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SLAVE TRADE, SIERRA LEONE.

RETURN to an Address to HIS MAJESTY, dated 7 March 1832 ;—for,

COPY of a CHARGE delivered by Mr. Chief Justice *Jeffcott* to the GRAND JURY of *Sierra Leone*, on the Subject of the SLAVE TRADE in that Colony, with any Correspondence thereon.

Colonial Department,
Downing-street,
5 April 1832. }

R. W. HAY.

SCHEDULE.

- No.
- 1.—EXTRACT of a Despatch from Lieut.-Gov. Findlay to R. W. Hay, Esq.; dated Sierra Leone, 20 June 1830 - - - - - p. 1.
 - 2.—EXTRACT of a Despatch from Secretary Sir George Murray to Lieut.-Gov. Findlay; dated Downing-street, 26 October 1830 - - - - - p. 6.
 - 3.—EXTRACT of a Despatch from Lieut.-Gov. Findlay to Viscount Goderich; dated Sierra Leone, 29 June 1831 - - - - - p. 8.
 - 4.—COPY of a Despatch from Viscount Goderich to Lieut.-Gov. Findlay; dated Downing-street, 18 January 1832 - - - - - p. 33.

— No. 1. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Findlay*, to *R. W. Hay*, Esq.; dated *Sierra Leone*, 20 June 1830.

I ENCLOSE to you a Copy of his Honour the Chief Justice *Jeffcott's* Speech to the GRAND JURY, at the Sessions held on 2d June, which I trust ultimately will have a good effect on the inhabitants of this Colony.

SUBSTANCE of a CHARGE delivered to the GRAND JURY, at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, and General Gaol Delivery for the Colony of *Sierra Leone*, held at *Freetown*, on Wednesday the 2d June 1830, and subsequent days, by *John William Jeffcott*, Esq. His Majesty's Chief Justice, and Judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court, &c. &c. &c.

Gentlemen of the Grand Jury,

IF I came before you under the ordinary circumstances in which every new Chief Justice has to address you,—if I had merely to call your attention to the state of the Calendar, and to advert, in general terms, to the nature of the duties which, in your capacity of Grand Jurors, you will have to perform—I should, even under these ordinary circumstances, have quite sufficient to engage my attention, and to impress upon me the great responsibility of the office which I hold.

You cannot however, Gentlemen, be ignorant that I have come amongst you under peculiar circumstances—circumstances, such as none of my predecessors have had to contend with—circumstances, unprecedented in this Colony, and such as, I confidently hope and trust, may never occur again.

You cannot be ignorant that the circumstances to which I allude, have arisen out of the distracted state of the Colony previous to my arrival; and, while I have every disposition to divest myself of any thing approaching to asperity while speaking of this unfortunate period, I feel that I should be deserting my duty, if I did not from this Bench, and upon this occasion, address the inhabitants of this Colony with reference to what has occurred, in the language of earnest, yet friendly remonstrance: I say the inhabitants of this Colony, because I hope that through you, Gentlemen of the Grand Jury, what I say may go forth to the community at large, and be productive of that which must be the anxious wish of every man who has their real welfare at heart—the prevention of similar occurrences in future.

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I could not have been unaware, upon leaving England, that the affairs of this Colony had been plunged into a state of anarchy and confusion which, if longer persisted in, would require the strong hand of legal authority to coerce and control. I could not have been unaware that proceedings had taken place which were calculated, if persisted in, to overthrow all the established landmarks of civilized society and legitimate government.

I was made aware of this state of things but a very short time before I left England; and although, from my habits and disposition, I could willingly have chosen a more congenial office than one which must necessarily bring me into the midst of a divided community, still, having accepted of the appointment which His Majesty had been graciously pleased to bestow upon me, I came here prepared to do my duty fairly and impartially, without favour or affection, to the best of my ability, and equally prepared to meet any consequences which might result from the resolute discharge of that duty. I say, I came prepared to meet any such consequences; because I felt that I came armed with that authority to which every English subject bows, conscious that in his implicit obedience to its decrees, he possesses the best security for his own rights—I mean *the authority of the Law*.

Armed with that authority I arrived here, accompanying our new Governor, with whose character, from his long residence upon the Western Coast of Africa, you must, most of you, be yourselves well acquainted, and upon which it is not therefore necessary, nor would it indeed be decorous in me to dwell, further than to say, that from what I both witnessed and heard of his mild, yet efficient administration of the Settlement of the Gambia, I had every hope, in accompanying him here, that we should be enabled, by our united efforts, to restore peace and unanimity to this distracted and divided Colony. In this hope, I trust we shall not be disappointed; but, if we should unfortunately be so, we shall at least have the consolation of reflecting, that, in the first instance, we tried the mildest mode of securing obedience to the laws, and that if strong measures should at length be deemed necessary, they will, as far as the Government is concerned, be the offspring of necessity, not choice, and be as defensible as they will be unavoidable.

Whether the disputes to which I have alluded, have originated with the European or Coloured inhabitants, I will not now stop to inquire. The matter may possibly be investigated in another place. Nor is such an inquiry necessary to the object which I have in view—the repression of such disputes in future.

There are, I am well aware—such is human nature—to be found amongst all classes and colours, discontented individuals, with just sufficient talent to make others as discontented as themselves; and who, at the same time, are utterly reckless of the consequences naturally resulting from their discontent, and, I may add, disloyalty. I had hoped, however, that the strong expression of disapprobation which had been conveyed by His Majesty's Government with reference to the proceedings that took place here, and which the Governor was directed to communicate to the inhabitants, through the medium of a proclamation, would have convinced the most incredulous that the time for dissension has passed. But I regret to say, that I have heard since my arrival, that the seeds of disunion are not yet eradicated—that the flame of discontent, although partially extinguished, still smoulders in the breasts of some;—and that persons are yet to be found in this Colony who, notwithstanding the disapprobation to which I have just alluded, persist in defending the illegal conduct they have pursued—maintain that they were right—affect to believe that their acts will still be approved of from home—and moreover say, that were they again placed in a similar situation, they would act a similar part. To such persons I would say emphatically **BEWARE!** Errors which are the result of ignorance or misconception may be passed over; but hereafter, neither in those who counsel a repetition of the transactions which have lately taken place here, and which have called for the just animadversion of His Majesty's Government, nor in those who would adopt such pernicious counsel, can the plea of ignorance or misconception be admitted.

I have already from this Bench, upon another occasion, considered it my duty to declare, that all the acts which had taken place here from the period of the 18th of December last, when, by means which I shall not now characterize, a change was attempted to be effected in the constitution of this Colony, and a usurpation of its government took place, to that of the arrival of Lieutenant-Governor Findlay, were illegal. I now repeat that declaration; and I again say to those who would venture to hint at the revival of an experiment, which has been once tried with comparative impunity, to beware. Do the inhabitants of this Colony, I would ask, value their Charter? Have they a just appreciation of the blessings which they enjoy, in being made the partakers of British laws and British institutions? I have no doubt they will answer in the affirmative. I have no doubt that they have a just appreciation of the benefits they enjoy, and the privileges which have been conferred upon them; and, with this conviction on my mind, I conjure them—I warn them—not to lend themselves again to a system of conduct which may tend to the curtailment of privileges that, by such conduct, they would prove themselves unworthy to retain.

Of the illegality of the measures which accompanied and succeeded the departure of your late Governor, enough has been said to convince the least reflecting man, that any attempt at a repetition of them, would bring down the serious displeasure and indignation of the Mother Country upon this Colony—a Colony which has been the fruit of her fostering care—the result of her benevolent aspirations for the benefit of mankind,—of aspirations which, I am sorry to say, have hitherto been but feebly answered—and of hopes which a perseverance in your dissensions must crush and blight for ever!

How little, I would ask, do the advocates of Western Africa in England, know of the passions which have lately torn and convulsed this Colony, from one end of it to the other?

How

How little are those benevolent spirits, who have supported the cause of African improvement "through evil report and good report," and who have urged their fellow-countrymen to expend their blood and treasure in its behalf, aware of the species of gratitude which has been exhibited in return? Think you, I would ask, Gentlemen of the Grand Jury, that England will persevere in her exertions for the good of this Colony, if the only return which she obtains, is a reiteration of complaint upon complaint, without one useful plan or object originating with the colonists themselves?

I am led to this remark from observing, since my arrival here, the great apathy which prevails, with reference to two most useful objects which have originated with the Colonial Government, and to one of which in particular the attention of the inhabitants has been repeatedly drawn, and the necessity of heartily co-operating in it impressed upon them again and again, without, I am sorry to say, any thing like a corresponding effect.

I allude, in the first instance, to the draining of your streets, and the burning of the surrounding bush. The regulations which, from time to time, have emanated from the Governor and Council, having for their object the preservation of the health of the inhabitants, appear to have been altogether disregarded, and the Acts by which they were sought to be enforced, have fallen into disuse or become a dead letter.

And what, I would ask, have been the aim and object of such Acts, and such regulations? To what end have they tended? To the benefit and advantage of all.

By clearing your streets, you preserve your health, that greatest of all blessings. By neglecting to do so, you admit into the Colony contagion and death, by which so many of your Governors, and other valuable officers, have successively been swept away, and all the plans which they entertained for the general good of the Colony, have been prematurely checked—many of them, it is to be feared, never to be resumed. Thus, by the neglect of those whose duty it is to see those municipal regulations carried into effect, injury incalculable, irremediable injury, is entailed upon the whole community.

I know that an opinion prevails amongst the native, and some of the coloured inhabitants of the Colony, that the same local causes which produce disease amongst the Europeans, do not apply to them;—as if this were any reason that they should relax in the performance of a task, enjoined by every motive of humanity and public duty. I would, however, refer those who entertain this most erroneous opinion, to the last fatal season, when the indiscriminating hand of fate pressed equally upon all—the rich as well as the poor, the native and the coloured man, as well as the European. And without entering further into this subject, I am sure it must be obvious to every reflecting mind, that the clearing and draining of the streets, and the burning of the surrounding bush, are absolutely essential to the preservation of health—to the welfare, and, I may add, to the existence of the Colony.

Such being the case, I say that the regulations which have been determined on by the Governor and Council, and which will be laid before you in the course of the Sessions, must be enforced; and if a strict compliance with them be longer delayed, means must be adopted to compel that obedience which ought to be afforded willingly, and which it ought to require no exertion of authority to secure. It is really, Gentlemen, a most painful reflection, that after the profuse and lavish waste of British capital and British life, in and upon the objects of this Colony, so little appears to have been done; and that that which is in progress, should be constantly retarded, on the one hand, by the paltry squabbles and undignified disputes of those who ought peculiarly to labour, heart and hand, in the common cause; and on the other, by the apathy and indolence of the great mass of the native inhabitants, who will not exert a little labour to prevent that property, which in many instances they hold upon the easy tenure of exerting a little labour, from becoming nurseries for disease and death, instead of being appropriated to their legitimate and destined use—the promotion of health, and the diffusion of happiness and comfort amidst an industrious and grateful population.

The other subject to which I am desirous to advert, before I proceed to call your attention to the state of the Calendar, is the intended enrolment of a Militia force within the Colony. That the Mother Country has from time to time cheerfully and liberally contributed to the expense of keeping up a military force upon this coast, you are well aware. Why this force no longer exists in the same physical proportion, it is needless for me to remind you who know the dreadful ravages which death has made in the ranks of the European troops formerly sent to this country. The experiment of employing white men permanently as soldiers in this climate, has been tried and has failed;—and when England is at this moment contracting all her own establishments, and reducing her expenditure in every branch of the public service, were there no other objection to the keeping up of a military force here on the same footing as formerly, His Majesty's Government would not feel themselves justified in recommending it, from considerations arising out of the expense which it must necessarily entail.

They have, however, expressed their wish, that a Militia force should be raised here by the inhabitants themselves, and that wish has to a certain degree been complied with. The embodying of that force had gone on to a certain extent, until the unhappy state of the Colony, to which I have before adverted, put a temporary stop to it. The obstruction which has existed to this most useful measure, is now, however, I trust at an end; but should any lurking opposition to it still remain, it is the duty of every man who hears me to assist in overcoming it. Let the inhabitants of Sierra Leone recollect, that it is for their own benefit and advantage that such a measure has been contemplated;—that it is for the defence of their persons and property,—for the protection of their offspring, and all that they hold most dear, that His Majesty's Government have advised and encouraged the enrolment of a

Militia

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Militia force within their own boundaries. And, while they recollect those things, they will feel that it will not be for their advantage, and that there will be no excuse for them if they adopt the partial, the interested, the mischievous advice of those who, for their own temporary and selfish ends, would endeavour to prevent them from coming forward, and exhibiting the proud spectacle of an association of citizens, armed in their own defence.

While I am upon this subject, I consider it my duty to address myself, through you, Gentlemen of the Grand Jury, particularly to the native and coloured inhabitants of this Colony, and to say, that the dispositions of His Majesty's Government towards them, are of the most friendly—the most beneficent kind. They are desirous to support and encourage them, to cultivate the exercise of their abilities, in every way in which they may be made available or useful—and it is, in particular, the anxious wish of the present Secretary of State for the Colonies, Sir George Murray, to put them, in respect to all such employments as they may be found eligible to, upon a footing with the rest of His Majesty's subjects.

But to merit this paternal disposition on the part of His Majesty's Government, it is necessary that the conduct of their fellow-subjects of the mother country should be emulated. The people of England have long had to struggle for the blessings which they enjoy. They have had to struggle for them through a long course of years, and it was only by patience and labour, and a willing obedience to the law, that *they* have elevated themselves to the proud station which they now hold amidst the nations of the world, and acquired the privileges, and that constitution which is at once their safeguard and their pride. In that constitution, and in those privileges, they are willing that the inhabitants of this Colony—who have had no previous labour in their acquirement—should freely participate, upon the simple and easy condition of performing the duties which are required by every State from its subjects and citizens.

And let me add, Gentlemen of the Grand Jury, that it cannot be too strongly impressed upon the inhabitants of this Colony generally, and the native inhabitants in particular, that as it is to their own exertions they must ultimately look for assistance and support, the best mode in which they can evince their gratitude for the favours conferred upon them by the mother country, while they at the same time consult their own best interests, is by putting forth all their own energies, and relying as little as possible upon the aid of others.

Having thus disposed of the preliminary topics to which I deemed it necessary to advert, and accompanied them by comments, not dictated by any spirit of harshness or political feeling, but drawn from me solely by a sense of duty, in the anxious hope that they may make a due and salutary impression, I proceed to call your attention to the state of the Calendar. In it I am sorry to see the names of so many persons accused of serious crimes, and foremost amongst whom appears that of an individual charged with an offence, which until my arrival here, I had imagined must have been unknown in this Colony, however it may unhappily, and to the disgrace of human nature, have spread and flourished elsewhere.

I allude to the case of *Thomas Edward Cowan*, who has been charged in the examinations now before me, with having kidnapped and sold into slavery, a boy named George Leigh, under circumstances, which if they be proved in evidence, mark the case as one of peculiar enormity.

I am aware that in a Colony constituted as this is, where the provisions of British laws—laws applicable to a people in a high state of civilization—are made to extend to a population, the great proportion of whom must necessarily be ignorant of them, from having but recently been rescued from slavery, and not having had the benefit of religious or moral instruction—I am aware that, under such circumstances, great allowances should be made, and that the severity of that law which would fall with justice upon the head of the civilized offender, should be tempered with an extra proportion of mercy in the case of the untutored African.

If, however, it should be proved that the person accused of the atrocious crime of kidnapping, and selling into that slavery from which he himself had been rescued, one of his fellow-men and fellow-countrymen—one who had been a liberated African like himself,—was an individual who could not plead ignorance in excuse, and who took advantage of his situation as a master, to place his servant in the hands of slave dealers—what, I say Gentlemen, can add to his guilt? or what can be pleaded in mitigation of the punishment which the law awards to his offence?

If the facts stated in the examinations be proved to your satisfaction, it will be your bounden duty to return a true bill, and send the prisoner to be tried by a jury of his country, who will have to decide upon his guilt or innocence. You will recollect that you are not the ultimate judges of that fact;—that it is your duty to hear the evidence for the prosecution, and if you think that evidence establishes a probable cause for sending the prisoner to trial, to do so.

Had not this case brought the subject prominently and judicially before me, it is a subject to which I should still have felt it my duty to call your attention; and I request, that what I am now about to say, may obtain the serious attention and consideration, and sink deep into the minds, of all who hear me.

I have heard, and from the source from which my information is derived, I am bound to believe what I should otherwise have deemed incredible—that persons are to be found in this Colony, who, if not directly engaged in, aid and abet the abominable traffic in Slaves. That such persons are to be found, I repeat it, in THIS COLONY—a Colony founded for its suppression, towards whose establishment, and in whose support, so much wealth has been expended, and so many valuable lives sacrificed: and further, that men holding respectable stations,—men having all the outward appearance and show of respectability, are not ashamed

ashamed—I should rather say, are not *afraid*—to lend themselves to this nefarious, this abominable trade!

I say, Gentlemen of the Grand Jury, that it has come to the ears of the Government of this Colony, that such aid and assistance have been afforded in the fitting out of ships well known to be destined for such unlawful traffic; and that vessels have been fitted out from time to time by persons such as I have described, residents of this Colony, for the Gallinas and elsewhere, with the objects and purposes of which it is impossible they could have been unacquainted. We have not as yet had sufficient proof laid before us, to bring the offence home to the guilty. Let me, however, solemnly warn those to whom the imputation applies, that the eye of the Government is upon them; and that, whatever be their station in society, or however great their ill-acquired riches, they shall not, if convicted, escape the severest punishment which the law awards to their offence.

Is it to be tolerated I say, Gentlemen of the Grand Jury, that this Colony, established for the express purpose of suppressing this vile traffic, should be made a mart for carrying it on? Is it to be borne that this harbour, miscalled—if all I have heard and am led to believe be true—the harbour of *Freetown*, should shelter within its bosom, while the British flag waves over its ramparts, vessels, purchased after their condemnation by the Mixed Commission Courts, to make a second and a third experiment in the Slave-trade? to be perhaps again captured by our cruisers, and *again* bought up by the skulking foreigners who prowl about this place, as the one best calculated for their iniquitous purpose?

I have since my arrival here, taken some pains to ascertain the number of liberated Africans imported into this Colony within a given period, as compared with the number now located in the different villages; and although the census of the latter is not quite complete, I have every reason to believe, that whereas there have been imported into the Colony of Sierra Leone within the last ten years, upwards of 22,000 Africans, who have obtained their liberation, and have been located here at the expense of the British Government—an expense, which upon the most moderate calculation, including that of the Civil Establishment of this Colony, and of the Naval and Military force attached to it, together with the sums paid to the higher and subordinate officers of the Mixed Commissions, amounts to 300*l.* per man, or nearly *seven millions sterling*, in the course of ten years—there are not now to be found in the whole Colony above 17,000 or 18,000 men! That this decrease does not arise from any disproportion in the number of births to that of deaths, I need only refer you to the fact, that within the last year, and that one of the most fatal known in the Colony, the proportion of births to deaths was as seven to one. Judging from this ratio, and making every allowance for the necessary casualties, there ought to have been at the present moment, an increase of population to the amount of at least, one-half upon the whole, instead of such a diminution as I have stated. What then is the conclusion to which I come, and to which every honest, unprejudiced, and right-thinking man must come, upon the subject? Why, appalling as the fact may be, and incredible as it must appear to many, that the Slave-trade is either directly carried on, although of course not openly and ostensibly, or that it is aided and abetted in this Colony.

And do those who directly or indirectly deal in, aid, abet or encourage this trade, imagine that the Legislature has not provided an adequate punishment for such conduct? If they do, they are much mistaken; and to prevent any misconception on the subject in future, it becomes my duty to refer them to the 9th and 10th sections of the 5th Geo. 4, cap. 113, by the former of which it is enacted, “That if any subject or subjects of His Majesty, or any person or persons residing or being within any of the dominions, forts, settlements, factories, settlements or territories now or hereafter belonging to His Majesty, shall, after the 1st July 1825, in any haven, river or creek where the Admiral has jurisdiction, knowingly and wilfully carry away, convey or remove any person or persons as a slave or slaves, or *aid* or *assist* in conveying or removing them for the purpose of their being brought into any island, colony or place whatsoever, for the purpose of their being sold, transferred or dealt with as slaves, or shall aid or assist in the shipping or embarking them for such purpose, that such person so offending shall be deemed and adjudged guilty of Piracy, Felony and Robbery, and upon conviction shall suffer death without benefit of clergy, and loss of lands, goods and chattels, as pirates, felons and robbers upon the sea ought to suffer.” By the 10th section it is enacted, “That all persons dealing in, or exporting or importing slaves, or who ship, embark, receive, detain or confine on board, or contract for the shipping on board any ship, vessel or boat, slaves or any other persons, for the purpose of their being dealt with as slaves, or who fit out slave ships, or embark capital in the slave trade, or guarantee slave adventures, or ship goods to be employed in the slave trade;” and further, “That if any person shall serve on board a slave ship as captain, master, mate, surgeon or supercargo, or shall insure slave adventures, he shall be deemed guilty of Felony, and transported beyond the seas for a term not exceeding fourteen years, or be confined to hard labour for a term not exceeding five years, nor less than three years.”

