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**P A P E R S**

PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT, BY

HIS MAJESTY'S COMMAND,

IN EXPLANATION OF THE MEASURES ADOPTED BY  
HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT,

FOR GIVING EFFECT TO THE ACT

FOR THE

**ABOLITION OF SLAVERY**

THROUGHOUT THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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**PART II.—(continued.)**

*(In Continuation of the Papers presented this Session, Nos. 177 and 278.—I.)*

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ST. VINCENT.  
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ST. LUCIA.  
HONDURAS.  
BAHAMAS.  
GRAND CAYMANAS.  
BERMUDA.  
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

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**1833—1835.**

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,*  
*10 June 1835.*

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- No. 53.—TOBAGO.—An Act to authorize the temporary appointment of Special Magistrates for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of an Act of the Legislature of this Island, intituled, "An Act to carry into effect the provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament 3 & 4 Will. IV. c. 73, for the Abolition of Slavery," &c.—(Passed 29 July 1834) p. 436
- No. 54.—TRINIDAD.—An Ordinance for the purpose of carrying into effect the division of Apprenticed Labourers into Classes, as prescribed and required by an Act of the Imperial Parliament, passed on the 28th of August 1833, for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies—(Passed December 1834) - - - - - p. 437
- No. 55.—TRINIDAD.—Copy of an Order in Council, dated 5th June 1834, for giving effect in the Island of Trinidad, to the statute 3 & 4 Will. IV. c. 73, for the Abolition of Slavery p. 439
- No. 56.—ST. LUCIA.—Copy of an Order in Council, dated 5 June 1834, for giving effect in the Island of St. Lucia to the statute 3 & 4 Will. IV. c. 73, for the Abolition of Slavery - p. 456
- No. 57.—ST. LUCIA.—A Proclamation dividing the Island of St. Lucia into three Judicial Districts, and defining the Limits of the said Districts—(1 August 1834) - - - - - p. 473

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- No. 58.—ST. LUCIA.—An Ordinance for fixing and determining the number of Hours per week which shall be allotted to Prædial Apprenticed Labourers for the cultivation of their Provision Grounds, and also for regulating the apportionment of the 45 Hours per week, during which Prædial Apprenticed Labourers are required by law to work for the benefit of their Employers—(Passed 1 August 1834) - - - - - p. 474
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- No. 60.—ST. LUCIA.—An Ordinance for providing for the acquiescence of the minority of the Prædial Apprenticed Labourers in the apportionment of Task Work; and also providing for the Compensation compellable from Apprenticed Labourers absenting themselves from the Service of their Employers—(Passed 18 August 1834) - - - - - p. 475
- No. 61.—ST. LUCIA.—An Ordinance for abolishing the Office of Commissary-Commandant, and in lieu thereof establishing the Office of Justice of the Peace, and defining and regulating the Duties to be performed by the said Officer within the Island of St. Lucia—(Passed 23 October 1834) - - - - - p. 477
- No. 62.—ST. LUCIA.—An Ordinance enacting and ordaining certain Rules and Regulations respecting the Rural Police Establishments, and respecting Houses of Correction and Penal Gangs within the said Island of St. Lucia—(Passed 1 December 1834) - - - - - p. 479
- No. 63.—ST. LUCIA.—An Ordinance for amending and explaining part of the 12th Clause of an Ordinance respecting the Duties of the Rural Police in apprehending absentee Apprenticed Labourers in the Island of St. Lucia—(Passed 15 June 1835) - - - - - p. 483
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- No. 69.—BAHAMAS.—An Act for dividing the Colony into Police Districts, for making Provision for the residence of Special Justices therein, for the erection of Goals and places of solitary Confinement, the appointment of Gaolers and Constables, and for other purposes—(Passed 20 March 1834) - - - - - p. 508
- No. 70.—BAHAMAS.—An Act to provide for the payment of Salaries to certain Special Magistrates therein designated, and to repeal certain clauses or sections of an Act of the General Assembly made and passed in the fourth year of His Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act auxiliary to an Act of the Imperial Parliament, intituled, 'An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves,' and to explain certain other clauses of the said Act"—(Passed 23 August 1834) - - - - - p. 510
- No. 71.—BAHAMAS.—An Act to amend an Act of the General Assembly of these Islands, intituled, "An Act auxiliary to an Act of the Imperial Parliament, 3 & 4 Will. IV. c. 73, for the Abolition of Slavery"—(Passed 6 October 1834) - - - - - p. 512
- No. 72.—BAHAMAS.—An Act to explain and amend certain parts of the 4 Will. IV. c. 21, intituled, "An Act auxiliary to an Act of the Imperial Parliament, 3 & 4 Will. IV. c. 73, for the Abolition of Slavery"—(Passed 11 May 1835) - - - - - p. 515
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- No. 74.—BERMUDA.—An Act for the Abolition of Slavery in these Islands, in consideration of Compensation - - - - - p. 516
- No. 75.—BERMUDA.—An Act to repeal the Laws exclusively applicable to free Black and free Coloured Persons, and extend to them the Laws applicable to White Persons; and to fix the Qualification for Jurors, Voters, and the Electors and Candidatos for certain Offices and Places of Trust - - - - - p. 517
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[ 1 ]

## P A P E R S

RELATING TO THE

## ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.

## ANTIGUA.

—No. 145.—

ANTIGUA.

No. 145.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.  
to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 2 July 1833.

IN consequence of your circular Despatch of the 20th of May last, relative to measures now under consideration of the Imperial Parliament for the extinction of Slavery, I convened His Majesty's Privy Council, of whose proceedings, under date the 1st instant, a copy is enclosed.

Soon after my arrival in Antigua, having issued a notice (Enclosure No. 2), I consider it inadvisable, for the present, to renew a similar appeal to the slave population, from a dread of weakening, by too frequent repetition, the effects of publications of that nature; but my constant and most vigilant attention will be directed towards the adoption of whatever precautions circumstances may demand, in case of the manifestation of excitement by any class of this community.

With respect, however, to the planters, although I have every reason to be satisfied with the reception they have afforded me, I beg permission to observe, that a governor's principal means of acquiring influence with those gentlemen formerly arose from that description of personal intercourse which, in regard to the Leeward Islands and Dominica, under the recent arrangements of His Majesty's Government, has necessarily ceased.

I am, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

Enclosure 1, in No. 145.

Enclosure 1, in  
No. 145.

ANTIGUA.—At a Meeting of the PRIVY COUNCIL, held by Special Summons, at  
Government House, on Monday, the 1st July 1833.

Present,

His Excellency Sir Evan John Murray M'Gregor.

The Honourable Samuel Warner.

" William Byam.

" Meade H. Daniell.

The Honourable Richard W. Nanton.

" Francis F. Brown.

" George S. Martin.

(Extract.)

His Excellency directs the Secretary to read a circular Despatch of the 20th May last, from the Right honourable E. G. Stanley, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The opinion of the Board is requested as to the propriety of adopting precautionary measures for preserving order and subordination in the Colony in the anticipation of any excitement arising in consequence of these propositions. Several observations are made on this subject, the result of which appears to be as follows:

That the Board do not at present apprehend any immediate excitement to such an extent as to endanger the peace of the community. That with regard to the slaves, their present feeling appeared to be one of expectation of some plan being in progress for their freedom; of the nature of which plan they were at this moment wholly ignorant: that if they were made acquainted with the plan now in contemplation, their feeling would probably be changed to that of general disappointment.

278.—II.

That

Printed in Parl. Papers,  
16 April 1835, No. 177,  
p. 3.



ANTIGUA.

That it might be desirable to guard against the effects of such disappointment, by stationing a small detachment of regular troops in such a position as to afford a facility of moving them to any point where their presence might be deemed useful; and the Board suggest that Monks Hill would afford in itself the most convenient post for that purpose.

(A true Extract.)

(signed)

*Thomas Lane, Secretary.*Enclosure 2, in  
No. 145.

Enclosure 2, in No. 145.

NOTICE.—BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

WHEREAS there is the strongest reason to believe that evil-minded persons have been actively spreading among the negroes malicious reports that certain benefits granted to them by The King are withheld by those under whose charge and protection they are placed; and that the Governor is empowered by His Majesty to grant emancipation to the slave population, which reports are calculated to unsettle their minds and be equally injurious to the slave and the owner—It is hereby declared, that such reports are false and utterly without foundation. And moreover that whatever advantages His Majesty may at any future period be pleased, through His paternal care, to grant to the slaves, it will be incumbent on the Governor to make known to them the nature and extent of such concessions, and to ensure their immediate enjoyment thereof.

If, in disregard of this solemn assurance, any sedition or insubordination shall be exhibited, his Excellency earnestly warns the negro population, that the most prompt and irresistible means will be used to quell the same, and to chastise, in the severest manner, the ring-leaders, whose disobedience can but tend to postpone indulgences which it might be the gracious wish of His Majesty the King eventually to bestow.

And whereas several appeals have been addressed to His Excellency by slaves to the great inconvenience of distant parties and witnesses—It is desired to be understood, and to be carefully explained to them, that the Governor will listen to no complaint, unless satisfied that the complainant has previously applied to the nearest Justice of the Peace. And those desirous of submitting appeals to the Governor are hereby further cautioned, that while the strictest justice will be done to any slave who may have been wronged or injured, the applicants will find an equal determination on his Excellency's part, to cause the infliction of such punishment as may be due to persons guilty of wilful misrepresentations whenever the charges thus preferred shall prove unfounded, frivolous or vexatious.

And it is hereby further directed, that whenever the slaves of any estate conceive they have just cause of complaint, they are on no account to presume to make the same in gangs or large bodies, but are to depute two, or at the utmost three of their number, who may proceed to lay the same before the magistrate or magistrates of the division in which they reside. And only in the event of a failure of redress in such quarter are they, in like manner, to represent their grievances to the Governor.

Government House, St. John's, Antigua,  
23 May, 1833.By his Excellency's Command,  
*C. Taylor, Priv. Secretary.*

No. 146.

—No. 146.—

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor, Bart.* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*, dated Government House, Antigua, 18 July 1833.

ON the 17th, for which day the Legislature had been summoned, I had the honour of receiving your circular Despatch of the 13th June, together with the Resolutions of The House of Commons therein referred to; and that communication seemed to me so important, and calculated to produce such conspicuously salutary effects, that I requested the gentlemen of the Council to meet in Privy Council, at Government-House that morning, before entering on the exercise of their legislative functions.

For what passed on that occasion, as well as subsequently, between the Council, Assembly and myself, I beg leave to refer to Enclosures Nos. 3, 5 and 6, wherein it will be found that these bodies have pledged themselves respectively to meet further communications on this subject "with respectful and dispassionate consideration," and to "approach the question with dispassionate seriousness."

It is truly satisfactory to me to add the assurance that, in this Island the influential colonists evince every disposition to propitiate the British Nation, under existing circumstances, in the most conciliatory spirit, while the labouring classes await the anticipated change in their condition without the slightest indication of impatience.

17 July 1833.

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

3

Enclosure in No. 146.

No. 3.

ANTIGUA.

Enclosure in  
No. 146.ANTIGUA.—At a Meeting of the PRIVY COUNCIL, held by Special Summons, at  
Government House, on the 17th day of July 1833.

Present,

His Excellency Sir Evan J. Murray M'Gregor, Bart.

The Honourable Samuel Warner.

The Honourable Richard W. Nanton.

" Meade H. Daniell.

" Francis F. Brown.

" William Byam.

(Extract.)

Read circular Despatch of the 13th June 1833, from the Right honourable Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the projected extinction of Slavery, with the Resolutions of The House of Commons thereon.

It is the unanimous opinion of the Board, that a communication so important and interesting as the one just read, should be imparted without loss of time to the local Legislature, which has been convened already for other purposes this day. It is accordingly ordered, that a copy thereof be forwarded forthwith to both Houses, with a message from his Excellency.

(A true Extract from the Minutes of the Privy Council of Antigua.)

(signed) *Tho<sup>s</sup> Lane*, Secretary.

No 4.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

(Copy.)

Honourable Gentlemen,

Antigua, 17th July 1833.

AN important communication received this day from the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies has just been laid before His Majesty's Privy Council, which it is the opinion of that Board should be imparted without loss of time to both Houses. In inclosing it for this purpose, I must not omit the expression of my anxious hope and confident anticipation, that a Despatch so interesting in its results, may be met in the same cordial spirit of conciliation under which it has been dictated.

I have the honour, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

To His Honour the President of the Council, and  
His Honour the Speaker of the Assembly.

No. 5.

(Copy.)

Sir,

Council Chamber, Antigua, 17th July 1833.

THIS Board acknowledges with thanks the early communication your Excellency has been pleased to make to them of the important Despatch of the Right honourable Secretary of State for the Colonies, under date the 13th June last, relative to the projected plan of His Majesty's Ministers, for the change in the condition of the slave population in these Colonies; and I beg to inform your Excellency, that the members of this Board are prepared to meet the further communications on this subject with respectful and dispassionate consideration, whenever it shall please His Majesty's Government to bring them before the local Legislature.

I have the honour, &amp;c.

(signed) *Samuel Warner*, President of the Council.

To His Excellency Sir Evan J. Murray M'Gregor, Bart. c. b. k. c. h.  
Governor and Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c.

(A true copy.)

(signed) *Tho<sup>s</sup> Lane*, Secretary.

No. 6.

(Copy.)

Sir,

Saint John's, Antigua, 17th July 1833.

I HAVE received the commands of the House of Assembly respectfully to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's communication of this day's date, submitting the circular Despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies of the 13th June last, and at the same time to assure your Excellency, that the House will, in due time, approach the question to which it refers, with the dispassionate seriousness due to the immense interests at stake.

I have the honour, &amp;c.

(signed) *Nicholas Nugent*, Speaker.

To His Excellency Sir Evan J. Murray M'Gregor, Bart. c. b. k. c. h.  
Governor and Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c.

(A true copy.)

(signed) *N. Humphrey*, Clerk of the Assembly.

(True copies.)

*E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

Printed in Parl. Papers,  
16 April 1835, No. 177.  
Page 5.

13 June 1833,  
and one Enclosure.

ANTIGUA.

—No. 147.—

No. 147.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart., to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 3 October 1833.

HAVING deemed it advisable to communicate the Bill for the Abolition of Slavery, as amended by The House of Lords, to His Majesty's Privy Council of Antigua; I have the honour of laying before you the proceedings of the Board thereon, as well as in regard to certain Resolutions, adopted at a recent public meeting in St. John's, and now under the consideration of the Legislative Council and Assembly.

Without expressing any "opinion on the tenor or conditions contained in the said Resolutions," the Board represent, "that the general feeling of the proprietors in this colony is, that they would decidedly prefer immediate emancipation to the system of apprenticeship."

These sentiments rest, as I am assured, on the confidence generally reposed in the superior intelligence and good disposition of the labouring population of this island, with whose education and religious instruction every pains appear to be taken by the regular clergy and missionaries, liberally countenanced by the gentlemen of the country.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.Enclosure in  
No. 147.

Enclosure in No. 147.

ANTIGUA.—At a Meeting of the Members of the PRIVY COUNCIL, held by special Summons, at Government House, on Tuesday, the 1st October 1833.

Present,

His Excellency Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*.The Honourable *Samuel Warner*." *Meade H. Daniell*." *Richard W. Nanton*.The Honourable *Francis F. Brown*." *George S. Martin*.

His Excellency the Governor lays before the Board the Slavery Abolition Bill, which he informs them had passed the Lords' House of Parliament, and which he had received by the last packet.

The Bill is read.

The Board is of opinion, that the Attorney-General for this Colony should be requested to prepare a form of public notice or proclamation to be issued by the Executive so soon as this Bill shall have been officially transmitted for the information of the local Legislature; that the object of such notice should be, to make the slave population fully acquainted with the new position in which they are about to be placed, and to that end, that it should contain in plain terms the heads of the Bill, as far as relates to their condition; that it should also inform them of the precise period when the Bill is to come into operation, and admonish them of the necessity for their own sakes of preserving in the meantime perfect order and submission.

It is also the opinion of the Board that the law officers of the Crown for this Colony be requested to engage immediately in the inquiry by what enactments the existing laws may be most conveniently adjusted to a state of society in which slavery will be unknown.

His Excellency calls the attention of the Board to certain Resolutions entered into at a public meeting in this Island on the 11th September, and which Resolutions he understands are now in the form of a memorial before the two Houses of Legislature. The Board hereupon deem it their duty to represent to his Excellency that the general feeling of the proprietors in this Colony is, that they would decidedly prefer immediate emancipation to the system of apprenticeship; the Board, however, expresses no opinion on the tenor or conditions contained in the said Resolutions. They are as follows:

ANTIGUA.—At a Meeting of the PROPRIETORS of ESTATES and others interested in Slave property, held this 11th day of September 1833, at the Court House in the Town of St. John, in this Island, to take into consideration the state of proceedings having for their object the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies,

The Honourable *John Duncombe Taylor* in the Chair,

It was resolved,

1st. That this Meeting is decidedly of opinion that a temporising system in this Colony would only prolong and increase present difficulties; that a period of apprenticeship, as proposed by Mr. Secretary *Stanley* in his Bill now before Parliament, would be one of most anxious irritation to all parties, tending to the moral degradation of the negro, and the grievous

1 October 1833.

grievous oppression of the present slave owner, and that any proportion of compensation which might be allotted would be rendered abortive by the expensive and complicated machinery of Commissioners, &c. for its distribution.

2d. That if slavery be a crime, of which it is expedient that the British Nation should absolve itself, every principle of justice demands that the British Nation should provide full compensation, or the most ample indemnity, before it can interfere with the legally established system of its Colonists, or have any right to claim their assistance in carrying into effect any measure of experiment with property so repeatedly sanctioned by the Imperial Legislature; and that at whatever period the British Parliament may determine to proclaim freedom to the slaves in these Colonies, the relative obligations of the owner of these slaves will cease, and there can exist no constitutional power or authority to force upon the Colonists the necessity of employing labourers over whose conduct they would have no control.

3d. That this Meeting is fully impressed with the great and peculiar difficulties which consequently surround every attempt to abolish slavery in the British Colonies, and is equally sensible that the integrity of the Mother Country, the welfare of the slaves, and the safety of the Colonies, require that the destructive agitation of the question be quickly set at rest.

4th. That, urged by these important considerations, the members of this Meeting, submitting their objections, founded on long experience and local knowledge, to their earnest desire to repel the charge of upholding slavery in this Colony, and to afford British philanthropy a definite limit for its exercise, are willing, at the earliest possible period, to accede to the entire and unconditional emancipation of their slaves in this Island, and to use every influence in forwarding the passing of such Acts by the Colonial Legislature as may be requisite to provide for the consequent change of circumstances, upon there being absolutely vested in Government securities for their use the sum of thirty pounds sterling per negro, and upon an exemption to this Island from the payment of the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Duties.

5th. That the Meeting comes to this conclusion without reference or meaning to imply the fitness of its application to the circumstances of any other Colony.

6th. That these Resolutions be inserted in a book (to be kept at the store of William Macfarlane, Esquire), and that all parties interested be invited to sanction them, and that a copy be presented to the Colonial Secretary by Anthony Brown, Esquire, the Island agent, for the consideration of His Majesty's Ministers.

7th. That Petitions, founded on and embodying these Resolutions, be presented to both Houses of Legislature, praying their concurrence and adoption of such measures to attain the object of this Meeting as may seem best calculated to preserve the interests of the slave owners, and secure the welfare of the slave.

8th. That the Honourable John Duncombe Taylor, the Honourable Samuel Otto Bayer, and Francis Shand, Esquire, be appointed a committee to frame such Petitions, and be authorized to sign and obtain the presentation of the same as the Petitions of this Meeting.

(A true copy.)

Thos Lane, Sec.

— No. 148. —

No. 148.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart. to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 17 October 1833.

A MEETING of the Legislature having been fixed for this day, I have the honour to report, that copies of your circular Despatch of the 5th of September last have been presented to the Council and Assembly; that His Majesty's Proclamation accompanying it has been placarded in St. John's, and circulated throughout the Island; and that copies of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery have been distributed to the principal inhabitants.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

— No. 149. —

No. 149.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart. to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 2 November 1833.

FROM the enclosed extract of this day's Minutes of His Majesty's Privy Council of Antigua, it will be observed, that the Attorney-General is requested to draw up a Bill, which the Board, in anticipation of the change in the condition of the labouring classes, to be effected on the 1st of August next, have agreed to introduce in their legislative capacity, for the purpose of modifying in this Island the present system of slave treatment.

2 November 1833.

## 6 PAPERS RELATIVE TO THE ABOLITION OF

ANTIGUA.

Under the impression of its not proving unacceptable to you, it is an object of my anxious solicitude that the right of inflicting corporal punishment upon the slave population should, by an Act of the Legislature, henceforward be transferred from their owners, the proprietors or managers of estates, &c. to the colonial magistracy.

The conciliatory disposition evinced by the Council, in favourably entertaining my suggestion, is highly satisfactory, and it will afford me sincere pleasure hereafter to be enabled to report, that the Assembly have assented to the proposed enactment.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

Enclosure in No. 149.

Enclosure in  
No. 149.

EXTRACT of Proceedings of the PRIVY COUNCIL of Antigua, 2d November 1833.

Present,

His Excellency the Governor.

The Honourable Samuel Warner.

" Meade H. Daniell.

" Richard W. Nanton.

The Honourable George S. Martin.

" William Lee.

ALTHOUGH the Governor will abstain from recommending a measure of this nature to the notice of the Legislative Council and Assembly, especially because its effects would prove infinitely more salutary if originating with and voluntarily emanating from those bodies, his Excellency deems it an act of duty to solicit the attention of His Majesty's Privy Council to the propriety and policy of endeavouring to anticipate the change in the position of the labouring classes of this community, destined to occur on the 1st of August next, by the adoption of such modifications in the present system of slave punishment and general treatment, as the experience of the honourable members may lead them to consider best adapted to local circumstances, during the intervening period of time.

The Board is decidedly of opinion that it would be wise to make such arrangements in the intermediate time between this and the 1st August, as would render the change in the condition of the slaves as little striking as possible; and thus lessen the excitement that may then naturally be expected to take place. An enactment to the effect proposed by the Governor is of course liable to opposition in the Assembly; but the Board embark readily in the proposition of his Excellency; and it is agreed that the Attorney-General (now a member of this Board) do draw up a Bill which shall fully accomplish this object.

(A true Extract.)

(signed) *Thomas Lane*, Clerk of Council.

No. 150.

— No. 150. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Stanley* to Governor  
*Sir E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 14 December 1833.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Despatch of the 2d November last, enclosing an extract of the Minutes of His Majesty's Privy Council of Antigua, by which it appears that the Attorney-General is requested to draw up a Bill, which the Board, in anticipation of the change in the condition of the labouring classes, to be effected on the 1st August next, have agreed to introduce in their legislative capacity, for the purpose of modifying, in the island of Antigua, the present system of slave treatment.

With respect to the wish which you have expressed, that the right of inflicting corporal punishment upon the slave population should by an Act of the Legislature henceforward be transferred from their owners, the proprietors or managers of estates, &c. to the colonial magistracy, I have to observe, that if the Act to which you refer be intended to be in operation only till the 1st August, there can be no objections to it, but that, on the contrary, it appears a salutary and wise provision. It must, however, be borne in mind, that if it be intended under such an Act to continue, during a system of apprenticeship, the power of interference between master and apprentice to the colonial magistracy, it would be repugnant to the express enactment of the British statute, which vests that power exclusively in the special (though not only in the stipendiary), magistrates. If, on the other hand, on the 1st of August next unrestricted freedom be introduced, then this objection falls to the ground.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. G. Stanley*.

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

7

— No. 151. —

ANTIGUA.

No. 151.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. M'Gregor*, Bart. to  
Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir, Government House, Antigua, 4 November 1833.

It has been already represented by His Majesty's Privy Council, as stated in my letter of the 3d ultimo, "that the general feeling of the proprietors in this colony is, that they would decidedly prefer immediate emancipation to the system of apprenticeship."

Of that preference, having had under consideration, conformably with my Report of the 17th ultimo, the Act of the 28th of August last, together with your circular Despatch of the 5th of September, the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, through the medium of a joint letter to me, from their Honours the President and Speaker, herewith forwarded, unanimously concur in announcing their adoption.

The sentiments of the clergy, agreeably to the statement of the Reverend the Rector of Saint John's, as well as of the senior Wesleyan and Moravian missionaries, will be found likewise in accordance with those of the Privy Council and Legislature upon this interesting subject.

In the Address of the President and Speaker the utmost anxiety is evinced speedily to ascertain in how far the Mother Country may be inclined to countenance and promote their object of accomplishing at once, under the 23d clause of the Act of Abolition, the views of Parliament, by admitting the slave population, without the intervention of apprenticeship, to the enjoyment, on the 1st of August next, of unrestricted freedom.

Their honours have explained, so fully and with so much ability, the impression of the Local Legislature, that there are two points only on which, perhaps, observations of mine may not quite be misplaced.

The actual diminution of regular troops, to which they make allusion, does not exceed a deduction of 20 men from the ordinary number of the garrison, and arises solely from the readiness, with which his Excellency, Sir Lionel Smith, has been pleased to meet requests for strengthening detachments in St. Christophers, Montserrat, Nevis and the Virgin Islands.

Previously to the next 1st of August it may be advisable, in any case, to solicit a reinforcement for Antigua, not so much on account of the free inhabitants, whom the King's troops present and the militia are sufficient to protect, as for the sake of the newly liberated slaves themselves, in order to overawe them by a show of force, and thereby to guard against the consequences of excesses, in which they might otherwise be tempted to indulge, on the first introduction of a great change in the nature of their social condition. At the same time it may be further deserving of attention, whether such a reinforcement, which, should absolute freedom be conceded, would seem but temporarily requisite, during a short season of excitement, may not be rendered indispensable throughout the whole term of apprenticeship, if His Majesty's Government, on whose undeviating support the negroes have been accustomed implicitly to rely, shall come to be placed, in relation to them, in the totally opposite light of forcibly prolonging their restraint in that intermediate stage of servitude, contrary to the earnest intercession and recommendation of their masters.

The other topic that it may be right in me to notice, is a proposal for the relinquishment, by the Crown, of the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Duty, producing in this Island, on an average for the last ten years, a revenue of about 12,000*l.* sterling annually.

If it shall be consistent with the policy of His Majesty's ministers to accede to this proposition, and thereby to accelerate the attainment of liberty by the Antigua negroes, on account of their alleged superior advancement in civilization and instruction, the expediency is submitted of imposing, as a condition, on the Council and Assembly, by whom this boon is asked on behalf of the labouring classes, the obligation of providing an adequate income, for a circuit judge or judges. This stipulation is suggested in reference to the desire already intimated by the King's Government for the formation in this Colony of a general Legislature for the Leeward Islands, the benefits of which, as well as of the removal of the diversity in their several constitutions, may prove more immediately conspicuous, observing that, instead of being, as now, confined in separate Colonies, the negro population, by virtue of the privilege of proceeding in search of employment from one Island to another, will, at no distant period, become, as it were, common to the whole.

9 November 1833.

1. 2. 3. 4.

## 8 PAPERS RELATIVE TO THE ABOLITION OF

ANTIGUA.

Having formerly borne testimony, as well to the orderly demeanor of the Antigua slaves, as to the liberality of their owners in regard to them, it is due from me to both anxiously to hope that it may be compatible with the arrangements of The King's Government so to receive the present application as at once to obviate any revulsion of feeling on the part of the labouring classes, and to encourage the respectful confidence that prompts the local Legislature for relief from difficulties, described as depressing the general interests of the Colony, earnestly to court the protecting influence of the ministers of the Crown.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.Enclosure in  
No. 151.

Enclosure in No. 151.

(A.)

Sir,

Antigua, November 2, 1833.

THE Board of Council and House of Assembly of this Island embrace the earliest opportunity afforded them of acknowledging the communication of your Excellency of the 16th instant, accompanying the circular Despatch of His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies of the 5th September last, together with printed copies of the all-important Act (3 & 4 Will. 4, ch. 73), which has recently passed the Imperial Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery, as well as a Proclamation issued by His Majesty in relation thereto.

The crisis at which we are thus arrived is so unexampled, so vitally important, and absorbs so exclusively the solicitor's attention of the Board of Council and House of Assembly, and at the same time involves to so fearful an extent the great interest confided to their vigilant charge, that they feel no apology can possibly be required of them for expressing to your Excellency the sentiments with which they are impressed in a manner the most frank and unreserved. They will waive, as totally irrelevant to the existing state of things, and as altogether unprofitable in their results, all discussions regarding Negro Slavery, or the expediency of its immediate extinction throughout the British Dominions: nor will they put forth against the strong arm of power any unavailing pretensions founded on an infringement of their chartered rights and legislative privileges. They are even willing to admit that a measure of such incalculable magnitude as the Abolition of Negro Slavery, upheld as it has been for ages by so many laws of the parent State, and interwoven as it is in the great commercial machinery of the Empire, could not properly or effectively have been brought about by any mere local colonial authority. The course of public events, and the heedless, but uncontrollable violence of public opinion in Great Britain had indeed gradually prepared our minds for this mighty change; but we must candidly say, that the interposition of a probationary stage, clogged with such exceedingly onerous terms and provisions as are limited and defined in the Act of Parliament, has not only surprised and grieved us, but fills our minds with no little consternation and dismay.

Without fatiguing your Excellency with an attempt to enumerate the various objections to the details of this Act, and which may in part be collected from other sources of public information, we deem it advisable merely to state our settled conviction, that the apprenticeship stage must disappoint the hopes and reasonable expectations of philanthropists, and can be productive only of a constant sense of humiliation and disquietude to all parties concerned; tending to substitute for the kindly feelings, mutual dependence, and the interchange of good offices, which, whatever may be alleged to the contrary, do now in a great majority of instances so happily prevail, a state of constant irritation, discontent and strife, leaving the negroes in all human probability in a condition more unfit for the enjoyment of a rational freedom, than at the commencement of it; subjecting, moreover, the master to the obligation of maintaining labourers, over whose conduct he can have no personal influence or control; superseding the usual motives which stimulate to industrious labour in the case of freemen, and yet doing away with that necessary sense of an instantly impending coercion in duties designed to be of an involuntary and compulsory nature.

Without entering more fully into the painful difficulties which beset the present enactments, we would not however omit to remark, that the diminished fertility of our soil in many districts, and the uncertainty of our climate every where, render our supplies of food for our labouring population at all times precarious, notwithstanding the most industrious cultivation. The provisions reaped, seldom supply more than half of our consumption, even under the present system of coercion; it is therefore evident that the restricted labour of 45 hours per week proposed under the scheme of apprenticeship would neither secure food, nor yield a sufficient return of produce to the proprietor to enable him to procure it, unless, indeed, his means should in some other way be simultaneously and permanently invigorated, so as to admit of his paying hire for the remaining 15 hours. Similar remarks might reasonably be pressed as to the obstruction created to the seasonably taking off the crops in a country where we necessarily depend on the uncertain and fitful operation of wind-mills. The distinction, moreover, regarding the time of servitude of the prædial and non-prædial classes, is, we think, unfortunate, and calculated to excite a jealousy, not unnatural on the part of those who constitute in truth the most useful and meritorious class, and to confirm those existing prejudices against mere rustic occupation, as being more degrading, which it is of such infinite importance to counteract.

But

But as regards the Island of Antigua, we confess, Sir, we are strongly inclined to look at once to a better state of things. Actuated, as we trust we are, by feelings not less benevolent than those of our fellow subjects in Europe, and desirous to evince the most loyal concurrence in the ulterior objects of the Imperial Legislature, we are exceedingly solicitous at this early period, when only the short interval of nine months can elapse before the time assigned for the commenced operation of the Act before us, to ascertain, through the good offices of your Excellency, how far we might hope for the countenance and support of His Majesty's Government (profiting by the more enlarged interpretation of the twenty-third clause of the Act) in carrying into effect the specific objects of the statute as set forth in the title thereof, without the intervention of any term of apprenticeship, to the consequences of which we confess we do look with an anxiety much more intense. Thus might we hope to effect for the Island of Antigua at least, that consummation so devoutly to be prayed for, a complete and final settlement of this most harassing and embittering question; and that without the necessity of a measure entailing such great and enduring expense, and so unrecognized by the British Constitution as the appointment of stipendiary magistrates from Europe, unacquainted as they must be with the peculiar habits, customs and character of the people, and ignorant of the municipal institutions by which they have hitherto been governed; and also by only one stage of excitement, instead of the three most unnecessarily, as we think, assigned for us by the Act of Parliament. As this Act contemplates the successive advancement of different portions of the mass of slaves to an unqualified freedom in each Colony; so it is not very apparent why each Colony might not successively arrive at a general state of freedom according to the social improvement which each may appear to have attained. We do not, we confess, discover any sufficient reason referable to this Island, why an unrestricted emancipation should not answer as well in One thousand eight hundred and Thirty-four as in One thousand eight hundred and Thirty-eight or forty; and we are perfectly satisfied, that no possible future efforts during so short a term of years can bring the slaves of most of the other Colonies to the same state of religious and social improvement as that to which those of Antigua have already reached.

It cannot have escaped the observation of your Excellency, even during your short residence among us, that there are circumstances in the condition of this Colony which invite more to such a favourable change than perhaps in any other; among these may be suggested the all-important and paramount one of an utter dependence, from peculiarity of climate and the absence of unoccupied lands, except those of absolute sterility, of the labourer on the proprietor and capitalist for the means of procuring food; and that a large portion of the population, whether bond or free, could not hope for the means of subsistence except by some laborious occupation in one of those frequent periods of long drought especially to which we are almost annually subject.

Moreover it has been the policy of our Island, placing no impediment at any time in the way of the most perfect religious toleration and security, to civilize, instruct and improve the negro race; whatever may have been the case in this respect in any other of the West India Colonies, as pointedly adverted to in Mr. Secretary Stanley's Despatch, happily we, and our forefathers at least, to use the language of the great Apostle, have not closed the "door of utterance" to any who might seek to unfold the mystery of Christ. The number of teachers of religion, places of divine worship, and schools in operation, can scarcely, we apprehend, be surpassed in any rural district of like extent in The King's Dominions: to this gratifying state of things have also contributed perhaps the residence of a larger portion of proprietors than in some other Islands, and the facilities afforded by the face of the country, of simplifying the operations of agriculture by the plough and other machinery.

We do not presume to say that an immediate state of absolute freedom to every inhabitant of the Colony could be beneficially brought about by us without the co-operation and assistance of The King's Government; but with the humane and enlarged views by which they are doubtless impelled, there can be little reason to doubt their concurrence, particularly as the elements of the measure seem to us to be sufficiently simple, could we be brought to feel the perfect conviction, that the proposed amount of compensation would be actually available to our necessities, contemporaneously with the Act of Emancipation, or even fairly vested, so that the interest might accrue in aid of our establishments, and thereby enable us to put the new system advantageously in train. In the first place, it would be imperatively necessary that provision should be made for the care and maintenance of the aged, infirm, diseased, and otherwise helpless of those who are now in a condition of slavery, and who are or may hereafter become incapable of supporting themselves by labour or industrious pursuits, and which, viewing the cachectic constitution of the negro race, and how exceedingly subject they are over and above the ordinary catalogue of human infirmities to elephantiasis and leprosy in various forms, inveterate ulcers, ruptures, and so forth, it is feared must amount to a large part of the aggregate population. This important object we apprehend, on common principles of equity and christian benevolence, ought to be effected conjointly by the three great parties to the change in the social system by the free negroes themselves, whose kindred they are, by the British Nation and Government which seek and irresistibly propel the innovation, and by the proprietors of the soil, who are largely concerned in the future preservation of public tranquillity and reciprocal feelings of good-will among all classes of the community. The contribution of the able-bodied labourers might be procured by a voluntary appropriation of a small part of the weekly wages, that of the Government, by a relinquishment on the part of the Crown of the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. impost, and of the proprietors, by permitting the occupation of cottages and negro grounds, affording facilities for raising the usual live stock, and defraying the annual medical charges. To the

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## ANTIGUA.

rest, the other principal ingredient for rendering successful the proposed reformation, is, we conceive, a course of policy on the part of the parent State tending to foster the trade, and stimulate the agriculture of the Colony, so as to enable the planter, by a steady though moderate profit on capital and industry, to pay regularly and continuously the wages of free labour. In short, whether the period of an unrestricted freedom be immediate or more remote, it cannot, as we humbly conceive, be too deliberately and anxiously weighed by His Majesty's Government; whether to insure the successful solution of the great problem of tropical free labour, and which must be presumed to embrace alike the well-being of the labourer and his employer, and the permanent upholding of these Colonies as sources of revenue and national wealth; whether it is not in their power so to augment the remunerating value of the Colonial productions, by rigidly securing against the participation of all foreign slave-holding countries, the exclusive command of the home markets to the products of our future industry, by permitting some reasonable competition in the breweries and distilleries, and by every conceivable device which shall lessen the cost of production to the planter, who henceforward will give unexceptionable employment to the large class of persons whom it is the generous design of the nation to raise from slavery to a state of useful and productive freedom. As a measure auxiliary to such desirable results, our local experience prompts us to suggest the issue of a small coinage for colonial circulation, in order to supply the requisite means of paying the rustic labourers their wages every week; and which species of coinage we might hope to retain in circulation by fixing on it a denomination beyond its intrinsic value, and by some restrictive measure making it liable to seizure on exportation, under the authority of Parliament.

Common prudence at the same time would point out the establishment of an efficient police, and some addition to the military force in garrison, which so far from being hitherto augmented, we are inclined to believe is weaker than at any preceding period.

Such, sir, are the views and explanations the Board of Council and House of Assembly are desirous to bring under the immediate notice of His Majesty's Government, in order that we may have, if possible, timely rescue from the most obnoxious and repulsive system to be introduced by virtue of the Act of Parliament; a system, the difficulties of which, our experience teaches us no local enactments could possibly overcome.

Should we fail in procuring the coincidence of those holding the reins of government, we shall feel at least that we have performed a solemn duty towards all classes of His Majesty's subjects, bond or free, resident in or otherwise connected with this Island, who are entitled to look to us for a faithful and vigilant protection of their interests.

If for the sake of uniformity of system, the apprenticeship stage, whether to be mitigated or made more austere towards the master, by local laws, grounded on the projected Order in Council, should yet be pressed on this Colony, it will still remain for us to implore the attention of His Majesty's Ministers to one most essential feature of the case, and which seems hitherto in no degree to have been adverted to; which is, that if one-fourth of the labourer's time is to be withdrawn, all allowances of food, clothing, medical charges, and so forth remaining the same, and these to be looked into with the most scrupulous precision, there must be some countervailing increased remuneration on the productions of our industry, or removal of collateral burthens now pressing on it, whereby to enable proprietors to defray that increased cost, occasioned by a payment of wages for a part of the week; and this in proportion of course to the time so to be subtracted from the master and allotted to the servant. Though the sum of Twenty millions sterling to be dispensed by way of partial indemnity, may be supposed to afford to a certain extent the means of meeting such contingency, yet such fund to be awarded to a multitude of claimants, through intricate channels, by a tedious and dilatory process, and after indefinite curtailments and reductions, can in very few instances alleviate the urgency of the case; and the majority of individuals in possession, who will be looked up to for a successful administration of their properties, will remain unfurnished with resources for promoting the end proposed, of encouraging even partially free labour by the occasional payment of wages. So little satisfactory, so complex, and so far removed in their completion do the arrangements for payment appear to us, indeed, that we are almost tempted to say with the Roman orator, "*Non tam justitia quam litigandi tradunt vias.*" Under any circumstances the modicum of compensation, whatever it may ultimately prove to be, cannot of course bear a comparison, as matter of importance in our eyes, with those measures which are essential for giving fortunate results hereafter to this momentous experiment. Thus the expediency of an abandonment of the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Duties is still most forcibly presented to our view to facilitate the general good, as well of the servile class whose industrious habits it is laudably intended to encourage, as of the employers who are now but too sadly depressed by overwhelming difficulties of all kinds. If any West India Colony struggling through the general adversity, has yet not been unmindful of its obligations to improve the moral worth of the lower classes by liberal views and by some sacrifices of time and expenditure, it surely cannot be the desire of the Crown or the people of England to place the agricultural resources of such Colony on a worse footing than that of others, which may have been more regardless of such observances. There does not seem to remain a single plausible motive why the loyal and more ancient dominions of His Majesty, labouring under greater physical difficulties, should not enjoy at least the same fiscal advantages as those possessed of more natural capabilities, but more recently brought under subjection to the British Crown. At a moment when the extirpation of the deep-rooted and inveterate errors and evils of the political frame is resolutely determined on, what reason, we would ask, can there be for retaining this vicious and consuming excrescence? If it be desirable to conciliate every where the colonists, why not at so critical  
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and agitating a conjuncture yield this small boon? It cannot be imagined that an opulent power which magnanimously resolves on raising twenty millions of money for kindred objects, cannot otherwise provide for the charges settled on this insignificant branch of revenue; if that be the case, better as we apprehend to take a portion of the intended Compensation Fund, than continue this, or any other unnecessary restraint on the expansion of the industrious pursuits of the present and future generations.

We are indeed, sir, unhesitatingly led to make this claim on the *justice* of His Majesty's Government; for the reciprocal covenants under which this most irksome impost alleged to have been made, do seem to us to be virtually abrogated by the recent Act of the National Councils. The recollection that it was originally wrung under false and unjust pretences from a feeble and unprotected people under a profligate reign, cannot but add, we trust, to this our most earnest appeal to the wisdom and beneficence of our gracious Sovereign. We do therefore, sir, humbly submit, that in any local Act which we may be called upon to pass to carry into execution the designs of Government, we may have His Majesty's sanction for repealing the Act of our island of the 20 Charles II. anno dom. 1668, intituled, An Act for the Settlement of the Custom or Duty of 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

Praying that your Excellency will lose no time in submitting these grave matters on the part of the Board of Council and House of Assembly, to the consideration of His Majesty's Ministers, we remain, with the tender of our highest and most dutiful regard,

Sir, your Excellency's, &c. &c.

(signed) *Sam. Warner*, President.

(signed) *Nicholas Nugent*, Speaker.

To His Excellency

Sir Evan J. Murray M'Gregor, Bart. C. B. K. C. H.  
Governor and Commander-in-Chief, &c.

#### No. 1.

Government House, St. John's, 28th Oct. 1833.

Sir,

I REQUEST you will be pleased, at your earliest convenience, to favour me with your opinion as to the fitness of the slave population of this island to receive unqualified freedom after the 1st of August next, instead of being subjected, before final emancipation, to an intermediate system of apprenticeship.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

To the Rev. R. Holberton, A. M. Rector of St. John's.

To the Rev. Bennett Harvey, Superintendent  
of the Moravian Mission, Antigua.

To the Rev. Mathew Banks, Superintendent  
of the Wesleyan Mission, Antigua.

#### No. 2.

Sir,

Rectory, St. John's, Antigua, 30 Oct. 1833.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your Excellency's communication, and in compliance with the request therein contained, I beg leave to offer the following as my opinion on the question proposed:

That the slaves of this island have attained to that degree of religious and civil improvement as to be qualified for receiving unrestricted emancipation on the 1st of August next, without previously passing through an intermediate state of apprenticeship. If the masters have means at their command for regularly paying the people their wages, I fully expect that the people will not decline working the land; and from the quietness and good order which they have in general maintained, and the regard they have hitherto shown to the instructions and admonitions of the ministers of the Gospel, I have good hope that they will not prove less orderly nor less influenced by religion when they shall have been advanced into a state of unqualified freedom.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Robt. Holberton*.

To His Excellency Sir E. J. M. M'Gregor,  
&c. &c. &c.

#### No. 3.

Wesleyan Mission-house, St. John's, 29 Oct. 1833.

May it please your Excellency,

I HAVE the honour to receive a communication from your Excellency, requesting any opinion, "as to the fitness of the slave population of this island to receive unqualified freedom after the 1st of August next, instead of being subjected, before final emancipation, to an intermediate system of apprenticeship."

I beg most respectfully to assure your Excellency, that it has long been, and still is, my *decided* opinion, that the slaves on this island are in a state of *entire* fitness to receive the proposed boon. And, after near seven years' observation and close consideration of the moral and religious state, the peculiar habits and general character of the negroes, I am

ANTIGUA.

bold to aver to your Excellency that I can scarcely conceive of any possibility of danger to any class of His Majesty's subjects, which could arise from immediate and entire negro emancipation in this Colony; provided that such an enactment should meet the approbation of the Colonial Legislature and the generality of the slave proprietors; and provided also that a vigorous police be established for the first few weeks, and that legal provision be made for the support of the aged and infirm.

I would further most humbly submit to your Excellency, that it has been and is my invariable opinion, that the entire annihilation of slavery in the manner above specified would tend greatly to the advantage of all classes of this community.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Matthew Banks*, Wesleyan Missionary.

To His Excellency Sir E. J. M. M'Gregor, Bart.  
Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and  
over His Majesty's Leeward Islands, &c.

No. 4.

TO his Excellency the Governor.

Sir,

Spring Gardens, St. John, 1 Nov. 1833.

I BEG leave to state, that a result of a conference of the Moravian Missionaries of Antigua, held here this morning, to consider the communication received from your Excellency on the 28th ult. is, that the majority of this conference are of opinion, that unqualified freedom after the 1st of August next, is more fitting than an intermediate state of apprenticeship for the slave population of this Island.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Bennet Harvey*.

(True copies.) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

No. 152.

—No. 152.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Stanley* to Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 13 December 1833.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 4th November last, inclosing a communication which you have received from the Legislative Council and Assembly of Antigua, in the form of a joint letter from the President and Speaker of those bodies; and I feel it my duty, in the first place, to express my satisfaction that this communication, involving subjects of the highest importance to the colony, and made at a period of peculiar interest and anxiety, is characterized by a spirit of moderation, and that the objections which it brings forward to the plan of emancipation, which has been formed by the Imperial Parliament, are temperately, although earnestly supported.

It affords me no small gratification that I am enabled, to some extent at least, to meet these objections, so far as relates to the colony of Antigua.

The first and principal question to which the Legislature of Antigua has thus directed my attention is, whether they may provide for the complete emancipation of the slaves in that colony, on the 1st of August next, without the intervention of any apprenticeship. Upon this most important topic I have in fact already expressed my opinion. In my circular despatch of the 19th October last, I have signified to you that you are not to consider yourself bound to refuse your assent to any Bill which may be passed in any of the colonies over which you preside, in furtherance of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, merely because such Bill should dispense with the intermediate state of apprenticeship. I have, therefore, merely to confirm that instruction. The plan of emancipation which the Imperial Legislature has sanctioned, was framed so as to afford to all the colonies the option of a gradual and safe transition from slavery to freedom; but it was intentionally left open to each colony to make such modifications in that plan as might best suit its own peculiar circumstances; and it was anticipated that in those colonies in which the state of the negro population might be such as to render it feasible to shorten or relax the proposed state of transition, the Colonial Legislatures would not be reluctant to adopt such a course. It is with no small satisfaction, therefore, that I learn that the negro population in Antigua is, according to the opinion of those who are the most competent to judge, in a state of civilization and instruction sufficiently advanced to qualify them for immediate and unrestricted emancipation, and this satisfaction is enhanced by my perceiving that the Legislature of Antigua and the resident

resident proprietors are willing to evince their concurrence in the views and wishes of the Mother Country, by conferring the boon of freedom without delay and without qualification.

It will be a gratifying reflection to these proprietors, and cannot fail of adding to the satisfactory working of the new system, that for so material an improvement in their conditions, the negroes will be indebted to their own good and orderly conduct.

As affording important facilities for the development of the new system about to be introduced, the Legislature of Antigua express considerable anxiety for the speedy distribution of the compensation fund. The mode of effecting that distribution was devised for the express purpose of obviating the delays, the complexities and the expense of that litigation, which the Legislature of Antigua so earnestly deprecate; and I confidently hope that the diligent exertions of the Commissioners who have been selected for this purpose will quietly dispel all apprehension upon the subject.

With regard to the suggestion thrown out by the Legislature of Antigua, that the amount of compensation should be vested contemporaneously with the Act of emancipation, I am happy to be able to say, that arrangements will be so made that the sum which may be determined as the proper share for the colony of Antigua will bear interest, for the benefit of the parties entitled, not indeed from the actual passing of the Colonial Act of emancipation, but from such period as they may fix upon for the commencement of its practical operation.

It affords me satisfaction to perceive that the Legislature of Antigua, in contemplating the subject of emancipation, has not lost sight of a very important difficulty attending its immediate adoption. I allude to the necessity of providing for the support of those negroes who, by disease and bodily infirmity, may be rendered incapable of their own maintenance. I have no doubt they will so frame their enactments upon this head as not only to accomplish the objects intended, but at the same time to hold out the greatest possible inducements to habits of prudence and forethought on the part of the labouring population, who have hitherto had but little opportunity or motive for the exercise of these qualities.

As tending to create and foster such habits, and also as affording an adequate circulating medium, adapted to the new circumstances in which the colony will be placed, the establishment of banks and the issue of a local coinage of small denomination for colonial circulation, is under the anxious consideration of His Majesty's Government. With regard to the specific measures of relief and protection which are especially pointed out by the Legislature of Antigua, (namely) the abolition of the 4½ per cent. Duties, the monopoly of the home market, as against foreign slaveholding states, and the encouragement of the cultivation of sugar, by giving facilities for its use in breweries and distilleries, I regret that I must confine myself to the general intimation of my intention to give to these subjects the most impartial and careful attention. At the same time, however, I may venture to assure you, that the line of conduct which the colony of Antigua is disposed to pursue upon this momentous occasion, secure to it a strong claim upon the Imperial Parliament for such relief and assistance as can be afforded without adding to the fiscal burthens, or injuring the general interests of the Mother Country.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. G. Stanley.*

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—No. 153.—

No. 153.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart., to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*, dated Government House, Antigua, 27 November 1833.

I do myself the honour of addressing you at present in reference to my letters of the 2d and 4th instant.

The Bill adverted to in the first of those communications, for transferring the power of corporally punishing slaves, from owners, managers, &c. to the colonial magistracy, passed the Council, but was thrown out by the Assembly, after a debate with closed doors.

ANTIGUA.

— No. 154. —

No. 154.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Stanley* to Governor  
Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 1 January 1834.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 27th of November last, in which you inform me that the Bill for transferring the power of corporally punishing slaves from owners, magistrates, &c. to the colonial magistrates, which had passed the Council, was thrown out by the Assembly.

I cannot but feel considerable regret, that a measure should have been rejected which seemed to be so entirely in accordance with the humane sentiments displayed in the letter from the President of the Council and the Speaker of the Assembly to yourself of the 2d November last, and to be consistent with that advanced moral condition of the Negro population in Antigua, which has induced the Legislature of that colony to desire that the intermediate state of apprenticeship sanctioned by the British Parliament should be dispensed with.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. G. Stanley*.

No. 155.

— No. 155. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.,  
to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 17 February 1834.

HAVING communicated, by message, on the 13th instant, to the Council and Assembly of this Colony the Despatch with which you have been pleased to honour me, under date the 13th of December last, the copy of a joint Letter to my Address from the President and Speaker is herewith submitted for your consideration and commands, together with that of "An Act for relieving the Slave Population from the obligations imposed upon them by the recent Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, 'An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves,' and for repealing an Act, intituled, 'An Act for the Settlement of the Custom or Duty of Four-and-a-Half per Cent.,' in order to enable the Colony 'to sustain the pressure of the heavy additional Burthens which are about to be entailed upon it.'"

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.Enclosures in  
No. 155.

Enclosures in No. 155.

No. 1.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR to His Honour the PRESIDENT and COUNCIL.

THE Governor has considered it his duty to embrace the earliest opportunity of conveying to your Honourable Board a copy of the Reply from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, on the subject of the joint letter addressed to his Excellency by the President and Speaker on the 2d of November last.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.Government House, St. John's,  
13 February 1834.

A similar message to the Assembly.

(Duplicate.)

No. 2.

Sir,

Antigua, 16 February 1834.

THE two Houses of Legislature, in submitting to your Excellency the Act just passed for the final Abolition of Slavery throughout the Island of Antigua, have thought it might not be altogether inexpedient on so serious an emergency, that its transmission to England should be accompanied by such few brief explanations as the instant departure of the mail may permit, in order that if possible it may secure a more favourable reception by His Majesty's Government.

In the first place, it seems necessary to state, that it is intended this preliminary Act should be followed by one for establishing an efficient police throughout the island, and another for encouraging

encouraging the voluntary binding of children as agricultural apprentices till twenty-one years of age, under proper conditions, and of course in perfect consistency in all respects with the provisions of the late Act of Parliament; this will be with the view not only of relieving the parents to a large extent from the burthen of maintaining their children, but of bringing up the rising generation to habits of industry, and of training them betimes to rural labour.

As subsidiary to these more important laws, it will probably be found requisite to pass enactments to repress vagrancy, and to define more clearly and extend the law of trespass, as well as to modify our existing law (No. 70) for the summary recovery of wages and other small debts.

One of the most formidable obstacles to an emancipation of the slaves in our Island has always appeared to be, the difficulty of providing for the large proportion of infirm and diseased persons among them, who must be incapable of earning their subsistence; and the extent of this difficulty can scarcely be appreciated by those who have had no opportunity of visiting this part of the world, or of mingling in the details of its rural economy. It will be seen in the Act now submitted, that as regards such portion of the negroes who may be in that afflicted, helpless and destitute condition at the moment of emancipation, their maintenance is fixed as a permanent burthen or annuity-charge, as it were, on the respective plantations to which they were severally attached during the period of slavery; as it is conceived that the proprietors will be able to do this on easier terms to themselves, and with less general inconvenience than could be effected by any other means; but should it hereafter prove otherwise, a parochial relief, or some other benevolent course, partaking of the nature of friendly societies, if found more convenient and equally effectual, is kept in view. His Majesty's Secretary of State, in his considerate despatch of the 13th December last, very judiciously expresses a hope that our legal provisions may be such as to hold out the greatest possible inducements to habits of prudence and forethought on the part of the labouring population. Such, certainly, is our most anxious desire; and we purpose by no means to deviate from the well-regulated system of administering to the relief of the destitute, which has long obtained in this island. The parish vestries being merely empowered to grant relief by rates on the close investigation of each individual case, but not authorized to give aid to any one as a legal due: in this way the idle, improvident and able-bodied receive no assistance, but are very properly cast on the exertion of their own natural energies for a livelihood. With us, therefore, the relief afforded is entirely of a benevolent and compassionate character, as circumstances arise; and on this footing it is of course intended that all those of the entire mass of population, whether white, coloured or black, who, subsequently to the era of emancipation, may be able to exhibit urgent claims of distress on the several parishes, shall receive assistance.

The third clause of our Act has been introduced with the view of rendering as little abrupt as possible the transition from slavery to unrestricted freedom; to keep things, as far as may be, *in situ*; to prevent any very sudden dislocation and confusion; to allow the newly-manumitted to elect their future places of residence and service, and gradually to settle down and cement the subsequent relations of master and servant.

It is manifest, sir, from this very cursory exposition, that His Majesty's ancient and loyal colony of Antigua will be immediately called upon, for measures of vital security and importance, to incur a large expenditure, for which a long course of adverse circumstances has left it almost entirely unprepared. Not only will the provision for the destitute, as we have described it, lead to considerable expense and consequent charges on the proprietors of the soil (on the precise amount of which it is impossible at present to form any conjecture); but the contemplated police establishment will, in all probability, require an annual outlay of several thousand pounds currency, with the additional cost for providing stations and erecting houses of correction. To no source does it occur to us to look for adequate means in these particulars, and to enable us to meet all other stern exigencies of the approaching crisis, except to a remission of the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Duties. We humbly trust, therefore, our motives for blending this subject in the present enactment will not be misconstrued, especially after the explicit notice and avowal of our design in the joint Report of the 31st October last, and the hopes which His Majesty's Secretary of State encourages us to entertain of the strong claim which this Colony will have on the Mother Country, in consequence of the advanced position which it has not hesitated to take on so unexampled an occasion. If our present conduct is indeed deserving of public commendation, and has contributed aught to strengthen the hands of the King's Government amid the distracting discussions connected with this momentous question, this is certainly the specific requital which we most sedulously and importunately seek, and which will do most to insure general confidence and good-will, and to cheer us on amidst the numberless difficulties which we cannot disguise to ourselves we shall, under any circumstances, have to encounter. No other boon or bounty, however gracious and munificent, can to our feelings come in competition with this, proving, as the impost does, a dead weight on our agricultural industry, which excites a constant invidious comparison with the other more favoured West India Colonies of His Majesty, and which, at various periods of our history, has created the most painful social bickerings and heart-burnings. We almost despair of adding to the force and earnestness of our late joint Report; but nevertheless we would still remind His Majesty's Government that we are no longer, in this particular, pleading the cause of a few slave-holding proprietors, but that of all classes of His Majesty's *free* subjects in the Island; and there will be none other. Whatever will relieve the burthens on the agriculture of the Colony, will benefit not only the landholder, but the labourer, whose welfare and continuous employment will depend on the remunerating returns

## ANTIGUA.

returns which such agriculture may afford. The emancipated negro himself, who by his savings and industrious course of life may acquire a plot of ground, and cultivate it in any of the minor exportable productions of the climate; as, for instance, ginger, arrow-root, aloes, and so forth, will otherwise receive in this way a check to his laudable exertions, as well as the most considerable cultivator. This impost, therefore, preys on the very vitals; and its retention, at a period of so great a political reformation, would, we confess, appear to us to be not only injurious, but somewhat inconsistent. It is worthy of deliberation if the measures which we thus hold to be essential to ultimate success be thwarted by the continuance of this or any other unnecessary restraint on the productive efforts of the Colony, whether the same  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. fund itself may not come speedily to be placed in jeopardy, as well indeed as the whole amount of revenue which the Colony, by its various productions, has paid annually into the King's Exchequer; to say nothing of the collateral stimulus afforded to the shipping interest, and the commercial, manufacturing and agricultural energies of the Nation.

To us, sir, it seems merely a question of the undoubted prerogative of His Majesty, as regards his assent to an Act of the Legislature of Antigua. If the Crown has really divested itself of a portion of the prerogative, and has immediately given up the control of the subject of the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Duties to Parliament, then we fervently hope the Minister, with his customary talent, candour and sincerity, will propound the measure to Parliament, and we have no misgivings as to its voice and sympathy being decidedly in our favour.

We will only add, that our grateful acknowledgments are due to His Majesty's Secretary of State for his candid reception of our late communication, and for his prompt and liberal acquiescence in some of its suggestions. As regards the payment of interest on our proportionate share of the Compensation Fund, our meaning was, that the parties in possession of plantations should be enabled, from the period of the commenced operation of our local Act, to avail themselves of such interest money, say quarterly or otherwise, to aid in the payment of labourers' wages pending the final distribution by the Commissioners to themselves and all other claimants concerned.

Finally, we submit, sir, that as Antigua seems on the eve of making a more marked and sudden transition in its social state than the neighbouring Colonies, the precaution of a timely augmentation of its garrison may not be unadvisable.

We beg to remain, Sir, your Excellency's most faithful and obedient servants,  
(signed) *Sam. Warner, President.*  
*Nicholas Nugent, Speaker.*

(A true copy) *Thos. Lane, Secretary.*

## No. 3.

ANTIGUA.—A Bill for relieving the Slave Population from the obligations imposed upon them by the recent Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves;" and for repealing an Act, intituled, "An Act for the Settlement of the Custom or Duty of Four-and-a-Half per Cent." in order to enable the Colony to sustain the pressure of the heavy additional Burthens which are about to be entailed upon it.

WHEREAS by the twenty-third section of an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the third and fourth years of the reign of His Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves," it is enacted, "that in case the Governor, Council and Assembly of any one or more of His Majesty's Colonies aforesaid shall by any Act or Acts of General Assembly for that purpose made, substitute for the several enactments therein before contained, or any of them, any enactments accomplishing the several objects in such thereinbefore contained enactments respectively contemplated as fully and to the like effect, but in a manner and form better adapted to the local circumstances of any such Colonies or Colony, and in case His Majesty shall, by any Order or Orders to be by him made, by the advice of his Privy Council, confirm and allow any such Act or Acts of Assembly, and shall in and by any such Order or Orders in Council recite and set forth at length the several provisions and enactments of that Act for which such other enactments as aforesaid shall have been substituted by any such Act or Acts of General Assembly, then and in such case so much and such parts of that Act as shall be so recited and set forth at length in any such Order or Orders of His Majesty in Council shall be suspended and cease to be of any force or effect in any such Colony from and after the arrival and Proclamation therein of any such Order or Orders of His Majesty in Council, and shall continue to be so suspended so long as any such substituted enactments shall continue in force and unrepealed, and no longer:"

And whereas the Governor, and Council and Assembly of this Colony, having maturely considered the system of Apprenticeship prescribed by the said Act of Parliament in all its bearings, have arrived at a conviction of the expediency of dispensing with the same, and allowing the Slave Population to pass to a state of absolute and entire freedom on the first day of August One thousand eight hundred and thirty-four:

And

And whereas the ordinary local resources cannot be justly expected to be equal to bearing the increased expenditure which must obviously be required for accomplishing the several objects contemplated in this Act, and the Legislature is therefore imperatively called upon to appeal to the generous and benevolent feeling and consideration of The King's most Excellent Majesty, and implore his gracious assistance in relieving this ancient Colony from 'the Four and a half per cent. impost,' a burthen which has long and severely pressed upon its interests, under which colonies not more conspicuous for their loyalty and attachment to His Majesty's person and government, though possessing infinitely greater wealth and local advantages, have never laboured, and from which its present impoverished condition and dejecting prospects now urge it, with all due and profound reverence for His Majesty, and an implicit reliance upon his royal and paternal care, and the solicitude he has invariably manifested for the welfare of all classes of his faithful subjects, to prefer its strong equitable claim to be in future equally free:

I. May it therefore please Your most Excellent Majesty, That it may be enacted, and be it enacted by the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Your Majesty's Islands of Antigua, Montserrat, Barbuda, Saint Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla, the Virgin Islands and Dominica, and the Council and Assembly of this Your Majesty's Island of Antigua, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority of the same, That all and every the persons, who on the first day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, shall be holden in slavery within this Colony or its dependencies, shall upon and from and after the said first day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, become and be to all intents and purposes free, and discharged of and from all manner of slavery, and of and from the obligations imposed by the said hereinbefore in part recited Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves;" and shall be absolutely and for ever manumitted; and that the children thereafter to be born to any such persons, and the offspring of such children shall in like manner be free from their birth; and that from and after the said first day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, Slavery shall be and is hereby utterly and for ever abolished and declared unlawful within this Colony and its dependencies.

II. And be it further enacted, That the said persons so manumitted shall on the said first day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, be considered eligible in the several parishes in which they were last holden in slavery, to receive parochial relief on the same footing as all His Majesty's other subjects in this Colony.

III. And be it further enacted, That until the first day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, it shall not be lawful for the owners or directors of plantations to evict or expel any labourer or labourers, person or persons, who shall be willing to continue to perform such work as shall be assigned to him, her or them, and shall truly and faithfully perform the same for stipulated wages, or who shall be then labouring under any such disease or mental or bodily infirmity as may render him, her or them incapable of earning his, her or their subsistence, from the habitations or tenements which he, she or they respectively personally occupied in their state of slavery, except in case of insubordinate, quarrelsome, disorderly or riotous behaviour, or in case of drunkenness, theft, trespass or other gross delinquency on their part; when it shall be competent to any two or more justices of the peace, upon due and impartial inquiry made into the merits of the complaint, by an authority under their hands and seals to sanction the expulsion of any such delinquent; but the said owners or directors of plantations shall be and are hereby required to permit and suffer the said labourers and persons to have and enjoy respectively the personal occupation of the said habitations or tenements, by way of a temporary and gratuitous accommodation for the year ending on the said first day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, and no longer, without any molestation or interruption of or by the said owners or directors of plantations, under a penalty of five pounds for every offence, to be recovered and applied in the manner hereinafter mentioned.

IV. And be it further enacted, That from and after the said first day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, all owners or directors of plantations in this Colony shall be and are hereby required to supply those persons who in their state of slavery were attached to such plantations respectively, and shall at the time of emancipation be afflicted with any such disease or mental or bodily infirmity as may render them incapable of earning their subsistence, with such food, clothing, lodging, medicine, medical attendance, and such other maintenance and allowances, as by the laws now in force in this Colony an owner is required to supply to and for any slaves being of the same age and sex, and under the same circumstances as such persons shall respectively be, until proper arrangements and due and adequate provision shall be made for their maintenance and relief by the respective parishes, or by some other benevolent and effectual plan, in their favour, and no longer, under a penalty of five pounds for every offence, to be recovered and applied in the manner hereinafter mentioned.

V. Provided always, and be it enacted, That in the event of any dispute or difficulty in ascertaining whether any particular individual shall be included in such number of persons, it shall and may be lawful for the parties interested to make their appeal to two or more of the nearest of His Majesty's justices of the peace, who taking to their counsel some experienced medical practitioner, shall under their hands and seals peremptorily and conclusively decide in this behalf.



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VI. And be it further enacted, That the penalties imposed by this Act shall and may be recovered before any two or more justices of the peace; and all justices of the peace are hereby empowered and required, upon complaint to them made, to grant a warrant to bring the offender before them, at the time and place in such warrant specified; and if, on conviction of such offender on his or her confession, or on the evidence of any one or more credible witness or witnesses upon oath (which oath such justices are hereby empowered to administer), any such penalty shall not be forthwith paid, it shall and may be lawful to and for such justices to levy the same by distress, and for want of distress, to commit every such offender to the common gaol, there to remain without bail or mainprize for any time not exceeding twenty days, unless such penalty, and all reasonable charges attending the recovery thereof shall be sooner paid; and all such penalties, when so recovered and levied as aforesaid, shall be paid into the public treasury, to be applied to the general uses of the Colony.

VII. And be it further enacted, That an Act of this Island, dated the nineteenth day of May one thousand six hundred and sixty-eight, intituled, "An Act for the Settlement of the Custom or Duty of Four and a Half per Cent," shall be and the same is hereby repealed.

Passed the Assembly on the 13th February 1834, and the Council on the 15th February 1834.

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— No. 156. —

No. 156.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Stanley* to Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 19th February 1834.

I HAVE been informed by Mr. Brown, the agent for the Island of Antigua, that a Bill for the Abolition of Slavery in Antigua had passed through one or more of its stages in the House of Assembly, containing an enactment repealing the four and a half per cent. duties.

I hope that in the further progress of the measure, the Legislature of Antigua will become sensible of the risk and impropriety of the insertion of such an enactment, and that it will ultimately be omitted, more especially as my reply of the 13th December to your Despatch of the 4th November last, in expectation of which it would appear that the House of Assembly had adjourned for a short interval, will have held out no definite hope of the repeal of those duties.

I trust also that you will not have failed to point out to the Legislature that by the 14th clause of your instructions, under the Sign Manual, you are required "as much as possible to observe in the passing of all laws, that whatever may be requisite upon each different matter be provided for by a different law, without mixing in one and the same Act such things as have no proper relation to each other;" that in my Despatch of the 19th October last, I especially advised you that in case the Legislature were desirous of making any provisions in connexion with the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, the approval of which might in any degree be doubtful, these provisions should be contained in a distinct Act, so as not to endanger the acceptance of the main and substantial part of the measure, upon which the right of the Colony to its share of the compensation might depend. You will, doubtless, also have called the attention of the Assembly to the fact, that the four and a half per cent. duties are under the control of the Imperial Parliament, and that the Assembly of Antigua have no right to legislate as to their repeal or modification. If, notwithstanding these considerations, the Act for the Abolition of Slavery should be passed by the Legislature of Antigua and assented to by yourself, and should contain the objectionable clause to which I have alluded, His Majesty will have no alternative but to disallow it. The primary result of that disallowance will be, that unless the Legislature of Antigua shall be able to take immediate steps for repairing this mistake, and previous to the 1st August to pass another Act for the Abolition of Slavery, to which His Majesty shall find himself able to assent, the British Act will come into unaided operation, and the apprenticeship will commence without any of its incidental regulations having been provided for. I am convinced that the Legislature of Antigua and yourself will be fully sensible of the inconvenience and danger of such a state of circumstances, and that in case the Act for the Abolition of Slavery in Antigua shall not have been transmitted to this country previously to the receipt of this Despatch, and shall contain the clause which Mr. Brown has brought under my notice, the Legislature will require no additional arguments to induce them to prevent the unfortunate consequences which I have pointed out, by taking measures for the omission or repeal of the objectionable enactment.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. G. Stanley.*

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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— No. 157. —

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No. 157.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Stanley* to Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 10th April 1834.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 17th February last, inclosing copies of the Bill for the Abolition of Slavery which has been passed by the Council and Assembly of Antigua.

My Despatch of the 19th February last, will already have informed you that His Majesty would have no alternative but to disallow this Bill, in consequence of its containing a clause repealing the four and a half per cent. duties, so far as respects Antigua.

Trusting, however, that in pursuance of the intimation conveyed in that Despatch, the Legislature of Antigua will have lost no time in framing a similar Bill, with the omission of the objectionable clauses, I shall delay taking the necessary measures for signifying His Majesty's formal disallowance of the Bill which you have transmitted to me; until I shall again hear from you on the subject.

I conceive, however, that it is due to the Legislature of Antigua not to omit this opportunity of expressing my unqualified approbation of the provisions of the Bill which relate to the Negroes. The objects and probable effects of the 2d and 3d clauses, which provide for the temporary domicile of the Negroes in their present habitations, and for the support of the aged and infirm, until some other system can be devised for that purpose, have been so justly and forcibly pointed out in the joint letter of the President and Council, and the Speaker of the Assembly to yourself; of the 16th February, that I feel it unnecessary to make any comments upon them, further than to express to you my opinion that these benevolent and prudent enactments will in no small degree enhance the value of the boon conferred upon the Negro population; that they will furnish an additional motive for their gratitude and attachment, and will most materially contribute to the successful issue of the important experiment of unqualified and immediate freedom which the Colony of Antigua has determined to undertake.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. G. Stanley.*

— No. 158. —

No. 158.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart., to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 4 June 1834.

YOUR Despatch of the 10th April was communicated to the Council and Assembly on the 2d instant, and I have enjoyed the gratification of this day assenting to a Bill for the Abolition of Slavery in Antigua and its dependencies, "from and after the first day of August next."

This Bill, a transcript of which is enclosed, is similar to that upon the same subject now in your possession, with the omission of the objectionable clause, repealing the four-and-a-half per cent. duties, and with a few other apparently inconsiderable alterations, and is intituled, "An Act for relieving the Slave Population from the obligations imposed upon them by the recent Act of the Imperial Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, 'An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, for promoting the industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves.'"

The first clause abolishes slavery in Antigua and its dependencies, on the 1st day of August 1834, for ever.

The second clause grants parochial relief to all persons so manumitted on the 1st day of August, on the same footing as all His Majesty's other subjects in this Colony.

The third clause prohibits owners or directors of plantations from evicting or expelling labourers willing to work for stipulated wages, or labouring under mental or corporeal diseases, or infirmity, from their habitations or tenements on plantations before the 1st day of August 1835, except guilty of disorderly and improper conduct, then by the order of two or more justices of the peace.

The fourth clause compels owners or directors of estates, from and after the 1st day of August 1834, to furnish such diseased or infirm persons as were in a state

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state of slavery attached to the plantation, with the same maintenance, care and attention as the laws now in force in the Colony require to be furnished to slaves of same age and sex, and under similar circumstances, until adequate parochial or other relief is provided.

The fifth clause: In case of dispute or difficulty as to what persons are so entitled to relief, appeal to be made to two or more of the nearest justices of the peace, whose decision to be conclusive.

The sixth clause regulates the mode of bringing offenders before magistrates, and the proceedings before them, and regulates the manner of recovering the penalties imposed by this Act.

Under the peculiar circumstances in which this enactment has been presented to me, my assenting to it will, I trust, be honoured with your approval.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

No. 159.

— No. 159. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart., to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 30 June 1834.

I do myself the honour of forwarding two Acts passed by the Governor, Council and Assembly of this Island; viz.

1st. An Act for establishing a new System of Police, and for increasing the power of the Magistracy of this Island in the appointment of Rural Constables, and for providing and regulating a House of Correction.

Former Acts repealed; Governor or Commander-in-Chief to select persons for, and to fill up vacancies. Members of police not to follow other occupation or to take fees, to wear uniform, and to be supplied with arms, &c., and not to do militia duty.

Superintendent to keep two horses; to be a justice of the peace, &c.

Assistant of police to act as chief at the station to which he is appointed, &c.

Clerk to be always stationary at St. John's.

In St. John's, besides constabulary duties, to keep watch and ward, to apprehend rogues, vagabonds, &c.

Three other stations to be formed under the authority of the Governor, who is empowered to hire or rent houses, &c.

On application of the owner, two Justices may appoint persons domiciliated as labourers, to be constables on plantations.

Central house of correction established at the new jail, until adequate provision for such institutions be made in the several parishes.

The Act to continue in force for two years.

2d. An Act for enabling Labourers, Artificers and Servants to recover by summary process their Wages from their Employers, and for repealing an Act dated the twenty-eighth of October, in the year one thousand six hundred and eighty-four, intituled, "An Act for enabling Artificers, Labourers and Servants to recover their Wages from their Masters."

Clause first, enables artificers, labourers or servants to recover wages due, before any one of His Majesty's justices of the peace: provided complaint made within 30 days, and sum not exceeding 5*l.* current gold and silver money.

Clause second, repeals former Act of 23<sup>th</sup> October 1684.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

No. 160.

— No. 160. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart., to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 3 July 1834.

I do myself the honour of laying before you copies of Proclamations issued in this Island, under the advice of His Majesty's Privy Council, in reference to the change to occur in the condition of the labouring classes, on the 1st of August next.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

Printed in the  
Appendix (B.)  
No. 19 & 20.

