves since the census of 1826.

lected doing so, or become slave proprietors since the Census of 1826.

3. It is hereby further ordered, That persons neglecting to apply for the above-mentioned extracts when completed (of which due notice will be given by the Gazette), or failing to produce them on the approaching Biennial Census to the registrar or his assistants, shall be subject to a fine of four shillings for every slave in respect of whom such extract shall not be produced. All contraventions to the present article are to be prosecuted at the suit of the registrar of slaves, and are to be adjudged by the Court of First Instance, sitting as civil, and without appeal.

The extract to be delivered gratis to such persons as have taken copies of their Returns, and a fee of 1 d. to be paid by those who have neglected doing so, or become slave proprietors since the Census of 1826.

Penalty to be incurred by persons neglecting to apply for the extracts when completed.

Mode of levying penalties incurred for contraventions to the present article.

And it is hereby further ordered, That in case of the loss of an extract, the fee of one shilling shall be exacted for a duplicate.

duplicate, in case of the loss of an extract.

4. It is hereby further ordered, That on the departure of a slave from the colony, the extract relating to such slave shall be deposited by the proprietor at the Slave Registry-office, previous to the necessary certificate being granted for his or her embarkation, and shall only be given back on the certificate of the Collector of Customs of the slave's return.

The extract to be deposited at the Registry-office previous to the embarkation of the slave thereon described.

5. And it is hereby further ordered, That no disposition of the present Ordinance shall be construed to alter or interfere with those clauses of His Majesty's Orders in Council under date 24th September 1814 and 30th January 1826, which direct that declarations of sales, births, deaths and enfranchisement, shall be transmitted or delivered to the registrar or assistant registrars of slaves, within the space of one calendar month, under the penalties therein laid down.

The present article not to interfere with the clauses of the Registration Ordinances with regard to the various declarations of sales, births, deaths and within the space of one month.

6. And to the end that no person may pretend ignorance of the same, the present Ordinance is to be read and registered in the Courts, for which purpose a copy thereof is to be presented by the Procureur-General to his Honour the Chief Judge and Commissary of Justice.

The present Ordinance to be published and registered in the courts.

God save the King !

Given at Port Louis, Island of Mauritius, this 30th day of September 1829.

(signed) *Charles Colville.*

By order of His Excellency the Governor,

(signed) *G. A. Barry.*

Chief Secretary to Government.

By order of the Council,

(signed) *W. N. Leith,*

Secretary to the Council.

(A true Copy.)

W. N. Leith,
Clerk to the Council.

(Enclosure 2 in No. 16.)

Sir, Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, August 3d, 1829.

IN reference to my letter of the 9th ultimo, I have the honour to submit, for the consideration of his Excellency the Governor, the following observations explanatory of the plan suggested by the assistant registrar of Plaines Wilhems.

The object in view is to insure regularity at the approaching biennial census, as well as to assist the inhabitants in making declarations of the various mutations which occur among their slaves. It is proposed that each proprietor should be furnished with authenticated extracts for every slave in his possession, which extract is to follow the individual when transferred to another master, or in other words, to be considered as the owner's title to him. Great irregularity, in my humble opinion, will ensue unless the present plan be adopted, from the numerous transfers which have taken place in slave property since the census of October 1826. There are instances of blacks being sold six times over since that period, and it will be quite impossible for the assistant registrar to ascertain by whom he was originally returned, unless belonging to his own quarter, as the person in whose hands he may be at the biennial census will probably have no other document than the bill of sale he received, which generally comprises only the name, surname and caste of the individual, without specifying by whom he was recensed in 1826, or giving any clue by which he may be traced, unless by reference to the several persons through whose hands he may have passed.

These references would in most cases be unsatisfactory, as few persons, when they have disposed of a slave, keep any memorandum concerning him, or may be dead, or have left the colony, consequently the return would be incorrect, and no future recensement can be registered until the previous one be corrected. All these difficulties will be surmounted by adopting Mr. Icery's plan, as the assistant registrar, in making out the returns, will perceive by the extract by whom the slave was recensed, and will only have to copy it, provided no alteration has taken place in the description of the slave.

In addition to this, the inhabitants will be enabled to make correct and satisfactory declarations of mutations, which they are unable to do at present when the individual has been recensed by another person, nor has the assistant registrar the means of correcting them unless belonging to his own quarter.

It frequently occurs that a great space of time elapses before these corrections take place, from the distance of the Registry-office in Port Louis, and from references necessary to make in the quarter where the slave was originally recensed.

I should propose that these extracts (conformably to the accompanying model) should be delivered "gratis" to such persons as have taken out copies of their returns; and that the fee of 1*d.* a head be levied from those who have neglected doing so, who have become proprietors since the census.

These extracts to be annulled on the death or enfranchisement of the individual brought thereon; and one to be given (as per model) by the registrar, or his assistants, for each birth. Persons refusing or neglecting to take the extracts to be subject to a penalty of 1*s.* for each slave.

In case of the loss of an extract, the same fee of 10*s.* to be exacted for a duplicate, as ordered by the tariff to be paid for every certificate or extract.

I should further recommend, that on the departure of a slave from the colony the extract should be deposited at the Registry-office previous to his embarkation, and be only given back on the certificate of the Collector of Customs of his return.

The expense to be incurred by Government for printing and clerks will not exceed, in my opinion, 1,800 dollars, which will be fully repaired by the fees which will be received at the biennial census (*vide* margin). This may be estimated at 18,000 dollars at the lowest, for allowing that there have been mutations in only half the returns furnished in 1826, viz. 6,452, the government will receive more than that amount; moreover, as no copies of returns will be issued for the future, the government will be reimbursed by that alone, without calculating that the mutations being effected with such increased facility by the proposed arrangement, and the clerks no longer employed in tedious researches and

10*s.* for the registry of each Biennial Return, and 1*s.* for every slave brought on it.

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

47

and continual references, the office will be enabled to dispense at a future time with a portion of the extra assistance required at every biennial census.

By the last clause of the Order in Council, dated 30th January 1826, it is stated that "The Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Civil Commander-in-Chief, by and with the advice of his Legislative Council, to make, ordain and promulgate all such laws and ordinances as may to him, with such advice as aforesaid, appear necessary for giving full and perfect effect to the provisions of this present Order, or as may from time to time be necessary for insuring the complete and punctual registration of all the slaves within the said island, and for that purpose, if necessary, by any such laws or ordinances, to suspend the execution of any of the provisions of this Order which may by experience be shown to be inconsistent with the full and perfect accomplishment of the object aforesaid."

Should these suggestions meet with his Excellency's approval, I have the honour to request that I may be immediately authorized to engage five competent clerks, who, with Mr. Brue, at present employed in copying recensements, will be able to complete the work in time to have the extracts distributed before the period appointed for the reception of the biennial census in January 1830.

I have, &c.

(signed) *P. Salter,*
Acting Registrar of Slaves.

To G. A. Barry, Esq.
Chief Secretary to Government.

—No. 17.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *C. Colville* to the Right Hon. Sir *G. Murray*.
(With Five Enclosures.)

Sir,

Mauritius, 20th January 1830.

WITH the despatch which I had the honour of addressing to you on the 12th of October 1289, was transmitted an Ordinance in Council, "for insuring regularity at the approaching biennial census, and for assisting the inhabitants in making accurate declarations of the various mutations which occur among their slaves;" and I have now to lay before you a proclamation which I have issued, establishing and fixing the said biennial census, according to the provisions of His Majesty's Order in Council of the 30th January 1826.

It has been no less requisite on the present occasion than it was at the taking of the original registry in the years 1826 and 1827, to afford considerable help, in the way of extra clerks and messengers, to the registrar and his assistants in the several country districts. The accompanying memorandum of the additional expense thus occasioned (to which is annexed the correspondence which has passed on the matter) will, I hope, be sufficient to show, notwithstanding the largeness of the amount, that the representations of the acting registrar were so pressing that I had no alternative but to comply with them, especially as so much importance appears to be attached by His Majesty's Government to a correct and faithful slave registry.

I have also the honour to transmit to you a copy of a letter from the acting registrar, in which that officer urges, that on the contingency of any future biennial census falling during the hurricane season, it should be postponed until the 1st of the month of May; and agreeing entirely in opinion with the registrar on this point, for the very obvious reasons which he has assigned, I beg to recommend the same to your consideration, and to solicit your sanction to the proposal in question.

In order that I may not be obliged to trouble you with a separate despatch on the subject, I will herewith forward to you a copy of a further letter from the acting registrar of slaves, replying to a communication which I directed should be made to him; pursuant to the instructions contained in your despatch of the 3d of June last, respecting the omission of indexes to the books of registry; and in consequence of the very strong representation of the acting registrar, which explains the vast labour and expense for extra clerks that would attend the preparation of a general index of all the slaves borne on the original returns, I have caused that officer to be apprised that I would defer requiring such general

No. 1.
dated 9th ultimo.

No. 2.
With Papers of
Reference marked
(A) & (B.)

No. 3.

No. 4.

index until his statement should have been submitted for your decision ; but that, in addition to the index of the slaves' proprietors names, (which was prefixed to the original returns,) it would be necessary that an index of the mutations, as shown on the biennial returns, should be supplied.

No. 5. I have likewise the honour to transmit to you a copy of a letter which I have received from Colonel Draper, late registrar of slaves, and now acting collector of customs, submitting some remarks on that part of the Report of His Majesty's Commissioners of Inquiry in which they express their apprehensions that the census of 1826 will not be found free from inaccuracies. On this matter I need only observe, in addition to what is stated by Colonel Draper, that the case of the two slaves of the Sieur Juglard (to which the Commissioners allude) was reported upon by Sir Lowry Cole, in his despatch of the 16th of May 1828, to Mr. Huskisson ; and I am assured that no communication was made by the Commissioners to my predecessor respecting the return of Wm. Hulin, the second and other case of inaccuracy brought forward in their Report.

I have, &c.

(signed)

Chas. Colville.

(Enclosure 1 in No. 17.)

PROCLAMATION.

In the Name of His Majesty George the Fourth, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King.

His Excellency Lieut.-General the Hon. Sir Charles Colville, Governor of the Island of Mauritius and Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

WHEREAS, by the Order in Council, under date of the 30th of January 1826, and published in this colony in the month of September of the same year, it has been decreed that, after the expiration of two years from the period of the first registry of slaves, another registry should be made in like manner as set forth by the provisions of the said law, and at the time that should be fixed and determined by the Governor of this colony. And whereas the period of two years, beginning from the first census, has elapsed ; his Excellency the Governor, after calling to the attention of the inhabitants, and all owners of slaves, the provisions of the said Order in Council, to the following purport :

“ And it is hereby further ordered, that at the expiration of two years, to be computed from the time when the first registry of slaves to be made under this present Order shall be completed and authenticated as aforesaid, every person resident in the said island or its dependencies who shall own or possess any slave or slaves within the same, whether as proprietor or mortgagee, sequestrator, trustee or receiver, manager or attorney, or whatever their, his or her tenure of or title to the same may be, shall make and deliver upon oath to the registrar or assistant registrar of slaves of the quarter in which they, he or she may be resident, an account or schedule in writing to be by them, him or her subscribed, to be called the “ Biennial Return of Slaves,” which biennial returns shall contain all such statements and particulars, and shall set forth and discover all such matters and things, as in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th September 1814, are required to be contained, set forth and discovered in the annual return of the slaves therein mentioned ; and such biennial returns as aforesaid shall in every respect and particular be made out in the manner and form required by the said Order in respect to the said annual returns ; provided nevertheless, and it is hereby further ordered, that in every such biennial return as aforesaid, in which any slave or slaves shall be stated to have been sold, born or enfranchised, or to have died, since the last preceding return, the person or persons making such biennial return shall, in a separate and distinct column, to be provided for that purpose, also state when and by whom any note or memorandum of such sale, birth, enfranchisement or death was transmitted or delivered to any such registrar or assistant registrar as aforesaid.

“ And it is hereby further ordered, that all persons making such biennial returns as aforesaid shall, on such day or days as may be appointed for that purpose within the said several quarters, by any proclamation to be issued by the

the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or civil Commander-in-chief of the said island, bring, produce or exhibit before the registrar or assistant of such quarter, all their, his or her personal slaves and plantation slaves, in such manner and form, in every respect, as is hereinbefore directed and required with regard to the production of such slaves upon making the first or original returns of slaves under this present Order; and such and the like muster or assemblage of all plantation slaves shall thereupon take place, and be held in the presence of every such registrar or assistant registrar of slaves, upon each and every plantation within the said island, as is hereinbefore directed in reference to the before-mentioned original returns; and such registrar and assistant registrars shall thereupon proceed to administer to all persons making such returns such and the same oath as is prescribed in and by the said Order in Council of 24th September 1814, and shall proceed, in manner hereinbefore mentioned in reference to the said original returns, to ascertain the accuracy and truth of such biennial returns, affording to the parties making the same all necessary advice and assistance as hereinbefore directed in reference to the said original returns; and such registrar and assistant registrars shall also proceed to reject or receive the biennial returns which may be so made to them, to certify the correctness thereof, and to transmit and deposit the same to and in the office of the registrar of slaves in the town of Port Louis aforesaid, in such and in the same manner, in all respects, as is hereinbefore directed and prescribed in reference to the original returns to be made in pursuance of this present Order.

“ Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby further ordered, that the time of making the said biennial returns shall be fixed by a proclamation of the said Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or civil Commander-in-chief, upon some day or days within one calendar month next after the 1st day of January in the year in which the same shall be so made; and the time for transmitting all such biennial returns to, or depositing the same in, the office of the said registrar of slaves at Port Louis, shall be fixed by such proclamation at some period not more than two calendar months distant from such first day of January.

“ And it is hereby further ordered, that the said registrar, on the receipt of such biennial returns at his office, shall forthwith proceed to correct, enlarge and continue, pursuant thereto, the former registry of the plantation slaves and personal slaves to which such returns respectively relate, in the manner and form particularly mentioned, prescribed and directed, in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th of September 1814, in reference to the annual returns thereby directed to be made.

“ Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby further ordered, that if any such biennial returns as aforesaid shall exhibit any increase of the slaves of the person or persons making such return by birth or purchase, or any diminution in the number of such slaves by enfranchisement or death, the said registrar shall further proceed to compare every such biennial return with the notes or memoranda so to be recorded as aforesaid in the before-mentioned four books of sale, births, deaths and enfranchisement; and in case such biennial returns shall appear to be inconsistent with such notes or memoranda, it shall be the duty of the said registrar, and he is hereby required, to postpone the registration of any such biennial return, unless and until the person or persons making the same shall give to such registrar or assistant registrar of their, his or her quarter, an explanation on oath of the causes of such variance and inconsistency, showing the same, to the satisfaction of the said registrar, to have arisen from accidental or unavoidable causes, and not from wilful disobedience to this present Order; and upon receiving any such explanation as aforesaid, and not before, such registrar of slaves shall and is hereby authorized to register any such biennial return as aforesaid, notwithstanding such apparent inconsistency; provided that no such explanation as aforesaid be received, and no such biennial return as aforesaid be registered by the said registrar, after the expiration of three calendar months next after the time so to be appointed as aforesaid for the completion of any such biennial registration.

“ And it is hereby further ordered, that all and every the rules and regulations made and contained in the said Order in Council of the 24th September 1814, in reference to the registration of the annual returns therein mentioned,

PAPERS RELATING TO THE

and in reference to the correction of accidental or unintentional errors occurring in any such annual returns, and in reference to the general account or abstract therein required to be made of all such annual returns, and in reference to the verification of such general abstract, and in reference to the transmission of such abstract to England, shall be and the same are hereby declared to be applicable to the biennial returns required in and by this present Order, save only so far as any such rules or regulations may be repealed or altered by or under the authority of this Order.

“ And it is hereby further ordered, that all and every the penalties and forfeitures declared and imposed in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th September 1814 upon the said registrar, his deputies, assistants or clerks, shall extend and apply, under this present Order, to the said registrar and assistant registrars, his and their deputies, assistants or clerks, as fully as if the provisions of the said Order in Council imposing such penalties were herein repeated, in reference to the returns hereby required to be made, and the books, accounts and abstracts hereby required to be kept, and the several matters and things hereby directed to be done and performed by such registrar and assistant registrars, and his and their deputies, assistants or clerks.”

His Excellency has been pleased to order, and orders :

1. The biennial census, as directed by the Order in Council of the 30th of January 1826, shall be completed, both in the town of Port Louis and in the different districts of the island, within the delay of one month from the 1st January 1830 to the 1st February of the same year.

2. The examination, inspection and verification to be made of slaves, and of their former census, shall take place in the same forms, and in like manner, as set forth in the proclamation under date of the 11th October 1826, the provisions whereof, as made to that effect, are hereby maintained ; and the registrar of slaves, and the assistant registrars residing in the respective districts, are charged with the due execution of the same.

3. Owners of slaves are to produce and exhibit to the registrar and assistant registrars such extracts as they are required to take in pursuance of the provisions of the Ordinance in Council under date of the 30th September 1829, on pain of a fine of 4*s.*, established by Article 3 of the said Ordinance, for every slave whose extract from the registry shall not be exhibited.