These, Gentlemen, are the penalties which the law awards to the offence; and for myself I will say, that while I have the honour of holding the office of Chief Justice of this Colony, those penalties shall, as far as they depend upon me, be rigorously enforced in every case where the offence is proved. I came here determined to do my duty, and I will never allow it to be said that I lent myself, even by implication, while in the situation which His Majesty has been graciously pleased to bestow upon me, to the continuance of this abominable traffic. And I further say, that it is the duty of every man in this Colony to labour, heart and hand, in putting it down, and in denouncing to the constituted authorities those

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demons in human form, who make the flesh and blood of their fellow-creatures an article of trade, and who *dare* to come into *this Colony* to carry on their odious pursuits.

By an act of generous self-sacrifice, England has relieved herself from the opprobrium of being a party to this trade; and if, through the supineness, indifference, or bad faith of other nations, the benefits which were anticipated, have not been the result—or rather, if there has been a consequent aggravation of the miseries of a system which can only be effectually suppressed by the cordial union and co-operation of *all* civilized nations—England I say, Gentlemen, is not to be blamed for these results. She has done her duty; and it is the duty of every man who has the honour of his country at heart, to act up to the letter and spirit of the laws which she has enacted for the abolition of this trade. Let Spaniards, and Portuguese, and Frenchmen carry on the infamous traffic if they please—let them chuckle over the acquisition of their ill-got wealth, and rejoice that they are enabled with impunity to violate the laws of their own country. Let them beware, however, of coming into our harbours, and within our jurisdiction, to violate our laws. But let Englishmen glory in pursuing the more legitimate avenues to riches;—and to the inhabitants of this Colony in particular I would say, that there are sources of wealth open to them in the lawful trade of the country, which are both easier and safer in their attainment than the produce of any unlawful trade—wealth, which they may enjoy themselves without a pang, and which their descendants may inherit without a blush. To that lawful trade, which I am happy to hear is flourishing, I would recommend all who value themselves and their own safety, to adhere. By the prosecution of it this Colony may still flourish, and be made useful to the Mother Country; but the unlawful traffic to which I allude, will only entail misery and disgrace on those who engage in it either directly or indirectly, and must eventually prove most deeply injurious to the interests of the Colony at large.

There is only one other case in the Calendar of sufficient importance to induce me to draw your attention to it at this moment. It is that of a man who has been committed for an alleged murder, upon evidence which is altogether presumptive. Evidence of this kind, and particularly in cases of murder, must occasionally be admitted; but it is to be viewed with caution, and you will exercise that caution in the present instance. I shall have occasion to address you further in the course of the Sessions; at present, these are all the topics which suggest themselves to my mind as necessary to trouble you with.

And now, Gentlemen of the Grand Jury, before I dismiss you to the performance of those duties which devolve upon you, with the nature of which you must, from experience, be well acquainted, and which you will, I have no doubt, perform in such a manner as to show that you entertain a just sense of their importance, let me once more assure you, that in what I have addressed to you, I have been actuated by no other motive than an earnest desire to discharge my duty under the peculiar circumstances in which I am placed;—that those who obey the laws, and show themselves loyal subjects, will at all times find in me, whilst I remain amongst you, a firm friend and supporter—while those who adopt a contrary line of conduct, will find me equally inflexible in opposing them; and when we meet again, I trust I shall be able to address you in language more congenial to my feelings, and to congratulate you on that which is, at this moment, my most anxious wish—the restoration of peace, harmony and tranquility to the Colony of Sierra Leone.

—No. 2.—

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Secretary Sir *George Murray*,
to Lieutenant-Governor *Findlay*; dated 26 October 1830.

I HAVE read with the greatest concern, and with no less surprize, the statements made in Mr. Jeffcott's Charge to the Grand Jury, respecting the prevalence of the Slave Trade in the Colony under your Government. However painful and unexpected may be the result at which the Chief Justice has arrived, he will deserve the utmost commendation for his discernment in detecting these offences, and for his zeal in bringing the criminals to justice, if it shall ultimately appear that his suspicions are well founded. If, on the other hand, he has delivered from the Bench, and communicated to the Public at large, representations substantially erroneous, upon a question of so much national as well as local importance, although I might even in that event be disposed to acknowledge his zeal, I should have very deeply to lament that it had not been tempered by more discretion. It is almost superfluous to remark, that an officer holding the high and responsible situation of Chief Justice, could not, without extreme inconvenience and impropriety, give the sanction of his name and station to public charges, affecting the character of the whole society and the reputation of every preceding Governor or Judge, upon light or doubtful grounds. I am the rather induced to make these remarks at present, because I must confess that Mr. Jeffcott's statements carry with them the appearance of much exaggeration and improbability.

In the first place, he has represented that the number of Africans imported into
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the Colony, and liberated by the Mixed Commission Courts, within the last ten years, exceeds 22,000; and that from 1808 to 1829, the number of Africans liberated by the Court of Vice Admiralty, is 13,000; this would give a total of 35,000 souls. Now the Official Returns transmitted to this Department, are imperfectly made out; they do not include the year 1829. But assuming the numbers imported in that year to have been 2,500, which is nearly the average of the three preceding years, it would appear, from the Returns in this Office, that the total number of liberated Africans, from the year 1808 to the present time, whether condemned by the Court of Vice Admiralty, or by the Mixed Commission Courts, is not 35,000, as Mr. Jeffcott has stated, but only 28,481. The difference is 7,519. I observe also, that in the 20th page of the printed Report of the Commissioners of Inquiry, the number of imported Africans, up to December 1825, is stated at 17,833—a statement altogether incompatible with Mr. Jeffcott's supposition, that in May 1830 they amounted to 35,000.

Thus, then, I cannot but suppose, that the Judge has much exaggerated, of course unintentionally, the Total number of Africans delivered into the charge of His Majesty's Officers at Sierra Leone; it is, I think, not less evident that he has overrated the rule of increase by births.

His statement is, that within one of the most fatal years known in the Colony, the proportions of births to deaths was as seven to one; and reasoning upon this fact, he conceives that the whole imported population ought to have increased by one-half, so as to give 52,500 souls for the population of liberated Africans and their progeny, which the Colony ought now to contain. I apprehend, however, that such a rate of increase is utterly at variance with the results of general experience, and with the Returns from Sierra Leone itself. There is, I conceive, no part of the globe in which, under the most favourable circumstances, the rate of increase approaches nearly to that on which Mr. Jeffcott reasons.

Thus, at the Cape of Good Hope, the Returns in this Office show the births to be in the proportion of $1\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 death per annum. At Malta, the proportion in favour of births is as $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 per annum. In New South Wales, the births annually exceed the deaths in the proportion of $1\frac{1}{7}$ to 1. To suppose that in a population so ill assorted as is that of Sierra Leone, in which the number of males so greatly exceed the females, and when the persons in question have been recently delivered from the holds of Slave ships, with all the wretchedness and disease incident to that situation, the population should annually increase in the ratio of 7 births to 1 death, is an assumption to which it is quite impossible to assent, and which it is difficult to understand how Mr. Jeffcott himself could have admitted.

But the Returns of births and deaths transmitted to this Department are no less opposed to Mr. Jeffcott's conclusions. The evidence they give of the fecundity of the African race is, indeed, sufficiently remarkable. In 1828, the births exceeded the deaths in the proportion of $2\frac{7}{8}$ to 1, and in 1829 in the proportion of $2\frac{4}{5}$ to 1; this, though very remote from the proportions assumed by Mr. Jeffcott, is still so opposite to all ordinary experience, that I cannot regard the Returns to which I have referred, without much distrust of their accuracy. I find that at the Gambia the births exceeded the deaths only in the proportion of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 in the year 1829. I am aware of no reason which would justify the supposition that the Gambia is less congenial to African constitutions than Sierra Leone, or more unfriendly to the multiplication of Africans by natural increase.

In estimating the deduction from the stock of imported Africans, Mr. Jeffcott makes no allowance for the obvious defects in the Returns, and the impossibility under which he laboured, at the time of making his Charge, of ascertaining the existing numbers with precision. Neither does he advert to voluntary emigrations from the Colony, nor to the enlistments for the King's Military Service, as causes for diminishing the numbers of the imported Africans. He is entirely silent also respecting the destructive effect upon the lives of these people, which is known to result from their sufferings during the period of their detention in Slave ships. Had allowance been made for these circumstances, Mr. Jeffcott might perhaps have found cause to hesitate in declaring his conviction from the Bench, that, but for the Slave Trade practised in the Colony, the actual population would have been 30,000 at least greater than it is.

I have thought it right thus to record the grounds of my present distrust of the views of the Judge, in justice to the memory of the several Officers who have formerly administered the affairs of the Colony, and who are directly implicated in the censure which the published Charge to the Jury conveys. I am, however,

most anxious that every practicable method should be taken for ascertaining the truth. With that view, you will immediately constitute a Commission or Board of Inquiry, at which you will yourself preside, assisted by the Chief Justice, the Advocate-General and such of His Majesty's Commissary Judges, or Judges of Arbitration under the Treaties with Foreign Powers, as may be able to render you their assistance.

You will add to the Commission any other persons whose co-operation you may deem useful, and who may themselves be entirely exempt from every suspicion of participation or connivance in the alleged infractions of the law. In virtue of the powers entrusted to you by His Majesty's Charter and Commission, you will propose to the Council the enactment of any such Ordinances as may be necessary to render the proposed Inquiry efficient. You will then, without any needless delay, proceed to investigate the truth of the imputations contained in Mr. Jeffcott's published Charge; and at the earliest possible period, you will transmit to me the Report of the Commissioners, with the whole of the evidence on which it may be founded.

In the mean time, I can only urge you to proceed with the utmost vigilance in bringing to justice the individuals whom Mr. Jeffcott has already indicated as being engaged in the perpetration of these crimes. However much I may feel myself bound to withhold my assent to the general view of this subject taken by the Chief Justice, it has unhappily been placed beyond dispute that, to some extent, Slave-trading has been carried on at Sierra Leone.

—No. 3.—

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Findlay*,
to Viscount *Goderich*; dated Sierra Leone, 29 June 1831.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, in obedience to instructions contained in the Right Honourable Sir George Murray's Letter addressed to me, under date of the 26th October 1830, I issued a Commission, bearing date 3d January 1831, authorizing the persons therein named to inquire into and report upon the allegations set forth in his Honour Chief Justice Jeffcott's public Charge to the Grand Jury, at the General Quarter Sessions held in this Colony in May and June 1830. I have now the honour of forwarding to your Lordship, that Commission, with the Commissioners Report, and the whole of the Evidence taken before them, on the various subjects to which the Chief Justice's Charge to the Grand Jury referred.

I regret much the delay which has taken place in forwarding the proceedings of this Inquiry, which has been owing to the want of sufficient assistance in the various departments to carry on the ordinary duties, and to make out the fair copies. I shall refrain from making any observations on the proceedings of the Inquiry, as your Lordship will, on perusing the Evidence, be the best judge whether or not the Chief Justice had sufficient grounds for the observations he made in his Charge to the Grand Jury.

WILLIAM the Fourth, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, &c. &c. &c.

TO Our trusty and well-beloved Alexander Findlay, Our Lieutenant-Governor of Our Colony of Sierra Leone; to Our trusty and well-beloved John William Jeffcott, Our Chief Justice of Our said Colony; to Our trusty and well-beloved John Samo, Our Advocate of Our said Colony; to Our trusty and well-beloved William Smith, esquire, Our Judge of Arbitration at Sierra Leone, under the treaties with Foreign Powers for the abolition of the Slave-trade; to Our trusty and well-beloved Walter William Lewis, Member of Council of Our said Colony; to Our trusty and well-beloved James Boyle, esquire; and to Our trusty and well-beloved Henry Rishton, esquire, Colonial Secretary of Our said Colony, Greeting: Whereas it hath been deemed expedient that an Investigation be had of and concerning certain matters published in a Charge delivered by Our Chief Justice to the Grand Inquest for Our Colony of Sierra Leone, at a Sessions of Oyer and Terminer, holden in Our said Colony, in the months of May and June last past; and for the better ascertaining the grounds of the various statements contained in the aforesaid Charge: Know ye, that We reposing especial trust and confidence in the integrity and careful circumspection of you
Our

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Our said Lieutenant-Governor of Our said Colony, you Our said Chief Justice of Our said Colony, you Our said Advocate of Our said Colony, you Our said Judge of Arbitration of Our said Colony, you the said Walter William Lewis, esquire, Member of Council of Our said Colony, and you the said James Boyle, esquire, have constituted and appointed you or any three of you (whereof Our said Lieutenant-Governor always be one,) Our Commissioners, to enquire by such ways, means and methods, according to the best of your knowledge and ability, of the truth of all matters and things asserted in the above-mentioned Charge delivered by Our said Chief Justice as aforesaid; which in any ways refer to the prevalence of the Slave trade, the Number of Africans hitherto brought into Our said Colony for Emancipation, and the annual rates of Mortality and Fecundity in that Class of Persons; and to summon and examine upon oath (which oath We do hereby empower you or either of you to administer) such persons as you may deem necessary. And we do give and grant unto you Our said Commissioners respectively, full power and authority to search, examine or call for copies of all public documents or records, touching or in anywise concerning the premises, in whosoever custody the same may be deposited within Our said Colony, hereby commanding all officers and ministers, Our faithful and liege subjects whomsoever, in the execution of the premises, that they be helping, favouring and assisting and yielding obedience to you and every of you in all things that are fitting. And We do hereby require that you fail not to reduce into writing a full true and perfect Report of all your proceedings; and, the same being complete, that you transmit such Report, subscribed by you, to Our Principal Secretary of State for Our Colonies, together with these presents. Witness Our trusty and well beloved Alexander Findlay, Our Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Our Colony of Sierra Leone, at Freetown, the Third day of January, in the First Year of Our Reign.

By a Despatch from the Right Honourable Sir George Murray, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated at Downing-street the Twenty-sixth-day of October, in the First Year of the Reign of His Most Gracious Majesty.

(signed)

Alex. Findlay,
Lieutenant-Governor.

By His Excellency's command.

(signed)

Henry Rishton,
Colonial Secretary.

To the Right Honourable Lord Viscount *Goderich*, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, &c. &c. &c.

The REPORT of the Committee of Enquiry constituted in and by the Despatch of the Right Honourable Sir George Murray, late His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for War and the Colonies; dated 26th October 1830;—

Humbly showeth,

That with reference to the first object to which the attention of this Committee is called, viz. "The Statement that the Number of Africans imported into the Colony, and liberated " by the Mixed Commission Courts, exceeds 22,000." It appears to this Committee, from the official Return produced, that the number of Africans received by the Liberated African Department from the Mixed Commission Court, to the 31st May 1830, is 23,539; and that the number emancipated in that Court is 22,422, leaving a balance of 1,117, who have been received by the Liberated African Department without emancipation.

That with reference to the second object of this Committee's attention, viz. "That from " 1808 to 1829, the Number of Africans liberated by the Court of Vice-Admiralty, is 13,000." It would appear by the Return produced by the Registrar of that Court, that the number is only 12,114; it therefore appears that an error of 886, has been made in this statement. But it will further appear by the Returns of the Registrars of the Mixed Commission and Vice-Admiralty Courts, that the collective number who have been liberated in the Colony, exceeds the number stated in the Charge of Chief Justice Jeffcott to the Grand Jury, in June 1830, by 653; and by the Returns of Mr. Thomas Cole, the Assistant Superintendent of Liberated Africans, it is further apparent that 37,456 have been received by that department, exceeding the number stated in the Charge, by 2,456.

That with reference to the third object of the Committee's attention, viz. "That it is evident that the Chief Justice has overstated the rate of increase by Births." The Committee beg to refer to the evidence of the Chief Justice (page 28), in which an explanation will appear.

The Committee have to regret, that they cannot, with reference to the actual and comparative rates of fecundity and mortality, procure any definite evidence; the Returns which have been presented to them being very imperfect, no records having been kept in some of the villages prior to the 1st January 1827, and even since that period being very imperfect, from circumstances detailed in the Evidence and Returns. But even admitting the deaths to be more than the births, still the great deficiency, in the opinion of the Committee, is chiefly attributable to the system of kidnapping which has prevailed for so many years.

That with reference to the fourth object to which the attention of the Committee is directed, viz. "That the Chief Justice does not advert to voluntary Emigrations from the " Colony, nor to the Enlistments for the King's Military Service, as causes for diminishing " the numbers of the imported Africans." This Committee have to remark upon the first point, that the evidence relative thereto, is very contradictory. Mr. Thomas Cole, however,

ever, from his official situation, and the nature of his duties in the Liberated African Department, is more likely to be correct in his evidence on this point, than any other person in the Colony can be; and the Committee therefore beg to refer particularly to his evidence (page 25).

With reference to the Enlistments, the number will appear in Mr. Thomas Cole's returns.

The Committee have to submit, that they have called before them such persons of all classes, as they were of opinion could afford them most correct information; and from the evidence adduced, the Committee cannot but conclude that the nefarious system of kidnapping has prevailed in this Colony, to a much greater extent than was even alluded to in the Charge of the Chief Justice to the Grand Jury in June 1830, as will fully appear in the evidence adduced.

The Committee have further to submit, that while the actual system of kidnapping has principally prevailed among the Mandingo tribes and liberated Africans themselves (who seem, in many instances, to have but little gratitude for the favours conferred upon them by the British Government), they cannot refrain from remarking, that great facility has at the same time been afforded to the increase of the Slave-trade by the British merchants of the Colony, who have purchased vessels condemned in the Mixed Commission Court, as agents for foreigners; which vessels have afterwards been brought into the Colony and again condemned, for a repeated infraction of the Slave-trade Abolition Act. The Committee here refer to the evidence of Messrs. Smith and Lewis (pages 16 and 26), Hook (page 15), and William Cole (page 20) as well as to the return of the latter gentleman.

With reference to this subject, the Committee have to express their regret that some very recent instances have occurred, in which persons of apparent respectability, have been charged with aiding and abetting the Slave-trade, as will appear from the evidence annexed.

The Committee in conclusion, feel it their duty to refer particularly to the Return of the Clerk of the Crown and Police; from which it will appear, that during the ten years preceeding the year 1830, although numerous cases of persons charged with the offence of kidnapping, had become the subject of investigation, only one person had been convicted of the offence; and that during the last ten months, not less than thirteen convictions have taken place.

All which, this Committee beg most humbly to submit, &c.

(signed)

Alex' Findlay, Lieut' Governor.

J. W. Jeffcott, Chief Justice.

J. Boyle, Col' Surgⁿ.

Henry Rishton, Col. Sec^y.

Sierra Leone,
17 March 1831.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
Walter William Lewis and *James Boyle*, Esquires.

Government House, 7th January 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared Mrs. *Maria Macfoy*, who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That she was in the Soosoo country last February (1830), where she met with Siacca, one of the chiefs of the country, with whom she had a conversation, but not particularly relative to liberated Africans or Slave Trade. Siacca did not reside in the same village at which she was residing; she went to pay him a visit, as he was an old friend of her father. In the course of the conversation, Siacca inquired about things at Sierra Leone, of which he was ignorant, not having been at Sierra Leone for many years; he said he understood that trade was very bad, and that they were selling each other. To this she answered, she had not heard of it.

Having heard these remarks from Siacca, and on her return to the Colony having found that so many slave traders had been discovered, she supposed that the Slave trade was carried on to a great extent. She has kept the school at Wellington for ten years; never missed any of the girls during that time; some of the children have been decoyed by their country people, but the object of the decoy was not known, and after a few days' search, they have generally been found. If any liberated Africans have been taken away from Wellington it is not known, and they have never been returned.

At the time Sir Charles M'Carthy returned from England she had generally 30 or 40 scholars; they were all large girls, and, as they were married, their places were filled up by others.

She did not understand the Chief Siacca to say, that what he stated in the conversation before mentioned, was from his own knowledge, but that he had heard it. She has no doubt that Siacca himself keeps slaves.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
Walter William Lewis and *James Boyle*, Esquires.

Government House, 7th January 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared the Rev. *C. L. F. Harnsell*, who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That the Church Missionary Society have no means of keeping a correct register of births and deaths; he produced a Statement,

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Statement, kept by the Rev. J. G. Wilhelm, of the births and deaths at the liberated African village of Waterloo, from the year 1819 to the year 1825.

He stated, that baptism was not administered indiscriminately by the members of the Church Missionary Society; it was generally refused where the sponsors were not communicants, unless under very extraordinary circumstances. He has never heard any facts of children being kidnapped, but has heard reports. He heard of a man at Regent, about four to six months ago, having attempted to entice away a boy from the school at that settlement, but he was unsuccessful, and he was taken into custody. The number of children under instruction is expressed in an Annual Return, which is transmitted to the Church Missionary Society. A daily account of the number of children attending school, is kept at some of the schools.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
Walter William Lewis and James Boyle, Esquires.