Printed in the  
Appendix.

1 & 2.  
13th June and  
1st July 1834.

## Enclosures in No. 160.

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Enclosures in  
No. 160.

## No. 1.

*E. J. Murray M'Gregor.*

(L. S.)

ANTIGUA.—By his Excellency Sir *Evan John Murray M'Gregor*, Baronet, &c. &c., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over His Majesty's Islands of *Antigua, Montserrat, Barbuda, St. Christopher's, Nevis, Anguilla*, the *Virgin Islands* and *Dominica*, Chancellor, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c.

## A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS it hath pleased Almighty God in His infinite wisdom to bring to a happy termination the system of Slavery hitherto existing in this Colony, and to bestow on all its inhabitants the privilege of freedom; and it is incumbent on us to testify our grateful sense of the Divine favour on so interesting an occasion, and to implore the permanent protection of the Supreme Being; I do hereby, by and with the advice of His Majesty's Privy Council, direct and appoint that Friday the first day of August next be observed in all churches and chapels as a day of general thanksgiving for these mercies, and likewise of humble intercession to the wise Disposer of all things for His continued blessing on this most important change.

It is expected that this day will be observed by persons of all classes with the same marks of respect and reverence as the Sabbath.

Given under my hand and seal at Government-House, this thirteenth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, and in the fourth year of His Majesty's reign.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

By his Excellency's command,

*Charles Taylor*, Private Secretary.

Duly published this thirteenth day of June, one } *Henry Berkeley*, Deputy Provost  
thousand eight hundred and thirty-four. } Marshal.

## No. 2.

*E. J. Murray M'Gregor.*

(L. S.)

ANTIGUA.—By his Excellency Sir *Evan John Murray M'Gregor*, Baronet, &c. &c., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over His Majesty's Islands of *Antigua, Montserrat, Barbuda, St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla*, the *Virgin Islands* and *Dominica*, Chancellor, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c.

## A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS his Excellency the Governor in the month of December last, then contemplating a system of apprenticeship, notified to the working population of this community, that a statement should in fitting time appear, explaining the circumstances in which they would be placed on and after the first day of August next.

And whereas by an Act lately passed and published, the same being in concert with the views of His Majesty's Government, the legislature of the Island, confiding in the good character which experience had led them willingly to recognize in the labouring classes, have dispensed with the intermediate stage of apprenticeship, and have declared them to be on the ensuing first of August free subjects of The King, to all intents and purposes in like manner as the inhabitants of the United Kingdom.

And whereas the time is now at hand when the race of people, who are to partake of this blessing, will be placed in a situation either to answer, or to disappoint, the confident expectations that have been formed of them.

It hath therefore seemed good to his Excellency the Governor, by and with the advice of His Majesty's Privy Council, to call the serious attention of those, who are so soon to become free, to the following most important points.

First.—That their condition will be no longer that of reliance on their masters for food, house-room and clothing; their new position will remove them from this close connexion with their former owners, and they will henceforth have to depend for the necessaries of life on the honest and industrious labour of their own hands.

Secondly.—That whilst the utmost benefit of the laws, and encouragement from the owners of plantations will be given to those who labour industriously and live soberly and honestly where they are permitted to reside, the magistrates will be by law empowered to order to be taken up and brought to deserved punishment, all such as shall wander about in idleness, or attempt to make a living by robbery, theft or any dishonest means: and the masters, who are required by the Act just passed not only to establish unrestricted freedom, but to let their steady, orderly and reputable dependents remain in undisturbed possession of their present habitations or houses, for twelve months to come, may, nevertheless, avail themselves of the right which the same Act gives them, namely, to expel from their estates such as shall be guilty of "insubordinate, quarrelsome, disorderly or riotous behaviour, or drunkenness, theft, trespass, or other gross delinquency."

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Thirdly.

ANTIGUA.

Thirdly.—That the obligations of free subjects of His Majesty The King, bind them to due obedience and loyal support to all who are here put in authority under The King, and with quiet submission to observe the laws of the land, and also to be ever ready to assist in suppressing and bringing to justice any evil disposed persons who may threaten to disturb the public peace.

Fourthly.—That the said first of August having been, by a proclamation from his Excellency the Governor, ordered to be kept as a day of public thanksgiving to God for His past mercies, and of humble intercession for the continuance of His gracious care and favour, it is confidently expected that the demeanor of those made free on that memorable occasion will be distinguished by the temperance, moderation and decorum that should mark the rejoicing of a christian people, whilst the fear of offending that Almighty Being whose power over the stormy wind and tempest we are taught at that season of the year especially to acknowledge, will deter them from every excess displeasing to Him, and endangering their own peace and safety.

Lastly.—As these individuals have heretofore enjoyed full liberty of conscience in serving God, and attending the means of grace afforded by the several ministers of the Gospel who have long laboured among them for their good, and who have made the most favourable representations of their civilization and fitness to enjoy the boon of freedom (which gratifying testimony was dutifully transmitted by the Governor, to be laid before His Majesty The King), so are they now solemnly called upon to remember and to maintain the conduct thus clearly pointed out to them in the holy Scriptures :

“ Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake : whether it be to the King, as supreme ; or unto Governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evil doers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men : As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. HONOUR ALL MEN. LOVE THE BROTHERHOOD. FEAR GOD. HONOUR THE KING.”—1 Peter, chap. ii. ver. 13 to 17.

Given under my hand and seal at Government-House, this first day of July one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, and in the fifth year of His Majesty’s reign.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

By his Excellency’s command,

*C. Taylor*, Priv. Secretary.

Duly published this first day of July, one }  
thousand eight hundred and thirty-four. } *Henry Berkeley*, Deputy Provost Marshal.

No. 161.

—No. 161.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M’Gregor*, Bart., to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

St. Christopher’s, 5 August 1834.

ADVERTING to my Despatches relative to the police establishment of Antigua, it is highly satisfactory to me, particularly with reference to the concluding paragraph of his last letter, to inclose for your information the accompanying copies of communications recently received from the President administering the government of that Island.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M’Gregor*, Governor.Enclosures in  
No. 161.

Enclosures in No. 161.

No. 1.

Antigua, August 2d, 1834.

Sir,  
OCCUPIED as I presume your Excellency must be on the important occasion of your presence in another part of your government, I should not have trespassed upon your time, but from a conviction that your Excellency will be gratified to hear that the momentous crisis which was looked to with anxiety not unmingled with apprehension, has arrived and passed without any disturbance of the public peace or excess of feeling among the class of persons from which, if even in ebullitions of joy it might naturally have been expected, but that on the contrary, a calm and strict obedience to the solemn and religious observances prescribed by your Excellency’s proclamation, appears alone to have actuated and pervaded the whole population, and in the hope that your Excellency’s measures elsewhere will be crowned with equal success for the general tranquillity,

I have, &amp;c.

To his Excellency Sir *E. J. Murray M’Gregor*,  
Governor-in-Chief, &c. &c.(signed) *Sam. Warner*.

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

23

No. 2.

Antigua, 4 August 1834.

ANTIGUA.

Sir,

I SHOULD not so soon have addressed your Excellency after my letter of the 2d instant, but that I have the satisfaction of informing you that this day on which there was some doubt of the negroes resuming their labours, they have with a very few exceptions made known to me, universally turned out on the conditions generally proposed and understood of 1s. per day to the able labourers, and 9d. to the second description, and I think there is no reason to suppose but that the whole will very soon come into the same terms.

In the hope of your Excellency's return to this Island, I thought it right to postpone the period appointed for the sailing of the express boat after the packet for 48 hours, that is, from Saturday last at 3 P. M. to the same hour this day, which I trust your Excellency will approve, as intended well; she did not, however, arrive till yesterday, so that the actual detention has been but short.

I am happy to tell your Excellency that the new police is in full operation, with vigilance and activity, and I may add with good effect.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Sam. Warner.*

To his Excellency Sir E. J. Murray M'Gregor,  
Governor-in-Chief, &c. &c.

—No. 162.—

No. 162.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, dated Downing-street, 6 September 1834.

I HAVE received your Despatches of the dates and numbers mentioned in the margin, and I have also received a Despatch, dated the 6th August, from the president administering the government of Tortola.

By these communications I am put in possession of the state of affairs during the first days of August in each of the Islands under your government, except Dominica, of which accounts have reached me direct from Sir C. Schomburg.

You will receive by the present opportunity, a Despatch written before the arrival of your present communications, in which I signified to you His Majesty's approbation of your measures. The further details with which I am now acquainted can have no other effect than to confirm me in the opinion that every thing has been done which was possible on your part to bring the great measure of Abolition of Slavery into safe and satisfactory operation.

Although I have to regret that the inaction of the negroes in St. Christopher's was continued up to the date of your latest Despatch, it is, on the other hand, very gratifying to perceive that the establishment of perfect freedom in Antigua, if it has risked in some degree the success of the apprenticeship system in a neighbouring colony, has at least had a most auspicious commencement of its own, and has led, without disturbance or struggle, to the employment of the negroes upon moderate, but as I should hope, adequate wages.

—No. 163.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart. to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 29 August 1834.

OWING to my late absence from, and constant occupation since my return to Antigua, being without the means of estimating, from personal observation, the probable effects now in progress upon this community, of the sudden elevation of its peasantry from slavery to freedom; and desirous at the same time that no information, which if in my power to procure at a period so interesting, should be withheld from you, I have obtained, and beg leave to submit to your consideration the accompanying Report on passing events, from the superintendent of police, the details of which, as occasion may require, or as new features present themselves in the varying scene, will necessarily engage my earnest and anxious attention.

Some of the difficulties alluded to by the superintendent will, in all likelihood, gradually exhaust themselves, while others may eventually demand legislative remedies; but for the sake of all parties, and particularly of the labouring orders, whose general conduct throughout this unprecedented change of condition has hitherto redounded so highly to their credit, it is to be regretted that the Governor's forced seclusion from society at the most eventful crisis in West Indian history, entirely paralyzes the influence of the executive in their behalf, which might otherwise be actively and usefully exerted, on this important occasion, with the higher classes.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

1 Aug. 1834.  
Virgin Island,  
Montserrat & Nevis.  
2 Aug. 1834.  
St. Kitt's.  
5 Aug. 1834.  
St. Kitt's.  
5 Aug. 1834.  
Antigua.

ANTIGUA.

Enclosure in  
No. 163.

Enclosure in No. 163.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from *Henry Loving*, Esquire, Superintendent of Police, to Sir E. J. Murray M'Gregor, dated Police-Office, Head Quarters, St. John's, 27th August 1834.

YOUR Excellency's absence during the greater part of the month necessarily precluded you from being immediately acquainted with passing events in this Island, and affords me the advantage of compiling a more comprehensive report of the operations of the Slave Abolition Law of Antigua.

I have now the honour to inform your Excellency that I felt it expedient, from a sense of the high regard entertained of my character by the slave population, to address them on the 31st of July in the shape of a "public notice," which was printed and widely circulated, wherein I gave them much good advice, and endeavoured to reconcile their expectation on the score of wages with the standard which the planters had agreed upon, according to the extent of their ability to afford it. It is not my business to state the positive effects produced by this document, but I leave your Excellency to deduce your own conclusions from the sentiments expressed by one of our journalists who is the organ of the proprietary body; namely, that "the placard did good;" one of these public notices is sent herewith, as forming part of this report.

The eventful 1st of August arrived, proceeded and ended, without one circumstance of a public or private nature to agitate the frame of society, or to mark the transition from a state of slavery to that of freedom. There never was an occasion in this Island, not excepting the Sabbath, where a day was kept with such universal reverence and unbiassed holiness. Every thing appeared to be done from individual conviction that it was a season of no ordinary kind; and praise and adoration and thanksgiving to God were offered up by the whole people in the churches and chapels from eleven o'clock in the morning till eight at night.

The next day (Saturday) was spent by the labouring population in festive enjoyments. They had provided themselves, out of their own means, with new apparel from top to toe, and enough of good fare for every purpose; and I feel much pleasure in assuring your Excellency that they conducted themselves generally with christian propriety.

On Monday the 4th, the gangs on a few plantations went to work cheerfully for the stipulated wages, and on some other estates a trifling number of 10 or 12 labourers out of perhaps a population of between 100 and 200 might be seen in the field; while on other places the labourers altogether had ceased from work for the time. It appeared that the great majority of the peasantry were either bent on a whole week's relaxation, or were calculating how far they might benefit themselves by striking for higher wages on the places of their original domicile, or looking out for new and more beneficial channels for their industry. From that period to the present, a variety of changes from plantation to plantation have taken place among them, and on a few places almost the whole population have been interchanged by their own whim, the love of novelty, the predominance of self-interest, or dislike to their managers or other governors. From the last of these causes, I am to trace most of the difficulties which exist at this moment, in reconciling the peasantry to the new state of things.

Among the various causes which have led the peasantry to disagree with their employers, I may notice some of the most prominent; viz.

- 1st. The hour of turning out in the morning.
- 2dly. The collecting and throwing of green fodder for the horses.
- 3dly. The hour of breaking off work in the evening.

The head quarters of my department has been constantly engaged in hearing complaints or giving advice upon these several heads, and as the law does not refer to either of them, I have taken great pains to impress this upon the minds of the complainants, and to point out that the only remedy afforded them as free men, was to leave their then employers if they could get better terms elsewhere. They have invariably abided by my counsel, and in some cases have resumed their labour on the same plantation, without any palpable discontent.

With respect to the first of these causes, I am to inform your Excellency that it has been created by a want of union among the planters, who, though their interests would appear to be alike, are at variance in their respective plans, according to the view which each of them takes of benefiting his own property. Thus, the humane man requires his labourer to turn out at sun-rise; the middling man rather earlier, and the rigid old school colonist at peep of day, agreeably to the private advice conveyed in a note from an attorney to his manager, "*not to abate a tittle of old customs.*" The watchful and suspicious mind of the peasantry soon discover the contrast, and disagreement quickly follows between them and the more illiberal class of employers. I am of opinion that the people will never consent to commence work before sun-rise in this inhospitable climate, now that they are free; and unless the planters will come into the measure generally, I see no hope of permanent reconciliation.

With respect to the second cause, that of collecting fodder, the practice under the old system was for the people to do so during the two hours said to be allowed them for dinner. They have now withstood the renewal of it, and the planters are giving way in most quarters to the remonstrance, because they find it impossible to overcome it, and some are paying for the supply of fodder, while others allow the people extra time to collect it.

With respect to the third cause, that of breaking off work in the evening, an attempt was

was made by the peasantry to reject their breakfast and dinner hours, and to work incessantly from the morning till four o'clock in the afternoon, then to cease from labour for the day. The impossibility of their constitutions being able to support it, and the certainty of its ruining the plantations, was opposed to their views, and they gave up the point after a short but obstinate struggle.

Another class of complaints is the aged and infirm, whose circumstances are humanely provided for in the law. I am happy to state that these are rendered very comfortable on many estates, but I am equally sorry to report that this is not the universal practice, and I have had my office thronged more than once with age and disease applying for relief. I have had comparatively fewer of such applicants from day to day, and am in hopes that their circumstances generally are improving; but as such cases are more deserving of notice than any others, I shall be zealously watchful over the interests of that unfortunate class of beings.

There is one circumstance relating to the cultivation of the soil, which I deem of great importance to bring to the knowledge of your Excellency. I find that with some estates the parents are sending off all their children, male as well as female, to live in the towns, which are already populated beyond the means of support. This fact of itself would be alarming enough, but the alarm must be largely increased, when it is remembered that these detached children of from five to twelve years of age are the sprouts of an agricultural people, and that being once lopped off, the soil must be gradually abandoned as the parent roots shall cease to exist.

Another class of evils likely to arise to the welfare of this Colony, is the fact of several slaves from the neighbouring French island having arrived here since the first of the month, and of their having reported that thousands are preparing to follow so soon as they can escape. I sincerely desire to see these people free and prosperous; but absolute pauperism and ruin would be the result of their being permitted to remain in this little Colony.

Upon the whole, and as it relates to the state of things generally in the Island, I shall conclude this report by stating that the labouring population have hardly been guilty of any acts of illegality since the day of their emancipation beyond those of common misdemeanors, such as would happen in the best regulated societies of any country; that they are gradually resuming their former occupations; that one-half of the effective strength may be computed to be at work; that the remainder have either given up agricultural pursuits altogether to better their condition, or are wandering up and down the country in quest of work where they may procure it upon the best terms; and some, it is needless to say, are confirmed idlers and vagabonds from principle, and must be subject to the operation of the police laws; while others have been expelled from certain plantations, by legal authority, from one cause or another, at the instance of their employers; but in several cases a portion of these have returned, made suitable concessions and been forgiven.

There have been faults on both sides, but it would be culpable omission in me not to express the high sense I entertain of the meritorious conduct exhibited by the greater part of the resident proprietors and the representatives of absentees, in conciliating the affections and leading the minds of the peasantry to the right use of the blessings of freedom.

I shall lay before your Excellency the state of the calendar at the end of the month, and shall take that opportunity to mention the number that have been expelled, provided I can get the necessary information in time.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Loving*, Superintendent of Police.

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#### PUBLIC NOTICE.

IN pursuance of the power and authority vested in me, under the Act of this Island for the establishment of a new and more effective system of police, I do hereby give this Public Notice to all whom it may concern, that I shall proceed forthwith to carry the law into effect to the best of my ability and judgment, without fear, favour or affection. And I take this early opportunity to advise every class and description of persons, without reference to their rank or condition in life, to demean themselves as good men and faithful subjects of the King, in order that the peace of society, and the prosperity and happiness of every member thereof, may redound to the credit of Antigua all over the world, and to the honour and glory of Almighty God.

To the labouring population especially I would offer a word in season. They are aware that I am nearly related to them; that I have been their steadfast friend. Let me, therefore, beseech them, by that connexion and friendship, to be peaceable, harmless, frugal, industrious, obedient to their superiors, lovers of religion, lovers of good works. Let them remember, that though they may be called upon by their Maker to pass through many trials and adversities hereafter, yet their new state of life will be as far superior to their past condition as daylight is to darkness; and that all freemen in every country are subjected to numerous rules and regulations to guide, direct and govern both their private and public conduct; and moreover, that a freeman must of necessity be a great slave to himself, that is, he must become a slave to his back, a slave to his belly, a slave to the wants of his wife and children, and to every other domestic comfort.

But above all, let them reflect, that while they are to be exalted to the proud station of freemen, their brethren in the other sugar colonies are still required by the legislatures of those places to serve as apprentices for the next six years. What then are your advantages over theirs? You have good sense enough to answer the question yourself; but permit me to tell



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tell you, that if you show yourselves worthy of freedom, it will be the means of helping your brethren in those Islands to obtain their liberty likewise, because their masters will find that the people of Antigua are more industrious, contented and happy than they, and the soil better cultivated than theirs.

Under the present embarrassed circumstances of the plantations in this Island (most of them being mortgaged), it is not probable that the persons in charge of them can offer to the labourers a large rate of wages for the present; though I feel confident they will increase the price of labour as soon as the numerous tracts of waste lands begin to be cultivated, and they shall have found things working well on the sugar estates, and their profits increasing under a new and happier state of society. I am consequently obliged, again and again, to admonish my labouring friends to be quiet and satisfied, and to console themselves with the reflection, that if a wise and just Providence has done so much for them already, HE is still able and willing to give them all they desire, provided they will wait with patience for the blessing.

If any discontented labourer can better his condition, or get larger wages by going on a strange plantation, let him do so by all means: Or if he can be profitably employed in any of the towns, let him take the situation, for the law does not prevent him. On the contrary, if he cannot obtain large wages, and will not work for small, he must either starve, or become a burden to society. But will the law permit this burden? No, no! If he be found idling either in town or country, he will be taken up as a vagabond, sent to the house of correction, and worked upon that terrible machine called a tread mill; and in all such cases, the police under my command throughout the Island will pursue and apprehend such characters, not allowing them a moment to enjoy their idleness.

Perhaps it may be better for me to explain myself more fully on several important points.

First.—The King and Parliament of England made a decree last year, that the slaves in the West Indies should serve their masters for six years longer.

Secondly.—The Council and Assembly of Antigua objected to this; because they had a high opinion of the slaves, and they went farther than the King and Parliament. They gave the people their freedom at once.

Thirdly.—They passed an Act for the purpose, and they have gone even beyond the expectations of your best friends: they have allowed all your people who are old and infirm, and all who are afflicted with any disease which will prevent them from working, food, clothing, lodging, medicine and medical attendance, until such time as the parish can provide for them. They have allowed all the country people, whether old or young, healthy or diseased, to remain in their present habitations, without any rent, for twelve months, from the first of August this year till the first of August next year, provided they will perform their work for such wages as the planters can afford to give them, and provided they are not guilty of riotous behaviour, drunkenness, theft or any other diabolical act.

Now listen to my opinion on the subject of your wages, and you will be sure not to get into trouble and mischief. I have given the subject much thought, and I am persuaded that it is impossible for more than one planter out of fifty to give you above one shilling money per day for the strong people, and one bitt per day for the younger folks, or for those who are infirm but can still do light work. It would take a moderate sized estate, at this rate, not less than fifteen hundred pounds per year, for wages alone, besides the maintenance of the old people, and the doctor's charges; the payment of manager's and overseer's salaries, and all the repairs and wear and tear of a plantation, from the mill down to the cattle pens. Some planters have been giving two shillings lately, but it was only for a moment; and when slavery is abolished they will never do it again, except they are hard pushed for labourers, but that will be only now and then; whereas it is better to work for one man all the year round for one shilling per day, than for another who will only want your services for one or two months at two shillings per day. Besides this, I must tell you further, that if a labourer leaves one plantation to work on another, he must look for a new house, new gardens and grounds, wherever he carries his labour; for his old master will not suffer him to make a convenience of his property.

Finally, may you, my labouring friends, never put it in my power to be ashamed of you. I shall be ever ready to protect and do you justice while you act like christians. But when you forget your privileges as freemen, and become disorderly and unreasonable, I shall be compelled, with a heart full of grief and a mind big with regret and confusion, to do my duty as a public officer without fear, favour or affection.

St. John's, July 31st, 1834.

Henry Loving, Superintendent of Police.

No. 164.

—No. 164.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 14 October 1834.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 29th August, enclosing the Report of the superintendent of police.

I am quite aware of the very peculiar and responsible duties which have devolved upon you, in consequence of the state of the Island of St. Kitt's; and I fully appreciate

ciate the earnestness and zeal which you have manifested under circumstances of a very trying nature.

The account which is conveyed to me by you of the conduct of the labouring classes, redounds greatly to their credit; and will, I hope, lead to results as important to them as to the Colony generally.

The report which you enclose is generally able and judicious, and it is gratifying to find that in the superintendent of police you possess so useful and intelligent an officer.

I conceive that your early attention should be directed to his statement with respect to the possible introduction of foreign fugitive slaves into the Island of Antigua. Although such persons, whilst within the British territory, are free, it is fully competent to the authorities at Antigua, to consider whether step administrative or legislative may not be requisite to prevent such fugitives from producing a state of vagrancy, and irregularity which may be dangerous to the well-being of society.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *T. Spring Rice.*

ANTIGUA.

— No. 165. —

No. 165

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.  
to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 4 October 1834.

UNDER reference to my communication of the 29th of August, another report from the superintendent of police is herewith presented for your information, regarding the agricultural classes of this Colony.

The clergy, magistrates and proprietors have been consulted by me upon the most eligible mode of promoting the mutual and inseparable interests of the employers and the employed; and the result of the inquiry, as soon as circumstances permit, will be duly laid before you.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

Enclosure in No. 165.

Enclosure in  
No. 165.

Sir,

Police Office, Head Quarters, St. John's, 1st October 1834.

THE close of another month since the abolition of slavery in this Island, makes it necessary that I should communicate to your Excellency the information I possess, and the opinions I entertain, on the state of the agricultural affairs of the Colony.

I had entertained the most sanguine hopes that the new system would have produced a double share of advantages to the planters generally during the past month, in comparison to what it did in the preceding one; but I regret to say that this has not been the case, and the evil, in my opinion, may be traced—

1st. To the absence from the plantations of many hundreds of male adult labourers who have thrown up their former occupation and become fishermen and fish-pot makers, barge-men, watersidemen, porters and house servants, on the coasts, and in all the harbours and towns. As it regards the porters, whose numbers are known by their badges, I find that they have increased at the rate of 300 per cent. since the 1st of August. This accession naturally leads one to inquire how far these people may be able to earn a livelihood where competition is so great? The answer is both easy and correct. Portions of them are to be seen daily congregated about the streets in almost perfect idleness, hardly earning in 24 hours wherewith to keep soul and body together, and only saving themselves from the operation of the Vagrant Act by the possession of their badges. Of the watersidemen it may be stated that their number has increased at the rate of ten to one, and all from the plantations. They are a species of hangers-on at fishing places; and I have been informed by the magistrate recently appointed for Five Islands Division, that two days ago he dispersed a body of not less than 60 of these people, who had assembled on one of the bays waiting the arrival of the fishing boats to pick up a few crabs, or the like, rather than earn their bread in an honest laborious way. The end of this will be that those who emigrated from the plantations will be driven either to return to their original occupations, or (what I am more apprehensive of) become depredators on private property, or sink into a state of mendicancy and worthlessness arising from habits of idleness and vice, and thus give employment to the public executioner, assist to increase the expenditure of the country, or to burthen the parishes to an alarming extent. This will also probably be the case with many of the new class of house servants.

2dly. To the absence from the plantations of the youth of both sexes. I had the honour to advert to this subject in my former Report to your Excellency as an evil of great magnitude;

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nitude; and I regret most sincerely that I do not perceive how their restoration could be effected by any legislative enactment. The parents of these young folks eagerly embraced the arrival of their freedom to dis sever them from an agricultural life, under the now ridiculous impression (engendered by a state of slavery) that it was the most disgraceful of all situations; and moreover, that they might receive a town education, embracing of course, all that artificial consequence, that love of dress and hatred of laborious occupation, which has been hitherto the cause of real want and misery among a large portion of free negroes, or their coloured descendants, in this and every other town of the Island.

3dly. The predilection entertained by the adult female labourers on the plantations to work a irregular periods during the week, and to fill up the vacant time by huckstering, or going to market to dispose of any pulse vegetables or other roots they may be able to collect from their grounds, or elsewhere, to the value of, perhaps, a few pence; or wood and green fodder taken from the employer's soil without permission. In this way three days have been known to be consumed in the course of one week.

4thly. The want of any thing like union of sentiment or action among the planters, as to the best means of improving the industry or ensuring the constant residence of the labouring population.

And here I may venture to observe, without the fear of contradiction, that the unsettled state of the agricultural interests is greatly owing to the diversity of opinions and regulations adopted on the different plantations. While some planters are holding out trifling auxiliary rewards beyond the pecuniary rate of wages, others have neither the ability nor the inclination to do so. While some are exacting the periods of labour to a very minute, and turning back from the field all those who came to it a moment beyond the stipulated time, and warning them not to return for the remainder of the day; others are carrying on the cultivation with more certain speed and good will by winking at these delinquencies, and allowing the people who entered late to be paid according to the extent of their labour. While some are evicting a father, mother, husband or wife, others are wise and politic, and humane enough to foresee that the near relatives of the evicted party will follow them as a matter of course, and leave the plantations destitute of many hands in the attempt to be rid of a few. While some are encouraging the family women to remain by appointing an old nurse to feed and care their babies in the hours of business, others are opposed to this plan; the employers and mothers mutually disagree, and eviction of the latter is sure to be the consequence.

Passing over the first evil, namely, that of the absence of the male adult labourers, and going to the second, that is, the absence of the children, I would suggest to the planters to attempt a cure by the establishment of a school on each estate, and the election of a teacher by the people from among themselves. Also, that over and above any gratuity which may be allowed him by the planter, a subscription of one penny halfpenny currency per week be given him by each scholar, in order to create in their minds, as well as those of their parents, a degree of pride resulting from these contributions, and to give them a greater interest in an establishment where the master and pupil are mutually dependent on each other. This plan might be the means of enticing back a portion, at least, of the boys and girls, who, like all other children, are fond of being at home; and the planter, proceeding from one stage of sagacity to another, would thus obtain the labour, while he assisted the education, of the rising generation, by apportioning the day so as to meet the wants of both branches.

The remedies for the third class of evils suggest themselves to my mind as follows: The Act for compelling travelling hucksters and pedlars to take out a licence of eight dollars per annum, will check, to a considerable extent, the practice of the labouring women of adopting this uncertain mode of life. The Act for apprehending persons selling wood and green fodder without a written permission from their employers is now operating beneficially under the superintendence of my department, and many idlers who gained their daily subsistence by stealing these articles, are now in a fair way of resuming their rural occupations. Above all, nothing, in my opinion, can provide against the labouring women, or in fact any other description of labourers, dancing attendance at market on every frivolous occasion, but a legislative enactment to establish a general market day once a week for the supply of articles the growth of plantations, except in cases where the employers find it politic or expedient to allow certain persons to carry provisions to any town, with a written permission to dispose of the same.

The fourth evil, that of a want of union or system among the planters generally, rests with themselves to remedy: but I must repeat, that their desultory measures and opinions have been exceedingly detrimental to the advancement of general industry and permanent tranquillity. I am not sufficiently acquainted with agricultural pursuits to lay down any plan whereby the present state of things may be improved. I know there are many gentlemen of the proprietary body who are both mentally and practically capable of doing so, and I trust, that the information which your Excellency has desired from the planters generally may lead to a conclusion which will answer the great objects that are contemplated at this moment in your communication to them.

Notwithstanding this, however, I am constrained to submit that nothing but a contract by the week or month, between the planters and labourers, can insure the steady working of the latter, and although there may be some objections to this plan, it is still far preferable to the day labour or to job work. The former is proving itself to be unproductive of good. The latter would have this evil tendency, that after the performance of one job, the labourers would

would consider themselves at liberty to spend their earnings by it ere they undertook a new contract, and there is no telling what mischiefs might befall them in the mean time.

I had almost forgot to mention to your Excellency a fact which came to my knowledge a few days since, and which will go far to prove that a want of uniform system must produce good to one planter while it ruins another, and mars the certainty of general benefit to the landed interests. There are three estates contiguous to each other in Five Island Division. On one of these, the family women are all at work, because their children are nursed. On the others they are not at work, because the reverse of this system is practised. Five hours labour per diem for each woman has been gained by the former, and the same number lost by the latter. The inference speaks for itself.

In conclusion, I feel it a pleasing part of my duty to inform your Excellency that the progress of crime is quite below the level of what it might have been contemplated under the existing circumstances of the Colony, and I am in hopes that a vigorous administration of the laws by all the public authorities will tend to cement the peace, and advance the prosperity of every class of society.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Loving*, Supt of Police.

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— No. 166. —

No. 166.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of *Aberdeen* to Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Colonial Office, 27 December 1834.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 4th October last, and I have to acquaint you, that I have read with great interest, though not without some anxiety, the very sensible report of the superintendent of police respecting the class of agricultural labourers in Antigua. I should be prepared to observe upon this report more fully, were it not that I consider it expedient to wait the result of the inquiry of the clergy, magistrates and proprietors noticed by you. I fully approve of your having opened this communication with them, from the policy and indeed the security of obtaining the co-operation of those classes of society in all measures which may be demanded by the state of the Colony.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Aberdeen*.

— No. 167. —

No. 167.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart. to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 2 December 1834.

I TAKE the liberty of presenting to your consideration a report by a committee of His Majesty's Privy Council on the present situation of this Colony, and on the best means of promoting its prosperity, and of encouraging the peasantry in habits of industry.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

Enclosure in No. 167.

Enclosure in  
No. 167.

EXTRACT of a Report to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, by the Council of the Island of Antigua, dated 22 November 1834.

THE members of the Board of Council appointed as a committee to report on the present situation of the Colony, and on the best means of promoting its prosperity, and of encouraging the peasantry in habits of industry, beg leave respectfully to submit to your Excellency's consideration the following remarks, the result of a review of the various Reports of magistrates, proprietors and directors of plantations, laid before them by your Excellency's commands, as well as the fruits of their own observation and experience, during the three months which have elapsed since the great change in the altered relations of our society.

The committee, in commencing their task, deem it due to the negroes of Antigua to remark, that the boon of freedom was received by them with a sobriety of demeanor and expression of religious feeling most creditable to the newly enfranchised; apparently, however, unmixed with any demonstration of gratitude to their late owners, as persons principally concerned in the transaction, so far as the curtailment of the apprenticeship might have

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have been supposed to have affected them; nor did the recollection of the past, either of good or ill, seem to interfere with the great question at issue, the cultivation of sugar by free labour.

Instances of attachment to some directors, and dislike to others, might be found, but in the former case, at the precise moment of the alteration of our system, rarely subduing the objection to the wages tendered, and the disinclination to field-labour exhibited; and in the latter case, scarcely influencing farther than the rejection of the same terms, or the abandonment of dwellings, when measures too hasty for the period alluded to were injudiciously, although legally pursued.

The aversion to agricultural labour, and the erroneous ideas cherished on the subject of wages, formed with the bulk of the population the first difficulty to be overcome; and when it is remembered, that during the reaping of the last crop, many individuals deemed it advantageous to the interest of plantations to give the field-labourer two shillings for his Saturday, besides a ration of food and rum, much allowance must be made for the stand taken by the working classes in August, bitterly disappointed as they were on learning the first class labourer could only expect to earn one-half the above amount per day, and the second class labourer but 9*d.*

Your committee would not be understood from this statement of facts, to infer they believe the wages to be other than liberal, in connexion with attendant advantages universally offered, namely, medical care, house-rent and provision-grounds, nor to imply the rate quoted was the substance of a positive preconcerted agreement entered into by directors of plantations; although, undoubtedly at the meetings of the agricultural society, which were held before the 1st of August, the amount of wages was fully canvassed, and the rate mentioned laid down in argument by practical planters, as the maximum that could be afforded on careful calculation; the understanding was, that it would be generally acted upon, and with some exceptions, according to particular interests, it may be said to have prevailed.

Under such circumstances it was not to be wondered at then, that few labourers appeared in the fields until the middle of August, that dissatisfaction should be loudly expressed, or that those who never meant to return to agricultural toil should avail themselves of the grounds of dissent. Nevertheless, as towards the close of the above month, the number of labourers at work had very much increased, it might have been supposed the sums specified (objected against as too little) would have furnished sufficient stimulus to industry; but unfortunately it soon appeared that the wages of three days, enabling the labourers to spend the rest of the week in idleness, with their improvident habits and utter disregard of the future, they could not be depended on for continued industry, and the secret outbidding of various persons in absolute want of labourers from the peculiar position of estates under their superintendence, reckless of the consequences to the community, or the disasters they brought down upon the heads of those they enticed from their proper homes, without being prepared to furnish them with dwellings, occasioned a desultory irregular attendance at field-work, and evictions consequent on such proceedings—legal, but mischievous in the extreme.

An exercise of newly acquired rights was to be expected, and may account for the preference at first given by the labourers on such plantations to work away from the surveillance of their former directors; and provided the strength generally in the fields had not been below the wants of plantations, no great injury might have been sustained, and the caprice left to its own termination. But your committee lament to say, on examining the Returns of 80 estates made up to the 1st of October, it appears that more than one-third of the labouring population of Antigua (particularly the males and young persons of both sexes,) have absolutely withdrawn altogether from agriculture; and it is notorious the adult women are now and have been, since the 1st of August, the persons chiefly concerned in carrying on the cultivation of the Colony; the children having been sent off the plantations to schools in the various towns, or placed elsewhere with the view of following hereafter other occupations than those of agriculture, thereby destroying the germ of the future prosperity of the Island as a sugar colony.

It is evident that a great portion of the males have become fishermen, fish-pot makers, waterside-men, porters and house-servants; living in want and idleness, rather than return to field-labour. The decline in the cultivation of the Island, especially in ground provisions and the preparation of cane land for 1835, in so short a space of time as three months is distinctly marked, and can thus easily be traced to the combined operation of indolence and aversion to agricultural labour, on the part of the newly enfranchised; for it is observable that two days out of six are, in a certain extent, lost to labour on the part of those who now work; few persons hiring themselves on Saturdays, and a great deficiency of labourers appearing also on Mondays.

Unhappily, a sense of degradation has hitherto attached to field-labour, in addition to its laborious details. The instructions of His Majesty's Government, on no account to allow African apprentices to be brought up to agricultural pursuits, and the practice of removing from it coloured children, have strengthened the impression naturally to that degree; it is clear nothing but necessity or distress is likely to induce the population to follow it as a means of livelihood.

It is in vain to attempt to carry on the cultivation of sugar by the temptation of high wages, because this article, which alone from its value and capacity of withstanding frequent seasons of drought, can maintain this Colony in its former condition, will not bear the cost of such production in the market of the world, and because the very obtaining the same by the labourer, with his present feelings and disregard of the future, incapacitates him

him from continued industry, without which a sugar plantation cannot be carried on. In proof of this observation, has already been mentioned the irregular attendance of the working classes under the rate of wages universally given, namely, the shilling, and the bit, or ninepence; the gain of three days enabling the labourer to spend the week in idleness, or other occupation than husbandry.

The labour of freemen, it is taken for granted throughout the Western world, must be more expensive than that of slaves. In corroboration of this opinion may be instanced, the amount of weekly wages paid on each plantation since the 1st of August, nearly equal to the former expenditure as issued in provisions, but distributed among a far less number of persons, and by no means in proportion to the work performed, which has been negligently executed, no remedy existing; the demand for labour being so great that dismissal has been no punishment, and the most worthless labourer could find fresh employment at any hour of the day, wherever he chose to go. The consequence of this extraordinary position of things must be general distress at no great distance of time, and it is only from the re-action, occasioned by distress, your committee can see a removal to those impediments to cultivation which threaten to ruin this Colony. If it were possible to remove from field-labour the sense of degradation, or by holding out public encouragement to turn a portion of the tide of emigration of the peasantry of Europe into this quarter, and hardy agriculturists from Great Britain, or elsewhere, could be induced to locate themselves and families, in sufficient numbers, to undertake a portion of the manual labour required in the performance of the various duties of the manufacturing of sugar, or the tilling of the soil, an impetus might be given to the black population, productive of benefit to the community, inasmuch as they would entertain a higher idea of occupations, up to this time held in contempt by the free negro; and if the experiment failed of success, as far as the negroes were concerned, this Island might not become a desert.

Your committee impute the advancement in ploughing, and other operations in husbandry in this Island, entirely to the introduction of indentured ploughmen from Scotland some years ago, whom the negro was then accustomed to see holding the stilts in the field. This class of persons have risen to superior situations, and are at present nowhere to be seen; but the influence of their example still renders an employment with the plough to be esteemed by the negro very differently from any other operation in husbandry. The expense of the plan suggested, however, presents serious obstacles to its entertainment, only to be removed by aid from His Majesty's Government.

(signed)

*Wm. Byam.*  
*Paul Horsford.*  
*G. Savage Martin.*

— No. 168. —

No. 168.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of Aberdeen to Governor Sir Evan J. Murray M'Gregor, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 28 February 1835.

WITH reference to your Despatch of the 2d December 1834, and the accompanying copy of a report from a committee of His Majesty's Privy Council, I beg to assure you, that the subjects therein recommended to me have been under serious consideration.

The statements of the Privy Council relative to the prospects of the Island during the then approaching crop are certainly serious, but several reasons may be assigned which appear to render it unadvisable for me at present to deliver a definite opinion upon the remedies proposed. In the first place, I do not find that you have given them your sanction. You have, it is true, assented to an Act of the Legislature intended to provide additional guarantees for the industry of the labourers during the present harvest; and as your Despatch of 30th December 1834 acquaints me that their conduct since their emancipation has been "in the highest degree creditable," and expresses no apprehension for the ultimate safety of the crop, I must of course assume, that whereas in case of necessity you would have added to the weight of the opinions of the committee that of your own unequivocal concurrence, your refraining from that course implies that in your view no such necessity exists.

That Act has, of course, been tried on its own merits; but it is clear that I am not yet in a condition to recognize as substitutes for such of its provisions as have been deemed objectionable, and have caused its disallowance, others which have come to me under an inferior though respectable recommendation, and which embrace a much wider field, with many more modifications of principle, both political and commercial.

Nor do those indirect and inferior sources of information to which, in the absence of more full immediate communications from yourself, I may advert, at all impress me with the belief that the labouring population of Antigua are in a state of general reluctance to conduct the accustomed agricultural and manufacturing operations.

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I observe

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I observe further, that in the report of Mr. Holberton on the religious instruction of the Island, he states it as a fact, apparently unquestioned, that the labourers were earning sixpence a day. If this be the case then, since the date of your Despatch of November 1st, and the accompanying Report, in which the wages are stated at one shilling, and at nine-pence, for two several classes, there must have been a very material increase in the supply of labour, more especially when it is considered that the season of the year at which this latter account is dated would cause an ample demand.

And, on the other hand, the serious nature and the large number of the remedial measures proposed, together with the doubts which have arisen in my mind whether some of them may not justly be deemed to trench too much upon the newly-acquired privileges of the negroes, and the uncertainty which, or whether any of the long list may still appear to be required by the condition of the Island, make me hesitate in pronouncing a decided opinion upon them in detail.

With reference, however, to the general principle which is to be regarded in all enactments affecting the labouring population, I beg to call your attention to the circular Despatch of 19th October 1833, in which my predecessor, Lord Stanley, declares, that His Majesty will not consent to the establishment of an intermediate state between the apprenticeship and freedom, other than a modification of the apprenticeship itself. It will follow, that whatever Bills may be passed to secure the industry and good conduct of the population, must not affect the emancipated negroes as such, but deal with them impartially as with others, according to the ordinary circumstances of their social condition.

As regards, however, one of the topics to which the Report adverts, namely, the discredit which is brought upon agricultural pursuits by the prohibition of the Government to apprentice the liberated Africans to field labour, I can have no hesitation in expressing my desire to co-operate with the Legislature of Antigua in any measures otherwise unobjectionable, which may tend to establish in repute the cultivation of the soil.

No documents in which such prohibition is conveyed can be discovered in this office; but I may safely say, that the circumstances to which it was adapted being changed, the prohibition itself need no longer be maintained. However necessary it may have been, when slavery existed, to preclude any risk of confounding the freeman with the slave to the detriment of the former, it is as clearly unwise in my judgment, in the present condition of the Colonies, to inflict upon the due and natural occupation of freemen the stigma which attached to servile employment. It will be well (whether this observation may or may not have immediate reference to any regulations at present existing in the Island of Antigua) that no orders established in conformity with the prohibition of which the Report complains, should be suffered any longer to exist; but then the utmost care must be taken (and I am confident I may intrust the subject to your integrity and solicitude), that in no case which has arisen or may arise shall any apprenticeship be legalized, under conditions which interfere with the necessary rights of a free population, or which would tend, in a state of society I trust more healthy and advanced, to reintroduce the institutions or to revive the remembrance of slavery. The subject of procuring labourers for the West Indies from other parts of the world is under the anxious consideration of Government; and I shall receive with satisfaction the proposal of any specific plan which you or the subordinate authorities of the Island may deem calculated to operate beneficially in that view for the Colony over which you preside.

You will not, I am sure, be led to infer, from any thing I have stated, an indifference on my part to the prosperity of Antigua. I recognize on the largest sense those claims to the sympathy and support of His Majesty's Government which must be possessed by a community placed by its own courageous act in the van of an enterprize as novel as it is interesting and important.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Aberdeen.*

—No. 169.—

ANTIGUA.

No. 169.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.  
to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 30 December 1834.

By the present packet, I do myself the honour of forwarding transcript of an Act passed by the Legislature of this island; viz.

“An Act for regulating Special Contracts between Labourers and their Employers, and enforcing a strict observance of such Contracts.”

The object of this Act is to regulate special hirings for service in husbandry, as distinguished from general hirings in the mother country, and enforce a strict observance of them by both parties, through the medium of summary convictions. These contracts have been limited in their duration to a twelvemonth, and required to be entered into in the presence of two or more witnesses, in order to protect the labourers against being overreached by designing persons.

In the absence of such special hirings, the labourers and their employers would be left to the ordinary legal remedy for breaches of implied contracts.

With a view as well to obviate the difficulty that might otherwise arise in the breast of the magistrate as to the particular offences which ought to be held to involve a virtual breach of the relative obligations imposed on the labourers by these special hirings, and the measure of punishment which should be assigned to them respectively, as to distinctly apprise and warn the latter of the penalties to which such offences should subject them, the 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th clauses of this Act are taken, almost word for word, from the draft of the Order in Council for British Guiana, which was proposed by the Earl of Ripon in his communication with the West India body, as a model for the adoption of the Colonial Legislatures, in the event of a general emancipation.

The 11th clause enables a magistrate to order arrears of wages to be paid, with costs, and inflict a penalty for the breach of contract on the part of the employer, as also to discharge the labourer from his contract, on proof of ill usage.

The 12th clause is calculated to remedy the evil of drawing off labourers from the estates on which they are located, and generally employed to work for a short time upon increased wages, and leaving them to a precarious subsistence, after having thus induced them to forfeit their previous claim on their former masters; and the enactment is considered consistent in its principle with the common law of the mother country, under which it has been ruled, that a person who contracts with another to do certain work for him is the servant of that other till the work is finished, and no other person can employ such servant to the prejudice of the first master, the very act of giving him the means of keeping out of his former service.—*Blake & Lanyon*, 6 Term Rep. 221.

The 13th clause provides for the recovery of wages, costs and penalties, and application of the latter.

The 14th clause obviates any idea of its being in the contemplation of the Legislature to prevent persons from employing labourers, under less formal agreement, by the day or piece, on any particular scale of wages that might be more generally adopted by the planters, it being understood that the labourers so employed would not be subject to the penal provisions of this Act; that, in short, if they faithfully perform their stipulated work, they will be able to obtain their wages by the adjudication of a magistrate, under another recent Act of this Island, for enabling labourers, artificers and servants to recover, by summary process, their wages from employers, and that, in the event of their failing in their engagements, their employers will, of course, have the right of withholding their wages, without possessing the means of otherwise punishing them more effectually for their defaults or delinquencies in service.

The 15th clause explains who shall be considered as labourers within the meaning of the Act.

The 16th clause limits the duration of the Act to a twelvemonth.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*.

Act printed in the  
Appendix (B.) No. 21.



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—No. 170.—

No. 170.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart. to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, dated Government House, Antigua, 30 December 1834.

IN my Letter of this date, the transcript of an Act is forwarded, with its summary, intituled, "An Act for regulating Special Contracts between Labourers and their Employers, and enforcing a strict observance of those Contracts."

Ever since the abolition of slavery, the demeanor of the labouring population in this Island has been in the highest degree creditable; and it is not to be wondered at, on so unusual an occasion, that experiments should be resorted to by them with the view of bettering their condition, and that of these, in consequence of their inexperience in their new element of freedom, many should turn out to be injudicious and ill-selected.

Love of novelty, indolence, caprice, repugnance to agriculture, from having been formerly constrained to engage in it, dissatisfaction with their employers, desire of gain unwisely excited by planters bidding against each other with offers of superior wages, have conspired to generate mutual want of confidence and mistrust between them, and in too many instances to encourage the former in unsettled habits, which it is highly desirable, by every legitimate means, to obliterate and remove.

In such a state of things, it is not perhaps very easy to legislate correctly; and I have been under the necessity of rejecting a Bill, recently presented by the Council and Assembly, "to ascertain more clearly the obligations of labourers in husbandry," &c., certain of its clauses, however well-intended, appearing to militate against the rightful privileges of the latter.

The duration of that now substituted, being limited to a year, and the absence of some legislative provision during crop time, threatening injury to the agriculturists generally, I am disposed to hope you will not see reason to object to it, as a temporary arrangement, until your sentiments can be conveniently communicated, so as best to reconcile the present diversity of opinion amongst the members of the local Legislature, and to indicate such remedial measures, for the common advantage of the landowners and peasantry, as to you may seem most fitting and appropriate.

No. 171.

—No. 171.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of *Aberdeen*, to Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 28 February 1835.

I HAVE received your Despatches, dated the 30th of December, enclosing an Act passed by yourself, and the Council and Assembly of Antigua, for regulating special contracts between labourers and their employers, and enforcing a strict observance of such contracts.

This Act has been transmitted to His Majesty in Council, for His Majesty's decision. But adverting to the importance of the subject to which it relates, and to the necessity of the attention of the local Legislature being promptly recalled to it, I will not postpone until the completion of the requisite official forms, the communication which it becomes my duty to make to you on the various provisions of this law. I have thought this Act worthy of more than common attention, when regarded as a precedent which may not improperly be quoted and pursued in the other British West India Colonies, when the state of apprenticeship shall have reached its close. By the anticipation of that period, the Island of Antigua has earned for itself this, amongst other distinctions, that the enactments which may be framed there for the government of a society in which slavery has given place to unqualified freedom, will probably pass into a rural code for the rest of the Colonies embraced in the Slavery Abolition Act. They, therefore, possess a still higher interest than if they were destined to influence the condition of the emancipated population of Antigua alone.

First, then, I observe that the legal consequences are carefully defined of the special contracts which may be entered into between labourers in husbandry and their employers. Considering how much of the force of all the subsequent enactments depends upon the sense in which the term special contract shall be understood, it appears to me that it ought to have received some precise legislative definition. I presume the intention to be to point to the usual distinctions between those

those express agreements which men make with each other by words written or spoken, and those which, from the nature of their conduct or mutual dealings, they are, by a legal fiction, supposed to enter into. If this conjecture be well founded, the question might and ought to have been placed beyond the reach of doubt. If by a special contract be meant, as the words thus interpreted would require, any direct engagement, though not reduced into writing, then, I think, the use of terms so comprehensive was plainly objectionable. Adverting to the relative condition of the contracting parties, the prevailing ignorance and want of foresight, and general poverty of the one, contrasted with the advantages of the other, I cannot think that compacts between them, to which so many legal consequences of the highest importance are attached, ought to be left in the uncertainty which will always exist, after a short lapse of time, as to the real effect of unrecorded words. Every "Special Contract," obligatory on a labourer in husbandry under this Act, ought to be drawn up and signed by the parties, and recorded in the office of the justice of the peace, whose presence is already required on such occasions; and in cases where either of the contracting parties may be unable to read, the justice should be required to add to his attestation of their signatures a declaration, subscribed by himself, to the effect that he had read over and explained to the labourer the contents and the effect of the agreement into which he was about to enter. It is superfluous to enlarge upon the importance of precautions of this nature, against abuses which might otherwise prove the fertile source of discontent.

Secondly: Adverting to the various provisions, of which it is the object to prevent or to punish a negligent performance by the labourers of the contracts for hiring and service into which they may enter, I make no objection to the general principle of visiting such defaults by a forfeiture of wages, for a greater length of time than that of the absence itself, or even by punishments involving some bodily suffering. However desirable it may be that society should be held together by sanctions of a more liberal character, yet in an employment of such vital importance to the general welfare, as is that of the growth and manufacture of the great staple commodities of the Island, it is necessary that workmen should give some better pledge than the mere liability to dismissal, or to actions at law, for the faithful performance of the duties they have assumed towards their employers. There would otherwise arise a want of mutual confidence, destructive to any scheme of extensive improvement and expenditure, and a decline of agricultural and commercial industry, by which no class of persons would in reality suffer so much as those whose daily subsistence depends on their daily manual labour.

But while thus assenting to the general principle, I cannot concur in some of the details of these enactments. A whole day's wages of a labourer in husbandry are to be forfeited if he shall absent himself for "half or any smaller proportion of a day." Thus, according to plain and inevitable construction of the words, the offence of loitering for a minute might deprive a man of the maintenance of himself and his family for twenty-four hours, a punishment which in so extreme a case would be obviously unjust and prejudicial to the real interests of the employer as well as to that of his servant. Further: To the question, what cause of absence is, and what is not, reasonable, the law gives no specific answer; but if I correctly understand it, refers the decision in each successive case to the unfettered discretion of the justice of the peace before whom the complaint of an unreasonable absence may be preferred. It is in a spirit of the most entire respect for the gentlemen in the commission of the peace in Antigua, that I hesitate to acknowledge the propriety of committing so large a trust to them. Being generally selected from the principal proprietors or resident managers of estates in the Island, they have, or at least will be supposed to have, an indirect interest in the rigid enforcement of this law. The magistrate before whom penalties are to be recovered for an unreasonable absence to-day, may himself have to sue for similar penalties in the justice room of the present complainant to-morrow: suspicions of partiality, with however little foundation, must be expected to take root in the minds of those who are the objects of the alternate jurisdiction and complaint of the same persons. Indeed I do not find any direct prohibition against the exercise by an employer of his magisterial authority, for the conviction and punishment of his own servants, although such an abuse can scarcely be considered as impossible in a society in which the combinations of the characters of party and judge were so recently sanctioned by the law, the usages, and the public opinion of the entire community.

I fully admit that it is indispensable to confide to the judge an ample discretion to distinguish, as occasions arise, between reasonable and unreasonable apologies for  
absence

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absence from work. The attempt to draw out such distinctions beforehand with precise legislative definitions would be manifestly futile. But to obviate the real or suspected injustice incident to the possession and use of such a power, the best practicable security should be taken for the impartial exercise of it. Such a security I apprehend would be found, first in requiring that these forfeitures should be imposed, not by a single justice, but at a petty sessions; and secondly, by requiring that at every such sessions there should be present at least one magistrate, not being himself the employer of labourers under special contract in the same species of service.

Thirdly: I acquiesce in the necessity and propriety of denouncing against labourers in husbandry and manufactures, penalties affecting that class of persons only, in so far as such penalties are exigible in respect of actions, of which the criminality or danger wholly or chiefly result from the circumstance of such being the employment and mode of life of the offender. The law has therefore properly devised for the punishment of negligent and improper performance of work, endangering the employer's property by wilful negligence, or by the careless use of fire, the ill using of cattle, and the wantonly destroying or injuring an employer's property committed to the labourer's charge.

But under the same head, the crime of drunkenness is classed as an offence, the extreme punishment of which may be imprisonment with hard labour for three months. This, indeed, is the maximum. But not only is such a penalty quite out of proportion to any mischief which society at large can sustain from a single act of intoxication, and at variance with the prevailing tone of moral sentiment on the subject, but it is also a punishment which, if justly due in the case of labourers under special contracts, cannot be unmerited in other cases. The circumstance that a man has engaged himself to perform agricultural or manufacturing labour, does not render his drunkenness more injurious to society at large, than if he were devoted to any other species of industry, manual or intellectual.

The failure to provide according to his ability for his infant children is another crime for which the rural labourer under special contracts is to be liable to three months' imprisonment and hard labour on a summary conviction before a single magistrate. Without pausing to inquire whether this is a proper mode of legislation in reference to parents generally, it is enough for my present purpose to say that the neglect of infant children is not one of those offences of which the mischief consists in, or arises from, the circumstance, that the parent is a labourer in husbandry. The apology for subjecting that class of society to a peculiar penal code, from which all other classes are exempt, fails when applied to such a case as this. The immediate injury to this class may indeed be so slight as to be scarcely perceptible. But I must regard, as of no light moment, the general principle which enactments of this character involve. There is no danger connected with the transition from slavery to freedom demanding a more vigilant circumspection than that of the silent growth of a new code, depressing below the common level of society, in respect of civil rights and penal liabilities, persons who have been so long accustomed to regard themselves, and to be regarded by others as in a state of social inferiority and domestic and personal degradation. The moral influence of such distinctions, if revived and perpetuated in this new form, will be felt to a much greater extent, and more injuriously, than the direct operation of the law itself.

Fourthly: The Act contains some clauses, very properly framed, for the protection of the labourer against ill usage, or breach of contract on the part of his employer. Yet I am constrained to remark that there is in these provisions some want of equal justice. The forfeitures incurred by the labourer are invariably to accrue to his employer's benefit; but the forfeitures which may be recovered against the employer himself, are as invariably to be paid into the public Treasury. The rule should be the same in both cases. The labourer also is in every case to pay a larger sum for absenting himself, than the amount of the wages which he would have earned by attending. The employer, on the other hand can never be amerced in a greater sum than ten pounds currency, whatever may be the extent of the injury which his breach of contract may have inflicted upon the labourer. Either each party should be liable to make a precise indemnification for the injury inflicted on the other, or each party should, over and above that indemnity, be subject to some penal payment. The rule as it stands is inconsistent with itself, and is founded on no definite principle whatever.

I further observe that the Act contains no express declaration that those rules of the common law are neither revoked nor superseded, by which the servant might have

have recovered the amount of the wages due to him, or might have enforced the performance of the contract by which the employer might have been punished for the ill usage of his servant. It must therefore remain at least doubtful whether the ancient remedies could be taken, and consequently whether more is not lost than gained by these enactments in the way of security for the employer's good conduct.

Fifthly: On account of its peculiar importance, I will here transcribe verbatim, from the 12th section of this law, the following enactment: "If any person shall knowingly employ any servant in husbandry who shall either be under contract to another person, or *retain the occupation of a house upon the estate of such other person*, or if any person shall continue to employ a servant in husbandry so under contract to another person, or so retaining the *occupation of a house upon the estate of such other person*, after receiving due notice of the relation in which such servant in husbandry stands towards such other person," the offender is to forfeit ten pounds. To so much of this enactment as forbids the hiring or employing a servant under contract to another employer, I have no objection. But the penalty against hiring or employing the occupant of a house on another man's estate, unless the occupation of such house should form the subject of a special contract, is a formidable abridgment of the new freedom and of the legal equality of the emancipated slaves. In your Despatch already quoted, I find a summary and a defence of this clause; but by some oversight you appear to have passed over in silence so much of it as relates to the restrictions imposed on tenantry. The omission is, however, supplied by an argumentative preamble to the enactments itself, which also it will be convenient to copy. It is as follows:—

"Whereas it is highly desirable that servants in husbandry should, as far as may be practicable, be associated in labour and located on the same estates; and it is also both impolitic and unjust towards their present employers, as well as injurious to themselves, that they should be allowed to be seduced by a temporary increase of wages, held out to them by any other proprietor, with a particular object to desert the estates to which they are attached, and where they enjoy the more solid advantage of permanent employment with a comfortable place of abode; be it therefore enacted," &c.

However important it may be, that the emancipated slaves of Antigua should continue to work as formerly, in compact bodies, and should continue to regard as their future homes, the estates on which they have hitherto been settled, it is of still higher moment that the rights so unreservedly granted to them should be maintained, and that no attempt should be made to re-establish any of the essential principles of the ancient slave code. But the effect of this law is to revive the authority of one of those maxims, which is in its operation the most directly opposed to personal freedom. In substance and in effect it requires the tenantry on every estate to labour in the service of the landlord, at a rate of wages to be fixed by himself, however high may be the offers which they may receive from other candidates for their services. The householder may indeed refuse to enter into a special contract with his landlord; but if so, he can serve no one else: he is also at liberty to change his place of abode. But by that measure he merely passes from one landholder to another, each of whom will in turn be entitled to prevent the labourer working for a stranger, and each of whom will place his own value upon the services which he himself may demand. The imposition of such a restraint upon the free exchange of a man's labour for the best wages which that labour can command, is alike at variance with justice to individuals, and with the real interests of society at large. But further, if such an obligation is to exist at all, it should at least be mutual. If a labourer may not work for any one except his landlord, the duty of finding for the labourer a constant maintenance, adequate in amount and kind, must be imposed on the landlord in turn. Effective securities must be taken, on the one hand, for the punctual delivery of these supplies; while on the other hand, securities not less stringent must be devised against the indolence of the labourer. In other words, the scheme of apprenticeship in force in the other Colonies under the Act of Parliament for a few years, must be incorporated, in principle at least, into the permanent law of Antigua; and the Legislature of that Island will thus be compelled to revert, for an indefinite time, to the very system which they repudiated when the establishment of it was proposed to them for a period of five years only. His Majesty cannot be advised to sanction so speedy an abandonment of the ground advisedly taken by the Legislature of Antigua in two successive enactments, in each of which the inutility of the apprenticeship and the substitution of a total and immediate Abolition of Slavery were so distinctly proclaimed,

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not only within the limits of that Island, but throughout all the British West Indies, and to the people of this kingdom. It was on account of the grant to the labourers in husbandry of that unrestricted freedom, to dispose of their labour to the best advantage, that His Majesty declared that adequate and satisfactory provision had been made for carrying into effect the views of Parliament, and that the Colonists of Antigua were entitled to their proportionate share in the Compensation Fund. For these reasons I can hold out no prospect that this Act will be allowed.

Sixthly: The enactment prescribing the means of recovering penalties is expressed in terms of great ambiguity. They are such as rather to raise a new question in each successive case, than to establish a fixed rule for the decision of any.

Seventhly: The definition of the word labourer is such as to embrace every free man in the Island, who earns his subsistence by the labour of his hands; for, under the terms mechanics and artisans, will be included such craftsmen as tailors, shoemakers, carpenters and wheelwrights. I apprehend that the reason of the law does not extend to cases of this nature, and that the free people of colour who were never in bondage will regard the novel disabilities imposed upon them by this statute with great and reasonable dissatisfaction.

Your own assent to this law appears to have been obtained the more readily, from the circumstance that it was passed only for a year. I cannot regard that fact as of much importance. The recognition of the principles of this statute, for however short a period, may be as binding hereafter, as though the operation of it were to continue for an indefinite length of time.

You also appear to have been much impressed by the necessity of preventing the loss of the present crop; but as that is a consideration which will resume its force with each successive harvest, the value of it must be estimated, not upon occasional, but on permanent grounds.

You will further remark, that ever since the Abolition of Slavery, the demeanor of the labouring population has been in the highest degree creditable; but you were induced to accept the Bill tendered to you from various reasons, amongst which you enumerate the injudicious experiments resorted to by the emancipated population, with a view of bettering their condition, and the desire of gain unwisely excited by planters bidding against each other, with offers of superior wages. Not doubting the existence of the evils which you have described as having directly followed upon a change, so complete and immediate as that which occurred in the Island of Antigua, and fully prepared as I am to expect that some time must elapse and some trouble be incurred, before society can quietly settle down into a system so new and untried, I yet must think that no better elements of social prosperity could be desired or supposed, than the anxious wish on the part of the labourers, on the one hand, to better their condition, and the eager competition on the part of employers, on the other hand, for their services. To interfere with the natural and beneficial working of these incentives to industry would be evidently imprudent. It would be to recur to a system to which, as often as the experiment has been repeated, the concurrent testimony and the mature experience of all countries has been opposed.

The remarks which I have made will prepare you to receive an Order from His Majesty in Council, disallowing this Act. To many of its provisions, as has already been shown, no objection is entertained by His Majesty's official advisers. If they shall be incorporated in a new law, from which the objectionable enactments shall be excluded, and in which the omissions I have pointed out shall be satisfactorily supplied, you will give your assent to any Bill of that nature which may be tendered to you.

I have, &c.

(signed)

*Aberdeen.*

No. 172.

— No. 172. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart., to the Earl of *Aberdeen*.

My Lord,

Government House, Antigua, 11 May 1835.

THE enclosed documents show what has passed between the two Houses of this Legislature and myself in relation to your Lordship's Despatch of the 28th February (intimating the approaching disallowance of the Contract Act), to which I had, as therein explained, erroneously assented.

To

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4.  
7th & 9th May 1835.

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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To the chairman of the joint committee, engaged in endeavouring to frame legislative provisions, more in unison with your Lordship's sentiments, the Despatch of the above date has likewise been communicated; and the prohibition, excluding female liberated Africans from agricultural employment, having originated in an Order of The King in Council, (Enclosure, No. 3,) it possibly may be desirable (the better to eradicate the prejudices of the negro population against this pursuit), that its formal repeal should emanate from the same high source.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

Enclosures in No. 172.

No. 1.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR to His Honour the PRESIDENT and COUNCIL.

IN the belief that certain springs of human action, however conducive in the ordinary course of events to social prosperity, might yet beneficially admit of temporary regulation, when thrown by an unprecedented occurrence into sudden operation, and that the admission under peculiar circumstances of an imperfect statute of short continuance, would not render its principles indefinitely binding; the executive assented to an enactment designed to protect, during one year, the engagements of voluntarily contracting parties, and intitled, "An Act for regulating special Contracts between Labourers and their Employers, and enforcing a strict observance of such Contracts."

But the inaccuracy of this impression being exhibited in the Despatch, of which a transcript is enclosed, the Governor will now participate with pleasure in the adoption of such measures, founded upon the observations of the Earl of Aberdeen, as the two Houses of Legislature, whom it has appeared desirable to convene on the occasion, may deem appropriate in consequence of the approaching disallowance of the Contract Act.

Government House,  
St. John's, 7 May 1835.(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

A similar Message to the HOUSE of ASSEMBLY.

No. 2.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from his Honour the SPEAKER of the House of Assembly, to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart., dated the 7th May 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge, on behalf of the House of Assembly, the receipt of your Excellency's communications of this day's date, numbered from 1 to 3, and to state that with respect to the Despatch of His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, on the subject of the Bill "for regulating special Contracts between Labourers and their Employers, and enforcing a strict observance of such Contracts," a committee of the two Houses has been appointed to report on the same, and to bring in such Bills as may be deemed requisite.

No. 3.

At a Meeting of the PRIVY COUNCIL, held by special Summons at Government House, on Saturday, the 9th day of May 1835.

Present:

His Excellency Sir <i>E. J. Murray M'Gregor</i> , Bart.	
The Honourable Meade H. Daniel.	The Honourable George S. Martin.
" William Byam.	" William Lee.
" Paul Horsford.	" Owen Pell.
" Francis F. Brown.	

(Extract.)

"THE restrictions affecting the employment of Africans under charge of the officers of His Majesty's Customs, which the Colonial Department has been unable to trace to its source, originated, it will be observed, in an order by The King in Council; and it would perhaps sufficiently meet the object of the committee of this board, were public notice given of the removal of any injunction hitherto disqualifying Africans of the above class from engaging in agricultural pursuits."

Sir,

Custom House, Antigua, 8 May 1835.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 7th instant, calling upon me to state, "Whether there are any and what regulations from His Majesty's Government on record in this custom-house, prohibiting the apprenticing of the children of liberated Africans as agricultural labourers?"

I have now the honour to forward you for his Excellency's information, extracts from the Order in Council relating thereto.

I have, &amp;c.

To Felix Bedingfeld, esq.  
Private Secretary, &c. &c.(signed) *G. A. Gore*, Collector.

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Enclosures in  
No. 172.

28th Feb. 1835. No. 20

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Extract from an ORDER in COUNCIL, dated the 16th March 1808.

1st. IN regard to such male negroes as from infirmity or age are not fit for military or naval service, or such as shall be required or taken for the same as aforesaid, and also in regard to female negroes, the collector or chief officer of the customs for the time being is to use the earliest and utmost endeavour to bind them as apprentices or indented servants to prudent and humane masters or mistresses, either in the same or other Colonies, to learn such trades, handicrafts or employments as they seem from their bodily or other qualities most likely to be fit for, and to gain their livelihood most comfortably by, after their terms of apprenticeship or servitude shall expire.

2d. In respect to female negroes for whom there is in general no employment in the West Indies but in domestic services or the labours of agriculture, the collector or chief officer of the customs for the time being is to take especial care that they are not to be employed in the latter upon any account, and he is hereby further directed to bind them apprentices only to such masters and mistresses as are of good repute for humanity to their domestic slaves, and for such terms or periods only as may be sufficient for their acquiring the knowledge of their business as servants in whatever domestic capacity the master or mistress may assign them to, with such addition thereto as may reasonably suffice to recompense him or her for the care of their instruction and the charge of their support in the meantime; relation being herein had to the age and strength of every such female apprentice.

(A true copy.)

(signed) *W. Simpson.*

It is the opinion of the board that the collector of customs for this Island should be informed, that the prohibition in regard to the liberated Africans being employed in agricultural labour, need, on the authority of the Right honourable the Secretary of State, be no longer maintained.

(A true extract.)

(signed) *Tho' Lane, Secy.*

No. 4.

Sir,

Government House, St. John's, 9th May 1835.

YOUR Letter of yesterday's date having been laid before the Governor, I have received his Excellency's commands to communicate for your information, the accompanying extract from a Despatch of the Right honourable the Earl of Aberdeen, in conformity with which the Governor requests, that the liberated Africans under your care may be no longer prohibited from engaging in agricultural pursuits.

I have, &amp;c.

To G. A. Gore, Esq. (signed) *Felix Bedingfeld, Priv. Secy.*  
Collector of His Majesty's Customs, Antigua.

— No. 173. —

No. 173. .

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart. to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 3 February 1835.

I HAVE the honour of forwarding a Report from the superintendent of police, containing observations on the state of labour in this Island on the 31st ultimo.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

31 January 1835.

Enclosure in  
No. 173.

Enclosure in No. 173.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from *Henry Loving*, Esq., Superintendent of Police, to Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, dated Police Office, Head Quarters, St. John's, 31 January 1835.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Excellency the information which I have derived by personal inquiry and observation regarding the internal state of affairs in the Island during the month ending this day.

In my last Report for December, I stated that the approaching sugar crop would form a new connexion between master and servant, and give an opportunity to both of establishing such pecuniary arrangements as might probably raise a superstructure of fixed wages for every succeeding crop.

Your Excellency will recollect that I adverted, in former monthly Reports, to the want of unanimity among the proprietary body, as one of the evils which kept alive a spirit of jealousy and discontent among the labouring population. The same complaint exists at this moment, and though I am far from advocating the necessity or propriety of any law to establish a general rate of wages, yet I am convinced that there ought to be a private rule

rule for the mutual benefit of all. It may be objected that some estates are large, some small, some labouring under mortgages, some partially or altogether free from debt. But this does not alter the case one jot or tittle. In a comparative ratio, they are all equally interested in taking off the present and establishing the next crop with celerity; and neither logic nor experience can controvert the fact, that both large and small, incumbered and unincumbered, stand upon the same footing in this respect.

Many planters are now preparing to begin crop, but those who have begun are as various in their plans as may possibly be conceived. Some are for allowing the people 9*d.* per day for the adults and 6*d.* for the younger folks for every hogshead of sugar manufactured in one day. Some for allowing 1*s.* 6*d.* to the mill-gang, and 1*s.* 1 ½*d.* to the cane cutters per day, without reference to the rate per hogshead. Some for allowing 1*s.* 4 ½*d.* to the large and 1*s.* to the small gangs per day, and 3*d.* more if they manufacture two and a half hogsheads per day. Some for allowing the former wages of 1*s.* to the great gang and 9*d.* to the weeders, and a gratuity of one pint of meal, two herrings and beverage. Some for allowing the wages last stated, with the addition of 1 ½*d.* for working at breakfast-time, and 3*d.* for dinner-time during the crop; and in fact it would take me more time than I could devote to the collection of the various plans that are in existence.

This leads to inquiry on the part of the labourers, and being a keen calculating class of people, they naturally feel an appetite for that plan which is most advantageous to themselves. Upon this diversity of system then it is that the crop is progressing both with uncommon sluggishness, and much disagreement and halting between two opinions on several plantations. I have no doubt that matters will assume a more favourable turn, though I am constrained to give it as my opinion, that should this be otherwise, it will require three or four weeks more than usual to take in the harvest. Those estates which formerly made in good weather three and four hogsheads per day are now unable to make more than two, and I apprehend that they will seldom exceed two and a half on an average.

Where the rate of 9*d.* per hogshead has been accepted, the labour has been increased in proportion, so as to keep pace with the expectation of a large reward. But the mind of the negro has been so considerably altered since his elevation to freedom, that this degree of exertion, it is quite probable, will last but for a season, for after a month of fortunate gains in studious toil, relaxation will be sighed for, a desire for occasional rest will triumph over money, and the work will fall off. This has been the case since the 1st of August, when labour was not so great as at this moment, and I am persuaded that nothing can prevent a recurrence of the same circumstance to a certain extent. A plea of sickness will occur—whether real or feigned it must be allowed, and these periodical drawbacks will amount to much in the end.

The estates that are more remote from the towns will suffer less than others in this respect, because the population are less vicious and more stationary. To sum up the whole, I am to remark, that free labour differs from slave labour in this essential point, that the emancipated will migrate where and when they please, as often as their interest or a desire for recreation leads them. It was to check this abuse of time in the present crop that the Act for establishing contracts between master and servant was passed on the 29th of last month. It was both necessary and opportune, because there could be no doubt, from the experience of past months, that the planters would continue to entice away each other's labourers by increased bounties.

The idea of importing English labourers into this Island has been a favourite topic with some persons; but it is absolute delusion to suppose that any man from the United Kingdom can be put alongside of one of our field people for 12 hours under a burning sun with any hope of his prolonged existence. The most experienced planters must know that the training for plantation work requires to be gradual; the grass gang in childhood, the weeding gang in riper years, and the great gang at maturity, ere the constitutional powers can withstand the effects of climate. It is not many years since that the experiment of purchasing townspeople to dig cane-holes was tried by an Irish landholder in this Island; and notwithstanding they were native blacks, disease speedily crept in among them. Some that I had known in robust health, became enervated and decrepid. Death completed the work, and but few of the original number were effective on the 1st of August last. I should not think that the importation of white ploughmen is intended, because that scheme was carried into effect some years ago by several planters; and the measure not being followed up is a proof that their services could be dispensed with after the slaves had acquired the art and saved this extraordinary expense to the master.

The progress of events has not been marked by any unusual disrespect of the laws on the part of the labouring classes: petty thefts on the full grown canes and potatoes are frequent; but this may be ascribed to a rule among those people during their servitude, "that the taking of their masters' crop was no theft, so long as they planted it." Summary punishments will awaken their feelings to the dissimilarity of connexion between their former and present condition, and operate for the future as a check to this principle.

The whole Island is in a state of ordinary tranquillity. The trifling ebullition of discontent on some plantations on the score of wages may be considered as purely domestic, and will blow over in a week or two. The police force, small as it is, continues to be efficient, and the prevalence of vice in our streets has been effectually put down by their firmness and activity.