4. The present proclamation shall be read, published and registered in the courts, for which purpose a copy thereof shall be presented to his Honor the Chief Judge and Commissary of Justice.

Given at Port Louis, Mauritius, 9th December 1829.

(signed) *Charles Colville.*

By Order.

(signed) *G. A. Barry,*
Chief Secretary to Government.

(A true Copy.)

F. E. S. Viret,
Private Secretary.

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

51

(Enclosure 2 in No. 17.)

ESTIMATE of the Expense attending the Preparation and Distribution of the COUPONS furnished each Slave Proprietor, conformably to the Ordinance of his Excellency the Governor in Council, dated 30th September 1829, No. 52; as also of the Additional Assistance required by the Acting Registrar of Slaves in the Preparation for and effecting the BIENNIAL CENSUS of 1830, showing the probable Amount that will, under the Authorities granted up to the present date, be incurred on this latter Account on the 1st March 1830.

	Per Month.	—	—	Amount.
The Coupons :	£. s. d.			£. s. d.
For the hire of extra clerks, viz.				
J. G. Blanckenberg - at	12 - -	Authorized under letter from Chief Secretary, dated 27 Aug. 1829, to be employed from 15 Aug. 1829 till completion of duties on which employed - -	These clerks ceased to be employed on this service on the 31st Dec. 1829 -	225 4 11
L. Pasquet - - -	10 - -			
J. Nuun - - -	6 - -			
F. Louis - - -	7 - -			
Arlanda Louis - - -	7 - -			
M. Brue - - -	7 - -			
A. Cabon - - -	6 - -	Ditto - - ditto, dated 30 Oct. and 29 Nov. 1829, to be employed during Oct., Nov. and Dec. - - -	- - -	54 - -
C. Bouton - - -	6 - -			
D. Lenette - - -	6 - -			
Total for the Hire of Clerks - -	£.			279 4 11
For printing 80,000 Coupons, at 20 \$ per thousand, 1,600 - -				£.320 - -

	Per Month.	—	Amount.
	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
The Census :			
For hire of two peons, each	3 - -	Authorized under letter from Chief Secretary, dated 21 Dec. 1829, to be hired from that date during the Census - - -	14 3 4 ½
For the hire of an extra clerk	7 - -	Ditto - - ditto, dated 9 July 1829, from 1 July, and continued on this service till the 14 Aug. 1829	10 4 6
For ruling eight large registers - - -	- - -	Ditto - - ditto, dated 25 July 1829 - - -	14 - -
For the hire of eight extra clerks to assist the Assistant Registrars - -	6 - -	Ditto - - ditto, dated 12 Dec. 1829, for two months, say Jan. and Feb. 1830 - - -	96 - -
For additional assistance in the office at Port Louis. six extra clerks, viz. Messrs Blankenberg, Pasquet, Nuun, F. and A. Louis, and Brue - - -	At the same rate of salary each per month as above stated	Authorized to be employed from 1 Jan. 1830 till completion of duty on which employed, under letter from Chief Secretary, dated 30 Dec. 1829	98 - -
Total Expense Account of Census up to 1st March 1830 - -	£.		232 7 10 ½

Audit Office, }
16th January 1830. }

(signed)

N. J. Kelsey,
Accountant-General.

Sir, Slave Registry-Office, Port Louis, 23d Sept. 1829.

I BEG you will do me the honour of submitting to his Excellency the Governor my request to be allowed the additional extra assistance of three effective clerks, from the 1st of next month until the end of November, to enable the office to insure the completion of the "coupons," and the comparison of them with the registers.

I have been anxious to effect that amelioration in the mode of registration with the greatest economy; and upon that account I have not applied for this additional assistance until the experience of the office has shown that it is indispensable; and being moreover deprived, in consequence of severe indisposition, of the valuable services of two most intelligent and effective clerks, viz. Messrs. Fouquereaux and Blackenberg. I trust, therefore, that under these circumstances, his Excellency may be pleased to take the subject into his favourable consideration, more particularly as it will require the whole of the month of December (using at same time every possible exertion) to distribute the coupons before the beginning of the biennial census.

I have, &c.
(signed) P. Salter,
Acting Registrar.

To the Honourable Col. Barry,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Sir, Slave Registry-Office, Port Louis, 22d Oct. 1829.

REFERRING to your letter of the 25th ultimo, conveying his Excellency the Governor's approval of the additional extra assistance of three clerks, for the months of October and November, I have the honour to state, that the under-mentioned have been employed, since the 1st instant, at the rate of 30 dollars each per month; viz. Antoine Cabon, Charles Bouton and Dessin Lenette; for which I request an authority may be issued to pass the Abstracts at the Audit-office.

I have, &c.
(signed) P. Salter,
Acting Registrar.

To the Honourable Col. Barry,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Sir, Slave Registry-Office, Port Louis, 25th Nov. 1829.

I REQUEST that you will do me the honour of submitting to his Excellency the Governor, the necessity in which this office is to keep every extra person at present employed in the department at work for another month. In making this representation, I refer to the three additional extra clerks (Messrs. A. Cabon, C. Bouton and D. Lenette), granted by his Excellency for the months of October and November; that period would, I am persuaded, have sufficed, as I had estimated, but for the illness of Mr. Fouquereaux, who has had official leave of absence from his Excellency for the recovery of his health. It is my duty to add, that the whole of the extra clerks have been most assiduous in the discharge of their duties. And I have to beg you may be pleased to move his Excellency to grant the authority for continuing these three extra clerks for the ensuing month of December.

I have, &c.
(signed) P. Salter,
Acting Registrar.

To the Honourable Col. Barry,
Chief Secretary to Government.

(A.)

Sir, Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, 8th December 1829.

I HAVE the honour to enclose an extract of a letter from M. Icery, the assistant registrar of Plaines Wilhems, applying to be allowed a clerk during the period of taking the census, which I request you will be pleased to submit for

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

53

for the favourable consideration of His Excellency the Governor; at the same time, I beg leave to suggest to His Excellency, that I consider the assistance of a clerk to each assistant registrar will be indispensably necessary for the two months of taking the census, at a rate of 30 dollars per month each, in order to insure the completion of the returns within the very limited time allowed by the Order in Council of the 30th January 1826.

To the Hon. Col. Barry,
Chief Secretary to Government.

I have, &c.
(signed) *P. Salter,*
Acting Registrar.

EXTRAIT d'une Lettre de l'Assistant Greffier des Plaines Wilhems, en date du 7 Décembre 1829, au Greffier de l'Enregistrement des Esclaves.

“ PERMETTEZ que je vous renouvelle ici ce que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous dire de vive voix, qu'il serait bien difficile, pour ne pas dire impossible, à moins d'y mettre bien du tems, que les assistants greffiers pussent, sans l'aide d'un commis, recevoir, faire et confectionner les recensemens biennaux. Il vous sera bien aisé de vous en convaincre en considérant que, malgré les coupons, cette opération consistera principalement, indépendamment de la confrontation des esclaves avec les coupons, en recherches dans les registres de mutations de toutes celles qu'aura eu chaque propriétaire d'esclaves, en nouveaux mesurages de taille, &c. &c.; ce que ne peut faire une seule personne, quand presque pour chaque individu il faut passer du recensement, qu'on écrit soit-même aux registres, des registres au recensemens, et de ceux-ci à l'inspection de cet individu. Je ne crains pas de rien hasarder en avançant ici qu'avec l'aide d'un commis cette opération ne prendrait que le quart du tems que mettraient forcément les assistants greffiers à les faire seule.

“ Lors des recensemens originaux je pris un commis, auquel j'abandonnai mes appointemens, quand vint l'enregistrement des copies de ces recensemens; il m'en couta 150 piastres pour faire faire ce travail que mes autres devoirs ne m'auraient pas permis de faire moi-même. Le Gouvernement est trop juste pour exiger que les assistants greffiers fassent eux-mêmes les frais d'un service extraordinaire, surtout en considérant qu'ils ne sont point obligés de faire eux-mêmes les recensemens biennaux, mais seulement de les recevoir, et y aider de leurs avis.

“ Je ne doute pas qu'appréciant les raisons que je viens d'exposer vous ne trouviez juste de les soumettre à son Excellence le Gouverneur pour être prises en telle considération qu'il appartiendra.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, &c.
(signed) *Icery,*
Ass^t Greffier.

(A true Copy.)
(signed) *P. Salter,*
As Registrar.

(B.)

Sir. Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, 17th Dec. 1829.

I HAVE to request you will be pleased to obtain for me the authority of His Excellency the Governor to be allowed to hire two competent peons, at a salary of 15 drs. per month, commencing on the 21st instant, for the purpose of circulating the requisitions, and distributing the notices from this office for receiving the slave population returns of the approaching biennial census.

I have, &c.
(signed) *P. Salter,*
Acting Registrar.

To the Hon. Col. Barry,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Sir, Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, 23d Dec. 1829.

I HAVE the honour to state to you, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that as far as I am capable of judging at the present moment, the services of six effective extra clerks will be required to enable this department to get through with the additional and laborious duties which will necessarily be imposed upon it during the period of receiving the biennial returns, &c., and in completing the registers for transmission to England; and as the extra clerks which His Excellency was pleased, in the first instance, to sanction upon the "coupons," viz. Messrs. Brue, Blackenberg, Pacquet, Nuun, Arlanda Louis, Français Louis have given me throughout the greatest satisfaction, and still continue to give, by a strict and steady adherence to their duties, which for some time past have been of no ordinary nature, I consider it my duty to recommend to the favourable consideration of His Excellency, that they may be continued from the 1st of the ensuing month of January 1830, upon their original salaries, until the completion of the duties above alluded to.

The services of the three additional extra clerks (also employed upon the coupons) for October, November and December, will not be required after the expiration of the current month.

I have, &c.

(signed) *P. Salter*,
Acting Registrar.

To the Hon. Col. Barry,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Sir, Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, 26th Dec. 1829.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 23d instant, respecting extra clerks for the biennial census, and apprehensive lest His Excellency may not be in full possession of the duties which the approaching census will impose, I beg leave most humbly to represent them:—

1st. Receiving and making all returns of mutations in the town of Port Louis.

2d. Examining, and comparing with the registers of mutations, all returns received from the country districts (probably 5,000 in number, comprising those of Port Louis.)

3d. Calling upon proprietors to attend for explanation of errors.

4th. Registering the biennial returns, and making duplicates for transmission to England.

The establishment of the Slave Registry-office, recommended by my predecessor, and approved at home, had no reference to the actual periods of performing the census, but was confined to the intermediate space, or in other words, it contained the number of clerks necessary for carrying on the ordinary duties of the office, the employment of each clerk being thoroughly detailed in the registrar's letter of the 14th June 1828.

The law provides only two months to complete the census, and although it is silent for the time of preparing and transmitting the duplicate registers, it must no doubt be the wish of Government that every practicable expedition should be used. On these grounds, I beg leave to renew my request that the assistance of six extra clerks, whose names are specified in my letter of the 23d instant, be afforded to this office during the time which may be actually required to carry into full effect the Order in Council of the 30th January 1826.

I have, &c.

(signed) *P. Salter*,
Acting Registrar.

To the Hon. Colonel Barry,
Chief Secretary to Government.

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

55

Sir, Slave Registry-Office, Port Louis, 29th Dec. 1829.

IN compliance with his Excellency the Governor's directions conveyed in your letter of the 28th inst., I have the honour to transmit Comparative Statements of the Slave Registry Establishment in 1826 and 1827, and the Establishment now existing, by which it will appear that the present exceeds the former for the particular month of November 1826 in the sum of 85*l.*; but in each successive month an augmentation shows itself on the other side; and in April 1827 a balance only of 2*l.* in favour of the old establishment may be discovered. The discontinuance of three extra clerks on the 31st inst. will indeed reduce the present establishment below the former one, and the Abstracts of the Fixed and Unfixed will be 299*l.* instead of 315*l.*

In enumerating the several duties which the Biennial Census will impose, I omitted one in my letter of the 26th inst. of no small magnitude, viz. an alphabetical index of slaves, which, though not of that bulky size that it would have been in 1826, will nevertheless occasion considerable extra labour.

I have, &c.

(signed) P. Salter,
Acting Registrar.

To the Honourable Colonel Barry,
Chief Secretary to Government.

ABSTRACT for the Fixed Establishment of the Slave Registry Office,
for the month of November 1826.

SITUATION.	NAMES.	AMOUNT.
		£. s. d.
Registrar of Slaves, salary } £. 1,500 per annum - }	E. A. Draper, Esq. - -	125 - -
REMAINING ESTABLISHMENT :		
First Clerk - - -	Mr. L. B. Michel - -	24 - -
Second Clerk - - -	Mr. C. Petit - - -	12 3 4
Third Clerk - - -	Mr. G. F. Elliott - -	18 - -
Fourth Clerk - - -	Mr. Henry Abbott - -	12 - -
	Total - - - £. sterling	191 3 4

Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, }
29th December 1829. }

(signed) P. Salter,
Acting Registrar of Slaves.

ABSTRACT for the Fixed Contingent Establishment for the Slave Registry Office,
for the month of November 1826.

Date of Authority.	SITUATIONS.	NAMES.	AMOUNT.
			£. s. d.
10 Oct. - 1826	Second Clerk - - -	Mr. C. Petit, balance of } his pay - - - }	7 16 8
- - - -	Peon - - - -	Cassime - - - -	2 - -
18 - - - -	Extra Clerk - - -	Mr. D. Virieux - - -	10 - -
- - - -	- Ditto - - - -	Mr. C. Fouquereaux - -	8 - -
3 Nov. - - -	- Ditto - - - -	Mr. C. Lavers, from 3d to } 30th inclusive - - }	7 7 3½
18 Oct. - - -	Messenger - - - -	Matel - - - -	3 - -
- - - -	- - - -	D ^m Tanguy - - - -	3 - -
		Total - - - £. sterling	41 3 11½

Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, }
29th December 1829. }

(signed) P. Salter,
Acting Registrar of Slaves.

**ABSTRACT for the Fixed Establishment of the Slave Registry Office,
for the month of April 1827.**

SITUATION.	NAMES.	AMOUNT.
		£. s. d.
Registrar of Slaves, salary } £. 1,500 per annum - }	E. A. Draper, Esq. - -	125 - -
Writer, £. 300 per annum -	J. B. Dixon, Esq. - -	25 - -
REMAINING ESTABLISHMENT :		
First Clerk - - -	Mr. L. B. Michel - -	24 - -
Third Clerk - - -	Mr. G. F. Elliott - -	17 3 4
	Total - - - £. sterling	191 3 4

Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, }
29th December 1829.

(signed) *P. Salter,*
Acting Registrar of Slaves.

**ABSTRACT for the Fixed Contingent Establishment of the Slave Registry Office,
for the month of April 1827.**

Date of Authority.	SITUATIONS.	NAMES.	AMOUNT.
			£. s. d.
10 Oct. - 1826	Second Clerk - - -	Mr. C. Petit - - -	20 - -
- - - -	Third Clerk - - -	Mr. G. Elliott, balance of } his pay - - - }	- 16 8
16 - - - -	Extra Clerk - - -	Mr. D. Virieux - - -	10 - -
- - - -	- - - -	Mr. C. Fouquereaux - -	18 - -
11 Dec. - -	- - - -	Mr. A. Castellan - - -	6 - -
30 Mar. - 1827	- - - -	W. Knowles - - -	10 - -
20 Jan. - -	- - - -	Appavous - - -	5 - -
3 Feb. - -	- - - -	E. Gallen - - -	6 - -
- - - -	- - - -	A. Albert - - -	6 - -
- - - -	- - - -	C. Aveline - - -	6 - -
30 Mar. - -	- - - -	A. Sornay - - -	6 - -
- - - -	- - - -	A. Demianné - - -	6 - -
- - - -	- - - -	Ragavah - - -	6 - -
1 April - -	- - - -	R. Suffield - - -	10 - -
- - - -	- - - -	Letord - - -	6 - -
- - - -	- - - -	D. Lacoudray - - -	6 - -
- - - -	- - - -	L. Barbé - - -	6 - -
		Total - - - £. sterling	123 16 8

Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, }
29th December 1829.

(signed) *P. Salter,*
Acting Registrar of Slaves.

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

57

ABSTRACT for the Fixed Establishment of the Slave Registry Office for the month of November 1829, approved by His Majesty's Minister.

SITUATION.	NAMES.	AMOUNT.
Registrar of Slaves, salary } £.1,500 per annum, draw- } ing half salary - - }	E. A. Draper, Esq. -	£. s. d. 62 10 -
Acting Registrar of Slaves, } drawing half pay - - }	P. Salter, Esq. -	62 10 -
Acting Writer, £.300 p' ann.	G. F. Elliott, Esq. -	25 - -
REMAINING ESTABLISHMENT :		
First Clerk - - -	Mr. L. B. Michel - -	24 - -
Second Clerk - - -	Mr. C. Petit - -	20 - -
Third Clerk - - -	Mr. C. Lahausse - -	15 - -
Clerk - - -	Mr. C. Fouquereaux -	12 - -
— - -	Mr. T. A. Hamoneau -	10 - -
— - -	Mr. C. Nicoleau - -	10 - -
Peon - - -	Cassime - -	2 - -
	Total - - - £. sterling	243 - -

Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, }
29th December 1829. }

(signed) P. Salter,
Acting Registrar.