Government House, 7th January 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared Mr. *Benjamin Campbell*, who having been duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposes and saith, He is aware that the system of kidnapping has prevailed in this Colony for the last 5 (five) years, and latterly to a very great extent. Recollects "*La Doceur*," a French cutter, which was seized at the Isles de Loss, by Mr. Percival. This Deponent went on board with Mr. Percival, and was recognised by two boys, who stated they belonged to Mr. K. Macaulay. This Deponent communicated the circumstance to the Colonial Government, but does not know what steps, if any, were taken to investigate the matter, or to discover the kidnapper. At this period Deponent resided at the Isles de Loss. Knows that three years ago the people of the Rio Pongas were in the habit of coasting, that they were well supplied with liberated Africans from the Colony: he spoke generally of this circumstance to persons in the Colony, and among others, to the late Mr. Kenneth Macaulay, the senior member of Council. He mentioned it likewise to Major Ricketts when Lieutenant-Governor. On his late visit to the Rio Pongas, he made many inquiries to ascertain to what extent this kidnapping system prevailed, and the result has led him to believe that if he stated the annual export from that river, during the last three years to have been 250 (two hundred and fifty) liberated Africans, the average would not be exaggerated.

Deponent was informed by a Chief, upon whose credit he can rely, that at that period John Ormond had about 70 (seventy) and Jousiffe (a white man, a subject of this Colony) had upwards of 20 (twenty) liberated Africans at their factories in the Rio Pongas;—there are about five or six other slave factories in that river, who, of course, have their proportion of liberated Africans. The same Chief informed this Deponent, that a man named Suree Gaboo (now in gaol on a charge of slave dealing) had been in the constant habit of taking with him from Sierra Leone five, six and seven liberated Africans at a time, and disposing of them in the country.

Deponent has reason to believe that John Ormond has a slave factory at Magbelly, in the river Sierra Leone, out of the jurisdiction of the Colony, and that a constant communication is kept up with canoes between the rivers Sierra Leone and Pongas. During the last rains Deponent met with the Resident at the factory he alludes to, and taxed him with being Ormond's agent, and being there for the purpose of slave dealing, which he did not deny. Deponent is not aware whether liberated Africans are shipped from the Sherbro, Scarcies, Malacary, &c.

Deponent is of opinion that a great number of liberated Africans are sent to the Gallinas for the purpose of being sold; and supposed the average to be about the same as he has already stated for the Rio Pongas. Deponent does not know of this of his own knowledge, but from report; and he is further led to believe it, from his knowledge of sums of money being brought up from the Gallinas to Sierra Leone, as returns for the exports. Deponent knows that the slave vessels are in the habit of bringing specie for the purpose of procuring goods; Deponent knows one instance. Mr. Hilary Teage, who resides at the American settlement of Liberia, at Cape Mensurado, near the Gallinas, and who trades between that place and the Colony of Sierra Leone, when purchasing some goods from a Mr. Lake, a merchant in the Colony, produced a bag containing about one thousand dollars (H 1,000) on which was marked the name of the Spanish schooner "*Manzanares*." This vessel took in her cargo at the Gallinas, and was subsequently (in the month of May 1830) condemned in the Courts of Mixed Commissions.

Deponent believes the practice of kidnapping liberated Africans to have very much increased in the Colony during the last twelve months, owing to the impunity with which it has been carried on for many years. The practice is principally carried on by the Mandingoes, and by the liberated Africans themselves.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
and *James Boyle, Esquire.*

Government House, 20th January 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared Mr. *William Henry Savage*, who having been duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposes and saith, That he has been in this Colony for upwards of twenty-one years. During the government of the late Sir Charles M'Carthy,

this Deponent was sent to the Sherbro with a civil and military force, and brought back with him 115 (one hundred and fifteen) liberated Africans, who had been sold into slavery. The generality of liberated Africans formerly brought into this Colony for emancipation were the Jaloofs, Bassa Sherbros, Cussoos, Soosoos, and Inhabitants of the nations near the Colony. It is only within these few years that the Ackoos, and others from the Bight of Benin, have been captured and brought in. The former, viz. the Jaloofs, Bassas, &c. it has fallen under Deponent's observation, were not in the first instance carried away from the Colony as slaves, but were induced by their country people to return to their native country with them; and if any palaver was brought against them, as no doubt there would, there is no doubt they were resold—being told that once having been a slave they had forfeited their rights.

Deponent is aware that a great number of liberated Africans have been kidnapped and carried away by Mandingoes; many instances came to his knowledge during the six years he held the situation of Clerk of Police. Deponent has no doubt that four or five hundred liberated Africans might be recovered by means of a secret mission to the Mandingo country, conducted by a person possessing local information, and a knowledge of the native languages. There is not a slave town in Mandingo country, in which Deponent does not believe there are some liberated Africans. Deponent has now in his employ a liberated African, a native of Papaw, from whom he obtained information that he was offered a passage to Tasso, by some Mandingo men, who stated they were going to Baner Island, but instead of proceeding there, they carried him to his own country. Whilst detained there, this man saw numbers of liberated Africans. It is about eleven months since this occurred. This man escaped from the Mandingoes, and ran to some Kroomen, who were trading in the country. The Kroomen carried him to the King, by whom he was liberated, and allowed to return to the Colony. The Mandingo men have been recognised and apprehended. There are a number of idle boys, who run away from their villages, or who having been confined in gaol, do not wish to remain in their villages, who are picked up by the Mandingoes and their agents, and are carried away into the country.

Deponent does not think that liberated Africans are carried away from this to the Gallinas as slaves; but there are instances of their being induced to go as labourers, and then sold; but in Deponent's opinion many more are carried to the Mandingo country than to the Gallinas. The persons engaged in this kidnapping trade are persons of the lowest character, principally liberated Africans themselves. A vast number of liberated Africans become Mahomedans, adopt the Mahomedan dress, and settle near Mahomedan villages; these men are made use of to entrap others; Deponent knows many of them.

Deponent believes this system has of late materially increased, particularly since the Government subsistence has been allowed them for a much shorter period than formerly, by which they have been thrown upon their own resources earlier than used to be the case. Deponent does not think so much care has been bestowed on their location and confinement to one place. Formerly, if a liberated African left his settlement, a constable was sent after him to bring him back. There were also extensive works going on in the several liberated African villages, which was an inducement to them to remain in their settlements.

Deponent thinks that the population has actually decreased during the last seven years, arising from the causes mentioned and from deaths. Among the old resided liberated Africans, the births are far more than the deaths; but among the whole liberated African population the deaths are no doubt considerably beyond the births. Deponent makes this observation from his own experience, having been employed several times in taking the census of the population. The last census he took in 1825, or beginning of 1826, to the best of his recollection. It is a custom among all Africans to remove from the place where they are taken sick, in order to guard against witchcraft, which may account for the difficulty in ascertaining the correct number of deaths. There are also a great many followers of the Parrah, which is a species of freemasonry or secret society. These persons, in order to perform their rites, are obliged to retire from the Colony.

They are in great numbers, amounting to several thousands. They have no known periods (fixed) for performing their rites; they communicate with each other by secret signals. This circumstance may account for the difficulty or total impossibility of taking a correct census. The small pox, some few years back; occasioned many deaths, and numbers of those who died, Deponent is of opinion were never known.

Sir Charles Macarthy took great interest in recovering the liberated Africans who were kidnapped. The succeeding Governors were so short a period in office, and their local knowledge was so small, that they were not enabled to exert themselves so much as Sir Charles Macarthy. Deponent is not aware of any instance in which representations have been made to the Government, and been neglected, but quite the reverse. Prosecutions were seldom adopted, the people not being so daring as they are now grown.

The Portuguese from Bessao and Cacheo come to the Scarcies and neighbouring rivers at stated periods of the year, on the plea of purchasing Colas, and then purchase numbers of liberated Africans, among other slaves who they carry away.

Deponent is of opinion, that the imperfect education given to the African by the Missionaries, instead of being of use, makes them idle and proud; and that those who have received such education, sooner than work, would not scruple to commit any improper act, to gain means of ministering to their pride.

In Sir Neil Campbell's government Deponent was sent on a mission to recover (49) forty-nine men, who had been seized in the Sherbro by General Turner, but who had never been adjudicated. These people, in the absence of General Turner, were carried from the Colony

Colony. Deponent was furnished with a commission to follow them, and bring them back; they were recovered, and afterwards adjudicated.

Deponent has no doubt that a secret mission would be the means of recovering (4 or 500) four or five hundred liberated Africans who have been kidnapped, at a very small expense.

It has come to Deponent's knowledge, that Mandingoes have come down here with rice and bullocks; these have been sold for money, and with this cash they have induced the liberated Africans to procure them their own countrymen for slaves, and have openly paid them for them.

If the sovereignty of the Sherbro had been retained, and establishments been formed there to protect our own traders in the prosecution of their legitimate trade, Deponent is of opinion it would have been the sure means of checking the Slave trade.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 20th January 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared Mr. *John Mac Cormack*, who having been duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposed and saith, That during the administration of Sir Neil Campbell, he received information that some liberated African boys and some native boys had been kidnapped by some Mandingoes from the Sand Beach, near the Merchants Powder Magazine, and carried to the Mandingo country. Deponent sent over messengers to the Mandingo chiefs, and recovered two of the boys; afterwards, through the assistance of Dalla Mahommadoo, Deponent recovered five others. The eldest boy was about fourteen years of age, the youngest about seven. One of them stated, that when at the Fish Market in Freetown, a person asked him to carry home a bunch of fish to a house in Gibraltar Town. The boy consented, and when he arrived at the house, he went into the kitchen; he was seized, and carried to a canoe. The Mandingoes who carried him, put something over his mouth, which contracted his lips, and prevented his making any noise. The boy could not recognize the house; he told Deponent, that he had seen two others who had been carried away at the same time with him; one of them was Deponent's own servant. This boy was a Timmanee, not a liberated African. During the time Deponent lived at Tombo (an island in the River Sierra Leone, upon which Deponent has a timber factory) he had frequent opportunities of recovering boys who had been kidnapped. Deponent was the better enabled to do this from his knowledge of the native languages. In some cases boys knowing this Deponent to be in the native towns, have escaped to him, and claimed his protection.

Some of the liberated Africans are marked in a peculiar manner, similar to a Mahomedan nation called the Bamarras. These frequently go into the country, and adopt the Mandingo dress and religion. This class have come more particularly under Deponent's observation. These persons come down to Freetown in canoes, and are not easily distinguished from those whose national habits and dress they have assumed. Numbers of idle liberated African boys are seen prowling about the banks of the river. The class of men before mentioned make up to these boys, and representing their bettered condition, the excellent manner in which they are treated, and by their good clothing, prevail upon these boys to accompany them. When they arrive in the native towns, a sham attack is made upon them whilst they are eating; the decoyed boys are made slaves of, while their entrappers are allowed to escape. This mode was described to Deponent, by one of the boys brought down to him to Tombo, and agrees with description given by certain of the Timmanee Chiefs. The number recovered by this Deponent since 1816, cannot be less than 25 or 26. Deponent generally represented this to the Colonial Government, but no steps were taken to recover the captured people, or punish their kidnappers, with the exception of Sir Neil Campbell, by whom two or three messengers were sent into the Mandingo country.

Deponent thinks that particular tribes of the liberated Africans do decrease. Those liberated Africans who have been taken in the wars between the Timmanees, Sherbroas, Bulloms, Soosoos, Cussoos, Loccas, Annullas and Korankas, (*i. e.*) in the neighbourhood of the Colony, and who have not been sold for slaves for any crime, on their emancipation, universally voluntarily return to their native country. Of these there are great numbers. Several have returned with the sanction of the Government. Several gold traders, who were on their way to the Gambia for trade, were seized by a nation in the neighbourhood of Bessoo, and sold. They were afterwards captured by His Majesty's squadron, and emancipated. They all of them returned to their native country, and several of them have been in this Colony with cargoes of gold. Deponent agrees with Mr. William Henry Savage as to the benefits which would have resulted from the retention of the sovereignty of the Sherbro.

In 1828, one Henry Ackim was prosecuted to conviction for slave trading. Deponent is aware there were others, but cannot particularize them, or state the extent of the enquiry.

Deponent believes that the system of kidnapping has latterly partly proceeded from a spirit of retaliation, several slaves belonging to a Chief having been taken by the late Mr. Johnson. Deponent believes the system of kidnapping has greatly increased in the Colony of late years. One of the reasons, in his opinion, is the short period the liberated Africans are now subsisted by the Government. They are from this circumstance compelled to wander about for subsistence and thus easily become a prey to their countrymen

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and others. Deponent thinks, that if a person were to walk as far as the Cape, (a distance of six or seven miles) at night, he might meet about twenty such. As an instance, Captain Webb, of His Majesty's Sloop, *Medina*, met one the other evening, and brought him to the Liberated African Department.

Many of the apprentices run away from their masters and mistresses in consequence of harsh treatment, and many rather walk than go back to them; and for fear, would allow themselves to be carried to any place voluntarily, even to be made slaves of again. Deponent has known many instances in which great cruelty has been practised towards apprentices. Indeed most of the masters consider them merely as their slaves. Deponent considers that the number of males bears a proportion to the females of three to one, which prevents an increase of births over deaths. Another reason of the decrease is, the wretched state in which they are when landed from the slave ships.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, The King's Advocate,
and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 21st January 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared Mr. *Duncan Noble*, who having been sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposes and saith, That he recollects a woman coming to him in the month of September 1828, who stated that her son had been stolen away from her and carried over to the Mandingo country. That she had been there and seen him. That her son informed her, that he knew the man who sold him, and told her his name, which Deponent forgets. Deponent gave a warrant to apprehend the man, who was taken and brought before the Grand Jury, which was sitting at the time. There did not appear sufficient evidence before them, and Deponent believes he was detained until further evidence could be produced against him. The woman informed Deponent, a few months ago, that she had not recovered her son. Deponent will find the woman and bring her before the Board.

Deponent believes that the Slave trade is carried on principally by the Foulahs and Mandingoes who resort to this Colony. Many of these people reside here for months, some for years; and it does not appear probable to Deponent, that the small quantity of gold or produce they bring down could support them during that period. Deponent therefore infers that many of them subsist by kidnapping the liberated Africans and selling them to the slave dealers in the surrounding rivers. Deponent has no direct evidence to prove this; he gives it as his opinion. He is also of opinion, that the Slave trade is aided by the facility given to slave-dealers in purchasing vessels condemned in the Court of Mixed Commission. The usual way of disposing of these vessels is by public auction; and it would seem as of little consequence whether the purchasers are slave-dealers or no, provided they give the highest price.

Deponent is induced to believe this, from being informed that the same vessels, although under different names, have been occasionally condemned in that Court. Deponent refers to the Records of that Court to ascertain whether the "Prince of Guinea," "The Hoop," or "Hope," "The Corsair," and all other vessels, have not been disposed of in this manner.

Deponent's opinion is, that the vessels should be destroyed immediately after they are condemned, and thus put it out of the power of any man to make a bad use of them.

Deponent believes the liberated Africans to be in the habit of selling each other. The evidence adduced during the last General Quarter Sessions of the Peace amply proves this.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 21st January 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared Mr. *John Dean Lake*, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposes and saith, That no Slaving transactions have taken place in the Colony, to his personal knowledge, except those which have been publicly brought before the Courts of Justice. Thinks, from what he has heard in these Courts, that the Slave trade is increasing. Deponent is of opinion that this increase is not owing to the apathy of former Governors, but that it arises in a great measure from the altered circumstances of the people.

The Government not now, as formerly, having so many works carrying on, by reason of which the liberated Africans who were employed upon them, have not the means of procuring the luxuries they formerly could obtain—nor have they the means of procuring a comfortable maintenance for their families; they are thus easily induced to resort to any means to obtain money.

Deponent believes this system of kidnapping has prevailed more particularly, and increased for the last three years, since the government of Sir Neil Campbell, from the before-mentioned cause.

Deponent has reason to believe, from the evidence adduced upon the several trials, that a great number of liberated Africans are kidnapped from the Colony, and that a great number are carried down to the Sherbro.

It has never come to Deponent's knowledge, that the captains or owners of Slave vessels trading to the adjacent rivers, are in the habit of sending to this Colony for goods to assort their purchase cargoes. Deponent, from being attached to the Courts of Mixed Commissions,

IN THE COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE.

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missions, is aware of the nature of the cargoes brought by the Slave vessels. Deponent has heard and believes, that at the Gallinas money is the principal article with which Slaves are purchased. There is a circumstance which more strongly induces him to believe this to be the case; Deponent believes the "Mauzanares" brought specie. Deponent had a mercantile transaction with a Mr. Hilary Teage, an American subject residing at Liberia. This Mr. Teage is in the habit of purchasing goods in this Colony, which he takes down to Liberia for sale, where a great many of the articles he purchases are in demand. Mr. Teage, in paying Mr. Lake for some goods, took the money from a bag containing about \$1,000. (one thousand dollars.) The word "Mauzanares" was marked on this bag. This circumstance struck him from the singularity of the word. Deponent has every reason to believe this bag came out of this vessel, she having been brought into this harbour subsequently and condemned in the Court of Mixed Commissions, where it was proved that she had taken in her cargo at the Gallinas.

A direct trade (chiefly confined to the class of persons called Maroon and Nova Scotian settlers) has, to Deponent's knowledge, been carried on to the Gallinas for the last nine years.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 21st January 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared Mr. *John Jackson*, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposed and saith, That last June he went down to the Gallinas; he passed Seabar, and went to a town called Yerri, when he saw five liberated African boys in chains. There were a great many slaves, but only four of them were liberated Africans, as Deponent believes. Went in and made inquiry why these boys were chained. The boys told him, "Some Sierra Leone people had sold them." Deponent asked, "Who the people were?" was informed that two of them had been sold by Samuel Wilson,* and the other three by Peter Jordan.† They were sold to a Frenchman by name Serraquai, to whom Deponent went and asked him, "If he did not know that they were King's boys?" Serraquai said, he knew they belonged to Sierra Leone, but he had purchased them. Deponent asked him where he had purchased them, and was told at Seabar.

Serraquai asked Deponent if he wanted them; Deponent said he had no money to buy them, but he would go and inquire about them. Serraquai told him if he wanted them, he must give him \$50. (fifty dollars) each, and he should have them. Deponent had no further conversation on the subject, but went to the Gallinas to trade. When his trade was made, he returned to Sierra Leone, and told the Colonial Secretary, by Mr. Parker's directions.

About two days afterwards he was sent for by the Colonial Secretary, who told him the Governor wished him to go down to the place, with Mr. Frederick Campbell. After receiving presents, he proceeded to the Bananas, from whence Mr. Campbell and he went down to Yerri. On their way down they heard that war had broken out at Seabar, and that the Frenchman, Serraquai, and the five boys had been driven away by it; that the boys were taken into the country. They went to Bendoo, where the war people were, and inquired for the boys. The Chief told them the next day, that he had recovered four out of the five, but that the other had run away. The boys were not then given to them, but the Chief promised to send them to York Island, where Deponent and Mr. Campbell lodged. Stopped there a fortnight where, in consequence of some disagreement, he left Mr. Campbell.

Deponent chiefly trades to the Gallinas; he believes the Slave trade to be the principal trade there. He (Deponent) trades there for country cloths, ivory, &c. The persons trading from hence to the Gallinas, occasionally take rice from the Sherbro to the Gallinas, which they sell to the country people, and receive country cloths in exchange.

There are several Sierra Leone people living at the Gallinas; does not know if they intend to return. Saw there Isaac Jackson, (a settler) George Thomas (formerly a schoolmaster in the employ of the Church Missionary Society) and Thomas Rhodes. These three persons have been a long time in the Gallinas. It is some time since they were in the Colony. They live among the inhabitants of the Gallinas, who are Slave dealers. Never saw them employed in any trade at the Gallinas. There are many more persons belonging to Sierra Leone at the Gallinas.

Pedro Blanco and Rameau are the principal Slave dealers at the Gallinas; he believes them to be Spaniards.

Deponent was at the Gallinas last November.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 21st January 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared Mr. *Logan Hook*, the Collector of Customs, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposed and saith, That he has been in
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* Samuel Wilson was prosecuted to conviction at the Special Sessions held in 1831.

† Peter Jordan was taken and chained, but in the night, attempting to escape by swimming over the river, he was drowned. His body was found the next morning and recognized.

the Colony for thirteen years, during the whole of which period he believes the system of kidnapping has prevailed. Deponent does not recollect any particular circumstances, but founds his statement on general report, and the several investigations which have taken place at the Police Office. Does not recollect any instance of persons being brought up at the Sessions, and tried for this offence during the administration of the Government by Sir Charles Macarthy. Prosecutions have not been actively carried on by the Government against offenders of this description, previous to the arrival of Lieutenant-Governor Findlay. Has never known, until lately, of any liberated Africans being recaptured. Deponent believes the Mandingoes from the opposite shore are generally the purchasers, but thinks persons residing in the Colony are the kidnapers.