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— No. 174. —

No. 174.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of *Aberdeen* to Governor  
Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Colonial Office, 16 March 1835.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 3d February, enclosing report of the superintendent of police upon the state of the liberated classes in the Island of Antigua on the 31st January last.

Although differences are reported in that report as interfering with the harvest, and likely to delay its completion, yet the rights of the negro to carry his labour to the best market cannot be denied, and, on the other hand, the proprietors as a body are neither so large nor so incompact as to be unable to protect their own interests without resorting to compulsory enactments at variance with the freedom of commerce.

It affords me much satisfaction to observe that the police force is reported to be in a state of efficiency.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Aberdeen*.

No. 175.

— No. 175. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.,  
to the Earl of *Aberdeen*.

My Lord,

Government House, Antigua, 10 March 1835.

A REPORT from the superintendent of police for February, received too late to admit of its transmission by the last packet, is herewith forwarded, representing the state of agricultural labour in this Colony, since the commencement of the present crop, and passing of the Act relative to contracts, which accompanied my Despatch of the 30th December last.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

28th February 1835.

Enclosure in  
No. 175.

Enclosure in No. 175.

Sir,

Police Office, Head Quarters, St. John's,  
28th February 1835.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Excellency a short Report connected with passing events in this Island during the present month.

The sugar crop has been generally commenced, but the average quantum of labour has not been such as to afford the planters satisfaction under all the circumstances of the country, and with due allowance for the altered condition of society. There has been no fixed standard of wages by private agreement among the planters, but still they have severally offered to the labourers such terms as were consistent with the pecuniary means at their command, and such also as, in my opinion, ought to have been cheerfully acceded to, in a great majority of cases, but in others the people were less to blame, on account of the scale of wages being so intricate as to be beyond the comprehension of persons not acquainted with arithmetical calculation. Alterations I am informed have been made from time to time to bring the weaker party into terms that were more acceptable and better understood.

I am certain that the taking off this crop will give the contracting parties the advantage of more amicable feelings on future similar occasions. It is impossible that the planter can spend less hereafter than they do at present in the manufacture of sugar, with any hope of benefit to themselves; and the labourer will be satisfied, at the end of the bargain, that they have had no reasonable or just cause of complaint.

The character of slavery had impressed on the minds of its victims a certain degree of low cunning, and a large share of distrust on the score of undue advantage being taken of their weakness and comparative ignorance, which it will take many years to overcome, and even then it will never be altogether extracted from the present generation of adults, who have grown up with the old colonial system.

Hence their fluctuating opinion and breaches of contract during the last and present month. On many estates they have hardly made a contract before they attempted to abrogate it, while on others they have lingered at the work for a short time, till an open rupture has been the result. In several instances under my own knowledge (and I am told they are common) they flatly deny before the magistrates the existence of any contract. But the truth has invariably come out, that certain propositions being made to them in the manner prescribed by law, they silently (though perhaps reluctantly) retire, perform the work allotted them, and receive the proffered wages. The fact being thus established upon the evidence

of two persons, the magistrate's course is clear and unequivocal. Much, however, has been done by the magistracy of St. John's to reconcile these conflicting parties, and they have been successful in some instances.

The crop, I am of opinion, would never have been proceeded with so far as it has but for the enactment of the Labourer's Contract Act; and though the whole of the plantations have not succeeded in getting their people to agree to contracts, yet the possession of houses by the dissenting labourers has had the salutary effect of preventing by law their services from being accepted elsewhere; and they are thus reduced to the necessity of remaining where they are, and faring no better than those who have become contractors.

The minds of the labouring people were staggered at the provisions of this new law, but they are now mostly convinced of its tendency, either by magisterial decisions or by due explanations abroad, and it may reasonably be inferred that all collision will cease as they become familiarised to the present regulations. The sugar crop has fallen far short of the expectations which were entertained three months ago, and certainly much behind that of last year; but I am of opinion, as I hinted in my last Report, that the time which will be occupied in reaping the present, will not be less than was taken to complete the former; and this must be ascribed to the difference between slave and free labour per diem.

Whether the same quantity of plant canes will be put in this year as there was last year, is another question; but, from all that I can learn, it does not appear that there will be any diminution in the aggregate, in consequence of the job-work and increased pay given to the labourers at the critical moment when the planters discovered that there was no hope of opening the land for the next crop but by an additional pecuniary stimulus.

The calendar for the session of next month is considerably heavier than it has been at both the former sessions since the first of August last. The capital cases in this Court would appear at the first view as largely increased, compared with their extent before the abolition of slavery in this Island; but a moment's reflection will discover that cases which were formerly dealt with in the slave court are all crowded into the jurisdiction of our tribunal for the trial of free men; and larcenies upon plantations, which under the old system would have been dealt with by domestic chastisement, are likewise thrown into this new channel.

Time, patience, judicious laws, and able, unbiassed magistrates, are the points to which the country must look for happiness under Divine Providence, and I feel persuaded that she will yet have to congratulate herself upon her great liberality in the cause of freedom.

The police force under my command have an arduous duty to perform, and my personal exertions are unceasing to supply the lack of numbers by zealous activity on the part of every member thereof.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

(signed) *Henry Loving*, Supr. of Police.

To His Excellency the Governor,  
&c. &c. &c.

—No. 176.—

No. 176.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.,  
to Mr. Secretary *Grant*.

Sir, Government House, Antigua, 9 June 1835.

I HAVE the honour to submit for your information a satisfactory Report from Mr. *Loving*, superintendent of police, on the present condition of this Island.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

1 June 1835.

Enclosure in No. 176.

Enclosure in  
No. 176.

Sir,

Police Office, Head Quarters, St. John's,  
1st June 1835.

THE progressively healthful state of affairs in this Island leaves me but little to remark upon in this Report for the month of May; and I am happy to have learnt, from the best authority, that some gentlemen of rank possessing estates in this country, who, from a want of due patience, had recently predicted the ruin of the landed interest, are now of a different opinion. Opinions, however, ought to be received with some caution where they are not general,  
278.—II.

ANTIGUA.

general, and especially when they relate to any subject which affects the well-being of a whole community. That such opinions were never general, and, in fact, rather limited, at any period since the first of August 1834, I can aver, from the conversations which I have had with planters of every rank, and at all events it would have been better to have withheld any sentiments of despondency till the period should have arrived when a fair estimate could be made of the operations of free labour. Hasty promulgations of impending evil are, moreover, calculated to wound the credit of the Island abroad, and to forfeit that confidence which is so necessary to be maintained between the people of England and the planters of the West Indies.

Capital offences against the laws have decreased considerably since the last quarterly sessions, there being but four persons to be arraigned in the present month. Petit larcenies have been more numerous since that period, and this I attribute, as it regards the rural population, to the circumstance of there being several disaffected characters about the country who have done little or no work since their emancipation; and on the part of the town's people by reason of their prevailing and unhappy fondness for dress.

The force under my command are in the active and zealous performance of every duty which may tend to the public good, and in this I am happy to say they are powerfully aided by the magistracy and other functionaries.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your Excellency's most obedient and very humble servant,

*Henry Loving*, Sup. of Police.

To His Excellency Sir E. J. Murray M'Gregor, Bart.  
&c. &c. &c.

No. 177.

—No. 177.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor  
Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 29 July 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated 10th June 1835, confirming and allowing the Act passed by the Legislature of Antigua in the month of June 1834, for the Abolition of Slavery in that Island, and reciting and setting forth at length, in pursuance of the 23d section of the British Act, the several provisions and enactments of that Act which have been superseded by the Act of the Legislature of Antigua.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

Order in Council of  
10 June 1835,  
printed in the  
Appendix (B.), No. 22.

No. 178.

—No. 178.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor  
Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 31st ultimo, declaring that adequate and satisfactory provision hath been made in the colony of Antigua for giving effect to an Act of Parliament made in the 3d and 4th years of His present Majesty for the Abolition of Slavery.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

Order in Council of  
31 July 1835, printed  
in the Appendix of  
Part II. (B.), No. 17.

## M O N T S E R R A T.

— No. 179. —

No. 179.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart. to  
Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir, Government House, Antigua, 30 December 1833.  
I do myself the honour of transmitting to you the copy of a Letter from the President of Montserrat, on the occasion of his having presented to that Legislature the transcript of your circular Despatch of the 19th of October last.

*24 December 1833.*

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

Enclosure in No. 179.

Enclosure in  
No. 179.

Sir, Montserrat, 24 December 1833.  
It affords me much satisfaction to be enabled to inform your Excellency that I had an opportunity on Thursday last of submitting to the serious consideration of both Houses of the Legislature (by message) the important circular Despatch from the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with a printed form, intended in some measure as a model for their guidance in the formation of the Colonial Bills to be passed, in accordance with the spirit of the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery.

I am pleased to inform your Excellency that that Act has been received by them with that respectful attention due to His Majesty and the Imperial Parliament, on a Bill of such vital importance not only to the Colonies, but to the Empire at large. They have also duly appreciated the very conciliatory Letter of Mr. Secretary Stanley, as also that of your Excellency for your kind good wishes in the transmission of it.

I do most sincerely hope and trust that, through their wisdom, their patriotism, and their love of their country, they may be enabled, difficult as the task is, to surmount them all, and make such wholesome enactments as may (with the aid of His Majesty's Government) ensure to the inhabitants of this ancient and loyal Island that happiness and prosperity they formerly enjoyed.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Hen. Hamilton*.

His Excellency Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.  
Governor Leeward Islands.

— No. 180. —

No. 180.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Governor  
Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir, Downing-street, 6 June 1834.  
I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 6th of April last, transmitting the Bill passed by the Legislature of Montserrat, for the Abolition of Slavery; and I have to inform you, that, in consequence of this Bill not having received your assent, or that of the President of Montserrat, His Majesty is precluded from pronouncing any opinion upon it. It is a subject of considerable regret to me that this Bill should have been sent home in such a form; but in order to obviate this serious inconvenience which would result to the Island by the Bill not coming into operation on the 1st August next, I have received The King's command to inform you, that if the House of Assembly of Montserrat be still in Session, and the usages of the Colony permit it, the requisite assent should be given by the officer administering the government. If, on the other hand, the Session shall have been closed, I am to desire that immediate steps may be taken to convene the Legislature, who must be invited to re-enact the Bill, to which, when so re-enacted, the President Hamilton will give his assent.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *T. Spring Rice*.

MONTserrat.

—No. 181.—

No. 181.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. President *Hamilton* to  
Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

Montserrat, 31 July 1834.

AGREEABLY to your instructions, I have the honour to enclose you a re-enacted  
Bill for the Abolition of Slavery in this Colony.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *J. Hamilton*, President.Printed in the Appendix  
(B.) No. 23.

No. 182.

—No. 182.—

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.,  
to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, dated Nevis, 1 August 1834.His Majesty's ship *Belvedera* quitted Tortola on the morning of the 25th, and  
I reached Montserrat on the 29th ultimo. My communications from the Council,  
the Assembly, and the Executive, will be found detailed in the Enclosures,  
Nos. 1, 2 and 3, relating to the latter Island, where no design had been indicated  
by the negroes of opposing the system of apprenticeship, and they were, on the  
contrary, said to comport themselves with perfect propriety and decorum.The absence of the special magistrate, intended to officiate in that Colony, is  
adverted to in the address from the Assembly.Enclosures in  
No. 182.

Enclosures in No. 182.

No. 1.

MONTserrat.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Council,  
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly,ON repairing to Montserrat it is in the highest degree acceptable to me to be assured of  
the observance of that orderly conduct which has happily prevailed amongst the working  
population since the formation of the Leeward Island Government.As their sincere friend I cherish a heartfelt hope that by a faithful and punctual discharge  
of the duties about to devolve on them for four or six crops, according to their respective  
classes, during the prescribed period of apprenticeship, the negroes of this Colony will prove  
themselves justly sensible of the solid advantages of food, medical care and lodging to be  
provided for them while in this state of gradual preparation for eventual independence  
by their several employers, and by thus meriting the great boon of freedom, so soon to  
be bestowed upon them, under the immediate auspices of the King, prudently to insure a  
continuance of His Majesty's most gracious protection.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

When the Colony of Montserrat shall have recovered from the injurious consequences  
inseparably connected with the long agitation of a question of such vital importance as that  
now to be set at rest, I confidently trust the expenditure attendant on the approaching  
change in the relations of society will be fully repaid by the increasing prosperity of all  
orders of the community.Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Council,  
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly,In His Majesty's proclamation of the 4th of September last, ordaining the abolition of  
slavery, and the substitution for a limited term, under certain conditions of apprenticeship,  
our Sovereign Lord The King was pleased to declare "his settled purpose and resolve, by  
all the powers vested in him, to enforce due obedience to the laws, and to prevent, and if  
necessary, to repress and punish all contraventions of the said laws."It is incumbent on me, therefore, in addressing your Honourable Board and House, public-  
ly to state, that while all well-behaved and peaceable inhabitants may depend on the con-  
stant support of the executive, the civil authorities and the commanding officers of the King's  
naval and military forces, in pursuance of the royal commands, are amply prepared to sup-  
press every indication of a lawless or rebellious spirit, proceeding from evil-disposed persons,  
and effectually to maintain the internal order and tranquillity of these valuable islands.

Montserrat, July 30, 1834.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*.

No. 2.

To His Excellency Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart. &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Members of His Majesty's Council for  
the Island of Montserrat, beg leave to return your Excellency our thanks for the speech  
that you have this day been pleased to address to both Houses of the Legislature.

We

We rejoice to find your Excellency approves of the conduct of the labouring classes in this Island; and we hope that the same class of people will evince themselves justly sensible of the solid advantages so benignantly bestowed upon them by His gracious Majesty under the Imperial Act of Parliament. MONTSEERRAT.

We feel grateful to our most gracious Sovereign for his proclamation of the 4th of September, in which he declares his settled purpose and determination, by all the powers vested in him, to enforce due obedience to the laws, and to prevent, and, if necessary, to repress and punish all contraventions of the said laws.

We are also thankful to your Excellency for your communication that by His Majesty's command the civil, military and naval forces are amply prepared to suppress every indication of a lawless or rebellious spirit, proceeding from evil-disposed persons, and to support the well-behaved and peaceable inhabitants of this Island.

In conclusion, permit us, Sir, to express our sincere regret that your Excellency has lately been suffering from ill health, and that the very arduous and important duties which your Excellency has to attend to in the sister Colonies at this momentous period, will unavoidably deprive us of a longer visit from you, as it would at all times afford us, both individually and collectively, the greatest gratification to show your Excellency every possible attention in our power.

Council Chamber, 30 July 1834.

(signed) *W<sup>m</sup> Shiell.*  
*J<sup>n</sup> Dobridge.*  
*Mich<sup>l</sup> Furlonge.*  
*Francis Polhill.*  
*Felix Beddingfield.*

No. 3.

To His Excellency Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Speaker and Assembly of this Island, in replying to your Excellency's address, avail ourselves of the opportunity of expressing how highly we appreciate your very opportune visit to this part of your Excellency's government; and whilst we return our best thanks to your Excellency for your address of this day, we beg leave to express a hope that the state of tranquillity and order which you are pleased to declare so happily exists, may continue to prevail. But we deeply lament the absence of the stipendiary magistrate appointed by His Majesty's Government, to fulfil the important functions attached to that office by the existing law. We therefore confidently rely upon your Excellency's wisdom to adopt such measures as shall appear most appropriate to obviate the evils that this unfortunate circumstance may occasion.

We no less cherish a heartfelt hope than your Excellency, that the respective classes of apprentices, by meriting the great boon of freedom so soon to be bestowed upon them under the immediate auspices of His Majesty, will ensure a continuance of His Majesty's most gracious protection; and we feel no hesitation in assuring your Excellency that our united exertions will be exercised in making their state comfortable and happy.

We unfeignedly thank your Excellency for your public declaration of protection, that while all well-behaved and peaceable inhabitants may depend on the constant support of the executive, the civil authorities, and the commanding officers of the King's naval and military forces, in pursuance of the royal commands, are amply prepared to suppress every indication of a lawless or rebellious spirit, we heartily deprecate the necessity of such interposition, but rely with confidence on its timely exertion if called for.

July 30, 1834.

(signed) *W. D. Furlonge*, Speaker.

—No. 183.—

No. 183.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart., to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, dated St. Christopher's, 15 August 1834.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a Letter from the President of Montserrat, whence it may be gratifying to you to collect that public tranquillity is likely to remain uninterrupted in those Islands.

Enclosure in No. 183.

*13th August 1834.*

Enclosure in  
No. 183.

Sir,

Montserrat, 13 August 1834.

I EMBRACE the opportunity afforded, by one of our small vessels bound to St. Kitt's, briefly to inform your Excellency, if there, that we are in a perfect state of tranquillity in this Island, the labouring apprentices having all resumed their field-work.

To his Excellency  
Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Hamilton*, President.

MONTSERRAT.

— No. 184.—

No. 184.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart. to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, dated Government House, Antigua, 25 August 1834.

ALTHOUGH my Despatch of the 15th instant contains a Letter from the President, under date the 13th August, announcing the existence of tranquillity in Montserrat, I deem it right to convey to you the extract of a previous Report from his Honour, received on my arrival here, explanatory of the means which it had been found requisite to adopt in order to enforce it in that Colony.

Enclosure in No. 184.

Enclosure in  
No. 184.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from the President of Montserrat, to Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart. dated 7 August 1834.

THE day before Captain Grame's arrival I ordered out a detachment of the 36th regiment, with a party of militia, under the command of Captain De Lacy, who marched at three o'clock in the morning, and surrounded the negro houses on one of the disaffected estates, and apprehended several prisoners; this had the desired effect of creating a considerable sensation on the minds of the labouring classes generally.

As Captain De Lacy was in orders to advance with a considerable force under his command, I thought it highly advisable and a compliment due to such a distinguished officer, to promote him to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the militia; as also Francis Polhill, esq. late major in His Majesty's service, to be an acting aide-de-camp to myself, which I trust will meet with your approbation; the latter gentleman also officiated as town-major.

I had, at the instance of Captain Grame, all the prisoners brought up, who on being addressed and admonished by him, expressed their deep contrition for their conduct; and at his intercession on their behalf, I granted them a general pardon, proclaiming at same time an amnesty to apprentices who returned to their duty.

I am highly gratified in reporting to your Excellency the steady and meritorious good conduct of the militia, throughout the period they were on service, which called forth my thanks in general orders to the staff, the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates of the Montserrat regiment.

Under the foregoing circumstances I thought myself, with the advice of the Privy Council, justified in discharging the alarm, and enable Captain Grame to enter upon the duties of his office.

— No. 185. —

No. 185.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of *Aberdeen* to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 15 January 1835.

I HAVE to acquaint you that, in the first Council which may be holden by His Majesty, an order will be made, leaving to its operation an Act passed by the President, Council and Assembly of Montserrat, in the month of July last, for the Abolition of Slavery in that Island.

The Act is a mere transcript of the first twenty-two clauses of the British Statute, 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 73; of course, therefore, the law is left precisely where it stood before, and in that sense the Act may be said to be without any practical effect whatever; yet, considering this Statute as a deliberate acceptance of the measures adopted by Parliament, and adverting to the beneficial effect which it may possibly have on the negroes, by exhibiting to them the local Legislature as the immediate authors of their freedom, I cannot regard this law as unimportant.

It is to be observed, however, that the transfer of these clauses from the Imperial to the Colonial Statute Book has not been very skilfully made. There are several clerical errors, which perhaps do not ingeniously affect the sense, and the words taken from the 4th section of the Act of Parliament have changed their meaning with their change of position. The copy becomes substantially inaccurate by being accurate to the letter. Under the Act of Parliament, no person of the age of 12 years, or upwards, could be included in the class of prædial labourers, unless he had been habitually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce, for at least twelve months preceding the date of this Act, that is, unless he had been habitually so employed as early as the 28th of August 1832. The identical words occurring in the Colonial Statute carry back only to the 30th of July 1833, the period from which the habit of prædial labour must have had its commencement. Now, this is a material distinction. In July 1833, the proceedings of the British Parliament, and their then inevitable issue, were perfectly known throughout the Colonies, and persons anticipating from the approaching change a formidable reduction in the amount of agricultural labour, may at that time have yielded to the temptation of sending domestics into the field, in order to recruit their

their gangs; but at the time fixed by Parliament, namely, the 28th of August 1832, there was no definite reason to expect the Abolition of Slavery, and consequently the temptation to which I have referred cannot at that time be supposed to have been felt. MONTSERRAT.

It will, therefore, be convenient that the Legislature of Montserrat should revise this Act, for the correction of the errors to which I have adverted.

I do not find that any Act has hitherto been received from Montserrat at this department, fulfilling the conditions which Parliament has required, to entitle the proprietors in the Colony to a share in the Compensation Fund. The law for the government of apprentices, which was received here, not having been assented to, on His Majesty's behalf, either by yourself or by the President of the Island, could not be submitted to His Majesty in Council for His Majesty's confirmation. The early approach, as I trust, of the period for the distribution of that fund, renders it peculiarly important that the attention of the local Legislature should be called to this oversight.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Aberdeen.*

— No. 186. —

No. 186.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart., to the Earl of *Aberdeen*.

My Lord,

Government House, Antigua, 18 March 1835.

THE accompanying documents contain the observations of Mr. President Hamilton, assisted by the members of His Majesty's Council in Montserrat, on the subject of the circular Despatch from the Right honourable Thomas Spring Rice, of the 30th September 1834, relative to the alterations in the system of cultivating lands, &c. likely to be effected in the Colonies, in consequence of the Abolition of Slavery.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

No. 1, 2, 3.  
16 Feb. & 7 Mar. 1835.

Enclosure in No. 186.

Enclosure in  
No. 186.

Sir,

Montserrat, 5 January 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your circular Letter of the 30th September, and in compliance with the directions therein contained, I beg leave to submit the following answers to the queries submitted.

To the 1st, the present state of productive industry in this Island is, at this moment, applied to the manufacture of sugar, rum and molasses, our staple exports; our articles of consumption consist of potatoes, yams and cassada; added to this, the rising of live stock is carried on to the same extent. The negro population owning a large number of goats, sheep and hogs.

To the 2d, the ill effects of the change which the abolition of slavery may produce, is already severely felt by the proprietors of estates, and proves incontestably, that the deterioration of the crops, and consequent embarrassment of many proprietors, who, it is greatly feared, must, under the present system, be obliged to abandon their properties, will be mainly attributable to this extraordinary change.

3d. It is well known that laziness and indolence are the prominent characteristics of the negro. As long as he has wherewith to satisfy his appetite, he will not willingly work, he must be driven to it; and this, coupled with the want of pecuniary means, will be the great obstacle which may in future impede the powers of production.

4th. The only remedy, therefore, under those circumstances, as it appears to me, will be in placing under cultivation, by free labour, those large tracts of arable and wood lands now lying waste at the north and south divisions of this Island, and which are well calculated for the growth of coffee, cotton, indigo, tobacco, corn and ginger, and pulse of all kind. To accomplish this great good, pecuniary means are of course required, and without the generous and liberal assistance of His Majesty's Government for that purpose, this very desirable object cannot be accomplished.

The southern parts of this Colony, having also a western aspect, with a soil similar to that of Madeira, is well calculated for the cultivation of the grape vine. There are also many situations in the interior, where potteries may be established, and bricks and tiles manufactured with success.

The northern parts of this Island will also answer well, and afford an ample field for grazing farms, in raising cattle, sheep, hogs, &c.

I have, &c.

The Right hon. the Secretary of State  
for the Colonial Department.

(signed) *H. Hamilton*, President,  
administering the government.



MONTSERRAT.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 16 February 1835.

IN your honour's answer to the Right honourable the Colonial Secretary of State's circular of the 30th of September, a copy of which is forwarded with your Letter to my address of the 10th instant, it is stated, that the ill effects of the change which the abolition may produce, is already severely felt by the proprietors of estates, and proves incontestably that the deterioration of the crops, and consequent embarrassment of many proprietors, who, it is greatly feared, must, under the present system, be obliged to abandon their properties, will be mainly attributable to this extraordinary change.

I request to be informed whether these observations are intended to apply to the effects of the abolition, in its general result of substituting freedom in the room of slavery, or to be confined to its operation in the intermediate stage of apprenticeship as now existing in Montserrat, an inquiry, which I am induced to make in consequence of the favourable prospect presented in this Island, under the opposite plan of at once emancipating the negro population.

I have, &amp;c.

To his Honour the President of Montserrat,  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*,  
Governor.

Sir,

Montserrat, 7 March 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Letter of the 16th ultimo, relative to my answer to the Colonial Secretary of State's circular Despatch of the 30th September last, in which your Excellency requires an explanation of the following paragraph in that Despatch:—"The ill effects of the change which the abolition may produce, is already severely felt by the proprietors of estates, and proves incontestably that the deterioration of the crops, and consequent embarrassment of many proprietors, who, it is generally feared, must, under the present system, be obliged to abandon their properties, will be mainly attributable to this extraordinary change."

I beg to inform your Excellency that these observations are intended to apply to the effects of the abolition, in its general result, by the substitution of apprenticeship, as far as they had been manifested, to the date of my Despatch.

The excitement which prevailed in this Island on the introduction of the present system, and the passive resistance of the negro population to it, are well known to your Excellency.

To this cause (combined with subsequent indolence and dissatisfaction), may be attributed, in a great degree, the reduction of the present crop. The limited time allowed by the Imperial Act for the culture of estates, the additional taxation requisite to insure its future success, and the diminished resources of the proprietors, have further tended to their embarrassment. These remarks are of general application.

The class, however, more especially alluded to in that Despatch, comprises,—First, Those proprietors possessed of small unproductive and encumbered estates, who will derive no benefit from the compensation money; and, secondly, Those who hire negroes as task gangs to the proprietors of large estates, to assist in their cultivation. Persons of this class could not, without a large expenditure of capital, be able to clear and plant their estates, and erect the necessary buildings for the manufacture of sugar, or any other staple commodity of export.

I deem it requisite to state to your Excellency, that the Despatch in question was framed with the advice and assistance of the members of His Majesty's Council, who have more experience on the subject of its inquiry than my official duties have allowed me to acquire.

I have, &amp;c.

His Excellency Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.  
Governor.

(signed) *H. Hamilton*,  
President.

No. 187.

— No. 187. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor  
*Sir E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 27 July 1835.

As the period approaches for carrying into effect the intentions of Parliament, in regard to the distribution of the compensation money awarded to the Colonies under the Slavery Abolition Act, I am induced, with a view to guard against any inconvenience which might arise from delay, to advert to the Despatch which was addressed to you by my predecessor on the 15th January last, relative to the revision of the Act passed by the Legislature of Montserrat for the Abolition of Slavery in that Island, and pointing out that no Act had been received from Montserrat, fulfilling the conditions which Parliament has required to entitle the proprietors in a Colony to a share in the Compensation Fund.

Should no steps have been taken for remedying this omission before the receipt of this Despatch, you will lose no time in calling the attention of the Legislature of Montserrat to the subject, acquainting them that until they shall comply with the requisitions contained in Lord Aberdeen's Despatch, they will not be entitled to a participation in the fund.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

## ST. CHRISTOPHER.

— No. 188. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-governor *Nixon* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir, Government House, St. Christopher, 2 August 1833.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th June, enclosing me the copy of your circular Despatch to all the Governors in the West Indies, also the Resolutions of the House of Commons of the 12th of June, on the subject of the measures proposed to be adopted for the immediate abolition of slavery.

I lost no time in laying the same before the Legislatures of this Island, Nevis and Tortola, and I herewith enclose you the replies from the Board of Council and House of Assembly of St. Christopher.

On the 29th ult. I received your letter of the 26th June and the Resolutions of the House of Lords, which I likewise submitted to the Legislatures of the before-named Islands. The answers from the President and Speaker of St. Kitt's are herewith transmitted to you.

As you express your anxiety to receive my report of the disposition with which those Resolutions are received in this Colony, I have the honour in this early stage of the business to lay before you all that I can as yet learn on the subject.

As relates to carrying into execution the plan for the extinction of negro slavery, I am of opinion that few proprietors of slaves in this Colony will violently oppose that measure, though few appear to approve of it. They are in general more reconciled to emancipation as compensation is to be given to them for their slaves; but I do not hear of any proprietor being satisfied with the probabled portion of that compensation.

Within the last few days I made a tour of this Island, visited several estates, and conversed with many of the slaves: they are almost unanimously very averse to the idea of being apprenticed, generally disappointed and discontented at not getting unconditional and immediate emancipation, though others object to being freed at all.

Upon the whole, they are orderly and submissive, and seem to be very happy, are well treated throughout the Island; and though on some estates there has been a disposition manifested by the gangs to decline working, by reason of their disappointment in not getting their freedom, which they fully expected by the packet, at that time just arrived, yet by good management they were brought back to their duty without coercion. It is impossible to foresee what mischief they may attempt when they are to be apprenticed, as they have so decided an abhorrence to that expedient; but I have made every arrangement within the limits of my means to counteract any insubordinate act they might by possibility endeavour to commit.

I have no reason to anticipate any opposition from the Council; on the contrary, I have hopes that they will assist the views of His Majesty's Government when the question is brought before them in a more matured stage. As yet they have not discussed the question at the Board, being unable to predict what may be the ulterior measures and decision of the British Parliament. I have not such confidence in the Assembly. They have been employed in discussing, both in and out of doors, the merits of the address and petition of the Members of the Council and General Assembly of Barbadoes to the Houses of Lords and Commons, dated the 6th July 1833, which I understand has been sent to all the Colonies having Legislatures, with a view to be adopted by them; and I am led to believe that they are resolved here to follow the example of the Barbadians.

I beg to enclose you a copy of a letter which I received from the Speaker of the House of Assembly. It is not in accordance with the resolution of a meeting of the inhabitants of this Colony that took place here on the 22d

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

No. 188.

Nos. 1 &amp; 2.

Nos. 3 &amp; 4.

No. 5.

ST. CHRISTOPHER. April last, of which he was chairman. A newspaper containing their proceedings I had the honour of enclosing to Lord Goderich on the 24th of the same month.

It may not be out of place here to report to you, that the Assembly of this Island suffered the Police Act to expire on the 10th December 1831, and that from that period to the present there has been no description of police whatever in the Island. The militia are so badly provided, that in the event of their being called out, they have not a set of accoutrements for service, or any means of carrying ammunition, nor have I the means of providing them; so that the protection of the Island is entirely dependent on the troops of the line. I have called the attention of the Legislature to this circumstance, but the Assembly have taken no steps to remedy the evil.

I have submitted to the Attorney-general of this Colony for his consideration the points mentioned in your circular Despatch of the 13th June, with injunctions to him immediately to make the inquiries directed by you, and to report accordingly for your information.

I forward this Despatch direct, to save delay in sending it through the Governor, being the reason you assign for transmitting your note and circular dated the 13th June direct to me, but my duplicate will be forwarded through the Governor.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. Lyons Nixon,*  
Lieutenant-governor.

Enclosure 1, in No. 188.

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 188.

Sir, Council Chamber, 22 July 1833.  
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Excellency's letter of this day, transmitting the Resolutions of the House of Commons, and extracts from Mr. Secretary Stanley's Circular of the 13th June; and I am to acquaint your Excellency that a joint committee of the Council and Assembly has been appointed to take the same into consideration.

His Excellency the Lieut.-governor. I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. Davoren,* President.

Enclosure 2, in No. 188.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 188.

Sir, House of Assembly, 22 July 1833.  
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of this date, accompanied by a copy of the Resolutions of the House of Commons for the Abolition of Colonial Slavery, dated 12th June 1833, and extracts from a Circular addressed by the Honourable E. G. Stanley to the Governors of the West India Colonies, and dated June 13th, 1833.

I have the satisfaction to inform your Excellency that this important subject has been referred to a joint committee of the Board of Council and House of Assembly.

His Excellency the Lieut.-governor, I have, &c.  
&c. &c. &c. (signed) *R. W. Pickwood,* Speaker.

Enclosure 3, in No. 188.

Enclosure 3,  
in No. 188.

Sir, Council Chamber, 1 Aug. 1833.  
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of this day's date, enclosing copy of Mr. Stanley's Despatch of the 26th June last, and the Resolutions of the House of Lords of the preceding day.

His Excellency, *J. Lyons Nixon,* Esq. I have, &c.  
&c. &c. &c. (signed) *J. Davoren,* President.

Enclosure 4, in No. 188.

Enclosure 4,  
in No. 188.

Sir, House of Assembly, St. Christopher's, 1 Aug. 1833.  
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter, conveying copy of the Despatch from Mr. Secretary Stanley of the 26th June last, and of the Resolutions

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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tions of the House of Lords, relative to the internal government and prosperity of His Majesty's Colonial possessions. ST. CHRISTOPHER.

I laid the same before the House at their meeting this day.

His Excellency the Lieut.-governor.

I have, &c.  
(signed) R. W. Pickwood, Speaker.

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Enclosure 5, in No. 188.

Sir,

Basseterre, August 1833.

Mr. Secretary Stanley having expressed a desire to know what reception would be given to the Parliamentary Resolutions respecting the measures in progress for the abolition of Colonial slavery, I regret that no opportunity has been afforded to the House of Assembly of this Island, whereby their opinion upon that subject can be with any certainty ascertained. But if any inference may be drawn from the events of to-day, I should augur that such reception would be favourable to the views of His Majesty's Government. The subject, as your Excellency knows, was, in the first instance, referred to a joint committee, and I did not expect that any debate or discussion would ensue until we had their report. Upon the casual introduction of the petition of the Legislature of Barbadoes, which, by the way, was not a very auspicious promise for a tranquil consideration of the subject, the House went to-day into a committee for the purpose, as I was afterwards informed, of ascertaining my sentiments. I took the opportunity of saying that I felt assured when the discussion should be legitimately brought on, that the House would see the expediency of adopting the Parliamentary Resolutions; and it was with great satisfaction that I heard the sentiment very loudly cheered. No other member offered a single observation upon the subject.

Enclosure 5,  
in No. 188.

The cheer and the silence are to me indications that the principle of the measures will be adopted. As to its details, they are necessarily of a character so intricate and formidable as to make difference of opinion inevitable.

I know not how far your Excellency may think it expedient, in the absence of a better assurance, to convey these crude and unauthorized sentiments to Mr. Secretary Stanley. At all events, your Excellency will have the goodness to bear in mind that I am merely individually, and not officially, responsible for their accuracy.

To his Excellency Lieut.-governor Nixon,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) R. W. Pickwood.

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— No. 189. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-governor *Nixon* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Government House, 22 Sept. 1833.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 8th August, covering the Bill for the Abolition of Slavery as amended by the House of Commons, which shall be laid before the Legislature of this Colony forthwith.

No. 189.

I have, &c.  
(signed) J. Lyons Nixon, Lieut.-governor.

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— No. 190. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-governor *Nixon* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Government House, 30 Sept. 1833.

I BEG leave to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 22d August, giving cover to the Bill for the Abolition of Slavery as amended by the House of Lords.

No. 190

I have, &c.  
(signed) J. Lyons Nixon, Lieut.-governor.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

— No. 191. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart.  
to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

No. 191.  
—  
No. 1,  
5 October 1833.  
4 October 1833,  
with 3 Enclosures.

No. 2,  
19 October 1833.

Sir, Government House, Antigua, 23 October 1833.  
HEREIN I do myself the honour of transmitting a letter to my address, from Lieut.-governor Nixon, together with duplicates, therewith received, of a Despatch from that officer, forwarded to you direct, together with Resolutions of the Board of Council and House of Assembly of St. Christopher's, on the subject of your circular Despatch of the 13th June last.

Had the original documents been submitted to me in the first instance, I should have considered it my duty to return that from the House of Assembly, for the reasons stated in my reply to the Lieutenant-governor, of which a copy is subjoined.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Governor.

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Enclosure 1, in No. 191.

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 191.  
3 October 1833.

Sir, St. Christopher's, Government House, 5 October 1833.  
I HAVE the honour to transmit to you copies of the Resolutions of the Board of Council and House of Assembly of St. Christopher's on the subject of Mr. Secretary Stanley's circular Despatch of the 13th June last, enclosing the Resolutions of the House of Commons on the subject of the Slave Emancipation Bill, which I laid before them on the 22d July last, and which they referred to a committee of both Houses.

No steps having been taken on the subject by the committee, I called the attention of both Houses of the Colonial Legislature to this important question on the 27th of September, at which time I laid before them the Bill as amended by the House of Commons in Committee, and received by me here on the 21st September.

I have enclosed the originals of these Resolutions to Mr. Secretary Stanley by the packet direct this day, and I have to request you will be pleased to forward these duplicates.

His Excellency  
the Governor of the Leeward Islands,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. Lyons Nixon*,  
Lieut.-governor.

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Enclosure 2, in No. 191.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 191.

Sir, Government House, Antigua, 19 October 1833.  
AGREEABLY to the request contained in your letter of the 5th instant, the duplicates of the resolutions of the Board of Council and House of Assembly of St. Christopher's, therewith received, on the subject of Mr. Secretary Stanley's circular Despatch of the 13th June last, will be duly forwarded to the Colonial Office.

Had the originals of these documents been sent here for transmission, I am, however, under the necessity of adding, that it would have been incumbent on me to reconvey to you the resolutions of the House of Assembly, with the request that the Honourable House might be pleased to select a different channel of communicating to His Majesty's Government their dissatisfaction with the proceedings of the Colonial Minister of the Crown.

The Lieut. governor of St. Christopher's. (signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*,  
Governor.

I have, &c.  
(True copy.)  
*E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Governor.

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Enclosure 3, in No. 191.

Enclosure 3,  
in No. 191.

Sir, St. Christopher's, Government House, 4 October 1833.  
I HAVE the honour to enclose you copies of Resolutions which have been adopted by the Council and Assembly of this Island relative to your Despatch of the 13th June last, accompanying the Resolutions of the House of Commons on the subject of the abolition of Colonial slavery.

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The Resolutions, as you will perceive, have been adopted by the two branches separately, the Board of Council, as I am informed, not being disposed to concur in the Resolutions proposed in and adopted by the Assembly. ST. CHRISTOPHER.

I have, &c.  
To the Right Hon. E. G. Stanley, (signed) *J. Lyons Nixon*, Lieut.-governor.  
&c. &c. &c.

The joint Committee of the Honourable Board of Council and House of Assembly, appointed to take into consideration Mr. Secretary Stanley's Despatch of 13th June last,

Report,  
THAT having attentively considered the said Despatch, they beg leave respectfully to recommend, for the adoption of your Honourable Board and House, the annexed Resolutions.

(signed) *Wm. G. Croke*, Chairman.

Committee-room, 30 Sept. 1833.

St. Christopher.

AT a Meeting of the Council, held at the Court-house, on Thursday the 3d day of October 1833;

Present,

His Honour President Davoren.  
The Hon. and Rev. D. G. Davis, A.M.  
Thos. O'Maley, Esq., M.D.  
W. G. Croke, Esq.  
Chas. Thomson, Esq.  
C. G. Payne, Esq.

Resolved unanimously,

THAT the members of His Majesty's Council of the Island of St. Christopher, having given their best attention to Mr. Stanley's Despatch of the 13th June last, and being fully aware of the importance of the views contained in that Despatch, and of the magnitude of the interests to be affected by those views both in this Colony and elsewhere; and though fully sensible of the danger of carrying the proposed measures into effect in an unskilful and unadvised manner, yet confidently relying on the liberal and generous feelings of the British nation, in case of future necessity, and that the wisdom and justice of His Majesty's Government will support and encourage the well-intended efforts of those who are engaged in the same cause with themselves, will afford their cordial co-operation towards carrying into effect the measures proposed, in the safest and most desirable manner, consistently with the present and future welfare of all His Majesty's subjects in this Colony.

(signed) *Thos. Harper*, Clerk of Council.

RESOLUTIONS adopted by the House of Assembly of St. Christopher upon the subject of Mr. Secretary Stanley's Despatch of 13th June 1833.

1. Resolved, That this House cordially concurs in the opinion expressed by Mr. Stanley and his colleagues, and recognised by the House of Commons, that the success of all efforts for a peaceful extermination of colonial slavery must depend upon the cordial co-operation of the colonists, and especially of the Colonial Legislatures, which co-operation this House is ready to afford.

2. Resolved, That the labour and sacrifices which the Parliament and parent State are willing to endure for the abolition of slavery bear no proportion to the labour and sacrifices required of the unfortunate colonists for that object.

3. Resolved, That this House will not disappoint the earnest and confident hope of our most gracious King, that his faithful subjects, the House of Assembly, will approach this question with the dispassionate seriousness due to the immense interests at stake; and if, in a season of great danger and of reasonable alarm, there has been any departure from that profitable virtue, which Mr. Secretary Stanley so earnestly recommends, whereby the best feelings of the colonists have been outraged, and this Island pronounced, by his high authority, guilty of atrocities unknown in the treatment of its slaves, and identified with crimes which, if perpetrated, are a disgrace to human nature, this House will regard such departure as a warning whereby it may avoid the evils of misrepresentation and calumny.

4. Resolved, That this House duly estimates the progress of the present state of public opinion as bearing upon this question; and this House repeats its desire to unite with Parliament in the zealous prosecution of this great design by adopting any safe, equitable and practicable plan for bringing it to a successful issue.

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5. Resolved,

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

5. Resolved, That the abolition of slavery, under any form, will involve most extensive changes in many parts of our colonial code of laws. That the plan proposed by His Majesty's Government seems to threaten the abrogation of every existing contract, whether of mortgage, settlement, annuity or other charge contingent upon slave labour, and that it will endanger, and, as this House fears, annihilate the complicated interests that have been created by the confidence which, till this eventful period, has obtained in the sacred character of property. That the great and arduous duties thereby to be thrown upon this House shall be cheerfully approached; but this House does not think that the greatest exercise of human foresight that the wit or wisdom of man can avert or greatly mitigate the distress and ruin in which thousands will be involved thereby.

6. Resolved, That this House deems it to be a duty thus deliberately to record its opinion upon the proposed abolition of colonial slavery, not for the idle purpose of averting any rational measure that shall safely and equitably accomplish so desirable an object, but in order that the practical experience of this House may be allowed to weigh something against the theory of His Majesty's Government, and that, if the measure shall, in its present aspect of danger, be adopted by the British Parliament, those modifications in its details which this House has suggested may not be disregarded.

7. Resolved, That the Speaker be requested to send a copy of these Resolutions to the Lieutenant-governor, for the purpose of being conveyed to His Majesty's Government.

(A true copy.)

(signed) *John Hazell*, Clerk of Assembly.

(True copies.)

*E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Governor.

— No. 192. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Stanley* to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 12 December 1833.

No. 192.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 23d October 1833, enclosing a copy of a letter from Lieutenant-governor Nixon to yourself, together with duplicate of a Despatch from that officer, and of certain Resolutions of the Board of Council and House of Assembly of St Christopher's on the subject of my circular Despatch of the 13th June last.

I have to request you to instruct Lieutenant-governor Nixon to convey my thanks to the Council of St. Christopher's for their promise of cordial co-operation; and to express to the Assembly of that Colony my hope that by approaching the important subject which has been brought under their consideration with becoming temper and moderation, they may be able to surmount the many difficulties which unquestionably surround it.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. G. Stanley*.

— No. 193. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-governor *Nixon* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Government House, 31 October 1833.

No. 193.

ON the 11th instant I had the honour to receive your circular Despatch of the 5th September, together with 24 copies of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, and a copy of His Majesty's Proclamation of the 4th September respecting the same.

I had the several copies of the Act distributed according to your orders.

Same day I caused the Proclamation to be published in the newspapers of the Colony, and had copies of it struck off, one of which I sent to every estate in the Colony, with a circular letter to the proprietors or managers, enjoining them to read and explain the Proclamation to the slaves under their management.

I also sent copies of the Proclamation and Act to every clergyman of the Established Church, the Moravian and Wesleyan missionaries, (the only sectarians in the Colony), with a particular request that they would explain to the slaves in their respective districts all the provisions of the Act in their favour, and

and to impress on their minds the necessity and policy of their conducting themselves peaceably, quietly and industriously during the short period of their probation, by which demeanour alone they will ensure to themselves the certainty of obtaining employment when they are thrown on their own resources at the expiration of their apprenticeship. ST. CHRISTOPHER.

I am happy to say that I have heard of very few instances of discontent on the part of the slaves, but of late several robberies have been committed, hitherto almost unheard of. The church and the secretary's office have been broken into; but, strange to say, even these occurrences will not induce the Legislature to incur the expense of a police, frequently recommended by me, and which recommendation I will still endeavour to have attended to.

I have the honour to report to you that several persons, who, when in a state of slavery, were taken by their possessors to Great Britain, have availed themselves of the 3d clause of the Abolition Act, and have claimed their freedom, which of course they have obtained; but their former owners are much discontented at being deprived of their services, and claim compensation; some of them claim the services of those people as apprentices in like manner as those slaves who are to be set free on the 1st of August next.

I have taken the opinion of the Attorney-general of this Colony, and I herewith enclose a copy of it, with a request to be instructed if his view of the question is correct. Perhaps I am premature in intruding this request, as possibly instructions may arrive to set aside the necessity of doing so; but being most anxious on every circumstance connected with this great and important change about to take place in these Colonies, I trust I may be excused.

I have, &c.

(signed) J. Lyons Nixon, Lieutenant-governor.

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Enclosure in No. 193.

Sir,

Basseterre, 24 October 1833.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your letter of yesterday's date, containing an enclosure from Mr. Henry, and requesting my opinion upon certain points arising out of the new Act for the Abolition of Slavery.

Enclosure in  
No. 193.

1. Supposing the slave in question to have been taken to England with the consent of his possessor, I am of opinion that he is now, by virtue of the 3d clause of this Act, *absolutely and entirely free to all intents and purposes whatsoever*, and,

2. That he is consequently not liable to serve as an apprentice under this Act. The words in italics are the very words of the Statute, and words less susceptible of misconstruction it would be difficult to have found. Apprenticed labourers are nowhere throughout this Act spoken of in any such terms.

3. I proceed to the question, "Whether owners of slaves coming within the operation of the 3d clause are entitled to compensation? In the clause (24) which empowers the Treasury to raise the twenty millions, mention is made of compensation for the services of the slaves to be *manumitted and set free by virtue of this Act*; and undoubtedly the slave in question would not have been made free but by virtue of this Act. In clause 47, mention is made of apportioning the compensation among the proprietors of the slaves to be manumitted by virtue of this Act, and this expression also appears to include the slave in question. This is all I can find in favour of a right to compensation in those persons whose slaves come within the operation of the 3d clause. On the other side, the 1st clause of the Act points out, as the main object of this Act, a class of persons who are to become apprenticed labourers on 1st of August 1834, and the slave in question cannot be brought within that class. The clause (45) which directs the apportioning the compensation fund into certain shares requires the Commissioners to have regard to the *number of registered slaves*; and how is the slave in question to be legally a registered *slave at the time* when the Commissioners are to perform this duty, he being already free to all intents and purposes?

The clause (47) which prescribes the duties of the Commissioners more in detail requires them to have regard to the relative value of *predial slaves* and of *unattached slaves*; to *distinguish such slaves into classes*; to ascertain and fix the average value of *slaves*; in short, every object of their inquiry has reference in some way or other to *slaves*, i. e. to persons who at the time of their inquiry shall be held in a state of slavery. I would also observe, that it is difficult to suppose, considering the various revisions which this Act has undergone, and the great attention which it has received, that the Parliament should not have been aware of the effect of the *third clause*; and if they had intended to give compensation to the persons whose slaves were made free by this clause, they would have declared such intention, either by specific words to that effect, or in the course of their instructions to the Commissioners.

The principle of this Act is a reciprocity of services and support between the manumitted slaves



ST. CHRISTOPHER. — slaves and the persons entitled to their services, and I think compensation is only to be given where this reciprocity can prevail; but in the case of slaves made free by the 3d clause, the owner is entitled to no services, nor is he bound to support his manumitted slave. The preamble of the Act also throws light on this question, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of *such Slaves*;" from which words I infer that compensation is to be given for those manumitted slaves whose industry may be promoted by this Act; but the persons manumitted by the 3d clause being now become absolutely free, will be no more affected by the provisions of this Act than any other free persons in the community.

Upon the whole, after a careful perusal and consideration of the whole Act, I am of opinion, that persons whose slaves may have become free by the 3d clause of this Act will not be able to establish a claim to compensation for the loss of such slaves.

Your Excellency will observe that, to avoid circumlocution, I have several times used the word "slave" when I meant to express a person formerly a slave, now become free.

His Excellency the Lieut.-governor,  
&c. &c. &c.

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

-- No. 194. --

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor* to  
Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

No. 194. Sir, Government House, Antigua, 18 Nov. 1833.  
OBSERVING from his Despatch of the 31st October, that the Lieut.-governor of St. Christopher's requests your instructions, in reference to Mr. Attorney-general Thomson's sentiments, relative to persons claiming freedom, under the 3d clause of the Abolition Act, I consider it proper to submit to your consideration transcripts of a letter to my address from the Lieut.-governor upon the same subject, and of my reply, accompanied by the opinion of the Attorney-general of Antigua.

No. 1,  
28 October 1833.

No. 2,  
15 November 1833.

No. 3,  
13 November 1833.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Governor.

Enclosure 1, in No. 194.

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 194.  
24 October 1833.

Sir, St. Christopher's, Government House, 28 October 1833.  
QUESTIONS have been submitted to me that have arisen out of the 3d clause of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, which I laid before the Attorney-general for his opinion. I have received that opinion, and I have the honour to enclose you a copy of it herewith.

The opinion does not satisfy some of the possessors of slaves who have been taken to the United Kingdom, as they imagined they are entitled to have the services of those people as apprenticed labourers, and that they will be entitled to compensation in like manner as the possessors of slaves who are to be emancipated on the 1st of August next.

I consider the best course for me to pursue on this occasion is to show all concerned the Attorney-general's opinion, and if they are not satisfied with it, to refer them to their legal advisers.

I shall feel obliged to you to acquaint me, at your convenience, whether you approve of the mode I have adopted of settling this point.

His Excellency the Governor of the Leeward Islands,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. Lyons Nixon*,  
Lieutenant-governor.

Enclosure 2, in No. 194.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 194.  
13 November 1833.

Sir, Government House, Antigua, 15 November 1833.  
IN acknowledging your Despatch, No. 90, of the 28th ult. I have the honour to intimate my entire approval of the course you have adopted, as therein explained, in relation to slaves who have been in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Attorney-general Lee's opinion upon the subject is annexed.

To the Lieutenant-governor of St. Christopher's,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*,  
Governor.

Enclosure 3, in No. 194.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

Sir,  
I CONCUR in the opinion of Mr. Attorney-general Thomson, that by the 3d clause the negro is entitled to the most unqualified freedom, and that he cannot by any means whatever be held in apprenticeship. The compensation will be a subject of discussion before the Commissioners.

Enclosure 3,  
in No. 194.

To His Excellency Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor, Bart.  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *W. Lee,*  
Attorney-general.

— No. 195 —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-governor *Nixon* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,  
I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that the Legislature of this Colony assembled for the despatch of business on the 5th day of this month, and that the members of the new annual Assembly were that day sworn in.

No. 195.

I thought it necessary to lay your circular Despatch of the 5th of September before both Houses of the Legislature, and to address them on the subject of it. A copy of my address, together with copies of the replies of both Houses, with my answers thereto, are herewith enclosed.

I am happy to report, that as far as I am able to form a judgment, I consider that both the Council and Assembly are determined to act agreeably to the promises made by them in their answers to my address, both with temper and promptitude to carry into effect the views of His Majesty's Government in the great work of emancipation by their local enactments and subordinate details.

Several bills are in preparation, to be laid before the Legislature at their next meeting, for altering, repealing and amending Acts now in force, so as to adapt them to the change about to take place, and to regulate the various relations of the apprenticed labourers both to their employers and to the State.

The Legislature look forward with no small degree of anxiety for the promised model for their guidance in the general principles on which to frame their supplementary enactments; and they anticipate that the promulgation of the proposed Orders in Council will obviate every seeming obstacle that may at present appear formidable.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. Lyons Nixon,*  
Lieutenant-governor.

(Enclosure in No. 195.)

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Council,  
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

THE late session of the Assembly having so nearly approached its legal termination, I deemed it expedient, with the advice of the Privy Council, to dissolve the House by proclamation, that no interruption might take place in the consideration of the important measures which must immediately occupy your attention in consequence of the passing of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery in the British Colonies.

Enclosure in  
No. 195.

With a due regard to the constitutional privileges of the Colonial Legislatures, and relying upon their experience and practical knowledge, the Imperial Parliament has left the details necessary for carrying this great undertaking into full effect to be framed by them.

His Majesty's Government has intimated an intention of supplying you with a model for your guidance; "not," as Mr. Secretary Stanley observes, "for servile imitation, but sufficiently developing the general principles on which it is expected the supplementary enactments will be framed."

As the measure is now part of the law of the land, and can only be brought into safe and beneficial operation in this Island by your cordial and willing exertions, I indulge the hope that you will enter upon the consideration of this question (certainly the most momentous that ever engaged your attention) with that calmness which is due to the great interests at stake; that you will bear in mind the great influence of rank, character and intelligence

## 60 PAPERS RELATIVE TO THE ABOLITION OF

ST. CHRISTOPHER. intelligence against which His Majesty's Government have had to contend in the progress of this measure through Parliament, supported as it has been by the all-powerful force of public opinion; that you will consider the liberal spirit by which their counsels have been guided; and that you will zealously co-operate with them in bringing the measure to an issue that shall conduce to the safety and welfare of all classes of the inhabitants of this ancient colony.

This Act will render necessary very extensive changes in our social system; and independently of the relations in which the labourers and their employers will at a future period stand towards each other, many parts of our colonial code not directly connected with slavery will be affected by the change, and must be considered with a view to adapt them to the altered state of our society.

It is reasonably to be expected that in the consideration of questions involving such important consequences great apparent difficulties will present themselves, but I feel assured that all obstacles will be overcome by your steady perseverance and true patriotism.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

It is consistent with the strictest economy to be prepared, in a financial point of view, for any emergency that may occur.

I therefore recommend you to adopt such measures as may be necessary for preserving the public treasury in good credit.

I also recommend to your consideration the necessity of having that highly constitutional force, the Island militia, placed in the most efficient state with respect to arms and equipments. As the Militia Law will shortly expire, you will no doubt make that Act one of your earliest considerations.

I beg strongly to suggest the propriety of enacting a law for establishing a police in the several towns of the Island, and providing for the due support thereof. This measure was at all times desirable: it has now become indispensable.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Council,

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

I cannot take my leave without impressing upon you the importance of the position which you at present occupy. The commercial and agricultural interests of your constituents are in your hands. The welfare and prosperity, or the misery and destitution, of the inhabitants of this colony, will in a great degree depend upon the steps you are now about to take.

May your deliberations tend to advance the interests and promote the happiness of all classes of the community in the way most conducive to their permanent welfare.

(signed) *J. Lyons Nixon,*  
Lieutenant-governor.

REPLY of the Council to His Excellency Lieutenant-Governor *J. Lyons Nixon,*  
&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

WE, the Members of His Majesty's Council, beg your Excellency to accept our sincere thanks for your speech at the opening of the new session.

We venture to hope that our earnest exertions safely and satisfactorily to carry into full effect the provisions of the Act of the Imperial Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery in the British Colonies will completely justify the reliance which has been placed on us as a branch of one of the Colonial Legislatures to whom the details of this important measure have wisely and considerately been left.

We await with deep anxiety the arrival of the "model" which His Majesty's Government designs to supply for our guidance; and we are prepared, in the spirit of liberal dependance on the wisdom and integrity by which we trust it will be framed, to adopt, as far as may be practicable, its general principles, and thus release ourselves from a part of the painful labour which otherwise we should have had to encounter, and secure the approbation of the authority to which we must finally submit.

We trust your Excellency's expectation, that we shall enter upon the consideration of the question with that calmness which is due to the great interests it involves, will be most amply realized; and in sincerity we assure you, that as the measure is now a part of the law of the land, our willing and cordial exertions shall be used to bring it, as far as may be possible, into safe and beneficial operation in this Island.

We rely for the due appreciation of our efforts, and the just construction of those supplementary enactments we are called upon to make, on a necessary accordance of opinion and feeling among all parties; and that the imitation by other nations of the example of Great Britain and the perpetuation of the blessing of freedom must depend on the successful issue of this great measure.

We are aware that very extensive alterations in our colonial code will now be rendered imperatively necessary; and though in apprehension of the many obstacles by which we shall be surrounded, notwithstanding the assistance we may derive from the promised "model," and in the conviction of the difficulty of grappling at once with so large a measure,

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sure, we are ready and willing to afford our best assistance in adapting all our local laws to those great alterations in the condition of our social and civil system which will be consequent on the recent enactment. ST. CHRISTOPHER.

We cannot conclude without thanking your Excellency for the expressions of your sense of the critical importance of the situation in which we are placed; but with your Excellency we indulge in the hope that our deliberations may tend to advance the interests, promote the prosperity, and conduce to the permanent welfare of all classes of the community.

Council Chamber, 4 Nov. 1833.

(signed) *J. Davoren*, President,  
and Seven other Members of the Council.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Council,

I HAVE much pleasure in receiving the address which you have been pleased to present in answer to the speech which I had the honour to make at the last meeting of the Legislature.

I am highly gratified that you so fully concur with me as to the great importance of the measures now about to form the subject of your deliberations; and I receive with perfect confidence, and fully rely on the assurance of your readiness to co-operate with the other branches of the Legislature in framing such enactments as shall be conducive to the prosperity and general welfare of the Colony.

Government House, St. Christopher's,  
14 November 1833.

(signed) *J. Lyons Nixon*,  
Lieutenant-governor.

## REPLY of the Assembly.

To His Excellency *J. Lyons Nixon*, Lieutenant-governor, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, the Members of the Commons House of Assembly of St. Christopher, beg to return our thanks to your Excellency for the address which you have been pleased to deliver to us at the opening of the present session; and we duly appreciate your Excellency's motive for dissolving the late House.

This House will take the earliest opportunity of considering the important Act which has passed the Imperial Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery; and we will enter upon our deliberations with that calmness which is due to the great interests at stake.

At so unexampled a crisis, when the all-powerful force of public opinion has rendered necessary an Act which to a fearful extent involves the great interests confided to our care, and which will render necessary very extensive changes in our social system, we may reasonably expect great difficulties will present themselves; but we are willing to hope that the temperate and liberal spirit which we are determined shall guide our counsels, will contribute in no trifling degree to remove any obstacle which may present itself in the great work of emancipation.

We shall endeavour to be prepared in a financial point of view for any emergency that may occur.

The consideration of the militia force of this Island with respect to its efficiency, and the militia law, which will shortly expire, together with the propriety of establishing a police in the several towns of this Island, shall in due course occupy our deliberations.

We cannot take leave of your Excellency without expressing our warmest acknowledgments for the ready acquiescence which has been shown on all occasions by your Excellency in every measure calculated to be beneficial to this Colony, and the temperate and impartial discharge of the duties attached to your command towards all classes of His Majesty's subjects in this community.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of our highest consideration, and of our earnest desire for the prosperity of yourself and family.

Assembly Room, 14 Nov. 1833.

(signed) *R. W. Pickwood*,  
Speaker.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I RECEIVE with very great satisfaction your reply to the address which I had the honour to make to you on the opening of the new House of Assembly on the 5th instant.

I have to express my perfect confidence in the assurances made to me of your determination to meet the arduous task committed to your counsels with that liberality, willingness and temperate spirit so essentially necessary in your present deliberations. I feel no doubt but by your ability and perseverance you will speedily overcome any obstacles that may at present appear formidable.

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I beg

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ST. CHRISTOPHER. I beg to offer you my warmest thanks for the tribute of your approbation of my conduct since my arrival in the Colony, and for your kind wishes for the prosperity and welfare of myself and family. It will be my study and earnest desire to deserve, by a conscientious discharge of my duty, a continuance of your good opinion.

Government House, St. Christopher,  
14 Nov. 1833.

(signed) *J. Lyons Nixon,*  
Lieutenant-governor.

— No. 196. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-governor *Nixon* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

No. 196. Sir, Government House, 30 Nov. 1833.  
I HAVE the honour to report to you that the Council and Assembly of this Colony met on the 28th inst., and that I laid your circular Despatch of the 19th October, together with the copy of the draft for the Order in Council which accompanied it, before both Houses, by message, a copy of which message I herewith enclose you.

29 November 1833.

A joint committee has been appointed to meet on Monday the 2d of December, "to consider the Statute 3 & 4 W. 4. c. 73, Mr. Stanley's Despatches, and all things connected with the abolition of slavery, and to report thereon as soon as may be; and also to report on the expediency of adopting the resolutions connected therewith."

I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. Lyons Nixon,* Lieut.-governor.

Enclosure in No. 196.

Enclosure in No. 196. Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Council,  
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Assembly,  
I HAVE the honour to lay before your Honourable Board and House a draft of the Order in Council which it is proposed to issue for the purpose of carrying into effect, in the Crown Colonies, the Act of the British Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery. This is the "model" which has been referred to as "developing the general principles upon which it is expected the supplementary enactments will be framed." It is, however, stated in the prefatory observations which are prefixed to the draft, that "there are various minor and subordinate provisions which are purposely omitted, with a view to brevity, but which would be supplied if this draft were assumed as the basis of actual legislation."

This draft has been accompanied by a Despatch from Mr. Secretary Stanley, in which he states, "that Parliament will be disposed to place the most candid and liberal construction upon the Acts which may be passed, provided that they bear upon the face of them a real and sincere desire to act up to the spirit and intention of the British Parliament and people."

The whole of this Despatch is so important, as conveying the sentiments of His Majesty's Government as connected with this question, and breathes such a spirit of candour and liberal feeling throughout, that I feel I shall be acting in perfect accordance with Mr. Secretary Stanley's views by communicating its contents to you; I have therefore directed a copy of it to be laid before you.

I trust that you will now lose no time in perfecting the details, by which this great and important measure may be beneficially and permanently settled.

It is highly gratifying to reflect upon the orderly and peaceable conduct of the labouring classes, the natural consequence of the care and attention which they experience from those under whose authority and protection they are placed; and I fervently hope that the final arrangement of this very delicate question may be such as will maintain and strengthen the harmony which now so happily subsists between the labourer and his employer.

(signed) *J. Lyons Nixon,* Lieut.-governor.

Government House, 28 Nov. 1833.

— No. 197. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Stanley* to Governor  
Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*.

Sir, Downing-street, 7 Jan. 1834.  
I REQUEST that you will have the goodness to intimate to the Lieut.-governor  
of St. Christopher's that I have received his Despatch of the 30th November,  
enclosing a copy of his Message to the Legislature upon the subject of my cir-  
cular Despatch of the 19th October.

No. 197.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. G. Stanley*.

— No. 198. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-governor *Nixon* to Mr. Secretary  
*Stanley*.

Sir, Government House, 10 July 1834.  
THE packet left this Island on the 4th instant, since which time the negroes  
throughout the whole Colony have evinced the most rebellious conduct: they  
are determined to resist the apprenticeship system, and have declared with one  
voice to myself that they will strike on the 1st August, and only work for  
wages, and that they will dictate terms, being convinced from the King's Pro-  
clamation that they are to have unrestricted freedom on the 1st August next.

No. 198.

The inhabitants of this Colony finding that the negroes had imbibed such  
erroneous ideas on this subject, solicited me to undeceive them, and to explain  
to them the actual position in which they would stand on the 1st day of August  
next. I summoned a Privy Council, and it was determined on, that I should  
assemble five per cent. of the negroes from each estate in a central spot in each  
of the nine parishes in the Colony, and read to them the address I now enclose  
you. In some places I succeeded in getting through the address; but the  
generality of parishes would not listen to it, and showed the greatest disposition  
to riot, and actually committed violence before my face upon the overseer of  
one of the estates.

I have the honour to enclose you a resolution of the Legislature passed this  
day; and, having the opportunity of a schooner bound for Cork, to give you the  
foregoing information I embrace it, and have only a moment to do so.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. Lyons Nixon*, Lieutenant-governor.

Enclosure 1, in No. 198.

*To the Labouring Population.*

THE near approach of the 1st of August, when your condition will be so much changed,  
makes it necessary that the new law should be made known to you all; and I take the  
trouble to speak to you myself, that no ignorance may longer continue on this subject. It  
has been represented to me that there are many persons among you who know nothing  
about the new law; or if they do know something about it, that their knowledge is so im-  
perfect generally as to mislead rather than direct them in the performance of their duties  
after the 1st of August. There are many sensible persons in the Island who might give  
you all the information on this subject that I shall endeavour to do to-day; but that no  
person may think to escape punishment for disobeying the law because he was not properly  
made acquainted with it, I take upon myself to explain your new duties. The execution of  
the law is placed in my hands, and I should betray the trust the King has reposed in me if  
I permitted any disobedience to the law, which, in other words, is the King's commands.  
Now listen to what I am going to tell you. When the 1st of August comes, you will be no  
longer slaves, but will have to labour for your present masters a certain number of hours in  
every week; that is, for 45 hours. How your present employers will have this number of  
hours,

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 198.

ST. CHRISTOPHER. hours, the law leaves them to tell you. One way of working may suit one estate, and another way another estate; but you will remember that this is all the time you can be compelled to labour, (except on emergencies, in tending cattle, and watching and preserving your masters' properties), and whatever more your masters may require of you must in some way be paid for by them. If you work seven hours and a half every day in the week, your masters will have from you all the law gives them. If you work nine hours for five days, there will be one whole day which will belong to you, because nine hours for five days will make the 45 hours I have mentioned. This is what the law calls apprenticeship, but you are not to be led away by a name, and to suppose that this apprenticeship is like that which some of you may have seen in this Island; and you will soon see that there is this difference: your masters, in your apprenticeship, have not the power of punishing except by complaining to the magistrates particularly appointed by the King to hear all complaints your masters may have against you, and your complaints against your masters. This is the especial business of the new magistrates. You that are field servants, tradesmen, and all concerned in estates' duties are, under the new law, to serve your present masters for six years. You that are domestic or house servants, for four years. The reason of the difference in the time that some of you have to serve is this: field servants are compelled to work for little more than half the day; but house servants are liable at all times, both night and day, to obey their present masters. During the six years in the case of field servants, and four years' service of domestic servants, the law gives you all the same allowance of food, clothing and medical attendance that you are now entitled to. No person need fear punishment who performs his duty. The new magistrates are sworn to do you justice. Those who were good servants under the old law will certainly be good servants when they are free. Those persons whom it has been found necessary under the old law sometimes to punish, have now an opportunity of assuming a new character. All old offences will be forgotten, and every one treated as good and obedient people deserve to be treated, till they show their ingratitude for the consideration the King has had for them, and then they will most certainly bring down upon themselves the punishment the law orders for all offenders. You ought to be told some other provisions in the new law. Some of you may have saved a little money even in a state of slavery, and those who have done so may purchase their discharge from their present master, and employ themselves in any honest occupation they can find. How those who have money are to set about buying their discharge the new magistrates will inform you, and the new laws will be soon printed, when those who can read will learn this themselves. All your children not six years of age on the 1st of August next will then become free, and your present masters will not be bound to maintain them; they will be entirely dependent on their parents. It will be the duty of parents to bring up their children in the paths of honesty and industry: according to the teaching these children receive from their father and mother, will be the benefits all parents will a few years hence receive from them. Many of you in your old age must be fed and taken care of by your children. Early lessons, such as I recommend, can alone ensure you any comfort from having a family. I shall only add, that while the advantages of the new law are made for all of you, the punishment it contains are only intended for those who deserve them. In England idle people, and those who will not work, are taken up as vagabonds and punished, and the same laws will be in force here. Let no one deceive you, and say that the good can be deprived of their advantages, or the bad escape punishment. No one of you now can say that he did not understand the law. Let me warn you all to be obedient to it. I promise protection to the good, as I will assuredly punish the conduct of the bad.

1 July 1834.

*John Lyons Nixon*, Lieutenant-governor.

I have omitted to tell you that the law says that every master or employer has authority to release you from that part of the law which calls you apprentices whenever he thinks proper; and it is very likely that some masters may choose to do so at different periods. I have heard that some masters do not wish to take you as apprentices. But you must not deceive yourselves. If any master chooses to say he will not have apprentices, you must not think that will release you from labour; there are other laws that will then compel you to work.

Enclosure 2, in No. 198.

St. Christopher's.

AT a Meeting of the Council and Assembly, held at the Court House, on Thursday the 10th day of July 1834.

It was Resolved,

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 198.

THAT his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor be requested to appoint a guard in each parish in the Island, sufficient to ensure a communication throughout the whole of the Colony at the least possible notice, and that his Excellency be requested to provide flag-staffs, with colours, lanterns and rockets, for the purpose of facilitating such communication.

That three dozen copies of the Riot Act be printed and distributed to the magistracy.

That

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That it is with extreme concern that the Board and House are now obliged to notice the state of insubordination of the slaves in this Island, who openly and generally declare their intention to resist the laws of this Island, framed for the purpose of carrying into effect the Act of the Imperial Parliament, 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 73. ST. CHRISTOPHER.

That this House and Board cannot sufficiently express their indignation at the insult and indignities which the slaves offered to his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor within the last few days, when his Excellency visited them to explain the said Act of Parliament.

That this House and Board view with great alarm the unprotected state of this Colony at this important crisis, knowing that the militia force is very small, and that the number of His Majesty's troops stationed here is inadequate to preserve the safety of this Colony.

That his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor be requested to communicate forthwith with his Excellency Sir E. MacGregor, praying him to procure an increase of the military force in this Island without delay, and to forward to Sir E. MacGregor a copy of these resolutions.

That this House and Board cannot enumerate the many instances of insubordination, riot and insult which have lately been evinced by the slaves of this Island; but they request his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor to mention in his Despatch such as he is personally aware of.

That a committee be appointed to procure a vessel, at the public expense, to take his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor's Despatches founded hereon to Antigua and Barbadoes.

(signed) *Thomas Harper*, Colonial Secretary.

— No. 199. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-governor *Nixon* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir, St. Christopher's, Government House, 17 July 1834.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you a duplicate of my hurried Despatch of the 10th July, addressed to Mr. Stanley, and I now take the opportunity of a remaining vessel to acquaint you that this Colony has been tolerably quiet since the 10th, at least no open act of violence has taken place, though the negroes openly declare their determination not to work after 1st of August, except for wages, which determination I am of opinion they will adhere to. I very much regret to say that there is not a sufficient force in the Colony to enforce the law if resisted, there being only 239 rank and file of regular troops, and not more than about 500 of the militia, extremely badly equipped and armed, and also in a wretched state of discipline. There is not one entire set of accoutrements in the whole militia force.

No. 199.

I regret to add that there is no police in the Colony, and the Bill which was passed by the Legislature to form a police has not been assented to, and consequently a police cannot be raised until the Bill arrives assented to.

I have represented all those circumstances to the Governor, Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor, and have applied for more troops, which I trust I shall get, as the Legislature have sent an advice-boat up to Barbadoes praying for a reinforcement.

It is impossible to say how the negroes will act after the 1st of August. My own opinion is that there will be a passive resistance to work under the apprenticeship system, and it will be impossible to coerce them unless we have a sufficient force to do so.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Lyons Nixon*, Lieutenant-governor.

— No. 200. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir, Government House, St. Christopher's, 21 July 1834.

FROM the accompanying documents it will be collected that, on the 12th inst., advices reached me, from the Lieut.-governor of St. Christopher's, that opposition was threatened, on the part of the negroes of this Island, to the approaching

No. 200.



ST. CHRISTOPHER. approaching system of apprenticeship; that, after consulting the Antigua Privy Council, I directed the sloop Blossom to proceed that evening on her voyage with my despatches for his Excellency Sir Lionel Smith at Barbadoes; that His Majesty's ship Wasp was employed to carry thence a supply of arms and ammunition for the militia to St. Christopher's direct; that on the 19th inst. His Majesty's ship Belvidera arrived at English Harbour, where a company of His Majesty's 36th regiment embarked that evening; that I repaired on board next morning, and before night reached this place, and that I have to-day issued a Proclamation to the inhabitants, and have personally conferred with the local Legislature.

The detachment of the 36th regiment will land to-morrow, when the Belvidera, in which it is my intention to re-embark, is to sail for the Virgin Islands, the Wasp continuing here. I am desirous, if possible, of touching at Montserrat and Nevis also, and still to return hither on or before the 1st proximo, in order to pursue such measures as may then be required by the circumstances of this Colony.

The prompt attention of the Major-general commanding the forces to my application has proved highly beneficial and well timed; and I cannot too forcibly express my sense of obligation to Captain Strong of the Belvidera, commanding His Majesty's Barbadoes squadron, for the cordial and considerate co-operation most opportunely obtained from this experienced officer.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Governor.

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Enclosure 1, in No. 200.

Sir,

St. Christopher's, Government House, 10 July 1834.

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 200.

I AM extremely sorry to report to your Excellency that the negroes of this Island have manifested a very great spirit of insubordination and resistance to the authority of their owners for some time past, in consequence of which I was solicited by the inhabitants to visit the estates, and explained to the negroes the exact position in which they would stand on the 1st of August next, and the Privy Council very much approved of the measure, and framed an address for me to deliver to those people, one of which I have the honour to enclose herewith.

For Lieut.-governor  
Nixon's Address to  
the labouring popu-  
lation, dated 1 July  
1834, vide Enclo-  
sure in his Despatch,  
10 July, page 63.