ABSTRACT for Ten Extra Clerks attached to the Slave Registry Office for the month of November 1829.

Date of Authority.	SITUATION.	NAMES.	AMOUNT.
9 Mar. - 1829	Extra Clerk - - -	Mr. G. Hamoneau - -	£. s. d. 7 - -
- July - -	- - -	Mr. M. Brue - -	7 - -
27 Aug. - -	- - -	Mr. J. G. Blanckenberg -	12 - -
- - - -	- - -	Mr. L. Pasquet - -	10 - -
- - - -	- - -	Mr. J. Nuun - -	6 - -
- - - -	- - -	Mr. F ^s Louis - -	7 - -
- - - -	- - -	Mr. Arlanda Louis - -	7 - -
30 Oct. - -	- - -	Mr. D. Lenette - -	6 - -
- - - -	- - -	Mr. C. Bouton - -	6 - -
- - - -	- - -	Mr. A. Cabon - -	6 - -
		Total - - - £. sterling	74 - -

Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, }
29th Dec. Dec. 1829. }

(signed) P. Salter,
Acting Registrar.

(Enclosure 3 in No. 17.)

Sir,

Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, 31st Dec. 1829.

In reference to my letter of the 28th instant, I beg leave to submit, for his Excellency the Governor's consideration, whether, upon the contingency of any succeeding biennial census falling during the hurricane months, it might not be expedient to postpone its commencement until the 1st May.

The reasons are so obvious for this change as scarce to require an observation; but the difficulties and delays which the district assistants have to encounter

encounter in the rainy season, no less than the necessity of postponing the inspection of the minor dependencies, give full, and (if I may be permitted to add) cogent grounds for his Excellency to exercise the power vested in him by the Order in Council of the 30th January 1826.

I have, &c.

To the Hon. Col. Barry,
Chief Secretary to Government.

(signed) *P. Salter*,
Acting Registrar of Slaves.

(A true Copy.)

F. E. S. Viret, Private Secretary.

(Enclosure 4 in No. 17.)

Sir,

Slave Registry-Office, Port Louis, 30th Nov. 1829.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 16th instant, conveying the Right honourable the Secretary of State's observations on a deviation from the terms of the Order in Council, by the omission of alphabetical indexes of slaves in the books of registry, admitting, however, the weight of the objection to the enumeration of every name occurring in the registers, but at the same time intimating that an index, more or less complete, might have been supplied, and not giving his sanction, in future, to an entire omission, only to any diminution in the bulk of the index which may appear compatible to its utility.

On this subject the registrar, in proceeding with a scrupulous attention to the forms of the schedule and registers, thought it right to address the local government (18th Oct. 1827), and in representing the absolute impossibility of making, within the limited time of six months, an index of the names and surnames of slaves as laid down in the 27th clause of the Order in Council of 24th September 1814, in addition to the due performance of all other formalities, the labour was not attempted.

The clause of the Order in Council above-mentioned is most precise; it directs a full alphabetical index both of the names and surnames of all the slaves registered in each of the books, with reference to the proper pages; and any thing short of such an index would be imperfect and defective, although hundreds of slaves bearing the same name would appear therein. Instead of 15 folio volumes, 30 would have been necessary in the transmission of the duplicate registers of the census in 1826, or rather the bulk of each volume would have been swelled to twice its proportion, and double the time, or three or four months extra, would have been required in completing the books.

At this biennial census this index will not be a work of so much labour, the mutations only being recorded, unless his Excellency may be of opinion, after the remarks of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, that an alphabetical index of the names of slaves registered in the original books be necessary for transmission to England, in which case three months at least will be required exclusively for this operation, as well as an extra establishment of clerks during that period. In the folio original registers, as well as the duplicates transmitted to England, an alphabetical index of slave proprietors names was prefixed to each book, and the same index will necessarily be observed at the biennial census.

The 29th clause of the Order in Council of 30th January 1826 allows two months for depositing the biennial returns at the office of Registrar in Port Louis, and the following and 32d clauses refer to the anterior Order in Council of September 1814, for the observance of all rules and regulations regarding the registration of annual returns, which are therein declared to be applicable to the biennial; thence the 37th clause of the 1st Ordinance becomes the guide in the present instance, and which directs "that on or before the 1st day of March, in each year, the registrar shall carefully make out a general account or abstract of all the annual returns, &c. &c.; and the registrar shall also make out a fair copy or duplicate of every such general account or abstract, and shall subscribe both the original and duplicate thereof with his name, and delivering the same to the Governor (*vide* clause 39), who shall carefully transmit one of the said accounts or abstracts, by the first safe conveyance, under his official seal, to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department in England."

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

59

In the above clause the time is not definitively prescribed, either for preparing the original or duplicate accounts of the biennial census, at least so far as my penetration goes upon abstruse matter; and in the absence of any order from his Excellency upon this point, I can only say that the mutation books and duplicates will be registered and prepared with all due diligence and practicable expedition. I solicit, however, his Excellency's instructions in regard to the alphabetical index of the names of slaves, whether a general one, embracing the whole entry of the slave population of this colony and dependencies as registered at the census of 1826, is to be made, separately and exclusively of the index that will comprehend the names of slaves brought forward in the biennial returns: the sole view and object of the registrar being to conform in every respect to the letter and spirit of the ordinances, to endeavour to give satisfaction to the local government, and to merit the approbation of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State.

To the Hon. Col. Barry,
Chief Secretary to Government.

I have, &c.
(signed) *P. Salter*,
Acting Registrar.

(A true Copy.)

F. E. S. Viret, Private Secretary.

(Enclosure 5 in No. 17.)

Sir,

Port Louis, 5th December 1829.

HAVING perused the printed extracts from the Report of the Commissioners of Inquiry laid before Parliament in June last, in which apprehensions are entertained that the registry books of the slave population of this island, for the census 1826, "will not be found to be free from inaccuracies," I beg leave, as the registrar of slaves at the period mentioned, to be allowed to set right so much of the Report as may tend to give erroneous and unfavourable impressions.

In page 42 of the printed extracts the Commissioners say, "from the issue of some recent inquiries we have reason to apprehend that the register, although executed with great care, so far as has depended on the officer who has superintended it, will not be found to be free from inaccuracies in the description of the slaves taken by the assistants employed for the purpose. The errors we have had occasion to remark have been in the ages and marks of the imported slaves; and unless their descriptions should, be carefully verified some confusion might be apprehended where slaves imperfectly described were again produced for inspection by other proprietors to whom they had been intermediately transferred." The fact is, there was a manifest error committed by the assistant registrar in the district of Rivière du Rempart, both in the ages and marks of two slaves belonging to Philabort Juglard, the said slaves being borne on the return younger than their real ages, and which the triennial recensement of 1819 satisfactorily proved. In regard to the slaves of Hulin, whose name figures in the marginal note, Appendix No. 47, that person had no slaves in 1826; and the note which appears to give a colouring to a plurality of error at the census in 1826, can only have reference to the triennial return of William Hulin, dated 31st January 1822. Thus, in the whole slave population of Mauritius, amounting to 69,264 blacks, and amidst upwards of 6,000 recensements, one single return was found to be inaccurate in the description of two slaves, an inaccuracy which, I maintain, in point of equity and justice, and with all due respect to persons holding a high commission from His Majesty, ought not to justify the doubts and surmises which have been reported and published against the fidelity of the registers and records of the Slave Registry-office.

Slaves of Juglard,
Appendix No. 47.

Hulin's slaves,
Appendix No. 47.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. A. Draper*, Registrar of Slaves,
And Acting Collector of Customs.

To the Hon. G. A. Barry, Esq.
Chief Secretary to Government.

(A true Copy.)

F. E. S. Viret, Private Secretary.

— No. 18. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right honourable Sir *G. Murray* to
Sir *C. Colville*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 30th May 1830.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 20th January last.

I have to convey to you my sanction of the expenditure, amounting to 232*l.* 7*s.* 10½*d.*, incurred in the biennial census and registration of slaves.

I approve of the proposed postponement of any census, the regular period for which would fall during the hurricane season, till the first of the month of May following.

With reference to the letter which you have transmitted from the registrar of slaves on the subject of indexes, I have only to instruct you, that although the objections stated by the registrar to preparing indexes in that voluminous form he has mentioned seem conclusive, there is no reason why some index should not be subjoined to the books of registry. It should contain a reference to each particular return, mentioning alphabetically the name of each estate, with any other reference which, in concurrence with the registrar, you may think proper to adopt, particularly that which you have yourself suggested with respect to the mutations.

I have, &c.
(signed) *G. Murray*.

— No. 19. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *C. Colville* to the Right honourable
Sir *G. Murray*.—(With 5 Enclosures.)

Sir,

Mauritius, 9th February 1830.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you herewith an Ordinance, No. 58, which has passed the Council, and been promulgated in this island, being “ For the purpose of authorizing the Court of Appeal to nominate new commissioners, conformably to the provisions of the Order in Council of the 24th September 1814, in order to undertake anew the verification of slaves recensed by tutors and curators, &c. of incapacitated persons, and likewise the inspection of the said slaves, in observing such ulterior directions as may be given by the Court pursuant to the said Order in Council.”

The accompanying letter to me from his Honor the Chief Judge, and Report of the Procureur-General to the Court of Appeal, so fully and completely explain the circumstances which have called forth the present Ordinance, that I have only to express my regret that any inaccuracies and imperfections should have been found in the report of the Commissioners appointed by the Court in the month of August of the year 1828, pursuant to the provisions of the Slave Registration Orders in Council.

I take the present opportunity of forwarding to you, with reference to my despatch of the 20th January last, and to my Proclamation of the 9th of December 1829, an Ordinance, No. 59, which, having passed the Council, has also been promulgated here, being “ For prolonging the term fixed and determined for the completion of the biennial census.”

The enclosed copy of a letter from the acting registrar of slaves will, I hope, be sufficient to show that such prolongation was indispensably requisite; and both these Ordinances, under the relative circumstances of the two cases, will, I trust, receive His Majesty’s gracious approval.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Charles Colville*.

Enclosure, No. 1.
9th ultimo.

Nos. 2 & 3.

Enclosure, No. 4.
dated 27th ult.

No. 5.

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

61

(Enclosure 1 in No. 19.)

No. 58.—ORDINANCE of his Excellency the Governor in Council.

For the purpose of authorizing the Court of Appeal of this island to nominate and delegate new Commissioners, conformably to the provisions of the Order in Council of the 24th of September 1814, in order to undertake anew the verification of slaves recensed by tutors and curators, &c. of incapacitated persons, and likewise the inspection of the said slaves, in observing such ulterior directions as may be given by the Court, pursuant to the said Order in Council. Title.

Whereas, for the protection and security of infants, married women, lunatics, and other persons under disability or incapacity, a commission has been issued, conformably to the Orders in Council of the 24th of September 1814 and 30th January 1826, for the verification and correction of the original returns made by persons holding in possession any slaves as trustees, guardians, receivers, committees or sequestrators, in right of such incapacitated or disabled persons as aforesaid: Preamble.

And whereas the Commissioners named in such Commission have made their Report, and the same has been submitted to the consideration of the Supreme Court for the purposes mentioned in the said Order in Council of the 24th September 1814:

And whereas it has been found that the said Report is in many respects defective and imperfect, more particularly in that, that many of the slaves whose names are borne on the original returns above-mentioned have not been personally inspected and examined by the said Commissioners:

And whereas it is expedient, both for the security of the persons for whose protection the said Commission hath been granted, as also for the insuring of more accuracy in such of the original returns as are to be corrected and fixed by the Report of the Commissioners to be appointed under the last-mentioned Order in Council, that at the approaching biennial period of registration the Supreme Court should be enabled to order a further verification of the said original returns by the same or other Commissioners to be appointed for that purpose, and that the time for the reformation and correction of the same should be extended, in order that the Court may direct such additions and corrections to be made thereon as may be found necessary, and that the registrar of slaves may receive and transcribe the same in the manner set forth in the said last-mentioned Order in Council, in such time as the returns and books of the biennial registration shall be made out and completed:

It is ordered:

1. That from and after the publication of the present Ordinance the Court of Appeal of this colony shall and may nominate and appoint such number of trustworthy persons as shall seem necessary for the purpose of verifying and correcting all those registered returns made by trustees, guardians, receivers, committees or sequestrators, as have not been duly verified and corrected, pursuant to the Order in Council of the 24th of September 1814, by the Commissioners originally appointed for that purpose. And the said Court shall and is hereby empowered to order and direct such examination and inquiry as, for the better and more perfectly correcting the said original returns, shall in each particular case be found necessary. From the publication of the present Ordinance, the court is to appoint a sufficient number of commissioners for the purpose of verifying and correcting such original and registered Returns as shall have been furnished by tutors, curators, &c. of minors, married women, of persons in arrears with their creditors, and of all such others as are incapacitated, whenever such Returns shall not have been verified as is required by the Order in Council of 24 September 1814. The court is empowered, for the better effecting the said verification, to adopt such measures as may be necessary for rendering the said Returns perfectly correct.

And the persons so to be appointed as aforesaid in virtue of the present Ordinance shall, within such reasonable time as shall be allowed by the said Court, proceed, either jointly or separately, as the said Court shall direct, to the inspection of such slaves, and the examination and verification of such original returns as shall be ordered by the said Court; and for this purpose the said persons so to be appointed as aforesaid shall have the same powers of examining on oath, calling witnesses, and examining registers and records, as in the said Order in Council of the 24th September 1814 are conferred upon the Commissioners therein mentioned. And all trustees, guardians, receivers, committees, sequestrators, and other persons to be summoned and examined as witnesses, shall be bound to produce slaves, and appear before the Commissioners to be appointed The court to determine the delay within which the commissioners are to proceed, jointly or separately, to the examination and verification of the said original Returns. Commissioners empowered to examine on oath, call witnesses, perusing registers and records, in like manner as the commissioners appointed by Order in Council

of the 24th September 1814 have been authorized so to do. appointed in virtue of the present Ordinance, in the same manner, and subject to the same liabilities and penalties, as in the said last-mentioned Order in Council are set forth.

Tutors, curators, &c. are set forth.
bound to produce slaves; persons summoned as witnesses bound to appear before the said commissioners, subject to the same liabilities and penalties as in the Order in Council of the 24th Sept. 1814.

Within such time as the said court (subject to the approbation of the Governor) shall fix, the commissioners to make a full and distinct report of all such matters as shall relate to their commission, and to the provisions of the Orders in Council of the 24th Sept. 1814. 2. And it is further ordered, that the persons so to be appointed by the said Court shall, within such time as the said Court, subject to the approbation of the Governor, shall fix for that purpose, make a full and distinct report of all such matters as shall be necessary for the carrying into full effect the provisions of the said last-mentioned Order in Council relative to the returns of such incapacitated persons as aforesaid; and the said report shall contain all such descriptions and information relative to the slaves to be examined and the returns originally made as in the said Order in Council of 24th September 1814 are mentioned and set forth.

The court to examine the Report of the commissioners, and after ascertaining the truth thereof, to issue such orders as may be necessary for amending and correcting every defect or error which may be found in the original Returns furnished by incapacitated persons. The registrar bound to receive and enter on the Registry Book all such additions and corrections as the court shall have thought advisable to order to be made, whereby the original Returns will become as correct as if the same had been drawn conformably to the Ordinance in Council of 24 Sept. 1814. And the said Court shall thereupon proceed to examine the truth of the said report, and to make such orders for correcting the defects of the original returns as aforesaid as in the said last-mentioned Order in Council is directed and set forth; and the said registrar shall receive and transcribe such corrections and additions as the said Court shall order, in the manner directed by the said last-mentioned Order in Council, and the said corrections and additions shall have the like force and effect, as to the said original returns, as the corrections and additions mentioned in the said Order in Council of 24th September 1814 are directed to have by virtue of the same.

Publication and registration of the present Ordinance. 3. And to the end that no person may pretend ignorance of the same, the present Ordinance shall be read, published and registered in the courts of this colony, for which purpose a copy thereof shall be presented by the Procureur-General to his Honor the Chief Judge and Commissary of Justice.

God save the King.

Given at Port Louis, Mauritius, the 9th January 1830.

(signed) *Chas Colville.*

By order of His Excellency the Governor,
(signed) *G. A. Barry,*
Chief Secretary to Government.

By order of the Council,
(signed) *W. N. Leitch,*
Secretary to the Council.

(A true copy.)

(signed) *W. N. Leitch,*
Clerk to the Council.

No. 58.—ORDONNANCE de Son Excellence le Gouverneur en Conseil.