A very extensive trade is carried on (by means of boats and canoes) with the Gallinas; the returns are, in a great measure, in specie, rice, ivory, &c.; thinks the specie is obtained from the Slave traders.

Deponent thinks the principal persons engaged in trade with the Gallinas are the better class of the Coloured inhabitants, such as Thomas Harrison Parker, John Hamilton Thorpe, John Leedham Morgan, &c. &c. Deponent only recollects two instances of vessels which had been condemned in the Courts of Mixed Commissions having been recaptured. Their names were the "Recovery" and "Corsair." The former was purchased by John Murdon Brockinton, and the latter by Don Juan Fernandez.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
and James Boyle, Esquire.

Government House, 21st January 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared *Betsy Jaloof*, (the woman referred to in the Evidence of Mr. Duncan Noble, and who was produced by that gentleman) who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That she lost her son, by name Massamba; she went into the Mandingo country, and saw him at a town called Naccy Baccy; he told her he had been kidnapped, and sold by a man named John Black, a subject of the Colony of Sierra Leone. The Chief, on her application for her son, told her that she must give him 80 (eighty) bars, equalling about 14*l.*; she said she was poor, and had not the money; was obliged to return without her son, who is now in the Mandingo country, where he has lately been seen. On her return she went to Mr. Noble and told him the circumstances. Mr. Noble issued a warrant; the man was apprehended and taken before the Grand Jury who were then sitting; she was called before the Grand Jury, and examined.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, The King's Advocate,
and James Boyle, Esquire.

Government House, 22d January 1831.

Mr. *Logan Hook* again attended, and stated, That the "Hope," late the "Esperanza," (formerly condemned in the Court of Mixed Commissions) had some time ago cleared out as a British vessel, the property of a Mr. William Henry Savage (a subject and inhabitant of Sierra Leone) under the command of one J. Jones. That it had since been stated to Commodore Collier, that she had returned to this coast for a cargo of slaves.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
and James Boyle, Esquire.

Government House, 22d January 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared *William Smith, Esq.*, Commissioner of Arbitration, who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That the "Hoop," a Dutch vessel, was condemned in the Mixed Commission Court in the year 1826. She was purchased by Commodore Bullen, and called the "Hope." She was employed as a tender to the Maidstone, in preventing the illicit traffic in slaves, under the command of Lieutenant William Tucker, and captured the "Prince de Guinea." Commodore Bullen subsequently sold her to a person at Princes Island (a Portuguese Colony.) She was then (in 1827) sent by this person to Bahia, and obtained Brazilian papers, under the name of the "Esperanza." In 1828 she came to the coast again for a cargo of slaves, and was captured, with her cargo, by His Majesty's ship "Sybille," the *Esperanza* being then under the command of José Alvar de Cruz Rios. She was condemned in June or July of the same year, put up to public auction, and purchased by one William Henry Savage. She quitted this port on the 12th July, and was reported by the Master of the *Santa Ephiginia*, on oath before the King's Advocate, to have sailed from Ajudah on the 6th October following, with a cargo of 300 slaves, under the command of the said José Alvar de Cruz Rios. This vessel has since been employed (as appears by the Parliamentary Papers) in the Slave trade, and returned to Bahia under the command of the said José Alvar de Cruz Rios, having arrived at Bahia on the 5th May 1829, since which time Deponent has lost all trace of her.

The *Prince de Guinea* was taken by Commodore Bullen's tender, the before-mentioned vessel, the "Hoop" in 1826, and purchased by him as a tender; was kept by him as such until the year 1827, when she was offered for sale in this Colony; but Commodore Bullen

not being able to procure a sufficient price for her, she was taken to the Cape de Verd Islands and sold to one Martinez, a noted slave-dealer, as appears by the affidavit of the Master of the "Tonhuiha" (published in the Parliamentary Papers of 1827.) She was despatched, as alleged by Martinez, to the Brazils with salt, under the name of the "Volante." She obtained Brazilian Papers in the Brazils; called the "Vingador," returned to the coast, and was captured off Wydah, with a cargo of slaves, by Commodore Collier. She was then bought at public auction by John Mardon Brockinton, and called the "Perseverance," afterwards condemned in the Court of Vice Admiralty in this Colony for breach of Revenue Laws, &c.

The "Naufa Abaneirha" was captured by Captain George Willes, in His Majesty's sloop "Brazen," in 1825; was bought by him as a tender, and called the "Black Nymph." She was afterwards sold by Captain Willes to Commodore Bullen at Princes Island, at the time he (Commodore Bullen) sold the "Hope." Commodore Bullen brought her to this Colony, and not being able to procure the price he demanded for her, sent her, along with the "Prince de Guinea," to the Cape de Verd Islands, where he sold her to Martinez, who sent her to the Brazils, and obtained Brazilian Papers for her. She came on the coast again, and was taken by Commodore Collier with a cargo of slaves, and condemned in the Mixed Commission Court on 11th April 1829. She was purchased at public auction, after condemnation, by Commodore Collier, who named her the "Dallas," and is said to have sold her to Saul Solomons, a merchant of St. Helena.

The "Arsenia" was captured and condemned in 1828; bought by Commodore Collier, and called the "Paul Pry." She was subsequently sold to Ferreira, of Princes Island, a notorious slave-dealer.

The "Trajano," captured and condemned in 1827, was sold at public auction to Walter Atkins, a merchant of this Colony, and called the "Corsair." She was subsequently sold by him to Juan Fernandez, the agent of the notorious slave-dealer Francisco Feliz de Sousa *alias* Charchar, residing at Whydah; by him she was called "La Hassé," proceeded down the coast, and obtained papers at Princes Island as a Portuguese vessel. This vessel was captured on her way to the Brazils, with a cargo of slaves, by His Majesty's ship "Sybille," Commodore Collier, and condemned in June 1829. The "Hassé" being very rotten, sank before her condemnation, and her remains now lie in the harbour.

The Spanish schooner "Gertrudes," was condemned on the 2d of February 1828, and was purchased at public auction by James Mardon Brockinton, who called her the "Recovery." He sent her to Rio de Janeiro, to Messrs. Platt, Milne & Reid, his owners, who sold her to José Botclier de Sequiro, Mateo Arugo & Co., of that place, who procured for her Brazilian papers, and called her the "Ceres." She was again captured on this coast under this name, with a cargo of slaves, by His Majesty's gun-brig "Plumper," and condemned on the 22d September 1829, and sold at public auction to Benjamin Campbell, a merchant of this Colony, who afterwards sold her to one William Heaviside, who came to the Colony on a trading voyage.

This Deponent has heard of many others, but cannot depose to them on oath; but he believes them to be engaged in the Slave trade. The names of the vessels of which Deponent has heard, are as follows, viz. :—

The "Manly," Atkins, owner, sent to Cape de Verd for sale.

The "Speculator," "Swallow," and "Omega," purchased by Brockinton; sent to the Brazils.

The "Clarence," purchased by Benjamin Campbell, never heard of, after sailing from this port.

The "Marianna," sold to one Vergalina, and seen afterwards at Cacheo, fitted for slaves. The "Donna Barbara," purchased by an American named Pollard, agent of José Alvar de Cruz Rios.

The "Almirante," purchased by the same person, previously purchased by the late Kenneth Macaulay.

The "Clarence" *alias* "Octario," said to be on the coast slaving.

The "La Laure," "Adventure," "Clarita," and "Diana," also.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
and James Boyle, Esquire.

Government House, 27th January 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared *Prince Stoker*, who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That he is a minister of one of the dissenting societies of this Colony. That in this society there are about 150 (one hundred and fifty) liberated Africans, who reside within the limits of Freetown. The society to which Deponent belongs never kept any regular account of the births and deaths among the members, until 1825. No account of the deaths was kept until 1828.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 27th January 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared the Rev. *David Morgan*, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That he is Colonial Chaplain; that the deaths among the Africans generally, in 1830, were 52 (fifty-two) in Freetown, and of that number 19 (nineteen) were liberated Africans, as near as Deponent can ascertain. This number is entirely independent of the liberated Africans who died in the department.

The number of baptisms in the same year is 24 (twenty-four), of whom 8 (eight) were children of liberated Africans.

Deponent is of opinion that numbers die of whom no record is taken, and numbers are born who are never brought for the purpose of being baptised.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 27th January 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared Mr. *Kughtley*, a Wesleyan missionary, who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That in the period from January to 31st December 1830, he has baptised 24 (twenty-four) adults, and 55 (fifty-five) infants, of which latter, 50 (fifty) were of liberated African families. Deponent keeps no register of the deaths in his society, but he furnishes the Rev. David Morgan, the Colonial chaplain, with the number he buries. Deponent will give a return of the baptisms for the previous years to the year 1830, but he fears it will not be so satisfactory as could be wished, in consequence of the station having been at intervals without a minister, during which period the accounts could not of course be kept. Deponent believes the deaths are reported to him accurately, but that many births occur of which he is not informed; and he is confirmed in this from the circumstance of children from 4 (four) to 10 (ten) years of age being brought to him for baptism. Deponent has refused to administer the rite of baptism to many of the children of liberated Africans, on account of the parents not having been married.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 27th January 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared Mr. *John Weeks*, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That he was formerly in charge of the school at Regent. Remembers about the month of November 1829, three strangers (liberated Africans) were seen in Regent, who took possession of a house which had been formerly vacated. They staid two days, during which time they were observed straying about the back part of the school, at the place where the children were in the habit of going for wood. They asked several of the very small children to go to the house they were occupying, to eat with them. Previous to going to church in the evening, the children of the school, agreeably to custom, were drawn up in a line for the purpose of being counted. When they were marching to church (it being dark) three of them disappeared: they were not missed till the next morning, when Deponent was informed by the native schoolmaster. A search was set on foot, and all the constables were sent upon it. It having been discovered that the men alluded to had left the house, Deponent sent (to Freetown) persons who were acquainted with them, along with constables to find them, and bring them back to Regent, which they did. They stated, that they had come to Regent to see their country people, and the person to whom the house belonged had given them leave to stay there. They admitted that they had left Regent for Freetown at four A. M., to see a brother who was sick. Deponent sent to Mr. Davey to assist him in the investigation, Mr. Davey being then a magistrate. Three other children who belonged to the school, were sent for as evidence against the men, who deposed that they and another boy had also been requested to go and eat at the strangers' house, when they were going to church, but that they had refused. Deponent has every reason to believe the three boys first mentioned were kidnapped. The men were committed to Freetown gaol, but for want of sufficient evidence they were acquitted. The strangers had given the children, who gave evidence against them, some coppers, evidently to induce them to go with them. The children who disappeared were none of them more than 9 (nine) years of age.

In 1830, about the month of March, a man (a liberated African, formerly belonging to Regent) came to Regent evidently with the intention of kidnapping some of the children. He was observed about eight o'clock in the evening at the gate of the school yard, in the act of enticing some of the children to go and feast at his countryman's house; some of the elder boys came to Deponent and informed him, he went out in search of the man, who had in the meantime disappeared. Deponent sent the constables in search of him; he was apprehended before the next morning and lodged in the gaol. He was brought up before Deponent for examination. He gave no satisfactory explanation of his conduct, but it was proved that he had given one of the boys some money, and had endeavoured to entice him

to go and take supper with him. Deponent having lost the former children only a few months before, and the evidence in this case being sufficient to send him to trial, thought it advisable to send to the King's Advocate for his opinion, who replied, that if the evidence were not sufficient to send him to trial, he could commit him to the house of correction as a vagrant, for one month, which Deponent did. Has since learnt from Mr. Cole, that this same man is brought up again for slave trading: knows the man by sight, but not by name.

A man belonging to Regent, a sawyer by trade, obtained a girl (a liberated African) from Captain Owen, at Fernando Po. Deponent inquired if he had an indenture, and found that Captain Owen had given him a note, either to the Colonial Secretary, or to Mr. Cole, recommending him as a proper person to have the girl bound to him. This girl, to Deponent's knowledge, had often run away from her master, who had paid each time a quarter of a dollar for her recovery. The last time she ran away, she took up her residence in a house upon the Kissey road. The master having been informed where she was, applied for a constable to fetch her back. On arriving at the house upon the Kissey road, he was told that she had been there, but had left the day before. After two or three weeks' search after her, the man gave it up as fruitless, and she has never since been heard of. Deponent having reason to suspect that the girl had been kidnapped, and sold as a slave, sent for the man in whose house she had been, who stated that the girl had been in his house, but had left him in the night, and gone to his neighbour, for whom Deponent sent. The latter, on his way to Regent to be examined, stated to the constable that the former man and he had quarrelled about the money for which the girl was sold, and that he had said he would inform, as he had not received his portion by two dollars. He said the girl was sold at Susan's Bay, to a Mandingo man; and that he (the latter man) had been at the police office before for selling a girl. On the following morning, however, he denied these assertions, when brought up for examination.

These are the only facts which have come under Deponent's own observation, but he has no doubt, that were an investigation into the number of liberated African apprentices in the villages to be instituted, it would be found that a great number of them had disappeared, and these, Deponent has no doubt, have principally been sold as slaves.

Deponent, from a three years' residence at Regent, is led to believe that the births exceed the deaths very materially, even when the deaths among the newly-imported Africans and those arising from small pox are taken into consideration.

Deponent is not aware of more than one instance of liberated Africans leaving the settlement from an anxiety to return to their native country. This solitary instance was a native of the Cussoo country.

The last liberated Africans sent to Deponent were Soosoos, about 50 in number, of whom 15 (fifteen) were women, and the remainder boys.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 2d February 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared Mr. *Frederick Campbell*, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposes and saith, That he has been 15 (fifteen) years on this coast in the Colonial service; that he has been located at the Bannana islands since the year 1821. In the year 1824, to the best of his recollection, a boy was taken off the island by an American, and sold at the Gallinas. The boy was recovered, by which means it was discovered that the kidnapper was an American. This American now lives at Kassy, near the Gallinas. From the number of liberated Africans who have disappeared from the Bannanas, he has reason to believe that numbers of them are kidnapped. The numbers which have disappeared could not have died without Deponent's knowledge.

Deponent is not aware, personally, of any case of kidnapping, until that of Samuel Wilson, who was tried for this crime. In the month of June last (1830) he received orders from the Government to proceed to the Sherbro to demand five liberated Africans (boys) who had been sold by Peter Jordan and Samuel Wilson, and to secure the persons of Jordan and Wilson. The former was drowned in attempting to escape. On Deponent's reaching York Island, he found that these boys, who had been in Tucker's possession, had passed into that of Cleveland, who had conquered Tucker.

Deponent immediately wrote to Cleveland, demanding the boys as being British subjects, and desiring them to be delivered to him at York Island, and four of them were recovered in two or three days. The remaining one jumped overboard, and is now in the possession of a Frenchman, by name Sabatier, in whose hands the other four had been. This Sabatier was at the Plaintains a short time ago; where he is now Deponent does not know, but thinks he is about to leave in the "*Virginie*," a French schooner.

The Slave trade is extensively carried on at the Sherbro by Frenchmen: Deponent has seen no less than seven vessels at Seabar at one time. A few days ago there were four slave vessels laying at the Plaintains, within 17 miles from the Bannanas, a port of the Colony, about nine leagues from Freetown. A party of the crew of one of these vessels landed at Deponent's farm, in Southbay, and a part in the town, from which circumstance Deponent apprehended an attack.

On one occasion, a vessel Deponent knew to be a pirate, lay off the Bannanas for several days, which caused suspicion in Deponent's mind that the island would be attacked. Deponent ascertained that she had three guns aside, one pivot gun, and sixty men, and

that part of her crew had belonged to the piratical vessel "Presidente," which was captured by the "Black Joke," and lost upon the Turtle Islands, on her way to this Colony for adjudication. Caulker, the Chief of the Plaintains, informed Deponent of her being a pirate, and said he knew several of the crew whom he had seen on board the "Presidente," when he went down to assist them when she was lost. The people on board inquired the state of the Bannanas as to defence.

While Deponent was at York Island he heard that there was a Maroon, a relation of the Thorpe's, by name Cope, who was clerk to the notorious slave-trader Tucker, and that he was seen going on board the various slave vessels with Harry Tucker. Deponent met William Thorpe, one of Cope's relations, and told him he would bring him (Cope) up to Freetown, if he could lay his hands upon him. At the Plaintains he heard of another Maroon, by name Andrew Gray, a relation of John Leedham Morgan (who said he gloried in his conduct), who was clerk to one of the most notorious slave-dealers at the Gallinas. Morgan is himself a Maroon, and was formerly employed in the engineer department in this Colony, and was also a Commissioner of the Court of Requests.

While Deponent was at the Gallinas, he ascertained that William Easmon, a Nova Scotian settler, is engaged in the Slave trade, along with several of his relations, to a great extent. Deponent has received letters, and thinks he has some now in his possession, from this man, Easmon, complaining that several of his own connections have been made slaves of by the Tucker party.

Deponent recollects an instance of a Sierra Leone man, who sold goods to a native in the Sherbro. This native, to repay him, was about to sell a slave, but was prevented by the vigilance of a man named Kizell. Deponent is firmly of opinion that the Sierra Leone people, who trade at the Gallinas, receive money in payment for the goods they sell, well knowing that such money is received by the Gallinas people in payment for their slaves. Deponent also knows that the persons who trade for rice do not bring it to this Colony, but carry it to the Gallinas, where they receive payment from the source above stated. They procure a better price at the Gallinas than at the Colony, and also elude their creditors. By this means the doubloons and dollars, which are brought out in the Spanish slaving vessels, find their way up to this Colony. Considers that the greater part of the Maroon traders, with the exception of Stephen Gabbidon, now trade or have traded to the Gallinas. Knows that John Leedham Morgan, William Hamilton Thorpe, James Smith, Thomas Harrison Parker, Eli Ackim, and his son Henry Ackim, John Thomas, Jacob George, &c., are in the habit of trading there. These persons have always been considered respectable in the Colony.

Deponent heard a few days ago, that there are several liberated Africans in slavery in the Bagroo river (a principal river of the Sherbro), but his information on this point is not complete. Thinks a great many liberated Africans are kidnapped from the Colony, and taken to the Gallinas. Knows one instance. A Mandingo man came down to Kent, and lived some time in the house of a discharged soldier named Appleton. He was going as a passenger in a canoe to the Gallinas; one of the people at Kent, who had been long located, was told by the discharged soldier to go to a town called Baba, along with the Mandingo man. He did so, and the canoe met them at Baba, where they embarked and proceeded on their way to the Sherbro. From stress of weather, however, they were compelled to put into a place where there was a canoe from Kent, in which was one John Senior, who brought the liberated African back to Kent, but did not bring the Mandingo man. This happened about four months ago.

The population of the Bannanas is about five or six hundred. Deponent thinks that the births are in proportion to the deaths as six to one. This calculation includes all the residents, both old inhabitants, and newly-located liberated Africans. Disease or sickness very seldom occurs at the Bannanas, with the exception of ulcers, with which the inhabitants are infected from the slave vessels.

There have been no Missionaries at the Bannanas since the year 1828. In June last Messrs. Harnsell & Davey were there. At that time there were a great many liberated Africans anxious to be married. Deponent was absent, but had previously been informed by Mr. Thomas Cole, that these gentlemen were coming down to solemnize matrimony. For some reason or other, which Deponent is not aware of, the ceremony was not performed.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
and James Boyle, Esquire.

Government House, 2d February 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared Mr. *William Cole*, who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That he was Commissioner of Appraisal and Sale to the Mixed Commission Court, from October 1824 to July 1825, when being about to embark for England, he delivered over the documents and papers in his possession to the Court, and received from that Court a general release. Deponent returned from England and resumed the duties in February 1826.

Until lately, it was not customary for foreigners to purchase vessels themselves at the auctions; they were generally purchased for them by merchants of the colony on commission.

The "Esperanza" was purchased on the 4th June 1828, by William Henry Savage, for 710*l*. The papers were made out in the name of a foreigner. Deponent knows the money

money was procured from a foreigner, and perfectly recollects having received several Brazilian dollars.

The "Vingador" was purchased on the 29th September 1826, under the name of the "Prince of Guinea," by Lieutenant Tucker, of the royal navy, as agent for Commodore Bullen, in whose name the bill of sale was made out. She was afterwards brought in and sold on the 24th June 1828, to John Marden Brockinton for 880*l.* She was afterwards condemned as the "Perseverance," in the Court of Vice Admiralty.

Deponent believes the system of kidnapping has prevailed in the Colony for the last six or seven years. Thinks this system has been carried on by the liberated Africans themselves, who as masons and mechanics were formerly employed upon the public works, by which means they were enabled to procure luxuries for themselves and families. Not being now able, from the stoppage of these works, to procure these luxuries by legitimate trade, they have been induced to turn to slave trading. The Government, in Deponent's opinion, have done every thing in their power to put a stop to this trade; but it is carried on so systematically as to defy any police. The liberated Africans are the thieves; the Mandingoes the receivers.