I appointed a place of meeting in each of the nine parishes, and had five per cent. of the negroes of each estate in the parishes assembled to hear the explanation of the law read to them; and on Saturday last, the 5th inst., I addressed the people of two parishes in the vicinity of town, and I regret to say that their conduct was highly insubordinate and disgraceful. They *unâ voce* protested against the apprenticeship system, declaring their resolution to resist it, and not to work after the 1st of August without wages, saying that on that day they were to be free, as announced by the King's proclamation, and that their masters could not take their houses or provision-grounds from them, having so long occupied them; many of them observing that they had as good a right to be free as the negroes of Antigua, and that the Governor of Antigua, who was the Governor of St. Kitt's also, had made them free, and that I was only Lieut.-governor, and was brought by the white men to deceive them, but when Mr. Cleghorn returned from England he would bring out these free papers, for which purpose he had gone to the King, as I was bought by their owners to cheat them. They hooted, and in some instances threw banana husks at or towards me, and walked off shouting, and could not be brought back by their owners or overseers.

On the last place of meeting that day I could not get them to listen to a word, and when I was returning home, I was followed a considerable way by crowds making a most hideous noise.

I proceeded on Tuesday and Wednesday to the other seven parishes, and met with no better success. At one place it was contemplated to cut my horses' throats and break my carriage, but no mischief happened except at the last place, when the overlooker of an estate was most roughly handled in my presence, and probably would have been murdered had not two of the most active of the rioters been seized and sent to gaol.

The Legislature is sitting this day, and, though late, I believe they will do all in their power for the security of the Colony; as yet we have no police. Our police stations are not fixed upon; no auxiliary constables sworn in; the militia worse than can be expressed, for want of arms and accoutrements. Having now explained to your Excellency the state of the Colony, I have to intreat you will give it your favourable consideration, and move the commander of the forces to send at least three more companies for the protection of the lives and properties of the inhabitants which are in such immediate danger.

The Legislature have acquainted me that they will request me to send a communication  
from

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from them to-morrow by an express-boat to your Excellency, praying for an immediate reinforcement of troops, I shall therefore not detain the mail-boat any longer, having kept her near two hours already. ST. CHRISTOPHER.

To His Excellency  
The Governor of the Leeward Islands,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. Lyons Nixon,*  
Lieut.-governor.

## Enclosure 2, in No. 200.

Sir,

St. Christopher's, Government House, 11 July 1834.

SINCE my Despatch of yesterday to your Excellency by the mail-boat, I received the enclosed resolutions of the Legislature; I lose no time in forwarding them to Antigua by the sloop Blossom, with the hope that your Excellency will be pleased to send her on to Barbadoes, with a request to the Commander of the Forces to send immediately a reinforcement of three companies to this Island.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 200.

The alarm created by this open combination, and the determination of the negroes, have driven some families who resided in the country to seek refuge in Basseterre, and, as far as I can learn, many more are coming in this morning.

Of course more alarm exists than perhaps there is any ground for, though I must confess I am not surprised at such feelings.

I have requested the officers commanding the troops on Brimstone Hill to send in, in the most quiet way, barrack accommodation for a reinforcement of 30 men for Basseterre, but I am extremely reluctant to comply with the urgent request of the inhabitants to bring in the troops, which I will not do as long as I can avoid it.

I have taken every precaution that I can think of to prevent any surprise on the militia arms by having them deposited near to their alarm posts under a militia guard of picked men; and at the same time I have ordered the arms to be repaired and put in order ready for service, and have issued ammunition.

I should hope that by the vessel which carries this Despatch his Excellency the Commander of the Forces will be pleased to send us the arms and accoutrements intended for St. Christopher's, and so very much wanted here, a requisition for which I forwarded to your Excellency yesterday in my Despatch of the 3d inst.

Informations have been laid against some persons accused of exciting the negroes to resist the law, and the investigations are to take place this morning.

The Assembly seem now to open their eyes to their situation, and I trust that their exertions may produce some good.

Should your Excellency think proper to employ the Blossom sloop, which carries this letter up to you, to proceed to Barbadoes with the requisition for troops, she is chartered for that purpose, to be paid for from this treasury, and it will be a very good opportunity for her to take in the arms and accoutrements at Barbadoes intended for St. Christopher's.

To His Excellency  
The Governor of the Leeward Islands,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. Lyons Nixon,*  
Lieut.-governor.

## Enclosure 3, in No. 200.

St. Christopher's.

AT a Meeting of the Board of Council and House of Assembly, held at the Court-house, on Thursday the 10th day of July 1834,

It was Resolved,

THAT his Excellency the Lieut.-governor be requested to appoint a guard in each parish in the Island sufficient to ensure a communication throughout the whole of the Colony, and at the least possible notice, and that his Excellency be requested to provide flag-staffs, with colours, lanterns and rockets, for the purpose of facilitating such communication.

Enclosure 3,  
in No. 200.

That three dozen copies of the Riot Act be printed, and distributed to the magistracy.  
That it is with extreme concern that the Board and House are obliged to notice the state of insubordination of the slaves of this Island, who openly and generally declare their intention to resist the laws of this Island framed for the purpose of carrying into effect the Act of the Imperial Parliament 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 73.

That this Board and House cannot sufficiently express their indignation at the insults and indignities which the slaves offered to his Excellency the Lieut.-governor within the last few days, when his Excellency visited them to explain the said Act of Parliament.

That the Board and House view with great alarm the unprotected state of this Colony at this important crisis, knowing that the militia force is very small, and that the number of His Majesty's troops stationed here is inadequate to preserve the safety of the Colony.

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That

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

That his Excellency the Lieut.-governor be requested to communicate forthwith with his Excellency Sir Evan MacGregor, praying him to procure an increase of the military force in this Island, and to forward to Sir Evan MacGregor a copy of these resolutions.

That this Board and House cannot enumerate the many instances of insubordination, riot and insult which have lately been evinced by the slaves of this Island, but they request his Excellency the Lieut.-governor to mention in his Despatch such as he is personally aware of.

That a committee be appointed to procure a vessel, at the public expense, to take the Lieut.-governor's Despatch, founded on these resolutions, to Antigua and Barbadoes.

(signed) *Thos. Harper.*

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Enclosure 4, in No. 200.

EXTRACTS of a LETTER from Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., to his Excellency Sir *Lionel Smith*, K.C.B., dated Antigua, 12 July 1834, and marked confidential.

Enclosure 4,  
in No. 200.

It is with extreme regret that I find myself under the necessity of apprising your Excellency that I have this day received the enclosed communications from the Lieut.-governor of St. Christopher's.

Having considered it advisable to obtain the opinion of the Privy Council of this Island upon the subject of the application from St. Christopher's for military aid, their opinion has been expressed in the following terms.

"The Board is of opinion, that as it appears by the official returns before the Board that there is already a sufficient military force at St. Christopher's for the purpose of protecting the inhabitants, although perhaps insufficient to put down opposition to the law, it would be advisable to wait the result of a communication to the Commander of the Forces at Barbadoes before any immediate measures be adopted from hence; particularly as the existing force of this garrison is not greater than is necessary for its own purposes at the present crisis."

However disagreeable may be the task of conveying the foregoing intelligence to your Excellency, I am happy in being enabled to mention that, according to every indication afforded by the past conduct of the negroes of Antigua, as well as to the information generally obtained from the proprietors and clergy, there is every reasonable prospect of the maintenance of tranquillity in this colony, notwithstanding the approaching important change in the condition of the labouring classes.

I consider it essential to put your Excellency in possession of my impression upon this subject, and consequent anxiety to render every assistance, reconcilable with the safety of Antigua, to the Island of St. Christopher's, the more especially as our former correspondence leads me to apprehend that the disposable force at your Excellency's command may not admit of numerous detachments.

It is my intention to suggest to the Lieut.-governor of St. Christopher's the expediency of remaining, if possible, passive, until the arrival there of the arms and accoutrements required for the militia, and of such reinforcements as it may be found practicable to send to his Excellency's assistance.

Your Excellency is aware of the requisitions for troops from the Virgin Islands, Montserrat and Anguilla, as well as from Nevis, (from which latter Colony I have this day received a repetition of one) for an augmentation to its garrison.

Under all circumstances, it would therefore seem imprudent to risk a further diminution of the force in Antigua, than by the employment of a company on any temporary detached service; but, should the labourers of St. Christopher's, after the 1st of August, absolutely refuse to work in the character of apprentices, it is obviously of the first importance that the difficulty should be instantly grappled with and overcome; not only with a view of restoring public order in that colony, but of obviating the still more serious evils likely to arise, should the resistance to lawful authority be successful, for such a period as to admit of the contagion spreading to the neighbouring possessions of the Crown.

A company of the 36th regiment will be held in readiness, at the Ridge, for embarkation, should your Excellency think proper to require their services; but I must rely entirely upon your Excellency and the officer commanding His Majesty's naval squadron at Barbadoes for the means of transport.

Unless any unforeseen circumstance shall previously occur in this quarter, it is my intention to proceed to St. Christopher's with whatever arms and reinforcements your Excellency may be pleased to spare on this occasion.

Should your Excellency think fit to detach a force from Barbadoes, independently of any aid from this garrison, I should hope therefore that, in that case also, the officer commanding the vessel to be employed will still be directed to touch at Antigua, and not to proceed to St. Christopher's without communicating with me.

From the similarity in our situations as Governors of several Colonies, your Excellency must be fully aware of the embarrassment of my position at the present crisis, with reference to this demand from St. Christopher's, and liability to similar appeals from the other Leeward Islands, or Dominica; a consideration only serving to confirm and strengthen my solicitude for the prompt prevention, or suppression, of the threatened disturbances in the Island of St. Christopher's.

Having thus hastily endeavoured to bring the situation of these Colonies under your Excellency's

Excellency's cognizance, I beg leave to add the assurance of my disposition to profit by such advice as your Excellency's experience may suggest, and, in my military capacity, to yield the most prompt and implicit obedience to your Excellency's commands." ST. CHRISTOPHER.

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Enclosure 5, in No. 200.

Sir, Government House, Antigua, 14 July 1834.  
 Your Excellency's Despatches of the 3d, 10th and 11th instant arrived on the 12th, and on the evening of that day the sloop Blossom proceeded towards Barbadoes, pursuant to your Excellency's desire and that of the Council and Assembly, with an application addressed to his Excellency Sir Lionel Smith, commanding the forces, for a reinforcement of His Majesty's troops, as well as for a supply of arms and accoutrements to the militia of St. Christopher's.

Enclosure 5,  
in No. 200.

The accounts of the disaffection of the negroes, and in particular of the personal indignities offered by them in several instances to your Excellency, have not failed to inspire me with the most lively regret.

I observe, however, with satisfaction, that two of the most active rioters have been secured, and sincerely hope the intended investigation may have led to the detection and exposure of any traitorous persons engaged in the criminal task of luring the labouring classes, through the medium of resistance to the laws, to their own eventual ruin.

I have, &c.

To his Excellency, (signed) E. J. Murray MacGregor, Governor.  
 The Lieut.-governor of St. Christopher's,  
 &c. &c. &c.

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Enclosure 6, in No. 200.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Sir Lionel Smith to His Excellency Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor, dated Barbadoes, 17 July 1834.

I HAD the honour to receive your Excellency's Despatch of the 12th instant at half-past seven this morning, in which you detail the demonstration of very rebellious feelings among the negroes of St. Christopher's, and solicit further military aid for that Island.

Enclosure 6,  
in No. 200.

Captain Strong of His Majesty's ship Belvidera being in harbour, I immediately advised with him, and he has most kindly agreed to proceed in the course of this day to English Harbour, and from thence (if your Excellency sees fit) he will receive on board a company of the 36th for St. Kitt's.

He has further granted the aid of the "Wasp" brig-of-war to proceed to Basseterre, with 200 stand of arms and accoutrements, 5,000 rounds of ball-cartridge and 1,000 flints; and I anxiously promise myself the appearance of these men-of-war and the aid they contain will restore tranquillity and industry among the slave population of St. Christopher's.

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Enclosure 7, in No. 200.

St. Christopher.

A PROCLAMATION,

By his Excellency Sir Evan John Murray MacGregor, Baronet, &c. &c. &c.  
 (L. s.)

WHEREAS, by a Royal Proclamation, under date the 4th day of September last, which has been published in St. Christopher's, His Majesty was pleased to direct that, "subject to apprenticeship, all persons who on the 1st day of August 1834 shall be holden in slavery," within any of the British Colonies, "will upon and from that day be absolutely and for ever manumitted and set free; and that all persons who shall then be duly registered as slaves in such respective Colonies, and actually within the same, and of the full age of six years and upwards, will by force and virtue of an Act of the Imperial Parliament become apprenticed labourers in the service of the persons previously entailed to their services as slaves; and that the apprenticeship of such labourers will terminate on the 1st day of August 1840, or on the 1st day of August 1838, according to the nature and description of the employment in which such labourers shall be severally engaged, as in the said Act set forth; and that such apprenticed labourers will during such their apprenticeships be bound by law to labour in the service of their respective employers, on such terms and conditions, and for such limited period of time, as by the said Act of Parliament, or as by Acts hereafter to be made and passed in such Colonies respectively, are or shall be prescribed on that behalf."

Enclosure 7,  
in No. 200.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

And whereas the said Act of the Imperial Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery, distinctly leaving it to the free choice of the Legislatures of the respective Colonies, either to adopt the particular system of apprenticeship contemplated by the Act, to shorten its duration, or to dispense with it entirely, the Legislature of St. Christopher's thence derives a title as undoubted to subject the labouring orders in this Island to the intermediate stage of apprenticeship, as the Legislature of Antigua to confer unrestricted emancipation upon the labourers there: And whereas it has been communicated to me that many negroes in St. Christopher's are strongly impressed with the erroneous belief that the liberty imparted to them by the King's Proclamation is not only unconditional, but that they are invested with a prescriptive right of property in the places of abode now occupied by them, on the plantations to which they are attached, and moreover, that they cannot be required to work without wages:

Now, therefore, it becomes my bounden duty to declare that apprentices are not only rendered liable by the Act of the Imperial Parliament to work without wages, but to make good besides such time as they may improperly abstract from the service of their lawful employers, even to the extent of seven additional years of apprenticeship, the freedom conceded to them by the King being qualified by this express reservation; and likewise to announce that long occupancy affords them no legal claim whatever to the houses in which when slaves they were permitted to reside, as is exemplified in Antigua, where well-conducted negroes, "by way of a temporary and gratuitous accommodation," are suffered by their former owners "to enjoy respectively the personal occupation of the said habitations or tenements until the 1st day of August 1835, and no longer," that is for one year only after slavery shall have expired.

And whereas it has been further represented to me that some of the negroes in different parts of this Colony have recently betrayed a lawless and rebellious spirit, and have even dared wantonly and audaciously to insult his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor while administering the Government on His Majesty's behalf: And whereas the King doth in the Royal Proclamation aforesaid set forth, "his settled purpose and resolve, by all the powers vested in him to enforce due obedience to the laws, and to prevent, and, if necessary, to repress and punish, all contraventions of the said laws;" I do accordingly invite all loyal persons zealously to aid and assist the constituted authorities in bringing to deserved and exemplary punishment the offenders concerned in the violent outrages above mentioned.

And I solemnly and explicitly warn the working population, that any future acts of tumult or insubordination on their part must inevitably tend to deter the Legislature of this Colony from curtailing the period of apprenticeship, and earnestly exhort all good negroes to recollect with gratitude, that while in this state of gradual preparation for eventual independence, they continue to be provided by their employers with food, medical care and lodging; solid advantages, which, notwithstanding any former usage, they must be prepared, on becoming absolutely free, altogether to relinquish and forego.

Having thus dispelled the baneful illusion, unfortunately cherished by certain misguided negroes in St. Christopher's, and assuring those who persevere in orderly and peaceable demeanour of the constant protection of the Executive, I do now, in the name of our Sovereign Lord the King, enjoin upon all persons amenable to the law of apprenticeship to be submissive and obedient to the same, as they shall answer to the contrary at their peril; and I furthermore summon His Majesty's officers, civil and military, and liege subjects, effectually to contribute towards promptly suppressing every show of resistance to the royal authority, in order that the King's most gracious pleasure in the premises may be carried within this His Majesty's Colony on and after the 1st day of August next into full and perfect execution.

Given under my hand and seal, at St. Christopher's, this 20th day of July 1834, and in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign.

God Save the King!

By his Excellency's command,

*Felix Bedingfeld*, Acting Private Secretary.

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Enclosure 8, in No. 200.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Council,  
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

THE proclamation, which I have caused to be published to the inhabitants, explains in detail the object of my present visit to this Island.

In return for the signal marks of royal favour about to be extended to them on the approaching abolition of slavery, certain evil-disposed negroes have recently displayed the deepest ingratitude towards the King, in presuming to treat with disrespect and contumely the veteran officer intrusted by His Majesty with the immediate administration of this government; and further, to avow an intention of resisting the new system of laws destined to operate the most beneficial changes in their social condition.

Misconduct such as this is calculated to rouse the indignation of every loyal and honourable mind, and unless speedily and effectually disclaimed by the mass of the labouring classes,

Enclosure 8,  
in No. 200.

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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classes, cannot fail irretrievably to injure them in the public estimation, and to involve them eventually in the most disastrous consequences. ST. CHRISTOPHER.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

Whatever auxiliary measures suitable to the occasion may fall within the peculiar province of your Honourable House for adoption in support of the Executive, I am persuaded will not be withheld, either during my stay, or from his Excellency the Lieut.-governor in my absence.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Council,

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

The civil authorities and the commander of the King's naval and military forces, uniting their efforts in the service of the Crown, are resolved to maintain the internal tranquillity of these Colonies, to protect His Majesty's orderly and peaceable subjects, and to repress by the strong arm of power, if requisite, all opposition to the laws.

(signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Governor.

St. Christopher's, 21 July 1834.

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Enclosure 9, in No. 200.

To his Excellency Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., &c.

Sir,

WE, the members of His Majesty's Council, beg leave to express to your Excellency our due appreciation of the promptitude with which your Excellency has repaired to this Island, for the purpose of dispelling the illusion which has lately existed in the minds of our labouring population. We feel assured that this measure, combined with the judicious explanation contained in your Excellency's proclamation, must have the effect of restoring to their accustomed obedience any portion of the inhabitants of this Colony who have hitherto been deceived as to the favourable results to themselves which the law for the abolition of slavery, by an intermediate state of apprenticeship, is so well calculated to produce.

We trust that the great mass of this class of our community will now so readily disclaim the misconduct to which your Excellency alludes, as to avert from themselves the just indignation and punishment in which any disobedience of the law must necessarily involve them.

We feel assured that under any circumstances the efforts of the civil authorities, supported as they will be by His Majesty's military and naval forces, must ensure the internal tranquillity and consequent happiness of all classes of the inhabitants of this ancient Colony.

(signed) *W. G. Crooke*, President.  
*Daniel Gatnard Davies*.  
*W. Wharton Rawlins*.  
*Thomas Swanston*.  
*C. Gillis Payne*.  
*Robert Claxton*.  
*J. F. Caines*.

Council Chamber, 21 July 1834.

Enclosure 9,  
in No. 200.

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Enclosure 10, in No. 200.

To his Excellency Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., &c.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, the members of the Commons House of Assembly of St. Christopher, lament exceedingly that your Excellency's visit to this part of your government has been rendered necessary by the disrespectful and contumelious conduct of evil-disposed negroes in this Colony to the veteran and respected officer entrusted by His Majesty with the immediate administration of this government, and by their avowed intention to resist the new system of laws, destined, if duly appreciated, to co-operate most beneficially upon their social condition.

We beg to thank your Excellency for your prompt exertions in behalf of this Colony, and gratified for the assurance that the civil authorities, and the commanders of the King's naval and military forces, uniting their efforts in the service of the Crown, resolve to maintain the internal tranquillity of these Colonies, to protect His Majesty's orderly and peaceable subjects, and to repress, by the strong arm of power, if necessary, all opposition to the laws. We beg to assure your Excellency of our hearty and individual determination to assist to the utmost of our power in supporting the laws of our country, and that your Excellency during your stay in this Island, and his Excellency the Lieut.-governor in your absence, shall be assisted by us in measures suitable to the occasion, which may fall within our peculiar province as the Commons Assembly of St. Christopher.

(signed) *George Henry Burt*, Speaker.

Assembly Room, 21 July 1834.

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Enclosure 10,  
in No. 200.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

— No. 201. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *E. Murray MacGregor* to the Right Hon. *T. Spring Rice*.

Sir,

St. Christopher's, 22 July 1834.

No. 201.  
Vide Antigua,  
page 20.

It was reported in my Despatch of the 3d instant, that the 1st of August had been directed to be set apart in Antigua as a day of solemn thanksgiving to God for the abolition of slavery.

Mr. President Hamilton soon afterwards informed me that he meant to follow the like form in Montserrat; and at a hurried Privy Council, held after addressing the Legislature here yesterday, I was given to understand the House of Assembly had petitioned the Lieut.-governor against its adoption in St. Christopher's, on account of the late unruly conduct of the labourers.

I explained to the Privy Council, that however reluctant to contravene the wishes of the Assembly, it appeared to me exceedingly impolitic thus to confound the innocent with the guilty, or to assume that the whole working population fell under the latter denomination, and a very harsh proceeding not to permit the negroes to rest from labour on the day of their emancipation; that the Executive, if constrained to enforce compliance in such an instance, would be placed in a most painful predicament; and that I was the more particularly solicitous that every fair concession should be granted to the apprentices at the outset, in order to deprive them of all just grounds of complaint, should they think proper at last to place themselves in the wrong.

On this principle, of which I trust you will not see reason to disapprove, the Proclamation for a public thanksgiving, of which a copy is enclosed, has been published in this Island; and it is my present intention to cause the 1st of August to be observed in a similar manner in Nevis and the Virgin Islands.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. Murray MacGregor*.

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Enclosure in No. 201.

St. Christopher.

## A PROCLAMATION,

By His Excellency Sir *Evan John Murray MacGregor*, Bart. Governor.

Enclosure in  
No. 201.

WHEREAS the working classes within this Island from and after the 1st day of August next, in consequence of the abolition of slavery, will be placed in a new state, which will confer upon them greater benefits than they have hitherto enjoyed, and it is considered expedient and proper that an opportunity should be afforded them of offering up thanks to Almighty God for his past mercies, and humble intercession for a continuance of His gracious care and favour.

Now, therefore, by and with the advice of His Majesty's Privy Council, I do hereby ordain and enjoin that Friday, the 1st day of August next, shall be kept and observed as a day of solemn thanksgiving to the Almighty, and that all the churches and chapels within this Island be opened at the usual times of morning service, and I confidently expect that the demeanour of the labouring classes will be distinguished by the temperance, moderation and decorum that should on so important and memorable an occasion mark the rejoicings of a Christian people, whilst the fear of offending the Almighty Being, whose power we are taught at all times to acknowledge, will deter them from any excess displeasing to him, and dangerous to their own peace and safety.

Given under my hand and seal, at St. Christopher's, this 21st day of July 1834, and in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign.—God save the King!

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— No. 202. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Colonial Office, 18 Sept. 1834.

No. 202.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 22d July last, and I have to acquaint you that I entirely approve of your having ordered, on the 1st August last, a solemn

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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solemn thanksgiving to God for the abolition of slavery in St. Kitt's, and of the intention which you expressed of issuing orders for the observance of the like solemnity in Nevis and the Virgin Islands. ST. CHRISTOPHER.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *T. Spring Rice.*

— No. 203. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *E. Murray MacGregor* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice.*

Sir,

St. Christopher's, 5 August 1834.

I REGRET to be under the necessity of reporting that the resistance, on the part of the labouring population in this Island, to the laws is nearly general.

No. 203.

Mr. Solicitor-general Claxton's statement, of which a copy is enclosed, may serve to throw some light upon the situation in which the apprenticed labourers unfortunately have been induced to place themselves; and it will be observed from the accompanying Proclamations, that a reward has been offered for the detection of the persons who may have instigated them to the commission of this offence, while the painful alternative of resorting to martial law is seriously contemplated, unless the working classes shall speedily desist from their injurious opposition to legitimate authority.

No. 1,  
3 August 1834.

Nos. 2 & 3,  
4 August 1834.

It is of the utmost consequence that this rebellious spirit should be promptly subdued, which, according to advices this day received from the President of Montserrat, threatens, I regret to add, likewise to pervade that Colony; and it will afford me the highest satisfaction to be enabled to transmit by the succeeding opportunity more agreeable intelligence.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. Murray MacGregor.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 203.

Sir,

St. Christopher's, 3 August 1834.

IN compliance with your Excellency's desire, I shall endeavour to afford you all the information in my power respecting the state of the labouring population in this Island, and the cause of their present excitement. Until about six weeks ago, the peaceable demeanour of the slaves, and the cheerful and willing manner in which they performed their work, justified the belief that they would readily embrace the advantages which the intermediate system of apprenticeship was calculated to afford them, and be thereby gradually prepared for the enjoyment of unrestricted freedom. As however the time for this great change drew near, some of the planters considered it necessary to explain to their people more particularly the several points connected with it, and it was then discovered that there was a general feeling against the system of apprenticeship, and a determination to strike work on the 1st of August unless wages were given them. The Wesleyan and other missionaries, who have for a long time exercised a great and salutary influence over the minds of the great mass of our population, thought it their duty to explain to them the law, and to enforce the necessity of obedience to it. They were however treated in many instances with incivility, and they were disregarded in all. The impression on the minds of the slaves appeared to be that the Imperial Parliament had made them free, and that the system of apprenticeship originated in the Colonial Legislatures. The circumstance of the Legislature of Antigua, over which your Excellency personally presides, having determined on unrestricted emancipation, may have contributed to strengthen this delusion, and they fully expected that on your arrival here, their rights would no longer be withheld from them. The circumstance of Lord Romney having emancipated his slaves, nearly 300 in number, may have contributed to unsettle their minds. They also expressed an aversion against being bound as apprentices in consequence of a fear that they would thereby subject themselves to the continued labour and frequent punishments which they daily observe as the consequence of young persons becoming bound as apprentices to various trades, and they would not believe that the hours of their weekly labour were to be confined to 45, and that they were no longer subject to any punishment from their employer. His Excellency the Lieut.-governor then undertook to dispel their illusions by personally explaining to them the nature of the contemplated change in their condition; but he was received invariably with distrust, and in most instances with disrespect. There is little doubt that emissaries have been sent from the leading gangs to the others, for the purpose of confirming them in

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 203.



ST. CHRISTOPHER.

their determination to strike work after the 1st of August, and that the well-disposed and irresolute have been threatened with violence to their persons and destruction to their property if they pursued a different conduct. And it is to be lamented that the occasions and manner in which their missions have been conducted have hitherto remained undetected. In several instances these threats have been carried into execution, and persons expressing their satisfaction at the advantages afforded them, and endeavouring to explain them to others, have been severely beaten. The head people upon many estates, who have hitherto been considered confidential and trustworthy, have betrayed a reluctance to converse with their masters on this subject; and others have admitted the fact of the general combination to strike work. They continued to discharge their duties with their accustomed regularity even to the last day of July, and in the evening and night of that day, upon 12 or 14 estates, they deposited their hoes and bills near the dwelling-houses of their respective managers, thereby expressing their determination not again to use them; and on a great many estates, on Saturday the 2d of August, they refused to throw meat for the cattle and other stock, and the stock-minders to attend to their duties. The general impression is that no violence to persons or property is in the first instance contemplated, and that they will be guilty of no other infraction of the law than the settled refusal to return to their work. It is however to be feared that the necessary efforts to enforce their duties as apprenticed labourers will lead to a contrary conduct. There are however some estates on which the people have promised obedience to the laws; and although they are comparatively few, yet their example, supported by the civil and military authority, may have a salutary effect.

To His Excellency  
Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor, Bart.  
&c. &c. &c.

I remain, &c.  
(signed) Robert Claxton.

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(Enclosure 2, in No. 203.)

Five Hundred Dollars Reward.

St. Christopher.

A PROCLAMATION,

By His Excellency Sir *Evan John Murray MacGregor*, Baronet, &c. &c. &c.

(L. s.)

WHEREAS it has been represented to me, and I have the strongest reason to believe, that some persons have been wickedly employed in misleading the labouring classes of this Island, and inducing them to offer a combined resistance to the operation of the provisions of the Act passed for the Abolition of Slavery; and it is considered advisable to offer a reward for the discovery of such persons, with a view of bringing them to justice: Now, therefore, by and with the advice of His Majesty's Privy Council, I do hereby offer a reward of five hundred dollars, to be paid to any person who shall give such information as shall lead to the conviction of the person or persons who have originally and secretly instigated the labouring classes to resist and oppose the operation of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, by misleading them as to its true intent and meaning, or otherwise: And I do hereby offer a further reward of fifty dollars, to be paid to any person who shall give such information as shall lead to the conviction of any person or persons who may be engaged in inducing the labouring classes to continue their opposition and resistance to the laws, whether by advice, intimidation or otherwise, provided that such information be given within one week from this date.

Given under my hand and seal, at St. Christopher, this 4th day of August, in the year of our Lord 1834, and in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign.—God save the King!

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(Enclosure 3, in No. 203.)

St. Christopher.

By His Excellency Sir *Evan John Murray MacGregor*, Baronet, &c.

(L. s.)

WHEREAS it has been represented to me that the labouring classes upon very many of the estates in this Island are in a state of insubordination and resistance to the provisions of the Act of the Imperial Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery, and to the laws of this Island which have been passed for carrying the said Act into effect; and that it is the belief of the labouring classes that a mere absence from work, unaccompanied by any acts of violence, does not entail upon them any of the penalties of the law; whereas in fact, though no violence may be committed by any parties whose duty it is to render service to their employers in consideration of food, medical care, lodging and clothing, to refuse such service does subject all parties to the most severe penalties, and, in the event of martial law being proclaimed, possibly even to the punishment of death: And whereas it is considered expedient and advisable, for the purpose of reducing the said labouring classes to a proper state of obedience to the law, that martial law should be proclaimed: Now, there-  
fore,

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 203.

Enclosure 3,  
in No. 203.

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

75

fore, by and with the advice of His Majesty's Privy Council, I do hereby proclaim and make known, that unless the working classes within this Island do, on or before Wednesday next, the 6th day of August instant, conform to the laws so passed for their governance, by working obediently for their employers, as it is their duty to do, that martial law will be proclaimed, and that it will continue in force until they shall be reduced to obedience; and all persons are hereby warned at their peril not to be found offending herein, as they will then have only themselves to blame for the serious consequences that will inevitably ensue.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

Given under my hand, at St. Christopher, this 4th day of August, in the year of our Lord 1834, and in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign.—God save the King!

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— No. 204. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, dated Downing-street, 6 Sept. 1834.

I LEARN with pleasure from Mr. Claxton's letter to you of the 3d August, that the Wesleyan and other missionaries had exerted themselves in St. Christopher's to explain the law to the negroes, and to enjoin obedience to it; and I cannot but entertain sanguine hopes that the continued efforts of the missionaries of all denominations will have been of effectual service in enabling you to arrest the struggle with which the Colony was threatened.

No. 204.

The alternative which you suggest of martial law would be most painful, and would not be resorted to by you, I feel convinced, or even contemplated, without the most urgent and undeniable necessity. From the extent of resources now at your disposal, and the prudent firmness and resolution you have displayed, and which has met the unqualified approval of His Majesty's Government, I trust that tranquillity may have been restored at St. Christopher's before this Despatch reaches you.

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— No. 205. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor-General Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

St. Christopher's, 19 August 1834.

THE printed Enclosure, No. 3, announces the hours of labour inculcated in St. Christopher's during martial law. I sincerely hope that these will be adopted, pursuant to my recommendation, by the Legislature; and Mr. Speaker Burt gives me reason to believe that this is likely to prove the case.

No. 205.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*.

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(Enclosure 1, in No. 205.)

His Excellency the Governor to His Honour the President and Council.

HAVING acted, during the prevalence of martial law, as will appear from the Enclosures, on the suggestion of Captain Stewart, special magistrate, with respect to the commencement and close of the legal hours of labour in this Colony, the Governor is compelled to propose to your Honourable Board the adoption of a similar regulation, which, by surrendering Saturdays entirely to the working classes, may possibly present the Legislature with a convenient opening for effecting the abolition of Sunday markets,

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 205.(signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*,  
Governor.

St. Christopher's, 19 Aug. 1834.

A similar to the House of Assembly.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

(Enclosure 2, in No. 205.)

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 205.

Sir, Basseterre, St. Christopher's, Tuesday morning, 5 August 1834.  
I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency, that in consequence of visiting "Taylor's estate," in this neighbourhood, by your desire, yesterday afternoon, the labourers have this morning gone to their work. Much dissatisfaction prevails from the circumstance that the commencement and close of the legal hours of labour are not fixed by law. The immediate attention of the Legislature to this point I humbly conceive to be most desirable; and by adopting, as nearly as possible, one uniform system throughout the Island, much good might be effected, should the same meet with the cordial support of the respective employers.

To His Excellency  
Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor, Bart.  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) Robert Stuart, Sp. J. P.

(Enclosure 3, in No. 205.)

St. Christopher.

## A PROCLAMATION,

By His Excellency Sir *Evan John Murray MacGregor*, Bart. &c. &c.

(L. s.)

Enclosure 3,  
in No. 205.

WHEREAS it has been represented to me that the periods during which the apprenticed labourers in this Island are to render to their employers, 45 hours of labour in every week, are not defined by law: and whereas it is considered expedient that one uniform system upon this subject should be enforced throughout the Island during the period of martial law; Now, therefore, by virtue of the authority in me vested, I do proclaim and make known, that the said hours of labour shall be from six o'clock in the morning until eight; from nine until twelve; and from two until six o'clock, on the first five days in the week, whereby the apprenticed labourer will have finished his hours of work on the afternoon of Friday; and I do hereby enjoin obedience to this regulation on all persons having the charge of apprenticed labourers on the several estates in this Island, during the said period of martial law, as they will answer to the contrary at their peril.

Given under my hand and seal, at St. Christopher, this 7th day of August, in the year of our Lord 1834, and in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign.—God save the King!

— No. 206. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Governor  
*Sir E. M. MacGregor*.

No. 206.

Sir, Downing-street, 16 Oct. 1834.  
I HAVE received your Despatch of the 19th August, respecting the proposed regulation to fix particular hours for the labour of the apprentices at St. Kitt's. As it was not in your power to do more than to report the suggestion you had made to the Legislature, without informing me whether such suggestion had been adopted, I am not aware that this communication calls for any particular observation on my part, beyond the expression of my opinion, that except under extraordinary circumstances, such as those which have existed at St. Kitt's, the arrangements of the hours of labour had better be left to the mutual wants and conveniences of employers and labourers, in place of being made the matter of regulation and enactment.

I am not, however, inclined to doubt but that the local information which you have had the means of obtaining has warranted the conclusion to which you have come.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *T. Spring Rice*.

— No. 207. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart.,  
to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

St. Christopher's, 19 August 1834.

In my Despatch of the 5th August it was stated that the alternative of martial law was seriously contemplated, and from the enclosed documents it will be ascertained to have been resorted to, on the 6th inst., in compliance with the recommendation of His Majesty's Privy Council, (*see* Enclosures, Nos. 1, 2 and 3.)

No. 207.

4 &amp; 6 August 1834.

The proceedings which followed until the re-establishment of civil authority will be found detailed in the remainder of the accompanying papers, numbered from 4 to 18; No. 11 containing the Minutes of His Majesty's Privy Council of this day's date, wherein it is recorded that,

9 to 19 Aug. 1834.

"The members of the Board concurred in opinion that there was every reason to believe that the present state of tranquillity was likely to continue, Mr. President Crooke, alone dissenting."

It is likewise satisfactory to find that this sentiment is cherished by the Rev. D. G. Davis, Rector of St. George's; the Rev. D. Bigler, Moravian missionary, and also by the Rev. J. Cox, Wesleyan missionary, who has "just made a journey round the Island, that he may be enabled to speak more accurately on this subject." (Enclosures, Nos. 6, 7 and 8.)

My own impression respecting it is contained in the Minutes of Council, No. 11, but I have judged it advisable to leave in Basseterre the company of His Majesty's 36th regiment which proceeded with me from this garrison to that place, in the vicinity of which Captain Daniell will continue so long as it may appear to him requisite, and then repair to English Harbour, in Antigua, with His Majesty's brig Despatch, in order to refit; after which, that vessel will be disposable for eventual service in the Leeward Islands.

Previously to the termination of martial law, I directed a general movement of His Majesty's and the militia forces upon the mountains of the interior, in order to convince the negroes, said to be concealed there, that their haunts are at any time accessible by troops. Markus, the "King of the Woods," described in Enclosure No. 5, was seen, and would have been seized by a military party, had not their guide discovered himself prematurely to that fugitive.

To Major Brooke of the 67th regiment, on whom, as well as on several other King's officers, militia brevet rank was conferred, I am highly indebted for his zealous services; and to one of my aides-de-camp of militia, Lieut.-colonel Woodcock, who acted as brigade-major, chiefly in the Cayon district, and the senior King's counsel here, it is my duty to entreat your favourable attention, should an opportunity offer of promoting in the latter capacity his professional views.

The Circular, No. 4, shows that early endeavours were exerted to bring the labourers to a returning sense of duty, and to dispense with punishment. During the active operations of the troops but one apprentice has been shot; and a letter from the Judge Advocate General is accompanied by a return, exhibiting results of general courts-martial held under my authority, Nos. 9 and 10, by which five persons were condemned to banishment for life, who embarked yesterday accordingly for Bermuda in His Majesty's schooner Pickle.

All circumstances considered, it will appear to you, I earnestly hope, that the insubordination in this Island, so fraught with peril at this crisis to the surrounding Colonies, has been checked with as little asperity as could have been well anticipated. Several of the apprenticed labourers personally assured me of their contrition; and between 80 and 90, whom my concluding proclamation released from the gaol of Basseterre, requested the Rev. Mr. Davies to convey to me the expression of their thanks and gratitude.

I am now about to re-embark for Antigua in His Majesty's ship *Belvidera*.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Governor.

## 78 PAPERS RELATIVE TO THE ABOLITION OF

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

Enclosure 1, in No. 207.

St. Christopher.

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 207.

AT a meeting of the Privy Council, held on Monday the 4th day of August 1834 ;

Present,

His Excellency Sir Evan J. M. MacGregor, Bart., Governor, &amp;c. &amp;c. &amp;c.

His Excellency John Lyons Nixon, Esq., Lieut.-governor.

His Honour President Crooke.

The Honourable and Rev. D. G. Davis, A.M.

C. G. Payne, Esq.

Thomas Swanston, Esq.

Robert Claxton, Esq.

His Excellency the Governor wished to consult the Council as to the propriety of offering a reward for the discovery of the instigators to the present opposition to the law among the labouring classes.

After some deliberation, it was resolved to advise his Excellency to offer a reward of 500 dollars to any person who shall give such information as shall lead to the conviction of the person or persons who have originally and secretly instigated the labouring classes to oppose or resist the operation of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, by misleading them as to its true intent and meaning, or otherwise.

And that a further reward be offered of 50 dollars, to be paid to any person who shall give such information as shall lead to the conviction of any person or persons who may be engaged in inducing the labouring classes to continue their opposition to the laws, whether by advice, intimidation or otherwise, provided that such information be given within one week from this date.

His Excellency asked the opinion of the Board, whether, if the present measures fail, it would be advisable to proclaim martial law.

Resolved, that it would be advisable ; whereupon his Excellency directed a proclamation to be prepared.

(signed) *Thomas Harper*, Clerk of Council.

Enclosure 2, in No. 207.

St. Christopher.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 207.

AT a meeting of the Privy Council, held on Wednesday the 6th day of August 1834 ;

Present,

His Excellency Sir E. J. M. M'Gregor, Bart., Governor, &amp;c. &amp;c. &amp;c.

His Excellency J. L. Nixon, Esq., Lieut.-governor.

His Honour President Crooke.

The Honourable and Rev. D. G. Davis, A.M.

C. G. Payne, Esq.

R. Claxton, Esq.

It appearing that the labouring classes are still in a state of insubordination and open resistance to the Act passed by the Imperial Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery,

It was resolved, that his Excellency the Governor be advised to proclaim martial law ; and his Excellency thereupon directed a proclamation to that effect to be prepared and issued accordingly.

(signed) *Thomas Harper*, Clerk of Council.

Enclosure 3, in No. 207.

St. Christopher.

Enclosure 3,  
in No. 207.

A PROCLAMATION,

By his Excellency Sir *Evan J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

WHEREAS by a proclamation under my hand and seal, dated the 20th July last past, I did, in the name of our Sovereign Lord the King, enjoin upon all persons amenable to the law of apprenticeship to be submissive and obedient to the same, as they should answer to the contrary at their peril.

And whereas by a proclamation, dated the 4th day of August inst., I did proclaim and make known, that unless the labouring classes within this Island did, on or before Wednesday then next ensuing, conform to the laws passed for their governance, by working obediently for their employers, that martial law would be proclaimed.

And whereas it hath been represented to me that the said labouring classes, regardless of the proclamation above mentioned, and the warnings therein contained, are in a state of insubordination

bordination and open resistance to the provisions of the Act of the Imperial Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery, and the laws of this Island which have been passed for carrying the said Act into effect: Now, therefore, by and with the advice of His Majesty's Privy Council, in the name of our Sovereign Lord the King, and by virtue of the power and authority in me vested, I do proclaim martial law to be in force within the Island of St. Christopher forthwith, and to continue in force until due obedience to the law shall have been effected, and until further order be made herein; and that during the continuance of martial law, all persons in the said Island are subject to the same, of which they are to take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

Given under my hand and seal at arms, at St. Christopher, this 6th day of August 1834, and in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign.

By his Excellency's command.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

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Enclosure 4, in No. 207.

Sir,

Basseterre, 9 August 1834.

It has been suggested by his Excellency the Governor Sir Evan MacGregor, that if confidential persons were sent to the runaways still out, informing them, that should they be at work on Monday morning, no notice will be taken of their conduct during the present week, it would produce the effect of restoring order on the estates.

In this case, it would be desirable to have a return from every estate sent in to his Excellency on Monday of the persons absent from work that morning, and that in the meantime no further punishments be inflicted. This amnesty will of course not extend to persons who appear to have been ringleaders, or guilty of any marked violence of the law; and any who still remain out on that day will take the consequence of their continued disobedience.

I have, &c.  
(signed) M. G. Taylor, Lieut. and Fort Adj.

Enclosure 4,  
in No. 207.

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Enclosure 5, in No. 207.

Sir,

Cuningham's, 11 August 1834.

In compliance with the circular of the 9th instant, I beg to inform you, that all the people on this estate are at work, except James *alias* Buller, who was so desperate a character, that I felt it my duty to lodge him in gaol by the civil authorities, previous to the 1st of August, and a man named Markus, an African, a most daring and dangerous character, who has been absent three years, and has always been a runaway, goes by the title of King of the Woods, has been condemned for murder, has now a charge of felony, under Lord Ellenborough's Act, hanging over his head, and, as I am credibly informed, (only by hearsay evidence, but which I believe,) that he has a gang of 30 and upwards under his command in the mountains. His usual haunts are from Stones Fort to Vembell Mountains. He has a musket in his possession, and is very skilful in the use thereof. No order may be expected in the country unless he is taken. For further particulars of his character, apply to Major John Rawlins and Colonel Harper.

To Lieut.-Col. Bedingfeld,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) A. P. Pogson.

Enclosure 5,  
in No. 207.

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Enclosure 6, in No. 207.

Sir,

St. George's, Basseterre, 13 Aug. 1834.

In compliance with your Excellency's desire, I now state the impressions made on my mind by my general observation, and by the intercourse which, as a clergyman, I have had at different times, and under various circumstances, with the labouring classes, as to the causes of the late unfortunate disturbances among them.

I think that there can be little reason to doubt, that on the first promulgation in the Island of the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery, that many of the then slaves felt keenly disappointed that it provided, in the first instance, a transition stage, called apprenticeship, and consequently did not at once convey to them the full rights of free men. It was also difficult in many cases to make them fully comprehend the entire consistency of a state denominated freedom with the legal necessity of labouring for the benefit of others, without contract or consent. This feeling of disappointment, as I fear, was increased in its bitterness by the imprudent manner in which the new system, designed to displace the old, was spoken of by some persons jealous of parting with personal power, as conferring no greater advantages, and even as more rigorous in its nature. The then slaves themselves also may be considered as having conceived an unfavourable opinion of the new condition in which they were to be placed by the law, by assimilating it in their minds

Enclosure 6,  
in No. 207.

ST. CHRISTOPHER. — minds to ordinary apprenticeships, the hardships of which they may have in some unfavourable cases witnessed. All these causes, however, of dissatisfaction may have been happily and easily overcome; and in very many instances I have reason to believe that in my humble efforts I had been successful to this end. But the course which the Legislature of Antigua pursued, in conferring immediate and unrestricted freedom on its slaves, had the effect of impressing those of this Island with the conviction that that was in reality the measure of the Government, and that your Excellency's presence as the Governor-general had been the reason why full justice had been done there, while the apprenticeship was the invention of the Legislature of this Island, designed, in effect, for the continuation of slavery and of its benefits to the planter, while the name of freedom was given for the satisfaction of the mother country. The voluntary relinquishment of the apprenticeship by Earl Romney, an extensive proprietor of this Island, resident in England, whose intention became generally known some few months before the 1st of August, served in no small degree to confirm this erroneous persuasion. This impression, once strongly made, it was difficult to shake; and then it was that the efforts of persons in the highest authority and most exalted situations, even of His Excellency the Lieutenant-governor and of the ministers of religion, were unavailing, and the manifestation of it on many occasions burst forth.

Though, however, I am fully persuaded that all these causes have severally concurred in producing the unhappy results which your Excellency has witnessed, yet I was not without the suspicion that some of the most discontented among the labourers had used their efforts to induce a combined, though not violent resistance to the intermediate stage to entire liberty, called by the law, apprenticeship, in the hope of thus attaining the great object of their ardent wishes, unrestricted freedom and a regular system of wages. The trials of two or three persons under martial law have served, as your Excellency knows, to confirm this suspicion: I trust, and have no reason at present to entertain any other sentiment, that the delusion has had no higher or more guilty origin.

I cannot conclude without adding, that while the philanthropist must look back with regret to that conduct of the labouring classes in this Island, which has prevented an entirely peaceable transition from slavery, and with sorrow on the measures which were deemed necessary to suppress disorder, he may retain the stable ground of rejoicing that there has occurred no instance of violence to the persons or destruction to the property of the masters. And I would say, that it is my persuasion that even that degree of instruction and religious knowledge which has been in different ways conveyed has had this powerfully restraining influence. I have every reason then to hope, that as misconception has been now corrected and delusion dissipated by the presence and active exertions of your Excellency, and the co-operation of His Majesty's land and naval forces, and by other means, a discreet and temperate conduct on the part of those having the management of estates will soon restore quiet among the labourers and harmony between them and their employers. We may thus derive the assurance that a repetition of the evil we have witnessed is not very probable.

To His Excellency  
Sir Evan J. M. MacGregor, Bart.  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) Daniel Gateward Davis.

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Enclosure 7, in No. 207.

To His Excellency Sir *Evan John Murray MacGregor*, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 207.

THROUGH the Hon. and Rev. D. G. Davis I have been apprised that it is the desire of your Excellency to be made acquainted with the opinion of the missionaries of the United Brethren's Society in St. Kitt's as to the probable causes of the late rebellion or insurrectionary movements of the slave population.

I beg leave to say, that in the accompanying statement I am, from unavoidable circumstances, necessitated to give my single opinion, as I should not be able in time to furnish your Excellency with that of my colleagues stationed in St. Mary's, Cayon and St. John's, (near Deep Bay.)

Having within the last few days had a conversation with the Hon. and Rev. gentleman above named on the very subject on which I am now called to express my opinion, I was gratified in perceiving that we entirely concurred in ascribing to the same causes the late misconduct of the slaves. I have this day learnt from that gentleman that he has, agreeably to your Excellency's desire, furnished a statement of his opinion; so that I apprehend the present may prove but a recapitulation. I beg leave, however, briefly to say, that in my humble opinion the primary cause of the late disturbances was a disappointment of the expectations, universally entertained by the slaves, that when the Act of Abolition had passed it would confer absolute and unrestricted emancipation; for they were often heard to say, "Now we shall soon get our freedom."

As the final adjustment of the slave question seemed long at issue, their eagerness and impatience grew proportionally strong; so that on the arrival of almost every packet in our roadstead, they did not scruple to say, "That has brought our papers," meaning their emancipation. This, I believe, was the state of their minds up to the arrival of the late Royal Proclamation.

His

His Excellency, our esteemed Lieutenant-governor, Colonel Nixon, in transmitting to us a copy of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery and copies of the Royal Proclamation, sent also circulars, containing written instructions, earnestly requesting us to explain it to that portion of our congregation then held in slavery. In obedience to that request, the Proclamation was read and explained in a public meeting of the congregation; and, lest there might remain a single doubt on the minds of any, they were invited to call on us at any time for further explanation. A few availed themselves of the opportunity; and, after explaining again the nature of their new relations, seemed satisfied. But as we took occasion to inquire from time to time, we found, to our great grief, that the prejudice against the terms "apprenticeship" and "bound," used in the Act, was so great, that our interference to rectify their mistaken notions was deemed uncalled-for; and they obstinately persisted in their belief that His Majesty the King had given them their liberty, but that their owners or superiors here wished to bind them again as apprentices.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

The proceedings of the Legislature of Antigua having become generally known among them at this time, appeared to confirm them in this opinion, and has undoubtedly very largely contributed to their disaffection.

In addition to this, the case of Earl Romney might be mentioned, giving the boon, which all expected, to a considerable number of slaves on his estates, was not without its influence.

We cannot but deeply regret the late misconduct of the slaves; but, at the same time, we feel truly grateful to the God of all mercies that we have been spared both from experiencing violence to our persons and property, and from witnessing it in that of our fellow-creatures. We rejoice, too, that by the able and indefatigable exertions of your Excellency and those under your command that peace and order seem to be restored.

Though a decided opinion as to the future conduct of the slaves may at this time be deemed premature, yet if we may judge from the cheerful countenances and manners of the many I have seen flocking to the market on Saturday, and if we may rest satisfied as to the future discretion of those holding apprenticed labourers, I think we have no reason to apprehend a recurrence of such scenes of dissatisfaction and insubordination as we have witnessed since the 1st of August.

In conclusion, I beg leave to congratulate your Excellency on your convalescence, and to assure you of my sincere wishes for your Excellency's health and happiness.

I am, &amp;c.

(signed) *David Bigler,*

Missionary of the United Brethren in Basseterre, St. Kitt's.

17 August 1834.

## Enclosure 8, in No. 207.

To His Excellency Sir *Evan J. M. MacGregor*, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

Sir,

Wesleyan Mission House, St. Christopher, 18 Aug. 1834.

I HAVE received a communication from your Excellency, through your Excellency's secretary, desiring me to state my opinion as to the causes of the late unhappy commotions among the apprenticed labourers in this Island, and as to the probable consequences of the measures which have been adopted to suppress them.

Enclosure 8,  
in No. 207.

With as much brevity as possible, I proceed to comply with your Excellency's request.

1. The principal cause of the whole was unquestionably a deeply-rooted and very general conviction that "the King" had given them unrestricted freedom, and that their masters had imposed the apprenticeship system. We combatted this sentiment; but, after all our careful and particular explanations of the matter on the estates on which we preach, and in our chapels, we could not in some cases succeed in eradicating this most delusive notion.

2. My second cause may also be considered as a cause of the first. The unrestricted emancipation of the people of Antigua most naturally assisted in generating the above-mentioned error. They readily concluded that had justice been done to them, they also would have been equally free. This I regard as a most prolific source of misapprehension; and greatly do I regret that the judicious measure of that Island was not imitated here.

3. My third reason is the total liberation of Lord Romney's people, and its publicity a long time before it was officially announced to them. This I deem highly impolitic. Had it been immediately promulged, I think less suspicion would have been excited; and your Excellency is aware, that in a small community like this, suspicious fears are extremely contagious, and greatly distort the truth.

4. One or two gentlemen announced their intention to dispense with the apprenticeship system, and pay their people. In this and the preceding cause your Excellency will perceive a want of uniformity, so productive of confusion at such a period, and on such a subject. This led the negroes to suppose that some of the proprietors were complying with "the King's law," and others violating it.

5. I attach some importance to the non-arrival of the other two magistrates destined for this Island. The negroes have clearly understood that three were coming from England for the special purpose of superintending the execution of the provisions of the Imperial Act, and one only has arrived. In this time of fear and suspicion, such an apparently trivial matter has some influence; and I think it highly probable, that had the special magistrates,



ST. CHRISTOPHER. just from England, arrived in time to have gone through the Island, and explained the law and warned the unruly, this mischief might have been prevented.

6. That a few incendiaries from among the negroes themselves have been peregrinating the land, and too successful in striving to excite disaffection among them, in persuading them obstinately to disbelieve what the ministers of religion or any others should say on the subject of the apprenticeship, and in endeavouring to effect a combination of passive resistance to the law, I can no longer doubt. This conviction arises as well from other causes as from my observations on the trials of two or three principal offenders and ring-leaders in promoting seditious feelings. These trials I attended throughout, and carefully noted the nature and value of the evidence. How far the preceding and following causes may have been effectually employed by such unprincipled men in forwarding their machinations, and how suited they were for such a nefarious purpose, will be sufficiently obvious to your Excellency's penetration.

7. That the bitter taunts and woful predictions with respect to the alteration in our social state of some persons opposed to the emancipation of the negroes have produced great disquietude in their minds, is generally admitted. Thus the new system has been arrayed in such a hideous and forbidding aspect, that many of the people have almost feared it as worse than slavery. Instead of being represented as a blessing, it has been so caricatured as really to justify or excuse a suspicion in their minds that it could never have originated with the people of England. And the indifference of too many about furnishing a kind and conciliatory, as well as a just and correct *exposé* of the new plan, before the 1st August, and on the morning of the 4th August also, was, I think, another source of evil, and a reason too why our expositions of it were in some cases doubted. But I may not enlarge upon this topic. Your Excellency will, I hope, give me credit for real regret in being obliged to assign such a cause as this; but I could not in justice omit it. I do not pretend to determine on the motives to such injudicious conduct: of the vexatious results I am, alas! too certain.

8. That so many were involved in it arose, I apprehend, from fear of the disaffected, by whom they were overawed, and from thoughtlessness in the young, who imitated examples, and acted without motive or consideration.

9. Your Excellency, I hope, will not consider me as impeaching the wisdom of His Majesty's Government when I assign as another cause for our late troubles the title and anomalous constitution of the apprenticeship system. Erroneous notions were engendered by the very name, which, in their minds, associated their future untried state with relationships around them of a similar title, conducted with such despotic government, as, coupled with the unjust insinuations of others, filled them with dismay. And it was difficult to make them understand how they could be "discharged of and from all manner of slavery, and absolutely and for ever manumitted," and yet to be compelled to work the greater part of their time for the same masters without adequate wages. Freedom and compulsory labour, without payment, and for no crime, appeared to them incongruous. The Act, too, assured them that the King "had appropriated a large sum of money for their freedom;" and I have been often asked how to reconcile this fact with the truth, that they must still work for their former owners in the above-mentioned manner; and all my attempts to show that the apprenticeship was a part payment for absolute unconditional freedom were in some cases unsatisfactory. I am fully persuaded, therefore, that had the term "slavery" been retained, with the modifications of the present system, it would have been productive of far less confusion.

10. But after all which may be said, I cannot exonerate many of the offenders from the charge of a proud and wilful disobedience to the law, clearly understood, with a secret hope that it would not be enforced; while the total absence of any violent resistance, and of any attempt to fire, or destruction of property, showed they only wanted perfect personal liberty and wages, and preposterously hoped they may be obtained by passive disobedience and clamour.

These, Sir, are the reasons which have occurred to my mind in pondering the origin of our late excitement; and while I sincerely regret it, I at the same time greatly rejoice that so many remained firm at the post of duty, and used their efforts (and in many cases successfully too) to prevent the defection of others. I regard it as a signal triumph of moral and religious principle.

I do not by any means attach equal importance to all the preceding reasons. The 1st, 2d, 3d, 6th, 7th, 9th and 10th, appear to me primary causes; the others accessory.

I proceed to consider the second part of your Excellency's inquiry, "What will be the probable consequences of the measures which have been adopted to suppress these disturbances?" I have every reason to believe they have been, and will be, in general, salutary. But this greatly depends on a just, and mild, and judicious use of that authority which our labouring population have been compelled to believe their masters do still possess. I have just made a journey round the Island, that I may be enabled to speak more accurately on this subject; and it is with unspeakable pleasure I report to your Excellency, that so far as I have ascertained, deep regret and self-condemnation, and a desire to please, are the prevailing emotions among the misguided offenders, generally unmixed with sullenness or irritation. I have everywhere heard from all classes, with scarcely an exception, the most encouraging statements of the promptitude and alacrity with which the apprenticed labourers attend to their duties. Convinced beyond a doubt that the system is the law, and the "King's law" too, they seem resolved to submit, and expressions of deep contrition at their folly abound among the guilty, and of gratulation and thanksgiving among

among the innocent at their escape from trouble. And it is worthy of notice, that there are now more people at work on the several properties than have been known for many years. I cherish the hope, that by a careful and mutual attention to the provisions of the law, our tranquillity will be permanent. ST. CHRISTOPHER.

I cannot conclude without taking leave to express to your Excellency the abundant satisfaction which I, in common with very many in this community, have felt in your Excellency's presence and government at this important juncture, and in the wisdom and promptitude and success of the measures which your Excellency has adopted to effect the restoration of our tranquillity, and my gratitude to Almighty God for the accomplishment of that object without the effusion of blood, except in one solitary instance; and most sincerely do I pray, from a conviction of its importance, founded on an attentive observation of your Excellency's measures, that these Islands may long be favoured with the benefit of your Excellency's liberal and enlightened administration.

May the Lord of heaven and earth have your Excellency in his most holy keeping.

I have, &c.  
(signed) James Cox.

Enclosure 9, in No. 207.

Sir,

Basseterre, 19 Aug. 1834.

I HAVE the honour to enclose a return of the number of trials for offences committed during the existence of martial law in this Island, from the 6th to the 18th of this present month of August, and the sentence passed in each case. Enclosure 9, in No. 207.

In answer to your Excellency's inquiry, "To what cause I attribute the late conduct of the labouring classes?" I have to state, that the evidence which has been adduced before me leads me to think that the apprenticeship system was not, in the first instance, liked by the negroes; and I very much suspect that some designing persons, taking advantage of that feeling, instilled into their minds the false idea that a determined resistance to the laws would secure to them a state of entire freedom and exemption from all work; and I think that the instigators must have been most active and watchful in their endeavours, as, notwithstanding the various threats of burning and poisoning which were, long antecedently to the 1st of August, held out by the negroes, yet when your Excellency arrived here, and timely assisted us with a strong force, their threats ceased, and passive resistance was resorted to, in opposition to the repeated warnings and proclamations of your Excellency.

It is to be hoped that the late examples, which have been so necessarily made, and the prompt assistance afforded by your Excellency, will have the desired effect; but so uncertain is the negro character, that I cannot form any opinion whether they will or will not venture on a repetition of their late resistance.

His Excellency Sir E. J. M. MacGregor, Bart.  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) J. G. Piquenet,  
Judge Advocate General.

Enclosure 10, in No. 207.

RETURN of CONVICTIONS under COURTS-MARTIAL for Offences, from 6 to 18 August 1834.

NAME.	OFFENCE.	SENTENCE.	
Bronte - - -	Sedition - - - -	Banishment for life - -	Carried into effect.
Roger Profit - -	For exciting others to rebel -	-- 150 lashes and solitary confinement for 30 days.	-- Confinement, but 50 lashes remitted.
Wm. Challenger -	Disobedience and sedition -	Banishment for life - -	Disallowed.
Henry Thomas -	Stealing from a soldier - -	24 lashes - - - -	Carried into effect.
John Dickenson -	Mutiny and sedition - -	Banishment for life - -	Carried into effect.
Richmond - - -	Refusing to work and desertion	150 lashes with a cat - -	Carried into effect.
Robin - - - -	Mutiny and sedition - -	200 lashes with a cat - -	-- Confirmed, but 100 lashes remitted.
Cork - - - -	-- Mutiny and sedition, exciting and supporting others in rebellion.	Banishment for life - -	Carried into effect.
Belinda - - -	Mutiny and sedition - - -	Banishment for life - -	Disallowed.
Abraham - - -	Exciting sedition - - -	Banishment for life - -	Disallowed.
Henry - - - -	Mutiny and sedition - - -	Banishment for life - -	Carried into effect.
William - - -	Mutiny and desertion - - -	Not guilty - - - -	Confirmed.
Jeaque - - -	-- Mutiny and sedition, and exciting same; and supporting rebels.	Banishment for life - -	-- Confirmed, and carried into effect.
Ned Hope - - -		Not guilty - - - -	
Cæsar - - - -	Mutiny and sedition - - -	-- 100 lashes, 3 months' confinement, and 100 lashes at the end of the 3 months.	-- Confirmed, but the lashes remitted.
John Peter - -	Neglecting his duty as watch -	25 lashes with a cat - -	Carried into effect.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

Enclosure 11, in No. 207.

St. Christopher.

Enclosure 11,  
in No. 207.AT a Meeting of the Privy Council, held in Basseterre, on Tuesday the 19th day of  
August 1834 ;

Present,

His Excellency Sir E. J. M. MacGregor, Bart., Governor, &amp;c. &amp;c. &amp;c.

His Excellency J. L. Nixon, Esq., Lieut.-governor, &amp;c. &amp;c. &amp;c.

His Honour President Crooke.

The Hon. and Rev. D. G. Davies, A. M.

W. W. Rawlins, Esq.

Thos. Swanston, Esq. M. D.

C. G. Payne, Esq.

R. Claxton, Esq.

J. T. Caines, Esq. M. D.

18 August 1834.

WITH reference to the proceedings of the Board of the 4th and 6th instant, recommending recourse to martial law, the Governor communicates to the Board his Proclamation for the discontinuance of martial law, and in taking leave of the Privy Council, trusts it will not again become his duty to repair to St. Christopher's on account of any internal disturbance, but should such an unlooked-for event recur as the necessity of proclaiming martial law, he will endeavour to regain his post without delay.

The Governor has not discharged the alarm existing at his arrival, considering it inadvisable that the militia should be immediately relieved from duty, and more prudent that the strength at each post should be gradually diminished according to circumstances, so as to be at last almost imperceptibly dissipated.

On the same principle, that the appearance of naval force may be kept up, his Excellency the Vice-admiral commanding having had the kindness to attach a ship of war to the seat of the Leeward Island Government, Captain Strong, at the Governor's request, will direct His Majesty's brig Despatch, Captain Daniell, to remain off Basseterre for the present.

From what had fallen under his personal observation, and adverted to accounts from Trinidad, the Governor deems it proper to record his strong impression that the influence of the public authorities should be considerably exerted in conciliating the negro population, and in endeavouring to divest the lower order of Europeans employed in their management of prejudices contracted under the previous condition of the labouring classes, as well as of the feelings of resentment recently created by the dissension that has prevailed since the abolition of slavery in the commencement of the present month.

It may also be proper to mention at this Board, what cannot so conveniently form matter of communication to the Houses of the Legislature, that application for courts-martial from various quarters have been exceedingly numerous, but that, however natural the desire of bringing their refractory dependents to trial might be on the part of the proprietors, the Executive was bound to be guided by considerations of a higher nature.

It has been urged by some persons that sentences inflicted by order of the courts-martial were in some parts of the country perhaps too harsh. It is certainly possible that this may have been the case ; but it is a difficulty against which, under similar circumstances, there are at the outset no means of protection. From a state of profound peace the militia were suddenly thrown into active service, and many persons, who in all likelihood never opened a law book, found themselves members of courts-martial. They were engaged against rebels, who are liable to be acted on by the punishments awarded by such courts, and they were ignorant of the force, designs and arrangements of their opponents, and unable to anticipate what the morrow might produce. Thus situated, although it is to be regretted if a few individuals have been chastised with undue severity, still it is to be recollected that the prompt application of flogging may have saved the very persons so flogged from being shot.

Had martial law endured for a longer term, the irregularities adverted to would have been prevented by suitable arrangements, and as it was, they were checked as soon as they were suspected.

These observations relate to the out-stations ; but in reverting to the first part of this statement, it is to be remarked that martial law must have been kept up for a month in order to meet the wishes of the candidates for prosecution ; that, in the Governor's opinion, an increase in the quantity of punishments would have tended to diminish their effect ; that of secondary sentences, enough seems to him to have been passed ; and that by pardoning numbers, he hopes to have secured the gratitude of some, while the transportation of certain notorious offenders answers the double purpose of serious example, and of ridding the country in its present state of dangerous inmates.

At all hazards, it appeared imperative on the Executive to use every effort for the expulsion of the mass of the population from the woods. Their continuance therein for any length of time must have served to place them more immediately than ever under the influence of the mischievous ringleaders by whom they have been deceived ; excesses must have followed, which would necessarily have produced collision with the troops, and consequently the probable extensive destruction of life and property. Nor were the interests of St. Christopher's alone at stake ; those of the other Colonies under the system of apprenticeship were exposed to the influence of her example. Every inducement therefore conspired to prompt the Governor in crushing the threatened evil in the bud ; nor has he shunned any  
responsibility

responsibility promising to prove conducive to that end. According to the best of his information and belief, order will be preserved in this Island, unless the discontented negroes in Trinidad should unfortunately have it in their power to oppose powerful and lengthened resistance to the new order of things, which may keep up an unsettled spirit amongst the apprenticed labourers in other places.

His Excellency the Governor asked the opinion of the Board as to the probable continuance of tranquillity. The members of the Board concurred in opinion that there was every reason to believe that the present state of tranquillity was likely to continue, Mr. President Crooke alone dissenting.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

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Enclosure 12, in No. 207.

St. Christopher's.

## A PROCLAMATION,

By his Excellency Sir *E. J. M. Macgregor*, Baronet, &c. &c. &c.

WHEREAS the labouring class of the population of this Island having betrayed an insensibility to the advantages, and an inclination to elude the duties assigned to them under the Statute of the Imperial Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery, by the substitution of an intermediate system of apprenticeship, every effort was made by the public authorities to disabuse their minds of those impressions, which had been instilled into them by wicked and designing persons: And whereas, on the 4th day of August instant, the labourers attached to the various estates, with few exceptions, having refused to perform their tasks, and having withdrawn themselves from the service of their employers, it was, by my Proclamation of that date, made known that unless they did on or before Wednesday next ensuing, conform to the laws passed for their governance, pursuant to the provisions of the aforesaid Statute of the Imperial Parliament, the law martial must be resorted to: And whereas, notwithstanding such public warning, their continued contumacious conduct did at length cause martial law to be proclaimed, in consequence whereof many of them have incurred severe but necessary punishments, and some even that of banishment for the remainder of their lives: And whereas the said offenders having been reduced to obey the laws, now proceed, as in duty bound, to labour as apprentices; I do therefore, by virtue of the authority in me vested, proclaim and announce that from and after this 18th day of August instant, martial law within this Island shall cease and be at an end: And whereas it is hereby enjoined on all transgressing apprenticed labourers, as the readiest and most effectual mode of manifesting contrition for their late misconduct, and of endeavouring to regain that confidence which they must be conscious of having deservedly forfeited, to yield in future a willing and becoming submission to their employers during the working hours prescribed by law; it is likewise earnestly recommended to the said employers and directors of estates to draw the veil of oblivion, as far as may be practicable, over the misguided proceedings of their dependents: And whereas, although recent experience must have convinced the labouring classes that His Majesty's officers will never hesitate to enforce the Royal authority upon the refractory and disobedient, however numerous, yet at the same time, our most Gracious Sovereign being always benignantly disposed to exercise clemency and mercy, I do, therefore, in the King's name, hereby further grant and proclaim a general amnesty to all persons offending in the premises, not actually under sentence; and I fully expect that the apprentices will show themselves worthy of this lenity by hereafter rendering due obedience to his Excellency the Lieut.-governor and the constituted authorities of the Colony, and that proprietors and the higher orders of society, by a strict and careful adherence to the several legislative enactments destined for the general benefit, will afford the laudable example of that exact observance of the laws which it is imperative on all His Majesty's subjects, as well as their true interests, implicitly to follow, as the sole means, under existing circumstances, of obviating a recurrence to the alternative of military rule.

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in No. 207.

Given under my hand and seal, at St. Christopher's, this 18th day of August, in the year of our Lord 1834, and in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign.

By his Excellency's command.

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Enclosure 13, in No. 207.

## General Orders.

Basseterre, St. Christopher's, 18 August 1834.

By His Excellency the Governor.

THE circumstances requiring the presence in the field of His Majesty's forces having happily ceased, the Governor with pleasure publicly recognises the excellent discipline, good conduct, energy, and proper moderation they have invariably evinced throughout the course of the late service.

To Major Brooke, commanding, the Governor's approbation and best acknowledgments are expressed, with the request that they may be likewise intimated to Captain Elton and

Enclosure 13,  
in No. 207.

ST. CHRISTOPHER. Lieutenant Reeves, in command of detachments of His Majesty's 67th and 36th regiments, as well as to the other officers and to the troops employed.

The Governor's thanks are tendered at the same time to Lieutenant Taylor, the fort adjutant, with whose able and diligent discharge of his duties his Excellency has every reason to be pleased.

By order of His Excellency the Governor,

(signed) *M. G. Taylor*, Lieut. and Fort Adjutant

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Enclosure 14, in No. 207.

Militia General Orders.

Basseterre, St. Christopher's, 18 August 1834.

Enclosure 14,  
in No. 207.

MARTIAL law being fortunately about to terminate, the Governor, in taking leave of the St. Christopher's militia, is persuaded that a more acceptable compliment cannot be paid to that force than the publication in general orders of the following report respecting them, addressed on the 16th instant to his Excellency by Brigadier-general Brooke.

(Extract.)

I have now the honour of performing a most pleasing and imperative duty towards the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates whom I had the good fortune to command in the carrying into effect the arrangements and plans submitted by your Excellency for the restoration of peace and good order in the Colony. However incompetent I am to do justice to their services and my feelings on the occasion, I will rest satisfied that my endeavours and wish to do so will be justly appreciated by all. In conveying to your Excellency the lasting impressions made upon my mind of the obligations I am under to the troops of the line, the artillery, militia and cavalry, for their co-operation, the zeal, spirit, and determination evinced by them in carrying into immediate effect my commands for the different movements, it would be invidious in me to select from the several corps any individual for your Excellency's particular notice and consideration; for to the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates of the 67th regiment, under the command of Major Elton; to the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates of the 36th regiment, under the command of Captain Reeve; to the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates of the two companies of colonial artillery, under the commands of Captains Hardsman and Richards (particularly to the former officer); to the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates of the Windward and Leeward battalions of militia, under the commands of Lieut.-colonels Harper and Rawlins; to the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates of the two troops of cavalry, under the commands of Captains Wattlez and Fahie, and to the officers of the staff, my warmest thanks and acknowledgments are due.

By a few of my personal staff my particular and marked acknowledgments are demanded for the valuable and ready assistance in their different situations, to which I beg to call your Excellency's attention. To my brigade-major, the Hon. Mr. Speaker Burt, who acted in his situation on the leeward side of the Island, I feel myself deeply indebted for the success of my operations at the commencement of my command. The talent and ability evinced by the honourable gentleman in military tactics would be creditable to any of the profession. His valuable assistance was not alone confined to his military knowledge; for without taking into consideration the loss that might accrue to himself by the adoption of the plans laid down for bringing the apprenticed labourers of his estate to a sense of their duty and usual occupations, he at once entered into them, and considering with me the necessity of destroying the negro huts of those that were absent, a plan which had previously been adopted with success on another property, he cordially co-operated in the execution of it on his own, which having the desired effect of showing the gangs of the several estates the consequence resulting to them by their absence, they at once returned to their duty in obedience to the laws; and the honourable gentleman now declares that he enjoys the advantages and benefits arising out of his prompt and decisive co-operation with me in effecting your Excellency's wishes. To Lieut.-colonel Woodcock, A. D. C. to your Excellency, who acted as brigade-major on the windward side of the Island, I am also deeply indebted for the valuable information and assistance he afforded me. By his talent and knowledge in military correspondence, I was saved much time and trouble. I cannot speak too highly of his activity and manner of carrying into effect my commands and arrangements for the different movements; and his having, in the capacity of captain of the grenadier company of the Windward battalion, subdued the spirit of insubordination in the whole of the Cayon district, greatly accelerated the completion of your Excellency's commands. To Major Rawlins of the Leeward battalion of militia, I am much indebted; and it is a gratification to my feelings, and justice to that officer, to express to your Excellency the high sense I entertain of his persevering and active exertions throughout the period of insurrection, whose knowledge of the country and the individuals of the different estates tended much to the beneficial results of the measures adopted.

To my A. D. C., Captain Burt, of the cavalry, and my secretary, Mr. James Caines, I feel much indebted, and to whom I wish to call your Excellency's particular attention for their uniform zeal, activity and assistance.

In conclusion, I take leave to notice the kind, hospitable and liberal conduct evinced by the inhabitants of the Island to myself, my staff, and the troops under my command during our

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our progress through the Island in the discharge of a duty which your Excellency was pleased to entrust to my execution. ST. CHRISTOPHER.

Acting on the above Report, as well as on what partially fell under his own immediate observation, the Governor solicits the acceptance, by the officers particularized by the Brigadier-general, especially by the Hon. G. H. Burt and Lieut.-colonel Woodcock, in the capacity of majors of brigade, as well as by the officers and troops at large, of his Excellency's acknowledgments and commendation.

The Governor derives infinite satisfaction from the opportunity of thanking the Brigadier-general himself, and of recording the high sense entertained by his Excellency of the professional ability and animated zeal displayed by that officer in carrying into effect the military arrangements essential to the restoration of the public peace.