Titre. POUR autoriser la Cour d'Appel de cette île à nommer et commettre de nouveaux Commissaires, aux termes de l'Ordre en Conseil du 24 Septembre 1814, à l'effet de procéder à une nouvelle vérification des noirs esclaves recensés par les tuteurs, curateurs, &c., pour les personnes incapables et inhabiles, et à l'inspection desdits noirs esclaves, en suivant les prescriptions et directions qui seront ordonnées par la Cour aux fins dudit Ordre en Conseil.

Préambule. Attendu que pour mieux protéger et garantir les droits des mineurs, des femmes mariées, des personnes en demeure ou autres inhabiles ou incapables, il aurait été formé une Commission, en conformité des Ordres en Conseil du 24 Septembre 1814 et 30 Janvier 1826, à l'effet de procéder à la vérification et au redressement des recensemens originaux fournis par ceux qui se trouvent avoir en leur possession certains esclaves, en leur qualité de tuteurs, curateurs, receveurs

veurs, mandataires ou sequestres, aux droits des susdites personnes inhabiles ou incapables comme il a été dit :

Et attendu que les Commissaires qui ont été nommés pour composer ladite Commission ont remis leur rapport, lequel a été soumis à la considération de la Cour Supérieure, afin de remplir le but exprimé dans l'Ordre en Conseil du 24 Septembre 1814 :

Et attendu qu'il résulte de l'examen qui a été fait dudit rapport, qu'il était sur plusieurs points défectueux et imparfait, particulièrement en ce, qu'un assez grand nombre d'esclaves, dont les noms sont portés dans les recensemens originaux ci-dessus mentionnés, n'ont pas été individuellement examinés et vérifiés par lesdits Commissaires :

Et attendu qu'il a paru convenable, tant pour la sûreté des droits de ceux que ladite Commission a eu pour but de protéger, que pour garantir davantage dans les recensemens originaux l'exactitude qui doit résulter des corrections et vérifications arrêtées par le rapport des Commissaires qu'il a été nécessaire d'appointer en conformité de l'Ordre en Conseil qui vient d'être cité, qu'à l'époque qui approche où les recensemens biennaux doivent être fournis, la Cour Suprême se trouve en position d'ordonner qu'il soit procédé à une nouvelle vérification desdits recensemens originaux par les mêmes ou par d'autres et nouveaux Commissaires nommés et appointés à cet effet, comme aussi de prolonger le terme auquel la réformation et la ratification desdits recensemens pourra être étendu, de manière que la Cour puisse être en mesure d'ordonner telles additions et corrections auxdits recensemens qu'il sera par elle jugé nécessaire, en sorte que le Greffier de l'Enregistrement des Esclaves puisse les recevoir et transcrire, ainsi qu'il a été pourvu par ledit Ordre en Conseil ci-dessus rappelé, à une époque qui concourt avec le terme où les recensemens et les livres destinés à l'enregistrement biennal doivent être remplis et clos :

Il est ordonné :

1. Qu'aussitôt après la publication de la présente Ordonnance, la Cour d'Appel de cette colonie s'occupera de nommer et appointer, en tel nombre qu'elle jugera nécessaire, des Commissaires dignes de la confiance publique, à l'effet de vérifier et corriger tous les recensemens fournis par tous tuteurs, curateurs, receveurs, mandataires, séquestres, et qui ont été précédemment enrégistrés, et n'auraient pas encore été dûment vérifiés et corrigés, ainsi qu'il est prescrit par l'Ordonnance en Conseil du 24 Septembre 1814, par les Commissaires qui ont précédemment été nommés à cette fin, et il sera au pouvoir de ladite Cour d'indiquer et ordonner telle vérification, examen et enquête qu'elle jugera nécessaire, suivant les cas particuliers qui se présenteront, de manière que lesdits recensemens originaux ne laissent rien à désirer pour leur exactitude et leur correction. Et seront tenus lesdits Commissaires, nommés et appointés comme il est dit ci-dessus en vertu de la présente Ordonnance, dans un terme raisonnable, qui sera déterminé par ladite Cour, de procéder, soit conjointement, soit séparément, et de la manière que ladite Cour l'aura ordonné, à l'inspection de tels esclaves, et à l'examen et vérification desdits recensemens originaux, ainsi qu'il aura été réglé et ordonné par ladite Cour. Et à cet effet il est, auxdits Commissaires nommés et appointés comme il a été dit ci-dessus, donné commission et pouvoir de requérir le serment, d'appeler des témoins, d'examiner les registres ou minutes, de la même manière que les mêmes pouvoirs sont conférés par le susdit Ordre en Conseil du 24 Septembre 1814 aux Commissaires y mentionnés.

les commissaires doivent procéder, soit conjointement, soit séparément, à l'examen et vérification desdits recensemens originaux. Les commissaires peuvent déléguer le serment, appeler des témoins, et examiner les registres ou minutes, de la même manière que les commissaires institués par l'Ordre en Conseil du 24 Septembre 1814 sont autorisés à la faire.

Et tous les tuteurs, curateurs, receveurs, mandataires et séquestres, ou autres personnes qu'il y aura lieu de citer et d'examiner comme témoins, seront tenus de produire les esclaves, et de se présenter devant les Commissaires qui doivent être nommés et appointés en vertu de la présente Ordonnance, et ce de la même manière, et sous les mêmes obligations, et les mêmes peines, qui sont énoncées dans l'Ordre en Conseil ci-dessus mentionné.

La cour d'appel doit, après la publication de la présente Ordonnance, nommer un certain nombre de commissaires pour vérifier et corriger les recensemens originaux déjà enrégistrés, et qui auraient été fournis par les tuteurs, curateurs, &c. pour des mineurs, des femmes mariées, personnes en demeure et autres, inhabiles ou incapables, et n'auraient pas encore été vérifiés ainsi que l'exige l'Ordre en Conseil du 24 Septem. 1814. La cour a le pouvoir d'ordonner, pour ladite vérification, telles mesures qu'il appartiendra pour assurer l'entière exactitude et la dernière correction desdits recensemens. La cour indique et fixe le terme dans lequel

Les tuteurs, curateurs, &c. tenus de représenter les esclaves et ceux qui seront appelés comme témoins, tenus de se présenter aux susdits commissaires sous les mêmes obligations et peines énoncées en l'Ordre en Conseil du 24 Septembre 1814.

gations et peines énoncées en l'Ordre en Conseil du

Dans un délai fixé par la cour (avec l'approbation du Gouverneur), les commissaires feront un rapport détaillé, distinct et complet, lequel contiendra tout ce qui est relatif à leur commission et à ce qui est prescrit par l'Ordre en conseil du 24 Septembre 1814.

La cour examinera le rapport des commissaires, et après s'être assuré de l'exactitude dudit rapport, ordonnera ce qui sera nécessaire pour que les recensements originaux fournis par les personnes inhabiles et incapables soient corrigés et réformés en tout ce qu'ils auraient eu de défectueux. Le Greffier de l'Enregistrement est tenu de recevoir et transcrire, sur le registre des recensements, toutes les additions et corrections que la cour aura cru convenable d'ordonner; lesquelles auront l'effet de rendre les recensements originaux aussi exacts que s'ils avaient été faits conformément à l'Ordonnance en Conseil du 24 Septembre 1814.

Publication et enregistrement de la présente Ordonnance.

2. Et il est encore ordonné, que les Commissaires nommés et appointés par la Cour ainsi qu'il vient d'être énoncé, seront tenus, dans le délai qui sera fixé à cette fin par ladite Cour, (avec l'approbation du Gouverneur), de faire un rapport entier et distinct sur tous les objets qui pourront l'exiger, de manière à donner l'accomplissement le plus entier aux dispositions de l'Ordonnance en Conseil susdit, en ce qui concerne les recensements des personnes inhabiles ou incapables, comme il a été dit ci-dessus, et lesdits rapports contiendront tous les détails, descriptions et indications relativement aux esclaves qui doivent être examinés, et aux recensements originaux desdits esclaves, ainsi qu'elles sont expliquées et ordonnées dans le susdit Ordre en Conseil du 24 September 1814.

Et il sera ensuite dudit rapport procédé par la Cour à l'examen d'icelui pour reconnaître s'il est exact, et afin de donner tels ordres qui seront nécessaires pour corriger et régler ce qu'il y aurait de défectueux dans les recensements originaux, ainsi qu'il est indiqué et prescrit dans le susdit Ordre en Conseil; et par le Greffier de l'Enregistrement des Esclaves seront reçues et transcrites toutes corrections et additions que la Cour aura jugé convenable d'ordonner en la manière indiquée par ledit Ordre en Conseil; lesquelles additions et corrections auront les mêmes force et effet à l'égard desdits recensements originaux que les mêmes additions et corrections qui seraient faites aux termes et en vertu des articles dudit Order en Conseil du 24 Septembre 1814.

Et afin que personne n'en prétende cause d'ignorance, la présente Ordonnance sera lue, publiée et enregistrée dans les tribunaux de Maurice; copie en sera, à cet effet, présentée par le Procureur-Général à son Honneur le Grand Juge et Commissaire de Justice.

Vive le Roi.

Donné au Port-Louis, Ile Maurice, le 9 Janvier 1830.

Chas. Colville.

Par ordre de son Excellence le Gouverneur.

G. A. Barry,
Secrétaire en Chef du Gouvernement.

Par ordre du Conseil. *W. N. Leitch,*
Secrétaire du Conseil.

(Enclosure 2 in No. 19.)

Sir,

Chief Judge's Chambers, December 1829.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency a copy of a decision of the Court of Appeal on the subject of the report made by the commissioners appointed under the Slave Trade Registration Orders in Council, for the verification and correction of the returns of persons holding slaves in trust for infants or other incapacitated persons.

The Procureur-General, after a very minute and laborious investigation of this report, has laid before the Court the result of his researches, and has set forth the many inaccuracies and imperfections with which this report abounds; but most particularly in this essential point, that the commissioners have omitted to follow the directions of the Order in Council in personally examining the slaves named in the several returns. The Court would willingly have adopted the "conclusions" of the Procureur-General, to order, of its own authority, a further inspection, verification and report by the late or other commissioners, had it considered itself armed with sufficient authority to do so; but as the period during which the commission is directed to continue is expired, and as that at which the Court should make the necessary orders is nearly arrived, it is thought that it would be more safe and expedient to refer to your Excellency's authority for the publication of an Ordinance, which should be passed to meet the

the circumstances, and to remedy the inconveniences which might otherwise arise from the imperfections which at present exist.

It is very much to be regretted that such irregularities should have been permitted; and the more so, as the commissioners have been paid a large sum of money, which, in pursuance of the Order in Council, was fixed by the Court as an allowance for their expenses. I trust, however, that if the Ordinance which I solicit the permission of laying before your Excellency should meet with your Excellency's approbation, it may be possible for the Court, by taking advantage of the approaching biennial registration, to effect the objects of the Order in Council without putting individuals or the Government to much additional expense.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Edward B. Blackburn.*

To his Excellency the Governor.

(A true Copy.)

F. E. S. Viret, Private Secretary.

EXTRAIT des Minutes du Greffe de la Cour d'Appel de l'Île Maurice.

DU Samedi, vingt-six Décembre mil huit cent vingt-neuf, deux heures de relevée.

La Cour d'Appel de l'Île Maurice réunie en la Chambre ordinaire de ses délibérations.

Présents :—Son Honneur Edward B. Blackburn, Grand Juge and Commissaire de Justice, Président de la Cour; Messieurs Virieux, Vice-Président; Morin, May, Arnaud, Juges. M^e Léopold Evariste Canet, Commis Greffier Juré, tenant la plume.

Vû le réquisitoire du Procureur-Général du Roi en date du vingt-trois Décembre courant.

Attendu que la rapport des commissaires vérificateurs est irrégulier et incomplet, faute par eux d'avoir fait l'inspection d'un certain nombre d'esclaves portés en l'état fourni par le greffier de l'enregistrement, et par plusieurs autres motifs exprimés dans le réquisitoire du Procureur-Général :

Attendu qu'il conviendrait de faire procéder à une nouvelle vérification, laquelle, à raison de l'expiration des délais prescrits par l'Ordre en Conseil du vingt-quatre Septembre mil huit cent quatorze, ne pourrait avoir lieu qu'en vertu d'une autorisation de l'autorité supérieure ;

La Cour arrête, qu'avant de statuer sur le rapport dont s'agit, et les conclusions du Procureur-Général, il sera référé à son Excellence le Gouverneur, à l'effet d'en obtenir l'autorisation nécessaire.

Fait et arrêté en la Chambre ces jour mois et an.

A la Minute,

(signé) *Arnaud, May, Morin, Virieux, E. B. Blackburn, et E. Canet.*

(Collationné.)

D'Unienville, Greffier-en-Chef.

(Enclosure 3 in No. 13.)

EXTRAIT des Minutes du Greffe de la Cour d'Appel de l'Île Maurice.

CONCLUSIONS.

Le rapport fait par les commissaires nommés par la Cour nous a offert quelques questions préliminaires à examiner; nous avons d'abord cherché à préciser ce que les divers articles de l'Ordre en Conseil du 24 Septembre 1814 contiennent sur ce qui doit faire le sujet de ce rapport.

Ces articles ont d'abord pour objet de protéger et préserver les propriétaires d'esclaves contre les omissions ou les fautes des tuteurs, &c.; c'est à dire, de disposer que ces fautes et omissions ne compromettant pas les droits des propriétaires incapables d'agir et veiller par eux-mêmes.

Et néanmoins pour que l'enregistrement général et original des esclaves n'en soit pas moins exact et complet.

L'Ordre en Conseil pourvoit à ce, que par un examen particulier, confié à des commissaires, sous la surveillance et l'autorité de la Cour Supérieure, les omissions et fautes soient rectifiées, pour que les recensemens soient ainsi supplées et rectifiés, portées sur le registre original.

En faveur de quelles personnes cette disposition a-t-elle lieu ? Les enfans ou mineurs, les femmes mariés, les lunatiques ou fous, et toutes les autres personnes inhabiles et incapables. Les absens ayant procureurs fondés, y-sont-ils compris ? C'est une question qu'il y aura lieu d'examiner dans la suite.

De quelles personnes l'Ordre en Conseil a-t-il pour objet de relever les fautes et les omissions ? Les dépositaires (trustees), les gardiens ou plutôt tuteurs (guardians), les receveurs, les commissaires préposés à la garde, les séquestres.

Dans les trois mois après la clôture du registre original, le greffier transmet à la Cour un abstract ou liste contenant tous les recensemens fournis par des personnes ayant en leur possession des esclaves en qualité de dépositaires. Cette liste doit être certifiée par le greffier, (celle-ci nous paraît informe), peut-être y en a-t-il un autre.

Ensuite la Cour nomme des commissaires, qu'elle charge et autorise à se transporter sur les habitations, et au domicile des tuteurs, &c., et de vérifier et corriger les recensemens par eux fournis après l'inspection qu'ils auront faite, lors de laquelle inspection les tuteurs seront tenus, après l'avis qui leur en aura été donné dans un temps raisonnable, ainsi qu'il sera accordé par la Cour, de représenter tous les esclaves pour la dite inspection. Les commissaires sont aussi le pouvoir d'examiner les tuteurs, &c., après serment, sur la vérité et l'exactitude des recensemens, comme aussi pour s'assurer si tous les esclaves sont compris aux dits recensemens.

Ils doivent aussi s'informer si aucuns des tuteurs auraient omis de donner leur recensement.

Ils peuvent encore appeler devant eux et examiner des témoins, et faire des recherches dans tous registres publics. Dans les six mois, ils doivent faire à la Cour un rapport complet et distinct, où les fautes et omissions commises dans les recensemens originaux et enrégistrés seront spécifiés ; ainsi que sur ceux qui n'auront point donné de recensemens, ils doivent joindre la description exacte des esclaves sur lesquels portent les fautes et omissions, afin de les spécifier dans le recensement original.

Sur le rapport des commissaires, et après avoir pris connaissance, la Cour fera sommer ceux qui auront failli dans leurs recensemens de comparaître devant elle pour se justifier sur les fautes et omissions commises dans leurs dits recensemens, et être admis à les rectifier et suppléer, et aussi pour qu'ils aient à s'excuser de ne pas payer les amendes encourues.

La Cour procédera aussi à examiner, d'une manière sommaire, l'exactitude du rapport des commissaires, les approuvera ou désapprouvera relativement aux circonstances particulières et diverses qu'ils contiendront, en exposant les raisons qui s'opposent à leur approbation.

Et si, à l'égard de ces défauts et omissions, il est présenté à la Cour des motifs ou excuses satisfaisantes, la Cour donnera un ordre ou une décision qui, pour chacune des erreurs, fautes ou omissions, qui seront pleinement et distinctement spécifiées, avec toutes les particularités qui seront nécessaires, à l'effet de suppléer, corriger et réformer les dits recensemens originaux.

Lequel ordre portera le commandement au greffier de l'enregistrement de faire et insérer les dites rectifications et réformes dans le recensement annuel prochain.