About four or five years ago there were two or three instances of persons being prosecuted and convicted of this crime, but their sentences were commuted.

During the time Deponent was a public auctioneer he has known instances of liberated Africans paying him 60*l.* and 70*l.* at one time for articles purchased at auction, and he has known these persons a few weeks before not to have been worth a shilling. Deponent had many opportunities of knowing their trade, conceiving it his duty, as an auctioneer, to inquire into their means, to know how far he might give them credit. The persons principally engaged in the kidnapping trade are those who have had the advantage of Missionary education.

The Gallinas is one of the greatest marts for the Slave trade on the coast, and no doubt many liberated Africans have been carried down there and sold.

Deponent believes that almost all the Cussoos return to their own country, their habits not at all fitting them for this Colony. This people are all agriculturists, and there is not sufficient land in this Colony for them to cultivate. Deponent has known several who have returned. This remark applies equally to women and children as to males. Cannot say what number of this nation may come into this Colony annually.

Deponent believes the absence of the squadron to be the cause of so much slaving on this part of the coast, which is shown by the number of slave vessels sent into the Port of Freetown by the squadron on their passage up from Leeward.

In almost every native town near this Colony, liberated Africans will be found, apparently trading. In the Malacary there are a great number of slaves.

A few weeks ago, when Deponent was at his timber-factory in the Malacary, a vessel showing no colours passed, and although fired at, did not hoist them. Deponent had a conversation with one of the chiefs, and taxed him with having sold slaves to this vessel, when he admitted having sold fifteen. The slaves were marched over land to the Rio Pongas, and then shipped. The vessel was Spanish. Deponent saw the supercargo, whom he recognized and remembered to have seen at Sierra Leone before as captain of a slave vessel. Deponent has heard that the vessel took away about 300 (three hundred) slaves from the Rio Pongas. Has no doubt some of the slaves were liberated Africans, from the circumstance of their going into the Malacary, where they can purchase them so cheap. There are no slaves on the coast so cheap as the liberated Africans; the water communication being so convenient, forty or fifty canoes generally leave the Colony within the 24 (twenty-four) hours.

Deponent witnessed, a short time back, a Mandingo man attempting to entice a liberated African boy into a canoe. He reported the circumstance to Mr. Thomas Cole, the Assistant Superintendent of liberated Africans, by whom the boy was secured, but the Mandingo man had decamped. This took place near the Liberated African Department.

Deponent is of opinion that the Mandingoes may carry away in the night time, from any of the landing places, any number of liberated Africans they choose. The liberated Africans carried away are children or idiots principally.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 9th February 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared Mr. *William Benjamin Pratt*, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposes and saith, That he has been in the service of the Colonial Government, principally in the Liberated African Department, for the last ten years. Has been manager of York for the last three or four years. Believes from report, that the system of kidnapping has prevailed for some time. Deponent heard (he believes at Fouricario) that it has prevailed since the time of General Turner, when the people lost their usual employment under Government, and were forced, in consequence, to have recourse to the trade. The first instance of slave-trading and kidnapping which came to Deponent's knowledge, was Mr. Frederick Campbell's recovering the two boys whom Wilson had kidnapped. This Deponent was himself sent in November last, by the Governor to Moribiah, to recover a woman and a boy who it was stated had been kidnapped from the Colony and sold into slavery there, and there detained. On the night upon which he left

Sierra Leone, Deponent stopped at a place named Ro-English, the factory of Mr. Henry Weston, a merchant of this Colony. When there, Deponent inquired of Mr. Stone, Mr. Weston's clerk, if he had heard of liberated Africans being kidnapped from Sierra Leone. He answered, that he had been informed that such was the fact, for that he himself had been in the country trading some time previous, and one of the chiefs (whose name Deponent does not recollect) asked Mr. Stone "Why he did not bring some King's people to sell? for that he knew that the people from Freetown had been in the habit of bringing them frequently." This Deponent left Ro-English next morning in a boat, and having received the above information, resolved to look narrowly into every canoe he fell in with. Deponent fell in with a canoe and endeavoured to come up with it. The people on board made every effort to avoid him. On closing, he saw she was deeply laden, and remarked that there were a number of heads in the bow. When Deponent got alongside he saw five persons in the bow, whom he supposed to be liberated Africans. He knew two of them from their marks. Two were of the Pawpaw Nation, and three of the Baconka Nation. He knew this from their language and marks. Deponent asked the man what he was going to do with these people? and was answered, "Nothing;" when one of the liberated Africans, a Calabar man, called out "Massa! Massa! me Slave!" The man at the helm said, he was no Slave. A man in Deponent's boat, named Banna, said there were a great number in the bow of the canoe. Deponent ordered him to jump into the canoe and ascertain what they were, and he (Banna) reported they were Slaves. The men in the canoe attempted to throw Banna overboard, and the canoe ultimately escaped, got the slaves on shore, and Deponent saw nothing more of them afterwards. One of the boatmen in Deponent's boat said he knew one of the people in the canoe; called him by name, and said he had seen him in Freetown the same week in which Deponent had left for Moribiah.

On Deponent's arrival at Moribiah he went to the chief's house and delivered the Governor's letter, requiring him to deliver up the liberated African girl and boy. The chief told him he would hold the Palaver next day. Deponent ascertained that the girl was in the possession of a man named Antony, who stated to Deponent, that the girl had been put in pawn with him by a Sierra Leone man, named Suree Gaboo. Deponent went the next day to the Palaver House, and read the Governor's letter to the chiefs, who asked Antony what he would do? He refused to give up the girl without being paid the amount she was in pawn to him for. Deponent refused to enter into any negotiation of the kind with him. Antony then offered, if Deponent procured Suree Gaboo's wife, he would give the girl up to her, and she might restore her to this Deponent. This proposition Deponent refused to accede to, being aware that, by the country law, Antony would then have it in his power to make her a slave until she paid him for the girl. After considerable negotiation, Antony consented to give up the girl, but told Deponent he could not have the boy, as he had been sold some time. When the girl had been given up, Antony came to Deponent in the evening and asked him for some rum, and said to him, "Now we are friends I may as well tell you the truth: I bought that girl from Suree Gaboo." Said he gave sixty-six (66) bars for her, produced his book, and pointed out the articles with which he had purchased her. Deponent copied it; it is as follows, viz.

	Bars.
1 Gun - - - - -	10
4 fathoms Blue Baft - - - - -	4
3 — White ditto - - - - -	3
4 — Check - - - - -	4
5 — Shalloon - - - - -	5
7 — Print - - - - -	7
Madras Handkerchiefs - - - - -	3
3 fathoms Salin Stripe - - - - -	3
Tobacco - - - - -	13
Powder - - - - -	9
Rum - - - - -	4
Knife - - - - -	1
TOTAL - - -	66

Deponent asked if Suree Gaboo had sold any more Slaves; Antony laughed at the question. On being further questioned, said he had himself purchased (7) seven from him. When Deponent expressed his surprize, Antony said that was nothing, for every vessel that went out of the Rio Pongas carried liberated Africans. That a vessel had lately left the Rio Pongas with (30) thirty liberated Africans; that they were sold cheaper than others; and that John Ormond had agents in almost every town in the Soombia country. Deponent went to Antony's store, and there saw (4) four pair of slave irons, and goods usually employed in the purchase of slaves. Deponent brought back the girl to Freetown, and delivered her over to the Liberated African Department.

The next case was that of a man named Fortunée, who had stolen a girl.

About three weeks or a month back Deponent went on a mission to Fouricaria, in the Soombia country, by order of the Lieutenant-Governor, to claim the restoration of several liberated Africans (numbers unknown) who were stated to be kept in slavery there. The man who gave the information was a Krooman, who appeared very reluctant to give it. He had been living at Fouricaria for five or six years, and said he knew all the slaves there.

While

While on the way to Fouricaria, Deponent obtained from him information of six liberated Africans, who were detained there in slavery, with the names of the persons in whose possession they were, and of those who had sold them. Deponent upon this occasion heard of several cases of selling liberated Africans into slavery, and was informed of the names, as well of the persons who had bought as of those who had sold them. From the information he received, and upon the accuracy of which he can rely, there are now at Fouricaria fifteen liberated Africans, whose names he will mention, besides one at Cambia and two at Bannalya. Deponent brought back to the Colony two liberated Africans who had been enslaved, making a total of twenty, whom he had ascertained to have been kidnapped.

Deponent begs to refer to his notes, from which he gives the following information relative to the above-mentioned eighteen (18) individuals.

Deponent heard from the Krooman Jack, and has every reason to believe him, that a man named John Brown (a Sierra Leone man) gave a Papaw girl, a liberated African, to a man named Lucenay, and told him to sell her for her value in rice. Brown sent a boy, named Jemmy, living at Kissy, with Lucenay and the girl, with directions to get and bring him the rice, for which she was sold; but on their arrival, a dispute arising between Lucenay and a man named Lamina, as to who should have the girl, she was taken from them by a third party, and is now in the hands of Sierra Booboo, and Lamina Susee, the chief, and Palaver Man, of Fouricaria.

The next instance of which Deponent heard, was of a man named Jemmy, being at Freetown, who had sent a boy by Ausumana Macgourar for sale at Fouricaria. He was purchased by a man named Sierra Fahtoodie, for some rice and a bull. Deponent was informed that Mr. William Thorpe, of Freetown, saw him, and wished to get him restored; but Sierra Fahtoodie would not sell him.

Jack the Krooman, that he had seen a liberated African boy named "John," at Fouricaria, who told him that he had been kidnapped by a Mandingo man from the water side, near Kissy. Jack said he had taken charge of him, and given him to a Kissy boy named Jemmy, whom he desired to take him over to Sierra Leone; but that about a week afterwards he saw the same Jemmy with the boy John, and another boy at Fouricaria; and on asking him why he brought the boy back, he said he was desired to do so by Thomas Shower,* the constable at Kissy, who told him to sell them both. Jack the Krooman brought the boy to Sierra Leone a second time; but falling sick he could not have the case investigated, but desired the boy to mention the circumstance to his master, Mr. William Henry Savage.

Deponent was informed, that a man named Carlocco stole an Eboo man from Freetown. The person kidnapped could not speak English. He was carried to a small town called Bocaria, in the Fouricaria river. Carlocco is now in gaol.

A man named Jemmy, living in Freetown, and who Deponent thinks can still be found, is said to have sold a boy to Ausumana Krootman. Jemmy owed Ausumana Krootman ten dollars (\$ 10) for tobacco, in payment of which debt he gave him this boy. A man named Polly, now in gaol, Deponent was informed, sold a boy to Saloonoo for two bulls. Saloonoo sold his purchase, two days after, at a town called Tassy, one day's walk from Fouricaria, for a horse.

John Kie, cockswain of Deponent's boat, informed Deponent that he had seen a woman in Sierra Booboo's house in Fouricaria, who told him that she was a Sierra Leone woman, had lived at Kissy, and was sold by Peter Wilson.

A man named Sierra Moodie *alias* Mahommadoo, at Fouricaria, has a little child in his house, about a year old, which he stole from Sierra Leone.

A man named Carr Stephen at Fouricaria, has a Pawpaw boy, whom he bought from the Timmanees.

Thomas Shower, the constable, already convicted, sold a girl to Lausana, who brought her to Fouricaria.

In June last, a man named Buchanan Pratt, informed Deponent, Buchanan Pratt saw a Bacongo girl and a Popoe boy at Bocania; the girl's name was Jenny, the boy's, Thomas. The girl said she had been sold by a man named Ocorro, formerly gaol-keeper at Regent. The boy said he had been sold by a man named Blackhole, living near Nicolls Bridge, in Freetown.

A Krooman, named Ben, took a paper to Mr. Joseph Emerson's house. This paper contained the names of persons who had got liberated Africans in their possession in Fouricaria. Mr. Joseph Emerson was not at home; but Ben showed it to his brother, William Emerson, and requested that it might be taken to the governor. William Emerson said, it must not be taken to the governor, lest Sadoo and Carlocco, who traded with him, might get into trouble from the white people. Jack, another Krooman, said, "Come, let us go and tell Mr. Cole, then." On the way they met a man named Brown, who desired them not to tell; when Jack said, "Stop, then! when we catch Sadoo and Carlocco, then we will tell."

Polly, a man who is in gaol, came over to Fouricaria, to ransom a boy of his who had been stolen, but did not succeed.

A Joliffe woman went to Fouricaria to redeem her child, who had been stolen from her †. A woman, named Mary, also lost a child, now in Fouricaria.

These

* Since convicted of slave dealing.

† *Vide* Mr. Duncan Noble's and Betsy Joliffe's evidence, 21st January 1831.

These are the (15) fifteen cases, of which Deponent heard at Fouricaria. Besides these, there are two more known to be there, one of whom sold for (5) five bulls.

A boy, named Jemmy, who lives in Freetown, and who has been employed in selling slaves, can give much valuable information if secure from punishment.

A woman, named Joliffe Mary, sold a girl to pay the price of a canoe, which had been broken in her possession. That is, she gave up the girl in pawn until the money be paid, which, if not done within a certain time, she will be sold.

Lyiah, a man at Soombiah, sold a boy named Sierra Fahtoody.

A Bacongo boy, named William, said he was sold by a constable at Kissy.

A Joliffe boy, named Thomas, was sent by his mistress to buy palm oil. He was seized by some Mandingo men, near King Tom's Point, and sold at Banna Lyah.

In every town Deponent visited, he heard of Suree Gaboo, as a notorious slave-dealer. Deponent mentioned to one of the chiefs, that he (Suree Gaboo) stood a chance of being hanged, when the Chief replied, "Oh! that is too bad, for we shall then get no more slaves."

While in the Scarcies, Deponent saw (4) four schooners there, for the ostensible purpose of purchasing Colas, but was informed they were there for slaves. Has received this information under a promise not to give up the name.

When at Wonkafong, Deponent saw two of John Ormond's people, who said their master had purchased (21) twenty-one slaves.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 9th February 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared *Doe* alias *Jack*, who being first duly sworn according to his country custom, viz. on salt and dust, and then duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That John Brown took a girl, (a Pawpaw girl) and gave her to Lucenay, by the hands of a man named Jemmy. Lucenay took her to Fouricaria; when there, Deponent saw Lucenay and Lahmina Susee quarrel, when Sierra Booboo took her. Deponent speaks Soosoo. Jemmy ran away the day Deponent and Mr. Pratt returned. Deponent saw in gaol another boy who accompanied Jemmy to Fouricaria three times.

Jemmy sold another liberated African to Ausumana Macgowror, for rice and a bull.

This Deponent corroborated the evidence of the last Deponent, William Benjamin Pratt, to the exception of the part relative to Polly having gone to Fouricaria to ransom a boy of his who had been stolen from him.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 9th February 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared Mr. *Thomas Cole*, Assistant Superintendent of liberated Africans, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That he cannot state whether the liberated Africans, from the neighbouring countries, are generally in the habit of returning to their native country or no. The Soosoo men are sometimes in the habit of returning, but Deponent does not think any great number could return without his knowledge, it being the duty of the managers to report the circumstance to him. Deponent recollects one instance in which a number of Soosoo, landed from the "Vingador," left. They were about thirty or forty in number; they were located at Wellington, where Deponent was of opinion they would have been more contented, there being a number of their countrymen who had been located there some time. In cases where liberated Africans have applied for leave to return to their own country, or where the chiefs have applied for such leave for them, they have been allowed to return. Africans of the Cussoo Nation have rarely been brought into the Colony until within the last three or four years, and even then not in very great numbers. Within the last four years probably (800) eight hundred of this nation have been imported from the windward, and of these possibly (250) two hundred and fifty may have returned to their country.

Deponent has been in the department since 1818.

About four years ago, two Soosoo were detected in the act of kidnapping boys from Waterloo. In addition to the case upon record, Deponent recollects the case of a boy who was found on board a Slave vessel, and who had been sold by a man named Godfrey. This man absconded to the Gallinas, and thus being out of the jurisdiction of the Colony, he could not be apprehended.

Deponent believes the number of liberated Africans recovered from Slavery, since the arrival of Lieutenant-Governor Findlay, to be about (25) twenty-five.

Deponent recollects Major Ricketts sending up Mr. Charles Jones, of the Liberated African Department, to Berika, to recover two liberated Africans, who had been sold. Mr. Jones was not successful; but the boys have since been recovered, and the persons who sold them convicted.

This Deponent produced the two Returns called for by the Commissioners at their meeting of the 5th January last, which having been duly attested, were received, and ordered to be inserted as of record.

Before,—

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 11th February 1831.

Mr. *William Cole* attended, and presented a Return, showing the vessels which have been condemned in the Mixed Commission Court at Sierra Leone, and purchased at public auction by foreigners, by whom and to whom the bill of sale was made, the date when sold, and whether brought in again to this port, and specifying when purchased by masters of slave vessels.

Having been duly sworn to the truth of the same, it was received, and ordered to be entered of record.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 11th February 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared *Robert Stone*, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposes and saith, That he is in the employ of Mr. Henry Weston, at his factory in the River Scarcies. Recollects two boys coming to one of the factories, called Tombo, who claimed his protection. One of them told him, that he was stolen by a man named John, a resident at Sierra Leone, by whom he had been carried into the Mandingo country. This boy was afterwards sent down to Deponent to Ro. English, he having been guilty of theft at one of the factories belonging to Mr. Weston. The other boy was kept at Tombo. When Mr. Pratt arrived, Deponent informed him of these circumstances. Mr. Pratt could not go up at that time, but Mr. Jones was also informed of the circumstance. Whether Mr. Jones brought them down or no, Deponent does not know.

About the beginning of the year 1829, a boy who had run away from the country, took refuge at Mr. Weston's factory. He stated that he was a King's boy. He told Deponent the name of the man who had stolen him, but Deponent does not now remember it; some time after three canoes, full of men, came to the factory, and demanded the boy. Deponent said the boy belonged to the King, and he would not give him up. They then went for the headman Bamba Mimia Lahi, who told Deponent he had no business to come there to spoil the river; that the boy belonged to the people, and they must have him. They took the boy from Deponent by force. Deponent told the chief, that if any palaver took place, he would tell the Governor and Mr. Cole what had taken place. The chief replied, "Never mind, I will answer the palaver." Deponent did not mention this circumstance to any person, until Mr. Pratt went up the river.

Deponent heard there was a girl in the country, who belonged to Sierra Leone.

Deponent does not know what is the trade of the liberated Africans in the country, but he sees a great many in canoes. Two boys came in a canoe to the place where Deponent resided last, and refused to go any further. The headman of the canoe said, that the reason they would go no further was, that their rice was done. Deponent had no means of ascertaining from the boys their reasons. Deponent saw no goods in the canoe for the purchase of rice. All the persons in the boat were liberated Africans. The persons who trade for rice, purchase it with merchandize, and not with money. Deponent was informed that the canoe above mentioned, belonged to a man who resided in Sierra Leone, named Blackhole. The two boys got into another canoe, and returned to Sierra Leone.

Deponent recollects, when at Touwoodoogoo, a headman named Mai Moodoo, asked him why he had not brought some liberated Africans with him. The conversation was as follows:—Mai Moodoo said, "They, landlord," (meaning Deponent) "why have you not brought me some boys?" Deponent said, "What boys?" The chief replied, "King's boys." Deponent said, "Do you think King George sends his ships to sea to catch boys, and I must bring them to you to sell for slaves?" The chief replied, "Well field people," (meaning the people living in the grass field in the neighbourhood of Freetown.) "well field people do that?" Deponent answered, "Suppose field people do that, I no savey (know) do that."

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, the King's Advocate,
and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 14th February 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared Mr. *Walter William Lewis*, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, confirmed in all its particulars the evidence of Mr. William Smith, Commissioner of Arbitration, as delivered and recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the 22d January 1831.

In addition to this, he adduced the following evidence:

In August or September 1829, Mr. Benjamin Campbell, a merchant of this Colony, applied to Deponent as Colonial Secretary, for a license for the "Almirante," for Jose Alvar de Cruz Rios, and Mr. Campbell paid the customary fees for the same.

Deponent only recollects two or three instances of kidnapping, of which the Government was informed previous to his departure from this Colony in 1828. When he returned in 1829, the circumstances became more common; but owing to the very severe sickness which prevailed during that year, such active measures as were necessary to investigate the

several

several reports which reached the Government, could not be taken. The different departments, and especially the Secretary's office, were very deficient. After the sickly season, the reports relative to this system of kidnapping, became more frequent. Deponent was removed from the Colonial service at the latter end of 1829; but is aware, from private information, that there is no diminution in the extent of that system. In 1830, the cases became very notorious. The measures taken by the present Government are well known. These measures were the first serious notice taken of the very alarming and very rapidly growing evil.

Deponent is aware, from private information, that it is the practice of slaves taken from the neighbourhood of the Colony, to return to their native country. Thinks many of the male adults return. Deponent means the inhabitants of the Sherbro, Pongas, and Nunez countries.

Deponent does not think that the women and children return. The women form connexions here, which does away with their anxious desire of returning.