To Judge-advocate General Piquenet, for the impartial, able and attentive discharge of the functions of his important office, to the staff officers in personal attendance on the Governor, Lieut.-colonels Wigley and Berkeley, aides-de-camp, and to the Fort-adjutant, Lieutenant Taylor, his Excellency's obligations are likewise acknowledged; and in the Governor's opinion the St. Christopher's militia in general have faithfully performed their duty.

By command of His Excellency the Governor,  
(signed) *M. G. Taylor*, Lieut. and Fort Adjutant.

## Enclosure 15, in No. 207.

His Excellency the Governor to His Honour the President and Council.

ON the 4th inst. it was formally intimated, by proclamation, that unless the apprenticed labourers forthwith conformed to the ordinances passed for their government, martial law would be employed, which, most of them disregarding every salutary warning, was therefore on the 6th instant proclaimed to be in force, until public order should be re-established. This desirable object having been subsequently attained, and the original pledge of the civil authorities and commanders of His Majesty's naval and land forces, that all opposition to the laws should be repressed, being thereby effectually redeemed, the governor is happy in now congratulating your Honourable Board on the cessation of military rule.

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in No. 207.

However much the late delusion of the working orders is to be deplored, it is consolatory to reflect that their resistance has been so generally passive, as to have led but in one instance to the loss of life; and as in many cases individually, and on certain estates collectively, the regulations of the new system have been diligently observed, the Governor, on whom the task of bringing the guilty to punishment has unavoidably devolved, trusts that this consideration may serve the more readily to justify him in venturing to recommend that the apprentices, who have proved pre-eminently loyal, should receive some legislative distinction, calculated at once to reward those persons, and to encourage others in emulating their praiseworthy fidelity.

18 August 1831.  
*Vide* Proclamation,  
Enclosure, No 12.

Your Honourable Board doubtless appreciates justly the valuable countenance and aid, most opportunely afforded to the Colony, by Captain Strong of the Royal Navy, for whose assiduous and unremitting co-operation at this critical season of the year, with the squadron under his command, the obligations of the Executive cannot be too conspicuously expressed.

The exertions of Brigadier-general Brooke have been indefatigable and judiciously applied; and it is gratifying to advert, not only to the spirited and efficient services rendered by His Majesty's officers and troops of the line, and of the Royal Marines, but likewise to the energy and zeal exhibited by the militia of all ranks and arms, suddenly and unexpectedly called upon to encounter unwonted duties, privations and fatigue.

The efforts alluded to, although of short duration, have served to show what may be done, and in particular that the mountains of the interior are accessible. But in bidding adieu, for the present, to your Honourable Board, the Governor far from contemplating a renewal of recent scenes, is anxiously disposed to entertain a more cheering prospect, and to hope that under the guidance of his Excellency the Lieut.-governor, of the Council and Assembly, and of the ministers of the Gospel, the prosperity of this Island will be preserved from further interruption; and its labourers, wisely profiting by past experience, induced so to comport themselves, as at no distant period, to become a reputable, industrious and contented peasantry.

16 August 1834.

(signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Governor.

St. Christopher's, 19 Aug. 1834.

A similar address to the House of Assembly.

## Enclosure 16, in No. 207.

EXTRACT of REPORT to his Excellency the Governor from Brigadier-general Brooke, dated 16 August 1834.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that the movements of yesterday have been attended with the most beneficial results.

Enclosure 16,  
in No. 207.

The troops having assembled at their different positions along the foot of the mountains  
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on both sides of the Island, extended to their right and left, forming a chain of files at open order, and in this manner proceeded to ascend and dislodge the runaway apprentices secreted therein; and although many difficulties were opposed to them in their ascent, they so effectually succeeded in surmounting every obstacle, that they took prisoners, and drove from the woods negroes who had never before been seen by their present proprietors, and others who had been absent from estates three, four, five, and six years.

To show to your Excellency the impossibility of the apprenticed labourers at any time holding out in opposition to the laws and regulations of the Colony, by their considering themselves secure in a retirement to the mountains, I beg leave here to mention to your Excellency one fact, which reflects much to the credit of the officer and the men engaged in the undertaking.

Having in my power a most determined and notorious runaway, I was anxious to make use of his knowledge of the fastnesses of the mountains, and the haunts of others his companions.

I therefore directed an officer, of whom I entertained a high opinion for his intelligence, zeal, and determination, to take him as a guide into the mountains, for the purpose of his pointing out where his companions were concealed.

Lieut. Griffin, of the grenadier company of the Windward battalion, with a subdivision of his company, were selected for this duty.

They proceeded into the mountains at 5 P. M., and traversing them for some hours, the guide evidently playing them false, and making several attempts to escape, Lieut. Griffin ordered his arms to be tied behind his back, which however proved to be unavailing, his succeeding at length, from the darkness of the night, in escaping from the party.

Lieut. Griffin being resolved to repossess himself of his prisoner and guide, took every measure in his power that the almost insurmountable ravines and obstacles presenting themselves to him in the mountain would admit, and followed up his pursuit with such determination and spirit, that he actually drove the culprit, who had escaped from him, to surrender himself again into his power.

This one circumstance, as I before mentioned to your Excellency, shows the impossibility of escape, or that a retirement to the mountains at any time by the misguided apprentices for the purpose of opposing the laws can be attended with any success or advantages to them when pursued by military.

Your Excellency's plans and directions for the putting down a most determined and combined spirit of insubordination and opposition to the laws of the country on the part of the apprenticed labourers of the Colony, and for restoring peace, prosperity and good feeling to an Island never before known to suffer by the want of such blessings, have been attended with such success and benefits to the Colony, heretofore unknown, and far beyond the most sanguine hopes and expectations of the oldest proprietors and inhabitants of the Colony, and who have throughout my progress been pleased to express to me those sentiments and their unbounded gratitude for the prompt and decisive measures adopted by your Excellency in retrieving not only the unsullied character of a Colony proverbial for its happiness, but for restoring to them the good will, services and affections of their apprenticed labourers, who were led away from their duty by wicked and designing persons.

Confidence has been restored to all classes by your Excellency's proceedings. The stability of good order and obedience to the laws is insured. The apprenticed labourers have seen and declared their error; and it has been shown, but too plainly to some, that at any moment the strong arm of military power, when other measures fail, can and will bring them to a proper sense of their duty.

The contrition and sorrow evinced by the different gangs of apprenticed labourers for their past misconduct upon my last visiting them, and the sincere promises made to me by them for their future good behaviour and attention to their several duties and occupations, induce me now, in their behalf, most humbly to beg your Excellency's gracious pardon for their late acts, and that those who may be in confinement at present on the several estates be permitted to return to their occupations when they express their determination to continue subservient to the law and obedient to their masters for the time to come.

Here I should beg leave to suggest to your Excellency, that on and after your gracious pardon be granted, all proprietors, managers and overseers be cautioned against using any harsh measures towards the apprenticed labourers on their estates (or those they may have charge of) who have been in any manner implicated in the late rebellion; that the proceedings of those misguided individuals be entirely forgotten; and in any case of misconduct hereafter reference be not made to those recent acts, which they have now so sincerely repented.

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Enclosure 17, in No. 207.

St. Christopher's.

To His Excellency Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

Sir,

WE, the members of His Majesty's Council, cannot allow your Excellency to leave the Island without again expressing our sincere thanks for the promptitude with which you repaired to this part of your government, under the apprehension of disturbances among the labouring

labouring classes, and for the active and judicious measures which you have so successfully adopted to suppress them since their lamented occurrence. ST. CHRISTOPHER.

(signed) *Wm. G. Crooke*, President.  
*G. D. Davis.*  
*W. Wharton Rawlins.*  
*Thomas Swanston.*  
*C. Gillis Payne.*  
*Robert Claxton.*  
*H. Caines.*

Council Chamber, 19 August 1834.

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Enclosure 18, in No. 207.

Sir,

Assembly Room, St. Christopher, 19 August 1834.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's two communications of this date, addressed to the Speaker and House of Assembly, together with their several enclosures; and I am instructed by the House to express to your Excellency the high sense they entertain of the prompt and judicious measures pursued by you, whereby the late rebellion of apprenticed labourers has been so happily quelled, and those deluded persons induced to resume their labours.

Enclosure 18,  
in No. 207.

To his Excellency  
 Sir E. J. M. MacGregor, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
 (signed) *G. H. Burt*, Speaker.

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— No. 208. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Government House, Antigua, 30 August 1834.

By His Majesty's brig "Despatch," the report, of which an extract is enclosed, reached me from the Deputy Provost Marshal of St. Christopher's, that officer, whose duties furnish him with opportunities of acquiring accurate information, having been called upon for an account of the late proceedings of the apprenticed labourers in that Island; and it will be observed that he does "not anticipate the slightest recurrence of their refusal to work."

No. 208.

Captain Daniell of the "Despatch" arrived yesterday at English Harbour, having left St. Christopher's on the 26th inst., and having visited Nevis and Montserrat on his way hither. The apprentices at each of those Islands were quite peaceable, and the Captain states that he believes "no apprehension existed on the part of the authorities of their acting otherwise."

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Enclosure in No. 208.

EXTRACT of a REPORT from *Charles Berkeley*, Esq., Deputy Provost Marshal of St. Christopher, to his Excellency Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart. Governor, &c. &c. &c., dated 19 August 1834.

A NATURAL desire of unrestricted liberty no doubt had its effect in inducing many of the negroes to remain absent from labour, even after they were convinced of the legality of the apprenticeship system. This is to be deplored; but your Excellency will allow that an astonishing degree of moral improvement was displayed by them, when your Excellency bears in mind that not one single act of violence was committed by them.

Enclosure in  
No. 208.

The example which has been made by the transportation of five to Bermuda, the severe chastisement which so many have received, the destruction of their huts and little property, and the astonishing activity of the regular troops, as well as the militia, particularly in the general movement into the mountains, have so terrified and amazed the apprenticed, and they are at the same time so thoroughly convinced that the apprentice system originated in the mother country, and is sanctioned by the Crown, that I do not anticipate the slightest recurrence of their refusal to work, and I am quite certain that every part of this Island is at this moment in the utmost peace and tranquillity.

Permit me, in conclusion, to congratulate your Excellency on the speedy and happy termination of an excitement which but for your Excellency's arrival in this Colony, and the prompt and judicious measures adopted by your Excellency, might have led to much destruction of life and property.



ST. CHRISTOPHER.

— No. 209. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Governor  
Sir *E. M. MacGregor*.

No. 209.

Sir,

Downing-street, 16th October 1834.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Despatches of the 19th and 30th August, and their several enclosures.

You will, I am sure, not misconstrue my motives, or for one moment consider that I undervalue the zeal and ability which you have evinced in the acts of your Government, when I wish to have before me some more full and detailed accounts of the events which appeared to you and to the Privy Council of St. Kitt's to render it necessary to proclaim martial law in that Island. You are aware that, with this single exception, all partial disturbances or acts of insubordination which have occurred in His Majesty's West-India Colonies have been met and suppressed by the civil power; and though I doubt not that the grounds on which you asked the opinion of the Board on the 4th August with respect to the necessity of proclaiming martial law will, when more fully stated, appear conclusive, it is of the highest importance that this question should be fully explained.

What I should be glad to learn from you therefore is, what acts of open violence, affecting or threatening loss of property, had occurred before the 4th of August, and whether all the efforts of the civil power had been made, and found to be ineffectual, before the proclamation of the 5th was issued.

I do not conceive that recourse can be safely had to extreme remedies except in extreme cases, and I should very much deprecate the existence of any belief in the minds of His Majesty's subjects in the West Indies that martial law would be resorted to in any ordinary case of insubordination or refusal to work. For these offences, serious as they must always be considered, the civil law provides appropriate remedies, which have been employed in the other Colonies, and have been employed effectually.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *T. Spring Rice*.

— No. 210. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Governor  
Sir *E. M. MacGregor*.

No. 210.

Sir,

Downing-street, 5 September 1834.

I HAVE received from Sir Lionel Smith a copy of your Despatch to him of the 12th July, respecting the insubordination manifested by the negroes at St. Christopher's, and a communication has since reached me from Captain Strong to the Secretary of the Admiralty, with accounts of your arrival in that Colony, and a copy of the Proclamation which you had issued. I take the earliest opportunity of expressing my satisfaction at the promptitude and judgment with which you have acted upon this occasion, and although I trust that before you receive this Despatch all present apprehensions from the state of the population at St. Kitt's will have ceased, yet I will not omit to say, that should it be otherwise, I shall rely greatly upon your personal superintendance of the measures taken in that Island, provided the circumstances of the other Islands in your Government shall admit of your being present there.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *T. Spring Rice*.

— No. 211. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart. to  
Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir, Government House, Antigua, 15 Sept. 1834.

I do myself the honour of forwarding transcripts of Acts for the Island of St. Christopher's, passed by the Council and Assembly of that Island : viz.

Printed in the  
Appendix (B.)  
Nos. 24 to 34.

1. "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery in this Island, and for the establishment of a System of Apprenticeship for a limited time in lieu thereof."

1st Clause.

"All slaves duly registered, and on the Island, above six years of age, shall, on the 1st August 1834, become apprenticed labourers; slaves on the seas, or absent from the Island against the will of their owners, shall be deemed to be within the Island for the purposes of this law."

2d Clause.

"The person entitled to the slave will have a right to the services of the apprentice."

3d Clause.

"Prædial apprentices shall continue such until 1st August 1840, and during that period such labourer shall work 48 hours in the week only."

4th Clause.

"Non-prædial apprentice shall continue such until the 1st August 1838."

5th Clause.

"Subject to the before-mentioned obligations, all persons in the Colony shall, on the 1st August 1834, become absolutely free."

2. "An Act for prescribing the Powers and Duties of Special Magistrates."

"Special magistrate has exclusive jurisdiction in questions relating to employer and labourer, not interfering with jurisdiction of superior courts."

"He is to visit once a fortnight, or oftener, every plantation in his district on which there are 10 apprentices."

"He is to keep a journal of all cases brought before him. He shall furnish the person first in command, every three months, with a copy thereof. He is not to receive salary until this be done. He shall take all complaints. Process to be issued by special magistrate, to be exercised by police officers, and may be executed in any part of the Island, though beyond his district."

"The special magistrate shall, after the 1st of July, have jurisdiction to hear and decide on any complaint. Special magistrate may have a retrospective authority over offences committed before 1st August." "This Act may be altered in this present session."

3. "An Act to divide Apprenticed Labourers into several Classes."

"After the 1st day of July 1834, slaves shall be divided into three classes, prædial apprentices attached to the soil, prædial apprentices not attached, and non-prædial apprenticed labourers. No persons 12 years old or upwards to be included, unless for 12 months before the 28th of August 1833 habitually employed in agriculture or in the manufacture of colonial produce. Return of slaves to be made on the 1st July next, or within 10 days after. Form of a return in schedule (A.) Returns may be amended up to the 5th August. If registrar doubt the accuracy of any return, owner to attend him and substantiate return. Registrar shall examine on oath the owner and the slave, and any other witnesses; and shall confirm and correct any return, within 24 hours' notice to the owner or slave of his decision. Master or slave dissatisfied with such decision may, by petition, appeal to the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas, which are required to make all necessary rules for the dispatch of such business. There shall be affixed to the entry of all slaves in the registry, P. A., P. U., or N. P. Corrected slave registry, deposited in the secretary's office, to be conclusive in any dispute. Any person taking a false oath shall be liable to the pains and penalties of perjury. Persons neglecting to make returns or to obey summons of registrar, forfeit not less than 20 s. nor more than 10 l.

4. "An Act to provide for Apprenticed Labourers during the time of their Apprenticeship."

"Certain clauses of the General Amelioration Law to be in force, for the benefit of all apprentices, on the 1st of August next. Employer, with sanction of special magistrate, may commute with any labourer for allowances and clothing. Employer shall not be required to furnish labourer with his weekly allowance who receives food as sick. Certificate of any medical practitioner, under his hand, of any matter relating thereto, good evidence before magistrate. Mode of recovering penalties."

5. "An Act for prescribing the Duties and regulating the Conduct of Apprenticed Labourers within this Island."

"Prædial apprentices to labour 45 hours in each week, and no longer. Not to be employed on Sunday, except in watching and in tending stock, or in other works of necessity. Non-prædial apprentices to labour for their employers as free hired servants do: dis-

ST. CHRISTOPHER. — put on this subject referred to special magistrate; and non-prædials not to work on Sundays, save in the protection of property, or in other works of necessity and in domestic services."

"All apprentices to conform to rules lawfully laid down for their governance by the person entitled to their services. Labourers offending against above clauses, punished as special magistrate may direct, according to rules in this Act prescribed. Four last clauses extended to any apprentices, who, although not bound to work, may reside on the estate of any person. To serve two extra hours or double the time of absence; such extra labour not to exceed 15 hours in one week; but if such extra labour shall extend beyond seven years, after apprenticeship shall have expired."—"Adjudged a deserter, and confined to hard labour for one week; and if a male, stripes, not exceeding 15, with a cat."—"Adjudged a vagabond, and confined to hard labour for two weeks; and if a male, stripes, not exceeding 15, with a cat."—"Adjudged a runaway, and confined to hard labour one month; and if a male, stripes, not exceeding 30, with a cat. In addition, offender shall make satisfaction for time of absence, and for time employed in hard labour, unless it be performed for benefit of employer."

"Labour in service of employer 15 hours in one week. Confinement, with hard labour, not exceeding one week: confinement, with hard labour, not exceeding one fortnight; and if a male, stripes, not exceeding 20, with a cat. Extra labour, not exceeding 15 hours in any one week, or confinement, with hard labour, for one month; or if a male, stripes, not exceeding 30, with a cat. Special magistrate may adjudge offender to receive any two or more of the last-mentioned punishments, in his discretion. On medical information that such person is able to work, solitary confinement for any period not exceeding 24 hours of the apprentice's own time; and if a male, in addition, stripes, not exceeding 30, with a cat. Confinement, with hard labour, not exceeding six months; and if a male, stripes, not exceeding 30, with a cat. Females not to be whipped, but punished in the stocks, with a badge of infamy; not to be kept in the stocks after sunset or before sunrise, nor more than eight hours in one day, or six days for one offence, or two days consecutively for any offence, or under any circumstances. All such stocks of one model, approved of by the officer administering the government. Any person attempting to seduce apprentice from performance of lawful services, or attempting to persuade him to neglect any work undertaken, or sheltering him having so absconded, shall, on conviction, pay a fine not exceeding 20 *l.*; and in default of payment, be committed to gaol for any period not exceeding three months. Offender being an apprenticed labourer, to undergo punishment imposed by this Act; nothing therein contained to abridge right of apprentice to engage in the service of any person during the time allotted to his own use by law. Apprentices cannot be arrested for debt, are ineligible as jurors or militia-men, or members of Assembly, churchwardens, coroners or vestrymen, or voters at election for any of the offices aforesaid, or justices. Act may be altered this session."

6. "An Act to prescribe the Duties to be performed by Employers towards their Apprenticed Labourers, and to enforce the performance of the same."

"Any employer unlawfully protracting the weekly services of prædial apprentices, forfeits 1 *s.* for every such hour. A sufficient signal to regulate the hours. No apprentice to undertake task-work, except with free assent. Every contract for task-work to be in writing; such contracts not binding for more than 30 days, unless justice approves thereof. Special justice to secure payment of the compensation stipulated for. Apprentice violating the terms of such contract liable to the same penalties as prescribed for violation of duties owing to employer. Married women and children above 12 years may contract. Any violence upon person of apprentice punished by fine of 5 *l.*, with imprisonment 14 days in default of payment. One notice to be given of every complaint intended to be made."

7. "An Act to regulate the removal of Prædial Apprenticed Labourers from one Plantation to another, to establish certain Rules to govern the Sale of the Services of all Classes of Apprenticed Labourers, and the disposition thereof by Will, as well as to regulate the Descent of the same in cases of Intestacy."

"The objects of this Act are fully disclosed in the title, and appear to require no explanation."

"No apprenticed labourer shall be liable to removal. Prædial apprentices only to be employed in the business of the estate to which they are attached, or on which they shall have usually been employed previously to 1st August 1834. Interest of any employer in the services of an apprentice shall be a chattel interest of personal estate, and be transferable by bargain, sale, gift, contract, conveyance and will, and be distributed in cases of intestacy."—"Provided that husband and wife, parent and child, not to be separated, nor prædial apprentice be removed from the soil to which he or she is attached; consent of one or more special justices of the peace to be first had."

8. "An Act for dividing this Island into Districts, and for establishing a sufficient Police within the same."

"The Island is divided into three districts, each assigned to special magistrate, who shall reside within the same. Justice-room to be provided in each district, also a police establishment and place of confinement; that waste lands of the Crown be thereunto appropriated, and a committee directed to receive tenders for the purchase or rent of other lands and buildings. The special magistrate shall in certain cases commit offenders to any place of confinement. Special stipendiary magistrates shall sit in rotation every day in each week, when not engaged in visiting the estates, from 11 to 2 o'clock. A penal gang shall be established in each district. One sergeant and not more than nine policemen to be employed

employed at each police establishment; and on each estate policemen from among the apprentices to be nominated by the employer, in the proportion of two for every 100. Auxiliary constables for neglect of duty shall suffer punishments herein specified for breach of the duties prescribed for apprentices. After the passing of this Act, and before the 1st August, auxiliary constables shall be sworn by the person first in command. The special magistrate shall suspend from office any policeman, subject to the decision of the officer administering the government. Penal gang may be ordered by the special magistrate to work on the provision grounds of the district. Special justice shall once in each quarter make to the officer administering the government within this Colony a report of condition of the police force, buildings, provision grounds, &c."

9. "An Act to punish Apprenticed Labourers for Offences against the Public Welfare."

"Three or more apprentices uniting together in any riot, any justice shall order them to disperse; if they refuse, a conspicuous signal to be exhibited as a warning to all persons to disperse. After 10 minutes from the exhibition of such signal, all persons continuing present shall, on conviction, be liable to imprisonment, with hard labour, for 12 months. No apprentice shall reside beyond his district, unless with authority of master; when that is refused, special magistrate may, in his discretion, give such authority, &c. &c. &c."

10. "An Act to regulate Dissolution of Apprenticeship by the voluntary Act of the Employer, and to compel such Dissolution in cases where the Labourer is able and willing to purchase his or her Discharge from Apprenticeship."

"Apprentices may be discharged by deed from apprenticeship. Any person so discharged being 50 or upwards, or incapable to earn his subsistence, to be supported and maintained by persons discharging him; such deed to be recorded in the registrar's office within one month, otherwise void. Proceedings necessary before special magistrate, when employer is unwilling or unable to execute a discharge of the apprentice, or to be settled by valuation."

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Governor.

— No. 212. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor *Nixon* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, dated St. Christopher's, Government House, 6 Oct. 1834.

CONCEIVING you would be anxious to learn the state of this Colony since the great change which has taken place in the condition of the negro population, I take the liberty of reporting to you, that the negroes are generally now very tranquil, and work well under the new system of apprenticeship, although there are several estates where the apprentices manifest a sulky disposition, and do little work; but I am in great hopes that this disposition will be changed when a better understanding takes place between the labourers and their conductors, which no doubt will be the case when their relative duties are better defined.

No. 212.

At present there exists a jealousy between some of the managers or overseers on estates and the workpeople, the former not recollecting that slavery no longer exists, and the latter forgetting themselves, and behaving in a very insolent and provoking manner towards their superiors, but I have very little doubt that in a short time, if the stipendiary magistrates arrive from England and pursue a straightforward course, everything will work well. The negro character is that of being very suspicious, and I am convinced that not one in 50 could be persuaded that the special magistrates appointed from amongst the resident proprietors or planters in the Island would do them justice, and perhaps in some instances they may be correct, as special magistrates appointed from amongst the planters may not take an impartial view of what they might conceive would militate against their interest.

It is a matter much to be regretted that the Legislature of this Colony has not defined the hour for work. Numerous estates prefer working their people nine hours per day for five days, giving the Saturday to the negroes; other estates insist upon the labourers working every day for 7½ hours, by which means the apprentices are deprived of the Saturday to go to market with their produce for sale, or to work for the maintenance of their children under six years of age: this system is very vexatious, and particularly inconvenient to the apprentices.

I see little or no likelihood of inducing the Assembly, who are chiefly composed of agriculturists, to correct this evil, as it takes from the planter or his

ST. CHRISTOPHER. agent the power of punishing their labourers for offences, real or imaginary, at his own discretion, by depriving him of his Saturday; a power I should think much better vested in the hands of the special magistrate.

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— No. 213. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-governor *Nixon* to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., dated Government House, St. Christopher, 1 Nov. 1834.

No. 213. I AM happy to report to you that I hear of very few complaints being made against the apprenticed negroes. They are going on very quietly, and, with very few exceptions, the gangs work as well as could be expected. The Island is healthy, and there is a great prospect of very good crops the next year.

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— No. 214. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-governor *Nixon* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, dated St. Christopher's, Government House, 18 Nov. 1834.

No. 214. It gives me sincere pleasure in stating that the apprenticeship system goes on far better than I believe any one anticipated. The negroes are in general very quiet, and, with very few exceptions, work well; numerous planters say that they get as much work done under the new system as ever they did during the existence of slavery, and some gentlemen (a good many) go so far as to say they get more. As yet it is but a short time since the emancipation took place, and the apprentices do not yet know the advantages they may derive from industry, which no doubt will soon present themselves to them.

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— No. 215. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

No. 215. Sir, Government House, Antigua, 22 Nov. 1834. THE enclosed reply to your circular letter of the 30th September is forwarded at the request of his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor of St. Christopher's.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Governor.

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Enclosure in No. 215.

St. Christopher.

Enclosure in No. 215. Sir, Government House, 18 November 1834. I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your circular Despatch of the 30th September 1834, calling for my opinion in relation to the effects which free labour and the apprenticeship of the negroes is likely to produce, and to other matters therein mentioned. As these points require due consideration, it will take some time to acquire the information called for, but I will immediately turn my thoughts to this important task, and reply fully to your questions. In the meantime it gives me sincere pleasure in stating that the apprenticeship system goes on far better than I believe any one anticipated. The negroes are in general very quiet, and, with very few exceptions, work well. Numerous planters say that they get as much work done under the new system as ever they did during the existence of slavery, and some gentlemen (a good many) go so far as to say that they get more. As yet it is but a short time since the emancipation took place, and the apprentices do not yet know the advantages they may derive from industry, which no doubt will soon present themselves to them.

The Right Hon. T. Spring Rice, (signed) I have, &c.  
&c. &c. &c. *J. Lyons Nixon*, Lieut.-governor.

— No. 216. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*  
to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 1 January 1835.

As you desire to obtain a more ample insight into the causes that led to the late Proclamation of martial law in St. Christopher's, it may not be irrelevant to recapitulate some of the particulars already conveyed to you, when your Despatch of the 16th of October, demanding additional information, reached me on the 26th November.

No. 216.

The circumstances that occasioned recourse to martial law were most copiously explained in statements, to which your recollection is now respectfully recalled, from the following gentlemen.

In a report, under date the 3d of August, Mr. Solicitor-general Claxton observed, "There is little doubt that emissaries have been sent from the leading gangs to the others, for the purpose of confirming them in their determination to strike work after the 1st of August, and that the well-disposed and irresolute have been threatened with violence to their persons and destruction to their property if they pursued a different course."

Another barrister, Mr. Piquenet, Judge-advocate of Militia, on the 19th of August, after noticing "the various threats of burning and poisoning which were, long antecedently to the 1st of August, held out by the negroes," said, "it is to be hoped that the late examples, which have been so necessarily made, and the prompt assistance afforded by your Excellency, will have the desired effect."

Mr. Berkeley, Deputy Provost-marshal, in a letter of the 19th of August, stated, "Permit me, in conclusion, to congratulate your Excellency on the speedy and happy termination of an excitement which, but for your Excellency's arrival in this Colony, and the prompt and judicious measures adopted by your Excellency, might have led to much destruction of life and property."

On the 13th of August, the Reverend D. G. Davis treated of "the causes of the late unfortunate disturbances," and expressed the hope, that "as misconception has now been corrected, and delusion dissipated by the presence and active exertions of your Excellency, and the co-operation of His Majesty's land and naval forces, and by other means, a discreet and temperate conduct on the part of those having the management of estates will soon restore quiet among the labourers, and harmony between them and their employers."

In recording, on the 17th of August, his opinion as to "the probable causes of the late rebellion, or insurrectionary movements of the slave population," the Reverend David Bigler, of the Moravian persuasion, remarked, "We rejoice too that, by the able and indefatigable exertions of your Excellency and those under your command, peace and order seem to be restored."

The representations from these reverend clergymen are corroborated in another, of the 18th of August, by the Reverend Mr. Cox, Wesleyan missionary, on the "causes of the late unhappy commotions amongst the apprenticed labourers," after detailing which at great length, he continued, "I cannot conclude without taking leave to express to your Excellency the abundant satisfaction which I, in common with very many in this community, have felt in your Excellency's presence and government at this important juncture, and in the wisdom, promptitude and success of the measures which your Excellency has adopted to effect the restoration of our tranquillity, and my gratitude to Almighty God, and to your Excellency too, for the accomplishment of that object without the effusion of blood, except in one solitary instance; and most sincerely do I pray, from a firm conviction of its importance, founded on an attentive examination of your Excellency's measures, that these Islands may long be favoured with the benefit of your Excellency's liberal and enlightened administration."

These papers embrace the period connected with the disturbances, both anterior to and pending my residence in St. Christopher's. You were also apprised of the intercourse between the Legislatures of that Colony, of the Virgin Islands, Montserrat and Nevis, and myself, and of the thanks they signified respectively for my "timely" visits to them, after quitting Antigua, on

ST. CHRISTOPHER. the 20th of July ; of my Proclamation of that date, in St. Christopher's, warning "all persons amenable to the law of apprenticeship to be submissive and obedient to the same, as they will answer to the contrary at their peril;" of the declaration of that Legislature; of my resolution "to repress by the strong arm of power, if requisite, all opposition to the laws;" of my Proclamation directing the 1st of August to be held as a day of public thanksgiving; of the proceedings of the Privy Council of the 4th of August, pronouncing that "if the present measures failed, it would be advisable to proclaim martial law;" of my Proclamations of the 5th of August, one offering rewards for the discovery of persons "employed in misleading the labouring classes of this Island, and inducing them to offer a combined resistance to the operation of the provisions of the Act passed for the Abolition of Slavery, &c.," and the other advising the working classes, unless they conform to the laws, &c. "as it is their duty to do," that "martial law will be proclaimed, and that it will continue in force until they shall be reduced to obedience;" of my Proclamation of the 6th of August, declaring martial law actually in force; of a circular, of the 9th of August, from the Fort-adjutant, conveying my authority for sending confidential persons "to the runaways still out, informing them that, should they be at work on Monday morning, no notice will be taken of their conduct during the present week;" of my Proclamation of the 18th of August, discontinuing martial law; of the general orders issued to His Majesty's troops and to the militia; and of the messages between the Legislature and myself; the Council expressing "sincere thanks for the promptitude with which you have repaired to this part of your Government, under the apprehension of disturbances amongst the labouring classes, and for the active and judicious measures which you have so successfully adopted to suppress them since their lamented occurrence," and the Assembly "the high sense they entertain of the prompt and judicious measures pursued by you, whereby the late rebellion of apprenticed labourers has been so happily quelled, and those deluded persons induced to resume their labours."

With the united testimony under your review of His Majesty's Privy Council, of the Legislative Council, of the House of Assembly, of the Crown and Colonial law officers, and of the ministers of peace, who all agree either in counselling, or in commending my measures as judicious, it certainly did not occur to me to anticipate that you might be led to regard those very measures as having served in reality improperly to substitute, in St. Christopher's, military in the room of civil law; but as it may be desirable to revert to them hereafter, I beg leave in this place to remind you of the pressing instances made to me by the Lieut.-governor, the Council and Assembly, for "an increase of military force." The Board and House being unable to "enumerate the many instances of insubordination, riot and insults which have been lately evinced by the slaves in this Island," and the Lieut.-governor soliciting me to "move the Commander of the Forces to send at least three more companies for the protection of the lives and properties of the inhabitants, which are in such immediate danger," and likewise of my consequent application to his Excellency Sir Lionel Smith.

Having premised thus much, and in compliance with your wish to have before you "a more full and detailed account of the events which appeared to me and the Privy Council of St. Kitt's to render it necessary that martial law should be proclaimed in that Island," I have written (pursuant to the design notified in my Despatch of the 29th November) to the authorities there, copies of whose communications will be found in the enclosure marked (A), whence it may be convenient to insert certain extracts.

No. 1,  
5 December 1834.

As a military and civil lawyer, the Judge Advocate-general, Mr. Piquenet, declares, in reference to the disturbances, that "the efforts of the civil power to overcome the resistance of the labouring population were ineffectual;" that "the evil increased daily, property was sacrificed, and eventually, after great forbearance, your Excellency proclaimed martial law according to the laws of this Island;" but for these measures adopted by your Excellency, "I think the Colony would have been ruined, and for the mild but determined conduct of your Excellency during that period, you are entitled to the gratitude of every class of persons within this Colony."

No. 2,  
December 1834.

Upon the same subject Mr. Burt, Speaker of the present as well as of the late Assembly, avows his regret "that doubts should be entertained of

of the expediency of a measure, to the timely adoption of which, in the general opinion of all who are witnesses to the then insubordinate spirit and turbulence of the negro population, is the present quiet state of this Colony solely attributed;" "that their intentions were to have destroyed the works on the estates, and that the passive resistance that took place was in consequence of the measure taken by your Excellency, particularly the appearance of the large naval force, a measure, in my opinion, rendered unavoidable, on account of the total inadequacy of the civil power;" and that "the adoption of that measure, from a full conviction of its having saved this Colony from anarchy and confusion, met the ready concurrence and warm approbation of the House of Assembly, while the firm, yet mild and lenient exercise of its powers by your Excellency, at a time of such general excitement and alarm, entitle you to the thanks of the landed proprietor, and the benedictions of the apprenticed labourer."

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

The newly elected House of Assembly, in an address recently presented, assert, after expressing "the grateful feelings we entertain for the judicious and prompt conduct by which your Excellency restored order to this community in August last, by suppressing a dangerous revolt," that "the ordinary process of the law was unequal to the prevention, or the adequate punishment of offences, till then happily unknown in our peaceful community, and therefore unprovided for by the recent necessary enactments." "The proclamation of martial law placed in your Excellency's possession a powerful but a necessary authority, and the moderation with which it was exercised, while it afforded the means of protection of property, equally precluded the commission of crime, and the necessity of its punishment." "You have therefore, Sir, the consoling reflection, that while your measures were characterized by prudence and firmness, they were also tempered by mercy."

Nos. 3 & 4,  
18 December 1834.

The Board of Council, "in compliance with the requisition of his Excellency the Governor in Chief, submit the reasons which induced them as members of His Majesty's Privy Council to advise the proclamation of martial law on the 6th of August last." They state, "that emissaries from the leading and more powerful gangs were constantly on the alert to intimidate the irresolute and to confirm the wavering, and that destruction to their property, and loss of life to themselves, were threatened as the result of obedience to the new law;" and in alluding to the disturbances in the other Colonies, they observe, "in this Colony the conduct of the apprentices was widely different;" that "evidence was obtained that in the Nicolay Town Quarter it was intended to resort to the use of fire, if continued efforts were made to compel labour;" adding, "this Board, at the important crisis under consideration, felt that they could confidently entrust to the distinguished officer who held the supreme command of the civil and military force of the Island the power with which military law would invest him, and that in the discharge of his important and responsible duties, mercy would abundantly temper justice." "The judicious and determined measures adopted by his Excellency, the perfect restoration to peace and good order, which were their early results, the consequent immediate suspension of military punishments, the circumstance of only one life having been forfeited to the insulted peace of the community, fully vindicate the measure advised by this Board, even if it was not completely warranted by the 53d clause of our Militia Law, which authorizes the proclamation of martial law by the person first in command in this Island, in case of actual or visibly approaching danger."

Nos. 5 & 6,  
21 & 20 Dec. 1834.

The Honourable Robert Claxton, member of Council and Solicitor-general in St. Christopher's, remarks, "I was fully impressed with the opinion expressed by the Colonial Secretary of State that martial law, as an extreme remedy, could not be safely resorted to except in extreme cases; but at the time referred to, the civil power was proved to be unequal to the restoration of obedience on the part of the apprenticed labourers of the Island to the laws of the Imperial Parliament." "The colonial law of this Island authorizes the proclamation of martial law by the person first in command, in case of actual or visibly approaching danger; if ever an occasion can be considered to come within the meaning of that clause, it was the crisis under consideration." "I felt myself therefore imperatively called upon, in a case of such extreme danger to the interests of this Island, and with a full consideration of the real welfare of the unfortunate and deluded delinquents, to advise the measure, which was so successful, and at the same time so merciful in its results."

No. 7,  
20 December 1834.



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The public functionaries in St. Christopher's thus defending, on account of the inadequacy of the civil power to cope with the disaffected, and on the ground of the legal institutions of that Island, the soundness of the advice given to me by the Privy Council for the proclamation of martial law, my motives for acting on that recommendation came next to be assigned.

It is set forth in the Report of the Privy Council that "despatches were hourly received by his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, from the magistrates, declaring the inefficiency to enforce obedience to the law; from the planters generally, stating the perishing condition of their stock, and earnestly praying for some decided measures to remedy the existing evils." If besides the excuse derivable from the reliance reposed by me on the weight which I imagined would attach to the concurrent evidence of the best judges on the spot, further apology is wanting for my having formerly withheld those documents, it will be abundantly supplied on reference to those financial arrangements of His Majesty's Government, whereby, owing to the absence of suitable staff and other official assistance, a Governor in my predicament, with six separate Colonial Legislatures to deal with, is most effectually deterred from voluntarily encountering any correspondence apparently superfluous.

Thirty-one of those communications adverted to will, however, appear copied in Enclosure (B.), 30 of which were conveyed to me between the 2d of August, the day of my return to St. Christopher's after repairing to the other Islands, and the 6th of that month, their substance being as follows:

Nos. 1 & 2,  
2 August 1834.

It is to be collected from the Lieut.-governor's letter and its enclosure, that the apprentices on twelve estates had refused to work, and that there was a "combination among them."

Nos. 3 & 4,  
4 August 1834.

The Lieut.-governor presumes orders will be given "to Mr. Fahie respecting his calling on the militia, or regular military force;" and Mr. Special Magistrate Fahie, although he has "heard of no violence or outrage," mentions that "the whole district is in a state of resistance to the authority of the masters and managers," and that the negroes upon seven estates, which he specifies, "refused to turn out to their work."

Nos. 5 & 6,  
4 August 1834.

The Lieut.-governor forwards a letter from Mr. Semper, entreating his Excellency "to take such measures as may best seem meet."

Nos. 7 & 8,  
4 August 1834.

The Lieut.-governor encloses a report, showing that the greater part of the apprentices on six estates "have left off work."

Nos. 9, 10 & 11,  
4 August 1834.

The Lieut.-governor transmits reports from Mr. Parsons and Mr. Caines to the same effect, respecting four estates, saying the strike in the neighbourhood is "universal," or "very general;" Dr. Caines remarking, "if some prompt measures are not taken, we shall materially suffer, by the starvation of our horses, cattle, &c."

No. 12,  
4 August 1834.

Mr. Hazell, of Conoly's estate, mentions, "there being no provender provided for the stock, I have been under the necessity of directing the overseer to appropriate a piece of cane sprouts for that purpose. On my leaving, the whole gang, I am informed, quitted the estate."

No. 13,  
4 August 1834.

The negroes on two estates, amounting to "360," Mr. Whitford reports, had "refused to obey his orders," &c.

No. 14,  
4 August 1834.

On Stapleton's, Mr. Davy states, the negroes declared, "they would submit to any punishment rather than perform their accustomed work without wages," one saying "they would prefer being shot."

No. 15,  
4 August 1834.

On Mardenborough's estate, Mr. Mardenborough says, the apprenticed labourers bid "defiance to the Act of the Imperial Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery; and that the cattle and other stock must inevitably perish unless immediate and proper measures be adopted to compel them to labour."

No. 16,  
4 August 1834.

Mr. Demming states, that the apprenticed labourers on Lucas's estate will "not work without wages."

No. 17,  
4 August 1834.

The apprenticed labourers on the Godwin estate, "in number about 220," Mr. Edwin observes, "had not turned out to work," adding, that "the cattle and other stock, after having been neglected for three days, must suffer greatly."

No. 18,  
5 August 1834.

Mr. Wilson affirms, that, amongst others, on the Grange, Woodley's and Beauriyeau's estates, "there are nearly 800 people, and all in a riotous way," and that those of the latter "are nearly all gone to the mountains."

No. 19,  
5 August 1834.

After "the most turbulent and rebellious resistance," Mr. Fahie reports that he succeeded "in securing some of those pointed out as ringleaders," on

Gillis

Gillis Payne's estate, and that "the rest of the negroes brought into the yard their hoes, and left them there." ST. CHRISTOPHER.

The same gentleman states, that the apprentices of Blake's estate "refuse to work," and "the district," he understands, "remains in the same disturbed state it was in yesterday."

No. 20,  
5 August 1834

Mr. Williamson says, that with "auxiliary constables, policemen and ordinary constables," he ordered "three individuals on Huskinson's estate to receive 50 lashes each;" and it appears from the enclosure he adverts to, that the gang "all cut off their hoes, and brought them to the door of the dwelling" of the director of the estate.

Nos. 21 & 22,  
5 August 1834.

Messrs. Wilson and Crawford, special magistrates, suggest "the necessity of establishing a system under which a severe example might be made on the spot of those negroes that have been taken into custody; as we are thoroughly convinced that nothing short of such a measure will save the Colony from ruin."

No. 23,  
5 August 1834.

Messrs. Dawson and Bond represent that the apprentices have ceased to work on the "Wells" and "Golden Rock" estates.

Nos. 24 & 25,  
5 August 1834.

Mr. Stevens, of the militia, and a manager, remarks, "My brother officers as well as myself consider that the most prompt measures are necessary to put down this state of insubordination and secure the safety of the district. Unless this is immediately done, I cannot answer for the consequences." And, alluding to the flight of Beauriyeau's gang to the mountains on a signal, "on seeing the auxiliary constables advance," he adds, "this agrees with the information I gave your Excellency at my last interview, of their intention to set fire to the buildings and canes, and fly to the mountains; the former of which, in my opinion, has been prevented only by the heavy rains which fell during the last three days."

No. 26,  
5 August 1834.

After enumerating several gangs retired to the mountains, Mr. Stephens says, "Woodley's estate negroes have not yet been at work, and declare they will resist any police force that may be sent to take them;" and "Mr. Wilson, of Greenhill, informed me this morning, that in searching the lock-up room on that estate, in which refractory negroes are confined, he found there pieces of touchwood bound up and wrapped in tar."

No. 27,  
6 August 1834.

Mr. Wilson, justice of the peace, mentions that the negroes on several estates have "gone to the mountains."

No. 28,  
6 August 1834.

Dr. Cains, Member of Council, and seven other gentlemen, assert, that "all steps taken by the civil authorities to induce or force the apprentices to work have entirely failed; and unless some prompt and effectual measures are resorted to, the entire destruction of our properties must shortly ensue."

No. 29,  
6 August 1834.

On the Fountain estate, and in St. Peter's parish, Mr. Favy complains that the negroes "had not turned out."

No. 30,  
6 August 1834.

Mr. Philips communicates, for the Lieutenant-governor's information, that "some secret understanding exists between those negroes who have absented themselves and those who remain on their estates;" and that "some plot has been planning for the subversion of His Majesty's laws in this Colony long before the 1st of August;" and further, "I have two men here in whom I can place confidence, but what are two, or more people, against an infuriated mob? I should therefore deem it expedient to appoint a certain number of regular troops, not only to protect the signal posts, but also those negroes who are loyally disposed, and to awe those into obedience who might be otherwise. Of the latter, I fear, there are too many among those who wear a different appearance."

No. 31,  
7 August 1834.

The materials to be gathered from the above appeals and other representations, with those previously sent home, present an answer in the affirmative to your inquiry, "Whether every effort of the civil power had been made, and had proved ineffectual, before the proclamation of the 6th (not of the 5th) of August was issued;" and as you require to know "what act of open violence affecting or threatening life or property had occurred" before that day, I must upon this head also turn to the same sources of intelligence, quoting, besides, another passage of Lieutenant-governor Nixon's Despatch of the 10th of July, detailing his having been grossly insulted in a progress through several estates, undertaken with the view of expostulating with the negroes; and relating that they declared "their resolution to resist, and not to work after the 1st of August without wages;" and that "they hooted, and, in some instances,

ST. CHRISTOPHER. instances, threw banana husks" at his Excellency; that "at one place it was contemplated to cut his horses' throats and break his carriage;" that "the overlooker of an estate was most roughly handled" in his Excellency's "presence, and probably would have been murdered, had not two of the most active of the rioters been seized and sent to gaol;" and that "as yet we have no police."

The very abstraction by the apprentices of those hours of their labour devoted by the Imperial Parliament to the service of their employers, openly injured the property of the latter, exposed their lands to waste, and their live stock to starvation; and when the negroes, while in the plain, endeavoured to commit murder in sight of the officer administering the Government, it was impossible to foretell into what outrages they might not have been urged by the emissaries said to be busied in luring them from their homes, had they been left at liberty to mature their machinations under cover of the hills and woods, where they secreted themselves in concert, or illegally deserting their usual places of abode.

You are pleased to "deprecate the existence of a belief, on the part of His Majesty's West Indian subjects, that martial law could be resorted to" on common occasions; but His Majesty's West Indian subjects are not liable to be misled by me on a matter of so much consequence, concerning which their conclusions are naturally regulated by the usages and legal enactments of their several Colonies, as confirmed in each under the sanction of the King.

In Antigua, for instance, it has from time immemorial been customary to proclaim martial law during the Christmas holidays; and in evidence of this fact, a newspaper is enclosed (C.), in which the discontinuance of the practice in the present year is thus promulgated:

"Thanks to the Governor, we have at last seen a Christmas pass without the nuisance of a civic guard. His Excellency himself expressed his conviction of the absence of all necessity for the proclamation of martial law. All who would have been harnessed for the duty are much obliged for his consideration; and the event has proved the soundness of his judgment."

Although martial law is a branch of the Royal Prerogative scarcely to be exercised within the United Kingdom, except in the event of invasion or actual rebellion, the position of Great Britain and that of her Colonies in this respect bear no sort of analogy to each other; the parent state having a large standing army and other powerful resources at its immediate command, and the numerical disproportion of its higher and lower orders being totally dissimilar to that prevailing between the like classes in the West Indies, where the number of persons possessing property is as nothing to that of the labouring population.

In the laws of St. Christopher's, No. 509, it is provided:

"46. And be it further enacted, that the Captain-general, or person first in command in this Island, in case of actual or approaching danger, shall order alarms to be fixed."

"48. That no alarm shall continue in force longer than seven days without the consent of the Council and Assembly of this Island; provided always, that it shall and may be lawful for the Captain-general or Commander-in-Chief of this Island for the time being, on receiving information or intelligence of any intended attack or descent upon this Island, or of probable or existing internal commotion or insurrection, to order and continue the alarm at his own discretion."

"53. That the Captain-general or person first in command in this Island may, in case of actual or visibly approaching danger, proclaim martial law in force, during the continuance of which, all persons in this Island shall be subject to the same."

It is, therefore, established, that as Governor of St. Christopher's, it was imperative on me, under the constitution of that Island, not to slumber in inactivity while danger ripened; but, if practicable, to guard against its actual arrival, by publishing martial law on discerning merely its visible approach.

But on revising my Despatch to Sir Lionel Smith of the 12th of July, imparting to his Excellency the requisition from the Lieutenant-governor and Legislature of St. Christopher's for a reinforcement of troops, you may perceive that my more comprehensive obligations in the capacity of Governor of the Leeward Islands and of Dominica were forcibly impressed upon my mind, his

his Excellency being thereby apprized of my opinion, that "under all circumstances, it would therefore seem imprudent to risk a further diminution of the force in Antigua, than by the employment of a company on any temporary detached service; but should the labourers of St. Christopher's after the 1st of August absolutely refuse to work in the character of apprentices, it is obviously of the first importance that the difficulty should be instantly grappled with and overcome, not only with the view of restoring public order in that Colony, but of obviating the still more serious evils likely to arise should the resistance to lawful authority be successful for such a period as to admit of the contagion spreading to the neighbouring possessions of the Crown."

That my apprehension of this sort of combination was not fallacious, may be ascertained on inspecting the enclosure (D.), as its accuracy is thereby shown to be sustained by functionaries of the highest station and local experience within the Leeward Island Government.

Mr. Isaacs, President of the Virgin Islands, declares, "that no doubt whatever remains on my mind of the effect which the prompt and decisive measures adopted to check the late disturbances at St. Christopher's, and to restore the working classes of that Island to a proper degree of subordination, had on the same description of persons in this and the other Virgin Islands, in preventing their resorting to conduct of a similar nature, which, &c. was strongly indicated to be in contemplation."

Mr. President Maynard, of Nevis, portrays the results that would have ensued, in his estimation, from a different conduct, ending in a "total disorganization of society;" and subjoins, "that your Excellency's measures in St. Christopher's prevented the occurrence in Nevis of the consequences I have specified, I am, after a full and careful revision of the circumstances of that period, thoroughly satisfied."

The President of Montserrat, Mr. Hamilton, says, "without the aid of the military, the disturbances in August could not have been suppressed;" and "for the subsequent continuance of good order, we are, in my opinion, largely indebted to the decisive measures adopted by your Excellency in St. Kitt's."

The Lieutenant-governor of Dominica, his Excellency Sir Charles Schomberg, states, "It was officially reported to me that the watchword or catch expression was, 'We free; no bind; no work, as in St. Christopher's;'" and "I therefore come to the conclusion, that had the disturbances in St. Christopher's, instead of being treated as an extreme case and rapidly subdued by military means, been left, as in an ordinary instance of insubordination or refusal to work, to the operation of the civil law, the natural irritability of the French negroes, and the inherent volatility of their character, would in all probability have been encouraged by so dangerous an example of delay, and would have produced most lamentable results in the Island of Dominica, a country whose natural strength is such, that a handful of men in the fastnesses of the mountains could with ease maintain themselves against the utmost European force that could possibly be brought against them at that season."

Mr. Lockhart, the President now administering the Government of Dominica, states, that "the working classes in this Island were influenced by the prompt measures adopted by your Excellency in subduing the disturbances in St. Kitt's; and I am strongly of opinion, that if the matter had been left to the operation of the civil law, the effect would not have been such as it has been;" and likewise that "movements in one Island are soon known in another by the labourers; and any disturbance, not immediately checked in one, seldom fails to give trouble in the other."

The satisfaction signified in your Despatch of the 16th October, (St. Kitt's,) in allusion to the sentiments of the President of Nevis, who attributed to "the prompt and energetic measures" pursued in St. Christopher's, the maintenance of tranquillity within his own Presidency, will not be diminished, I would willingly flatter myself, on your witnessing the manifestation towards me of similar cordiality and good "feeling," not only as renewed by himself, but as also cherished by the Lieutenant-governor of Dominica and the Presidents of that Colony, of the Virgin Islands, and of Montserrat.

As you have assumed that I am "aware that, with this single exception, all partial disturbances or acts of insubordination which have occurred in His Majesty's West Indian Colonies have been met and suppressed by the civil power,"

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No. 1,  
6 December 1834.No. 2,  
10 December 1834.No. 3,  
15 December 1834.No. 4,  
2 December 1834.No. 5,  
19 December 1834.

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27 November 1834.

power," it is proper to assure you that no such circumstance was consistent with my knowledge; but (Enclosure E, 1,) it will be seen that I have applied to Sir Lionel Smith in the following terms upon the subject: "As your Excellency enjoys better opportunities of acquaintance with transactions in the other Colonies, may I take the liberty of requesting to be informed whether any disturbance of the like nature, equally serious, and involving equally important consequences in its issue as that subdued in St. Christopher's, has been put down by the civil power alone in any of the Islands under your Excellency's superintendence as Governor-in-Chief, or within the still wider range of your military command."

16 December 1834.

In answer, (Enclosure E, 2,) his Excellency remarks, "the only instance, even of partial disturbance, in the Windward Government was at Grenada. There the negroes of one or two contiguous estates declared against apprenticeship, and that they would not work. The magistrates, well knowing their own inefficiency, immediately called for military aid, and a company of the 1st West India regiment seized the principals, and restored order. Had this been neglected or slowly executed, depending on the civil authority, and waiting for actual mischief to warrant the call for troops, as in countries where all the inhabitants are protected by similar or equal laws, a combination, presuming on the weakness or fears of Government, would have spread over the Island, and created general resistance."

"From Trinidad I was called upon for more troops. The negroes, in a state of ignorance, deserted the estates and flocked to the capital, but I never heard that they committed violence; and the Lieutenant-governor soon found himself strong enough to maintain the laws with the means he had."

"In Demerara, the Lieutenant-governor, a military officer, reported the movement and use of three companies of the line to put down a combination of negroes."

"There is every reason to believe that this bad spirit was not general in these Colonies; and the two latter being Crown Colonies, it is very likely the civil authorities had more strength than in those Colonies which maintained no police establishments on a scale to control the negro population in a general state of resistance. Where such was the case, I should be of opinion military law was unavoidable."

From this statement it is to be deduced, in the only Island of the Windward Government where a slight commotion arose, and in Demerara, military means were had recourse to in order to coerce the disobedient labourers; that in Trinidad the negroes, in lieu of hiding in mountainous forests, as in St. Christopher's, placed themselves at once within reach of the Lieutenant-governor's resources, by assembling at the seat of Government; and that the "bad spirit" notoriously general amongst the apprentices in the Leeward Islands and Dominica, was not so either in the Crown Colonies or Windward Islands.

As you are so good as to say, "I doubt not that the grounds on which you asked the opinion of the Board, on the 4th of August, with respect to the necessity of proclaiming martial law, will, when more fully stated, appear conclusive," it is right to explain that the Board of Privy Council were advised with by me as to its expediency on the 6th, as well as on the 4th of August, and to solicit your deliberate attention to my then situation, as exhibited in my letter of the 27th November to Sir Lionel Smith: "Your Excellency is aware of the pressing calls of the authorities in St. Christopher's for aid; that the force at your own immediate disposal was fully occupied; that the demands of Antigua prevented me from removing more than one company from this garrison to Basseterre; and that for its conveyance thither I was indebted to the accidental presence of the Belvidera at Barbadoes, and to your Excellency's kindness in communicating with Captain Strong."

"The mass of the apprenticed labourers soon afterwards withdrew from the estates to which they were by law attached, and, covered by woods, congregated in the mountains of the interior, where no chain of military posts could hem them in, and whence they could emerge in any numbers, at any time, and towards any quarter or quarters they might have thought proper, augmenting not only their powers of devastation, if tempted by hunger, the suggestions of their ringleaders, or by my supineness, to descend into the lower grounds, but the difficulty of the troops in overtaking them, as the arena expanded towards the circumference of the Island."

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“The minds of the working classes in the Virgin Islands, Nevis and Montserrat were unsettled, and any hesitation evinced by me at St. Christopher’s would have prolonged the double risk of encouragement to the insubordinate negroes there being afforded by corresponding proceedings of their fellows in the adjacent Colonies, or of inciting the last-mentioned parties to persevere in emulating the resistance of the former.”

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Had I been minutely conversant with the interior affairs of St. Christopher’s, and even permanently resided there as officer administering its government, the condition of the Island in August last would surely have justified me in consulting the Privy Council with respect to it; but there is a peculiarity touched upon in the same Despatch to Sir Lionel Smith, which would seem decisive of the point: “Between the duties of the Lieutenant-governor of Demerara, Trinidad and St. Lucia, and those of your Excellency and myself as Governors of the Windward and Leeward Islands, there appears to me a very marked disparity; the arrangements to be conducted by them being of a less complicated nature, because, however extensive their jurisdiction, the measures they have to pursue are generally applicable but to one theatre of action. With us the case is different, and owing to our respectively governing several Islands, each with a separate internal administration, our position is rendered much more critical.”

That this is not an invidious or unjust comparison, the complete alteration the structure of society in Antigua was destined to undergo on the 1st of August last, by the sudden elevation of its labouring orders from slavery to freedom, may not unworthily illustrate. It was while intent on providing for the arrival of that crisis in this Island that I was reluctantly compelled to quit it, in order to respond to the cry of peril unexpectedly issuing from St. Christopher’s; and until the hour of my departure, the new arrangements to be instituted here, in as far as they depended on the executive, demanded and received my personal directions. On removing suddenly to a totally different scene, in which, although in a great degree a stranger, I was obliged to become the principal actor, the very nature of the case involved the necessity of seeking the best authenticated information; and there being none to be more implicitly confided in than that procurable from His Majesty’s Privy Councillors, who are deeply responsible for their advice to the representative of the Sovereign, furnished me with undeniable grounds, on landing in St. Christopher’s, for ascertaining the feelings of the members of that Board.

On the 13th of October, in a Despatch expressive of your “regret that it became necessary to employ any other than the civil power in Montserrat,” it is added, “I can easily conceive that deficiency of police force may have rendered the employment of the military indispensable, and it is, at all events, satisfactory to learn that it was effectual to its object.” When it is remembered, therefore, on Lieutenant-governor Nixon’s authority, that there was at the time of the disturbances no police in St. Christopher’s, and no whisper of commotion having hitherto transpired from that Island since I left it, the same reasoning that in the one instance admits, cannot in the other consistently deny, the expediency of military interference.

I have now, Sir, fulfilled your commands in such a manner, it is to be hoped, as will remove any indistinct impressions you may previously have imbibed of facts attendant on the abolition of slavery in August last in St. Christopher’s, and in His Majesty’s other West Indian Colonies, or at any rate, as will answer fully at least the questions propounded in your communication of the 16th of October.

Acting on the principle of my observations in Privy Council on the 19th of August, “that the interests of St. Christopher’s were not alone at stake, but that those of the other Colonies under the system of apprenticeship were exposed to the influence of her example, every inducement,” as therein stated, “conspired to prompt me in crushing the threatened evil in the bud;” to that end, availing myself of the power legitimately devolving on me under the local enactments of St. Christopher’s, and after due warning to the delinquents, I did not hesitate, as a measure of precaution, to proclaim martial law on the 6th of August. On the 9th, an amnesty was tendered to such apprentices as would agree to work; and on the 18th, another proclamation restored the Colony to the jurisdiction of the civil power, the purposes for which the law martial had been introduced being, in that short interval, effectually

ST. CHRISTOPHER. tually attained. To my sense of the paramount importance of executing this service with extreme rapidity my life was nearly sacrificed at the moment, owing to over exertions, from which my health has ever since materially suffered; but, cheered by the internal consciousness of having zealously discharged my duty to the King, by the favourable opinion of the public bodies and principal officers of the communities concerned, and by the sounds of "God bless you, Sir," "God bless you, master," which greeted me on re-embarking from St. Christopher's, I most unfeignedly rejoice that those exertions were not spared; and that, in the accomplishment of the arduous task imposed on me, I did not shrink from responsibility, the consequences of which it is now, of course, incumbent on me, with every deference and respect, to meet.

For the courtesy observed in intimating your doubts of the propriety of my ulterior proceedings, as well as for the approbation formerly conveyed in your Despatches of the 5th and 6th of September, when you considered me engaged in the comparatively trivial occupation of repressing "ordinary cases of insubordination or of refusal to work," I take the liberty, in conclusion, of returning my sincere acknowledgments.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Governor.

Enclosure (A.)

(No. 1.)

Sir,

St. Christopher's, 5 December 1834.

Enclosure (A.)

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of date 27th ult., stating, that with the single exception of this Island, the partial disturbances or acts of insubordination in His Majesty's West India Islands had been met and suppressed by civil means; and desiring me to explain the grounds upon which, as a military and civil lawyer, I was satisfied, by acts of open violence affecting or threatening life and property, on the part of the labouring population of this Colony, or otherwise, that the efforts of the civil power to overcome their resistance were ineffectual, and that it became requisite for the purpose that martial law should be proclaimed.

In my report to your Excellency of date 19th of August last, I remarked that the examples therein alluded to were necessarily made by you, and, on further reflection, I feel the more confirmed in that opinion.

For some time previous to the 1st of August a spirit of insubordination was openly evinced by our labouring classes, and more particularly by the contempt in which they held the civil power, and the insults and indignities offered by several of them to our Lieutenant-governor. For these various reasons the Legislature applied to your Excellency for assistance, which you immediately afforded; and sufficient time elapsed before the 1st of August for the insurgents to communicate with the neighbouring Islands, and to relate the measures adopted here. To this may be attributed the ease with which the partial spirit of revolt was checked in those Islands, as, perhaps, the discontented there profited by the example afforded them in this Colony.

I am of opinion that the civil authority was totally inadequate to check the general spirit of revolt in this Island: our free population was very small, and, compared with the labouring classes, shows a fearful disparity. Our highest civil authorities had not only been disregarded, but openly insulted, by the labouring classes, who openly declared that the King had made them free, but that the authorities here were endeavouring to keep them in bondage; that they cared not for the militia, and that the King's troops would not act against them. Repeated endeavours were made by the civil power to undeceive them; the evil increased daily; property was sacrificed; and eventually, after great forbearance, your Excellency proclaimed martial law, according to the laws of this Island. But for these measures adopted by your Excellency, I think the Colony would have been ruined; and for the mild but determined conduct of your Excellency during that period, you are entitled to the gratitude of every class of persons within this Colony.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. E. Piquenet*,  
Judge Ad. Genl.

To his Excellency  
Sir Evan J. Murray MacGregor, Bart.  
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 2.)

Sir,

St. Christopher's, December 1834.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 27th last month, informing me that doubts had been suggested of the necessity of resorting to the alternative of martial law for the purpose of suppressing the late insubordination manifested by the apprenticed labourers, and requiring me, as Speaker of the House of Assembly during your Excellency's visits to this Island at that period, to state, from my knowledge of the previous intentions, designs and spirit of the negro population, why, in my estimation, it became requisite

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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requisite to employ military instead of civil means for the due subjection of the apprentices to law, and for the protection of the respectable inhabitants of the Colony. ST. CHRISTOPHER.

It is a subject of regret to me that doubts should be entertained of the expediency of a measure, to the timely adoption of which, in the general opinion of all who were witnesses to the then insubordinate spirit and turbulency of the negro population, is the present quiet state of this country solely attributed.

I firmly believe, from the threats that were openly made by the negro population before the 1st of August, which occasioned the application by the Legislature to your Excellency, that their intentions were to have destroyed the works on the estates, and that the passive resistance that took place was in consequence of the measure taken by your Excellency, particularly the appearance of the large naval force; a measure, in my opinion, rendered unavoidable, on account of the total inadequacy of the civil power to cope with so general and openly declared resistance to the constituted authorities.

The adoption of that measure, from a full conviction of its having saved this Colony from anarchy and confusion, met the ready concurrence and warm approbation of the House of Assembly, while the firm, yet mild and lenient exercise of its powers by your Excellency, at a time of such general excitement and alarm, entitle you to the thanks of the landed proprietor and the benedictions of the apprenticed labourer.

To his Excellency  
Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor, Bart.  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *George Henry Burt*,  
Speaker.

(No. 3.)

St. Christopher, 18 December 1834.

Sir,  
I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the enclosed Address from the House of Assembly, expressive of the high sense entertained by them of the judicious measures pursued by you in suppressing the revolt of the labouring classes in August last.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *George Henry Burt*, Speaker.

(No. 4.)

To His Excellency Sir *Evan John Murray MacGregor*, Bart.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Assembly of St. Christopher's, avail ourselves of the opportunity which the opening of the present session affords to express the grateful feelings we entertain for the judicious and prompt conduct by which your Excellency restored order to this community in August last, by suppressing a dangerous revolt.

We feel assured that it is alone to the course then adopted by your Excellency that the peace and good order which at present prevail among the labouring classes of our population is to be attributed; the wisdom of your Excellency's measures being fully established by their results.

When we reflect on the determination which the late slave population evinced to oppose the laws; their unreserved declarations to that effect, made, not only in the hearing of every passer-by, but addressed to his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, when he sought to explain to them the benevolent intentions of His Majesty's Government; when we consider how unavailing were the proclamations addressed by your Excellency to these persons, for the purpose of inducing them to return to their duties; how much greater they were in numerical strength; how general was their revolt, and how determined their disobedience; we cannot but regard the proclamation of martial law as a salutary measure, which prevented much evil. The ordinary process of the law was unequal to the prevention or the adequate punishment of offences, till then happily unknown in our previously peaceful community, and therefore unprovided for by the recent necessary enactments. The proclamation of martial law placed in your Excellency's possession a powerful but a necessary authority; and the moderation with which it was exercised, while it afforded the means of protection for property, equally precluded the commission of crime and the necessity for its punishment.

You have, therefore, Sir, the consoling reflection, that while your measures were characterized by prudence and firmness, they were also tempered by mercy.

*George Henry Burt*, Speaker.

(No. 5.)

Sir,

St. Christopher's, Government House, 21 December 1834.

I HAVE the honour to enclose a copy of a letter I have this moment received from the Board of Council, on the subject of your Excellency's communication of the 27th of November last.

To his Excellency  
The Governor of the Leeward Islands.  
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I have, &c.  
(signed) *T. Lyons Nixon*,  
Lieutenant-governor.



ST. CHRISTOPHER.

(No. 6.)

Sir,

Privy Council Room, Basseterre, 20 Dec. 1834.

IN compliance with the requisition of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, we now submit the reasons which induced us, as Members of His Majesty's Privy Council, to advise the proclamation of martial law on the 6th of August last, as the only means of subduing the resistance made by the apprentice labourers to the provisions of the Imperial Act for the Abolition of Slavery.

For some time previous to the 1st of August it was ascertained that a very general feeling prevailed among the slave population inimical to the intermediate state of apprenticeship prescribed by the Statute of the Imperial Parliament. This feeling was more particularly developed by the manner in which they received the information attempted to be given them on this important subject by the religious teachers in various parts of the Island. The influence which they were known to have obtained over the minds of the great body of our slave population had been for a series of years gradually increasing, and the facility with which they threw off that influence marked the spirit that actuated them. They refused to listen to any explanation of the advantages which they would derive from the system of apprenticeship, or received with distrust, and even at times with abuse, the advice and opinions of all those persons whom they had been accustomed to consider as their best friends. They were fully impressed with the idea that the abolition of slavery was the decision of the Imperial Parliament, and that the system of apprenticeship originated with the Colonial Legislatures. The circumstance of the Legislature of Antigua not adopting the apprentice system was attributed to the presence and to the influence of the Captain-general; and the report that Lord Romney, an extensive proprietor in this Island, intended to absolve his people from their apprenticeship, confirmed them in the belief that they were unjustly treated. Had this feeling been partial, it would not have excited much apprehension; but it was known to be generally diffused over the whole Island. It was supposed that explanation on this important subject, afforded to the slaves by His Majesty's representative, would arrest their attention, and that they would listen to him with respect; but they received your Excellency everywhere with insults and derision, and in many places they proceeded to acts of riot and insubordination in your presence.

It was ascertained that emissaries from the leading and more powerful gangs were constantly on the alert to intimidate the irresolute and confirm the wavering, and that destruction to their property and loss of life to themselves were threatened as the result of obedience to the new law. This was exemplified by several cases of severe batteries which were investigated by the magistrates; and the sentiment which they were frequently heard to express, that "they would give their souls to hell and their bodies to the sharks" rather than be bound to work as apprentices, evinced a determination which could not be mistaken. Under these circumstances, our attention was naturally directed to the code of laws recently passed, to the power thereby entrusted to the special magistrates, and to its efficacy in suppressing any probable revolt. These laws had been passed at a time when the quiet demeanour of our agricultural population, and their cheerful obedience to the existing laws, entitled them to confidence rather than awakened suspicion, and the punishment thereby permitted for the most serious offence did not exceed 39 stripes. The laws were passed, and transmitted by you to the Colonial Secretary of State, and transcripts forwarded to his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, in the month of March; but the authority to fix your assent to them was not received by you until the 18th of July; consequently, the system of police thereby contemplated, with the necessary constabulary force, was hardly organized before the eventful day arrived on which it was required to act. One only of the special magistrates appointed by Government had arrived in the Colony; and by the new system of laws, the ordinary magistrates could not interfere between the apprentices and their employers.

Other special magistrates were appointed by your Excellency, but they had not the influence which might have been expected from those directly appointed by His Majesty. It is admitted that up to the evening of the 31st July the slaves everywhere performed their duty on their respective estates with nearly their usual assiduity, and that subsequently thereto no acts of violence, either to persons or property, were committed. The resistance, however, which was offered to the law by these misguided people, although passive, would in its consequences have been most destructive to property, and but for the active and judicious measures adopted might have assumed a character and produced results which have been most fortunately avoided. The disturbances in the other Colonies, as far as we have been informed, were partial; in many cases the resistance to the law was active. In the first case, the punishment of a few was a sufficient example to others, and in the second case, the apprehension and punishment of the offenders were readily effected by the civil authorities. In this Colony the conduct of the apprentices was widely different. On the morning of Monday the 4th of August, when the labour of the apprentices was generally required, there was not a labourer to be found at work on any estate in the Island, with the exception of eight or nine in the neighbourhood of town, and almost within the reach of the guns of the ships of war at anchor in the roadstead. The remonstrances of the managers and overseers were ineffectual in inducing them to labour, and where offenders were apprehended and punished to the extent of the law, they did not hesitate openly to express their determination of continuing their disobedience. Additional special magistrates were appointed by his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief; but their efforts, although supported by the presence of the military, were useless and unavailing. The apprentices were impressed with the conviction,

tion, that as long as they refrained from acts of violence, no law could more strongly visit their disobedience; that His Majesty's troops would not be ordered to act against them; and that perseverance in the line of conduct adopted must produce concession on the part of the planters, and that they would thereby obtain a release from their apprenticeship.

The warning proclamation issued by his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief in no one instance had the expected effect; but in the towns, in an hour or two after they had been posted up, not one copy could be seen. This circumstance was calculated to produce the belief that the domestic apprentices, and perhaps the lower class of free people, were in council with the general mass of the disaffected. Evidence was obtained that in the Nichola Town Quarter it was intended to resort to the use of fire if continued efforts were made to compel labour. From the 1st to the 6th August no work had been done on the estates, therefore the stock had been during that period unprovided with their accustomed food, and must have perished or have been driven to feed upon the growing crops. Despatches were hourly received by his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, from the magistrates, declaring their inefficiency to enforce obedience to the law; from the planters generally, stating the perishing condition of their stock, and earnestly praying for some decided measures calculated to remedy the existing evils. It was at this period, and at this period only, that this Board, from a full conviction that the civil authorities were unequal to cope with the peculiar, combined and organized resistance to the law evinced by the apprentices; that vacillating and uncertain measures, by giving to them a false and delusive confidence, would strengthen them in their disobedience, and perhaps impel them to heavier offences against the laws; and that the prevention of crime was infinitely to be preferred to its necessary and consequent punishment, felt themselves justified in advising the proclamation of martial law, when the measure was suggested by his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief. This Board at the important crisis under consideration felt that they would confidently entrust to the distinguished officer who held the supreme command of the civil and military force of the Island the power with which military law would invest him, and that in the discharge of his important and responsible duties, mercy would abundantly temper justice. The judicious and determined measures adopted by his Excellency; the perfect restoration to peace and good order which were their early results; the consequent immediate suspension of military punishments; the circumstance of only one life having been forfeited to the insulted peace of this community, fully vindicate the measure advised by this Board, even if it was not completely warranted by the 53d clause of our militia law, which authorizes the proclamation of martial law by the person first in command in this Island in case of actual or visibly approaching danger.

We remain, &c.

(signed) *William G. Crooke*, President.  
*D. G. Davis*,  
*Thomas Swanston*,  
*C. G. Payne*,  
*Robert Claxton*.

To his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor.

(No. 7.)

Sir,

St. Christopher's, 20 Dec. 1834.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Despatch of the 27th November, enclosing copy of a letter addressed to his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, to be opened in Privy Council. The reasons which compelled me, as a member of His Majesty's Privy Council, and as the law officer of the Crown and constitutional adviser of your Excellency, while administering the Government of St. Christopher's, to advise the proclamation of martial law on the 6th of August last, are fully detailed in the letter addressed to his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor by the Privy Council of this Island, to which I have the honour to refer you. I beg to assure your Excellency that I was fully impressed with the opinion expressed by the Right Honourable the Colonial Secretary of State, that martial law as an extreme remedy could not be safely resorted to except in extreme cases; but at the time referred to the civil power was proved to be unequal to the restoration of obedience on the part of the apprenticed labourers of the Island to the law of the Imperial Parliament. The colonial laws of this Island authorize the proclamation of martial law by the person first in command in cases of actual or visibly approaching danger. If ever an occasion could be considered to come within the meaning of that clause it was the crisis under consideration. I felt myself therefore imperatively called upon in a case of such extreme danger to the interests of this Island, and with a full consideration of the real welfare of the unfortunate and misguided delinquents, to advise the measure, which was so successful, and at same time so merciful in its results.

To his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Robert Claxton*.

(True copies.)

*E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Governor.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

Enclosure (B.)

Enclosure (B.)

(No. 1.)

Sir,

St. Christopher's, Government House, 2 August 1834.

I HAVE the honour to enclose you an extract of the letter I showed your Excellency this morning, enumerating the estates that threw up their hoes and bills in the district of Cayon. Since I had the honour of seeing you this morning, Dr. Caines reports that several of his negroes have done the same; and in the neighbourhood, at Coleman's estate, the negroes have followed the example, and have refused to work.

I have been just now in communication with some gentlemen of Sandy Point district, who are very confident that the estates in that quarter will follow the example; and it has been suggested that if one of the ships of war was anchored off Sandy Point (very good anchorage), that the presence of such a force would have a very good effect indeed, and might be the means of intimidating the negroes, and preventing them from committing any breach of the laws when they are required to go to their work on Monday.