Lesquelles décisions ou ordres seront transmis par la Cour au greffier de l'enregistrement, lors de ou avant l'époque du dit recensement annuel, afin qu'il les transcrive tout au long dans le livre de l'enregistrement des esclaves, et ils deviendront dès lors et seront considérés comme faisant partie du registre original de l'enregistrement des esclaves, et ils auront la même force et effet que si les dites additions ou corrections ainsi ordonnées avaient été contenues d'abord dans les recensemens originaux.

Nous passons à l'examen de quelques questions qui nous ont paru devoir précéder l'examen du rapport des commissaires.

Il avait paru s'élever quelque doute sur le point de savoir si cette clause de l'Ordre en Conseil du 24 Septembre 1814, concernant les fonctions des commissaires

missaires vérificateurs, devait s'appliquer à l'Ordre en Conseil du 30 Janvier 1826, attendu, les changemens et modifications que cet Ordre apportait à celui du vingt-quatre Septembre, dans la vue de rendre les nouveaux enrégistremens d'esclaves plus réguliers et plus complets.

Encore que la Cour ne se soit pas arrêtée à cette question, ni aux doutes qu'elle présente, puis qu'elle a procédé à la nomination des commissaires, et qu'elle procède maintenant à l'examen de leur rapport, nous ne laissons pas de donner notre opinion sur cette question :

En Général l'Ordre in Conseil du 30 Janvier 1826, loin de restreindre ou de rejeter aucune des clauses de l'Ordre en Conseil du vingt-quatre Septembre, bien au contraire ajoute et donne plus d'étendue et de force à ses dispositions.

Encore que le nouvel Ordre en Conseil, par une inspection plus exacte et plus rapprochée des individus esclaves, ait semblé par là rendre inutile la vérification des commissaires, nous pensons cependant que la clause de l'Ordre en Conseil du 24 Septembre a eu pour but de soumettre à une surveillance particulière ce qui concernait les esclaves appartenans à des personnes inhabiles et incapables, et qui sont par leur état sous une protection spéciale et plus immédiate de pourvoir ; et nous pensons que les mêmes soins, la même prévoyance et protection, relativement aux fautes ou omissions qui pourraient exposer et compromettre les droits de ces propriétaires, doivent subsister, après l'Ordre en Conseil du 30 Janvier, d'autant plus que le but de cet Ordre étant de réformer l'Ordre en Conseil du 24 Septembre, et d'y substituer une loi plus claire et plus complète, la clause dont il est question n'a été ni rapportée ni modifiée.

2^{eme} question. Quel est le but des dispositions de l'Ordre en Conseil du 24 Septembre sur la matière présente ? Cette loi a sur cela un double objet, et non seulement celui de pourvoir à l'intérêt des incapables et de conserver leurs droits, mais encore et particulièrement celui d'assurer, d'une manière complète, entière et sans retour, l'exactitude du registre original.

D'où il suit, que si le rapport des commissaires n'est pas fait selon les directions que l'Ordre en Conseil lui donne, et si l'examen de ce rapport par la Cour ne remplit pas tout ce que l'Ordre en Conseil désire pour la perfection du registre original, le vœu de l'Ordre en Conseil ne sera pas rempli.

Quelle serait donc la conséquence si le rapport des commissaires était sur bien des points insuffisant, et si l'examen et la décision de la Cour sur ce rapport laissait plusieurs choses indécises et omises ?

Sur une troisième question, qui porte sur le procédé que doit suivre la Cour dans l'examen du rapport des commissaires, je pense que l'examen de la Cour, d'après les considérations exposées sur la question précédente, ne peut-être fait de manière à ce que la Cour puisse se répondre à elle-même qu'elle a exactement rempli le but et le désir de l'Ordre en Conseil, qui, en mettant successivement sous les yeux de la Cour tous les articles que contient le rapport des commissaires, comparativement avec la liste fournie par le greffier de l'enrégistrement, et en se dirigeant dans cet examen sur ce que l'Ordre en Conseil, sur ce qui doit être exécuté et rempli par le greffier de l'enrégistrement, les commissaires, et la Cour.

De l'examen fait par la Cour, il doit sortir une décision ou un ordre, qui deviendra la règle que suivra le greffier de l'enrégistrement, et garantira que le registre original des esclaves est exact et complet.

L'Ordre en Conseil ne porte pas que l'examen de la Cour portera seulement sur certains articles qui lui seront montrés, et auront été extraites de leur rapport par les commissaires, car la Cour doit approuver ou désapprouver les articles, et chaque article, du rapport des commissaires.

Notre opinion est donc, qu'il doit être pris par la Cour sur chacun des articles du rapport des commissaires qui lui seront mis tous et par suite sous les yeux une décision qui approuve ou désapprouve.

Le rapport des commissaires fait mention de cent trente noirs absens non vérifiés. Il ne s'agit dans cette déclaration que d'une absence actuelle des lieux.

Sur les onze noirs de la succession Dumont, recensés par M. M. Pitot, procureurs, le nommé Farloc est déclaré absent du Port, et être âgé de quatre-vingts ans, sans autre explication ; a-t-il été représenté depuis ? Et cette mention d'absence suffit-elle au rapport des commissaires ? Qu'est ce que la Cour aurait à ordonner sur cette simple déclaration d'absence ?

Sur les cinq noirs recensés par le Sieur Le Goff, tuteur de sa fille, une est déclarée absente du Port, et infirme : même observation.

Sur les vingt-cinq esclaves recensés par la dame veuve Martinet, pour la succession Larguier, cinq sont portés absents, et n'ont pas été vérifiés. L'un était en prison, et quatre absents de chez cette dame, qui a promis de les représenter aussitôt leur rentrée. Les commissaires ont-ils veillé à l'exécution de cette promesse. Quelle était la cause de l'absence? Était-elle durable? Le noir en prison ne pouvait-il pas être vérifié?

Sur les vingt-neuf noirs recensés par B. Mazère, un absent; Mazère a promis de le représenter sous peu de jours; a-t-il été représenté, ou sommé de le faire?

Sur les six noirs recensés par le Sieur Saunders (Charles) pour William; il y-en-a un qu'il n'a pu représenter, étant infirme, (Gabriel Soudrian). Sur cette déclaration, la Cour ordonnera-t-elle l'enregistrement?

Sur le recensement de Charles Desgranges de quatre noirs, trois sont portés absents; nous ne pouvons concilier cette remarque avec l'article de Charles Desgranges au rapport des commissaires, qui ne porte qu'un seul esclave, lequel est trouvé conforme à son enregistrement.

Sur le recensement de Laurent Félix, par Babet Gertrude, sa mère, il est porté quatre esclaves; trois vérifiés, un marron.

Dans le rapport des commissaires ce sont trois noirs vérifiés et trouvés conformes à l'exception de Jacques, qui a eu le bras coupé, et un arrêté à la police; le marron apparemment, mais qui empêchait que Jacques ne fut vérifié, ainsi que Jupiter à la police.

Sur le recensement de Roline, par Durand, tuteur, portant deux esclaves, le tuteur n'a pu présenter le nommé Azor, qui se trouve à la campagne, et infirme: qu'ordonnera la Cour? C'est à renvoyer au commissaire civil.

Sur le recensement de Vaulbert, par Folin, il est porté 14 esclaves, sur lesquels un marron et trois absents: le rapport des commissaires porte seulement un marron Thomy; les trois absents sont omis. Quelle rectification la Cour peut-elle faire et ordonner sur cela.

Sur le recensement de Chavry Mouton Arekion, il est porté trois noirs, dont un absent du Port, qu'il a promis de représenter aux commissaires sous peu de jours.

CONCLUSIONS du Procureur-Général du Roi, après le rapport de M. le Juge Commissaire de la Cour chargé de l'examen du rapport des commissaires nommés par la Cour, ainsi qu'il est ordonné par l'Ordre en Conseil du 24 Septembre 1814, pour l'inspection et la vérification des recensements de certains esclaves.

A ce qu'il soit par la Cour ordonné, qu'il soit d'abord vérifié par une comparaison exacte entre l'abstract *of all returns* transmis par le greffier de l'enregistrement, sous la date du 8 Mai 1828, et les quatre cahiers remis par les commissaires nommés par la Cour par son arrêt du 7 Juin 1828, contenant le rapport des dits commissaires, commençant au 20 du mois d'Août, et finissant au 18 Mai 1829, s'ils présentent un rapport exact et complet de l'un à l'autre.

Qu'il soit vérifié par la Cour, sur l'acte de dépôt, que les commissaires ont fait au greffe de la Cour de leur susdit rapport, s'ils ont rempli les formalités de le déclarer exact et sincère.

Qu'il soit par la Cour ordonné, que les commissaires susdits seront requis d'expliquer à la Cour, par quelle cause les recensements et les noirs des personnes ci-après dénommées dans l'abstract transmis à la Cour par le greffier de l'enregistrement ne sont point mentionnés ni vérifiés dans le rapport des dits commissaires, savoir: Bégué, Zaire, Célestine, Langlois, Clément, Robin, Black Eline, Mélanie, Philipe, Nina Françoise, Fontaine, Gertrude, Moutou Antoinette, Dumont, Charles le François, M. Charles Mazère, T. P. Duval, Alphonse Fleury; et qu'il soit pourvu aux mesures nécessaires pour remplir ces lacunes dans le rapport des commissaires.

Qu'il soit par la Cour, après examen fait de la question énoncée au troisième cahier du rapport des commissaires, à la date du quatre Novembre, sur la proposition et réclamation du Sieur Lory, qu'il en soit référé aux tribunaux, ordonné et déclaré, que sous les dénominations exprimées en la clause de l'Ordre en Conseil du 24 Septembre 1814, concernant l'inspection des recensements et noirs esclaves dont doivent être chargés des commissaires spéciaux, nommés par la Cour en ces termes, "*trustees, guardians, receivers, committees or sequestrators,*" ne doivent pas être censés, compris les procureurs fondés des propriétaires absents.

Le propriétaire, par son mandat volontaire et libre, étant représenté par son procureur,

procureur, qui est chargé d'agir pour lui dans la gestion de ses biens et affaires, et dans ce qui a rapport dans leur manutention à l'exécution des lois et réglemens, comme s'il était lui-même présent; et d'ailleurs, l'Ordre en Conseil n'ayant en vue de protéger et de conserver les droits que des personnes qui sont sous la protection spéciale des lois à cause de leur condition, et de ce qu'il manque à leur état pour qu'elles puissent elles-mêmes assurer leurs droits; c'est à dire, des personnes qui sont inhabiles et incapables.

Qu'en conséquence les propriétaires d'esclaves ayant procureurs, mandataires, gérants, seront considérées et traitées comme s'ils étaient eux-mêmes présents et gérants en personne; que les fautes et omissions dans le recensement de leurs esclaves retomberont sur les dits propriétaires qui en supporteront les suites, sauf leur recours sur leurs mandataires, régisseurs et représentans, selon qu'il y aura lieu et que le cas se trouvera.

Que cette décision de la Cour sera en conséquence transmise au greffier de l'enregistrement pour lui servir de règle et guidance pour le cas auquel se réfère la présente décision :

Qu'attendu que dans le rapport des commissaires il existe dans un grand nombre de recensemens des noirs esclaves qui n'ont pu être inspectés ni vérifiés par les dits commissaires, sur la simple déclaration des maîtres ou de leurs représentans, qu'ils étaient absens, soit de la ville, soit des lieux où devait se faire l'inspection, et ce par plusieurs motifs différens, savoir, que les uns étaient donnés à loyer, les autres détenus en prison ou à la police, d'autres infirmes ou malades, que d'autres enfin étaient déclarés, sans autre indication; la plupart de quelques représentans des propriétaires promettaient de représenter dans un court délai, ce qui est dans beaucoup d'occasions resté sans exécution, d'où il résulte que la vérification ordonnée par l'Ordre en Conseil n'a pu avoir lieu à l'égard des noirs esclaves: il serait par les commissaires nommés par la Cour, et ce comme une suite de l'opération dont ils ont été chargés, et qu'ils n'ont pas entièrement achevée, procédé à la confection d'une liste, où seront portés et denommés tous les noirs absens dont l'inspection n'a pas été faite; laquelle liste sera d'abord rapportée à la Cour pour être arrêtée par elle, et par suite remise aux commissaires, à l'effet d'agir en conséquence à la vérification des dits noirs esclaves absens. Pour raison de quoi, il sera par la Cour fixé et annoncé un délai aux termes duquel les dits noirs esclaves devront être représentés aux dits commissaires; et pour faciliter la dite opération, il sera entre les dits commissaires, et avec l'autorité de la Cour, établi une décision d'après laquelle chaque commissaire pourra procéder seul et séparément à l'inspection des dits noirs dans les quartiers qui lui auront été assignés; que faute d'exactitude des représentans des propriétaires à justifier des causes de l'absence des dits noirs, et à les représenter sur la nouvelle requisition qui leur en sera faite, ils seront en leur propre nom sujets aux peines portés en l'Ordre en Conseil du 24 Septembre 1814.

Qu'attendu que beaucoup d'autres noirs esclaves n'ont pu être inspectés, ainsi qu'il résulte du rapport des commissaires, les uns ayant été déclarés vendus depuis le recensement de 1826, d'autres affranchis ou simplement en manumission, d'autres remis par les agens ou représentans aux propriétaires revenus dans la colonie, d'autres enfin remis aux mineurs devenus majeurs, ou partagés entre les cohéritiers de la succession à laquelle les dits noirs appartenaient; qu'il soit dressé par les mêmes commissaires une liste particulière des noirs esclaves qui se trouvent dans les divers cas ci-dessus, suivant le rapport des dits commissaires, à l'effet d'être procédé en conséquence ainsi qu'il vient d'être ordonné ci-dessus.

Qu'attendu que suivant les déclarations faites au nom des propriétaires au rapport des commissaires, plusieurs noirs esclaves sont déclarés comme morts ou marrons, et que les commissaires s'en sont tenus à cette simple déclaration, de même qu'à l'égard des noirs déclarés vendus, rendus aux propriétaires, et partagés entre cohéritiers; qu'il sera par les dits commissaires dressé une liste particulière des dits noirs décédés ou marrons, sur laquelle chacun des commissaires, dans le quartier ou le lieu qui lui aura été assigné, exigera des déclarations des propriétaires des dits esclaves, qu'il soit justifié, soit du décès des dits noirs, soit de leur marronnage, soit de leur rentrée par les actes et déclarations que la loi exige et prescrit par rapport aux dits cas.

Qu'attendu que plusieurs noirs esclaves portés aux recensemens de 1826 sont déclarés absens, hors de la colonie, les uns ayant suivi les maîtres en

Europe ou ailleurs, les autres embarqués et employés à la navigation, plusieurs envoyés à l'île de Bourbon, ou dans quelque dépendance de cette île ; qu'il sera par les dits commissaires dressé une liste particulière des dits esclaves, d'après laquelle, en suivant le mode ci-dessus indiqué, ils auront à requérir de ceux qui ont fait les dites déclarations la représentation des actes propres à justifier de la sortie des dits esclaves de la colonie, ou de leur retour, ou de ce qui les concernera actuellement.

Qu'attendu qu'il résulte du rapport des commissaires lequel a été soumis à la Cour, que dans le recensement fait par le Sieur Desfosses des esclaves de la succession Zamina, un noir a été omis ; que dans le recensement donné par la Veuve Cottry, pour la succession du Sieur Cottry, son mari, deux noirs esclaves ont été omis : que l'un des commissaires nommé par la Cour sera chargé de requérir du Sieur Desfosses, et de la Veuve Cottry, toute autre justification ou preuve que l'omission des dits noirs en leurs recensemens, que la simple déclaration par eux faite et rapportée au rapport des commissaires laquelle est insuffisante, vu que ce n'est ni au greffier de l'enregistrement des esclaves, ni aux assistans greffiers, à faire et rédiger le recensement des propriétaires d'esclaves, et que c'est aux propriétaires aux-mêmes à les rédiger, ou au moins à veiller et être attentifs à ce qu'ils soient exacts et complets. Que les commissaires chargés de la nouvelle vérification à l'égard des noirs esclaves en question soient autorisés à recevoir le serment du dits propriétaires ou déclarans, à interroger des témoins, et à se faire exhiber les recensemens précédents, sur lesquels ils feront la comparaison des noirs déclarés omis au recensement de 1826.

Qu'à l'égard de certaines désignations inexactes dont les commissaires font mention dans leur rapport, concernant quelques noirs recensés par divers propriétaires, la Cour y pourra elle-même prononcer comme suit : A l'égard du noir esclave de l'établissement du Sieur Pouget de St. André, en rapportant la déclaration de l'officier de santé attaché à cet établissement, des régisseurs ou économes, concernant l'erreur commise en ce qui regarde le dit esclave.

A l'égard de la différence de couleur énoncée pour une négresse de la succession Pipon, qu'il sera procédé de la même manière que ci-dessus.