Deponent recollects in 1824, a whole family who returned to their native country in the Bight of Bereira. It is Deponent's impression, that it is a fair calculation to allow that $\frac{1}{3}$ (one-third) of the male adults taken in the neighbourhood of this Colony, do return to their native country.

Deponent thinks that the children, by the many comforts they procure in this Colony, are weaned from the love of their country so predominant among the Africans.

Deponent has no doubt that there is a very great trade carried on from this Colony to the Sherbro, and an under trade from thence to the Gallinas. There is also a very great trade carried on direct to the Gallinas. In 1824 there was a vast trade carried on to the Sherbro, for rice and palm oil, by the Maroons, who contracted for the supply of the liberated Africans on pay of the Government. Since the latter end of 1826 or beginning of 1827, the rice rations to the liberated Africans were discontinued, and, as far as Deponent has information, he is disposed to think there is no diminution in the trade. The rice trade was principally carried on by the Nova Scotian and Maroon Settlers.

It is Deponent's impression that the chief trade is the Slave trade.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 20th February 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared Mr. *James Findlay*, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That in December 1830, he accompanied Mr. Benjamin Campbell in His Majesty's Brig "Plumper," to the Rio Pongas, by order of the Lieutenant-Governor, for the purpose of apprehending a man named Jousiffe, a European British subject, accused of Slave dealing. When the Governor's letter was opened by Ormond, he sent for Jousiffe. The answer returned was, that he was not at home. During the time of the conversation with Ormond, he several times went out and appeared to be in consultation with some persons outside. Deponent strongly suspects that Jousiffe was in the house at the time. Deponent staid at Ormond's two days. On the way from Ormond's, Deponent advised Mr. Campbell to call at Jousiffe's place of residence; they proceeded thither, but found the house locked up. They were informed the slaves were sent into the country on the day of their arrival. After leaving Jousiffe's place they proceeded to Brimah Nobas Town, who told them of a liberated African boy named "John," whom Jousiffe was afraid to sell because he spoke too good English, and that he kept him constantly in chains. Brimah Noba informed Mr. Campbell and Deponent, that Jousiffe knew every thing that was going on; that he was not in the country: that Ormond had a great many liberated Africans in his Slave yard, and that Suree Gaboo brought liberated Africans into the country by sixes and sevens at a time. He promised to use his influence with the native chiefs to send Jousiffe up to Sierra Leone. He said he had not many liberated Africans himself, but that a girl named Hannah had run away from him.

When Deponent was about (100) a hundred yards from the beach he heard a cry; he ordered the boatmen to pull back, and he then saw a girl whom he took on board. This girl was Hannah. She told Deponent she had only been a month in slavery, and that she had been stolen by a Mandingo man from the market in Freetown, who had sold her. Deponent brought her to Sierra Leone.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 23d February 1831.

Mr. *Frederick Campbell* having been recalled and duly re-sworn, states, That the name of the man (American) mentioned in his evidence delivered before the Commissioners upon the 2d February now instant, was Godfrey, who now lives at a town named Cassy, an inland port of the Gallinas. That Deponent has heard that Mr. Gabbidon's canoes do trade to the Gallinas and Sherbro.

Many persons who have died by accident, as drowning, &c., or who have committed suicide, have been inserted in Deponent's return of deaths. Accidental deaths are more common than natural deaths at the Bannanas. A few days ago one man was drowned, in attempting to leave the island in a bad canoe. About November last a canoe was upset and eight men drowned.

In a town on the Bannanas named Ricketts, there are not more than (12) twelve men, who have women; there are (98) ninety-eight males. The women in the town of Dublin, in which Deponent lives, are of the worst characters, mostly composed of persons who have been servants in Freetown.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 23d February 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared *Aymar Charbonnier*, who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That he was born at Senegal, and now resides at Mary's River Gambia. Has taken the oath of allegiance. That in the year 1829, he met Jousiffe in the Rio Pongas. Knew him before in the Gambia, as the servant of the late Major-General Turner.

Deponent was in partnership with a Captain Lloyd, on a trading voyage to the Pongas. On the 5th February now instant, he saw Jousiffe in the Nunez. He came on board Deponent's vessel to inquire for blue bafts. Deponent asked him what he was doing in the river. Jousiffe said, he heard the Governor had sent Mr. Campbell for him to bring him to Sierra Leone to cut his throat: said he had lost all he was worth, as he was obliged to give it to the country people to protect him. Deponent said, he knew himself to be guilty. Jousiffe said, he knew that, that he considered himself no longer a British subject, but looked upon himself as a Soosoo. Said, that the Governor had got all his correspondence, notes of hand, &c. and therefore he dare not go to his own country; the best way was to stay among the Soosoos; said, he had the slaves to sell. Told Deponent he had come by land. He asked Deponent to give him a passage to the Rio Pongas, to which Deponent consented. Jousiffe then said, he was not fool enough to do that, as the "Plumper" was outside, and he would give him up to that vessel. He would go by the path. The Plumper was cruising outside.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, *James Boyle*, Esquire, and *Henry Rishton*, Esquire, Colonial Secretary.

Government House, 23d February 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared his Honour *John William Jeffcott*, who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That he is Chief Justice of the Colony of Sierra Leone, and Judge of the Court of Vice-Admiralty thereof. Deponent's attention very soon after his arrival, was called to the subject of kidnapping liberated Africans. Believes from his experience, since his arrival in the Colony, that this system had prevailed to a very great extent, and for a very considerable period previous to his arrival. Many cases have come before Deponent in his judicial capacity, within the last ten months, and he has had occasion to pass sentence upon no less than (13) thirteen individuals since the first sessions at which he presided in June 1830. Several against whom strong suspicion existed, have been acquitted, either by the grand jury throwing out the bills, or for want of sufficient evidence at their trials, or have been discharged by proclamation by the King's Advocate. Deponent thinks that at least (29) twenty-nine have been disposed of in this way, and there are five or six still in gaol awaiting their trial. Deponent does not speak positively as to the number discharged or who are in gaol; this will appear more fully from the return of the Clerk of the Crown transmitted herewith.

The persons who have been proved to be principally engaged in this traffic, are liberated Africans themselves. Persons of this class are the original kidnappers, the Mandingoes from the opposite shore are generally the receivers.

The first case, which was tried before Deponent, was that of Thomas Edward Cowan. This person was a liberated African, and had been educated by the Church Missionaries, in one of whose schools he was alleged to be a kind of teacher or monitor. The boy, George Lee, whom he stole, was also a liberated African, and had been a fellow scholar, and also a pupil of his in the same school at Bathurst. Cowan was proved to have inveigled his former pupil into his service, under the pretence of providing for him; he (Cowan) being at that time a kind of petty trader. It was proved also that he put him into a Mandingo canoe, stating that he was going to Wellington, instead of which he was taken over to the Bullom shore, where the prisoner deserted him, and he was made a slave of by the Mandingoes. After passing through several hands, he was ultimately transferred to a slave ship at the Rio Pongas, which having been captured by one of the cruisers, was brought in here, and this boy a second time liberated.

The next case which came before Deponent, was that of a man named Billy Grant, also a liberated African, and Deponent believes a pensioner. This man having met a little liberated African girl, who had a sore foot, he took her home with him to his house, under pretence of curing it; and in the evening carried her to the water side, and disposed of her to a Mandingo man for 3*l*. The Mandingo man put her into his canoe, and was in the act of rowing off, when a constable, who had received information of the intended sale, and who had seen the transaction from behind a bush, threw himself into the water, swam after the canoe, and in spite of the resistance of the men in it, rescued the girl, and brought her safe on shore. The Mandingo men got off, but the constable afterwards succeeded in apprehending the prisoner, who was tried and convicted at the November Sessions in 1830.

This constable, whose name is Lucas, is also a liberated African, and Deponent felt it his duty to express his approbation of this man's conduct, and reward him in open Court.

So great a similarity exists in nearly all the cases of kidnapping, which have been hitherto brought before Deponent, that the history of one may serve for all. The person kidnapped is generally a child, or one who gives some evident token of imbecility, and who is therefore thought an easy prey, or one recently liberated, but not having yet acquired the English language, is less likely to betray the fact of his being a liberated African, or Sierra Leone boy.

Two cases were recently tried before Deponent, in which he had the satisfaction of assisting in the restoration of the boys who had been kidnapped. Deponent alludes to the cases of John Davis and King George. Deponent found these two liberated Africans on board a French brigantine, which was boarded by the boats of His Majesty's brig "Conflict," in which vessel Deponent had left this Colony, for the purpose of performing his duties at the Gambia. Deponent was himself present, when they stated that they were King's boys, who, with two others, had been sold at the Rio Pongas to a Frenchman, and by him carried away as slaves. The vessel in which these British subjects were found under such circumstances, was brought in by the advice of Deponent, in order that the boys, and those who had sold them from the Colony, might be identified. Deponent took their examinations on board the Conflict, on the night of their recapture, and they had scarcely landed when John Davis identified the man who had sold him, and he was committed for trial. The person who had kidnapped the other boy, was shortly afterwards discovered, and both of them were tried and convicted at the quarter sessions in November 1830. Thomas Black was the name of one of the kidnappers, John Foodie was that of the other.

Thomas Black was himself a liberated African, a small trader who had acquired some property.

The Deponent believes John Foodie was also a liberated African.

The only two cases of persons convicted of Slave dealing since Deponent's arrival, who were not liberated Africans, are those of Samuel Wilson, and John Renner Ellis.

Samuel Wilson, Deponent understands, is an American Black, who came to this Colony some years ago, and who by his industry was at one time in very comfortable circumstances. In consequence, however, of pecuniary embarrassments, he was obliged to leave Freetown, he betook himself to the Sherbro or Gallinas, where he induced four liberated Africans to accompany him as servants. After availing himself of their labour, for some months, in building his house and planting his farm, he sold them to one of the native chiefs. On the circumstance being reported to Lieutenant-Governor Findlay, he ordered Mr. Frederick Campbell to proceed to the Sherbro, and use every effort to recover the men, and bring Wilson to justice. Three of them were recovered, and Wilson was apprehended, and convicted at the Court of Royal Commission in November last.

With reference to the subject of the aid and assistance, said to be given to persons engaged in the Slave trade by British subjects, persons of apparent respectability in this Colony, the following facts have come under Deponent's cognizance, in his capacity of Judge in the Court of Vice-Admiralty.

On the 2d July last, a vessel called the "Nossa Senhora de Guia," was condemned in the Vice-Admiralty Court, for being illegally fitted out in the harbour of Freetown, for the purposes of the Slave trade. This vessel had been previously condemned in the Court of Mixed Commissions, for having been engaged in the Slave trade. On the 4th June 1830, she was purchased at public auction, as will appear by the account filed in the Vice-Admiralty Court, for a Spaniard, named "Salva dor Llorens," by Mr. Thomas Harrison Parker, a British merchant, residing at Freetown, and the stipendiary police magistrate. Salva dor Llorens, the person for whom she had been purchased, had been mate of the "Conchita," a Slave vessel, which had been captured by one of the squadron. After the death of the master, he deposed that he took command of the Slave vessel, with her cargo of slaves, and was brought in here. After the condemnation of his vessel, he remained here, as appears by his evidence in the Vice-Admiralty Court, for three months; he then made his way to the Gallinas, a noted slave mart, and there he appears to have procured from a Spaniard, named Pedro Blanco, one of the most notorious Slave dealers on the coast, an order on Mr. Parker, for (\$ 1,000) one thousand dollars; the second of exchange having been found on his person, when the Nossa Senhora de Guia was taken possession of by order of the Court, with the proceeds of this bill of exchange. Mr. Parker purchased the Nossa Senhora de Guia, for 180*l.* charging Llorens a commission of ten per cent. There were found on board of her at the time of seizure, slave irons both for the neck and legs, which must have been put on board subsequently to her first condemnation; the Marshal of the Court having sworn, that all previously in her, had been by him carefully removed; there were also on board near five thousand (5,000) gallons of water. The place for which she cleared out being the Havannah, with a crew of (27) twenty-seven persons, for whose use, allowing the passage to occupy six weeks, thirty days being the usual time, one thousand (1,000) gallons would have been amply sufficient. The vessel was condemned in the Vice-Admiralty Court; Mr. Parker, in answer to the interrogatories put to him, having admitted that he was an agent for Don Pedro Blanco, as far as having money of his in his possession, and honouring his drafts, could be called agency. For this agency, and for aiding and assisting in fitting out a vessel for the Slave trade, Mr. Parker was indicted at the sessions, under the Act 5th Geo. 4, c. 113. The grand jury found a true bill, but the petty jury acquitted him for want of sufficient evidence. The only evidence brought forward against him was that of his own clerks. Deponent not thinking that the written evidence given by and against himself in the Court of Vice-Admiralty, admissible in criminal

criminal proceedings. The evidence of the clerks was in direct opposition to that of Mr. Parker, as respected the agency and the value given for the bill of exchange.

In a written defence which Mr. Parker read to the Court and the Jury, he justified his conduct, in the purchase and fitting out of the "Nossa Senhora da Guia," for a man who is a notorious slave dealer, by referring to that of other merchants, who, he asserted, had done so before him with impunity; and Deponent had every reason to believe that his conduct proceeded as much from ignorance of the legal consequences, as from any design to infringe the law.

The second case was that of the schooner "Admiral Owen," of which John Smith, merchant of the Colony, was owner. This vessel was also prosecuted under sec. 7, A. 5 Geo. 4, c. 113, and sentence pronounced on the 10th January 1831, for having sold to the master of a slave vessel two guns, which were taken out of this harbour, without being entered at the Custom House; and for conveying to that river the said master, and putting those guns on board his vessel, well knowing the objects and purposes for which they were about to be used.

Deponent condemned the owner Smith, and the master Benstead, to pay double the value of the guns, and the costs of suit. Deponent understands that they have subsequently been held to bail for the criminal offence of aiding and assisting.

With respect to the statement made by me in my Charge to the Grand Jury, in June 1830, that in the preceding year (1829,) one of the most fatal known in the Colony, the proportion of births to deaths was as seven to one, I was induced to make that statement upon, as I then thought, the best grounds, but I have since found that I laboured under a misapprehension.

It was either upon the day upon which the Quarter Sessions were held, or very shortly before it, and when Deponent was much occupied by business, that he understood, either from the Governor or from Mr. Thomas Cole, the Superintendent of the Liberated African Department, that a census had been taken for the year 1829, from which it appears that the births were, to each other, in the proportion Deponent mentioned. Acting upon this impression, Deponent made the statement referred to. Deponent has, however, since found that the census alluded to was not for the year 1829, but a partial census for 1827 or 1828, in which the excess of births over deaths appears to be *seventy-one* in number, and not, as Deponent imagined, *seven to one* in proportion. Deponent believes the document which led him into this mistake will be found amongst the papers handed in by Mr. Thomas Cole.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 3d March 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared *John Samo*, Esquire, who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That the paper-writing, whereof a copy is herewith annexed,* was brought to Deponent by a person named John Smith, who stated that he had picked it up in the street, and seeing it was in the hand-writing of Mr. Hornell, he brought it to Deponent. Deponent identifies Mr. Hornell's hand-writing. Deponent knows, from evidence brought before him as King's Advocate, that Pedro Blanco is a notorious slave-dealer. The Turkey red handkerchiefs, kettles and beads, mentioned in the said list, are articles usually found on board slave vessels, as part of the cargo; the price charged for the beads is about (50) fifty per cent. more than is charged in Freetown. Mr. Hornell is a merchant of the Island of Antigua, and Deponent believes now in partnership with Mr. Alexander Rae, a merchant of this Colony.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 3d March 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared *Alexander Rae*, Esquire, who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That he knows the hand-writing of the document mentioned in the foregoing evidence. It is that of Mr. Hornell. Deponent

is

* The following is a correct copy of the Paper above alluded to.

Pedro Blanco.

1831:

February 18: 67 Cases Pres.
20 Bottles Pic.
63 lbs. Butter.
6 Barrels Bread.
20 Bottles Musta.
6½ Baskets Oil.
1 Pair Boots.
14½ doz. Turkey Red.
24 Kettles 71 lbs.
13½ Yards Diaper.
12 Cheeses 56 lbs.
1 Bottle Curry \$.
13 Dozen Ale \$4.
40½ lbs. Beads 75 ct.

\$604. 0. 7½

is a partner with Mr. Hornell. The vessel, the "Ellen Montgomery," was insured for a voyage down the coast to Fernando Po, with liberty to touch at every trading place. Mr. Hornell called at Liberia, and landed goods to the amount of 400*l.* No one is allowed to sell at Liberia, unless they employ an agent from among those living on shore. Mr. Hillary Teage was employed as such agent. Mr. Hornell took Teage on board, and went from Liberia to Cape Mount and the Gallinas. From thence he returned to Sierra Leone for more goods, Deponent expecting a large assortment out from England. Mr. Teage made the whole of the sales. Mr. Hornell is now gone on the same voyage with the same description of goods, namely, to Fernando Po, with liberty to touch at every trading place. Deponent is not acquainted with the trade at the Gallinas, but, from report, he understands the Slave-trade is carried on there.

Before,—The Lieutenant Governor, the Chief Justice, and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 3d March 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared *Hannah*, who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That she is a liberated African. She was carried away from Kissy to a place called Kakatura on the Bullom shore, by Thomas Shower, a constable of Kissy. Thomas Shower did not accompany Deponent to the above place. He gave her to some Mandingo men who carried her over. She was carried the next day to the Rio Pongas, where she saw two liberated African boys.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 4th March 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared Mr. *Maquis Smith*, who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That he is Clerk of the Crown in this Colony. That two persons only have been convicted of slave-trading prior to the arrival of Chief Justice Jeffcott. These persons were convicted at the Quarter Sessions, held in September 1829. Since the arrival of the Chief Justice, on the 26th April 1830, (14) fourteen have been convicted. Of these (10) ten were sentenced to hard labour in the House of Correction for five years, and (4) four were sentenced to death, of whom the punishment has been commuted to hard labour for (10) ten years, and the other three respited during pleasure.

Cases in which (26) twenty-six persons have been concerned, have been before the Police Office. Eleven of these persons were sent to trial. Forty-five (45) persons have been brought up for the offence since the month of April 1830, of whom eight (8) have not yet been tried.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 4th March 1831.

John Samo, Esquire, having been recalled, and being duly re-sworn, further deposeth and saith, That the paper produced on the foregoing day, was brought to Deponent by Mr. Smith at his house, who stated that he had found it, and told Deponent that he had picked it up. Deponent believes this Mr. Smith is a resident trader at Fernando Po, in fact that he is an English settler there. Deponent does not know how long Mr. Smith has resided in this Colony. He has known him for many years trading from the West Indies. He believes Mr. Smith to be of the same rank in society and equally respectable with other merchants on this coast. Believes Mr. Smith first came to this country as the supercargo of a laden vessel, which Deponent understood belonged to Mr. Hornell; there is now a law-suit depending against Mr. Smith on the part of Mr. Hornell. Deponent does not think he is at liberty to say whether Mr. Smith's interests are involved with Mr. Emerson's, as it is a professional question. Deponent is Mr. Smith's professional adviser, and is now retained as his counsel. Deponent never had any personal dispute with Mr. Hornell, of whom he knows little or nothing. There is a prosecution instituted by Deponent, as King's Advocate, against Mr. Smith, which is now pending. The Governor intimated his wishes that this prosecution should be instituted against him. The "Admiral Owen," which belongs to Mr. Smith, has also been proceeded against in the Vice Admiralty Court. Deponent took such measures against Mr. Smith as he conceived would bring him to justice. He took the usual proceedings against him. The trial was put off, in consequence of the absence of a material witness. Mr. Smith is now out on bail to answer at the next sessions. Deponent thinks that Mr. Smith supposes Mr. Hornell is attempting to wrong him.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 4th March 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared Mr. *John Smith*, who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That the paper-writing brought to the witness, John Samo, is the hand-writing of Mr. Hornell, and in the same state as when found by Deponent. That he found it on the table in Mr. Emerson's house. Deponent thinks it was left by Mr. Teage, who had been paying some money to Mr. Emerson. Deponent is a settler of Fernando

Fernando Po, but trades occasionally to this Colony. He has been in Mr. Hornell's employ. There is an action depending on the part of Mr. Hornell against Deponent. Mr. John Samo is Deponent's professional adviser. Mr. Hornell brought an action against Mr. Emerson. The cause of action arose from transactions between Mr. Hornell, Mr. Emerson and this Deponent.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, and *James Boyle*, Esquire.