If your Excellency concurs in this suggestion, perhaps you would have the goodness to take such measures as you may deem proper to get this object effected.

I certainly beg to offer my opinion that prevention is much better than cure.

To his Excellency  
The Governor of the Leeward Islands,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) J. Lyons Nixon, Lieut.-governor.

(No. 2.)

EXTRACT from a LETTER from Mr. Adam Stevens, Director of Bourregan's Estate, to His Excellency the Lieut.-governor, dated 1 August 1834.

I CONSIDER it proper to inform you that yesterday evening, when the gang of this estate left off work, they brought their hoes into the yard, threw them down, giving a loud huzza, and left them.

I asked their reason for so doing, but could get no answer; I was also informed at parade this morning by the managers and overseers of the following estates, say, Baker's, Woodley's, Mill's, Philips's, Spooner's, No. 7, Molineux, Ottley's, Grange's, Mathews's and White's, negroes all did the same. This evidently shows a combination among them to resist the laws, and cease to work except on their own terms.

(No. 3.)

Sir,

St. Christopher's, Government House, 4 August 1834.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the copy of a report which I have just received from Mr. Fahie, special magistrate for the district of Sandy Point, reporting that the negroes of the several estates in his district have refused to work.

The local Acts of the Island are not yet printed, consequently I could not furnish Mr. Fahie with copies of them for his guidance.

I presume that your Excellency will give your orders to Mr. Fahie respecting his calling on the militia or regular military force, which he speaks of doing, as I do not, in the absence of your orders, conceive myself authorized to interfere.

His Excellency  
The Governor of the Leeward Islands,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) J. Lyons Nixon, Lieut.-governor.

(No. 4.)

Sir,

I LOSE no time in stating to your Excellency that I have received official information from the managers of the under-mentioned estates that the negroes thereupon have almost unanimously refused to turn out to their work, and are in a state of passive resistance to the law, for as yet I have heard of no violence or outrage. The police constables, I have been given to understand, are in a state of great inefficiency; I shall not therefore hesitate, in case of necessity, to call for the aid of the militia or regular military force. I beg also to state to your Excellency that I am without a single data, or instruction of any kind whereby to guide myself.

To his Excellency the Lieut.-governor.

I have, &c.  
(signed) G. A. W. Fahie.

I have just heard as a general report that the whole district is in a state of resistance to the authority of the masters and managers of the estates.

The

## The official Reports made to me.

Sir Gillias Payne	-	-	-	-	Mr. Pearl.
Brotherson's	-	-	-	-	Hon. G. H. Burt.
The Bottom	-	-	-	-	Mr. Salter.
Belmont	-	-	-	-	Mr. Davis.
Bart's and Cranstoun's	-	-	-	-	Mr. Malaliers.
Newton's	-	-	-	-	Mr. Hardtman.
Belle Fête	-	-	-	-	Mr. Semper.

(A true copy.)

(signed)

*J. Lyons Nixon*, Lieut.-governor.

(No. 5.)

Sir,

Government House, 4 August 1834.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your Excellency's information, a letter which I have just received from Mr. Semper of Belle Fête estate.

I have only to add, that I have not given Mr. Justice Fahie the directions which Mr. Semper seems to imagine were issued by me.

To his Excellency  
The Governor of the Leeward Islands,  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed)

I have, &amp;c.

*J. Lyons Nixon*, Lieut.-governor.

(No. 6.)

Sir,

Belle Fête Estate, 4 August 1834.

I BEG to inform your Excellency that my apprentice labourers have refused to obey my directions or turn out to work. In reference to Mr. Justice Fahie, I understand he has been particularly directed by your Excellency not to interfere as regards these apprentices. I therefore beg to state to your Excellency that I am consequently placed in a very unpleasant situation, as no other means now present themselves whereby these people may be brought to a proper sense of their duty.

I request your Excellency will be induced to take such measures as may best seem meet to you.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *H. Semper*.

(No. 7.)

Sir,

Government House, 4 August 1834.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency a report I have just received from Mr. Williamson, of Old Road.

To his Excellency  
The Governor of the Leeward Islands,  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed)

I have, &amp;c.

*J. Lyons Nixon*, Lieut.-governor.

(No. 8.)

Old Road, Monday, 5 August 1834.

*Cow Phips*.—None of the field people turned out. Cooper, distiller, fireman and all the stock-keepers, four watches, house servants of their respective work; one field negro come into hospital; four in hospital; two drivers at duty.

*Romney's*.—All quiet.

*Conyer's*.—Four of the field-people at work, driver, overlooker, two watches, two stockmen. The two constables appointed. The rest absent.

*Lambret's*.—None of the field gangs at work, except one Speedwell. Present, three drivers, one overlooker and constables.

*Wingfield's*.—Overlooker, two drivers, four stock-keepers, and all the house servants present; none at work in the field or at the works.

*Hutchinson's*.—Present two drivers, overlooker, four stock-keepers, two distillers, a mason and all the house servants. None at work in the field.

Sir,

August 4, 1834, Justice Room, Old Road,  
half-past nine o'clock.

We beg to forward what reports we have received up to this hour.

Your obedient servants,

(signed)

*Henry Davis*, J. P.*Wat. Williamson*, J. P.

## 110 PAPERS RELATIVE TO THE ABOLITION OF

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

(No. 9.)

Sir,  
 I HAVE the honour to enclose your Excellency two reports which I have received one from Mr. Parsons of Estridge's estate, the other from Dr. Caines of Belle Vue.

To his Excellency  
 The Governor of the Leeward Islands.

I have, &c.  
 (signed) *J. Lyons Nixon*, Lieut.-governor.

(No. 10.)

Sir,  
 I BEG leave to inform your Excellency that the gang upon this estate (the tradesmen, the drivers, and a few others excepted,) have absented themselves from their work this morning. I am informed by the head driver the strike is universal in the neighbourhood.

I am, &c.  
 (signed) *G. H. Parsons*.

(No. 11.)

Sir,  
 I BEG leave to inform your Excellency that none of my apprenticed field labourers have turned out to work this morning. The same is the case at Stone Castle estate and at Lower Estridges, excepting that two labourers have turned out on the latter.

I rather think that the strike on this side is very general.  
 If some prompt measures are not taken, we shall materially suffer by the starvation of our horses, cattle, &c.

To his Excellency Lieut.-governor Nixon.

I have, &c.  
 (signed) *H. Caines*.

(No. 12.)

Sir,  
 I VERY much regret the necessity I am under of communicating to your Excellency the state of insubordination of the apprenticed labourers on a property called Conoly's, under my direction.

I waited upon the Lieut.-governor this morning, and he has requested me to lay the matter before you, which I now beg to do.

I this morning visited the estate for the purpose of giving the necessary directions for their labour, and found that not a single person was prepared to commence the day's work. Soon after, I discovered them in a group near the copper-holes, and inquired of them several times what they were doing there, to which they made no reply; I then ordered them to their work, which order was not obeyed. Upon which I singled out six men and three women, and directed the overseer to call over their names, to which they severally answered. The order that they should commence their work was then repeated, and, as before, disobeyed. After an interval of about 20 minutes their names were thrice called, the same order given, and the nature of their present situation explained to them, but without effect.

There being no provender for the stock, I have been under the necessity of directing the overseer to appropriate a piece of cane sprouts for that purpose. On my leaving, the whole gang, I am informed, quitted the estate.

To his Excellency  
 Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor, Bart.,  
 &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
 (signed) *Edward Hazill*.

*Note.*—This property is situated in the parish of Trinity, Palmetto Point.

(No. 13.)

Sir,  
 I BEG to inform you that the negroes on this estate and the adjoining estate (College), together amounting to 360, have refused to obey my orders, or to do any work.

To his Excellency the Governor.

I have, &c.  
*Thomas Whitford*, Manager.

(No. 14.)

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

Stapleton's, 4 August 1834.

MR. DAVY, the manager of the estates called Stapleton's and Parry's, takes leave respectfully to report to his Excellency the Governor that this morning he summoned the negroes on their respective estates to turn out, and that they most peremptorily refused to do so, declaring that they would submit to any punishment rather than perform their accustomed work without wages, and that last evening one of the gang declared to Mr. MacKurzir, the overseer, that they would prefer being shot to working without pay. This expression Mr. Davy has considered necessary to make known to your Excellency.

To his Excellency  
Sir Evan Murray MacGregor, Governor.

(No. 15.)

St. Christopher's, 4 August 1834.

I TAKE the liberty of addressing your Excellency as a proprietor in this Island, and have the honour to inform you that the apprenticed labourers attached to the Mardenbrough's estate (Monkey Hill) have refused to work, thereby bidding defiance to the Act of the Imperial Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery. I beg leave to state that these apprentices have had three days to themselves, and that the cattle and other stock must inevitably perish unless immediate and proper measures be adopted to compel them to labour.

I have, &c.  
(signed) Chas. Mardenbrough.

(No. 16.)

Basseterre, 4 August 1834.

MR. DENNING, manager of the Lucas estate, begs most respectfully to inform his Excellency the Governor that he summoned the apprenticed labourers to go on with their respective duties, which they most peremptorily refused to do, stating that they will not work without wages.

To his Excellency Sir Evan J. Murray MacGregor, Bart.  
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 17.)

Basseterre, 4 August 1834.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that from accounts just received from my manager at the Godwin estate, I learn that none of the apprenticed labourers attached to that property (in number about 220) have turned out to work.

I need not state to your Excellency that the cattle and other stock belonging to the estate, after having been neglected for three days, must suffer greatly.

To his Excellency  
E. J. Murray MacGregor, Bart., Governor,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) — Edwin.

(No. 18.)

Mathews' Estate, Cayon, 4 P. M. 6 August 1834.

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that some of the largest estates in this parish and Nicholas Town are still in a very unsettled state. On five or six of the largest, there is not a single apprentice at work. Grange, Woodley's and Bourgeaux are very obstinate; on these three estates there are nearly 800 people, and all in a riotous way. Bourgeaux are nearly all gone to the mountains. I have taken about 50 of the ringleaders, and I should be obliged if your Excellency will give me instructions what to do with these people. They have behaved so bad in many cases, that I think they deserve that punishment which I have not the means of ordering. We have no place of imprisonment in this part of the Island.

To his Excellency  
Sir Evan J. M. MacGregor, Governor.

I have, &c.  
(signed) William Wilson.

(No. 19.)

5. August 1834.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have visited the estate called Gillies Paynis, where, after the most turbulent and rebellious resistance to the law, I succeeded in securing some of those pointed out as ringleaders. The mob consisted mostly of women and children, few men making their appearance. The manager of the above estate has just informed me that since I returned from the estate, the rest of the negroes have brought into the yard their hoes, and left them there.

His Excellency the Captain General.

I have, &c.  
(signed) G. H. W. Fahie.

## 112 PAPERS RELATIVE TO THE ABOLITION OF

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

(No. 20.)

Sir,

5 August 1834.

IMMEDIATELY on the receipt of your Despatch of yesterday's date I repaired to the estate called Blake's, and, after much trouble and disturbance, succeeded in securing some of the refractory apprentices pointed out to us as ringleaders. I caused to be inflicted corporal punishment on one, and the others to be put into confinement, with the intention of bringing them up to-day for further punishment, it being then nearly dark.

I ordered the crowd of apprentices to disperse quietly to their houses, and to turn out to work in the morning. They did disperse, but I am very sorry to say the example I made has had no effect, and they refuse to work according to law. The district I understand remains in the same disturbed state it was in yesterday. I am about to proceed to another estate for the purpose of obeying your orders.

To his Excellency the Captain General,  
&c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *G. H. W. Fahie.*

(No. 21.)

Sir,

Old Road, 5 August 1834.

I BEG leave to state, for your Excellency's information, that I ordered out the auxiliary constables at seven o'clock this morning. They proceeded, in charge of the policemen and ordinary constables, to an estate in this neighbourhood, called Hutchinson's, and brought the gang of the estate before me. The director of the estate was in attendance, who selected 10 individuals, who he had reason to believe were the ringleaders; on being questioned, they could give no satisfactory reason why they had not turned out to their duty yesterday morning, and by way of example, I thought proper to order these individuals to receive 50 lashes each, and three women were ordered into confinement. This I expected would have a salutary effect, but, on the contrary, I have been informed that they still continue refractory. Referring your Excellency to the enclosed note from the director of the estate,

To his Excellency  
Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor, Governor,  
&c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Wat. Williamson.*

(No. 22.)

My dear Sir,

5 August 1834.

THE Hutchinson's gang have all cut off their hoes and brought them to the door of the dwelling, and threw them down before me; the driver and my son being present and witnessed the same.

Walter Williamson, Esq. Special Magistrate.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *C. Pickering.*

(No. 23.)

Sir,

Mathews' Estate, Cayon, 5 August 1834.

WE beg to report, for your Excellency's information, that several of the negroes belonging to this estate have been taken into custody by the grenadier company stationed on the said estate, some of them for contumaciously refusing to work while in the field this morning with the gang, others for coming late to their work, some having been taken in the negro houses, and some for insolence, &c. &c.

As it appears to us of the utmost importance that a thorough and summary example ought to be made of these in order to instil fear into the others, without which all exertions that have already been made will most likely be attended with little benefit to the community, we beg to know from your Excellency to what extent we are authorized in such circumstances to inflict punishment. We beg most respectfully to suggest to your Excellency the necessity of establishing a system under which a severe example may be made on the spot of these negroes that have been taken into custody, as we are thoroughly convinced that nothing short of such a measure will save the Colony from ruin. A set of handcuffs and cats-of-nine-tails from any of the vessels of war will be required here.

To his Excellency  
Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor, Governor,  
&c. &c. &c.

We have, &c.  
(signed) *W. Wilson, J. P.*  
*John Crawford, J. P.*

(No. 24.)

5 August 1834.

I, John Dawson, manager of Will's estates, in the parish of Palmetto Point, belonging to Henry Boon, esquire, do report that the apprenticed labourers have not turned out to their work up to this morning.

To his Excellency Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor,  
&c. &c.

(signed) *John Dawson.*

(No. 25.)

Sir, Mathews', 5 August 1834.  
 I beg leave to inform your Excellency, that while on duty here with the grenadier company, I have learnt that the Golden Rock labourers, in the parish of St. Pierre, Basseterre, under my directions, have refused to do their work on that estate.

To his Excellency  
 Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor, Governor.

I have, &c.  
 (signed) *William Bond.*

(No. 26.)

Sir, Lodge Estate, 5 August 1834.  
 I HAVE to inform you that the negroes in the Nicholas Town parish and part of Cayon evince a very refractory spirit. Some of the ringleaders of both sexes are secured by being tied, and others are in confinement, under the guard of the entire of the 7th company, which, I wish to impress on the mind of your Excellency, is very small, having been much reduced by nine of the men receiving the appointment of police constables. My brother officers as well as myself consider that the most prompt measures are necessary to put down this state of insubordination, and secure the safety of the district. Unless this is immediately done I cannot answer for the consequences. I have further to state that Burragan's gang are still out, and on seeing the auxiliary constables advance a signal was given by one of the party placed on an eminence, when all fled to the mountains. This agrees with the information I gave your Excellency at my last interview of their intentions to set fire to buildings and canes and fly to the mountains, the former of which, in my opinion, has been prevented only by the heavy rains which fell during the last three days.

I have, &c.  
 (signed) *Adam Stevens, Lieut. in Command.*

His Excellency the Governor-general.

The number of males who are tied is eight, of females a similar number; there are 11 males and 10 females who are in confinement in the sick-house on this estate.

(No. 27.)

Sir, Lodge Estate, 6 August 1834, 12 o'clock.  
 I HAVE to inform your Excellency that the negroes of Greenhill, White's and Burragan's, have retired to the mountains. Those of Molineux and Phillip's estates have all absconded since nine o'clock, and in all probability have gone to the mountains; also Woodley's estate negroes have not yet been at work, and declare that they will resist any police force that may be sent to take them. The Mansion estate negroes have taken their hoes, but yesterday again threw them up, stating that they would not work unless they were paid wages. Two or three only are at work this morning.

Mr. Wilson of Greenhill informed me this morning that in searching the lock-up room on that estate, in which refractory negroes are confined, he found three pieces of touchwood, bound up and dipped in tar.

I have, &c.  
 (signed) *Adam Stevens, Lieut. Commander No. 7 Company.*  
 His Excellency the Governor-general, &c.

(No. 28.)

Sir, Mathews', Cayon, half-past eight A. M., 6 August 1834.  
 I HAVE to inform your Excellency that several of the estates in this parish and Nicholas Town that were at work yesterday have this morning struck work, and gone to the mountains.

I have, &c.  
 (signed) *W. Wilson, J. P.*

His Excellency the Governor-general.

(No. 29.)

Sir, D. Bay, 6 August 1834.  
 WE beg leave to represent to your Excellency the state of this part of the country, which is truly deplorable. Our negroe-houses abandoned; the cattle not only without people to attend them, but left to starve in the pens without food or water, must shortly perish. Tillage has entirely ceased. All steps taken by the civil authorities to induce or force the apprentices to work have entirely failed, and unless some prompt and effectual measures are resorted to the entire destruction of our properties must shortly ensue.

We have, &c.  
 (signed) *H. Caines. Edward Osborn.*  
*J. Caines. Robert Armstrong.*  
*A. D. French. W. A. Henry.*  
*Charles C. Bryan. John M. Evans.*  
*J. E. Badger.*

To his Excellency  
 Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor, Governor.



ST. CHRISTOPHER.

(No. 30.)

Sir, Mathews' Estate, Cayon, 6 August 1834, half-past six o'clock, A. M.  
 I BEG leave to intimate to you that I am on duty here, and having the command of Fountain estate, in the parish of St. Peter. I also take the liberty of informing you, that from the latest accounts I had from that quarter, two o'clock P. M. yesterday, the negroes had not turned out, nor indicated any willingness to do so.

His Excellency the Governor-general.

I am, &c.  
 (signed) *John Ferry.*

(No. 31.)

Sir, Stonefort Estate, 7 August 1834.  
 IN acknowledging the receipt of your letter of this day's date, I have to acquaint you, for his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor's information, that his orders relative to the signal-post here have been observed, and also that the negroes belonging to this estate are, to appearance, quietly disposed. But if my candid opinion were required on that head, I should say that some secret understanding exists between those negroes who have entirely absented themselves and those who remain on their estates, and also, from several incidents which have occurred within my knowledge, that some plot has been planning for the subversion of His Majesty's laws in this Colony, long prior to the 1st of August.

With regard to the signal-posts here and elsewhere, were we at war with a foreign enemy, nothing could be more expedient than adopting and conducting them as they are at present; as it is, be assured that unless they are guarded by others than those directly interested in cutting off all intelligence with Brimstone Hill, in the event of a general insurrection, they would be perfectly useless.

I have two men here, in whom I think I can place confidence; but what are two or more people when opposed to an infuriated mob? I should, therefore, deem it expedient to appoint a certain number of regular troops, not only to protect the signal-posts, but also those negroes who are loyally disposed, and to awe those into obedience who might be otherwise. Of the latter, I fear, there are too many, even among those who wear a different appearance.

I have, &c.  
*T. Light Philip.*

(True copies.)

*E. J. Murray MacGregor, Governor.*

## Enclosure (C.)

EXTRACT from the Antigua Herald and Gazette, Saturday, 27 Dec. 1834.

Enclosure (C.)

"THANKS to the Governor, we have at last seen a Christmas pass without the nuisance of a civic guard. His Excellency himself expressed his conviction of the absence of all necessity for the proclamation of martial law. All who would have been harnessed for the duty are much obliged for his consideration, and the event has proved the soundness of his judgment."

## Enclosure (D.)

(No. 1.)

Enclosure (D.)

Sir, Tortola, 6 December 1834.  
 I HAD the honour to receive your Excellency's Despatch, dated the 29th November 1834, and have to inform your Excellency that no doubt whatever remains on my mind of the effect which the prompt and decisive measures adopted to check the late disturbances at St. Christopher's, and to restore the working classes of that Island to a proper degree of subordination, had on the same description of persons in this and the other Virgin Islands, in preventing their resorting to conduct of a similar nature, which by sundry reports made to me, very shortly previous to the 1st of August, was strongly indicated to be in contemplation.

To his Excellency  
 Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor, Bart., Governor.  
 &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
 (signed) *W. Rogers Isaacs,*  
 President.

(No. 2.)

Sir, Nevis, Government House, 10 Dec. 1834.  
 I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from your Excellency, dated the 29th ultimo, in which you make a reference to an extract, thereto annexed, of a Despatch from the Right Honourable the Colonial Secretary of State, and to a previous Despatch from me of the 13th of August, and request me to state my opinion as to the probable

bable consequences of the disaffection which prevailed among the labouring population of this Island, in the early part of that month, if the disturbance in St. Christopher's, instead of being treated as an extreme case, and rapidly subdued by military means, had been left, as in any ordinary instance of insubordination or refusal to work, to the operation of civil law.

The consequences of this disaffection, under the alternative which your Excellency offers as a supposition, I should have expected to be, the suspension of continuous and efficient labour for an indefinite period of time; the accumulation of the idle-disposed apprentices in large bodies; the occurrence of plunder, from their want of food, and of violence, if resistance were offered; the perpetration of mischief, from that wantonness which in the ignorant follows the sudden and entire relaxation of a previous strict discipline; and, finally, a total disorganization of society.

These consequences I consider were to have been anticipated; first, because the causes of disaffection were not partial, arising from the conduct of individuals, but general, originating in the distrust felt by the apprenticed labourers as to any exposition of their new condition afforded by their masters, and in their dissatisfaction and discontent with the provisions of the law when faithfully laid before them; secondly, because the working class were in a state of highly excited feeling, dependent on the discussion of their political state, and on their having obtained a boon, long hoped for, and respecting which they had frequently suffered disappointment; and, thirdly, because, in my judgment, the apprentices suspected the inadequacy of the resources of the new system to meet the difficulties which would be produced by a general defection on their part from their duty.

That your Excellency's measures in St. Christopher's prevented the occurrence in Nevis of the consequences I have specified, I am, after a full and careful revision of the circumstances of that period, thoroughly satisfied.

Upon the receipt of your Excellency's Despatch of the 8th of August, in reply to mine of the 7th of the same month, information was generally circulated that unless the appearance of affairs should improve previous to Monday the 11th, martial law would then be resorted to as a remedy. On that day every indication which could excite apprehension had disappeared, and the labourers, without any exception, had returned to their duty.

To his Excellency  
Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor, Bart.  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Josiah Webbe Maynard,*  
President.

(No. 3.)

Sir,

Montserrat, 15 Dec. 1834.

IN reply to your Excellency's letter of 29th November, with paragraphs of a letter from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, I beg leave to inform you that, in my opinion, without the aid of the military the disturbance in August could not have been suppressed. We were at that period destitute of a police, a militia newly raised, mostly young men, armed with a musket and fixed bayonet, without scabbards, belts or accoutrements of any kind, and which as yet have not been received from Barbadoes. I therefore conceived that it would have been highly imprudent in me to depend solely upon them, lest any unfortunate occurrence should take place (their feelings being considerably excited as well as the labourers') that might open a fire, that might be attended with great loss of life amongst those deluded fellow-creatures.

I therefore deemed it most prudent to place the whole detachment under Captain De Lacy of the 36th regiment, with the view of overawing them and reducing them to obedience, which was happily effected.

In the subsequent continuance of good order we are, in my opinion, largely indebted to the decisive measures adopted by your Excellency in St. Kitt's. The summary punishment of transportation to Bermuda, inflicted on some of the offenders, created a great sensation amongst our labourers.

But for the military measures enforced by your Excellency at St. Christopher's, and simultaneously by me in Montserrat, and had the disturbances in both Islands been left alone to the civil power, I am of opinion the result would have been most disastrous.

I am decidedly of opinion, as there then was an open dissatisfaction, so there has been since, and is now, a latent spark of discontent amongst the apprenticed labourers, which I attribute to our vicinity and constant intercourse with Antigua; several of the apprentices having asked me if I did not consider them as good as the negroes in Antigua, and as fit for freedom, and why they were not so.

His Excellency  
Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor, Bart., Governor, &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Henry Hamilton,*  
President.

(No. 4.)

Sir,

St. John's, Antigua, 2 December 1834.

I HAVE to acknowledge your Excellency's communication of the 29th ult., wherein your Excellency is pleased to call upon me to state whether, in my estimation, "the conduct of the working classes in Dominica would have been in any degree affected by the proceedings

ST. CHRISTOPHER. in St. Christopher's, had the disturbance in that Colony, instead of being treated as an extreme case, and rapidly subdued by military means, been left, as in ordinary instances of insubordination or refusal to work, to the operation of the civil law." In reply to which, I beg leave to mention, that in consequence of the astonishing rapidity with which intelligence reached Dominica, through Guadeloupe, reports were current at a very early period of the evil disposition which manifested itself at St. Kitt's. This caused me to watch vigilantly the French estates, partly in the wild and populous quarters of Colibistrie and Colihant, &c. &c. &c., where a formidable mass of women and children, as well as men, were known to resort for the purpose of obtaining information, which circumstance prevented the necessity of then placing the detachment of civil and military forces into situations of the most awful character at that pestilential time of the season. The negroes thus received news daily, of which advantage was immediately taken to carry into effect the desired object, the maintenance of tranquillity and return to labour, by expostulation, &c.

It is proper here to remark, that it was officially reported to me that the watchword or catch expression was, "Me free; no bind; no work," (as in St. Christopher's.) The whole mass of the people would have followed the advice of their influential women, and one old chief, who openly declared, "White man all rascal, false and lie; me know plenty for 20 years," for which he was punished on the spot; that they would have returned, as recommended by their women, had it not been for the stipendiary magistrate, the late Mr. Radford; who, with his combined force, checked and almost immediately brought things to a crisis, by seizing some culprits, and sending others by water to Roseau prison, and punishing others on the spot.

The St. Christopher's news reached the Windward, and estates most difficult of access, with an apparent organized rapidity, which was well known to have existed amongst the French negroes for a length of time. I therefore have no doubt, that had so fatal an example been permitted to linger, that consequences of a most serious nature would have resulted; and such was the opinion of the gentlemen functionaries and others, who seemed to feel a relief on my promulgating your Excellency's Despatch, anticipating a cessation of martial law, in consequence of the apprehended danger having been averted by the prompt and energetic measures adopted by your Excellency on this alarming occasion.

I therefore come to the conclusion, that had the disturbance in St. Christopher's, instead of being treated as an extreme case, and rapidly subdued by military means, been left, as in an ordinary instance of insubordination or refusal to work, to the operation of the civil law, the natural irritability of the French negroes, and the inherent volatility of their character, would in all probability have been encouraged by so dangerous an example of delay, and would have produced most lamentable results in the Island of Dominica; a country whose natural strength is such, that a handful of men in the fastnesses of the mountains could with ease maintain themselves against the utmost European military force that could possibly be brought against them at that season. The King's troops were then suffering severely, although guarded against all exposure.

To his Excellency  
Sir Evan J. Murray MacGregor, Bart.  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) C. M. Schomberg,  
Lieut-governor.

(No. 5.)

Dominica.

Sir,

Government House, Roseau, 19 December 1834.

IN reply to the letter of 29th ult. (confidential) that I had the honour to receive from your Excellency, I beg leave to say, I am most decidedly of opinion that the working classes of this Island were influenced by the prompt measures adopted by your Excellency in subduing the disturbances in St. Kitt's; and I am strongly of opinion that if the matter had been left to the operation of the civil law, the effect would not have been such as it has been.

Movements in one Island are soon known in another by the labourers, and any disturbance not immediately checked in one never fails to give trouble in another.

To his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) J. P. Lockhart,  
President and Commander-in-Chief.

(True copies.)

E. J. Murray MacGregor, Governor.

Enclosure (E.)

No. 1.

Leeward Islands, &c.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 27 November 1834.

Enclosure (E.)

THE late resistance of the St. Christopher's apprentices to the Abolition Act being treated of at home as an ordinary case of insubordination or refusal to work, for which the civil law affords appropriate remedies, and the Right Honourable the Colonial Secretary of State entertaining doubts of the propriety of the employment of the law martial there, because, with

with this single exception, all partial disturbances or acts of insubordination which have occurred in His Majesty's West Indian Colonies have been met and suppressed by the civil power, your Excellency will, I am persuaded, readily pardon my present intrusion. ST. CHRISTOPHER.

Between the duties of the Lieutenant-governors of Demerara, Trinidad and St. Lucia, and those of your Excellency and myself, as Governors of the Windward and Leeward Islands, there appears to me a very marked disparity; the arrangements to be conducted by them being of a less complicated nature, because, however extensive their jurisdiction, the measures they have to pursue are generally applicable but to one theatre of action.

With us the case is different, and, owing to our respectively governing several Islands, each with a separate internal administration, our position is rendered much more critical in the event of any disaffection pervading the negro population of the whole.

Your Excellency is aware of the pressing calls of the authorities in St. Christopher's for aid; that the force at your own immediate disposal was fully occupied; that the demands of Antigua prevented me from removing more than one company from this garrison to Basseterre; and that for its conveyance thither, I was indebted to the accidental presence of the Belvidera at Barbadoes, and to your Excellency's kindness in communicating with Capt. Strong.

The mass of the apprenticed labourers soon afterwards withdrew from the estates to which they were by law attached, and, covered by woods, congregated in the mountains of the interior, where no chain of military posts could hem them in, and whence they could emerge in any numbers, at any time, and towards any quarter or quarters they might have thought proper, augmenting not only their powers of devastation, if tempted by hunger, the suggestions of their ringleaders, or by my supineness, to descend into the lower grounds, but the difficulty of the troops in overtaking them, as the arena expanded towards the circumference of the Island.

The minds of the working classes in the Virgin Islands, Nevis and Montserrat were unsettled, and any hesitation evinced by me in St. Christopher's would have prolonged the double risk of encouragement to the insubordinate negroes there being afforded by corresponding proceedings of their fellows in the adjacent Colonies, or of inciting the last-mentioned parties to pursue in emulating the resistance of the former.

I may have erred in deeming this an extreme case; but as your Excellency enjoys better opportunities of acquaintance with transactions in the other Colonies, may I take the liberty of requesting to be informed whether any disturbance of the like nature, equally serious, and involving equally important consequences in its issue, as that subdued in St. Christopher's, has been put down by the civil power alone in any of the Islands under your Excellency's superintendence as Governor-in-Chief, or within the still wider range of your military command.

I have, &c.  
*E. J. Murray MacGregor,*  
Governor.

To his Excellency (signed)  
Major-general Sir Lionel Smith, K. C. B.  
Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Forces,  
&c. &c. &c.

(Confidential.)

(No. 2.)

Barbadoes, 16 December 1834.

Sir,  
I have had the honour to receive your Excellency's confidential letter of the 27th ult., detailing the considerations which led to the late proclamation of the law martial at St. Christopher's, and requesting I would inform you whether there were any similar instances of insubordination among the apprentices in any of the Islands of this Government, or in any of the military stations of the command, and how such occurrences were dealt with, consequent upon the abolition of slavery.

In this Island, where we have upwards of 82,000 apprentices, scarcely any change in their temper, conduct or habits was to be perceived; but a great deal of ignorance and misconception was removed by my personal explanations, through intelligent individuals, selected from every estate, the smallness of the Island giving great facilities for such communication.

Had there been the least insubordination, I should have, no doubt, been hard pressed by the local authorities to declare martial law; and indeed none of the Legislative Slave Colonies, that I know of, have had civil laws or police establishments for the government of the negro population, slave-owners having possessed arbitrary power, under local codes, over their own slaves, and the military therefore have been invariably resorted to, to put down disturbances; and as long as the militia are not let loose upon the negroes in this state, I am of opinion the employment of troops of the line among such population will, for a long time to come, be found the most merciful and prompt, because soldiers have no prejudices against them, and meet such helpless enemies with forbearance and compassion.

The only instance, even of partial disturbance, in the Windward Government was at Grenada. There the negroes of one or two contiguous estates declared against apprenticeship, and that they would not work. The magistrates well knowing their own inefficiency, immediately called for military aid, and a company of the 1st West Indian regiment seized the principals and restored order. Had this been neglected, or slowly executed, depending on the civil authorities waiting for actual mischief to warrant the call for troops, as in countries where all the inhabitants are protected by similar or equal laws, a combination, presuming on the weakness or fears of Government, would have spread over the Island, and created general resistance.

**ST. CHRISTOPHER.** From Trinidad I was called upon for more troops. The negroes, in a state of ignorance, deserted the estates, and fled to the capital, but I never heard that they committed violence; and the Lieutenant-governor soon found himself strong enough to maintain the laws with the means he had.

In Demerara the Lieutenant-governor, a military officer, reported the movement and use of these companies of the line to put down a combination of negroes.

There is every reason to believe that this bad spirit was not general in these Colonies, and the two latter being Crown Colonies, it is very likely the civil authorities had more strength than in those Colonies which maintained no police establishments on a scale to control the negro population in a general state of resistance. Where such was the case, I should be of opinion military law was unavoidable; and as long as such law did not trench upon the rights and liberties of the whites, even its powers and punishments would be found comparatively mild to the laws under which the unfortunate negroes had previously existed.

His Excellency Sir Evan Murray MacGregor, Bart.  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Lionel Smith.*

(True copies.)

*E. J. Murray MacGregor, Governor.*

— No. 217. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of Aberdeen to Governor  
*Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor.*

Sir,

Colonial Office, 13 March 1835.

No. 217.

I HAVE received your Despatch dated the 1st January last, explanatory of the circumstances and motives by which you were induced to proclaim martial law in the Island of St. Christopher on the 6th of August last.

You appear to understand the Despatch in which my immediate predecessor in office called for this information as intimating some prepossession unfavourable to your conduct.

I cannot of course undertake to be the interpreter of Mr. Spring Rice's meaning; but as far as I have the means of forming a judgment on the question, I believe that he would disavow and deprecate any such construction of his language.

Adverting to the various documents which you have now transmitted, I am happy and prompt to acknowledge that they not only exculpate you from all blame in the transactions to which they refer, but that they prove that you were amply entitled to the grateful acknowledgments which you received from persons of every class among the inhabitants of the Colonies under your Government.

I have laid the whole of this correspondence before the King; and I perform an office very agreeable to myself in conveying to you, in obedience to His Majesty's commands, the assurance that His Majesty has been pleased to approve the measures which you adopted for the maintenance of the public peace in St. Christopher's in the month of August last, which appear to His Majesty to have been equally commendable for the enlightened humanity by which they were suggested and for the decision with which they were carried into execution.

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

— No. 218. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor, Bart.*,  
to the Earl of *Aberdeen.*

My Lord,

Government House, Antigua, 9 April 1835.

No. 218.

THE provisions of the 17th clause of the Imperial Act for the Abolition of Slavery being variously interpreted in these Islands, and special magistrates acting on different systems, even in the same Colony, in regard to the whipping of

of female apprenticed labourers and female children of that class, I have judged it expedient to address a circular Letter, of which a copy is enclosed, to the Lieutenant-governor of St. Christopher's, and to the Presidents of Dominica, the Virgin Islands, Nevis and Montserrat respectively, and trust that my endeavours to ensure unity of action, by the adoption of the more lenient course, until your Lordship's pleasure shall be known, will be approved of.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Governor.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

8 April 1835.

## Enclosure in No. 218.

Leeward Islands, &amp;c.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 8 April 1835.

DOUBTS as to the legality of inflicting the punishment of whipping on female apprenticed labourers and female children of that class being about to be brought to the notice of the Right Honourable the Earl of Aberdeen, I request your Excellency will be pleased to adopt such measures as may tend to suppress this practice in the Islands under your Excellency's administration, until his Lordship's instructions respecting it shall have been received.

Enclosure in  
No. 218.

From whatever local authority an order for the application of this chastisement to females may emanate, it is obviously subject to the intervention of the Royal mercy, the exercise of which is delegated to your Excellency.

I have, &amp;c.

To his Excellency  
The Lieutenant-governor of St. Christopher's,  
&c. &c. &c.  
and their Honours  
The Presidents of Dominica, the Virgin Islands,  
Nevis and Montserrat respectively.

(signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*.

## — No. 219. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 15 June 1835.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 9th of April last, representing that the provisions of the 17th clause of the Imperial Act for the Abolition of Slavery have been variously interpreted in the various Islands under your government, and that the special magistrates act on different systems, even in the same Colony, in regard to the whipping of female apprenticed labourers and female children of that class.

No. 219.

In the absence of any explanation of the nature or grounds of this doubt, I can only state that it appears to me that the words of the Act of Parliament distinctly and unequivocally forbid the practice in question. The enactment is, that it shall not be lawful for any Colonial Legislature, or for His Majesty in Council, "to authorize any court, judge or justice of the peace to punish any apprenticed labourer, being a female, for any offence by her committed, by whipping or beating her person." I know not how the prohibition could be rendered more absolute or more comprehensive. As, however, doubts have been raised, I approve of the course you adopted, of directing the officers administering the Governments of St. Christopher's, Dominica, Nevis, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands to interpose their authority for the prevention of any such punishments. You will signify to them, and through them to the special magistracy of the different Islands, my entire concurrence in your interpretation of the law on this subject.

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

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

— No. 220. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart.

No. 220.

Sir,

Downing-street, 26 July 1835.

His Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the Acts passed by the Legislature of St. Christopher's in the month of July 1834, with a view of giving effect to the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery, of which the titles are as follow :

"An Act for the Abolition of Slavery in this Island, and for the establishment of a system of Apprenticeship for a limited time in lieu thereof."

"An Act for prescribing the Powers and Duties of Special Magistrates."

"An Act to divide Apprenticed Labourers into several Classes."

"An Act to provide for Apprenticed Labourers during the term of their Apprenticeship."

"An Act for prescribing the Duties and regulating the Conduct of Apprenticed Labourers within this Island."

"An Act to prescribe the Duties to be performed by Employers towards their Apprenticed Labourers, and to enforce the performance of the same."

"An Act to regulate the removal of Prædial Apprenticed Labourers from one Plantation to another, to establish certain Rules to govern the Sale of the Services of all classes of Apprenticed Labourers, and the disposition thereof by Will, as well as to regulate the Descent of the same in cases of Intestacy."

"An Act for dividing this Island into Districts, and for establishing a sufficient Police within the same."

"An Act to punish Apprenticed Labourers for Offences against the public welfare."

"An Act to regulate the dissolution of Apprenticeship by the voluntary act of the Employer, and to compel such dissolution in cases where the Labourer is able and willing to purchase his or her discharge from Apprenticeship."

"An Act to extend to the Island of Anguilla the several Acts passed by the Island of St. Christopher, pursuant to an Act of Parliament made and passed in the 3d and 4th year of the reign of His present Majesty, intituled, 'An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves;' except as hereinafter provided."

It affords me sincere gratification to observe that the Legislature of St. Christopher appear to have been actuated by the desire of fully carrying into effect the instructions of the King and the wishes of Parliament on the important subjects to which these Acts relate. It is true that they contain several variations from the model prescribed by His Majesty in Council, which I cannot consider to have been quite judicious; but, with only two exceptions, they appear to me to come within that class of topics on which some scope for difference of opinion must be allowed; and the general spirit and tenor of the Acts afford me the strongest assurance that the Legislature of St. Kitt's will readily give their attention to the suggestions I feel it my duty to make upon these points, with the view of removing the objections I entertain with respect to them.

1st. By the 7th section of the Act, prescribing the duties of special magistrates, the apprenticed labourers are made liable to summary conviction and prompt punishment, in certain cases, for perjury, although for perjuries committed on the same occasions persons entirely free could be punished only on legal conviction after a regular trial. This is an encroachment upon the general principle of legal equality in whatever respects the administration of the penal law, which though perhaps not very essential in its direct consequences, may yet not be without importance, as impairing the integrity of that general principle.

2dly. The 11th section of the Act, for regulating the conduct of the apprenticed labourers, subjects them to imprisonment, with hard labour, for absenting themselves from the service of their employers, and then requires that they shall make satisfaction to the employer, not only for the time of absence, but for

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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for the time lost to him by the imprisonment. To constitute the apprentice a debtor to the extent of the injury which his endurance of the punishment of imprisonment may incidentally inflict upon his employer, appears to me unreasonable; and it is also objectionable, as giving the employer an interest in the misconduct of his apprentice.

Feeling assured that the Legislature of St. Christopher will apply themselves to remedy these defects, in the same spirit with which they have already given effect to the British Act, by the supplementary enactments which have been under my consideration, I am happy to announce to you that His Majesty's Government are of opinion that the Legislature of St. Christopher have performed the condition upon which the right of the Colony to a participation in the compensation fund has been made to depend.

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

— No. 221. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor  
Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 31st ult., declaring that adequate and satisfactory provision hath been made in the Colony of St. Christopher for giving effect to an Act of Parliament, made in the 3d & 4th year of His present Majesty, for the abolition of slavery.

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

No. 221.

Order in Council,  
31 July 1835;  
printed in the Appendix of Part II,  
(B.) No. 16,

## NEVIS.

— No. 222. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart. to  
Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 31st August 1833.

I HAVE the honour to enclose copies of a communication from the President of Nevis, and of joint Resolutions therewith received, relative to the extinction of Slavery, by the Council and Assembly of that Island, and of the reply which I deemed it requisite to address to the President upon this occasion, particularly in reference to the second Resolution of the Board and House.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

Enclosures in No. 222.

No. 1.

Sir,

Nevis, August 22, 1833.

WITH much gratification I have the honour to enclose to your Excellency the joint Resolutions of the Council and Assembly of this Island, for the extinction of Slavery, and in conformity to the Resolutions passed by the Imperial Parliament.

This public document of the two branches of the Legislature will, I most cordially hope, meet with the entire approbation of your Excellency, and at the same time accord with the views of the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *James Daniell*, President.

To his Excellency, Sir Evan Murray M'Gregor, Bart. &c.

Enclosures in  
No. 222.

No. 1.  
22 August 1833.

No. 2.  
20 August 1833.

No. 3.  
31 August 1833.



NEVIS.

## No. 2.

COPY of RESOLUTIONS on the subject of the ABOLITION of SLAVERY, passed by the HOUSE of ASSEMBLY, and concurred in by the Honourable Board of Council, the 20th August 1833.

Resolved, That in conformity with the wishes of Parliament, such effectual measures be adopted for the speedy Abolition of Slavery as may be consistent with a due regard to the permanent welfare of the slaves, the interests of the masters, and the general safety of the community at large.

Resolved, That it is expedient that the grant of £.20,000,000 sterling offered by the two Houses of the British Parliament towards compensation to the proprietors of slaves, for the losses they will sustain by the operation of the measures proposed by His Majesty's Government be accepted, though totally inadequate for the purpose of compensation; provided such grant be distributed among the proprietors of slaves at an equal sum per head for every slave throughout the Colonies.

Resolved, That to secure the tranquillity of this Colony, and to obviate the dangers and evils which a sudden change in the condition of the labouring population will produce, it is indispensably necessary to maintain an active and powerful system of police. And this House receives with gratitude the announcement of His Majesty's gracious intention to defray the expenses incidental to such an establishment, and to provide, upon liberal and comprehensive principles, for the religious and moral instruction of the emancipated population.

## No. 3.

Government House, Antigua,  
31st August 1833.

Sir,

YOUR Honour's Letter of the 22d instant, together with the joint Resolutions of the Council and Assembly of Nevis, for the extinction of Slavery, will be duly conveyed to the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department.

So many conflicting interests of various Colonies press simultaneously upon the attention of His Majesty's Government and of Parliament, that modifications are to be looked for during the progress through the Houses of Lords and Commons, of those measures which the King's Ministers may propose, as in their estimation the best adapted for promoting the general interests of the Colonists at large.

This consideration induces me, although with the greatest deference, rather to doubt the expediency of the second Resolution, passed by the Legislature of the Island under your administration, if it is actually intended to imply that a share of the £.20,000,000 sterling, offered by the British Parliament, in compensation for the value of slaves, is positively declined by the proprietors in Nevis, unless the grant be distributed "at an equal sum per head for every slave throughout the Colonies."

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

To his Honour the President of Nevis, &amp;c.

## — No. 223. —

No. 223.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Stanley* to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 17th October 1833.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 31st August, enclosing copies of a Correspondence which had passed between the President of Nevis and yourself; and have to convey to you my approval of your communication to that officer in reference to the second Resolution of the House of Assembly.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. G. Stanley*.

## — No. 224. —

No. 224.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart. to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*, dated Government House, Antigua, 1st February 1834.

I HAVE the honour of requesting your commands upon the accompanying Act, passed by the Legislature of Nevis, "To provide for the maintenance, protection and good government of apprenticed Labourers, and to settle the jurisdiction and authority of special Magistrates."

*Vide Despatch,  
31 July, page 123.*

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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NEVIS.  
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No. 225.  
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—No. 225.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to  
Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 6 June 1834.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 1st February last, transmitting the Bill passed by the Legislature of Nevis for the maintenance of apprenticed Labourers and to settle the jurisdiction of the special Magistrates; and I have to inform you, that in consequence of this Bill not having received your assent or that of the President of Nevis, His Majesty is precluded from pronouncing any opinion upon it. It is a subject of considerable regret to me that this Bill should have been sent home in such a form; but in order to obviate the serious inconvenience which would result to the Island by the Bill not coming into operation on the 1st August next, I have received the King's commands to inform you that if the House of Assembly of Nevis be still in Session, and the usages of the Colony permit it, the required assent should be given by the officer administering the Government. If, on the other hand, the Session shall have been closed, I am to desire that immediate steps may be taken to convene the Legislature, who must be invited to re-enact the Bill, to which, when so re-enacted, Mr. President Daniell will give his assent.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *T. Spring Rice*.

—No. 226.—

No. 226.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Under-Secretary *Lefevre*  
to the President of Nevis.

Sir,

Downing-street, 6 June 1834.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Spring Rice to transmit to you, for your information and guidance, and lest any unforeseen circumstance should prevent Sir E. J. Murray M'Gregor from communicating with you, the copy of a Despatch which has been addressed to Sir M. M'Gregor on the subject of the assent to be given to the Bill connected with the abolition of Slavery which had passed the Legislature of Nevis.

I am, &amp;c.

(signed) *John Lefevre*.

—No. 227.—

No. 227.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.,  
to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

Nevis, 31 July 1834.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 6th June 1834, and have the honour to transmit to you herewith an Act passed by the Legislature of the Island of Nevis, "To provide for the maintenance, protection and good government of apprenticed Labourers, and to settle the jurisdiction and authority of special Magistrates," the same having now received the assent of Mr. President Daniell.

I beg also to enclose an Act passed by the Legislature of that Colony, intituled, "An Act to establish a Local Constabulary Force on the several Plantations in this Island."

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*,  
Governor.Act printed in  
Appendix (B.) No. 35.

Ditto, (B.) No. 36.

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—No. 228.—

No. 228.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart., to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, dated Nevis, 1 August 1834.

LANDING here yesterday morning, my proceedings with the Legislature are contained in the Enclosures Nos. 1, 2 and 3. The House of Assembly of Nevis complain of the non-arrival of the stipendiary Magistrate selected by the Crown.

The labourers in this place being reported equally submissive with those in Montserrat, my observations with respect to the working classes of Tortola are applicable, generally speaking, to the others also.

1 August 1834.

Vide page 46.

Enclosures in  
No. 228.

## Enclosures in No. 228.

## No. 1.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Council,  
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

ALTHOUGH it was my intention, as early as the arrangements of the respective Colonies consequent on the important event of emancipation might properly admit of my absence from Antigua, to have visited the several Legislatures of the other Islands in this Government, it is not without the most serious regret that I now experience the necessity of trespassing on your attention at an unusual season, owing to the refractory disposition displayed by certain evil-minded Negroes in an adjacent possession of the Crown.

The King having announced the determination to enforce obedience to lawful authority, it is impracticable to foresee what ruinous results these infatuated people may entail upon themselves; and therefore most pleasing to me to ascertain, that by the preservation of peace and order the labourers of Nevis judiciously cultivate the good opinion and favourable report of their employers, and thereby dutifully seek to be further recommended to the paternal care of our most Gracious Sovereign.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

The liberality of your Honourable House fully warrants the expectation that on your part nothing will be left undone to foster the present laudable sentiments of the working classes, and to shield the internal tranquillity of the Colony from interruption.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Council,  
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

The real interests of the various orders of inhabitants being indissolubly blended, it is impossible, when assembled together on an auspicious occasion, to be ever memorable in West Indian history, not to hail with exultation that happy alteration in the fabric of Colonial society this day fortunately achieved through the enlightened benevolence and energy of the King's Councils.

At the same time that thousands of our fellow creatures and their descendants yet unborn are permanently exonerated from bondage, the higher ranks of the community are relieved from the inconvenience of waging a harassing and hopeless contest against those of the parent State, and the prosperity of these Colonies, unembarrassed by any intervening shade of distinction, is henceforward identified with that of the rest of His Majesty's dominions.

The King's loyal and faithful subjects of Nevis, diligently and quietly pursuing their avocations under the new system opening with this cheering prospect, may lean on the protection of the officers entrusted by His Majesty with the administration of civil affairs and with the command of the royal naval and military forces, who are prepared to concur with and support your Honourable Board and House, if requisite, in repressing and punishing any infraction of the laws.

Nevis, August 1, 1834.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

## No. 2.

To His Excellency Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.  
&c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

WHILE we regret that untoward circumstances in a neighbouring possession of the Crown have rendered it necessary for your Excellency to be absent from Antigua at an unusual season, we cannot at the same time refrain from expressing our grateful acknowledgments for those prompt and decisive measures you have adopted in order to provide for the safety of every Colony under your Government.

We feel happy that the conduct of the labouring population of this Island is such as to deserve the good opinion and favourable report of their employers, and further, to recommend them to the paternal care of our most Gracious Sovereign.

We receive with gratitude your Excellency's assurance, that in the critical circumstances in which we are placed, we may rely with confidence on the protection of the officers entrusted by His Majesty with the administration of civil affairs and with the command of the royal naval and military forces.

Nevis, Council Chamber,  
August 1, 1834.

(signed) *James Daniell*.

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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No. 3.

NEVIS.

To His Excellency Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.,  
&c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

With sentiments of cordial sincerity, we, the Members of the House of Assembly in this Island, beg leave to offer to your Excellency our congratulations on your presence in this Island at the commencement of an era productive of the most important changes in the civil state of society in His Majesty's West India possessions; and our satisfaction on this occasion is much increased by the general state of tranquillity which we have hitherto enjoyed, and from our well-grounded expectations that good order and obedience to the laws will continue to be observed by all classes of this community.

We are happy in assuring your Excellency, that the labourers of this Island, with some few exceptions, are dutiful and obedient, and all of them are impressed with lively sentiments of loyalty and gratitude to our most Gracious Sovereign for the blessed gift of freedom which this day they enjoy; and if any dissatisfaction, arising from misconception or ignorance, may have been partially manifested on some few occasions, such feeling we have good reason to believe is now removed by the care which has been diligently taken in explaining to the labourers the real nature of the benefits which they will now continue to enjoy, and of the salutary restrictions which for a season are imposed upon them.

It has been a subject of much regret and disappointment to the inhabitants of this Colony that the officer entrusted by His Majesty with the special jurisdiction incidental to the new state of society has not arrived to assume his functions. In the labouring class the absence of this magistrate may create distrust, in the other classes much embarrassment, and in all considerable difficulty, from the want of a competent authority to administer justice. We earnestly trust that your Excellency will take the most efficient means to procure a speedy remedy for this untoward circumstance.

In the exalted sentiments of exultation with which the hearts of the enlightened and benevolent in the Mother Country will be filled by the events of this day, we sincerely and fully participate. Slavery now belongs only to history. In the annals of the world no parallel transition from bondage to freedom can be found by which at once was removed the accumulated mass of evil which an age had built up; and relying on the beneficent protection and care of our gracious King, we look forward with confidence to the cheering prospect which the unimpeded exertion of the labourer and the more prosperous condition of the higher classes will soon we trust afford.

Assembly Room, August 1, 1834.

(signed) *George Webbe*, Speaker.

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— No. 229. —

No. 229.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*,  
to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, dated St. Christopher's, 15 August 1834.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of a Letter from the President of Nevis, whence it may be gratifying to you to collect that public tranquillity is likely to remain uninterrupted in this Island.

13 August 1834.

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Enclosure in No. 229.

COPY of a LETTER from President *Maynard* to Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Enclosure in  
No. 229.

Sir,

Government House, Nevis, 13 August 1834.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's communication, dated the 11th of August, conveying the gratifying intelligence that an improvement in the conduct of the labouring classes of St. Christopher's had taken place.

I beg to congratulate your Excellency on this happy result of your visit to that Colony, and to express my conviction that the tranquillity and good order which in this Island have succeeded, without the intervention of martial law, to a state of great disaffection, are mainly attributable to the prompt and energetic measures adopted by you in the neighbouring scene of disturbance

I have, &c.

(signed) *Josiah W. Maynard*, President.

NEVIS.

No. 230.

—No. 230.—

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart., dated Downing-street, 16 October 1834.

I ACKNOWLEDGE the receipt of your Despatch of the 15th of August, and its Enclosure.

It is very satisfactory to me to learn, that tranquillity and order have been maintained at Nevis and Montserrat, without the fearful necessity of resorting to martial law; and that this result is attributed by the President of Nevis to the prompt and energetic measures taken by you. This cordiality and good feeling between you and those who are subject to your authority, will assure to all parties the best success in the performance of their respective functions, and in this instance is fully due to you for the zeal which you have manifested in quitting your immediate seat of Government, and in resorting to those Islands where your services were peculiarly necessary.

No. 231.

— No. 231. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart., to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department.

Sir, Government House, Antigua, 16 January 1835.

I do myself the honour of transmitting to you the enclosed copy of a Letter from Mr. Daniell, the President of Nevis, on the subject of your circular Despatch, dated 30th September 1834, in reference to the probable consequences of the great change in the condition of the Negro population of His Majesty's Colonies, on the system of cultivating lands, and on the general pursuits of industry.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

Enclosure in  
No. 231.

Enclosure in No. 231.

Sir,

Government House, 12 January 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge to your Excellency the receipt from the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, of a circular Despatch, dated the 30th September 1834, in which is requested the communication of local experience and opinions, as to the effects which free labour, and the apprenticeship of the Negroes, are likely to produce upon the pursuits of profitable industry; it therefore becomes my duty to offer to your Excellency the following observations:—

A landed proprietor in Nevis, as in most of the West Indian islands, is at the same time an agriculturalist and a manufacturer. In the former character he raises, by a difficult and uncertain system of cultivation, the sugar-cane, various vegetables used as food, and some which minister to luxury; in the latter he produces, by processes more or less laborious and complicated, sugar, molasses and rum.

Of these substances, so generally used for domestic purposes, some quantity is of course consumed within the Colony; but the great bulk is exported to the United Kingdom, to the British North American possessions, and to the United States.

The sweet potatoe, the Angola pea, the banana, the yam, and the Indian and Guinea corn, are cultivated to some extent, entirely for internal consumption, and principally as food for the labouring class, who are, however, mainly dependent on importation for the articles of their sustenance. The plant which yields the arrow-root, and those fruits which are preserved in the form of sweetmeats, are slightly attended to, and small quantities are exported.

It may be presumed that a West Indian estate, when disencumbered of the weight of supporting, through all seasons, whether productive or otherwise, the same number of labourers, will be wielded with more facility as an instrument of production. When the soil is separated from its cultivations it will be purchased for less money, and will consequently be more easily acquired for the purposes of experimental agriculture. Many persons possessing the requisite skill and enterprize are at present deterred from embarking in such pursuits, by the large outlay of capital necessary at the commencement, and the annual cost of maintaining persons attached to the land.

It does not appear that it will ever be possible to effect a disunion of the agriculturalists from the manufacturer. The cane harvest must be gathered as soon as it is fit for the mill, or it rapidly depreciates in value; and it is so bulky, and when severed from the stem so soon undergoes chemical changes, as to preclude the possibility of its transmission to any distance. There are, however, various improvements connected with the culture of the cane, the manufacture of sugar, and the distillation of rum, so palpable to the least scientific knowledge

12 January 1835.

knowledge as to ensure their adoption, when an altered state of society shall render it possible to make changes in the present systems. Should the consumption of vinegar in the arts, or for domestic purposes, give rise to an increased demand for that substance in the United Kingdom, it might easily be produced, at trifling expense and of excellent quality, from cane juice, which is now converted into superfluous sugar.

As far as the lessons of experience have yet taught us, few favourable anticipations can be entertained as to the period during which the apprenticeship shall continue; so long will landed property hold an unnatural value, so long will the burthens of an estate remain the same, whether the seasons be adverse or propitious, so long will labour be rendered unwillingly, and the apprentice be confirmed in habits of indolence, so long will disagreement and dissatisfaction disturb the relation of master and servant, and so long will all prospects of social improvement remain unsettled and uncertain.

A great bar to the prosperity of the sugar colonies is to be found in the duty, amounting to a prohibition, levied on refined sugar imported into the United Kingdom. The process of refining is a mere extension of that by which Muscovado sugar is produced: by the adoption of a few alterations the purest sugar might be manufactured at once from the juice of the cane. The advantages of such a procedure are numerous and considerable. The rude and inartificial methods to which the cane juice is at present subjected, to bring it to the state of sugar, cannot but affect injuriously the product which is obtained. On an improved system the manufactured article would suffer no injury in its production; it would be less bulky, unalterable by the circumstances of a sea voyage, and when formed, would undergo no subsequent diminution by drainage.

The Nevis proprietor, suffering as he does under the pressure of adverse circumstances, justly considers the duty of four-and-a-half per cent., which he pays to His Majesty on all exported articles, and which is applied to purposes in which he is not interested, as a very grievous hardship. The abolition of this impost, or its application to objects connected with the Island, would be hailed by the colonists with delight, as a token of His Majesty's most gracious consideration for their distressed condition.

The fiscal regulations respecting tonnage appear to operate injuriously on commerce, as they affect trading vessels in proportion to their size, and not in proportion to the amount of intercourse which they may have with the Island.

The duties on the produce of the United States, with which communication might be more easily maintained than with the British possessions in North America, are disadvantageous to West Indies, however serviceable they may be to other colonies.

If those evils, which have been pointed out, are admitted to be really such, the remedies suggest themselves.

To remove the impediments which stand in the way of improvement in West Indian manufactures, by reducing the duty on sugar of perfect quality imported from these colonies into the United Kingdom, to abolish the four-and-a-half per cent. impost, or to apply it to insular purposes, to modify the tonnage duties, so as to affect vessels in proportion to their cargoes, and to facilitate, by an alteration of duties, the supply of such necessary articles as lumber, staves and flour, from places where they may be obtained at moderate prices and of good quality; these changes would all be the substitution of good for evil.

The establishment of an improved judicial system, the influence of which shall reach the Court of Chancery, is very desirable. It can hardly be expected that unprofessional persons should be competent to decide upon complicated legal questions; such, however, is the arrangement generally adopted at present.

The promotion of education, and of religious and moral instructions, cannot but be intimately connected with the prosperity of a community.

The further centralization of the government, by making one island the seat of the legislative, as well as of the supreme executive department, affords a reasonable prospect of advantage; such a legislature would be actuated by more general views, and, on the principle of selection, would be composed of more competent persons, than at present form the local Councils and Assemblies. The resort of a number of delegates to one point would render it of increased importance, and would greatly advance it in civilization. Mutual intercourse would put each in possession of whatever existed in the department of another worthy of being known, and on their return they would all carry back an increased stock of information for local purposes.

I have, &c.

(signed) *James Daniell*, President, adm<sup>t</sup> the Government.

— No. 232. —

No. 232.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor  
Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 27th July 1835.

THE two Acts passed by the Legislature of the Island of Nevis, for giving effect within that Colony to the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery, do not appear to have hitherto been made the subject of any communication to yourself: I now proceed to apprise you of the views which His Majesty's Government have taken of the provisions of those laws.

278.—II.

On

NEVIS.

On comparing the Acts of Nevis with the orders made by the King in Council for a similar purpose in reference to the Islands of Trinidad, St. Lucia and Mauritius, they appear to be not only much more compendious, but in certain important respects defective. Bearing in mind, however, the narrowness of the society of Nevis, and the consequent paucity of the resources at the command of the local Legislature, I am ready to admit, that the abbreviation of the forms of the Orders in Council, and even the omission of some of their rules, may not constitute a valid ground of objection to these Acts. I have, however, to call the attention of the Council and Assembly of the Island to the following remarks, to which the apology I have already mentioned for other departures from the model proposed to them is inapplicable.

First,—If the supply of food to the apprenticed labourers should be deficient, the complaint must be preferred within one week from the neglect. This time is manifestly too short; because the opportunity of making the complaint may often not present itself until a much later period.

Secondly,—The removal of apprenticed labourers from one plantation to another belonging to the same owner, is authorized by the 16th section of the first of these Acts, if the sanction of a single special magistrate can be obtained. But by the ninth section of the Act of Parliament, the consent in writing of two such justices at the least is declared indispensable. It is with very serious regret that I notice this direct repugnancy between the Colonial Act and the Imperial enactment. His Majesty in Council cannot, of course, confirm any law of any colony which is in positive contradiction to any part of this, or indeed of any other Act of Parliament; but an Act not so sanctioned cannot be declared by the King to be, within the terms of the 44th section, an “adequate and satisfactory provision” for giving effect to that statute. Consequently, the persons formerly entitled to the services of the emancipated slaves in Nevis have not yet acquired a right to participate in the compensation fund. It is superfluous to urge upon you and upon the legislature of the Island the most prompt attention to this subject, with a view to the necessary amendment of the enactment in question.

Thirdly,—A summary process of ejection against apprenticed labourers trespassing on land, is given by the 23d section. It will be necessary that some time (probably not more than twelve months) should be fixed, after the lapse of which the possessory title of the apprentice should be placed beyond the reach of this prompt remedy.

Fourthly,—The language of the 24th section is such as to afford some countenance to the opinion, that an apprenticed labourer in attendance on the person of his or her employer, may be removed from the Island, even against the will of the labourer. It being quite clear that such a proceeding would be illegal, I do not suppose that the Colonial Legislature really designed to authorize it. They should, however, prevent the possible misconstruction of their meaning in this respect, by a distinct affirmation that they are not to be so understood.

Fifthly,—By the 33d section, the substitution of whipping for imprisonment is authorized in the case of male offenders; and the substituted whippings may be repeated three times with a maximum of thirty lashes on each occasion, as the punishment for a single offence. It is impossible to sanction the exercise of such an authority by any magistrate whatever, even though invested with a special commission. The infliction of ninety stripes for any offence cognizable before him, is quite inadmissible. In this respect, His Majesty's Government cannot authorize any advance beyond the limits prescribed in the Order in Council; nor will they consider the Parliamentary condition as fulfilled, until the Act of the Legislature of Nevis shall have been amended accordingly.

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

## VIRGIN ISLANDS.

VIRGIN  
ISLANDS.

— No. 233. —

No. 233.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. President *Isaacs* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Tortola, May 5th, 1834.

I HAVE the honour, in compliance with a requisition, of which the enclosed is a copy, authorized by the Council and Assembly of the Virgin Islands, to forward herewith, for your consideration and His Majesty's approval, transcripts of four Acts, intituled as therein mentioned, which have been passed by those branches of the Legislature, and shall also take advantage of the earliest conveyance to transmit to his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, transcripts of the same, together with copies of the said requisition and of this Despatch; and shall, at the same time, furnish his Excellency, in conformity to his general direction, with the opinion of the senior King's counsel of this Colony relative to those Acts which have been submitted to him for examination.

The existing diversity of opinion of different members of the Legislature during the course of their endeavours to frame Acts corresponding with the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery in the British Colonies, and, at the same time, to render them as salutary as possible to all descriptions of persons in these Islands, without losing sight of the local circumstances of the Colony, has retarded the completion of their enactments to so late a period, that were those Acts to be sent to the Governor-in-Chief in the first instance, and the usual course of proceeding to take place, His Majesty's pleasure could not possibly be known here previous to the first of August, when it will be of the utmost importance to the safety and welfare of this Colony that some law should be in force, adapted to the great change which will then take place; and as I have not had the honour to receive any reply to my Despatch, dated the 13th April last, to his Excellency Governor M'Gregor, shortly after receiving a notification that such requisition would be made, requesting his Excellency's direction for my guidance on the occasion, and which I can only attribute to a cause for which I feel great regret, having learnt on the packet's arrival, a few days ago, that he was so much indisposed as to be unable to attend to business; I have therefore been induced, from the urgency of the case, to entertain the application, considering that I am, as the officer administering the government of these Islands, borne out in doing so by the "Fourth Article" of the additional Royal Instructions.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Wm. Rogers Isaacs*,  
President, administering the Government of the  
Virgin Islands.

Enclosure in No. 233.

Enclosure in  
No. 233.

Sir,

Tortola, 2d May 1834.

WE have the honour to transmit you transcripts of four Bills passed by the Board of Council and House of Assembly, in conformity with a Statute of the Imperial Parliament, 3 & 4 William IV., intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves;" viz.—

No. 1.—An Act for regulating the division of apprenticed Labourers into their respective Classes, for providing for the dissolution of the Apprenticeship by Contract or otherwise.

No. 2.—An Act to regulate the removal of prædial apprenticed Labourers from one Plantation or Estate to another; the Alienation by Sale, Inheritance or Will of the services of apprenticed Labourers; the Apprenticeship of Children of apprenticed Labourers; and the relation in which apprenticed Labourers will stand towards the State in the said Virgin Islands, and thereby to carry more effectually into operation the Enactments contained in that behalf, in an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, for promoting the Industry of manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves."

278.—II.

No. 3.—An

May 2, 1834.  
On the 11th, 16th &  
23d April 1834.  
Vide President  
Isaac's Despatch,  
30 July 1834.



VIRGIN  
ISLANDS.

No. 3.—An Act for prescribing the Duties of apprenticed Labourers and Employers respectively, and imposing Penalties for the non-performance thereof, and providing other Regulations for the Maintenance of good Order.

No. 4.—An Act for prescribing the Powers and Duties of Special Justices, and for defining the jurisdiction of the same.

Which Bills we request may be transmitted to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies direct, the emergency of the occasion requiring that this should be done forthwith; the period to the 1st of August 1834, when it was intended they should come into operation, not allowing sufficient time to transmit them previously to the Governor-General of Antigua, &c. &c. for approval: And for so doing we suggest a full authority is contained in the Royal Instructions to Sir Evan John Murray M'Gregor, dated 22d February 1833, intituled, "Additional Instructions."

We have, &c.

To his Honour the President  
administering the Government of the  
Virgin Islands, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Wm. Gordon*, President of the Council.  
*Thos. Marsh*, Speaker of the Assembly.

No. 234.

—No. 234.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Under-Secretary *Lefevre* to  
Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 7 June 1834.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Spring Rice to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. President Isaacs' Despatch, dated Tortola, 5 May 1834, transmitting four Acts connected with the Abolition of Slavery, which had been passed by the Council and Assembly of the Virgin Islands; and I have to inform you, that in consequence of these Bills not having received your assent, or that of the President of the Virgin Islands, His Majesty is precluded from pronouncing any opinion upon them. It is a subject of considerable regret to Mr. Spring Rice that the Bills should have been sent home in such a form; but in order to obviate the serious inconvenience which would result to the Islands by these Bills not coming into operation on the 1st August next, I am directed to acquaint you that Mr. Spring Rice has received the King's commands to inform you, that if the House of Assembly of the Virgin Islands be still in session, and the usages of the Colony permit it, the required assent should be given by the officer administering the Government. If, on the other hand, the session shall have been closed, I am to desire that immediate steps be taken to convene the Legislature, who must be invited to re-enact these Bills, to which, when so re-enacted, Mr. President Isaacs will give his assent.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Lefevre*.

*P. S.*—I have sent a copy of this Despatch to Mr. President Isaacs for his information and guidance, and lest any unforeseen circumstance should prevent you from communicating with him; but you are nevertheless to instruct him as above directed.

No. 235.

—No. 235.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Under-Secretary *Lefevre*  
to Mr. President *Isaacs*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 7 June 1834.

WITH reference to your Despatch dated 5th May last, transmitting four Bills which had passed the Council and Assembly of the Virgin Islands connected with the Abolition of Slavery, I have the honour to enclose to you for your information and guidance, and lest any unforeseen circumstance should prevent Sir E. M'Gregor from communicating with you, the copy of a Despatch which by Mr. Spring Rice's direction I have addressed to Sir M. M'Gregor.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Lefevre*.

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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—No. 236.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. President *Isaacs*  
to Mr. Under-Secretary *Lefevre*.

VIRGIN  
ISLANDS.  
—  
No. 236.

Sir,

Tortola, July 30, 1834.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch dated 7 June 1834, on the subject of four Bills connected with the Abolition of Slavery, which had passed the Council and Assembly of the Virgin Islands, and were transmitted by me on the 5th May last, together with a copy of a Despatch addressed by direction of Mr. Secretary Spring Rice to Sir Evan J. M. M'Gregor, another copy of which I have also received from Governor M'Gregor, with his Despatch dated on the 16th July inst., acquainting me that he had transmitted the same for my information and guidance; on the receipt of which, the House of Assembly being still in session, I caused the seal of the Virgin Islands to be affixed to those four Bills, and have given my assent thereto, so that they will come into operation on the 1st of August.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *W<sup>m</sup> Rogers Isaacs*,  
President of the Virgin Islands.

Four Acts, printed  
in Appendix (B.)  
Nos. 37 to 40.

—No. 237.—

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*  
to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, dated Nevis, 1 August 1834.

No. 237.  
Tortola.

I HAVE the honour to state, that His Majesty's ship 'Belvidera' anchored on the 23d in the harbour of Tortola, and the Enclosures Nos. 1, 2 and 3 show what passed there between the Legislature and myself. A degree of uncertainty, rather than positive alarm, seemed to prevail respecting the intentions of the Negro population; but the militia, including the liberated Africans, who are highly loyal and zealous, were under arms and well clothed and appointed, which circumstance, together with the presence of the King's troops, the established conviction that ships of war are in the neighbourhood, ready to appear if wanted, and the probability that experience may reconcile the apprenticed labourers to their new condition, lead me to dismiss the idea of their openly resisting its provisions, unless attempts of the like nature in any other quarter should unfortunately prove successful.

The special magistrate appointed by His Majesty's Government for service in the Virgin Islands had not yet appeared there, which was felt by the public authorities as a most serious inconvenience.

24th July 1834.

Enclosures in No. 237.

No. 1.

Enclosures in  
No. 237.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Council,  
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

IN addressing your Honourable Board and House, it is a source of gratification to me publicly to testify the favourable sense with which I am impressed of the general good conduct, since my appointment to this government, of the labouring population.

Rejoicing, as a sincere friend of the Negro race, at the important amelioration of their lot about to be introduced on the abolition of slavery, I anxiously advise them by diligence, assiduity and obedience during the intermediate stage of apprenticeship to evince their loyalty and gratitude to the King, and by meriting a continuance of His Majesty's Royal protection thus to render themselves deserving of the ulterior benefits to be eventually conferred on them under the auspices of our most Gracious Sovereign.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

The Executive looks to your Honourable House for such co-operation as the best interests of your constituents may be found to demand, particularly in adequately accommodating His Majesty's troops at present stationed here.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Council,  
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

The circumstances attending my arrival at this crisis attest the determination of the civil authorities as well as of the officers commanding the King's naval and military forces, by the vigilant maintenance of public order and tranquillity, to secure the safety and promote the prosperity of all classes of His Majesty's faithful subjects in the Virgin Islands.

Tortola, July 24, 1834.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*.

VIRGIN  
ISLANDS.

No. 2.

To His Excellency Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.,  
&c. &c. &c.

WE, the members of His Majesty's Council of the Virgin Islands, beg leave to express our great satisfaction at your Excellency's visit to this part of your government.

We are happy to concur with your Excellency, that the slave population since your Excellency's administration have conducted themselves in a peaceable and orderly manner; and we sincerely hope that they will by their future good behaviour evince their loyalty and gratitude to the King, and thereby merit a continuance of His Majesty's Royal protection.

We duly appreciate the motive by which your Excellency was induced to visit this Colony, and rest satisfied that your Excellency, as well as the officers commanding the King's naval and military forces, will use all the means in their power for maintaining public order and tranquillity, and securing the safety and promoting the prosperity of all classes of His Majesty faithful and loyal subjects in the Virgin Islands.

(signed) *William Rogers Isaacs*, President.

<i>William Gordon.</i>	<i>William Lawson.</i>
<i>William Crubbe.</i>	<i>H. W. Snow.</i>
<i>M. D. French.</i>	

No. 3.

To His Excellency Sir *Evan J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.,  
&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

THE Commons' House of Assembly of the Virgin Islands offer their thanks to your Excellency for your visit to this part of your Excellency's government at this important crisis, which cannot fail to have the desired effect on the minds of all classes of His Majesty's subjects in these Islands, more particularly those who are about to experience so great and important a change.

This House begs leave to assure your Excellency that they will at all times be ready to co-operate with your Excellency to secure the safety and promote the prosperity of all classes of His Majesty's subjects in the Virgin Islands.

Assembly Room, Tortola,  
24 July 1834.

(signed) *Thomas Marsh*, Speaker.

No. 238

—No. 238.—

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Mr. President *Isaacs* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, dated Tortola, 6 August 1834.

IT is with pleasurable feelings that I have to acquaint you, that the 1st of August has passed off very quietly, and the Negroes throughout the Island have, contrary to the expectations which were entertained, with a very few exceptions, commenced their labour under the new system in an orderly and peaceable manner, and which I attribute mainly to a timely and very judicious proclamation which his Excellency Governor M'Gregor issued here on the 24th ultimo, when on a visit to this part of his government. I most sincerely hope this state of things may continue.

No. 239.