En ce qui concerne le noir Caboche, à la même succession, porté Indien, tandis qu'il est de caste Mozambique, cette différence paraissant plus grave, et d'une nature plus propre au remplacement et à la substitution fautive d'un noir pour un autre ; qu'il sera, par les soins des personnes chargés de l'administration de la dite succession, justifié de l'identité du dit noir Caboche sur de précédents recensemens, écrits de vente, déclarations de régisseurs ou autres, et enfin par le serment des héritiers, ou de l'un d'eux, pour sur la justification faite et rapportée devant la Cour, être statué ainsi qu'il appartiendra.

Pour les accidens survenus aux esclaves nommés Edouard, Fanchin et Milon la Saison, au même établissement, qu'il sera justifié par la déclaration de deux témoins de la vérité de la déclaration faite par les propriétaires que ces accidens sont postérieurs au recensement de 1826.

A l'égard de deux noirs mal désignés sur le recensement du Sieur Leguen, qu'il sera nécessaire que le Sieur Leguen emploie quelque raison plausible pour satisfaire la Cour sur la différence qui se trouve dans l'énonciation de la taille du nommé Candide, qui est de cinq pieds six lignes à cinq pieds neuf pouces ; et pour ce qui concerne le nommé Cotte Truffe, pour raison de la différence de caste, qu'il soit donné quelque raison de cette erreur, comme la couleur noire plus ou moins foncée, et la taille de l'individu en y ajoutant tel autre document qui pourra se rencontrer : les mêmes considérations auront lieu à l'égard du noir recensé par le Sieur Deschezaülx, pour la différence de caste.

Requiert en outre le Procureur-général, qu'aux termes de l'Ordre en Conseil du 24 Septembre, la Cour fasse citer et comparaître devant elle le Sieur Gonnet, jeune, et Dioré, pour qu'ils aient à s'accorder sur leurs déclarations respectives de 6 et 8 Octobre 1823, l'une, celle du Sieur Dioré, portant que n'étant plus chargé des affaires du Sieur Corvest, il a remis au Sieur Gonnet, jeune, les noirs portés au recensement du Sieur Corvest (trois), et celle du Sieur Gonnet, jeune, portant qu'il n'a reçu qu'un seul noir, et que les deux autres ne lui ont pas été remis ; pour sur leurs réponses être par la Cour décidé au dit cas, ainsi qu'il y aura lieu.

Qu'il soit procédé au redressement, soit par les commissaires, soit par le Sieur Antoine Bestel, de la déclaration par lui faite au rapport des commissaires, sous la

la date du 16 Décembre, pour la succession de Demoiselle Lause Bestel, dont le recensement porte deux noirs esclaves.

Qu'il soit par les Sieurs Labauve et May donné plus ample explication sur la déclaration par eux faite le 16 Décembre, laquelle se borne à énoncer que les noirs de Palma leur ont été vendus sans autre vérification.

Qu'il soit par la Cour pris connaissance de la déclaration faite par la Dame Thereze Emilie Arger, femme divorcée du Sieur Albert, sous la date du 3 Avril 1829, et qu'il soit rendu par la Cour telle décision qu'elle jugera convenable pour le redressement d'une telle déclaration.

Nous observons en général, que les commissaires auraient du joindre à leur rapport, une note ou état séparé, pour indiquer au moins les diverses déclarations qui ne remplissaient pas le but de l'Ordre en Conseil et de leur nomination.

Nous faisons remarquer à la Cour, le rapport des commissaires à la date du 5 Mai 1829, il présente une vérification qui n'a pas été faite par la seule raison que le propriétaire n'était pas chez lui, et nous demandons à la Cour de pourvoir à ce défaut, en ordonnant une vérification ultérieure; autrement qu'elle décision pourrait rendre la Cour pour autoriser l'admission du recensement du Sieur Dagome sur le registre original du greffe de l'enregistrement, lors du prochain recensement biennal.

Nous prions la Cour de prendre lecture de la note du rapport des commissaires sous la date du 12 Mai, concernant la vérification du recensement de la Demoiselle Dumée, lors de laquelle le Sieur Chaveau a déclaré qu'il n'avait aucune connaissance de ce recensement, et que c'est une erreur de l'avoir porté sur l'index comme l'ayant fourni pour la mineure.

La Cour pensera que cette déclaration doit être prise par elle en considération, dans l'intérêt de la mineure, afin que son recensement reconnu exact, puisse être porté sur le recensement biennal.

Nous soumettons encore à la Cour les déclarations faites par les commissaires en leur rapport sous les dates des 6 Avril, 18 du même mois, et 2 Mai.

S'il résulte de ces déclarations que l'opération des commissaires et leur rapport sont restés imparfaites, c'est à la Cour à pourvoir en ordonnant une vérification ultérieure et complète à faire par les commissaires déjà nommés, à ce que le but de l'Ordre en Conseil soit entièrement rempli, pour la régularité parfaite de l'enregistrement des esclaves, lors du prochain recensement biennal.

Port Louis, le 23 Décembre 1829.

Le Procureur-Général,
(signé) *Foissy.*

(Collationné.)

D'Unienville, Greffier-en-Chef.

Enclosure 4 in No. 19.

No. 59.—ORDINANCE of his Excellency the Governor in Council.

FOR the purpose of prolonging the term fixed and determined by the Proclamation of the 9th December last, for the completion of the biennial census, conformably to the Order in Council of the 30th January 1826. Title.

Whereas it has been satisfactorily shown, by the reports of the registrar and assistant registrars of slaves, and it is not less plainly proved by experience, that the term of one month, which has been granted by the Proclamation of the 9th of December last, in virtue of the Order in Council bearing date the 30th of January 1826, for the completion and delivery of the biennial census, is absolutely inadequate for that purpose. Preamble.

By virtue of the powers and authority conferred upon his Excellency the Governor by His Most Gracious Majesty, and more especially of those set forth and determined by the Order in Council of the 30th of January 1826, his Excellency the Governor in Council has been pleased to Order,—

1. The term which has been granted for the examination, inspection and verification of all slaves, whether personal or plantation slaves, belonging to proprietors The term for the delivery of the Census Returns is ex.

tended to the 1st of March 1830. proprietors in the town of Port Louis and its suburbs, or in the several districts of this island, and likewise for the final delivery of the returns to be made in obedience to the Order in Council under date of the 30th of January 1826, is extended to the 1st of March 1830.

The provisions of the Proclamation of the 9th of December 1829 are maintained. 2. All other provisions of the Proclamation of his Excellency the Governor, under date the 9th of December 1829, are maintained and confirmed.

Publication and Registration of the present Ordinance. 3. And to the end that no person may pretend ignorance of the same, the present Ordinance shall be read, published and registered in the courts; for which purpose a copy thereof shall be presented by the Procureur-general to his Honor the Chief Judge and Commissary of Justice.

God save the King!

Given at Port Louis, in the island of Mauritius, on this 27th day of January 1830.

(signed) *Charles Colville.*

By Order of his Excellency the Governor.

(signed) *G. A. Barry,*
Chief Secretary to Government.

By Order of the Council.

(signed) *W. N. Leitch,*
Secretary to the Council.

(A true Copy.)

W. N. Leitch,
Clerk to the Council.

No. 59.—ORDONNANCE de Son Excellence le Gouverneur en Conseil.

Titre. Pour prolonger le délai fixé par la Proclamation du 9 Décembre dernier, pour la confection des recensemens biennaux, conformément à l'Ordre en Conseil du 30 Janvier 1826.

Préambule. Attendu qu'il est justifié par les rapports du greffier de l'enregistrement des esclaves, et des assistans greffiers, et qu'il est d'ailleurs démontré par l'expérience, que le délai d'un mois, accordé par la Proclamation du 9 Décembre dernier, en vertu de l'Ordre en Conseil du Janvier 1826, pour la confection et la remise des recensemens biennaux, est tout-à-fait insuffisant.

En vertu des pouvoirs et de l'autorité qui lui sont conférés par Sa Très-Gracieuse Majesté, et notamment de ceux contenus en l'Ordre en Conseil du 30 Janvier 1826, il a plu à Son Excellence en Conseil d'ordonner :

Délai prolongé au 1 Mars 1830, pour la remise définitive des recensemens. 1. Le délai pour l'examen, l'inspection et vérification de tous esclaves personnels et d'habitation, tant dans la ville du Port Louis et ses faubourgs, que dans les divers quartiers de l'île, et pour la remise définitive des recensemens à fournir, en conformité de l'Ordre en Conseil en date du 30 Janvier 1826, est prolongé au premier Mars 1830.

Maintien des dispositions de la Proclamation du 9 Décembre 1829. 2. Toutes les autres dispositions de la Proclamation de son Excellence le Gouverneur, en date du 9 Décembre 1829, sont maintenues.

Publication et enregistrement de l'Ordonnance. 3. Et afin que personne n'en prétende cause d'ignorance, la présente Ordonnance sera lue, publiée et enregistrée dans les tribunaux : copie en sera, à cet effet, présentée par le Procureur-general, à son Honneur le Grand Juge et Commissaire de Justice.

Vive le Roi !

Donné au Port Louis, Ile Maurice, le 27 Janvier 1830.

Charles Colville.

Par ordre de son Excellence le Gouverneur.

G. A. Barry,
Secrétaire en Chef du Gouvernement.

Par Ordre du Conseil.

W. N. Leitch,
Secrétaire du Conseil.

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

73

(Enclosure 5 in No. 19.)

Sir, Slave Registry Office, Port Louis, 20th January 1830.

THE total impossibility of completing the biennial census within the very limited time prescribed by his Excellency the Governor's Proclamation of the 9th December last, (independent of the badness of the weather for some time past, and which has considerably retarded the inspection of the slaves), even in the town of Port Louis, places me under the necessity of applying for the extension of another month to perform the duty, which I trust may be done within that period, notwithstanding the local difficulties and contrarities to be surmounted, particularly at this season of the year, by the assistant registrars in the large and extensive districts; difficulties which, by those who framed the Orders in Council, could never have been contemplated. I request, therefore, that his Excellency will be pleased to prolong the term until the first of next March.

I have, &c.
(signed) P. Salter,
Acting Registrar.

To the Hon. Col. Barry,
Chief Secretary to Government.

(A true Copy.)

F. E. S. Viret, Private Secretary.

— No. 20. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *Charles Colville* to the Right Hon. Sir *George Murray*.—(With Ten Enclosures.)

Sir,

Mauritius, 20th May 1830.

OWING to the circumstances and causes explained in the accompanying copies of three letters from the acting registrar of slaves, it became indispensably necessary further to prolong the period, which had already been extended, for the taking and completion of the biennial census, as reported in my despatch of the 9th of February last, and in the Ordinance No. 59, which was forwarded with it; and I have now the honour to transmit to you copies of two Ordinances of the Council, Nos. 61 and 62, under which such additional prolongation has taken place. But it is gratifying to me now to state, that the biennial census has terminated; and the enclosed copy of a letter from the acting registrar, with the statements annexed to it, will show the numbers of slaves which have been returned here, and will also explain the mutations which have occurred since the registry of 1826-27. These will, I hope, be satisfactory to His Majesty's Government; and meanwhile, being aware how extremely desirable it is that a true and faithful registration of the slaves should be effected, I have, on the representation of the acting registrar, of which a copy is herewith transmitted, and with the advice of Council, caused an Ordinance to be published, calling upon all persons who have inadvertently failed to make their biennial returns, to furnish them within the delay of two months. A copy of this Ordinance, No. 63, is forwarded with this despatch, and I trust it will be approved of by His Majesty's Government.

I have reason to believe that the assistant registrar at the Seychelles has completed the census of the slaves in that dependency, but the returns have not yet arrived here; and with reference to the remark of the acting registrar in Enclosure No. 5, as to the slaves who, since 1826, have been brought up to the Mauritius from the Seychelles Islands under licenses, it may be well to observe, that such licenses, except in the cases of a few personal slaves, were granted previous to the receipt, by my predecessor, of Mr. Huskisson's despatch, No. 8, of the 12th of October 1827.

I beg leave to add, that Commodore Schomberg having, at my request, given directions that His Majesty's ship *Jaseur*, Captain Lyons, should visit the minor dependencies

Nos. 1 & 2.

Nos. 3 & 4.

No. 5.

No. 6.

No. 7.

Nos. 8 & 9
No. 10.

dependencies of this government, an assistant registrar of slaves will, by that opportunity, proceed to take the biennial census in the various small islands; and, for your full information on this point, I have the honour to enclose copies of the correspondence which I have had with the Commodore, and with Lord John Spencer Churchill, the senior naval officer at Port Louis, upon the subject in question; as likewise, a copy of the Minute which I have issued on the appointment of Mr. Ormsby, of the civil service, to succeed Mr. Dowland as sub-agent and assistant registrar of slaves at Seychelles.

I have already, in the despatch which I had the honour of addressing to you on the 20th January 1830, stated, that on the occasion of the taking of any future census of the slaves, it would be advisable to postpone the same until after the hurricane months; and I shall be excused, I hope, for remarking in this place, that the delays which have rendered necessary Ordinances Nos. 61 and 62 are chiefly to be attributed to the unfavourable period of the year for the work of registration.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Charles Colville.*

(Enclosure 1 in No. 20.)

Slave Registry Office, Port Louis,
24 February 1830.

Sir,

THE unfavourable state of the weather, indeed I may almost say the incessant rain which has fallen during the greatest part of the last and the whole of the present month, obliges me to apply to his Excellency the Governor for a prolongation of the time for completing the biennial census. Were it not for the hurricane season, I should not ask for more than 10 days; but it perhaps may be prudential to name 21 days for the extension, making the 22d of March the period of limitation.

The populous and extensive districts of Pamplémousses, Flacq and Mahebourg, I well know, require almost to the extent of time above-mentioned, supposing the weather to be as favourable as we can expect at this season, and I therefore do not hesitate to solicit his Excellency's authority to this effect.

I take this opportunity of enclosing copy of a letter received by me from the assistant registrar of the district of Pamplémousses under date the 19th instant, for the information of his Excellency.

I have, &c.

(signed) *P. Salter,*
Acting Registrar.

The Hon. Colonel Barry,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Monsieur,

Pamplémousses, 19 Février 1830.

L'EPOQUE fixée par la loi pour la remise du recensement biennial étant bientôt échue, j'ai l'honneur de vous donner connaissance, que celle de ce quartier ne pourra être effectuée au 1^{er} Mars, comme j'ai déjà eu celui de vous faire savoir que ce délai est beaucoup trop borné, attendu que ce recensement de 1830 est très minutieux, difficile, et que même bien des jours n'ont pu être employés à ce travail, par les pluies et les mauvais tems continuels.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, &c.

(signed) *J. Pricur,*
Assistant Greffier.

Monsieur Salter,
Greffier en Chef de l'Enregistrement des Esclaves.

(A true Copy.)

(signed) *P. Salter,*
Acting Registrar.

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

75

(Enclosure 2 in No. 20.)

Slave Registry Office, Port Louis,
19 March 1830.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward a letter from Mr. Abbott, assistant registrar at Grand Port, dated the 13th instant, this moment received (2, P.M.), and in submitting the same for the consideration of his Excellency the Governor, I beg to observe, that a previous communication was made by that officer, at the latter part of last month, containing a similar request, but having been received after my application had been made for a further delay of 21 days, which was deemed fully adequate for the completion of the census in the most populous and extensive districts of the island, was not forwarded to government for this reason, more especially as Mr. Abbott made no further observation as to the insufficiency of the time until the present period.

I have, &c.

(signed) *P. Salter,*
Acting Registrar.To the Hon. Colonel Barry,
Chief Secretary, &c.

Sir,

Mahebourg, 13th March 1830.

UPON the same grounds which I had the honour of addressing you in my official of the 21st ultimo, induce me again to take the liberty of requesting to be allowed until the end of the present month for the entire completion of the biennial census.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. Abbott.*
Assistant Registrar.To P. Salter, Esq.
Acting Registrar of Slaves.

(A true Copy.)

(signed) *P. Salter,*
Acting Registrar.Slave Registry Office, Port Louis,
23d March 1830.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a letter received from the assistant registrar of Pamplemousses this day, under date the 21st instant, stating, for the reasons therein mentioned, that the census of the district is not completed; and in submitting the same for his Excellency the Governor's consideration, I have much pleasure in mentioning that the returns of all the districts are completed, with the exception of Pamplemousses and Grand Port, although, in consequence of the weather, some have been prevented transmitting them to this office. I think it my duty to observe, that the present application of Mr. Prieur is the only communication of this nature received from him since that of the 27th ultimo.

I have, &c.

(signed) *P. Salter,*
Acting Registrar.To the Hon. Colonel Barry,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Monsieur,

Pamplemousses, 21 Mars 1830.

EN vous accusant réception de votre lettre circulaire du 17 courant, relative au délai fixé à ce jour pour la remise à votre bureau de tous les recensemens biennaux des habitans de ce quartier; j'ai l'honneur d'y répondre, en vous faisant savoir que le travail de ce quartier n'a encore atteint le but de la loi, puis qu'il n'est pas achevé tant par les contrariétés éprouvées, que par la grande quantité de mutations qui à eu lieu depuis 1826, ce que, vous-même, pouvez vous en assurer. Ainsi donc, Monsieur, j'attends de vous une réponse à ce sujet, afin de savoir la décision que vous voudrez prendre pour terminer cette opération.