Government House, 11th March 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared Mr. *Michael Proctor*, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That he is a resident merchant of the Isles de Loss, where he has lived nearly twelve years. Deponent has heard that the system of kidnapping liberated Africans, and carrying them to the Rio Pongas, has prevailed. Deponent has not heard of its being carried on to any great extent, until within the last twelve months. Had previously heard of a few instances. Deponent was in the Rio Pongas about four months ago. Deponent had a copy of Chief Justice Jeffcott's Charge, and was reading it while at the house of John Ormond, who is a notorious slave-dealer there. When Deponent came to the passage about George Leigh, a liberated African, having been kidnapped by Cowan, Ormond started up, and, with an oath, said to Jousiffe, an Englishman, and also a slave-trader, who was present, "That is one of the boys whom we sent off," mentioning a particular vessel, the name of which Deponent does not recollect. Deponent put this Charge into the hands of Ormond, and advised him and Jousiffe to be cautious how they meddled with liberated Africans. Ormond said, that numbers had been to his knowledge kidnapped, principally by the Soombia people, and those in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone. Deponent heard about a month ago, that a liberated African boy had been offered for sale to the captain of a French slave vessel, but that he (the captain) had refused purchasing him, in consequence of the boy speaking such good English. This circumstance took place after the French vessel, "La Caroline," had been brought in here for having liberated Africans on board.

Deponent has seen Jousiffe lately;—about a week ago. Jousiffe told Deponent that he was aware of the Governor of Sierra Leone having sent Mr. Campbell and Mr. James Findlay to apprehend him. That he saw them while they were at the Rio Pongas, but they did not see him. He also heard their conversation. He said that it was his intention to have come down to Sierra Leone to stand any investigation, thinking there was not sufficient evidence against him, and that the only case which could be brought forward was that of having purchased a man and woman of the Isles de Loss, whom it was his intention to have brought down with him, and pretended that they were his servants, and that he had redeemed them from slavery.

Having heard, however, of the capture of the slave vessel "Ninfa," on board of which his letters, Deponent understood, were found, he thought he would run too much risk. He therefore made up his mind to buy up as many slaves as he could, and with them make his escape in a French vessel, where the right of search was not permitted. At the time Deponent saw him in the Nunez, Jousiffe had brought over from the Rio Pongas (24) twenty-four slaves, (10) ten of whom he had disposed of.

A circumstance of slave-dealing came under Deponent's own knowledge a few months ago at the Isles de Loss, and became the subject of investigation before Deponent, Mr. Pyne, the Colonial Surveyor, and Mr. Boyle, the Colonial Surgeon, who had come down from Sierra Leone upon this occasion. It appeared from the evidence of three persons that a man, named Jem Saari, had kidnapped a man and woman from the Isles de Loss, and sold them in the Rio Pongas to Jousiffe. These were the man and woman to whom Jousiffe, in his conversation above, alluded to. Deponent has seen the man since in the Rio Pongas.

The evidence against Saari was considered sufficiently strong to warrant his committal to Freetown Gaol, where he now awaits his trial.

After the passing of the Abolition Act by Great Britain, the Slave-trade in the Rio Pongas and Nunez was stopped for a considerable period, in consequence of the great vigour exerted on the part of the naval and military forces. Several expeditions had from time to time been fitted out, and the towns of the slave dealers not unfrequently burnt down, so that an almost total stop was put to it, until the year 1825. A vessel or two, prior to this period, might have taken in a cargo; but the trade prevailed to no extent. Subsequent to the year 1825, however, it has revived; and now flourishes as much, if not more than at any former period. The trade has, in fact, gradually increased since the year 1825; and Deponent, from a comparison of his purchases of gold from the natives, has found that they had decreased in exact proportion with the increase of the Slave-trade. Deponent is sure that the quantity of gold brought by the natives of the interior to the Rivers Nunez and Pongas during the last year (1830) did not amount to ($\frac{1}{4}$ th) one-fourth of the quantity brought down four or five years ago. Whenever Deponent has asked the gold traders the reason of this annually increasing diminution, the reply has been, That slaves are much more easy of acquisition, and much more profitable than gold as an article of traffic, and that they can now obtain for slaves what goods they want.

The trade in the Rio Nunez has been carried on principally by French vessels, chiefly from Martinique and Guadaloupe. A considerable coasting and inland trade in slaves continues with Bissoo; and canoes frequently come from Bissoo with goods to buy the slaves, who are conveyed back through the creeks.

The Slave-trade in the Pongas is still more extensive than in the Nunez. Deponent has frequently seen in the former river, French, Spanish and Brazilian vessels waiting for the cargoes of slaves.

Deponent is of opinion that the reason why the Slave-trade is not carried on as extensively in the Nunez as in the Pongas, arises from the circumstance of there being so many English factories in the former river, the foreigners not liking to have their practices exposed. Deponent is of opinion that vessels under the French flag, claiming exemption from search, affords great facilities to slave-traders; and that, in consequence of the security which they feel, while under the cover of that flag, many adventurers of different nations have lately sprung up, who embark their slaves in French bottoms; and witness is of opinion that the French vessels which thus carry slaves in freight, complete their voyages at much less expense, and in a much shorter time, than those of any other nation.

Deponent is of opinion, that during the five months preceding the month of November 1830, not less than (1,800) one thousand eight hundred slaves have been shipped from the two Rivers Nunez and Pongas.

Deponent has traded in these rivers, and spent much of his time there, for the last two years. The information which he has given is therefore chiefly derived from personal observation. Since the month of November 1830, the following vessels have left with the under-mentioned cargoes :

Schooner "Matilda" - - - - -	280, escaped.
"Ninfa" - - - - -	187, captured
by the boats of His Majesty's brig "Conflict."	
French brigantine "La Caroline," detained, and sent to Goree for having liberated Africans on board - - - - -	57
"La Lucille" - - - - -	50
A Spanish schooner - - - - -	180

making a total of (554) five hundred and fifty-four persons.

There is now a large armed brig under the French flag (the tricolor), called the "Amelia," the master of which has stated that he has made six successful voyages from the Nunez; and that the one which he is now prosecuting will, if successful, be the twelfth from the coast. He has stated, that he expects to take off (350) three hundred and fifty slaves.

Deponent saw Mr. Benstead, the master of the schooner "Admiral Owen," belonging to Mr. John Smith of Sierra Leone, in the Rio Pongas, he believes in December last. Benstead told Deponent that he had come there with the master of the French brig "Lucille," and some seamen; and that he had also brought two guns for the "La Lucille," for which Deponent understood him to say the master had to pay (\$140) one hundred and forty dollars, and that (60 or 80 \$) sixty or eighty dollars were to be paid for the hire of the schooner. The "Lucille's" cargo of slaves, Deponent understood to have been intercepted by another slaver, the "Ninfa," while they were in the act of being conveyed on board her in canoes.

Deponent is the only European living on the Isles de Loss. The island on which Deponent resides is called "Crawford's." The islands are entirely unprovided with defence, either against the invasions of pirates or slaves. Deponent was made acquainted of a recent instance of a Spanish slave schooner, during witness' absence, landing her slave deck in Factory Island, and procuring water, and a pilot for the Milicourie, where she went and landed her cargo for the purchase of slaves. The mouth of the Malacary is not above (30) thirty miles from Sierra Leone. It is not now within our jurisdiction: it was formerly.

Slaves are transported from the Millicourie over land to the Rio Pongas. Thinks from the great proximity of the Malacary to Sierra Leone, a considerable portion of the slaves so transported must be liberated Africans. Is confirmed in that opinion from the conversation which he had with Ormond at the Rio Pongas. Deponent believes the reason why the system of kidnapping has prevailed so much within the last (12) twelve months in the Pongas, is the great increase of trade, and the greater demand for slaves. The canoes which trade between Sierra Leone and the Rio Pongas, pass close to the Isles de Loss; and Deponent believes that if a Government force, however small, were stationed there, it would greatly tend to check the transport of liberated Africans from this Colony, who, Deponent has no doubt, are often conveyed in such canoes to the Rio Pongas.

Deponent believes a great deal of slave dealing is carried on at Bissoo. Deponent heard from the captain of an American merchant vessel, while in the Rio Nunez, about a month ago, that during his stay at the Bissoo (about two months and a half) he had seen not less than five vessels with cargoes of slaves.

Before,—The Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, and *James Boyle, Esquire.*

Government House, 15th March 1831.

PERSONALLY appeared *Joseph Emerson*, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That he is aware there is a general system of slave dealing carried on between Cape Mount and the Gallinas, and has no doubt there are persons belonging to this Colony who aid in it. Deponent was down the coast a short time ago; whilst there he heard there was a schooner at the Gallinas. Deponent heard the schooner belonged to Messrs. Rae & Hornell.

This schooner had landed goods at Monsurado, and had proceeded from thence to the Gallinas, whence she came to this Colony.

There is now at Cape Mount a person of the name of Douglas Gray, who was formerly employed by this Government in the Colonial Pharmacy; there are also two others (Maroons) named Charles Smith and J. W. Cope, the latter of whom was formerly wharfinger of this Colony.

Colony. It is reported that these men are engaged in the Slave-trade. Deponent cannot say, from his own knowledge, whether this is true or not. Deponent does not know in what other trade than the Slave-trade they can be engaged. They are agents for the chiefs. There is also an Englishman, by name Cox, he has only one arm, who formerly held the situation of writer at Cape Coast. He resides near the Gallinas, and is notoriously known to be engaged in the Slave-trade.

Deponent could have sold his cargo at the Gallinas, but was afraid, from the circumstance of legal investigations having taken place relative to such sales. British ships, coming from England, always touch at the Gallinas, and sell their goods for money and ivory.

—No. 4.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Viscount *Goderich* to Lieutenant-Governor
Findlay, &c. &c. &c.

SIR,

Downing-street, 18th Jan. 1832.

I HAVE received your Despatch, dated on the 29th June last, enclosing a Report of the Commission appointed under Sir G. Murray's Instructions, to inquire into the prevalence and extent of the practice of kidnapping liberated Africans at Sierra Leone, together with the various papers enclosed in that Despatch.

I need scarcely say, that the subject to which that communication relates, has strongly arrested my attention; and notwithstanding the unexampled pressure of public business, in which the Ministers of the Crown have been engaged since the receipt of that Despatch, I have thought it an indispensable duty to bestow all the care in my power in the investigation of the many important questions which have thus been presented to my notice. I proceed to communicate to you the results of that inquiry.

1st. In Sir George Murray's Despatch of the 26th of October 1830, is to be found a recapitulation of the statements contained in Mr. Jeffcott's Charge to the Grand Jury. The results to which those statements came was, that the number of liberated Africans in Sierra Leone would, but for the Slave-trade carried on there, have amounted to 52,500 souls, including the progeny of that class of persons; whereas, in fact, the entire number was not above 17 or 18,000; so that the whole loss exceeded 35,000. Mr. Jeffcott did not, indeed, assert or suggest that any such number had been actually carried off by the Slave-trade. His statement was, that the number of Africans liberated by the Courts of Admiralty and Mixed Commission, amounted to 35,000.

Sir George Murray expressed his opinion, that the statement of the Judge on this subject must be inaccurate, and he explained at length the grounds of his distrust of them. It remains to consider how far the evidence justifies the opinions of my Predecessor on the one hand, or the assertions of the Judge on the other.

That the Slave-trade has been extensively carried on at Sierra Leone, is a fact which the evidence has unhappily placed beyond the reach of controversy; but the just indignation which every man must feel at the disclosure of such a fact, must not be permitted to supersede that calm and dispassionate inquiry, which is necessary in order to take a correct view of the evil, and to form a clear decision as to the practical measures necessary for its prevention in future.

It appears then by the Returns from the Liberated African Department, that from the year 1808 to the 31st of May 1830, the number of liberated Africans settled in the Colony, was 33,595. It further appears, that the total number found in the Colony when the census of the 30th June 1830 was taken, was 23,888. The actual deficiency, therefore, was 9,707. Now supposing the number of births and of deaths to have been precisely equal, the result would be that the whole of this deficiency must be accounted for either on the supposition that 9,707 had quitted the Colony voluntarily, or by assuming that they had been removed from it by violence or fraud.

But in the Return made by Mr. Cole, to the Assistant Superintendent of liberated Africans, I find the following passage; "I do, however, feel confident in stating from my own experience in the department, that one-fifth of the whole number of liberated Africans settled in the Colony from 1808 to the 30th June 1830, as shown in the subjoined statement, have died; and that three-fourths of the deaths (5,039 $\frac{1}{4}$) occurred within the four first months after their arrival, through the baneful diseases generated on board the slave vessels." Mr. Cole, therefore,

therefore, allows for the decrease by death, 6,719, which reduces the entire number unaccounted for, to 2,988. This calculation, however, supposes that after allowing for the mortality occasioned by the diseases generated in the slave ships, the remaining population did not produce a number of births exceeding the number of deaths, but remained stationary.

Before I consider how far it is probable that this was the real result, I will advert to such other evidence as I find in these papers, respecting the mortality which usually follows immediately upon the importation of a cargo of slaves.

Mr. Savage, a legal practitioner in the Colony, states, that the population has decreased during the last seven years, from death as well as from other causes, to which he refers. "Among the old resident liberated Africans, the births," he says, "are far more than the deaths; but among the whole liberated African population, the deaths are no doubt considerably beyond the births. Deponent makes this observation from his own experience, having been employed several times in taking the census of the population."

Mr. John M'Cormack, a merchant, and Member of Council, states the fact of the decrease of the population of liberated Africans; and assigns as one of the reasons for it, "the wretched state in which they are when landed from the slave ships."

Mr. John Weeke, a schoolmaster at the town of Regent, is led, from a residence of three years at that place, to infer that the births exceed the deaths very materially; but he also alludes to the "deaths among the newly imported Africans as diminishing this supposed rate of increase."

Mr. Frederick Campbell expressed his opinion, that upon a population of about 5 or 600 at the Banana Islands, the births are in proportion to the deaths as 6 to 1; but this calculation refers to a collective population of which the liberated Africans constitute only a part.

Such is the whole of the Evidence collected by the Commissioners, on the subject of the effect of the early mortality in reducing the total number of births below the total number of deaths. It scarcely presents any contradiction. The opinion of Mr. Weeke refers to the single settlement of Regent, and Mr. Campbell speaks only of a small body of persons at the Bananas, many of whom do not belong to the class in question. The general statements of Messrs. Cole, Savage and M'Cormack, founded on extensive knowledge and experience, and assisted by their official means of knowledge, seem to justify the conclusion that the waste of life produced amongst these people by their sufferings in the slave ships, is such as to account for the loss of a large proportion of them.

Independently of positive testimony, the apparent reason of the case and all experience in similar cases warrant the same inference. Nothing is more clearly ascertained than that within the first three months from the landing of a cargo of slaves in the West Indies, before the trade was abolished there, the loss by death amounted very commonly to a very large proportion of the whole number.

Similar causes are now in operation in Sierra Leone, and must be expected to yield corresponding results; and by a return from the Hospital at Kissy, I find that of the 478 liberated Africans who were admitted into that institution during the year 1829, 271 of that number had died.

I have carefully examined the two Returns transmitted with this Report, in order to ascertain what is the actual proportion of males and females amongst the liberated Africans settled in the Colony. The result appears to be, that the males are to the females in the proportion of nearly 13 to 9. Mr. M'Cormack "considers that the number of males bears a proportion to the females of 3 to 1, which" he says, "prevents an increase of births over deaths."

Mr. Frederick Campbell in his second examination, stated that at a town named Ricketts there are 98 males, and that among that number there are only 12 who have women. I can glean nothing further from the evidence illustrative of the proportions between the sexes; but here again I may observe, that the ordinary course of the Slave-trade justifies the supposition that in the ships brought to Sierra Leone there would be a great preponderance of males, men being a better article of traffic than women. Here, therefore, is another most material circumstance, which Mr. Jeffcott overlooked in his Charge, and which serves to explain the deficiency of the existing population as compared with the numbers settled in the Colony.

To determine the actual number of births and deaths since the year 1808, by any reference to the Population Returns, is unfortunately impracticable, it being
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evident that no such Returns have ever been made with even a plausible approach to accuracy. I find it stated by Mr. Savage, that "it is a custom amongst all Africans to remove from the place where they are taken sick, in order to guard against witchcraft," which, he says, may account for "the difficulty in ascertaining the correct number of deaths." He adds, "that in order to perform the rites of an African superstition called 'the Purrah,' several thousands retire from the Colony at certain periods;" another circumstance, which, he says, may account for the difficulty or total impossibility of taking a correct census. He adds, that "the small pox some few years back occasioned many deaths, and that the number of those that died, he is of opinion, was never known."

The Missionaries, Messrs. Stobar, Morgan and Knightly, concur in representing the inadequacy of the Registries to furnish any just conclusion as to the comparative number of births and deaths. The Chief Justice, Mr. Jeffcott himself, in his Evidence, admits himself to have committed, in the Charge which he delivered to the Grand Jury, and subsequently published, more than one very important mistake on the subject of the Population Returns.

He confounded a partial census for 1827 or 1828 (he has not even yet ascertained its real date) with a complete census for 1829. In the census so quoted, the births exceed the deaths by the number 71. Hearing this fact, either from the Governor or from Mr. Cole, the Chief Justice understood his informant to say, and quoted him from the Bench, as having said, that the births were in proportion to the deaths as *seven to one*.

I lay the census to which Mr. Jeffcott referred, out of the account altogether, being convinced by the testimony already quoted, of the incorrectness of all such Returns. But I cannot altogether pass without comment, the singular fact that the Chief Justice of the Colony should have thus quoted from the Bench, Returns, which it now appears, he had never seen; and that he should, upon any oral authority whatever, have hazarded so incredible an assertion, as that amongst the liberated Africans of Sierra Leone the rate of natural increase above that of mortality was of an amount so extraordinary as *seven to one*.

In accounting for the actual deficiency of 9,707 souls, there are yet other facts to be noticed in the depositions of the Witnesses, of which Mr. Jeffcott at the time of delivering his Charge, was manifestly ignorant.

I have already quoted from the evidence of Mr. Savage, one statement of the motives which induce voluntary emigrations from the Colony. The depositions are not wanting in other proofs and illustrations of the same fact. Thus, Mr. M'Cormack states, "that many of the apprentices run away from their masters and mistresses in consequence of harsh treatment; and many, rather than go back to them, and for fear, would allow themselves to be carried to any place voluntarily, even to be made slaves of again."

Mr. W. W. Lewis, the Registrar to the Courts of Mixed Commission "is aware, from private information, that it is the practice of slaves taken from the neighbourhood of the Colony, to return to their native country;" thinks many of the male adults return. It is his impression, that it is a fair calculation to allow that one-third of the male adults taken in the neighbourhood of this Colony, do return to their native country."

Mr. M'Cormack expresses his opinion that liberated Africans who have been taken in the wars amongst the various tribes adjacent to Sierra Leone, "and who have not been sold for slaves for any crime, on their emancipation universally, voluntarily, return to their native country. Of these there are great numbers. Several have returned with the sanction of the Government." He then evidences a particular case of certain liberated Traders in Gold, all of whom it appears had returned to their native country.

In the same manner Mr. Cole has stated, that "in cases where liberated Africans have applied for leave to return to their own country, or where the Chiefs have applied for such leave for them, they have been allowed to return." "Within the last four years, probably 800 of the Cupo nation have been imported from the windward, and of these, possibly, 250 may have returned to their country.

Let the various circumstances to which I have thus adverted, be combined together. Allow for the rapid mortality consequent upon the diseases engendered, and the sufferings endured in the slave ships; for the disproportion of sexes; and for voluntary returns of the Africans to their native country, whether from the natural love of home or to escape from ill-usage; and much of the difficulty disappears of accounting for the deficiency of 9,707 souls upon a period of

23 years, upon a population of 33,595. Mr. Jeffcott's Charge to the Grand Jury, therefore, when thus brought to the test of sober inquiry and calculation, must, I fear, be considered as highly exaggerated; and I cannot but fear, that, owing to his short acquaintance with the Colony, he has been induced to give his official sanction to the publication of statements which are not to be depended upon as correct.

Sir George Murray appears, in the Despatch to which I have referred, to have anticipated some other circumstances which the investigation has brought to light. Thus it appears that a large number of the liberated Africans have entered His Majesty's service, either as soldiers or sailors, and that others have been sent to the Settlements at the Gambia, the Isles de Loss and Ascension. These, however, are not included in the body comprising 33,595 people, to whom the preceding remarks refer.

But while I regret, as altogether exaggerated, the conclusions drawn by Mr. Jeffcott in his Charge to the Grand Jury, I have learned, with the deepest concern, that the existence of a Slave-trade, supplied by the liberated Africans, and carried on systematically, cannot admit of any reasonable doubt. It is impossible to ascertain its actual amount with any approach to accuracy. The statements of the best-informed witnesses are merely conjectural; and I shall not attempt the hopeless and, indeed, the unnecessary task of determining a fact which they have left in much obscurity; I rather turn to the consideration of those circumstances upon which some practical suggestions for the future prevention of this alarming system may be founded.

2dly. Then it appears from the evidence of Mr. Campbell, that there were numerous Slave factories, belonging to Ormond, Jousiffe and others, on the Rio Pongas, established, as it should seem, for this express purpose. Mr. Jackson mentions three Englishmen, who are settled at the Gallinas, and living amongst the native Slave dealers of that place; and he states, that there are many others there with no visible object except that of carrying on this trade. Mr. Hook, Collector of Customs, has stated that a very extensive trade is carried on, by means of boats and canoes, with the Gallinas, where the Slave traders supply the specie employed in that commerce.