—No. 239.—

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart., to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, dated Government House, Antigua, 25 August 1834.

I ENCLOSE an extract of a communication from Mr. President *Isaacs*, affording the pleasing information that order prevailed amongst the apprenticed labourers in the Virgin Islands up to the 4th instant.

4th August 1834.

Enclosure in No. 239.

Enclosure in  
No. 239.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from his Honour the President of the Virgin Islands to Sir *Evan Murray M'Gregor*, Bart., dated 4 August 1834.

I FEEL most happy in being enabled to inform your Excellency that the 1st of August has passed off very quietly. The Negroes generally throughout the Island were given the day; a great number came into town and attended their usual places of worship, and conducted themselves very peaceably; no unusual excitement was manifested, and with the exception of a few instances, of little importance, all went quietly to their work under the new system on the following Monday morning. I sincerely hope this state of things may continue.

—No. 240.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor  
Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

VIRGIN  
ISLANDS.  
—  
No. 240.

Sir,

Downing-street, 28 July 1835.

HIS Majesty's Government have had under their consideration four Acts passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands in the month of April 1834, (although not received at this department till the present month,) of which the numbers and titles are as follows :

(No. 87.) "An Act for regulating the division of apprenticed Labourers into their respective Classes, and for providing for the dissolution of the Apprenticeship by Contract or otherwise."

(No. 88.) "An Act for prescribing the duties of apprenticed Labourers and Employers respectively, and imposing Penalties for the non-performance thereof, and providing other regulations for the maintenance of good order."

(No. 89.) "An Act for prescribing the powers and duties of special Justices, and for defining the Jurisdiction of the same."

(No. 90.) "An Act to regulate the removal of prædial apprenticed Labourers from one Plantation or Estate to another; the alienation by sale, inheritance or will, of the services of apprenticed Labourers; the apprenticeship of children of apprenticed Labourers, and the relation in which apprenticed Labourers will stand towards the State in the said Virgin Islands, and thereby to carry more effectually into operation the enactments contained in that behalf in an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain, intituled, 'An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves.'"

The common object of these laws is to give effect to the Act for the Abolition of Slavery; and being for the most part transcribed from the projected Order of the King in Council, of which copies were sent to the West Indian Legislatures for their guidance, they are, in their general tenour, free from objection. But there are some material exceptions to be made to this remark, which I proceed to specify.

First.—By the 7th and 10th clauses of the Act No. 87, the right of purchasing a discharge from apprenticeship is denied to the labourers in two cases. The first is that in which the party shall have been proved to have been guilty at any time since his apprenticeship of *any theft*, larceny, or *any crime* or felony; or of having received stolen goods; or of having acquired dishonestly or fraudulently any part of the money he is about to pay; or of having run away or absented himself from his employer's service for twenty days at one or at several times, or shall have been convicted of harbouring any runaway apprentice. The second case is that in which the apprentice may fail to pay the amount of the valuation; that failure is to be fatal to his application for a discharge at any future time. Without pausing to comment on the injustice of these provisions, it is sufficient to say that they are repugnant to the 8th clause of the Act of Parliament, which gives the right of purchasing a discharge, unfettered by any such restriction. No Colonial Legislature can lawfully contravene the British statute by such an enactment.

Second.—The 12th and 13th sections of the Act No. 88, forbid the apprentice to receive any person in his own hut, if within the employer's estate, except with the employer's consent; the case of a husband or wife being excepted only, if the applicant for the indulgence be of good character, and if the request for conjugal society be preferred in a proper manner; and even then the parties are to meet at the home of the apprentice only at proper times, and as long as they shall conduct themselves in a proper manner. There is an uncertainty and harshness in these rules, which I forbear to dwell upon, since their illegality is a still more conclusive objection to them. The apprentice is the tenant at will of the hut he occupies, paying rent in the form of services, and entitled to admit into his home whatever person he shall think proper, provided that his guests or inmates do not infringe the police regulations of the Colony, or the good discipline of the plantation. To debar husbands and wives of each other's society, or even, in the present state of West Indian manners, to forbid an apprenticed labourer to receive his concubine under his roof, is an invasion of the rights of the apprentice, for which no compensation could be found in any consequent increase of good order or of good morals.

278.—II.

Third.

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Third.—The 15th section of the same Act forbids the apprentice to quit the district in which he lives, without a written pass from his employer. Unless the special justice be entitled to grant this indulgence, the effect will be to give to the employer a monopoly of the leisure time and extra labour of their apprentices. This is entirely at variance with the spirit of the Act of Parliament, and terms of the Order in Council.

Fourth.—The 19th section forbids an apprentice to depasture any cattle or other live stock, on the land of any person whatever, except in pursuance of a *written* authority for the purpose. Such regulations, if enforced, are calculated to give rise to continual vexation, and do little or no good.

Fifth.—Under the 28th section of the same Act, the special magistrates are authorized to sentence the apprentices to imprisonment on the estates. No security is taken against the use of improper places of confinement.

Sixth.—The seven and a half hours of daily labour are, by the 39th section, declared to commence with the arrival of the labourer at his place of work. I cannot admit the justice of this rule. While walking thither, he is just as much engaged in his employer's service as when actually at work there; and if he resides four miles from the scene of his labour, this rule would add two hours daily to the period prescribed by Parliament.

Seventh.—By the 51st section of the Act No. 88, and by the 24th section of the Act No. 89, an appeal is given to the King's Bench and quarter sessions against the decision of the special magistrates. As those courts have no judges except the proprietors of the colony, the result of this rule is to give to them an entire control over the administration of the law between employers and apprentices.

Eighth.—By the 22d section of the Act No. 89, whatever time an apprentice passes in prison will render him a debtor to his employer for a double amount, just as though the absence had been voluntary. I consider this twofold punishment objectionable, both as unjust in itself, and as giving to the employer a direct interest in the misconduct of his apprentice.

Ninth.—By the second clause of the Act No. 90, it is declared that the consent of a single special justice shall be sufficient to authorize the transfer of a prædial apprentice from one plantation to another. The 9th section of the British Act of Parliament requires the consent of *two* justices. If it is said there may be only one in the Colony, the inevitable answer, I apprehend, is, that in such a case Parliament has made the apprentice irremovable. The expediency of that rule may be debated; but the existence of it, and consequently its authority until repealed, is perfectly clear.

Tenth.—The 4th section of the same Act declares, that in cases where the removal of the apprentice may not last beyond five days successively, the consent even of a single magistrate shall not be necessary. The 9th section of the Act of Parliament, on the contrary, forbids the employment of prædial apprentices at all, beyond the limits of the estates to which they were attached on the 1st of August last, unless the consent of two special justices be obtained in the peculiar case which is there mentioned.

You will be pleased to communicate to the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, the objections which I have been thus under the necessity of stating to their laws for giving effect to the Act for the Abolition of Slavery; and whilst you request them to take measures for removing these objections, you will not fail to remind them, that they cannot, in the meantime, be considered as having performed the condition on which alone they will be entitled to their share of the Compensation Fund.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glennelg.*

## DOMINICA.

DOMINICA.

—No. 241.—

No. 241.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *C. M. Schomberg* to  
Mr. Under-Secretary *Lefevre*.

Government House, Dominica,  
Roseau, 3 August 1833.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit (direct) a copy of a message received this day from the Honourable Board of Council and the Honourable House of Assembly of Dominica, for the information of the Right honourable the Secretary for the Colonies.

The message, as will appear, was in consequence of my communication to the Legislature on the subject of the resolutions which passed both Houses of Parliament, relative to the Abolition of Negro Slavery, bearing date 25 June 1833.

I have been induced to communicate direct, from the desire expressed on the part of the Right honourable Secretary to obtain information, as early as possible, on this important subject, and more especially as the packet might not delay sufficiently long at Antigua, to insure transmission through his Excellency the Governor in Chief from thence.

I have duly apprised his Excellency Sir Evan M'Gregor of the steps I have therefore thought it expedient to adopt.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *C. M. Schomberg*, Lieut.-Governor.

Enclosure in No. 241.

Enclosure in  
No. 241.

His Honour the President and Council, and the Speaker and House of Assembly,  
to his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

IN acknowledging the receipt of your Honour's message of the 27th ultimo, received yesterday, transmitting for our information the very important Despatch of the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with the Resolutions by which the House of Commons have declared the expediency of adopting immediate and effectual measures for the Abolition of Slavery in the British Colonies; we beg leave to express our sense of the enlightened view which Parliament has taken of that momentous question, embracing as it does not only a great financial measure, but the interest of the slaves and society at large, both in the West Indies and the Mother Country.

The principle of compensation to proprietors of slaves having been conceded to the amount of twenty millions sterling, we most confidently rely on the justice of Parliament for a fair and unqualified distribution of this grant, *per capite*; we shall then be ready to co-operate with Government, and apply ourselves in a spirit and temper befitting the important duties of so arduous an undertaking as this great change in the existing relations of society will immediately require of us. We shall wait with a cheerful hope, not unmixed with anxiety, for the provisions of the Bill which is to give effect to the Resolutions, in the expectation that it will be of such a nature as to aid and assist our future deliberation on this important subject.

Council Chamber, 3 August 1833.

(signed)

*Wm. Blane*, President, pro temp.

House of Assembly, 3 Aug. 1833.

(signed)

*James Corlet*, Speaker.

—No. 242.—

No. 242.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *C. M. Schomberg* to  
Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Dominica, Roseau, 2d November 1833.

ALTHOUGH nothing has occurred to make it necessary for me to communicate with you direct, yet, as the present may be considered a moment of some anxiety, I do myself the honour of stating, that since His Majesty's proclamation has been promulgated in due form, and in French and English, and since the substance of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery has been explained in the fullest manner to the Negroes on the different estates, every thing has continued as tranquil on this Island as when I assumed the executive duties on the day of my arrival, the 23d April last.

DOMINICA.

The feeling on the part of the old Negroes, I have reason to believe, is not un-  
mixed with doubts respecting their future fate, when the period of apprenticeship  
will terminate, and at a time when they may look forward to be helpless: that  
manifested by the younger people is merely an anxiety for speedy emancipation.  
Much more apathy, however, has been observed on the part of the Negroes gene-  
rally on the subject, than was expected by people of considerable experience.

Some planters and attorneys on the estates now seem to wish for immediate and  
total emancipation of their Negroes, from an idea that they could make more advan-  
tageous arrangements than they fancy they are likely to do (all considered) under  
those about to be adopted. Doubts of future results must pervade a certain num-  
ber of persons, but I hope not the majority. Coffee is likely to be more cultivated  
than heretofore, especially by the French proprietors, the advantages of which can-  
not of course be felt for some years.

I have the honour to enclose copies of messages to and from the Assembly on  
the occasion of presenting the Abolition Bill and its accompanying circular. The  
House on both occasions was thinly attended. I have reason to know that a great  
desire exists to ascertain the feelings of other islands on the present occasion.

I shall have the honour of transmitting to his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief  
copies of any public documents which may be forwarded to the Colonial Depart-  
ment from time to time.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. M. Schomberg*, Lieut.-Governor.

Enclosures in  
No. 242.

Enclosures in No. 242.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to his Honour the Speaker and  
House of Assembly.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor avails himself of the earliest opportunity of laying  
before the honourable House of Assembly, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout  
the British Colonies, for promoting the industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compen-  
sating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves," bearing date 28th August  
1833, forwarded by Mr. Secretary Stanley, and received this day; the same having been  
assented to by His Most Gracious Majesty.

His Honour also transmits copies of a Royal Proclamation, which will be immediately  
made public, according to the instructions of the Right honourable the Secretary of State  
for the Colonial Department.

Whatever further information his Honour may have to transmit, both honourable Houses  
of the Legislature may depend on the earliest possible communication being made to them  
of it from time to time.

(signed) *C. M. Schomberg*, Lieut.-Governor.

Government House, 8 October 1833.

His Honour the Speaker and House of Assembly to his Honour the  
Lieutenant-Governor.

THE House have to acknowledge the receipt of your Honour's message of yesterday's  
date, accompanied by "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies,  
for promoting the industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons  
hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves," bearing date the 28th of August 1833;  
also His Majesty's Proclamation, referring to the same; and beg to assure your Honour that  
they will lose no time in taking that important measure into their most serious considera-  
tion.

(signed) *James Corlet*, Speaker.

House of Assembly, 9th October 1833.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to his Honour the Speaker and  
House of Assembly.

THE Lieutenant-Governor avails himself of the present occasion to lay before the honour-  
able House of Assembly a copy of a circular Despatch from the Right honourable the Secre-  
tary of State for the Colonial Department, relative to the "Act for the Abolition of Slavery  
throughout the British Colonies," which has been already submitted.

The message received by the Lieutenant-Governor from the honourable House of Assembly,  
in reference to that Act, leads him confidently to look forward to cordial, earnest and active  
exertion, in furtherance of the important measures requisite to be adopted by the honour-  
able House of Assembly, for the full accomplishment of the great objects which His  
Majesty's Government have in view, the happiness of His Majesty's subjects, and the  
prosperity of his colonial possessions.

The

*Vide Circulars,  
Part I.*

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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The Lieutenant-Governor begs to assure the honourable House, that he will be most happy in cheerfully and diligently performing that part of his duty which may tend to facilitate the measures that may be thought expedient to adopt, in order to conquer any difficulties which may arise (from time to time) from local or unforeseen circumstances, and which the Lieutenant-Governor hopes will be no sooner discovered than dissipated.

(signed) *C. M. Schomberg*, Lieut.-Governor.

Government House, 28 October 1833.

DOMINICA.

His Honour the Speaker and House of Assembly to His Honour the  
Lieutenant-Governor.

THE House respectfully acknowledge your Honour's communication of the 28th instant, accompanied by a Despatch from the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 5th September last, relative to the Bill passed by the British Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery in the Colonies.

This subject will meet such attention from the House as one of so much moment demands.

(signed) *James Corlet*, Speaker.

House of Assembly, 30 October 1833.

— No. 243. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Stanley* to Governor  
*Sir E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 30th December 1833.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a Despatch which *Sir Charles Schomberg* addressed to me on the 2d November last, enclosing copies of his messages to the House of Assembly, and the replies of the Assembly thereto, on the occasion of the Abolition Bill being presented to the House.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. G. Stanley*.

No. 243.

— No. 244. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Sir E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.,  
to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 30th May 1834.

I do myself the honour of forwarding two Acts passed by the Legislature of Dominica, and which have been assented to by the Lieutenant-Governor, under my instructions, in conformity with the advice of His Majesty's crown lawyers, for the Island of Antigua, viz.

1st. "An Act for registering all Persons actually within this Island, on the first day of August, in this present year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, and who shall have been duly registered as Slaves, in conformity with the Laws now in force; and also for establishing a Classification thereof, for the purposes set forth in and by an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, 'An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves.'"

2dly. "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery in this Island, in consideration of compensation, and for promoting the industry of the manumitted Slaves."

"The first of these Bills has for its object, —

"1st. A new and special enregistration of all the slaves actually in the Colony on the 1st August 1834, with a view of clearly defining the parties coming within the terms of the first clause of the British Act; and secondly, the classification of the apprenticed labourers, according to a form annexed, and a statement in alphabetical order of the names of every slave in the Colony, with an additional column for those who shall, on the 1st August, be under the age of six years.

"The returns are directed to be on the 1st day of August 1834, or within thirty days after; the classification of the labourers is distinctly stated, and the whole of this section is in perfect accordance with the strict letter of the first and fourth sections of the British Act.

"2d. To facilitate the preparing these returns, the registrar is directed to send printed copies of the Act to the waywardens of each parish, for distribution and general information, to cause advertisements to be inserted in the public

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## DOMINICA.

public newspapers, and at the public expense to cause to be printed for general distribution forms of the returns directed to be made.

"3d. Registrar to preserve the original returns, and within six months to copy them in a strongly bound book, to be kept for public inspection.

"4th. The registrar to authenticate the registry when completed.

"5th. Parties making returns to be sworn to the truth thereof.

"6th. Registrar doubting the accuracy of the return to summon all proper parties and witnesses, and to inquire into the same, and if necessary to correct returns; either party to have the right to appeal to a judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

"7th. Party neglecting to make return on affidavit to incur a penalty not exceeding 25*l.* nor less than 40*s.*

"8th. The judges to make rules regulating the proceedings on appeals from the decision of the registrar.

"9th. Question arising as to what class an apprenticed labourer belongs, a certified extract from the registry to be conclusive evidence.

"10th. Registrar neglecting duty to incur penalty of 200*l.*, and to be liable to action at the suit of the party aggrieved.

"11th. Registrar to receive 300*l.* currency out of the Colonial Treasury, on the completion of the duties required of him by this Act.

"12th. Points out the mode in which fines and penalties are to be recovered; one half to the informer, and the other half to be paid in the Treasury.

"13th. Parties wilfully making false oath to any matter required by the Act declared guilty of perjury."

"The *next* Bill professes to embrace every object contemplated by the Act of Parliament, and is intituled, 'An Act for the Abolition of Slavery in this Island, in consideration of compensation, and for promoting the industry of the manumitted Slaves.'

"The first seven clauses are precisely in the terms of the British Act, with the exception of section 4 of the British Act, regulating the classification of the labourers, which is provided for by a distinct Bill, already alluded to.

"These clauses regulate the manner of discharging labourers from their apprenticeship, and they embrace the object of the Imperial Parliament, as expressed in the 7th and 8th sections of the British Act. In cases of compulsory discharge, without the consent of the employer, they provide that the appraised value shall be fixed by three magistrates, one of whom shall be of special appointment.

"—— Is in accordance with the 10th section of the British Act; and provides that no labourer, for the purposes of judicial sale, shall be removed from the place of his abode, and in cases of attached prædials shall only be sold with the land.

"—— This section, as well as the 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th and 49th, have in contemplation the carrying into effect the intention of the Imperial Parliament, as expressed in the 11th section of the British Act.

"—— Are transcripts from the 12th and 13th sections of the British Act.

"—— This is in accordance with the 18th and 19th sections of the British Act. Special justices alone to have exclusive jurisdiction over all offences, &c. committed by labourers or their employers in their relation to each other.

"—— Is in conformity to the 17th section of the British Act."

The various local rules and regulations which the 16th section of the British Act leaves it to the Legislature of each Colony to make and establish, for carrying into complete effect the object and the intention of the Imperial Parliament, are amply provided for by the remaining sections of this Bill, which have been transcribed, mostly from the Jamaica Act, and from the Orders in Council framed in reference to British Guiana, alluded to in Mr. Secretary Stanley's Despatch of the 19th October 1833. The "Jamaica Act," as published in the newspapers, has been relied upon as a model; but the enactments of the Dominica Bill are, in many particulars, much more full and explicit, and, in my humble opinion, embrace every point specified in the British Statute, or contemplated by His Majesty's Government.

The following is an extract from Lieutenant-Governor Sir Charles Schomburg's Despatch of the 19th instant, in which the foregoing Acts have been transmitted to me.

"I have caused the great seal of the Island to be affixed to each of the Acts herewith forwarded, in order (if your Excellency should deem it proper) that

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that the duplicate also should be transmitted to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, instead of the usual practice of sending one copy to the President of the Board of Trade, to whose department the Acts in question do not in any way refer."

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Governor.

DOMINICA.

— No. 245. —

No. 245.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *C. M. Schomberg* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Dominica, Roseau, 1 August 1834,  
6 o'clock P. M., Mail-boat due.

Sir,

THE date of this Letter will, I trust, sufficiently account for my having the honour of communicating with you direct, especially as his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief may not be immediately on the spot when the mail-boat takes her final departure for St. Thomas.

I therefore have the honour to state, that every thing is quiet, as far as I can learn up to the hour before stated; but an apparent sulky dislike to the apprenticeship system is quite manifest among the negroes, nor are there in Roseau, as yet, any symptoms of rejoicing or satisfaction displayed.

One stipendiary magistrate, who is indefatigable in the execution of his laborious duties, Mr. Radford, has arrived; the absence of the others is much felt, from the difficulties of the interior of this Island, and from the sickly season having set in with severity. I have therefore found it absolutely necessary to appoint 17 special magistrates to meet the weight of duty at this serious crisis, for the reasons already stated.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. M. Schomberg*, Lieutenant-Governor.

— No. 246. —

No. 246.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *C. M. Schomberg* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

Dominica, Roseau, 2 August 1834, 10 A. M.

I HAD the honour of addressing you yesterday, the 1st of August, and as the mail-boat is now in sight, I shall only state that all remains quiet, and that no unfavourable reports have reached me from any quarter of the Island.

I am much gratified in observing that a greater proportion of food is pouring into the market (Saturday) than usual, and I trust that on Monday the field labour will be resumed without interruption of any consequence.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. M. Schomberg*, Lieutenant-Governor

— No. 247. —

No. 247.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 6th September 1834.

I HAVE received Sir *C. Schomberg's* Despatches of the 1st and 2d of August, copies of which were doubtless duly transmitted to you. You will be pleased to convey to Sir *C. Schomberg* my acknowledgements for these communications, and my approval of the appointment by him of 17 special magistrates to assist the one who had arrived from this country in meeting the weight of duty which was to be expected to devolve upon the magistracy at the present period. I learn with satisfaction the favourable opinion entertained by the Lieutenant-Governor of Mr. Radford, the stipendiary magistrate, who had reached his destination; and I trust that one, at least, of the others will have arrived in Dominica shortly after the date of Sir *C. Schomberg's* Despatches.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Thos. Spring Rice*.

DOMINICA.

—No. 248.—

No. 248.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Sir *C. M. Schomberg* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, dated Dominica, Roseau, 15th August 1834.

A MERCHANT vessel, the *Coriolanus*, being on the point of sailing for England, as she will probably arrive before the regular packet, I have the honour to state for your information, that discontent has manifested itself, on the part of the negroes, on the French estates, by a refusal to labour and a declared hostility to the apprenticeship system of six years.

I have now, however, the satisfaction of reporting, that the insubordination alluded to has been promptly checked by firm but temperate measures, which had the effect of making the labourers resume their work for the present, and I hope for a continuance. The benefit derived from the appearance of the stipendiary magistrate, being a stranger, has been of great service, the other magistrates (special) having been familiar to the negroes.

Nothing has occurred, on the part of the negroes, of a more violent character than what has been stated, except in a few instances, and then the women were always the instigators and the most difficult to manage.

When the expected stipendiary magistrates arrive, I make no doubt but that much change may be produced for the better on the French estates, where laziness, subterfuge and neglect are only to be combatted by vigilance and perseverance.

The fatigue experienced by the magistrates, from the nature of the difficulties in penetrating into the Mountain Districts, has been great, the rains and sickly season having set in with severity.

My last communication from his Excellency the Governor in Chief was dated the 16th ult. His Excellency is, I believe, still at St. Christopher's.

*P. S.*—I have to regret that Mr. Radford, the stipendiary magistrate, is seriously ill from his exertions. His temporary loss is much felt, the negroes having the utmost confidence in him, being fully aware of his immediate authority.

—No. 249.—

No. 249.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir, Downing-street, 16th October 1834.

I HAVE to acknowledge through you the receipt of a Despatch of the 15th August, addressed to me directly by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Island of Dominica.

You will be pleased to convey to the Lieutenant-Governor the satisfaction with which I have learned how trifling has been the extent of dissatisfaction and insubordination which has arisen in the Island of Dominica, and that at the date of his Despatch tranquillity had been restored.

You will express to the Lieutenant-Governor, and through him to all persons, whether civil or military, acting under his command, the approval which His Majesty is pleased to authorize me to convey to them for their zeal and exertions.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Thos. Spring Rice.*

—No. 250.—

No. 250.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *C. M. Schomberg*, to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart., dated Government House, Dominica, Roseau, 26 August 1834.

I AVAIL myself of the opportunity of the departure of the mail-boat to inform your Excellency, that since my last communication every thing has continued quiet here, and that the apprentices on the estates work without compulsion, though not with much alacrity.

When the three stipendiary magistrates are well at work, and have found the means of getting about, I hope things will assume a greater degree of activity.

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— No. 251. —

DOMINICA.

No. 251.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Aberdeen* to Governor  
Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Colonial Office, 10th January 1835.

WITH reference to the Act passed, by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Assembly of Dominica, in the month of May last, for the Abolition of Slavery, I have to acquaint you that I expect to transmit to you by an early opportunity an Order of His Majesty in Council, by which that Act will be left to its operation.

On collating this Act with the corresponding law of Jamaica, I perceive that the former has been transcribed from the latter, with but few variations; and that these either do not affect the sense materially, or consist in amendments of which the uniform design is to render the law more effective. It therefore appears to me that I could not acquit myself of my duty on this occasion more correctly than by transmitting to you the enclosed Copy of the Despatch, in which my predecessor, Lord Stanley, commented on the corresponding law of Jamaica. The Council and Assembly of Dominica will receive it as containing those remarks which I think it necessary to make on the provisions made by them for accomplishing the same general object. It will be found inapplicable only in reference to those occasional amendments to which I have already adverted.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Aberdeen*.

Vide Part I. page 39.

— No. 252. —

No. 252.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Aberdeen* to Governor  
Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 20th February 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order in Council, dated the 7th instant, leaving to its operation an Act passed by the Legislature of the Island of Dominica, in the month of April last.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Aberdeen*.

— No. 253. —

No. 253.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor  
Sir *E. J. Murray M'Gregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3d August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 31st ult., declaring that adequate and satisfactory provision hath been made in the Colony of Dominica, for giving effect to an Act of Parliament made in the third and fourth year of His present Majesty for the Abolition of Slavery.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.Order in Council.  
31 July 1835. Printed  
in the Appendix of  
Part II. (B.) No. 17.

ST. VINCENT.

## ST. VINCENT.

—No. 254.—

No. 254.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to  
Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Government House, Barbadoes, 1 July 1833.

I HAVE the honour to enclose two Reports from the Lieutenant-Governor of St. Vincent, describing such unpleasant symptoms in the conduct of a part of the slave population of that Island, that I lost no time in repairing there myself; Commodore Farquhar having kindly allowed a brig of war to precede me and to attend my requisitions there.

I am now happy to report that the judicious measures adopted by Captain Tyler, the Lieutenant-Governor, effectually restored tranquillity.

It must not however be forgotten, that St. Vincent is remarkably strong in fastnesses, and security for slaves in rebellion, whence they can invade cultivated parts and long maintain themselves; and the rebellion of the Charibs, under the influence of the French, at the beginning of the last war, has left impressions of the difficulties by which they were ultimately overcome.

Altogether, from the intelligence of the negroes of this Island, and the knowledge they possess of the strength of the interior defences against regular troops, I shall watch over them with anxious suspicion; and as a temporary precaution, I have ordered arrangements by which the whole of the 69th regiment will be concentrated in the Island, a post established on the Charib coast, and a guard afforded to the capital; the Island meeting the whole expense of these additional quarters.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.Enclosures in  
No. 254.

Enclosures in No. 254.

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 1 June 1833.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that I received on the 21st ult. information from the owner of one of the estates in the Charib country, that the negroes had become not only on that estate, but on others within the same district, very troublesome, displaying a great deal of insubordination, and using language towards their masters subversive of their power and authority. Presuming that such conduct was the result of a preconcerted plan on the part of the negroes, for the purpose of intimidating their owners and managers, I immediately directed the magistrates, within the district alluded to, to institute an inquiry into the above statements (a copy of my letter to them I forward to your Excellency), and to report to me the issue of their investigation. Their report (a copy of which, with one of the letters that accompanied it, I also enclose,) I received on the 26th ult.

By these documents your Excellency will perceive the spirit that prevails at present among the negroes of that part of the Island, and I am led to believe by other information, that a similar feeling is common in the negro class throughout this Island. I am, however, far from imagining that these indications of disaffection will lead to any serious results, but at the same time, and more particularly under present circumstances, I thought it my duty to prove to them how prepared and determined we were to stop such proceedings, and to protect both the master and manager from insolence or revenge. To enable me to carry this desirable object into permanent and real effect, I am of opinion that the requisition for a small detachment of troops (as signified in the magistrate's letter,) to be stationed in or near the Charib country, would principally tend to impress the negroes with a just sense of obedience to the laws by which they are governed, as well as throw a shield of protection around the white inhabitants of that part of the country. The distance of these estates from Kingstown, and the difficulty of communication with it, arising from the peculiar formation of the intervening country, renders the necessity of local aid and assistance more imperative. Until that object can be attained, I have thought it advisable, with the concurrence of the Privy Council, to direct Major Reid of the Royal Engineers, an officer well known for his zeal and judgment, as well as his professional acquaintance with all parts of this Island, to repair to the Charib country, accompanied by one of the colonial aide-de-camps, and taking with him a circular which he was instructed to read to the slaves on the disturbed estates in the presence of their masters, who were desired to collect them together for that purpose.

Major Reid was also directed to make observations, during this tour, as to the most eligible station for troops in that country, and to communicate with the proprietors respecting the best method of their quartering such troops.

Having

No. 1.  
May 20th.No. 2.  
May 21st.No. 4 & 5.  
May 24th.No. 9.  
Circular, May 28th.

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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Having these several objects in view, it was my belief that the course I have adopted and explained to your Excellency, would answer all the ends the magistrates had contemplated as likely to be accomplished by my presence; and I moreover preferred that the civil authority should continue vested in them, until some more urgent cause than the present warranted its suspension.

To His Excellency, Major-General,  
Sir Lionel Smith, K. C. B.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Geo. Tyler.*

ST. VINCENT.

COPIES of LETTERS, &c. &c. connected with an Inquiry, directed by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, into the conduct of the Negroes on the Estates in the vicinity of the Charib District.

## No. 1.

My dear Sir,

Waterloo, 20 May 1833.

I AM sorry to say that there is every appearance of our negroes becoming very troublesome. They all turn out morning and evening long after the proper time, and in a body. I was obliged on Saturday to send three of the Orange Hill people to the stocks, and I have learned that the gang of negroes declared, if they were punished, that they would go to the governor in a body. All the gangs are acting in the same manner, which shows that it is a preconcerted arrangement among them. I have every reason to think that they assemble at night to lay their plans; I of course punished the people this morning, and wait to see if they will put their threat into execution. I think before it is too late that we should apply for the establishment of a post at Mount Young; if all I hear be true, no time should be lost. I suppose you will be home to-morrow.

To Alexander Cumming, Esq.

Yours truly,  
(signed) *James Sutherland.*

## No. 2.

(Circular.)

Gentlemen,

Government House, St. Vincent, 21 May 1833.

A LETTER having been communicated to his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, from Mr. James Sutherland to Mr. Alexander Cumming, dated the 20th May, stating that a troublesome and insubordinate disposition had manifested itself amongst the negroes on Orange Hill estate, and other properties situated in and near the Charib country; I am commanded by his Excellency to request that you will immediately proceed to a minute investigation of the circumstances alluded to, and that you will make to him as speedy a report on the subject as you can.

I have likewise been directed by his Excellency to request Mr. Sutherland to collect and produce such witnesses as may be necessary to prove the disorderly behaviour of the negroes, and I therefore beg to suggest to you the propriety of fixing with that gentleman on the estate on which it may be most expedient to commence the investigation.

To Alexander Cumming, Esq. J. P.  
Patrick Crichton, Esq. J. P.  
The Rev. T. A. Browne, J. P.  
George Colquhoun Grant, Esq. J. P.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *S. Osborne Gibbes,*  
Government Secretary.

## No. 3.

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 21 May 1833.

A LETTER having been communicated to his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, addressed to you by Mr. Alexander Cumming, and dated the 20th May, stating, that a troublesome and insubordinate disposition had manifested itself amongst the negroes on Orange Hill estate, and other properties situated in and near the Charib country. I have been commanded by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to request the following magistrates, viz. Mr. Alexander Cumming, Mr. Patrick Crichton, Mr. George Colquhoun Grant, and the Rev. T. A. Browne, to proceed to an immediate and minute investigation of the circumstances alluded to; and I am further directed by his Excellency to request, that you will collect and produce before the above-named gentlemen such witnesses as may be necessary to prove the disorderly behaviour of the negroes, and may assist in conducting the directed investigation.

To James Sutherland, Esq. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *S. Osborne Gibbes,*  
Government Secretary.

## No. 4.

Sir,

Grand Sable Estate, St. Vincent, 24 May 1833.

IN compliance with his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor's instructions, we have this day instituted an inquiry into the troublesome and insubordinate disposition which had manifested itself amongst the negroes on the properties situated in and near the Charib country,

ST. VINCENT. country, and beg leave to enclose, for his Excellency's further information, copies of the various depositions that have been taken, and to report that there appears to us to be a strong spirit of insubordination manifested amongst the negro population on many estates, and which we have every reason to suppose originates from the erroneous ideas they entertain relative to their immediate emancipation.

From the difficulty of eliciting any accurate information from the negroes respecting their own movements, we cannot decidedly state that nocturnal meetings have actually taken place for the purpose of discussing that subject, but we have every reason to suppose that such has been the case.

Under these circumstances, and considering the isolated position of the Charib country, and its distance from any military post, we beg leave respectfully to suggest to his Excellency, as a politic and precautionary measure, the expediency of affording some military protection to this important part of the Island, so soon as the state of the garrison will admit of it, and in the mean time the almost absolute necessity of having the public mind disabused on this important question, either by his Excellency's Proclamation, or what in our humble opinion would be still more efficient, a personal tour of inspection, as we have no doubt that his Excellency's presence would be attended with the most beneficial result to all parties.

And we press this recommendation the more earnestly, because, on reading over the enclosed depositions, his Excellency will not fail to observe in how very few instances have corporal punishments been had recourse to for the purpose of putting down this spirit of insubordination, and how desirable therefore, it would be to induce a better feeling of the negro towards his master by the milder measures we have suggested, rather than be compelled to have frequent and repeated recourse to corporal punishments, which would be otherwise absolutely necessary, and which are still legalized by our colonial enactments,

We have, &c.

Sir S. Osborne Gibbes, Bart.  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Patrick Crichton, J. P.*  
*Thomas Alexander Browne, J. P.*  
*George C. Grant, J. P.*

No. 5.

PROCEEDINGS of the Bench of Magistrates assembled at Grand Sable Estate in Charlotte Parish, St. Vincent, by order of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, for the purpose of inquiring into "the troublesome and insubordinate disposition which had manifested itself among the Negroes on the Properties situated in and near the Charib Country."

Friday, 24th day of May 1833.

Patrick Crichton, Esq. of Langley-park,  
George Colquhoun Grant, Esq. of the Adelphi,  
Rev. Thomas Alexander Browne, of Grand Sable, } SITTING MAGISTRATES.

James Sutherland, esq. of Waterloo estate, being sworn, deposed,—That on his return home from Kingstown, on Thursday, the 16th day of May, he was informed by his manager at Orange-hill, Mr. Stevenson, that the negroes during his absence in town had turned out very late to their work, which he had also confirmed by the testimony of the driver, "that such was the case, but what was the occasion of it he did not know."

Mr. Sutherland added, that he declared in the presence of the gang on the Friday afternoon, that if they persisted in their misconduct he would certainly punish them. The following day (Saturday) he attended at the field himself, and finding the negroes still persisting in the same conduct, ordered three of them into confinement.

The next day (Sunday) he was informed by his manager, that the gang had been overheard to say, that if those three men were punished, they would all go in a body to the governor to complain.

On Monday those three individuals were punished; since which time the gang have turned out to their work at the usual hour.

Mr. Stevenson, the manager of Orange-hill estate, being sworn, confirmed the evidence of Mr. James Sutherland, as relates to what passed in his presence; and further added, that the gang, for some days previous to the return of Mr. Sutherland from town, had generally turned out about half an hour after sunrise, and then proceeded (apparently on a preconcerted plan), in a body to the field which they seldom reached until a quarter before seven o'clock. Mr. Stevenson being asked by whom he was informed of the declaration of the negroes, that if those three men were punished, they would go in a body to the governor to complain, declined naming the person, from an apprehension that the individual might thereby be exposed to ill treatment from the rest of the negroes.

Mr. Alexander Macleod, of Turama, the estate adjoining Orange-hill, being sworn, deposed,—That he went to town on Tuesday, the 14th instant, and on the morning of the 18th, on going to the field, found that the gang had, during his absence of four days, done no more work than they might or ought to have done in two days. On inquiry, the overseer informed him that the negroes turned out very late in the morning; and that in the afternoon,

noon, although they had been allowed fully two hours at noon, they did not turn out till an hour after the shell had blown. He attended at the field himself in the afternoon of the day on which he received the information, and observed that the gang, contrary to their usual practice, had collected in a body near the negro houses, from whence they proceeded to the field in the same manner, and reached it half an hour after the time they ought to have been at work. In consequence of their misconduct, and this apparent combination to neglect their work, he ordered four of those who appeared to be the principals to be punished, since which period they have turned out at the regular hour. One of the four, named Grandison, who had been ordered into confinement after being punished, was heard by Mr. Davis, one of the overseers, and Quashie, one of the coopers, to declare that what had been done to him he would soon do to them. Mr. Macleod being questioned by the magistrates whether he has any knowledge of nightly meetings being held by the negroes from different estates, said that he had every reason to believe that such do frequently take place, as he often met with numbers of the negroes from the other estates going in the direction of Orange-hill and Turama, at very late hours of the night; and further added, that during a residence of twenty-six years in the Charib country, he never before observed the same want of discipline and obedience which has been manifested for some months past. On one occasion, when returning home at eleven o'clock at night, he observed a body of about twenty-five negro men assembled on the high road, at the boundary line between the Rabacca and Waterloo estates; and on his riding up at a quick pace to discover who they were, they immediately dispersed themselves among the cane fields.

Alexander Cumming, esq., proprietor of Lot 14 and Rabacca estate, being sworn, stated that there has been a visible alteration in the conduct of the gang of No. 14 estate, within the last few months. The negroes have come into the hospital in considerable numbers, from thirty to fifty each morning, and the greater number without any appearance of sickness, or in fact any cause to prevent them from pursuing their usual occupations, some stating that they had been attending at the mill, and others at the copper-hole the preceding day, and were tired. A case of this kind occurred two days ago. A man named George came to the hospital, and said that he had a pain in his side; that he had been fireman yesterday, and that he wanted rest. Mr. Cumming told him that he did not think that there was much the matter with him, and thought that he might go to his work, asking him how he could expect to be fed and clothed, &c. unless he worked for it. To this George replied that he had already worked for his master a great deal; that it was true his master gave him fish and clothing, but that the work he did was quite sufficient payment for it; that as to his provision grounds, he had cleared and planted them himself, and that he considered them to be his own; that although his master had bought him with his money, he had already worked sufficiently long to pay him for what he cost. Mr. Cumming left George in the hospital; but on his return after breakfast, found that he had left it on business not connected with the estate, which evidently proved that he was able to resume his labour in the field, if he had been so inclined. Mr. Cumming further stated, that some weeks ago, when he threatened to punish a negro named Simon, for some gross misconduct, he (Simon) approached him in a menacing attitude, declaring that if he were punished, he would do something for which the gallows should be the punishment, and not the treadmill.

Mr. Jennings, the manager of Rabacca estate, being sworn, stated, that at the request of Mr. Cumming he attended at the hospital, at Lot 14 estate, and observed the numbers frequenting it so unusually great, that it would be utterly impossible to carry on the business of the estate if such a practice were continued; that on examination of the different persons he saw there, he found that far the greater number had not the slightest appearance of illness, or any sufficient reason to absent themselves from their work. Mr. Jennings further stated, that at Rabacca estate, where he resides, he finds the negroes generally turning out late to their work, and that the women and small gang in particular not only turn out much later, but do at least one-third less work when in the field than they formerly did; nor do they do their work in their usual cheerful manner. In answer to a question from the bench, of what steps had been taken to induce the numerous skulkers in the hospital at No. 14 to turn out to their work, Mr. Jennings stated, that every means, with the exception of corporal punishment, had been tried without success.

Mr. James Ellis, the manager of Lot 14 estate, being sworn, stated, that the gangs turn out much later than formerly, that they go in crowds to the hospital for the first four days in the week, turning out on Friday and Saturday, and thus losing three or four days' work in each week. Yesterday, on finding fault with some who turned out 15 minutes after sunrise, they told him that it was too cold a morning to turn out earlier. Mr. Ellis further stated, that for the last two months he has observed a spirit of obstinacy and disobedience among the gang, and particularly among the young grown up men and women.

Mr. Thomas A. Hares, overseer at Lot 14 estate, being sworn, deposed,—That being in the field on the 4th of this month, the negroes were very abusive, on account of a smaller quantity of rum than usual being sent *by mistake* to the field, though they were aware at the time that the deficiency had been ordered to be made up to them immediately; that he heard several of them declare that they would soon drive all the white persons off the estates, and take the buckras wives for themselves; that some days after this, as Mr. Cumming's servant was passing the works with his master's horse, deponent heard two young men, Guy and Dublin, in conversation, one of whom observed, pointing to the horse, that that was the one he would get when he was free, and the other said he would buy a gig. He reported these conversations to the manager (Mr. Ellis) immediately after.



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Mr. Thomas Mackintyre, of Colonaire estate, being sworn, deposed,—That for some weeks past he has observed the negroes to be very troublesome, turning out very late in the morning and afternoon; that they sometimes did not get to work until nearly three o'clock in the afternoon, and that this occurred once when Mr. Munro, the attorney of the estate, was on the place; that Mr. Munro went to the field with deponent, and asked the gang if they had any cause of complaint; to which they answered No. Mr. Munro then asked them why they turned out so badly, threatening that if they persisted in it they should be punished. For some time after this, deponent observing no alteration in their conduct for the better, ordered one of those who came last into the field into confinement, with the intention of punishing him, but the gang interceded for him, promising better behaviour for the future; since which they have turned out earlier. Mr. Mackintyre further stated, that when inclined to behave ill or turn out late, the gang seems to act in concert, leaving their houses and going to the field in a body, so that no ringleader can be pointed out.

Mr. Macpherson, manager of Mount William estate, being sworn, deposed,—That the negroes have frequented the hospital of late in much greater numbers than formerly, and that he has great difficulty in prevailing upon them to go to their work.

Patrick Crichton, esq., manager of Langley Park estate, being sworn, deposed,—That he has observed that the negroes have frequented the hospital in great numbers with little or no apparent illness, and that he has found much difficulty in getting them out to their work; that the gang turns out much later than formerly, and that he has been obliged to punish several of them by confinement at night for such conduct.

George Colquhoun Grant, esq. of the Adelphi estate, being sworn, deposed,—That it had been reported to him by the overseers that the gang have, for the last two or three months, turned out very badly to their work; that they have not, while in the field, performed near the quantity of work which they formerly did, and the hospital list shews an increase of nearly double the number formerly there, without any apparent complaint; that the negroes are in a very unsettled state in consequence of the erroneous ideas entertained by them respecting their immediate emancipation; that about five days ago he was compelled to inflict 12 stripes on a negro man named Thomas, who made a practice of constantly coming late to his work, and who on being complained of by the driver and overseers for so absenting himself, was extremely abusive to the latter, declaring that his master had not the power of inflicting corporal punishment on him.

(Circular.)

No. 6.

Gentlemen,

Government House, St. Vincent, 27th May 1833.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 24th instant, with a report of the proceedings and evidence taken before you on the subject of the insubordination manifested by the negroes on several of the estates within the Charib district, and having laid the same before his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, I am commanded to inform you that immediate attention shall be paid to your suggestions, and every means adopted to prevent the recurrence of the acts of disobedience and disaffection which appear by your report to be generally prevalent amongst the negroes on the estates in that direction.

I have, &amp;c.

To Patrick Crichton, esq., J. P.  
The Rev. T. A. Brown, J. P.  
Geo. Colquhoun Grant, esq., J. P.

(signed) S. Osborne Gibbes, Govt Secy.

No. 7.

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 27 May 1833.

I AM directed by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to request that you will furnish him with information as to what means of accommodation exist for quartering a company of troops of the line at Mount Young, or in the vicinity of that post.

Major Reid, Royal Engineers, &c. &c. &c.  
Fort Charlotte.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) S. Osborne Gibbes, Govt Secy.

No. 8.

Sir,

Fort Charlotte, 27th May 1833.

IN answer to your Letter of this day's date, requiring to know what means of accommodation exists for quartering a company of troops of the line at Mount Young, or in the vicinity of that post, I have the honour to acquaint you that there is now no building on or near it belonging to government, and that the only barracks in the Island are those of Fort Charlotte, with the exception of the small building for eight men at Cane Garden Point. Most of the estates in that part of the country have got some substantial buildings in which a company of infantry could be placed, provided their crop season be over.

I have, &amp;c.

Sir S. Osborne Gibbes, Bart.  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) Wm Reid, Major R<sup>l</sup> Engineers.

(Circular.)

No. 9.

ST. VINCENT.

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 28th May 1833.

IT is with feelings of regret and surprise that I find, by a late investigation into the conduct of some of the negroes upon your estate, that they have not only been guilty of great disobedience and insubordination, but that they have actually held out threats of violence and revenge against their master. Such conduct deserves the severest punishment, and they may rest assured that they will find me determined to visit any future behaviour of a similar nature with the exercise of the utmost powers that His Majesty has vested in me, and which, when brought into action will be equally prompt, rigorous and severe. You will, Sir, communicate this to the whole of the negroes under your estate, collecting them together for that purpose, and take this opportunity of impressing upon their minds the absolute necessity of shewing respect to their master, obedience to his commands, and a general improvement in their conduct; otherwise they cannot expect to receive any further benefit or indulgence from our most gracious Sovereign.

I am, &amp;c.

(signed) *Geo. Tyler.*

To James Sutherland, esq., of Waterloo Estate.

Mr. Stevenson, of Orange Hill Estate.

Mr. Alexander M'Leod, of Turama Estate.

Alexander Cumming, esq., of Lot 14.

Mr. Jennings, of Rabacca Estate.

Mr. Thomas Mackintyre, of Colonaire Estate.

Patrick Crichton, esq., of Langley Park.

George Colquhoun Grant, esq., of the Adelphi Estate.

No. 10.

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 30 May 1833.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you the accompanying Circulars (together with a copy of them for your own perusal) to be delivered to Major Reid, who will convey them to the individuals to whom they are addressed.

Major Reid will be accompanied by one of my aides-de-camp, and will lose no time in carrying into effect the instructions which he has received from me.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Geo. Tyler.*

To Lieut.-Colonel Sir Charles Cayler, Bart.  
Commanding His Majesty's Troops, &c. &c. &c.  
Fort Charlotte.

No. 11.

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 30 May 1833.

I HAVE forwarded to Sir Charles Cayler, the commanding officer of His Majesty's Forces in this Colony, eight circulars, to be delivered to you. They severally contain the substance of our communication yesterday, and at that interview I so fully explained my reasons for selecting you for the purpose of conveying them to the individuals to whom they are addressed, that I need not, on the present occasion, recapitulate them; but trusting to your well-known zeal and judgment, I have the fullest confidence and assurance that you will carry into effect without delay the objects of my intentions.

Lieutenant-Colonel Taylor, one of my aides-de-camp, will accompany you, and be subject to any orders you may think fit to give him.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Geo. Tyler,*

To Major Reid, Royal Engineers, &c. &c. &c. Lieut.-Gov. and Commander-in-Chief.  
Fort Charlotte.

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 4th June 1833.

I HAD the honour of forwarding to your Excellency on the 1st instant, a detailed account of various proceedings that had taken place in this Government at the latter end of last month, in consequence of an appearance of insubordination amongst some of the negroes in the Windward and Charib districts of the Island, together with copies of correspondence and other documents relative thereto.

I have now the honour further to transmit to your Excellency, a copy of a Report from Major Reid, on his return from his mission to the several disturbed estates, and also of two Letters, which that Report in my opinion called for; the first appointing three magistrates to hold a petty session weekly upon the most disorganized estates to windward, and the other to the proprietor of that estate, to acquaint him with the step I had taken.

These various measures will, I trust, be fully adequate to bring the negroes back to their former habits of industry and obedience. There are other measures, however, adverted to in Major Reid's Report, viz. the establishment of a military force at Grand Sable, the organization of the Charibs into a useful auxiliary body, &c. &c., which will demand, and

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on which I shall bestow, the most serious consideration; and while I shall take an early opportunity of communicating my own sentiments upon them to your Excellency, I shall be happy to receive any suggestions or instructions you may think proper to convey to me.

To His Excellency  
Major-General Sir Lionel Smith, K. C. B.  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Geo. Tyler.*

Sir,

St. Vincent, 2d June 1833.

IN obedience to your Excellency's commands, I have visited the estates of the eight gentlemen in the Charib country and windward part of the Island, in company with your Excellency's aide-de-camp, Colonel Taylor, and I read your circular to the assembled negroes at each of their estates. The evidence previously taken by the magistrates, shows that although seven of these estates had fallen off in their duty to their master, the conduct of the negroes in Lot 14 alone was mutinous, and as we proceeded, we found this confirmed.

The proprietor of Lot 14, Mr. Cummings, met us at Grand Sable estate, and arranged the time of assembling his negroes, and although I was led to believe that they were in a state of great indiscipline, arising from their master's great kindness, accompanied with a determination not to punish, I did expect that they would have obeyed their master's orders to assemble to hear your Excellency's circular letter read. But this was not the case. A few men, with the women and children, only came, whilst the stoutest young men and women, when called in from their work for the occasion, went to their houses (close to the place of meeting) and would not come out until I interfered, by commanding the overseers of the estate to go and bring them, causing a list to be made, which I gave to the proprietor. After they were thus assembled, and I had assured them that your Excellency would maintain proper discipline, I commanded a silent hearing of your circular letter to their master, but when I commenced reading it, a negro came forward into the half circle formed, making antic gestures, and using words not distinctly heard, which caused me to stop and ask Mr. Cumming to place him in irons. He put him in the stocks, and in the afternoon brought him before a bench of magistrates, who have punished him.

At all the other estates, your Excellency's circular was received respectfully.

It appears to me that the evil effect of the insubordinate state of the negroes on Lot 14, is not confined to the property of Mr. Cumming, but that it has extended its influence, and if suffered to continue, may seriously affect the Island generally.

In further obedience to your Excellency's commands, I consulted with the proprietors regarding a post for troops, in case your Excellency should think it proper to send a detachment to that part. Major Crichton pointed out an unroofed store on the beach at Grand Sable, which, with some additions, might be made a convenient barrack for a company, and preferable at present to Mount Young, because there is water at hand, and provisions can either be landed opposite to it, or conveyed from the Grand Sable Jetty on a flat road.

Having reported upon the points which my attention was more immediately directed to, I think it proper to mention that the gentlemen of the country I have been in, complain that when the magistrates sentence persons to the tread-mill at Kingstown the punishment is not properly carried into execution by the keeper, which embarrasses the magistrates in the execution of their duty.

An idea was suggested to me by Mr. Macleod of Turama, (the gentleman who lives the nearest to the Charib settlement in the north) that the Charibs might be made much use of, in cases of trouble arising among the negroes, if they had something to lose in case of misconduct, which suggestion I think worthy of your Excellency's consideration.

In passing the Union estate, I found the ammunition of the militia was collected there, and without protection, which would be better, I think, divided among the men, who should be held individually responsible for the safety of their respective portions.

Having met a slave carrying his master's accoutrements to the place of assembly, at a distance of several miles, I could not help being struck with the custom at a time when I had been sent by your Excellency in consequence of disorders among the slaves, and I had afterwards some conversation with the militia officers, on the subject of rather going as some of the American militia go to muster, mounted, and in this way, I believe, they are enabled to make long and very rapid marches.

His Excellency Capt<sup>n</sup> Tyler,  
Lieut-Governor.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Wm. Reid, Major R<sup>l</sup> Engineers.*

Gentlemen,

Government House, St. Vincent, 3d June 1833.

As it appears to his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to be highly important and essential that a system of strict vigilance should be adopted towards the negroes on Lot 14 estate, the property of Mr. Alexander Cumming, and that the utmost promptness should be used in repressing, and punishing where necessary, any disorders and misconduct on their part, I am commanded by his Excellency to desire that you will assemble in petty session upon that estate once in every week, or oftener if necessary, to hear and decide upon any complaints respecting their behaviour, and that you will make a weekly report of the proceedings before you.

Although

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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Although the state of the negroes on Lot 14 estate calls for this measure particularly with respect to them, his Excellency relies upon your judgment and discretion to adopt it in any other case where you may consider it expedient.

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The Rev. T. A. Browne, J. P.  
Major Patrick Crichton, J. P.  
James Sutherland, esq. J. P.

I have, &c.  
(signed) S. Osborne Gibbes, Govt Secy.

Sir,  
THE Report I received last night from Major Reid relative to the conduct of the negroes upon your property, convinces me that immediate measures must be taken to check the highly mutinous insubordination which now exists. I will not dwell upon Major Reid's opinion of the cause, but the effects are evident, and most painfully so, upon the estates around you. I have therefore thought it expedient to appoint the three magistrates named in the margin, to hold a session weekly upon your estates, Lot 14, for the purpose of inquiring minutely into the conduct of the negroes, exercising all their powers and authority where necessary, and reporting to me the issue of such investigations.

Rev. T. A. Browne, J. P.  
Major Pat. Crichton, J. P.  
J. Sutherland, esq. J. P.

I trust, Sir, it is needless for me to impress upon your mind the duty of every individual of this community who is placed in authority, enforcing to the utmost, and more particularly at the present crisis, a due respect for the laws, as well as a ready and willing observance of them.

To Alexander Cumming, esq.

I am, &c.  
(signed) Geo. Tyrel.

— No. 255. —

No. 255.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Stanley* to  
Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,  
I HAVE received your Despatch of the 1st July last, covering the information sent to you by Captain Tyler, Lieutenant-Governor of St. Vincent, respecting the insubordination which has recently existed among some of the slaves in that Island, and the measures which have been taken to repress it.

I am happy to express my approbation of the course which Captain Tyler has adopted on this occasion, and I entertain a confident hope that the temperate yet firm spirit in which he has enforced obedience to the existing laws, combined with the military precautions which have been taken, will preserve the tranquillity of the Island during the interval which must elapse before the slaves are to enter upon their new condition.

I feel it my duty to call your attention to the remarks in Major Reid's Letter to Captain Tyler, of the 2d June last, respecting the unprotected state of the ammunition of the militia, and the practice of permitting the slaves to carry their masters' arms and accoutrements to the place of assembly.

These defects in the militia arrangements might, in the present state of the Colony, be productive of the most serious and even dangerous consequences; and I trust you will lose no time in suggesting and enforcing proper regulations on this subject.

have, &c.  
(signed) E. G. Stanley.

— No. 256. —

No. 256.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*, dated Government House, Barbadoes, 20 November 1833.

I AM sorry to lay before you, in the accompanying correspondence, a violent protest from the Assembly of St. Vincent's, against the Abolition Act.

Enclosures in No. 256.

Enclosures in  
No. 256.

Sir,  
I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency, copies of the communications which have passed between the Houses of Legislature of this Island and myself, upon their being summoned on the 15th ult., for the purpose of laying before them the Slavery Abolition Act, which had passed the Imperial Parliament and received the Royal Assent.

The House of Assembly have thought proper to pass a protest against the Act for the Abolition of Slavery. This measure, absurd and unwise as it is, was, I am informed, adopted in consequence of instructions from some party at home, who conceived that unless such a step was taken as a precautionary mode of proceeding, they could not hereafter expect

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to receive any additional compensation for whatever loss they may sustain by carrying into effect the present Act.

I am happy to observe, that the Council refused to concur in the protest, and I am inclined to believe, that in future the Members of the Assembly will fully act up to the sincere determination they express of supporting such plans as may from time to time be proposed to them by His Majesty's Government, and to assist in carrying safely into effect the Abolition of Slavery in this Colony.

I have, &amp;c.

His Excellency Major-General Sir Lionel Smith, K. C. B.  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Geo. Tyler.*

(Signed, "Geo. Tyler.")

THE Lieutenant-Governor has the honour to transmit to the honourable House of Assembly, an Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, which received His Majesty's assent, and passed into a law on the 28th of August, and likewise a copy of a Proclamation forwarded by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and approved by His Majesty in Council. The Lieutenant-Governor begs to inform the honourable House, that this Proclamation was issued and promulgated in this Island on the 9th instant.

It would be impossible for the Lieutenant-Governor himself to convey in terms sufficiently explicit the measures which His Majesty's Government propose to adopt, in order to give complete effect to the Act as now passed; he has therefore enclosed a copy of a circular Despatch from His Majesty's Secretary of State, which distinctly explains those points, and gives every information upon a subject so important to all classes of society within this Colony.

The Lieutenant-Governor feels assured, that it is not necessary to call the attention of the honourable House to that part of Mr. Stanley's Despatch, which states that "His Majesty's Government will not only admit, but will invite and weigh with all care, such observations as they (the drafts of the proposed Orders in Council) may call forth, and such suggestions as any persons may be disposed to make for the improvement of their projected regulations." With this understanding, and a sincere determination on the part of the Legislature of this Colony to co-operate with His Majesty's Government, the Lieutenant-Governor cannot but look with confidence to the future prosperity and tranquillity of this valuable possession of the Crown.

Government House, St. Vincent, 15 October 1833.

To his Excellency *George Tyler*, Esq. Captain in the Royal Navy, &c. &c. &c.

Sir,

THE Board of Council has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's message of this date, accompanied with a copy of a circular Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of the Act of the Imperial Parliament, for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, &c. to which that Despatch refers, and a copy of a Proclamation by His Majesty on the same subject, which your Excellency has caused to be proclaimed in this Colony.

The Board views with great satisfaction the honourable sentiments of the Colonial Secretary, relative to the legislature of these Islands, and hopes to prove to your Excellency, when the final instructions shall have arrived, that its attention will be devoted to the interests of the Colony, and the furtherance of the intentions of His Majesty's Government, as far as can be practically adopted with beneficial effects.

St. Vincent, 15 October 1833.

(signed) *John Peterson*, President.

Sir,

House of Assembly, 17 October 1833.

I HAVE had the honour to lay before the House of Assembly your Excellency's message of the 15th instant, together with the circular Despatch of Mr. Secretary Stanley, and I am commanded to transmit to your Excellency, the accompanying Protest against the Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain, for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; at the same time to assure your Excellency that, notwithstanding this precautionary mode of proceeding, there is a sincere determination on the part of the Assembly to give their best support to such plans as may from time to time be proposed by the supreme Government at home to carry safely into effect the Abolition of Slavery in this Colony, and to lay the foundation of future industry and prosperity, without, however, incurring in the remotest degree any portion of the great and fearful responsibility of a measure which will introduce such hazardous changes into the various relations of society.

I have, &amp;c.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor,  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *J. P. Ross*, Speaker.

The SOLEMN PROTEST of the Assembly of *Saint Vincent* and its Dependencies, against the Bill for the Abolition of Slavery.

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ACTUATED as we have always been by those feelings of attachment towards the mother country, which has so long formed the proud characteristic of the British West Indies, no less than by feelings of the most devoted loyalty towards the person of our gracious Sovereign, and anxious as we have always expressed ourselves, both in words and action, by the adoption of wise laws and opportune measures, gradually and safely to ameliorate the condition of our people, to reform their habits, to improve their morals, and to give them that religious instruction, which would best fit them for the station they would hereafter be called upon to fill in society, and ultimately to insure their emancipation; it is with feelings of the deepest concern and disappointment we learn, that the British Parliament, unmoved by our representations, and expressing a distrust in our professions, has determined upon the hasty, ill-advised and crude measure which has been officially communicated to us.

It would be needless, after so ample a discussion as this subject has received both at home and abroad, to state the tenure by which we hold these properties; the charters which secure our rights; the repeated and numerous Acts of the British Legislature, which confirm our claims; the striking and important fact that, in a variety of instances, not only the lands, but even the slaves themselves, have been purchased from the British Government. It would be needless now to state the value of these possessions; of the seven millions of revenue which they contribute to the mother country; of the four millions and a half derived from thence, supporting through these various and complicated ramifications so vast a body of merchants, manufacturers and tradesmen; of the 240,000 tons of shipping employed; of the thousands and tens of thousands of seamen maintained, forming the most valuable nursery for that branch of the British service, its marine, on which its glory and safety so mainly depend. It would be needless, because the fiat of the Imperial Parliament of England has already gone forth, and we must bow with due submission to its decree, conscious of our weakness and impotency to resist its authoritative mandate.

Yet we are conscious at the same time of the justice of our claims, conscious of our integrity of purpose, conscious of the efforts we have used, and which the repeated and very recent Acts of our Colonial Legislature so clearly evince, of our sincere intention, cautiously, judiciously and gradually to effect a change, so momentous and so complete, we profess no intention to resist the strongly expressed wishes of the British nation; on the contrary, we profess our readiness and willingness to meet the subject fairly and honestly, to give the measures of Government our serious and earnest consideration, and to co-operate so far as in us lies in carrying these measures into effect.

But at the same time we must and do solemnly protest against this undue invasion of our rights. We do solemnly protest against it as a hasty and ill-advised measure, which not only places in jeopardy the property, which (according to an appraisement now in progress) exceeds four millions sterling in value in this Colony alone, but whilst it endangers the life of the owner, is calculated to destroy the interests, the comforts and the well-being of the slave himself, for whose benefit this measure is professedly intended. We do solemnly protest against it as a dangerous precedent;—dangerous as not only affecting our chartered rights, but sapping the foundation of those of our fellow countrymen in every quarter of the globe. We do solemnly protest against it as a partial measure; a measure which ought only to have been adopted in conjunction with the other states of Europe, who are already rejoicing at the short-sightedness of our policy, and are even now pluming themselves upon the prospects which it presents of immediately exalting themselves upon our ruin. And by what means? By reviving in its full force, and encouraging to an almost inconceivable extent, that odious traffic, which it has been for so many years the benevolent aim of the British Government to prevent, and which has so long been happily banished from our own shores. We do solemnly protest against it, as establishing a ruinous system, which not only renders it imperative upon the owner to continue, in their fullest extent, all those privileges, indulgences and allowances, which his slave has hitherto enjoyed, but gives to his apprentice so large and unreasonable a portion of time, as will render it impracticable for his master to continue the profitable cultivation of the soil; at the same time it will superinduce in himself such habits of indolence, vagrancy and insubordination, as will render him still more unfit for a state of freedom, at the conclusion of his apprenticeship, than he is at the present moment. We protest against it as a measure which, in granting to a third person the right of continued interference between the master and his servant, teaches the latter to look up to some other power for protection and support; and is thus calculated to destroy all those kind feelings of attachment, mutual interest and dependence, which have hitherto subsisted. We protest against it as taking away all authority and wholesome control from the master, whom it has already deprived of the means of the possibility of reward, and substituting in their place a power totally insufficient to maintain order, or to enforce the performance of duty. And above all, we do solemnly protest against the inadequacy, as well as the uncertain mode and period of the payment of the compensation held out to us, and which amounts not, in a majority of cases, to one-tenth part of the value of the properties we possess.

Disclaiming, therefore, all responsibility attending this untried, and we fear impracticable scheme, we reserve to ourselves the right of demanding from the British nation a full compensation for the losses we may ultimately sustain.

A true copy from the Journals.

(signed) *P. Hobson*, Clerk of Assembly.

House of Assembly,  
17 October 1833.

ST. VINCENT.

— No. 257. —

No. 257.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Stanley* to  
Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 13th January 1834.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, dated the 20th November last, enclosing a copy of a Letter addressed by the Lieutenant-Governor of St. Vincent to yourself, together with copies of the communications which had passed between the Houses of Legislature of that Island and the Lieutenant-Governor, upon their being summoned for the purpose of having laid before them the Act for the Abolition of Slavery.

I have to request you to instruct Lieutenant-Governor Tyler to convey my thanks to the Council of St. Vincent, for their promise to devote their attention towards the furtherance of the objects of His Majesty's Government upon this important subject, and at the same time to communicate to the Assembly of that Colony my satisfaction at perceiving that, notwithstanding the protest which they have felt it their duty to make on this occasion, they have expressed a sincere determination to give their support to such measures as may be necessary to carry into effect the Abolition of Slavery in the Island of St. Vincent.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. G. Stanley*.

— No. 258. —

No. 258.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to  
Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Government House, Barbadoes, 28th May 1834.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for His Majesty's gracious allowance, the transcripts of two Acts, which have been passed by the Legislature of St. Vincent, intituled,—

No. 308.—“ An Act for the Abolition of Slavery, in the Island of St. Vincent and its Dependencies, in consideration of Compensation, and for promoting the industry and good conduct of the manumitted Slaves.”

No. 311.—“ An Act to provide for the general Registration of all Slaves belonging to or settled in these Islands.”

With reference to the Act for the general Registration of Slaves, I have the honour to enclose for your consideration, a copy of a Letter from the Lieutenant-Governor of St. Vincent, in reply to some objections which I felt it necessary to point out, in authorizing him to assent to the Bill, and which will be found detailed at length in the Lieutenant-Governor's Despatch.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Enclosures in No. 258.

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 20th May 1834.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Despatch, conveying instructions to me to assent to the Act passed by this Legislature, for the general registration of all slaves within this Colony.

Your Excellency remarks, however, “ that the third clause of the above Act, is at variance with the 4th clause of the British Act for the Abolition of Slavery, inasmuch as the registration of occupation should be according to the occupations of the slaves, for 12 months previous to the passing of the British Act, and not for the period, previous only to the 1st of June next, as enacted by the clause in question.”

I could fully appreciate the force of your Excellency's objection to the clause, if the proprietor had been called upon to classify his slaves, as well as to return their occupations; and to prove to your Excellency, how sensible I was of the bearing of the fourth clause of the Imperial Act, I herewith transmit a copy of my communication to both branches of the Legislature, on returning the Registration Act for reconsideration, in consequence of their having introduced in the original Act the word “ classes ” after that of “ occupations,” which undoubtedly, if not expunged, would have been at variance with the Imperial Act, but I apprehend that a mere return in the registration of the general occupations of slaves at the present moment within this Colony, will not be considered as very material, either at home or by your Excellency, when it is divested of any views as to their ultimate classification.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Geo. Tyler*.His Excellency Sir *Lionel Smith*, K. C. B.

&amp;c. &amp;c. &amp;c.

Act Printed in the  
Appendix (B.) No. 43.Act Printed in the  
Appendix (B.) No. 44.No. 6.  
20 May 1834.Enclosures in  
No. 258.

(Copy.)  
(Geo. Tyler.)

Government House,  
St. Vincent, 17th April 1834.

ST. VINCENT.

THE Lieutenant-Governor has convened the present meeting of the Legislature, from an anxious desire of affording the earliest opportunity of completing the Police Act now in progress, and of insuring an immediate re-consideration of the Act recently passed for the registration of slaves in this Colony.

In the second clause of that Act, an authorized power is vested in the registrar of slaves, inasmuch as he is directed to make a return of the names, sexes, ages, occupations and classes of all slaves within this Colony.

The duty of classing the slaves according to the Imperial Act for the Abolition of Slavery, is confined solely to the Commissioners for Compensation. The Lieutenant-Governor is persuaded, therefore, he has only to point out this discrepancy, to obtain for it the immediate attention and consideration of both branches of the Legislature, as also to recommend that the period fixed by the same Act for the returns of slaves to be made by the registrar, should be extended beyond the 30th of the present month.

The Honourable the President of H. M. Council,  
And the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Assembly,  
&c. &c. &c.

—No. 259.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to  
Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

No. 259.

Sir,

Government House, Barbadoes, 2 July 1834.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for His Majesty's gracious allowance, transcript of an Act (No. 316), intituled, "An Act for establishing a Police for the regulation of apprenticed Labourers," &c., which has been passed by the Legislature of St. Vincent.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Act printed in the  
Appendix (B) No. 45.

—No. 260.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Tyler*  
to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

No. 260.

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 2 August 1834.

I HAVE much pleasure in acquainting your Excellency, that the period prescribed by law for abolishing slavery throughout the British dominions has passed over in this Colony without any symptoms of riot or insubordination; indeed, I should rather say, *quite a contrary feeling has prevailed*; for from the constant reports I receive from the interior of the Island, as well as from my own personal observation, there is every proof, with few exceptions, that the great boon which has been bestowed upon the negroes has been received by them with thankfulness, notwithstanding they are puzzled as to the term "freedom" being applicable to their present state and condition.

The good understanding which has universally prevailed between master and slave in this Colony, and the many advantages enjoyed by the latter, have in my opinion mainly contributed to the confidence they now place in the system adopted for their probation. No pains have been spared or means neglected to put them into possession of every necessary information previous to the 1st of August. A few days prior to the period, a requisition was presented to me by the proprietors, to direct the stipendiary magistrates to visit each estate within their separate division, for the purpose of explaining to the negroes the law as established for their future guidance and government. To this I readily acquiesced, being anxious for an opportunity to impress upon the negroes the importance of the office of the stipendiary magistrate, as well as to state my conviction to each individual planter, that if they should persist in adhering to the resolution they had unanimously adopted of working their negroes as usual on the 1st August, that such a proceeding would cause universal dissatisfaction, and might eventually lead to the most serious consequences. I therefore urged most strenuously my recommendation that a general holiday should be observed on that day throughout the Colony. This suggestion, I am happy to say, was finally adopted, though not without many instances being evinced of opposition and reluctance. The reports made by the stipendiary magistrates after their visits through their several districts, have confirmed my opinion



ST. VINCENT.

that the course taken has been productive of the most satisfactory results ; I have therefore now only to hope, that the measures which have been devised for carrying the new system into operation may prove effectual, and that it may ultimately establish that blessing which has for its object the unrestricted freedom of *all* within this Colony.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Geo. Tyler.*

No. 261.

—No. 261.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Tyler* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir, Government House, St. Vincent, 9 August 1834.

SINCE writing my Despatch to your Excellency of the 2d instant, I regret to say that a spirit of insubordination has evinced itself upon one estate called the Adelphi in the Island, originating from an idea that prevailed amongst the great gang that they had been worked beyond the time prescribed by law for their daily labour. This unfortunately led to a decided collision between them and the individuals called upon to enforce the law, but I am happy to say, from the prompt and decisive measures adopted by the latter, order has been restored and the delinquents punished.

I cannot omit to render every praise to the stipendiary and special magistrates who acted upon this occasion, but more particularly to the establishment of estate constables, which has in this instance evinced its most powerful efficiency. To strengthen this opinion, I venture to transcribe the terms in which they are spoken of by Mr. Grant, the proprietor of the estate in question: "the conduct of the apprentice constables was highly meritorious, and I congratulate the country in having found so effective a force."

Notwithstanding this unexpected instance of riot, I have every reason to hope that tranquillity will prevail in this Colony, and from the examples which have been made, a proper and due deference will be paid to the laws established for the government of the apprenticed labourers. It is my intention to visit this estate in the course of a few days, by which time I trust the authority of the stipendiary magistrate will be thoroughly understood.

Being unwilling to detain the mail boat, which has unexpectedly arrived, and which I am informed is charged with Despatches of importance to your Excellency from Trinidad, I am obliged to postpone forwarding a copy of the commission issued to the stipendiary magistrates of this Island.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Geo. Tyler.*

No. 262.

—No. 262.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Tyler* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir, St. Vincent, August 25, 1834.

HAVING officially communicated to the Governor-in-Chief on the 2d and 9th of the present month upon the state of this Colony since the change which had taken place on the 1st instant, and presuming that information will be forwarded to you by the present packet, I deem it my duty to take advantage of the earliest opportunity of acquainting you, that notwithstanding my report of the 9th not being so favourable as the former one, I have great satisfaction in announcing that since that period I have visited the estate upon which the disturbances took place, and by personally addressing the negroes and making an example of the ring-leaders, they have been brought back to a proper sense of their duty and a cheerful performance of their work.

In every other instance the Colony has remained perfectly tranquil and orderly.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Geo. Tyler.*

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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—No. 263.—

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No. 263.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Tyler*  
to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir, Government House, St. Vincent, 1 November 1834.

I VENTURE to send, for your information, an abstract from the journals of the stipendiary magistrates in this Colony for the two months ending on the 30th September, giving the number of apprenticed labourers who have been guilty of any offence, the character of the offence and the punishment awarded.

This abstract will, I hope, prove satisfactorily that the amount of crime at a period like the present, in a population exceeding 20,000, is not beyond that which might be expected in one of the same extent under circumstances of less excitement.

The reports I constantly receive from both magistrates and planters, as well as my own knowledge of the facts, are most favourable as to the general conduct of the negroes in this Colony.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Geo. Tyler*.

## Enclosures in No. 263.

Enclosures in  
No. 263.

## SAINT VINCENT—WINDWARD DIVISION.

ABSTRACT of OFFENCES and PUNISHMENTS, as returned by the STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATE,  
from 1 August to 30 September 1834.

OFFENCES.	Males.	Females.	PUNISHMENTS.	
			Males.	Females.
Neglect of duty, absence from work or being late.	7	44	-- From 15 to 20 lashes, two days' extra labour, 14 days' hard labour on tread-mill.	-- Reprimanded; from four hours to three days' extra labour; from three to seven days' hard labour on tread-mill; three individuals fined one dollar each.
Disobedience of orders	2	9	-- Two days' extra labour.	-- From one to two weeks' solitary confinement; seven days' hard labour on tread-mill; three fined one dollar each.
Riotous or insubordinate conduct, or insolence.	19	21	-- Thirty-five lashes and three days' extra labour; 45 lashes and four days' extra labour; 30 lashes and six months' hard labour on tread-mill (subsequently remitted).*	-- From four to seven days' hard labour on tread-mill; four days' extra labour on estate; seven days' solitary confinement.
Runaways or vagabonds	7	2	-- From two to four weeks' hard labour in penal gang; one to two weeks' hard labour on tread-mill; 30 lashes.	-- One week's hard labour on tread-mill.
Theft - - -	8	3	-- Ten days' solitary confinement; two to four weeks' hard labour on tread-mill; 25 lashes.	-- From two to four weeks' hard labour on tread-mill.
Miscellaneous - -	1	-	-- Fourteen days' hard labour on tread-mill and ten days' extra labour.	
	44	79		

\* These punishments were awarded on the Adelphi Estate, where a great degree of insubordination had existed, as reported to the Governor-in-Chief in a letter from the Lieutenant-Governor of St. Vincent, dated 9 August.