333.

Je

Je d'is vous soumettre, que le délai fixé par la loi a été le même pour les Pamplemousses, sans cependant considérer l'étendue à parcourir et le nombre d'esclaves de ce quartier.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, &c.

(signé)

J. Prieur,
Assistant Greffier.

Monsieur Salter,
Greffier en Chef de l'Enregistrement des Esclaves.

(A true Copy.)

(signed)

P. Salter,
Acting Registrar of Slaves.

(Enclosure 3 in No. 20.)

No. 61.—ORDINANCE of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

Title. For the purpose of prolonging and finally determining the term which has been granted by the Proclamation of the 9th December last, and likewise by the Ordinance in Council of the 27th of January last, for the completion of the Biennial Census, conformably to the Order in Council of the 30th January 1826.

Preamble. Whereas it appears, from the reports submitted to His Excellency the Governor by the registrar and assistant registrars of slaves, that the further term granted in virtue of the Order in Council of the 27th of January has proved inadequate to the purpose of effecting the completion of the biennial census, more especially in the most populous districts of the island, and which has been chiefly occasioned by the unfavourable state of the weather, necessitating, on several occasions, temporary cessation of such proceedings as have been prescribed by the Order in Council of the 30th of January 1826.

By virtue of the powers and authority conferred upon His Excellency the Governor by His Most Gracious Majesty, and more especially of those expressed and set forth in the said Order in Council of the 30th of January 1826, his Excellency the Governor in Council has been pleased to order :

The term for the completion of the Biennial Census is prolonged until the 21st March 1830, for the districts.

1. The term granted for the examination, inspection, and verification of personal or plantation slaves belonging to the inhabitants in the respective districts of this colony, as well as for the final delivery of the biennial census to be made in obedience to the Order in Council of the 30th of January 1826, is hereby prolonged until the 21st of March 1830.

The delay for the town of Port Louis to extend to and determine on the 8th March.

2. The term fixed by the Ordinance in Council of the 27th of January last, for the examination, inspection and verification of personal slaves belonging to proprietors in the town of Port Louis and its suburbs, and for the final delivery of the census returns to be furnished according to the said Order in Council, is to extend to and determine on the 8th of March 1830.

The provisions of the Proclamation of 9 September 1829 are maintained.

3. All the other provisions of the Proclamation of the 9th of December last are confirmed and maintained.

The present Ordinance to be published and registered in the Courts.

4. And to the end that no person may pretend ignorance of the same, the present Ordinance shall be read, published, and registered in the Courts; for which purpose a copy thereof shall be presented by the Procureur-General to his Honor the Chief Judge and Commissary of Justice.

God save the King.

Given at Port Louis, in the island of Mauritius, the 27th day of February 1830.

(signed) *Charles Colville.*

By Order of His Excellency the Governor.

(signed)

G. A. Barry,
Chief Secretary to Government.

By Order of the Council,

(signed)

W. N. Leitch,
Secretary to the Council.

(A true copy.)

W. N. Leitch,

Clerk to the Council.

No. 61.—ORDONNANCE de son Excellence le Gouverneur en Conseil.

A L'EFFET de prolonger et de fixer définitivement le délai accordé par la Proclamation du neuf Décembre et l'Ordonnance en Conseil du vingt-sept Janvier dernier, pour la confection du recensement biennal, conformément à l'Ordre en Conseil du trente Janvier 1826. Titre.

Attendu qu'il résulte du rapport fait à son Excellence le Gouverneur par le Greffier de l'Enregistrement des Esclaves, et de ceux des Assistans Greffiers, que le nouveau délai accordé par l'Ordonnance en Conseil du vingt-sept Janvier n'a pas suffi pour la confection du recensement biennal, notamment dans les quartiers les plus peuplés de l'île, et cela, en raison surtout des mauvais tems qui ont forcé plusieurs fois de suspendre les opérations prescrites par l'Ordre en Conseil du trente Janvier 1826. Préambule.

En vertu des pouvoirs et de l'autorité conférés à son Excellence le Gouverneur par Sa Très-Gracieuse Majesté, et plus particulièrement de ceux déterminés par ledit Ordre en Conseil du trente Janvier 1826; il a plu à son Excellence le Gouverneur en Conseil d'ordonner :

1. Le délai accordé pour l'examen, l'inspection et la vérification des esclaves personnels ou d'habitation appartenant aux propriétaires des différents quartiers de l'île, comme aussi pour la remise finale des recensemens biennaux faits en exécution de l'Ordre en Conseil du trente Janvier 1826, est prolongé au vingt-un du mois de Mars 1830. Le délai pour la confection du recensement biennal est prolongé au 21 Mars 1830, pour les quartiers.

2. Le délai accordé par l'Ordonnance en Conseil du vingt-sept Janvier dernier, pour l'examen, l'inspection et la vérification des esclaves personnels appartenant aux propriétaires de la ville du Port Louis, et de ses faubourgs, et pour la remise finale des recensemens, en exécution du même Ordre en Conseil, est prolongé et définitivement fixé au huit Mars 1830. Le délai pour la ville du Port Louis fixe au 8 Mars.

3. Toutes les autres dispositions de la Proclamation du 9 Décembre dernier sont maintenues. Les dispositions de la Proclamation du 9 Décembre 1829 sont maintenues.

4. Et afin que personne n'en prétende cause d'ignorance, la présente Ordonnance sera lue, publiée, et enregistrée dans les tribunaux; auquel effet, il en sera transmis une copie par le Procureur-Général à son Honneur le Grand Juge et Commissaire de Justice. Publication et enregistrement.

Vive le Roi.

Donné au Port Louis, île Maurice, le 27 Février 1830.

Charles Colville,

Par ordre de son Excellence le Gouverneur.

G. A. Barry,

Secrétaire en Chef du Gouvernement.

Par ordre du Conseil.

W. N. Leitch,

Secrétaire du Conseil.

(Enclosure 4 in No. 29.)

No. 62.—ORDINANCE of his Excellency the Governor in Council.

FOR the purpose of prolonging and finally determining, for the districts of Pamplemousses and Grand Port, the term which has been granted by the Proclamation of the 9th December last, and likewise by the Ordinances of the 27th of January and 27th of February last, for the completion of the biennial census, conformably to the Order in Council of the 30th of January 1826. Title.

Whereas it appears from the report submitted to his Excellency the Governor by the registrar of slaves that the extended term granted in virtue of the Ordinance in Council of the 27th February last, has been found inadequate to the attainment of its intended object by the deputy registrars in the districts of Pamplemousses and Grand Port: Preamble.

And whereas the delay experienced in these two districts for the performance of such biennial census is ascribable, in the first place, to the great extent of the same, as also to the circumstance of the unfavourable state of the weather having

having occasioned an increased difficulty in their respective communications; and, lastly, to there being in such districts a greater division of property.

By virtue of the powers and authority conferred upon his Excellency the Governor by His Most Gracious Majesty, and more especially of those expressed and set forth in the said Order in Council of the 30th of January 1826, his Excellency the Governor in Council has been pleased to order:

The term for the completion of the Biennial Census for the districts of Pamplémousses and Grand Port is prolonged until the 22d of April 1830.

1. The term granted for the examination, inspection and verification of personal or plantation slaves belonging to the inhabitants in the districts of Pamplémousses and Grand Port, as well as for the final delivery of the biennial census to be made in obedience to the Order in Council of the 30th of January 1826, is hereby prolonged until the 22d of April 1830.

The provisions of the Proclamation of 9 December 1829 are maintained.

2. All the other provisions of the Proclamation of the 9th of December last are confirmed and maintained.

The present Ordinance to be published and registered in the Courts.

3. And to the end that no person may pretend ignorance of the same, the present Ordinance shall be read, published and registered in the courts; for which purpose a copy thereof shall be presented by the Procureur-General to his Honor the Chief Judge and Commissary of Justice.

God save the King!

Given at Port Louis, in the island of Mauritius, this 31st day of March 1830.
(signed) *Cha^s Colville.*

By order of His Excellency the Governor,

(signed) *G. A. Barry,*
Chief Secretary to Government.

By order of the Council.

(signed) *W. N. Leitch,*
Secretary to the Council.

(A true copy.)

(signed) *W. N. Leitch,*
Clerk to the Council.

No. 62.—ORDONNANCE de son Excellence le Gouverneur en Conseil.

Titre.

A L'EFFET de prolonger et fixer, pour les quartiers des Pamplémousses et du Grand Port, le délai accordé par la Proclamation du neuf Décembre dernier, et les Ordonnances des 27 Janvier et 27 Février derniers, pour la confection du recensement biennal, conformément à l'Ordre en Conseil du 30 Janvier 1826.

Préambule.

Attendu qu'il résulte du rapport fait à son Excellence le Gouverneur par le greffier de l'enregistrement des esclaves, que le nouveau délai accordé par l'Ordonnance en Conseil du 27 Février dernier n'a pas suffi aux députés greffiers des quartiers des Pamplémousses et du Grand Port, et que le retard apporté dans ces deux quartiers à l'opération du recensement biennal est dû à leur grande étendue, à la difficulté des communications, rendue plus grande par les mauvais temps, et enfin à ce que les propriétés y sont plus divisées.

En vertu des pouvoirs et de l'autorité conférés à son Excellence le Gouverneur par Sa Très-Gracieuse Majesté, et notamment de ceux exprimés audit Ordre en Conseil du 30 Janvier 1826, il a plu à son Excellence le Gouverneur en Conseil d'ordonner :

Le délai pour la confection du recensement biennal pour les quartiers des Pamplémousses et du Grand Port est prolongé au 22 Avril 1830.

1. Le délai accordé pour l'examen, l'inspection et la vérification des esclaves personnels ou d'habitation appartenant aux propriétaires des quartiers des Pamplémousses et du Grand Port, comme aussi pour la remise finale des recensements biennaux faits en exécution de l'Ordre en Conseil du 30 Janvier 1826, est prolongé au 22 Avril 1830.

2. Les

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

79

2. Les autres dispositions de la Proclamation du 9 Décembre dernier sont maintenues. Les dispositions de la Proclamation du 9 Décembre maintenues.

3. Et afin que personne n'en prétende cause d'ignorance, la présente Ordonnance sera lue, publiée et enregistrée dans les tribunaux; auquel effet, il en sera transmis une copie par le Procureur-Général à son Honneur le Grand Juge et Commissaire de Justice. Publication et enregistrement.

Vive le Roi!

Donné au Port Louis, Ile Maurice, le 31 Mars 1830.

Chas Colville.

Par ordre de son Excellence le Gouverneur.

G. A. Barry,
Secrétaire en Chef du Gouvernement.

Par ordre du Conseil.

W. N. Leitch,
Secrétaire du Conseil.

(Enclosure 5 in No. 20.)

Slave Registry Office,
Port Louis, 12th May 1830.

Sir,

I HAVE the honor to forward two statements of the slave population of the Mauritius, as taken at the original and biennial census of the present year, showing a difference of 447 less returned at the latter period, as explained in the remarks. This computation, however, cannot be considered correct, from a number of slaves having been imported from the dependencies under the license of his Excellency the Governor.

These omissions will, I trust, be corrected and explained, if his Excellency should think favourably of my suggestion under date the 29th ultimo, to give an additional period of time to place it in the power of persons who through ignorance or causes unavoidable, (sickness or absence from the colony,) have not presented their slaves at the biennial census.

So soon as the examination of the returns is completed, I have every reason to hope that the number of slaves inspected at the biennial census will correspond with that of the original in a satisfactory manner, after due regard to the different mutations.

I have, &c.

To the Hon. Colonel Barry,
Chief Secretary, &c.

(signed) *P. Salter,*
Acting Registrar of Slaves.

MAURITIUS:—STATEMENT showing the Number of Slaves Recensed, at the Original Census 1826, in Port Louis, Suburbs, and Country Districts.

DISTRICTS.	Number of Slaves Recensed in 1826.	OBSERVATIONS,
Port Louis - - - - -	10,409	The difference of 208 slaves which exists between the present statement and that forwarded to Government on the 28th August 1827, arises from sundry small returns, amounting to 51 slaves, and the recensements of Mr. Bestel, jun. for Mad. Bestel, and the Lezongard minority, in number 157, having been afterwards received under the authority of his Excellency the Governor.
Faubourg de l'Ouest - - - - -	3,089	
— de l'Est - - - - -	2,453	
Pamplemousses - - - - -	10,105	
Rivière du Rempart - - - - -	8,189	
Flacq - - - - -	9,413	
Grand Port - - - - -	6,788	
Savanne - - - - -	3,944	
Rivière Noire - - - - -	5,402	
Plaines Wilhems - - - - -	6,833	
Moka - - - - -	2,847	
Total - - - - -	69,472	

Slave Registry Office,
Port Louis, 11th May 1830.

(signed) *P. Salter,*
Acting Registrar of Slaves.

MAURITIUS :—STATEMENT showing the Number of Slaves Recensed, at the Biennial Census of 1830, in Port Louis, Suburbs, and Country Districts.

DISTRICTS.	Number of Slaves Recensed in 1830.	OBSERVATIONS.
Port Louis - - - - -	10,520	
Faubourg de l'Ouest - - - - -	2,948	
— de l'Est - - - - -	2,417	
Pamplemousses - - - - -	10,034	
Rivière du Rempart - - - - -	8,445	
Flacq - - - - -	9,444	
Grand Port - - - - -	6,186	
Savanne - - - - -	3,413	
Rivière Noire - - - - -	4,566	
Plaines Wilhems - - - - -	5,787	
Moka - - - - -	2,423	
Total - - - - -	66,183	

Slave Registry Office,
Port Louis, 11th May 1830.

(signed) *P. Salter*,
Acting Registrar of Slaves.

Slaves recensed, 16th October 1826 - - - - -	69,472
Births declared from that date to 31st December 1829 - - - - -	4,797
	74,269
Deduct,	
Enfranchisements from 16th October 1826 to 31st December 1829 - 1,164	
Deaths from ditto to ditto - - - - - 6,475	
	7,639
Total - - - - -	66,630
Slaves recensed 2d January 1830 - - - - -	66,183
Difference - - - - -	447

The difference that exists between the Original and Biennial Census arises from some slave proprietors not having furnished their returns, either from ignorance, sickness, or absence from the colony at the time of the inspection.

(signed) *P. Salter*.

(Enclosure 6 in No. 20.)

Slave Registry Office,
Port Louis, 29th April 1830.

Sir,

WITH a view to render the first biennial census as complete and comprehensive as possible, and to establish the registry of mutations in the most unerring manner, I beg leave most respectfully to submit, that an ordinance from his Excellency the Governor in Council appears to be advisable and expedient, directing all persons, within the space of one month, who have omitted to make biennial returns, to attend to the requisitions of the registrar, under pain of being excluded from the privilege of selling their slaves previous to the next census, and even of incurring a pecuniary fine, if such may be considered proper. The Orders in Council are silent on the one point, and no penalty is affixed for not returning at an annual (now biennial) census, provided the omission be rectified at a subsequent one to the satisfaction of the registrar.

An ordinance to this effect will insure as full a registration as it is possible to obtain; make the first biennial census to agree with the original one in 1826, after accounting for periodical mutations, and will enable the registrar to draw out a statement of the slave population of the colony that may be pronounced,

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

81

pronounced, by the best examiners here and at home, accurate in all its parts ; a desideratum of no ordinary importance, and a measure which I feel persuaded will be equally satisfactory to his Excellency as to the Minister at home.

I have, &c.

(signed) *P. Salter,*
Acting Registrar of Slaves.

The Hon. Colonel Barry,
Chief Secretary to the Government, &c. &c.

Monsieur,

Port Louis, 7 Mai 1830.

J'AI pris connaissance de la lettre du Greffier de l'Enregistrement des Esclaves que vous m'avez transmise par la vôtre du 3 du courant, et suis d'avis, que dans le cas où son Excellence le Gouverneur serait disposé à adopter la mesure proposée, l'ordonnance devrait être faite dans la forme de celle ci-jointe.

Je ne pense pas que l'on puisse attacher aucune peine au défaut de présentation, attendu que la mesure proposée l'étant plutôt pour la commodité de Greffier et la facilité du travail, que dans le véritable intérêt de la loi, qui a prévu ce cas de négligence, et y attache une peine, il serait rigoureux de prononcer actuellement des amendes contre les retardataires.

La mesure actuelle leur ouvre un moyen de réparer l'effet de leur négligence, et s'ils y persistent ils seront moins excusables lors qu'il y aura lieu de leur appliquer, à l'époque du prochain recensement biennal, les clauses pénales des Ordres en Conseil du 24 Septembre 1814 et du 30 Janvier 1826.

J'ai, &c.

(signé) *A. D'Epinaï,*
Conseil du Gouvernement par interim.

A l'Honorable G. A. Barry, Esq.
Secrétaire en Chef du Gouvernement.

(Enclosure 7 in No. 20.)