From the evidence of Mr. Frederick Campbell, it appears that the Sierra Leone people are in the habit of selling goods at the Gallinas, receiving in return doubloons and dollars, which the traders of that place receive from Spanish slave ships in return for slaves, and especially for liberated Africans. Mr. W. B. Pratt has explained, in detail, the manner in which the trade in these persons was carried on, under his own observation, on the rivers. In the evidence of Robert Stone, the same fact is mentioned, with the addition, that many of the liberated Africans themselves carry on a suspicious trade along the rivers in canoes. Mr. Michael Proctor explained how the Slave-trade was formerly stopped on the Rivers Pongas and Nunez till the year 1825, by the activity of the naval and military forces. He attributes its subsequent revival on those streams to the diminished activity of those forces; and he has explained the extraordinary facilities given to slave trading by the freedom from search claimed for vessels lying, under the French flag, both in the Pongas and the Nunez.

I have communicated to Viscount Palmerston a copy of this part of Mr. Proctor's Evidence, in order that his Lordship may bring under the notice of the French Government the scandalous abuse of the flag of that nation, in contempt of its laws, and of the wishes of the Government and people of France; and I entertain a confident expectation that the Convention lately concluded with that Power, by which the right of search, under certain restrictions, is conceded, will have a most important effect in repressing the further prosecution of this disgraceful traffic.

I have also communicated to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the result of the Evidence as to the prevalence of this trade on the Rivers Pongas and Nunez; and have suggested to their Lordships the propriety of employing a few armed boats or schooners upon those rivers, in order to visit the Slave factories, and arrest the slave-trading canoes and other small craft, in which the trade is carried on there.

It remains that I should instruct you to consider the practicability of establishing a floating Police on the river where this trade is most actively carried on, which, I should apprehend, might be effected with great advantage, and at a small expense, by employing boats manned with liberated Africans, under the command of some of the most trust-worthy of their own class. A small body
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of men, judiciously selected for this purpose, would probably intercept and capture a large proportion of the canoes employed in carrying away the King's subjects into slavery.

The proceedings of the Slave Traders at the Gallinas might thus be interrupted; but so long as they are continued, measures must be taken for preventing the resort of Sierra Leone Merchants to that place, and its supply with articles of commerce from the Colony. It appears evident, then, an immediate though indirect encouragement is given to the Slave Traders by all the commercial operations between Sierra Leone and the Gallinas; and that the intercourse carried on with that place has no other basis than the supply of articles required for foreign dealers in Slaves. This is an evil of so serious a character, that it may well be arrested even at the expense of an absolute interdict, for a short time, of all communication with the Gallinas, and of the transmission of goods thither. A similar prohibition would seem necessary in reference to any other part of the coast, to which the trade now prevailing at the Gallinas might be transferred. You will consult the Council of Sierra Leone as to the propriety of enacting a law to render such prohibition effectual.

3dly. I find from the Evidence of Mr. Savage, that during Sir Charles M'Carthy's Government he (Savage) was sent to the Sherbro with a military force, and recovered no less than 115 liberated Africans. He is of opinion that from 400 to 500 might now be recovered by a secret mission to the Mandingo country, conducted by a person possessing local information, and a knowledge of the native languages. Mr. Pratt states, that about a month or three weeks before giving his Evidence, he had gone on a mission to Fouricaria, by your order, to claim the restoration of several liberated Africans, who were stated to be kept in slavery there. The effect of this visit seems, however, rather to have been that of giving Mr. Pratt an insight into the proceedings of the Slave Traders in the rivers, than that of redeeming the kidnapped people from their new slavery. If I rightly understand him, he succeeded in recovering only one.

The suggestion of Mr. Savage, founded, as it is, upon an experiment which proved so eminently successful, would seem to merit careful attention. How far it would really be practicable to repeat Sir Charles M'Carthy's measure with a reasonable hope of similar results, is a question to the solution of which more minute local information than I possess is necessary; but unless there be some obstacle of which I am not apprized, forbidding the attempt, it ought, I think, to be made. It is of the utmost importance to impress the Native Powers in the vicinity of Sierra Leone, with a conviction that the British Government is not indifferent to the fate of their subjects, but will use every practicable method for asserting their liberty.

5thly. In the Evidence already quoted, numerous proofs occur of the prevalence of the custom of sending back from Sierra Leone to the native country the liberated Africans belonging to the Mandingoes and other adjacent natives. Mr. Savage, in reference to this subject, states that the Jaloofs, Bassas and others, are induced by their country people to return home with them, and he supposes that upon their return, "A palaver would be brought against them;" and that, according to the usages of their country, they would be resold into slavery, on the principle that their title to freedom was for ever destroyed by the circumstance of their having been once in slavery.

As it would be impracticable, so I know not whether it would be desirable to detain in the Colony any of the liberated Africans who might be disposed to return to their own country. Indeed if there were a reasonable security for their safety on their return, I know not what more simple or convenient method of disposing of them could be adopted. It is, however, necessary that every possible attempt should be made to induce the native tribes to abandon their absurd custom, which Mr. Savage has explained, and to permit a rescued slave to enjoy the freedom which his capture by the British cruisers had obtained for him. Until some reasonable assurance can be obtained of the abolition of their practice, the liberated Africans should not be sent back, nor even permitted to return without a distinct intimation of the danger they will incur.

6thly. I find, in the Evidence of Mr. Savage, a remark on the great benefit which would have resulted in the suppression of the Slave-trade, from retaining the

the sovereignty of the Sherbro', and in the establishment of a factory there. In that opinion he is confirmed by Mr. M'Cormack; and in the Evidence of Mr. Lewis I find it stated, that the trade from Sierra Leone to the Sherbro' is very extensive, and is chiefly intended for the supply of the Slave Traders at the Gallinas. The establishment of a factory, and the extension of British sovereignty to the Sherbro', would entail an expense which I am not disposed to sanction, without more accurate information on the advantages to be derived from such a measure. I am aware that the subject is not now for the first time brought under discussion, as the project has been entertained by former Governors of Sierra Leone; but I nevertheless desire to learn your sentiments upon it, and the means which you would propose for carrying it into effect.

7thly. I find many of the Witnesses concurring in the opinion, that the want of profitable labour in the Colony, consequent upon the abandonment of different public works, has driven many of the liberated Africans to engage in the business of kidnapping each other, as the only available means of earning a subsistence. Mr. Savage thinks that some of them are induced to go to the Gallinas in quest of work, and that when there they are seized and sold as slaves. While Government works were going on, he thinks they had an inducement to remain in their settlements. The Government allowances having been withdrawn of late, within a much shorter period than heretofore, Mr. Savage finds in that circumstance a further explanation of the illicit practices by which some of the Africans have attempted to earn their living. Mr. M'Cormack concurs in this opinion, and thinks, that from the shortening of the term during which the Africans were formerly supported, many of them are compelled to wander about in quest of subsistence, and thus fall a prey to the kidnappers by whom the country is infested. He attributes, however, the running away of many of the Apprentices to the cruel usage of their masters. Mr. Lake gives the same explanation of the effect of the discontinuance of public works, and he is confirmed by Mr. W. Cole. In the Evidence of the last-mentioned gentleman, I find a passage relating to the nation called the Cupoos, which seems to me highly important. He states it to be the universal habit of these people to return to their own country; and observes that "they are all agriculturists, and there is not sufficient land in the Colony for them to cultivate."

I can scarcely suppose Mr. William Cole's meaning to be, that there is not in the Colony of Sierra Leone, a sufficient quantity of land capable of cultivation, to maintain the whole existing body of inhabitants; for on comparing the extent of the country with their numbers, such a fact would imply a most singular and improbable sterility in the soil. I have reason, however, to believe, that the greater part of the land commodiously situated for the purposes of the liberated Africans, is already under cultivation, and that there is little remaining except the lands lying to the east of the Peninsula between the River Sierra Leone and Kates River. The Secretary of State has already taken measures for removing to the Gambia a portion of the liberated Africans; and it will be a matter for future consideration whether it may not be expedient to provide for any future bodies of Slaves who may be liberated, by sending them to some new quarter. It may readily be believed and admitted, that as the expenditure on public works in the Colony is diminished, the labouring class must sustain in some cases a reduction, and in others a total loss of their means of subsistence. From these facts, I do not infer that the public works were improperly discontinued, or that they ought now to be resumed. Such undertakings should be limited by a careful estimate of the amount of Revenue which can be permanently assigned for their support; otherwise the temporary relief afforded by this artificial stimulus is much more than compensated by the distress consequent upon the return to a more frugal system. The only safe method of finding employment for great bodies of people, is that of exploring resources which do not depend on the fluctuations of caste or the changes in national policy. Of those resources, Agriculture is on every account the safest and the best. I would earnestly impress upon you the necessity of affording these people every possible facility for cultivating the soil; for certainly it is no just matter of surprize if many of them are thrown into evil courses when destitute of profitable employment or eleemosynary support. The imputed cruelties of masters towards their apprentices, should be repressed by an active enforcement of the existing law.

8thly. In the Deposition of Mr. Savage, it is stated, that a number of idle boys who run away from their villages, or who have escaped from gaol, are picked up by the Mandingoes. On the same subject Mr. M'Cormack remarks, that these boys prowl about the banks of the River, from which they are seduced by fair promises, to the native towns where they are seized as Slaves. Mr. Cole states, that the liberated Africans carried away, are principally children or slaves, Mr. Pratt has stated the case of an infant about a year old, being stolen from the Colony. In the deposition of Mr. Jeffcott I find it stated, that the person kidnapped is generally a child, or one who gives evident signs of imbecility.

The inference from these statements is, that the children of the Colony in general are not subject to that strict discipline which at their age it is on every account so desirable to enforce; but excepting parents be alive to the danger of leaving them at large in this manner, it seems difficult to provide against an evil of this kind.

9thly. Ignorance of the English language is assigned by some of the Witnesses as a circumstance which exposes the liberated Africans to the danger of being kidnapped. This is noticed by Mr. Pratt, in reference to a man who was stolen from Freetown, and by Mr. Findlay, in reference to the boy named John. Such a statement evidently suggests the great importance of imparting the knowledge with the utmost promptitude to the captured Slaves. Mr. Cole, indeed, states the very extraordinary fact, that the persons principally employed in kidnapping are those who have had the advantage of a Missionary education; a statement so singular and improbable, as to demand the most complete proof. Mr. Cole has offered none.

10thly. In the Evidence of Mr. Duncan Noble it is asserted, that many of the Foulahs and Mandingoes have resided in the Colony for months, and some of them for years, and subsist by the practice of kidnapping. If any such persons can be pointed out, their immediate removal from the Colony is a measure of evident necessity.

11thly. I perceive that Mr. Cole thinks that the liberated Africans are carried away in the night-time from the landing places. I should suppose that this abuse, if Mr. Cole be correct, might be very materially checked by placing watchmen at those stations.

12thly. The sale of condemned Slave-trading ships in the Colony, is noticed by several of the Witnesses, as affording great facility to the trade. This is stated by Mr. Noble, Mr. Hook, Mr. Smith, the Commissioners of Arbitration, and by Mr. Cole. Upon this subject I have requested Lord Palmerston and the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to take such measures as may most effectually diminish this temptation to the commission of the offence.

13thly. The accumulation of proofs of the extraordinary activity of Surae Gaboo in this traffic, indicate the necessity of bringing that person, if possible, to justice.

14thly, I find in these papers no allusion to any attempt for negotiating with the Native Chiefs in the neighbourhood of the Colony, for the voluntary abandonment of this trade. Such treaties were made with very good effect with Radama, the late king of a large district in Madagascar, and with the Imaun of Muscat. Difficulties, I am aware, may arise on the Western Coast of Africa, which did not occur on the Eastern side of that Continent. It is, however, proper that the experiment should be made as favourable opportunities may offer.

15thly. Another simple and effectual measure of prevention would be, the holding of musters of all the liberated Africans in their different towns and villages, at stated intervals. Once for example in each quarter, or perhaps even more frequently. This is a regulation which might be established and enforced without any difficulty, and you will immediately take the necessary measures for carrying it into effect. The result will inevitably be, to furnish the Local Government with the most early and authentic intelligence of any diminution in the number of the liberated Africans, which may be occasioned by the operations of the Slave Traders.

6thly. An additional precaution of great importance will be found, in establishing

blishing by law a complete Annual Census of all the Inhabitants of the Colony; distinguishing of course the liberated Africans from other classes.

It should be required that every birth and death occurring among them, should be reported to the Managers of the different Settlements, or to the Authorities of Freetown, by whom the Returns should be transmitted to the Assistant Superintendent of liberated Africans, who again should be bound to make periodical Reports on the subject to the Colonial Secretary, for your information. You will immediately adopt the necessary measures for procuring the concurrence of the Council in the promulgation of a law, to be framed in such a manner as may give full effect to this instruction.

17thly. The effect of the African Superstitions in concealing the deaths of many of these people, and in inducing them to move in large bodies beyond the limits of the Colony, for the performance of certain rites, has been already noticed. Those superstitions will yield to the benign influence of Christianity, but may otherwise probably be regarded as invincible. If any new motive were wanting to stimulate the wish of His Majesty's Government for the diffusion of Christian knowledge amongst this body of people, that motive would be found in the intimate connection which subsists in their case between the errors of Heathenism and the extension of the Slave-trade. I cannot therefore too earnestly recommend to your support and countenance, not only the Clergy of the Established Church, but the various Missionaries whom the zeal of different classes of Christians in this country has engaged, and is now supporting in the work of converting and instructing the liberated Africans. You will encourage their efforts by all personal kindness and attention which it may be in your power to bestow. You will at all times be ready to aid them by your counsels, without of course assuming any spiritual authority over them; and if instances should occur of those infirmities of temper and judgment to which, in common with all other men, they must be subject, you will, I am persuaded, feel that kindness and forbearance are better calculated than any other methods, to correct those errors which may be found in alliance with honest zeal and upright intentions. Although it is far from my purpose to attribute to you, any improper conduct or demeanor towards the various Missionaries in Sierra Leone, yet it has not escaped my attention that you appear to regard them with a degree of distrust, if not of suspicion, which is eminently unfavourable to the growth of those kind and amiable relations which ought to subsist between them and the Governor of the Colony. It is on that account that I have thought it right to press the preceding remarks on your attention.

18th. I have observed with equal surprize and regret, the circumstances stated in the Evidence of Mr. Samo and Mr. Rae, tending to connect Mr. Hornett of Antigua with the Slave-trade, which has been carried on at Sierra Leone. I shall communicate with the Governor of Antigua on the subject; and you will of course follow up the inquiry, as it affects Mr. Hornett's agents, with all possible activity.

19th. I have searched these papers with great anxiety to discover how far they warrant the representation made by the Chief Justice in his Charge;—that persons of substance and consideration in the Colony had been implicated in the disgraceful conduct of the Slave Traders. On that subject I collect from the whole Evidence, that the chief agents in the trade are the liberated Africans themselves. "Persons of this class," says Mr. Jeffcott in his deposition, "are the original kidnappers. The Mandingoes from the opposite shore are generally the receivers." All the specific cases which have been brought to trial, or which private activity has traced out, confirm this general conclusion. The only persons belonging in any sense to the higher class of society, who appear to have been charged with this offence, are Mr. Hornett, already mentioned, and Mr. Parker, a British merchant and stipendiary Magistrate at Freetown. Mr. Parker's offence seems to have consisted in having purchased a condemned Slave ship, which, being shortly afterwards found fitted out anew for the Slave-trade, was again seized, and condemned. For having so fitted out this vessel, Parker was tried and acquitted. The Judge seems to have had a moral persuasion of Parker's guilt in this instance, although he thought that there was an insuperable defect in the legal evidence. In Parker's defence, he is said to have urged, that other merchants had

had previously done with impunity, acts precisely similar to that for which he was indicted. A Mr. John Smith, who is also described as a merchant of Sierra Leone, was prosecuted for having sold two guns to the master of a Slave vessel, and for having put the guns on board, with a guilty knowledge of the illegal purpose for which it was intended to use them. Smith and the Master of the vessel seem to have been subjected to a penalty, and are still about to answer to an indictment for having thus aided in the Slave-trade. In addition to these cases, I find allusions made to a gentleman who was formerly a Member of Council of the Colony, but is now dead. It is rather suggested than distinctly alleged, that upon two boys in his service being kidnapped, he was guilty of total inattention to the subject, as well as to other representations made to him by Mr. Benjamin Campbell, respecting the prevalence of the Slave-trade at Sierra Leone. In a person holding such a rank in the Colonial Government, and who had occasionally been in its temporary administration, such remissness as this, if adequately substantiated, would call for the most severe censure, and would even justify the most painful suspicions. But, considering that the gentleman in question did not live to hear the imputation thus made against his character; and adverting to the very ambiguous and indistinct terms in which it was at last conveyed; and bearing in mind the inherent improbability of the charge, I should not feel myself justified in the employment of any language which could be fairly construed into a reflection on that gentleman's memory.

Adverting to the general terms in which, in his Charge to the Grand Jury, Mr. Jeffcott denounced as participators in the Slave-trade, resident merchants and others, called or calling themselves respectable;—

I cannot think that the Evidence faintly justifies the imputation. The cases of Parker and Smith are the only instances in which persons above the very lowest rank in life, are proved to have assisted in the Slave-trade in any manner whatever. Assuming, that notwithstanding the verdict of Not guilty, Parker was, as the Judge supposes, really concerned in fitting out a ship at Sierra Leone for a Slave-trading voyage, it would be difficult to reprobate his conduct too strongly. Smith's sale of two guns to a Slave-trader, knowing how they were to be employed, is also an act meriting reprobation and punishment; but it is due to the society at large to say, that I find no proof of that general or systematic co-operation of the higher classes in the Slave-trade, which Mr. Jeffcott's original statement had led me to apprehend.

20th. Throughout these Depositions numerous statements occur tending to impeach or to acquit former Governors of the Colony of negligence on the subject of the Slave-trade. The result is to satisfy me, that there is no serious ground for so grave an imputation. Thus, for example, I find from the Evidence of Mr. Savage, that Sir Charles M'Carthy on one occasion recovered no less than 115 of these people. He is said to have taken great interest in the subject. Mr. Savage knew of no instance of the neglect of any representation made to former Governments respecting the Slave-trade. He thought that their inaction was to be accounted for by the short tenure of office, and consequent ignorance of preceding Governors. Mr. Savage refers to cases in which Sir Neil Campbell and General Turner made great and successful efforts for the rescue of kidnapped people. Mr. M'Cormack has also borne testimony to the zeal of Sir Neil Campbell. Mr. Lake has explained how the increase of Slave-trading is to be accounted for, without attributing any apathy on the subject to former Governors. Mr. Hook mentions the absence of prosecutions under former Governments, but advances no explanation of that fact. The narrative of Mr. Cole proves, that the number of Africans rescued by yourself, is about 25, a very gratifying result; but neither exceeding nor even equalling the success of the exertions of Sir Charles Neil Campbell or Sir Charles M'Carthy. It is due to the memory of the very able officers, who have served the King, to the sacrifice of their own lives at Sierra Leone, that I should distinctly avow my conviction, that the Evidence taken on this inquiry, leaves their reputation free from reproach; and that their zeal for the suppression of the Slave-trade, may without injustice be brought into comparison even with that which you have yourself so laudably manifested. Mr. Jeffcott's Charge was certainly calculated to produce a very different impression.

PAPERS RELATIVE TO THE SLAVE TRADE, &c.

The great importance of the subject to which this Despatch refers, has induced me thus minutely to review the whole of the Evidence which you have transmitted. To yourself, for the zeal which you have manifested on this occasion—to the Chief Justice, for his promptitude in exposing this scandalous system—and for his unwearied activity in the repression of it—and to the gentlemen who constituted the Commission of Inquiry—I have to tender the sincere acknowledgments and thanks of His Majesty's Government. These acknowledgments are not the less freely or cordially made, because I have the misfortune to differ with yourself and Mr. Jeffcott as to the propriety of giving to the public at large, at the commencement of this discussion, a Charge to the Grand Jury, which, in some important respects, appears to have been greatly exaggerated. I am little disposed to weigh with scrupulous nicety, language dictated by an honest indignation against crimes of the deepest turpitude, and most injurious to the national honour and reputation; nor shall I detract from the merit of faithful services on such an occasion, by too narrow an examination into any minor indiscretion by which they may have been accompanied.

In conclusion, I have to impress with the utmost earnestness on your attention, the various Instructions contained in this Despatch, and I shall anxiously expect from you a full and minute Report upon each of them.

I am, &c.

(signed)

Goderich.

SLAVE TRADE, SIERRA LEONE.

C O P Y

OF A

CHARGE delivered by Mr. Chief Justice *Jeffcott*
to the GRAND JURY of *Sierra Leone*, on the Subject
of the SLAVE TRADE, with Correspondence
thereon.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
6 April 1832.