No. 63.—ORDINANCE of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

FOR the purpose of rectifying such involuntary omissions as may have arisen, on the part of several persons, in neglecting to give in the biennial census as prescribed by the Order in Council under date the 30th of January 1826. Title.

Whereas it appears from the report made by the registrar of slaves that several slave-owners have been dilatory in making such biennial census as has been prescribed by the Order in Council bearing date the 30th of January 1826: Preamble.

Whereas, by virtue of the said Order in Council dated the 30th of January 1826, the registrar is authorized, within the delay of three months granted for the purpose of inserting entries of returns in the register, to correct such errors and discrepancies as may exist between reports of mutations, deaths and births, and those to be found in the biennial census, provided however the owner should account to him, upon oath, for all such discrepancies, and prove to his satisfaction that they originate in unforeseen and unavoidable casualties, and nowise in any voluntary infraction of the said Order:

Whereas the special case wherein the biennial census should happen not to have been furnished has been unprovided for, and that it is of material importance, as well for the regular discharge of the duties attached to the registrar's office, as for the completion of the general census of the slave population, that all returns should be duly furnished:

And lastly, whereas it is necessary to protect the owners themselves from the prejudicial effects of such delay:

His Excellency the Governor, by virtue of the powers and authority conferred upon him, and more especially of those vested in him by the Order in Council of the 30th of January 1826, orders:

1. All persons who have heretofore omitted to furnish their biennial census have it in their power to rectify the aforesaid omission, by appearing, within the delay of two months from the date hereof, at the registrar of slaves office, before Delay of two months granted to those who have omitted to furnish the Biennial

Census, to make amends for such omission by appearing before the registrar and assistant registrars, and satisfying them as to the

before the registrar, or assistant registrars in the respective districts, and by producing unto them, upon oath, sufficient proofs whereby the said registrar or assistant registrars may be satisfied that such omissions have arisen from unavoidable and unforeseen casualties, and in nowise from a voluntary breach of the said Order.

The registrar is authorized to receive and register such Census should the alleged reasons be considered satisfactory.

2. In case such explanations should appear sufficient to the said registrar or assistant registrar, he is authorized to receive the said returns, and insert entries of them in the registers within the delay fixed and determined by the said Ordinance in Council.

The present Ordinance to be published and registered in the courts.

3. And that no person may pretend ignorance of the same, the present Ordinance shall be read, published and registered in the courts; for which purpose a copy thereof shall be presented by the Attorney-general to his Honor the Chief Judge and Commissary of Justice.

God save the King!

Given at Port Louis, island of Mauritius, this 11th day of May 1830.

(signed) *Charles Cobville.*

By order of his Excellency the Governor.

(signed) *G. A. Barry,*
Chief Secretary to Government.

By order of the Council.

(signed) *W. N. Leitch,*
Secretary to the Council.

(A true copy.)

W. N. Leitch,
Clerk to the Council.

No. 63.—ORDONNANCE de son Excellence le Gouverneur en Conseil.

Titre.

A L'EFFET de réparer les omissions involontaires faites par quelques personnes de fournir le recensement biennal prescrit par l'Ordre en Conseil due 30 Janvier 1826.

Préambule.

Attendu qu'il résulte du rapport fait par le greffier de l'enregistrement des esclaves que quelques propriétaires d'esclaves ont tardé à fournir les recensements biennaux prescrits par l'Ordre en Conseil du 30 Janvier 1826 :

Attendu que par ledit Ordre en Conseil du trente Janvier 1826 le greffier est autorisé, dans le délai de trois mois accordé pour l'enregistrement des recensements, à rectifier les erreurs qui peuvent exister entre les déclarations de mutations, décès, et naissances, et le recensement biennal, pourvu que le propriétaire lui donne, sous serment, des causes satisfaisantes de ces différences, et prouve, à sa satisfaction, qu'elles proviennent de circonstances accidentelles et inévitables, et non de désobéissance volontaire audit Ordre :

Attendu qu'il n'a été rien prévu pour le cas où le recensement biennal n'aurait pas été fourni, et qu'il importe à la régularité du bureau du greffier, et à l'établissement du dénombrement de la population esclave, que tous les recensements soient fournis :

Attendu enfin qu'il importe de garantir les propriétaires eux-mêmes des effets d'un retard préjudiciable :

Son Excellence le Gouverneur, en vertu des pouvoirs dont il est revêtu, et notamment de ceux qui lui sont accordés par l'Ordre en Conseil du 30 Janvier 1826, ordonne :

Délai de 2 mois accordé à ceux qui ont omis de produire leur recensement biennal, pour ré-

1. Les personnes qui ont omis jusqu'à ce jour de fournir leur recensement biennal, auront la faculté de réparer ladite omission en se présentant, dans le délai de deux mois à partir de ce jour, au bureau de l'enregistrement des esclaves, devant le greffier, ou les assistans greffiers de leurs quartiers, et en leur donnant,

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

83

donnant, sous serment, des causes de cette omission, qui prouvent, à la satisfaction dudit greffier ou assistant greffier, que ladite omission a été occasionnée par des circonstances accidentelles et inévitables, et non pas du tout par une déobéissance volontaire audit Ordre. en leur donnant des causes valables

parer cette omission, en se présentant au greffier et aux assistants greffiers, et du retard apporté.

Si lesdites explications paroissent suffisantes audit greffier ou assistant greffier, il est autorisé à recevoir lesdits recensemens, et à les inscrire sur les registres dans les délais fixés par l'Ordre en Conseil. semens s'il reconnaît que les causes alléguées sont valables.

Le greffier autorisé à recevoir et enregistrer lesdits recensemens.

3. Et afin que personne n'en prétende cause d'ignorance, la présente Ordonnance sera lue, publiée, et enregistrée dans les tribunaux; copie en sera, à cet effet, présentée par le Procureur-général à son Honneur le Grand Juge et Commissaire de Justice.

Publication et enrégistrement de la présente Ordonnance.

Vive le Roi!

Donné au Port Louis, Ile Maurice, le 11 Mai 1830.

Charles Colville.

Par ordre de son Excellence le Gouverneur.

G. A. Barry,

Secrétaire en Chef du Gouvernement.

Par ordre du Conseil.

W. N. Leitch,

Secrétaire du Conseil.

Slave Registry Office, Port Louis,
28th December 1829.

Sir,

THE biennial census commencing in the hurricane season will no doubt retard the inspection of slaves in the minor dependencies of this government.

At the last census two different voyages were made by the assistant registrar, but on the present occasion it may perhaps be convenient to appoint Mr. Dowland, in case that officer should be on his return to Port Louis, to make the windward tour, after he has completed his duty at Seychelles, engaging the vessel to proceed from Seychelles to the islands, as per margin; and another assistant, whom his Excellency may please to name, to make the inspection at Jean de Nove, Providence and Agaléga, taking up a vessel for that purpose at this port, unless the senior naval officer on the station may be enabled to grant the assistance of a King's ship.

Peros Banhos, Three Frères, Six Isles, Diego Garcia, St. Brandon, Rodriguez, and Solomon Islands.

I have, &c.

(signed) *P. Salter,*
Acting Registrar.

To the Hon. G. A. Barry, Esq.,
Chief Secretary to Government.

(Enclosure 8 in No. 20.)

Sir,

Reduit, 29th January 1830.

IN conformity with the provisions of His Majesty's Order in Council of the 30th of January 1826, I have recently issued a proclamation establishing and fixing, commencing from the 1st instant, the biennial census of the slaves of this colony; and on the termination of the hurricane season it will be necessary to provide for the inspection of the slaves residing in the several minor dependencies of this government. I propose, therefore, that the officer of the civil service, whom I shall select for succeeding to the present sub-agent and assistant registrar of slaves at Seychelles, should leave the Mauritius as early as convenient after the hurricane months, touching at Rodriguez, St. Brandon, Diego Garcia, Peros Banhos, Three Brothers, and the Six Islands, on his way to Seychelles, and that the gentleman whom he will relieve there should return to Mauritius by way of Coëtivi Agaléga, Providence Island, and Jean de Nove; by which means the inspection of the slaves in all the above-mentioned islands will, in fulfilment of the orders of His Majesty's Government, be duly provided for; and it may be well to explain that in the meantime the inspection of the slaves at Seychelles is in progress towards completion, so that in such particular no delay need be apprehended. The colonial government,

333.

however,

however, as you are aware, is without any vessel of its own, and the hire of one for the above-mentioned service would occasion a very considerable expense. I am therefore induced to ask, knowing how desirous you are to afford all the assistance in your power on any emergency of this nature, whether you will be able to allot one of His Majesty's ships under your command for the performance of the voyages which I have here described, and I beg leave to solicit the favour of an early reply in order that measures may be taken accordingly.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Char^s Colville.*

To Commodore Schomberg, &c.
Cape of Good Hope.

(A true Copy.)

F. E. S. Viret, Private Secretary.

His Majesty's Ship Maidstone,
Simon's Bay, Cape of Good Hope, 12th March 1830.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter dated the 29th January last; and, in reply thereto, beg leave to acquaint you, that I have given the necessary instructions to Lord John Churchill, captain of His Majesty's ship Tweed, and senior officer at Port Louis, to meet your Excellency's wishes with regard to the appropriation of His Majesty's sloop Jaseur for the service required, and have at the same time forwarded him a copy of your Excellency's letter for his guidance.

I have, &c.
(signed) *C. M. Schomberg*,
Commodore.

(A true Copy.)

F. E. S. Viret, Private Secretary.

To his Excellency the Hon. Sir C. Colville, G.C.B.. G.C.H.,
Governor, &c. Mauritius.

(Enclosure 9 in No. 20.)

His Majesty's Ship Tweed, Port Louis, 12th May 1830.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have this day received directions from Commodore C. M. Schomberg, C. B., to entrust Commander Lyons, of His Majesty's sloop Jaseur, with that service respecting which your Excellency communicated your wishes to the Commodore in your letter dated Mauritius, 29th January 1830, a copy of which letter I have received from the Commodore.

I have also the honour to inform you, that I am directed by the Commodore to confer with your Excellency, as soon as His Majesty's sloop "Jaseur" is in every respect ready for sea, with the view of being enabled to furnish Commander Lyons with such explicit orders, under which he may most fully and completely meet the views of your Excellency in visiting the different islands mentioned in your Excellency's letter above alluded to.

And I have the honour likewise to inform your Excellency, that His Majesty's sloop Jaseur being now ready for sea, I shall be most happy to confer with your Excellency at whatever time and place your Excellency will do me the honour to appoint.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. John Spencer Churchill*,
Captain and Senior Officer.

(A true Copy.)

F. E. S. Viret, Private Secretary.

To his Excellency
Lieut.-Gen. the Hon. Sir C. Colville, G. C. B., &c.

My Lord,

Reduit, 14th May 1830.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's letter of the 12th instant, as also that which you sent to me from Commodore Schomberg, both explaining that His Majesty's ship *Jaseur*, Captain Lyons, would proceed on the voyage concerning which I had made application to the Commodore in the month of January last.

Your Lordship having been put in possession of a copy of the letter which I addressed to Commodore Schomberg on the matter in question, your Lordship will be able to judge of the object which the local government has in view; and I have now the honour to apprise your Lordship, that Mr. Ormsby, of the civil service, is the officer whom I have selected for inspecting the slaves and taking the biennial census in the several small islands to windward.

Rodriguez, St. Brandon, Diego Garcia, Peros Banhos, Three Brothers, Six Islands, and Solomon Islands.

Mr. Ormsby will relieve Mr. Dowland, the present assistant registrar of slaves at Seychelles, and the latter gentleman will return to Mauritius in His Majesty's ship *Jaseur*, with orders to inspect the slaves and take the census in the small dependent islands to leeward.

It would be very satisfactory to me, and no less so, I am sure, to His Majesty's Government, if Captain Lyons would himself look into and report upon the state, condition and appearance of the slave population in the various islands which he will visit; and I have the less hesitation in making this remark, as the slaves will all have to appear before the assistant registrars, Messrs. Ormsby and Dowland. I should also be obliged if Captain Lyons would permit his surgeon to examine and report upon the cases of any sick slaves who may be found in the islands; and, as in the instance of the surgeon of His Majesty's ship *Espoir*, I shall be happy, on the part of the Colonial Government, to remunerate that officer for the trouble which may thus be occasioned to him professionally.

Coëtivi Agaléga, Providence, Jean de Nove.

I hope it will not be inconvenient to Captain Lyons, during the time the *Jaseur* may remain at the Seychelles, to visit the lesser establishment at "Isle Curieuse;" and I beg to enclose an extract from a communication which has been received from the government agent at Mahé, in which allusion is made to three leprous slaves who contrived to conceal themselves at Diego Garcia, and to three others who had been wrecked in a boat off Danger Island. The former will probably be heard of without difficulty, and should they appear anxious to remain where they are, and to be well taken care of, it may be expedient perhaps to let them abide at Diego, but, otherwise, an opportunity will be taken of conveying them to "Curieuse;" and with respect to the latter, the three wrecked off Danger Island, it would be a satisfaction if their fate could be ascertained; but the spot is represented as most difficult and dangerous to approach, so that I will not do more than mention the circumstance, being assured that Captain Lyons will do anything he can on the occasion.

I shall hereafter let your Lordship know when Mr. Ormsby will be ready to embark; and I must express my acknowledgements for this further instance of service and accommodation which the Colonial Government has received from the navy on the station.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Chas Colville.*

P. S.—It may not be improper to add, for your Lordship's information, that the Colonial Government will defray the expense attending the accommodation on board the "*Jaseur*" of Messrs. Ormsby and Dowland.

(A true Copy.)

(signed) *F. E. S. Viret,*
Private Secretary.

Captain the Right Hon. Lord H. J. Spencer Churchill, &c.
Senior Naval Officer.

Sir, His Majesty's ship Tweed,
Port Louis, Mauritius, 15th May 1830.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of yesterday's date, and, in reply, I have the honour to inform you, that I shall furnish Commander Lyons with such explicit orders, in visiting the different islands, as, I trust, will most fully and completely meet the views of your Excellency.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. John Spencer Churchill,*
Captain and Senior Naval Officer.

(A true Copy.)

(signed) *F. E. S. Viret,* Private Secretary.
To his Excellency the Governor of Mauritius,
&c. &c. &c.

(Enclosure 10 in No. 20.)

Minute, No. 15, 1830.

Redit, 14th May.

His Excellency the Governor is pleased to appoint John Ormsby, esq., chief clerk in the civil service, to be sub-agent and assistant registrar of slaves at the Seychelles Islands in succession to Mr. Dowland, who will return to his duty at Mauritius. In the former capacity, Mr. Ormsby will make himself generally useful; and his Excellency expects that he will afford to the government agent at Mahé all the assistance in his power connected with the public business of the agency. In the latter capacity, and for the regulation of his conduct, Mr. Ormsby will receive instructions from the registrar of slaves.

Commodore Schomberg having, at his Excellency's request, been pleased to give orders that His Majesty's ship Jaseur, Captain Lyons, should on the present occasion visit the dependencies of this government, Mr. Ormsby will be accommodated with passage on board that vessel; and, as pointed out in the accompanying letter from the acting registrar of slaves, will visit Rodriguez, St. Brandon, Diego Garcia, Peros Banhos, Solomon Islands, Three Brothers and Six Islands, on his way to the Seychelles; and Mr. Dowland, on the return voyage of His Majesty's ship Jaseur, will visit the Leeward Islands; viz. Coëtivi Agaléga, Providence and Jean de Nove; it will be necessary, therefore, that these gentlemen should be furnished with the requisite papers and documents to enable them to establish the biennial census in the above-mentioned places, according to the Laws and Ordinances existing on this matter.

The same salary and allowances as have been received by Mr. Dowland at the Seychelles will be allowed to Mr. Ormsby; and the expenses of the passage of both will be defrayed by Government in the usual manner. Should the collector of customs require a clerk in the room of Mr. Ormsby until the arrival of Mr. Dowland, one will be allowed on his representation to that effect.

It being his Excellency's intention to appoint the sub-agent at Seychelles to the office of assistant protector and guardian of slaves, instructions will hereafter be furnished for his guidance; but meanwhile it will be desirable that Mr. Ormsby should confer with Mr. Thomas on this subject.

The necessary communications consequent on this Minute will be made to the several officers of government alluded to and concerned in its execution; and the owners of property and slaves in the dependent islands should be apprised

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

87

apprised of the steps about to be taken, in order that their representatives on the spot may be instructed by them to facilitate the duties which Messrs. Ormsby and Dowland will have to perform, and to produce for inspection the whole of their slaves.

(signed) *Charles Colville.*

(A true Copy.)

F. E. S. Viret, Private Secretary.

MAURITIUS SLAVE REGISTRATION.

A COPY of any CORRESPONDENCE which may have taken place between His Majesty's SECRETARY OF STATE and the GOVERNOR of the *Mauritius*, respecting the SLAVE REGISTRY of that Island, since 1st January 1826; and the Causes which have led to the Failure of that part of the REGISTRY ACT of 30 January 1826, which requires that regular Triennial Returns of its POPULATION be made to the Secretary of State.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
30 March 1832.