Two offences against apprenticed Labourers committed in the above period by Overseers, punished by fines of six dollars and four dollars respectively.

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## SAINT VINCENT—SOUTHERN DIVISION.

ABSTRACT of OFFENCES and PUNISHMENTS, as returned by the STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES,  
from 1 August to 30 September 1834.

OFFENCES.	Males.	Females.	PUNISHMENTS.	
			Males.	Females.
Running away - -	16	5	- - From one week to one month hard labour on tread-mill; 25 to 30 lashes; one month tread-mill and 30 lashes; two months tread-mill and 39 lashes.	- - From three to seven days' hard labour on the tread-mill; one month hard labour in the penal gang.
Idleness, absence from work, or being late.	20	18	- - From two days to one week; two weeks or four weeks' hard labour on the tread-mill; 10 to 25 lashes.	- - Twelve hours to two days' extra work; three days to one week, tread-mill; one week hard labour in penal gang.
Abuse or impertinence	8	7	- - One week to one month, tread-mill; 15 lashes.	- - Three days to one week, tread-mill; one fined 1½ dollar.
Theft - - -	7	2	- - Three days, tread-mill; 20 to 45 lashes; fine of 4s.	- - Two weeks' hard labour on tread-mill.
Miscellaneous - -	15	7	- - One day's confinement in stocks; three days' extra work; three days to one month, tread-mill; 15 to 20 lashes.	- - Three days' confinement in stocks; three days' extra labour; two fined 1½ dollar.
	66	39		

One offence against an apprenticed Labourer, committed by a free woman in the above period, viz., striking her servant, punished by a fine of six dollars.

## SAINT VINCENT—LEEWARD DIVISION.

ABSTRACT of OFFENCES and PUNISHMENTS, as returned by the STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATE,  
from 1 August to 30 September 1834.

OFFENCES.	Males.	Females.	PUNISHMENTS.	
			Males.	Females.
Running away - -	9	4	- - Forty-eight hours' solitary confinement; 14 days' tread-mill; 30 lashes; in general, extra labour to repay lost time.	- - Repayment of lost time by extra labour; seven nights' confinement; ten days' tread-mill.
Disobedience, impertinence or insubordination.	8	5	- - Solitary confinement as far as 14 nights and noons; 12 to 40 lashes.	- - From one to 14 nights' confinement; 10 days' tread-mill.
Idleness, neglect of duty, or coming late to work.	9	11	- - Extra labour to repay lost time; solitary confinement from two to seven days; seven to 10 days' tread-mill.	- - Extra labour to repay lost time; two nights' solitary confinement; seven days' tread-mill.
Theft - - -	3	1	- - Ten to 14 days' tread-mill; 30 lashes.	- - Six weeks' tread-mill.
Quarrelling and assaults	8	2	- - Reprimanded; solitary confinement; 25 to 35 lashes.	- - Extra labour 1½ day; 10 days' tread-mill.
Miscellaneous - -	3	3	- - Compromised; one week, tread-mill; one ditto and 30 lashes.	- - Solitary confinement four nights; four days' tread-mill; 14 days' tread-mill.
	40	26		

Three offences against apprenticed Labourers in the above period, committed by Overseers, punished by fines of six dollars, two dollars and four dollars respectively, and one by a free woman by a fine of eight dollars.

— No. 264. —

ST. VINCENT.

No. 264.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Tyler* to  
Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Government House, Saint Vincent,

27 January 1835.

Sir,

WITH reference to a circular of the 30th September, wherein my attention is directed by His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies to the subject which the great change in the condition of the negro population in His Majesty's Colonies must necessarily lead to, as regards not only the system of cultivation, but the general pursuits of industry, and requesting me to express my opinion as to the probable effect which free labour and the apprenticeship of the negroes is likely to produce upon the pursuits of profitable industry, I have attempted in the following remarks to communicate my ideas upon a subject which embraces so many points dependent upon future circumstances, that it is impossible at present to form any correct judgment respecting them; but however speculative the opinions may appear, I still trust they may prove in some degree beneficial to the interests of this Colony, and of advantage to the Mother Country.

1st.—The present state of productive industry in this Colony bears a relative proportion to the force employed. This will be seen by the annexed table, which shows the number of apprenticed labourers appraised on the 1st of August last; the average amount of produce raised for the last five years, as well as that of the exports and imports for the same period. This will however not include the articles raised for consumption, which consist chiefly of what are designated ground provisions, such as yams, cassava and other esculent roots. These, together with the fruits indigenous to tropical climates, comprise the chief of the produce raised for consumption. Sugar and arrow-root are consumed, but in a trifling proportion; rum is generally used to a great extent.

2d.—It is difficult, at so early a stage of the great experiment, to form any sound opinion upon the possible changes which may be produced by the Abolition of Slavery on the agricultural, manufacturing and commercial system of the Colonies; but if I may venture to predict from the present aspect of affairs in this Colony, I should say there is no apparent cause to suppose that productive labour will be diminished, provided that well-regulated and proper municipal laws are in time established to ensure its continuance. To this subject of paramount importance, the early attention of the local legislatures should be directed, aided and assisted by well-digested recommendations from the Home Government. These conclusions have principally suggested themselves from the practical evidences which I see daily occurring in this Island, where the apprenticed labourers have not only entered into specific agreements for wages, which have been duly recorded by the stipendiary magistrates, but in many instances they are hiring themselves out, or to their masters, to work during their own time in the cultivation of the sugar cane, for wages averaging about 8*d.* sterling per day.

Notwithstanding the encouraging hopes held out to us by such conduct, I am not so sanguine as to suppose that sugar, the staple commodity of the West Indies, ever can be cultivated hereafter, to the extent it has been under the system of slavery. There can be no doubt, if proprietors could be brought to a just sense of their own interests, that the lands now occupied under forced culture of the cane might be rendered available to other productions more congenial to the soil, of a nature less expensive in cultivation, and in the end more advantageous to the proprietor. To establish this conviction, or indeed any principle for the future, so as to guard against the loss of property, much must of course depend upon the judgment and perseverance of the proprietors themselves; but, whatever may be the cause, this Colony has to regret, in common with all the others in the West Indies, not only the general absence of proprietors, but the little anxiety which is evinced, or efforts made to introduce those improvements in agriculture which must eventually be beneficial to their interests. I cannot but contemplate with anxiety the future state of proprietors, if they continue to resign, as at present is the prevailing custom, the entire control and management of their estates to attornies or managers, whose interests or dispositions to improve property cannot be expected to equal that of a resident proprietor. In offering these opinions, I do not look

ST. VINCENT.

to the preservation of property alone, but I take a more extensive view of the influence such residence would produce upon the general internal government of a Colony, as well as the security it would afford to the Mother Country in these valuable possessions.

3d.—In pointing out the remedies by which existing evils might be corrected, that are obstacles to general improvement, or tend to impede the extension of commercial intercourse, I would submit one circumstance, which, in my opinion, is at the present time deserving the immediate attention of His Majesty's Government. I allude to the ruinous system of the circulating medium of currency, which prevails in this Colony and throughout the West Indies to an extent which not only tends to destroy commercial intercourse, but virtually to establish separate interests. To obviate this evil, I had prepared, at the express wish of the Legislature, a proclamation for the purpose of establishing a circulating medium of sterling value within this Colony, at the rate of 4 s. 4 d. sterling to the Spanish dollar, the value placed upon that coin by an order of His Majesty in Council, bearing date the 23d March 1825, in lieu of the fictitious one now in existence; but on forwarding it to the Governor-in-Chief, I was given to understand that His Majesty's Government had under consideration some measure for providing an uniformity of currency throughout the Colonies. Under these circumstances all further proceedings on my part were stayed. I however transmit with this a copy of the address from the Legislature on the subject, together with that of the proclamation, with the view of showing the principle upon which it had been my intention to have recommended the measure to His Majesty's Government.

I cannot too strongly urge this subject for consideration, situated as this Colony is with respect to its monetary system. At the end of this crop, in July next, a sum of not less than eighteen thousand dollars will have to be distributed in small portions to the negroes for their extra labour. It is utterly impossible to provide for this want within the Colony; recourse must of necessity be had by proprietors to the Mother Country for British silver, the importation of which must be attended with risk, and the distribution of it with loss. So long therefore as *four shillings and four-pence sterling* (or the Spanish dollar) is called *ten shillings currency*, and that all other coins are made to bear their relative proportions to that standard, so long will the consumer be at the mercy of the retail merchant, and the American trader carry off all the specie.

4th.—In concluding the remarks, I would observe, that in promoting profitable industry, and establishing confidence in the negro, much care is necessary during the progress of his apprenticeship to wean him from his former habits of dependence, and to influence his mind with those moral and religious principles as will enable him to place a just value upon the blessings of unrestricted freedom. Upon these points hinge all our prospects with respect to the future promotion of industry, and the consequent prosperity of this Colony. It was with the view of effecting this important object, I suggested that steps should be taken in due time for establishing such municipal laws and regulations as would prove to the negro that the intention of His Majesty's Government was (aided by the local Legislatures) to place him in a situation of acquiring that interest in the soil and security in his person, as would ensure to him all the benefits and privileges attainable by any individual within His Majesty's dominions.

By these means, we may, I think, look with confidence to the greater portion of the present labouring population becoming hereafter the force to be depended upon for yielding profitable labour, and, I sincerely hope, of securing the continuance of this valuable possession as a productive appendage to the British Crown.

I have, &c.

(signed)

Geo. Tyler.

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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Enclosures in No. 264.

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SAINT VINCENT.—GENERAL ABSTRACT of the Returns of the Total Number of SLAVES within the said Colony, according to the several Classes and Values.

Enclosures in No. 264.

Total Number of Returns within the said Colony - - - 769

CLASSES.			Number of Slaves.	Estimated Value of Slaves in Sterling.
Prædial Attached	1	Head people - - - -	927	£. 100,505
	2	Tradesmen - - - -	268	29,210
	3	Inferior tradesmen - - - -	375	27,040
	4	Field labourers - - - -	7,622	741,907
	5	Inferior field labourers - - - -	5,605	334,979
Prædial Unattached	1	Head people - - - -	23	2,464
	2	Tradesmen - - - -	22	2,284
	3	Inferior tradesmen - - - -	21	1,473
	4	Field labourers - - - -	268	25,932
	5	Inferior field labourers - - - -	178	10,435
Non-Prædial	1	Head tradesmen - - - -	111	13,060
	2	Inferior tradesmen - - - -	101	7,477
	3	Head people employed on wharfs, shipping or other vocations - - - -	246	27,017
	4	Inferior people of the same description - - - -	136	10,195
	5	Head domestic servants - - - -	949	93,520
	6	Inferior domestics - - - -	1,250	76,109
Children under six years of age on the 1st August 1834 - - - -			2,959	87,315
Aged, diseased or otherwise non-effective - - - -			1,189	10,385
			22,250	£. 1,601,307

(signed) *S. Osborne Gibbes,*  
Secretary Assistant Commissioners Compensation.

SAINT VINCENT.—An ACCOUNT showing the estimated Value of EXPORTS to *Great Britain*, and all other Places, for Five Years; distinguishing the Amount of Exports to *Great Britain* from the Exports to other Places.

	GREAT BRITAIN.	BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.	BRITISH WEST INDIES.	FOREIGN PORTS.
	<i>Sterling.</i>	<i>Sterling.</i>	<i>Sterling.</i>	<i>Sterling.</i>
Year ended 5 Jan. 1830	433,964 15 -	22,389 10 -	23,901 12 10	1,323 11 -
" " 5 Jan. 1831	263,347 8 -	34,597 - -	37,564 9 2	2,536 19 11
" " 5 Jan. 1832	219,302 6 -	28,129 1 6	31,632 16 9	7,823 7 6
" " 5 Jan. 1833	212,036 4 6	33,341 12 6	30,717 1 5	9,359 1 8
" " 5 Jan. 1834	267,732 9 6	13,546 3 -	18,023 15 -	2,208 16 -
Total in Five Years £.	1,396,383 3 -	132,003 7 -	141,839 15 2	23,251 16 1

Custom-House, St. Vincent,  
28 January 1835.

(signed) *George Huskisson,* Collector.  
*Sackville M. Tayler,* Comptroller.

SAINT VINCENT.—An ACCOUNT showing the VALUE of IMPORTATIONS from *Great Britain*, and all other Places, for the last Five Years; distinguishing the Amount of Imports from *Great Britain*, from the Imports of other Places.

	IMPORTS from GREAT BRITAIN.	IMPORTS from NORTH AMERICA.	IMPORTS from British West Indies.	IMPORTS from FOREIGN PORTS.
	<i>Sterling.</i>	<i>Sterling.</i>	<i>Sterling.</i>	<i>Sterling.</i>
Year ended 5 Jan. 1830	84,513 8 8	41,706 8 6	31,160 10 -	27,922 - 8
" " 5 Jan. 1831	57,135 12 8	25,088 1 11	43,282 18 -	22,801 6 9
" " 5 Jan. 1832	96,356 - 1	41,005 - -	61,952 2 10	53,562 6 -
" " 5 Jan. 1833	101,283 1 6	26,876 6 2	46,996 3 6	44,768 9 4
" " 5 Jan. 1834	62,069 13 -	39,001 3 4	43,101 5 6	21,767 3 3
Total in Five Years £.	401,357 15 11	173,676 19 11	226,492 19 10	170,821 6 -

Custom-House, St. Vincent,  
10 December 1834.

(signed) *George Huskisson,* Collector.  
*Sackville M. Tayler,* Comptroller.

ST. VINCENT. SAINT VINCENT.—TOTAL AMOUNT OF PRODUCE made within this Colony for the last Five Years.

YEARS.	SUGAR.				RUM.	
	Hogsheads.	Tierces.	Barrels.	Equal in Pounds to	Puncheons.	Equal in Gallons to
1829 - - -	17,239	375	144	28,015,112	6,542	771,952
1830 - - -	16,468	479	435	28,805,274	7,677	909,469
1831 - - -	14,839	527	690	24,454,550	5,594	657,069
1832 - - -	13,054	588	737	21,347,828	3,631	410,646
1833 - - -	13,480	426	465	23,509,935	2,964	350,429

  

YEARS.	MOLASSES.		Pounds of Arrow Root.	Pounds of Coffee.	Pounds of Cocoa.	Pounds of Cotton.
	Puncheons.	Equal in Gallons to				
1829 - - -	3,973	433,531	21,250	2,572	12,216	100,965
1830 - - -	3,119	341,367	16,850	1,672	9,989	87,709
1831 - - -	3,964	436,025	3,763	1,260	7,861	55,597
1832 - - -	4,405	474,815	250	356	538	62,101
1833 - - -	5,800	641,649	5,552	630	1,005	60,263

(signed) *Thomas Melville*, Treasurer.

To Lieutenant-Governor *Tyler*, &c. &c. &c.

THE members of the House of Assembly respectfully approach your Excellency, and humbly pray, that your Excellency will be pleased, by virtue of the power and authority vested in you, to review the several proclamations of the 1st January and 5th March 1818, the 20th July 1819 and the 14th January 1823, relative to the nominal value of the current coins in this Island; and if your Excellency shall be so advised, to fix a sterling value in lieu thereof, in order that the Legislature may be enabled to introduce with effect certain measures for the abolition of currency, and the substitution of sterling money in the Colony.

House of Assembly,  
2 September 1834.

(signed) *J. P. Ross*, Speaker.

#### A PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency *George Tyler*, Esquire, &c. &c. &c.

WHEREAS his Excellency Sir Charles Brisbane, late governor of this Island and its dependencies, by his proclamation bearing date the 1st January 1818, under his hand and the great seal of this Colony, was pleased to affix a certain currency value to Portugal joes, the Spanish dollar, and certain parts of mutilated dollars; and by another proclamation bearing date the 5th day of March in the same year, also under his said Excellency's hand and the great seal of this Colony, the value of Portugal and American gold coins and doubloons, and of their aliquot parts, and also of the Spanish dollar, was further regulated, and a currency value affixed to the same. And by another proclamation, bearing date the 20th day of March 1819, also under his said Excellency's hand and the great seal of this Colony, the British coins of penny and half-penny pieces received a currency value; and by another proclamation, bearing date the 14th day of January 1823, also under his said Excellency's hand and the great seal of this Colony, the colonial coin issued by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, consisting of one-quarter, one-eighth and one-sixteenth of the Spanish dollar, received a currency value: And whereas the House of Assembly of this Island, by their humble address to me, dated the 2d day of September 1834, have prayed that the said proclamations might be reviewed, and a sterling value affixed to the several coins in circulation in these Islands: And whereas I have considered that the adoption of such a measure will be highly advantageous to the prosperity and welfare of this Colony; I do therefore, by virtue of the powers and authorities in me vested, issue this my proclamation, and I do declare that on the 1st day of January 1835, so much of the provisions of the said several proclamations of the 1st January and 9th March 1818, the 20th July 1819, and the 14th January 1823, as are now in force, shall be and become revoked, void and of none effect; and on, from and after the said first of January, the currency denomination and value of all coins of every description in circulation in these Islands shall cease and determine. And I do further declare, that on, from and after the 1st day of January

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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January 1835, the Spanish pillared, Mexican or other South American State Dollar (the Carolus dollar only excepted) shall pass and be received in payment at the rate of 4s. 4d. sterling, and the half, quarter, eighth and sixteenth parts thereof, at the rates of 2s. 2d., 1s. 1d., 6½d. and 3¼d. sterling respectively. And that the Carolus dollar shall pass and be received in payment, at the rate of four shillings sterling, and the half, quarter and one-eighth parts thereof, at the rates of 2s., 1s., and 6d., sterling respectively. And that the Spanish pistareen shall also pass and be received in payment, at the rate of 10½d., and the half pistareen at 5½d. sterling respectively. And that the value of the Colonial quarter, one-eighth and one-sixteenth parts of a dollar, shall respectively be 1s. 1d., 6½d. and 3¼d. sterling.

And I do further declare that the doubloon of any state weighing 17 dwts. and eight grains, shall pass and be received in payment at the rate of 3l. 9s. 4d. sterling each, and the half doubloon at 1l. 14s. 8d., the quarter at 17s. 4d., the eighth at 8s. 8d., and the sixteenth at 4s. 4d. respectively. And that the Portugal unplugged joe of 22 carats fineness, shall pass and be received in payment at four shillings sterling per pennyweight, and the American gold joe at 3s. 6d. sterling per pennyweight.

And I do further declare, that on, from and after the 1st day of March 1835, the circulation of the colonial coins called stampees and dogs, shall wholly cease and determine.

In witness whereof, &c. &c.

ST. VINCENT.

—No. 265.—

No. 265.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to the Earl of *Aberdeen*.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, 11 February 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for His Majesty's gracious approval, transcript of an Act (No. 318.) of the Legislature of St. Vincent, intituled, "An Act to repeal the Twenty-first and Twenty-second Clauses of an Act, intituled, 'An Act for establishing a Police for the Regulation of apprenticed Labourers, &c.'"

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Printed in the  
Appendix (B.) No. 46.

—No. 266.—

No. 266.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 30 June 1835.

AN Act passed by the Legislature of St. Vincent's, in the month of December last, intituled, "An Act to repeal the Twenty-first and Twenty-second Clauses of an Act, intituled, 'An Act for establishing a Police for the Regulation of apprenticed Labourers, &c.'"

having been referred by His Majesty in Council to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Foreign Plantations, that Committee have reported to His Majesty their opinion, that this Act should be left to its operation; and I have the honour herewith to transmit to you an order of His Majesty in Council, approving that report.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

—No. 267.—

No. 267.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of *Aberdeen* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 30 March 1835.

THE time is now arrived when I feel myself able to communicate to you the results of my consideration of three Acts, passed by the Governor, Council and Assembly of the Island of St. Vincent respectively, in the months of April, May and June last, intituled,—

"An Act for the Abolition of Slavery in the Island of St. Vincent and its Dependencies; in consideration of Compensation, and for promoting the industry and good conduct of the manumitted Slaves."

"Act for establishing a Police for the Regulation of apprenticed Labourers, and for carrying into effect certain provisions of the above-mentioned Act."

"Act to provide for the general Registration of all Slaves, belonging to or settled in these Islands."

278.—II.

No. 308.  
2d April 1834.

No. 316.  
23d June 1834.

No. 311,  
19th May 1834.

These



## ST. VINCENT.

These are the laws by which the Legislature of the Island of St. Vincent propose to give effect to the Act of the British Parliament, for the Abolition of Slavery. They embrace two general objects, of which the first is the adoption and re-enactments of the provisions of the Imperial Act; the second, the introduction of such subsidiary rules as Parliament have called upon the Assemblies to frame, in order to render the law of abolition effectual and safe.

In the remarks which I have to make, I shall endeavour to follow a similar division of the subject.

In the fourth section of the Act No. 308, the definition of a prædial apprenticed labourer, as given by Parliament, describing him to be such a person as shall have been for twelve months before the date of the Act habitually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce, is augmented, in the local Act, by the words, "or employed in prædial labour." Though I am not in possession of any substantive reason which may have recommended this amplification, I conceive its objects could only be to obviate the possibility of difficulties which might from time to time arise, by reason of the great variety and ambiguous character of occupations which are embraced in the arrangements of West Indian properties; and even although it may perhaps be thought that this addition does not increase the perspicuity of the description, I do not mean to enter any formal objection against it.

The 9th section of the British Act requires the written consent of at least two special justices, to authorize the removal of apprentices from the soil to which they may be attached. The Act of Assembly declares the assent of one to be sufficient; again, Parliament in no case permits removal where the separation of husbands and wives or parents and children would be the consequence.

To this rule the Assembly have added the words, "except with the consent of the party to be removed." Reverting to the intentions of Parliament, with reference to this specific provision in the British Act, I cannot for a moment doubt, that it was contemplated to preserve during the apprenticeship, the conjugal, filial and parental relations from any disruption, in so far as that object could be obtained by legal enactments; and with reference to the former of these alterations, I think it well to apprise you, in the name of His Majesty's Government, that unless there be stated some positive reason to the contrary, the local Act ought to conform to the provisions of the Imperial Act, and the consent of two special justices to be required for removals; while as respects the latter, it is still more unequivocally clear that the proposed permission to separate apprentices standing to one another in the relations above enumerated, would, in a material point, intercept the intentions of the British Legislature. The same remarks will apply to the 13th section of the local Act, which refers to the breaking up of families upon descents and alienations. The principle of alteration is in both cases the same, and in both I deem it objectionable.

In the 22d section of the local Act, I find it declared, that apprenticed labourers are to be entitled, from the 1st of August 1834, to all the rights and privileges of free persons, "except as the same may be restricted by this or any other Act." I do not know that the direct signification of these terms contains in it any thing worthy of remark, but I cannot avoid suggesting that they may hereafter, in some possible contingency, be misapplied, or at least misapprehended. It might happen, and I am bound to guard against the alternative, even if improbable, that expressions of this nature might hereafter be said to constitute a sufficient intimation, that some restraints on the freedom of apprentices were contemplated in the year 1834, the enactment of which it was thought expedient to withhold to a more convenient season; I am aware, however, that as the freedom of the apprentices is materially qualified, it is natural and necessary that the declaration of that freedom should not exceed its subject; and I should suggest that the rules of equity will be observed, and the object of the Legislature duly attained, if for the words I have quoted above there be substituted some such expressions as the following, "except as the same may be restricted by this Act, or any other passed in conformity with the provisions of the Imperial Act 3 & 4 Will. 4. c. 73."

The same clause (the 22d) while denying to the apprentices the exercise of certain civil rights, does not in terms limit the force of that denial to the period of apprenticeship, but the declaration in question should be so modified as not to admit of any supposition, detrimental to the privileges of the apprentice as a freeman, beyond the term of years appointed by Parliament for the intermediate state.

The 25th clause of the local Act requires the apprenticeship of any child for whom its parents are incapable of providing. The 13th clause of the British Act only directs the apprenticeship of children who are not otherwise from any quarter provided with an adequate maintenance. It further enjoins that the employer shall, by the terms of the indenture, be obliged to allow reasonable time and opportunity for the religious education of the child. In both the particulars which I have noticed, I think it would be well that the terms of the local Act should be brought into conformity with those employed by Parliament.

I now come to the second general object of the Act, viz. the introduction of such subsidiary rules as are intended to give efficiency to the imperial law of emancipation, and I shall compare its provisions, under this head, with the code of regulations relative thereto which has been established by His Majesty in Council.

In sections 16, 17 & 18 of cap. 2. the order distinguishes improper complaints into three kinds, viz. the unproved, the frivolous and vexatious, and the malicious, exacting penalties in proportion to the respective degrees of culpability in each. The Act in its 35th clause substitutes for this distinction a general rule against groundless complaints. I think that even if an objection be entertained to the establishment of the threefold division, at least there is substantial use in the distinction between such complaints as are really groundless, and such as are vexatious, whether from frivolity or malice.

The clause is silent on the subject of improper complaints preferred by the employer; a grievance of by no means improbable occurrence, and one against which the local Legislature should certainly provide, if not in the present clause, in some other part of the Act. I shall presently suggest a means of securing this end.

Chap. 3d of the Order in Council provides for the division of apprenticed labourers into their respective classes. The effect of the law before me will be, that the new registries will furnish not a conclusive, but *prima facie* proof of the servile condition of all persons registered before August 1st, 1834, and the nature of their employments. It does not appear that the alleged slave, or any one on his behalf, would have an opportunity of controverting the claimant's title to his services, or of disputing the particular kind of service ascribed to him. And further, there is no provision for summarily correcting the returns on appeal to any judicial authority. These deficiencies are supplied in the Order in Council, and should also be supplied by the Legislature of St. Vincent.

Sect. 15 of the same Act, No. 308, allows to the labourer, in the words of the Slave Law of December 1825, "a sufficient portion of land adapted to the growth of provisions; two pounds of salt fish daily, and eleven days annually to be deducted from the 45 hours per week." The Slave Law granted 26 days over and above the Sundays for the cultivation of such grounds, to which were to be added four annual holidays. I do not conceive that 104 lbs. of salt fish can be considered a real equivalent for 19 full days; and although it was not the intention of Parliament to exact from the Colonial Legislatures any legal addition to the provisions, or time in lieu of provisions, allowed under the Slave Law to apprentices, it was their unequivocal resolution that they should be maintained at their full amount; and this enactment must be referred back to the Assembly in order that the scale may be so adjusted as to secure the apprentice, either the full time which he enjoyed as a slave, or an ample and real compensation for any portion of it that may be subtracted.

In the 18th section, with reference to cases where it may be impracticable to maintain the apprentices by grants of land, it is required that the employer shall at all events "make good and ample provision for all such labourers, in order that they may be properly supported and maintained;" it will be necessary that the Assembly should explain and enact the nature of the good and ample provision here mentioned, inasmuch as those terms, without further specification, do not satisfy the requisition of Parliament, that the Assembly shall regulate the amount and quality of food in cases where it was not determined by the existing code.

The allowance of clothing appears to be scanty, as compared with the provisions of the Order in Council, and it is secured only to children over the age of twelve, while the order assigns it to any one above the age of five. I am not aware of any reason which warrants these departures from the provisions enacted by His Majesty.

By the 32d section, the magistrate is authorized to direct imprisonment on the plantation; this should have been connected with some precautions against the use of unhealthy or otherwise improper places of confinement. With reference to the

ST. VINCENT.

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39th section, relating to the unauthorized wandering of an apprenticed labourer beyond the limits of the plantation of his employer, I am of opinion that it is either objectionable in substance, or, if qualified by its proviso to the full extent of the terms of that proviso, almost nugatory. It requires, I think, such modifications, whether of form or substance, as shall secure to the apprentice the free use of his own time, unimpeded by any restriction of his power to select for himself the place in which it is to be spent.

The enactments of section 42, for punishing apprentices injuring the cattle or other property, not only of the employer but of any other person, should be made general in their application, and not confined to apprentices, unless some substantive argument can be stated to a contrary effect.

In the 45th section, which refers to the punishment of women for heinous offences, I observe a vagueness of expression and of enactment, not in conformity with the due caution of the law. Heinous offences will demand serious punishments, and the more serious the punishment may be, the more necessary it will be to guard, by accurate specifications, against the possibility of abuse in its infliction. Something of a more definite character must be introduced into this clause as a substitute for the bare proviso of "such punishment as shall be awarded by the special justice." I object, upon a similar principle, to section 46, which specifies punishments without defining the crimes to which they are to be attached. It is surely possible for the wisdom and experience of the Legislature to anticipate every form of offence against the law, and to meet it with some adequate penalty. The clause, in its present shape, leaves room for a suspicion which ought most anxiously to be precluded, that it is intended to give scope to arbitrary power under the sanction of law, and the apparent forms of justice.

By the same clause the magistrates are forbidden to permit the whipping of females above the age of 12. I do not think it was contemplated by Parliament that the infliction of corporal punishment upon the weaker sex, should in any case become the subject of legal enactment or judicial process; and I have therefore to instruct you, that the prohibition should be made absolute.

The 51st section provides redress for complaints of the labourer against his employer for various specified injuries. I think it might be well to introduce into the catalogue the mention of improper complaints preferred by the master against the apprentice, unless some other method shall be devised of securing to the apprentice, under the apprenticed law, a remedy against this form of oppression.

There may be a doubt whether the proviso in the same clause, saving the right of the apprentice to proceed in the Superior Courts, does not, in effect, however contrary to the intention of the Legislature, take away from the apprentice every other mode of proceeding, except that summary remedy and the right of action. I would call your attention to the necessity of so framing this law, that it shall in no way interfere, even by possibility, with His Majesty's right of proceeding by criminal information and indictment.

The 56th section declares it a felony in a labourer to attend at a meeting for various specified unlawful purposes, and generally for any other unlawful purpose. These terms are so large, that they might be made to include many actions which cannot fairly be punished as felonious; and this defect ought be corrected.

The magistrate should, as well as the employer, have the power of authorizing an apprentice to reside beyond the limits of the plantation to which he is attached.

The 62d section prohibits the purchase, from an apprentice, without the written consent of his employer, of any goods except fish, poultry, goats, hogs, grass, fruit and vegetables. Adverting to the habit which may have been generated among the negroes of frequently purloining a variety of articles, I think it allowable to prohibit, under penalties, the purchase from him of those articles, the property of his master, which he may have the opportunity of abstracting; but the enactment, instead of permitting certain articles, and joining to that permission a general prohibition of all others, would, I think, be framed in a more liberal and equitable spirit, if it left unimpaired the general liberty of the apprentice to sell as well as to buy; and merely for bad transactions in those particular descriptions of goods, which may be supposed, as a general rule, to have come improperly into his possession.

You will perceive that the variations which have been noticed are numerous, and in some cases by no means unimportant. Considering, however, that these and similar Acts are to be tried, not in a spirit of minute criticism, but rather by their general and substantial conformity to the provisions of the British Statute in all its material purposes; and further, that the intentions of the Home Legislature do not appear

appear to have been disregarded by the Colonial Assembly, in so far as relates to the prominent and principal objects had in view, I do not feel it my duty to recommend to His Majesty the disallowance of the Act in question; but on the other hand, I am unable to advise its immediate and definite approval. The decision of His Majesty upon it will remain suspended until you shall have been enabled to propose to the Legislature of St. Vincent, so to amend its provisions as that it shall be rendered more uniformly conformable to the views of His Majesty and of Parliament. From the temper which has already been manifested in the past proceedings of the local Legislature, I entertain no doubt of their acceding to the purposes contemplated in these instructions, and confidently anticipate the period when I shall feel it in all respects as consistent with my duty, as it would now be with my inclination, to advise His Majesty to affix to the Act of His subjects in the Island of St. Vincent His final and authoritative sanction.

ST. VINCENT.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Aberdeen.*

— No. 268. —

No. 268.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 28th July 1835.

IN the Despatch, which was addressed to you by the Earl of Aberdeen 30th March last, you were informed that His Majesty would not be advised to give His immediate and definite approval of the Act passed by the Legislature of St. Vincent, for giving effect to the provisions of the Imperial Act for the Abolition of Slavery; but that His Majesty's decision would remain suspended until you should have been enabled to propose to the Legislature of that Island so to amend the provisions of the Act as that it should be rendered more conformable to the views of His Majesty and of Parliament. As the time approaches for carrying into effect the intentions of Parliament, in regard to the distribution of the compensation money awarded to the Colonies under the Slavery Abolition Act, I am induced to advert to this subject, and to impress upon you the necessity (should no steps have been taken by the Legislature of St. Vincent's for amending their Act) for your calling the attention of the Legislature to the contents of Lord Aberdeen's Despatch; pointing out to them, that until they shall comply with the requisition therein contained, they will not be in a condition to participate in the compensation fund.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

## GRENADA.

GRENADA.

— No. 269. —

No. 269.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor *Middlemore* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Government House, Grenada, 26th Aug. 1833.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 20th May, and the accompanying papers.

His Excellency Sir L. Smith was in Grenada, and at Government House, when your Despatch was brought to this Island, and I did not fail to show it to his Excellency; but as he was about to return to Barbadoes immediately, I had not an opportunity of receiving any instructions upon the subject of the Despatch. Sir L. Smith will communicate to me, without delay, so soon as he shall have arrived at Barbadoes, such instructions as he may consider requisite.

In the interim I shall endeavour to use my best exertions to meet the spirit of that part of your Letter which is more particularly addressed to me, as administering the Government of Grenada. I am happy to have it in my power to report to you, that up to this time the Island is perfectly tranquil, and that no instances of insubordination or outrage, on the part of the slave population, have come within my knowledge.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *G. Middlemore*, Lieutenant-Governor.

GRENADA.

— No. 270. —

No. 270.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Middlemore* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*, dated Government House, Grenada, 2d March 1834.

IN conclusion, I am glad to report in a favourable manner upon the disposition of the inhabitants generally to the measures proposed for the Abolition of Slavery. The two branches of the Legislature have applied themselves to this question in a spirit of good will which promises the most fortunate results : a good understanding prevails between them and myself ; and the slaves, from whom some degree of excitement was perhaps apprehended, are in a state of profound tranquillity, and appear to understand and appreciate the boon held out to them.

No. 271.

— No. 271. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Government House, Grenada, 8th March 1834.

I HAVE the sincere pleasure to acquaint you, that the Legislature of this Island have unanimously passed the Abolition Bill, which I this day assented to, and have the honour to transmit transcript of the same herewith.

I cannot too highly praise the good spirit and temper evinced both by the Council and Assembly on this occasion, which will, I hope, entitle them to the advantage of every indulgence and consideration.

In the progress of the discussion, they communicated with me with the utmost confidence, evincing a sincere desire to conform to all the wishes of His Majesty's Government.

Referring you to the 48th clause, I expressed some doubt if the private working days for the apprentices were quite sufficient ; but as the Imperial Act did not determine the number of days, and as the seeming intention was that every Colony should regulate the time according to the facilities of cultivation, fourteen days, exclusive of holidays, for this Island, appeared to be sufficient ; and those whose opinions I most respected, assured me a longer period would only encourage idleness. I, therefore, did not think myself warranted in refusing assent on this only objection.

The Legislature will probably make some application for assistance in the maintenance of the district's police. They will be willing to pay them, but hope to be assisted in feeding and clothing them from the King's Government.

I anxiously promise myself you will be satisfied with the Act from this Island, and I proceed to St. Vincent on the 11th inst. in hopes of receiving an equally unexceptionable Act from the Legislature of that Island.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

— No. 272. —

No. 272

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 21st August 1834.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Dispatch of 8th March, enclosing a copy of the Act which had been passed by the Legislature of Grenada for the Abolition of African Slavery.

It is not without considerable reluctance, that in announcing to you His Majesty's approval of the greatest part of this Act, I am compelled to state that there are some important defects in it which require to be amended, in order that His Majesty may be enabled to issue the Order in Council, declaring that adequate and satisfactory provision hath been made, by the Colony of Grenada, for giving effect to the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery ; upon which declaration the right to the compensation which Parliament has provided, has been made to depend.

With

With the view of bringing under your notice, in the clearest and most succinct manner, the facts to which I have adverted, I shall institute a comparison between the enactments of the Grenada Act and the provisions sketched out in the draft of the Order in Council, which was transmitted with my predecessor's Despatch of the 19th October last, to the West India Colonies, for the consideration of their respective Legislatures, and which draft developed the views of His Majesty's Government as to the supplementary legislation necessary for carrying into effect the system of apprenticeship.

This comparison, whilst it enables me conveniently to point out those parts of the Act which require alteration, at the same time demonstrates that the Legislature of Grenada have, for the most part, closely and faithfully copied the model which was placed before them, and thus furnishes a proof, as gratifying as it is convincing, that they have been animated by a sincere desire to accomplish the intention of Parliament, and to carry into effect the wishes of His Majesty's Government.

1st. The judicial and ministerial agency to be employed formed the subject of the first chapter of the Model Draft, and it is treated of in the first four clauses of this Act. Upon this subject, the only point which I have to notice, as necessarily requiring amendment, is, that no power is given to the Governor to make regulations for securing the discipline and efficiency of the police. In the Model Draft this was provided for by the 17th section of the first chapter; and I fear that the omission of such a power from the Act before me, will prove a serious obstacle to the successful working of that establishment.

2d and 3d. As respects the second and third chapters of the Model Draft, which relate to the procedure to be observed by the special justices in the exercise of their functions, and to the division of the apprenticed labourers into their respective classes, subjects which are treated of in sections 5 to 33. Section 67, and sections 34 to 46 of this Act, I have no observation to make, further than to repeat the expression of my satisfaction at the cheerful adoption, by the Council and Assembly of Grenada, of the suggestions of my predecessor upon these subjects.

4th. The maintenance of the apprenticed labourers is referred to in the fourth chapter of the Model Draft, and in clauses 47, 50, and 53, 54 of this Act.

The Act of Parliament requires, in its 11th section, that during the continuance of the apprenticeship, the apprenticed labourer shall be supplied with such food, clothing, lodging, medicine, medical attendance, and such other maintenances and allowances, as by any law then in force in the Colony to which such apprenticed labourer might belong, an owner was required to supply to and for any slave, being of the same age and sex as such apprenticed labourer.

The precise and ambiguous terms of that enactment relieve me from all responsibility on this subject, beyond that of comparing the maintenance to which the apprenticed labourers are declared to be entitled by the Grenada Act now before me, with that which was secured to them, whilst in their state of slavery, under the Grenada Slave Act, passed in the year 1825.

The second clause of that Act requires that the owner shall allow to each prædial slave for his support, a sufficient portion of land, adapted for the growth of provisions; and if it shall be found inconvenient for the owner to allow such land, he shall, by other means, make *good and ample* provision for the slaves in lieu thereof. That the provision-ground shall be inspected monthly by the manager or overseer. That the owner shall allow every family of slaves a *good and comfortable* house, with one or more beds, raised a foot from the ground. That the owner shall give each slave a "sufficient" allowance weekly of salt and salt fish, or of such other food as their ages and state of health may require. That the owner shall give to each slave "a sufficient clothing and blankets, suitable to their respective age, sex and condition." That every non-prædial slave shall be provided with "comfortable lodging, sufficient food and decent clothing." The justices, on conviction of any owner for non-compliance with these rules, are to adjudge the owner to make the following allowances to each prædial slave:—"Quarter of an acre of land, or 4s. 6d. currency (about 2s. sterling) per week, in lieu thereof; a weekly allowance of one quarter of a pint of salt and 2 lbs. of salt fish, or such other provisions as may be equivalent thereto; an annual allowance of one penistown or cloth jacket, with three yards of cloth, or six yards of cloth without the jacket, eight yards of linen, one hat, with needles and thread, and a triennial allowance of one blanket." To each non-prædial slave the magistrates are to adjudge "a weekly allowance, in money or provisions, equivalent thereto, to the value of 6s. currency," and an annual allowance of two suits of clothing.

## GRENADA.

These regulations, though passed in reference to slaves, are the measure of the rights of the apprenticed labourers to maintenance.

By the 47th section of the present Act, the employer is required to give to the apprenticed labourer, who is not provided with grounds, 2 lbs. of salted fish, one quarter of a pint of salt, eight pints of flour, or six quarts of meal, grain, pulse or other articles of food equally nutritious. It becomes, therefore, my duty to consider in the first place, whether I can sanction the substitution of the specific quantities of flour or meal in lieu of the 4 s. 6 d. currency, to which the prædial apprenticed labourer would have been entitled had he remained a slave.

Without attempting to decide whether these specific quantities are equivalent in their average value to the money allowance, I cannot but feel convinced that with a view to the early acquisition by the apprenticed labourer of those habits of forethought and economy, which are necessary to render him fit for the enjoyment of unrestricted freedom, it is much better for him to receive his maintenance in the shape of a weekly payment, than in specific articles of food. I should wish you, therefore, to urge the Council and Assembly of Grenada to revive the provisions of the law of 1825, and to adapt them to the case of the apprenticed labourers. Moreover, the re-enactment of those provisions will give to the apprenticed labourer the indefinite rights to "good and ample provision," to "sufficient food," and decent clothing, which, although inadequately sanctioned by the Act of 1825, cannot be withheld from them without infringing the British Statute.

If the recommendation which I thus made be adopted, the 47th section of the Act before me, to which I see several objections, will manifestly become inapplicable.

Whilst upon this subject, I cannot withhold the expression of my regret, that the Council and Assembly of Grenada should, as respects the apprenticed labourers, have diminished to so great an extent the time formerly allotted to the slaves for the cultivation of their provision grounds. I have no reason to suppose, that in the Colony of Grenada, the twenty-eight days to which the slaves were entitled, would be more than adequate for the purpose of supporting the apprenticed labourers, and at all events I should not feel myself justified in sanctioning a less allowance of time for this purpose than has been freely conceded by the Legislatures of Jamaica and Barbadoes; namely, twenty-six days in the year.

The 53d section of the Act now before me which relates to the medical attendance on the apprenticed labourers, very properly provides that a hospital book shall be kept on each plantation. Upon this point I have only to suggest the addition of a few words, enabling the special justice to call for and inspect such hospital book when he may think fit.

The 54th section authorizes the employer to keep the hospital locked up, and forbids any patient to leave it except by the permission either of the medical attendant or of the employer. Admitting, as I do, the necessity of this controlling power in the employer over the hospital and its inmates, I must nevertheless urge that this clause should be amended so as to prevent the employer from retaining any one in the hospital who may have obtained from the medical attendant permission to depart.

It is required by the 16th section of the Act of Parliament that the distance to which provision grounds may be removed from the abode of the apprenticed labourers should be confined within some maximum limitation. To meet this requisition in spirit, it is obviously necessary that the 49th section of the Grenada Act should be so far modified as to make the sanction of the special justice necessary to every arrangement, under which the provision grounds are situate beyond some reasonable distance (to be defined by the Grenada Legislature) from the apprenticed labourer's dwelling.

5th. The 5th chapter of the model draft, and sections 55, 63 and 65 of the Act under my consideration, relate to the duties to be performed by the apprenticed labourer, and the penalty for their non-performance. For the most part there is a close conformity between these parts of the two instruments. I feel it necessary, however, to make the following observations upon this branch of the subject. First, The order permits the absence of the labourers from the estates for "reasonable cause," leaving the special justice to determine in each case what cause is reasonable. For this provision the Act of Assembly substitutes a permission to be absent for any "*legal* cause." It appears to me that this alteration is not an improvement, but the reverse. The Act is silent as to what particular occasions shall amount to a legal justification of the temporary quitting the employer's service; and an Act which should fully supply that omission, must anticipate in detail the  
numberless

numberless contingencies of human life which might afford the labourer an adequate apology. As this is impossible, the rule respecting "*legal*" causes of absence must either be identical in effect with the rule respecting "*reasonable*" causes of absence, or it must have no definite meaning whatever. On either supposition, the change of the one adjective for the other has, as it seems to me, left the rights and duties of all parties in this respect in great and needless obscurity.

Second. The Model Draft subjected an apprenticed labourer to punishment for ill-using the cattle of his employer, or for exposing his employer's property to injury by wilful-negligence. By the 58th section of the Act, the labourer is rendered liable to the same punishments, though the cattle or property should not belong to his employer, but to some third person. To this change, however slight it appears, I entertain a strong objection.

It was the intention of Parliament that, subject to the obligations of apprenticeship and to certain disqualifications arising out of that state, the slaves in the British West India Colonies should on the 1st August become free subjects of His Majesty. I am necessarily prevented from sanctioning any enactment in a Colonial Act which tends to create any distinction between an apprenticed labourer and any other free person, unless such distinction is incidental to the apprenticeship. I trust therefore that the Legislature of Grenada will not object to omit so much of the section now under my consideration as exposes the apprenticed labourer to a penalty for injuring the cattle or property of any individual, not his employer; a penalty from which other free persons are exempt.

Third. The 63d section forbids the resort of apprenticed labourers desiring to prefer complaints to any person except the special justice of the district. This exception should be made to extend to the Governor, as it is possible they may wish to complain to that functionary against the decision of the special justice, or to represent to him grievances not falling under the cognizance of a special justice.

Fourth. The 65th section of the Act authorizes the employer at his own discretion to imprison on the plantation, for 24 hours, any labourer guilty or suspected of being guilty of any offence against the Act, or the general law of the Island.

Although I am well aware of the essential importance of preserving good order on the plantations, yet I cannot approve of this section in its present shape; for notwithstanding the improvement here contemplated is doubtless intended as a precautionary, and not as a penal measure, yet it would almost inevitably assume in practice the latter character, and would thus lead to a direct contravention of the British Act, which declares any Colonial Act void in so far as it may authorize any employer to punish any apprenticed labourer for any offence by him or her committed or alleged to have been committed, by any personal or other correction whatever. I should not object however to the introduction of an enactment into this Act which should authorize the special justices to appoint constables on the plantations from amongst the most respectable apprenticed labourers; such constables to have (with reference to other apprenticed labourers) the same powers as ordinary constables, and to have authority to take into custody any apprenticed labourer in case he shall have offended against the law established by this Act, and in case it is presumed that he will attempt to escape.

6th. The 6th chapter of the Model Draft, which treats of the duties to be performed by the employers towards their apprenticed labourers, and the penalties for their non-performance, corresponds with sections 64 and 68 to 75 of this Act. Upon this branch of the subject I have to observe that I regret to feel myself unable to assent to the appointment of inspectors, as proposed by section 64 of the Grenada Act; although I can readily conceive that in many instances the employment of this species of arbitration may be convenient both to the employer and to the apprentice.

It appears to me, however, to have been the intention of Parliament that all questions incidental to the apprenticeship should be referred to the special justices only, and consequently I conceive that the intervention of these inspectors would be so far inconsistent with that intention, as to preclude me from recommending His Majesty to sanction this provision.

With regard to the subject of task-work, several important enactments suggested in the Model Draft, are omitted in this Act.

The Act contains no provision for reducing into writing all contracts for task-work or extra service; for annulling all such contracts unless approved by the special justice within a fortnight, for ascertaining that the terms of such contracts are understood by the parties, and are entered into freely, or for preventing ambiguities in the terms of such engagements. I regret the absence of such provisions, and I



## GRENADA.

am disposed to suggest their insertion, or to propose as an alternative a provision to the following effect; (namely) that all contracts for task-work should be entered into books to be kept on the respective plantations for that purpose, and that upon complaint made to the special justice by any apprenticed labourer who shall have entered into the same, the special justice shall be authorized to inquire whether the terms of such contract were distinctly understood by such apprenticed labourer, and whether he entered into it freely and voluntarily, and whether the same is reasonable and just. And the special justice shall make such adjudication in the matter as the case may require.

7th. The 7th chapter of the Model Draft relates to offences which may be committed by the apprenticed labourers against the State, and the punishment of such offences; to which subject are devoted sections 76-89 of the Act.

First. Under the 76th section, labourers are made liable to solitary imprisonment for 12 months, with or without hard labour, on conviction before any justice of the peace of having remained at a riotous assemblage after warning to depart. To the penalty itself I offer no objection. The infliction of such a punishment by the sentence of "any justice of the peace," seems to me in the highest degree objectionable. This is far too great a power to have been confided to a single *special* justice. To entrust it to justices not having special commissions is directly opposed to the words of the Act of Parliament in the 76th section, in cases where the riotous assemblage may originate in any questions between the employers and the labourers. To remove these objections it would be advisable to insert the words "any two or more special justices," in lieu of the words "any justice of the peace."

Second. The 78th clause of the Act, which is adopted in pursuance of the 4th section of chapter 7 of the Model Draft, restricts within narrower limits than were originally contemplated, the right of the labourer to leave the estate to which he may be attached. So far from approving of this additional restriction, His Majesty's Government, upon more mature consideration, arrived at the conviction that the provision, even as originally framed, requires to be modified, so as to afford the prædial apprenticed labourer a greater degree of liberty during those hours which are not to be devoted to his employers. I recommend, therefore, that in the place of section 78 of the Act, the following clause should be substituted; (namely), Every labourer found in any place more than five miles distant from his residence, except in his way to or from some place of public worship, and not having with him a written pass for that purpose from his employer, or from the special justice of the district, shall be liable to be apprehended and brought before a special justice; and unless such labourer shall make it appear, to the satisfaction of such special justice that he or she, when so found, was employed on his or her lawful occasions, such labourer shall be adjudged a vagabond, and punished accordingly.

Whilst upon this branch of the subject, I must observe that I feel justified in sanctioning the clause which compels the apprenticed labourers to reside upon the plantations or establishments on which they may be employed. Having regard, on the one hand, to the importance of fixing the negro to a specified domicile during the apprenticeship, and on the other hand to the provisions in the Slavery Abolition Act, requiring the employer to supply the apprenticed labourer with lodging, medical attendance, and with provision grounds within a limited distance from such lodging, I am satisfied that this restriction is expedient, and that it is not inconsistent with the intention of Parliament.

8th. A dissolution of the apprenticeship by contract or appraisement, forms the subject of the 8th chapter of the Model Draft, and of sections 90th and 96th of the Act.

The comparison of the provisions on this subject respectively contained in the Model Draft and in the Act, leads me necessarily to the conclusion that a large proportion of the cases intended to be provided for in the Model Draft, are altogether unnoticed in the Act.

If the employer should happen to be under any disability, or should be unwilling to lose the services of his apprentice, the apprentice might in the first case (as the Act is at present framed) in vain desire his discharge; and on the second supposition, the same unwillingness might prevent such discharge, by inducing the employer to refuse to nominate an appraiser.

As it was the intention of Parliament that every facility should be given to apprenticed labourers desirous of purchasing their discharge, I trust that the Council and Assembly of Grenada will, when their attention has been directed to this subject, either adopt the provisions originally suggested, or modify the enactments of their Act, so as to render them complete and effectual.

9th. The 9th chapter of the Model Draft, and the 97th and 98th sections of the Act relate to the removal of apprenticed labourers from one plantation to another.

Under this head I have only to remark, that the 9th section of the Act of Parliament declares that no prædial apprenticed labourer shall be subject or liable to perform any labour in the service of his employer, except upon, in or about the works and business of the plantations or estates to which such labourer shall have been attached, or on which he shall have been usually employed before the 1st August 1834; but the 98th section of the Grenada Act authorizes the employment of any tradesman, artificer or other labourer on lands not belonging to their employers for certain specified purposes, or for any other lawful purpose. These two enactments are evidently contradictory, and repugnant to each other; and I am therefore under the necessity of recommending the repeal of the latter.

10th, 11th, 12th. The three last chapters of the Model Draft are adopted in the Act of Assembly, with no variations which it appears to me material to notice.

The 106th section of the Act requires every apprenticed labourer, after the expiration of the apprenticeship, either to work out in the master's service the time equal to that which he may have subtracted from it, or to make satisfaction to the employer for the loss. The qualifications of the rule to be found in the 20th section of the British Act, that no such extra service shall endure beyond seven years from the end of the apprenticeship, ought to be inserted, by way of proviso, in this section of the Grenada Act.

The 115th section of the Grenada Act declares, that all Acts in force in the Colony, by which slaves are rendered available to public uses, shall apply to the case of apprenticed labourers, so that the same services may be exacted from them for any public object, as have hitherto been exacted for any such object from the slaves. This section also requires to be qualified, so as to prevent the leisure time of the prædial apprenticed labourers from being encroached upon.

In closing these observations, I feel it my duty to state, that although I have thus frankly and unreservedly pointed out those parts of the Act under my consideration which I have deemed to be defective, yet I am not the less sensible of the prompt and cordial concurrence of the Council and Assembly of Grenada in the main object of Parliament, the emancipation of the slave, and of their sincere endeavours to carry into effect the details of the apprenticeship system, as pointed out to them by His Majesty's Government.

The line of conduct which the Council and Assembly of Grenada have pursued on this occasion encourages me to hope, with no small degree of confidence, that they will receive the suggestions which I have offered to them in the same spirit of acquiescence which they have hitherto displayed, and that they will ultimately afford me the satisfaction of communicating to them His Majesty's entire and unqualified approbation of their legislative exertions on this important subject.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *T. Spring Rice.*

— No. 273. —

No. 273.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Middlemore* to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir, Government House, Grenada, 6 January 1835.

REFERRING to your Despatch, dated Downing-street, 21 August 1834, Grenada, addressed to Governor Sir Lionel Smith, I have the honour to transmit herewith an Act of this Legislature, amending, agreeably to the expressed wishes of His Majesty's Government, "An Act for carrying into effect the provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the third and fourth years of the reign of His present Majesty, King William the Fourth, for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, and to make further provision for the purposes in the said Act mentioned." I have received the Governor-General's authority to assent to this Bill, and as its early transmission to England is of the utmost importance to the Colony, I am induced to send one copy direct to you; a duplicate shall be forwarded to the Governor-General, with an explanation of my reason for having despatched the first transcript direct.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *G. Middlemore, Maj<sup>r</sup>-Gen<sup>l</sup> & L<sup>t</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup>.*

Printed in the  
Appendix (B.) No. 48.

GRENADA.

— No. 274. —

No. 274.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Earl of *Aberdeen* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*, dated Colonial Office, 28 Feb. 1835.

THE Act for the amendment of the Slavery Abolition Law will be disallowed by His Majesty in Council, because it requires the Governor to appoint a certain number of justices for each of the judicial districts into which the Colony is to be divided, which justices are not to be among the number of stipendiary magistrates, but are to act in concert with them in giving effect to the law respecting apprenticed labourers.

Abstaining from all discussion respecting the propriety of the scheme itself, it is sufficient for me to say, that both the general laws of the realm and the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery, require that His Majesty should reserve to himself an unfettered discretion as to the choice of the justices of the peace, and as to the number to be appointed for this or any other purpose, and that by this enactment the King would be virtually deprived of that discretion.

I observe that the Attorney-general of Grenada anticipated the objection, but that his opinion did not prevail, and is not even noticed in any communication made to this office on the subject by yourself, or by the Lieutenant-Governor. I conjecture that this oversight may have been occasioned by the great brevity with which the views of the Attorney-general are stated, but upon a subject so peculiarly within his province, it seems to me that the representations of the principal legal adviser of the Colonial Government were entitled to greater weight than on this occasion they appear to have received.

— No. 275. —

No. 275.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to the Earl of *Aberdeen*, dated Barbadoes, 9 March 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for His Majesty's gracious allowance, transcript of an Act, intituled, "An Act to amend an Act, intituled, 'An Act for carrying into effect the provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the third and fourth years of the reign of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies,' and to make further provision for the purposes in the said Act mentioned."

Act printed in  
Appendix (B.) No. 49.

— No. 276. —

No. 276.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 2 Aug. 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order passed on the 31st ult. by His Majesty in Council, leaving to its operation an Act passed by the Legislature of the Island of Grenada in the month of December 1834, intituled, "An Act to amend an Act, intituled, 'An Act for carrying into effect the provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the third and fourth years of the reign of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies,' and to make further provisions for the purposes in the said Act mentioned."

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

— No. 277. —

No. 277.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3 Aug. 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 31st ult. declaring that adequate and satisfactory provision hath been made in the Colony of Grenada for giving effect to an Act of Parliament, made in the third and fourth year of His present Majesty for the Abolition of Slavery.

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

Order in Council,  
31 July 1835.  
Printed in the  
Appendix (B.) Part II  
No. 17.

## T O B A G O.

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TOBAGO.

—No. 278.—

No. 278.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor *Darling* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*, dated Government House, Tobago, 10 August 1833.

THE last vessel of this season sailing direct for England to-morrow, I do myself the honour to acknowledge your duplicate Letter of the 13th June (the original not having reached me), with copy of the resolutions which had passed both Houses of Parliament for the abolition of negro slavery. I immediately on their receipt sent copies of your Despatch and the resolutions to the President of the Legislative Council and Speaker of the House of Assembly, in order that the Members of those bodies might individually have full time before the meeting of the Legislature next month, to give the most mature consideration to this important subject, which will probably soon be submitted to them collectively. It gives me great pleasure to be able to state my opinion that the views of His Majesty's Government will meet with little opposition in this Island on the part of the proprietors, while I believe also that the slave population is as little, perhaps less, excited than in any other of His Majesty's West India possessions. I give this, however, on the authority of what is reported to me by those gentlemen in whom I am inclined to place confidence; I may state, in corroboration of it, that although several complaints have been made to me since my arrival, by slaves from different plantations (on one occasion by seven at once), they have in no instance shown any impatience on the subject of emancipation, nor have their complaints had any thing of a general nature in them, still less of combination, being on every occasion confined to individual grievances, real or imaginary. I regret extremely that I cannot give this information, as the result of my own observation, further than I have just stated, not having been able to meet with horses in the Island, which has prevented my making a general tour of it ere this; I am however in daily expectation of being mounted from Barbadoes, when I hope to have confirmed by my own inquiry what at present I am obliged to take on the authority of others.

Vide Papers printed by  
Parliament,  
16 April 1835, Part I.  
Page 5. No. 177.

—No. 279.—

No. 279.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Darling*  
to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir, Government House, Tobago, 25 September 1833.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your notes, accompanying copies of the Abolition Bill as amended by the House of Commons in Committee, and as amended by the House of Lords.

I have, &c.,

(signed) *H. C. Darling*, Lieutenant-Governor.

—No. 280.—

No. 280.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Darling*  
to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir, Government House, Tobago, 28 October 1833.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your circular Despatch of the 5th September, accompanied by a copy of The King's Proclamation and several sets of the Abolition of Slavery Bill. I immediately laid these documents before the Privy Council, who were of opinion that the abrupt promulgation of the Proclamation might possibly hurry the slaves into the belief that they were immediately set free, unless great pains were taken in explaining it to them, and suggested that it should be preceded by a short notice or address from myself explanatory of the subject. I in consequence issued the notice whereof I have the honour to enclose a copy, which has been followed by the King's Proclamation, and I am informed by gentlemen from the country that it has been attended with

278.—II.

Vide Papers printed by  
Parliament,  
15 April 1835, Part I.  
No. 177 Page 8.

TOBAGO.

the best effect and has given general satisfaction to the slaves. On one estate indeed there appears to be some little irregularity at this moment (not arising out of this measure), but it is not of such importance as to induce me to trouble you with any report upon the subject. I have no doubt of order being promptly restored. The copies of the Abolition Bill which I had the honour to receive with your Despatch have been circulated to the magistracy in the several districts of the Island and to the Members of the Legislature, who are now in session and occupied with this subject.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *H. C. Darling*, Lt-Gov<sup>r</sup>.Enclosure in  
No. 280.

Enclosure in No. 280.

By His Excellency Major-General *Henry Charles Darling*, Lieutenant-Governor of Tobago.

## TO THE SLAVE POPULATION OF THE ISLAND.

KNOWING how much you all wish for the receipt of those orders which you have for a long time expected to release you from slavery and make you free, I have great satisfaction in announcing to you that the Parliament of Great Britain has at last, after a great deal of trouble, completed the laws and regulations that have been found necessary on the great change that is about to take place in your condition; and The King's orders which I have received to make known this to you shall be immediately obeyed, as soon as the Proclamation can be printed and sent round the Island. To prevent you, however, from forming hasty and wrong opinions upon the subject and then meeting with disappointment, I think it right to inform you that no change whatever will take place in your condition until after next crop time, and that when your slavery itself shall cease you will still be required to work for a certain time for your former masters, but under regulations different from those to which you have hitherto been accustomed. With these new regulations you will become acquainted before the time for your manumission. I have directed all managers, overseers and magistrates, in short, all white people throughout the Island, to explain such parts of the new law as are most interesting to you; if you are not satisfied with what they tell you, you may come to me for explanation, but take care that you do not come in greater numbers than two or three together; I will not receive or speak to any body of slaves, either coming with complaints or to ask for information, that may exceed that number.

I have now only to express my hope and desire that you will not allow the receipt of this intelligence to excite you to any acts of insubordination, idleness or riot. You must recollect that you are still under the same owners and the same laws as heretofore, though they will in a short time be changed, and that it will be my duty (which you may depend upon it I will not neglect) to support those laws to the utmost, and that any ill-disposed negroes who may absent themselves from their work, or advise others to do wrong, shall be selected as the fittest objects for severe example. Be peaceable, be orderly, attend to your work with increased diligence, and show by your good conduct how much you value and deserve the blessings of freedom to which you will in a certain time be admitted.

(signed) *H. C. Darling*, Lieut-Governor.

Government House, Tobago, 10 October 1833.

No. 281.

—No. 281.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Stanley* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 13 December 1833.

I HAVE received from Lieutenant-Governor *Darling* a Despatch dated the 28th October, in answer to my circular Despatch of the 5th September, and I have to request that you will convey to General *Darling* my approbation of his having, under all the circumstances, issued the explanatory Address of which he has enclosed me a copy, antecedently to the promulgation of His Majesty's Proclamation.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. G. Stanley*.

— No. 282. —

TOBAGO.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to  
Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

No. 282.

Sir,

Government House, Barbadoes, 11th June 1834.

I HAVE much pleasure in forwarding herewith, for His Majesty's gracious allowance, a transcript of the Act which has been passed by the Legislature of Tobago, for carrying into effect the provisions of the Imperial Act for the Abolition of Slavery; and I feel assured that the spirit in which this Bill is drawn up cannot fail to afford satisfaction to His Majesty's Government.

You will perceive that by the last clause the period of its coming into operation is made to depend upon His Majesty's confirmation; but considering that such confirmation might possibly not be received by the 1st August next, I instructed the Lieutenant-Governor to recommend to the Legislature a repeal of the clause in question; so that the Act may at once be in full force on that day. I beg to enclose copy of a Despatch from General Darling, stating that it is intended to pass a Bill for this purpose; and at the same time enclosing a copy of his address, on recently proroguing the Legislature.

I have also much pleasure in transmitting, as connected with this Bill, the enclosed copies of communications between the Lieutenant-Governor and the Legislature of Tobago, by which it appears that it is proposed immediately to abolish the power of flogging slaves, except by sentences of magistrates; a measure which I consider of the utmost importance as a preliminary to the great change which is so shortly to take place in these countries.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed)

*Lionel Smith.*

Enclosures in No. 282.

Enclosures in  
No. 282.

No. 2.

Sir,

Government House, Tobago, 6th May 1834.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's Despatch of the 18th April, authorizing me to assent to the Bill for the Abolition of Slavery in this Island; which order I carried into effect on the 2d instant, by signing the Bill in the presence of the Council and Assembly, when I addressed them in a short speech (of which I have the honour to enclose a copy) and prorogued the Legislature to the 9th instant.

I have furnished them with copies of your Excellency's Despatch; and when I meet them in a new session I shall not fail to call their attention to those points which you consider as requiring alteration with a view to the greater efficiency of the Bill. Of their ready acquiescence in your Excellency's suggestions, I have at present no reason to doubt. It appears indeed by the minutes of the Legislative Council that it was their intention the last clause should have been expunged, to which amendment the Assembly were understood to have assented; yet it was retained in the original of the Bill as received by me from the President, an oversight which they appear at a loss to account for.

On the other point adverted to in the 3d paragraph of your Excellency's Despatch, I had the honour to state in my Letter of the 1st April, that a Bill for the registration and classification of apprenticed labourers, which appeared to me very comprehensive, had passed the Council and Assembly; but owing to informality in the enacting part of it, I did not forward the transcript to your Excellency. When that point is again brought under their consideration, I am given to understand the Bill will undergo every necessary alteration to give it the desired effect.

This being accomplished, I hope the Legislature of Tobago will be considered as having fully merited the confidence of the British Government by the spirit and liberality with which they have given effect to the Act of the Imperial Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery in this Island.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed)

*H. C. Darling.*

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of General Assembly,

It has been customary, I believe, for the Legislature of this Island to be prorogued at the end of each session by written communication from the executive, and I should undoubtedly follow so convenient a precedent on the present occasion, did I not consider that a summary and informal method of releasing you from further attendance on those duties which have occupied so large a portion of your time for the last six months, would but ill accord with the importance of the object which has chiefly engrossed your attention.

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It

No. 1.  
Printed in the  
Appendix (B.) No. 50.

No. 2.

No. 3.

No. 4.

TOBAGO.

It would moreover deprive me of the gratification of expressing personally the satisfaction I derive from the spirit of liberality with which you have given effect to the views of the Imperial Parliament, by the Act which you have passed for the Abolition of Slavery in this Island. This Act I consider highly creditable to you as evincing the sincerity of your wishes to ameliorate to the utmost extent of prudence the condition of those who are about to exchange a state of slavery for one of temporary and modified servitude.

I have now to perform a very pleasing duty in assenting, in the name and by the authority of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, to the Bill before me for the Abolition of Slavery in the Island of Tobago; and if the high feeling of gratification with which I put my hand to this Bill were susceptible of augmentation, it could only be derived from the actual presence of those individuals, whose welfare and happiness it is its object to promote, and which I most earnestly hope may be fully attained.

Some informality in the drawing up of certain other Bills which have been presented to me during the present session, having obliged me to decline their acceptance for transmission to the Governor-in-Chief, I have no constitutional method of enabling you to rectify the objection, but by proroguing the Legislature for a short period, that you may in another session reconsider the several subjects and introduce the desired alterations.

I have now therefore to prorogue this provincial Parliament, which is hereby prorogued to Friday the 9th day of this month, then to meet for the despatch of business.

Government House, Tobago,  
2d May 1834.

(signed)

*H. C. Darling,*  
Lieutenant-Governor.

## No. 3.

Sirs,

Government House, Tobago, 14th May 1834.

As the period for the Abolition Act going into operation is now approaching, I wish to submit to the consideration of the Legislature, whether some preliminary measures by way of a gradual introduction of the great change that will take place on the 1st of August next, may not be advisable.

I leave to the superior judgment of the Council and Assembly to decide what these measures should be; the total abolition of punishment by order of the attornies, managers or others having at present this power, should perhaps be the principal; but there may be others of minor importance in themselves, which may materially tend to prepare the understanding of the slaves for the better comprehension of the more solid advantages to which they are about to be admitted.

To any measures of this nature I shall be most happy to give my co-operation and concurrence.

The Honourables the President of the  
Legislative Council  
and  
The Speaker of the House of Assembly.

I have, &c.  
(signed)

*H. C. Darling.*

## No. 4.

To His Excellency Major-General *Darling*, Lieutenant-Governor in and over the Island of Tobago and its Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

THE House of General Assembly have to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's message of the 14th instant, submitting whether some preliminary measures by way of a gradual introduction to the great change that will take place on the 1st August next, might not be advisable.

And the House in reply have much satisfaction in informing your Excellency that, previous to the receipt of this message, the House had taken advantage of the passing of a Bill to amend the Abolition Act, to introduce certain clauses taking away the power of punishment from the master, &c. after the 1st June next, and vesting the same entirely in the Magistracy of the Colony; and which measure the House consider will be one great step towards preparing the mind of the slave population for the important change that is about to take place in their future condition.

House of Assembly, Tobago,  
20th May 1834.

(signed)

*James Johnston,*  
Speaker.

## — No. 283. —

No. 283.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to  
Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Government House, Barbadoes, 10th July 1834.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith for His Majesty's gracious approval, an Act, intituled, "An Act to amend an Act, intituled, 'An Act to carry into effect the provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, 'An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting

promoting the industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the persons hitherto intituled to the services of such Slaves; and to repeal certain Clauses of an Act commonly called the Slave Act, passed on or about the 15th of August 1829, and to substitute other clauses in this Act in lieu thereof.”

The original object with which this Act was introduced, was to cancel the last clause of the Tobago Act for the Abolition of Slavery, which made its coming into operation dependent upon the receipt of His Majesty's allowance thereof, as already stated in my Despatch No. 7, of the 11th ult. (Tobago); and I am happy to acquaint you that the Legislature took the opportunity of introducing certain clauses, abrogating the power of the master to inflict punishment on the slave, and obliging him to refer all complaints to a magistrate from the 1st of last month.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Lionel Smith.*

TOBAGO.

— No. 284. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Darling* to  
Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice.*

No. 284.

Sir,

Government House, Tobago, August 22, 1834.

A DIRECT opportunity for writing to England occurring, by the departure of the last ship for the season, I avail myself of it to acquaint you, that the period for the expiration of slavery, and the transition to a state of apprenticeship, has arrived, and passed in this Island without any act of irregularity or insubordination on the part of the individuals whose hopes have been so long directed to the enjoyment of complete and unrestricted freedom. The pains that had been taken by the attorneys and managers, for some time previous to the 1st of August, in explaining to the slaves the conditions which are for a further period to attend their emancipation, prevented any material expression of disappointment on the arrival of the expected day, whatever may have been felt on the occasion; and it affords me a very sensible gratification to assure you, as well from my own observation as from the weekly reports of the magistrates, from the distant parts of the Island, which have been made up to the 18th instant, that at no period have the slaves worked more cheerfully, or conducted themselves with more general propriety in this Island, than since the 1st of August. The very few complaints that have been brought before the magistrates have been of the most trifling description, being confined to occasional misunderstandings with respect to the hours of turning out to work, and the extra time to be granted to the apprentices out of the 45 weekly working hours, between the 1st of July and 1st of December. The special magistrates having fully explained those points, wherever they were not perfectly understood, I am induced to believe that the Island of Tobago will be found second to none in point of good conduct on the part of the apprentices; while it is no more than justice to the several attorneys and managers to state, that there is a very general desire on their part to observe a strict attention to the law, and to shew every reasonable indulgence to the apprentices.

I beg to enclose a short address explanatory of the principal points of the Abolition Act, which was read and explained to the head-men on each estate immediately previous to the 1st of August.

And have, &amp;c.

(signed) *H. C. Darling*, Lieut.-Governor.

Enclosure in No. 284.

Enclosure in  
No. 284.

TO THE FREE APPRENTICED LABOURERS OF THE ISLAND OF TOBAGO.

AS the day has now nearly arrived when slavery is directed to cease in all the West India Islands, I have thought proper with the advice of the Council, to address you on the subject, for the purpose of explaining the chief points of the law, by which you are in future to be governed.

First then you must understand, that although you are declared to be no longer slaves, and cannot be bought or sold, or flogged as before, and that other things of which you have frequently complained are no longer allowed, yet you must know that you are still required to serve your late owners as labourers for some time longer, in order to pay them by your labour a part of what they would lose, were you to be altogether your own masters at once. This is but reasonable, and I hope that, by the cheerfulness with which you will



## TOBAGO.

continue to work under the new regulations, until the end of your apprenticeship, and by your orderly and peaceable conduct, you will show how well you deserve the blessings you will in a short time enjoy. You must know that in England and in every other country, there must be laws to punish the wicked and to keep idle and bad people in order. Free persons in England are indeed sometimes hanged, and in other ways very severely punished when they commit bad crimes. So must it be in the West Indies, when free men, either white or coloured, break through the laws and commit crimes. You will always find me your friend, and ready to protect you against injustice; but I shall be very strict in supporting the magistrates who order you to be punished, when you do anything against the law.

Now the law says,—

1st. That after the 1st August (next Friday) you are to be no longer slaves; that your children now under six years of age are free at once, and that those born after that day shall be born free in all respects; and that any slave who has at any time been in England with the consent of his master, is now at once free.

2d. Such persons heretofore slaves, but who are in future to serve as apprenticed labourers, and who are and have been employed constantly in the field and in out-door work, are to serve for six years longer from Friday next; but that you are not (except in particular cases) to work more than 45 hours in any one week.

3d. Labourers who are not attached to estates, seafaring men and others who never have their day given to them, and who attend on their employers all day and night if necessary, are to serve only four years longer, when they will be entirely free.

4th. If your employer should wish to release you from service before the periods I have mentioned, he may do so; but if he wishes to release and set free any old man, or one who is sickly and cannot work for himself, he must provide for the support and maintenance of that man, for the remaining part of the six or four years, in the same manner as if he had not discharged him.

5th. If any labourer should wish to purchase his discharge before the end of the time for which he ought to serve, and his employer refuse, it can still be done, and the special magistrate will tell the labourer how he is to act on the occasion.

6th. Labourers are to receive from their employers the same allowances of food, clothing and lodging as at present.

7th. The field (or prædial) apprenticed labourer, if above twelve years of age, is to have half an acre of land as a provision ground, not more than three miles from his dwelling, and for every child under that age the father shall have one quarter of an acre.

8th. Between the 1st July (after crop-time in each year) and the 1st of December, each field apprenticed labourer is to have time equal to 14 full working days, out of the 45 hours that he is required to work in each week.

9th. If land is not given to the labourer to raise provisions, he shall receive, if above ten years of age, a weekly allowance of seven quarts of corn meal or five quarts of rice or flour, or 20 pounds of yams, or 25 pounds of sweet potatoes, or 30 pounds of good plantains. A labourer under ten years to receive half that allowance.

10th. All provisions must be of good sound quality, and delivered on the same day in each week.

11th. No land given to an apprenticed labourer, can be taken from him until he has gathered the whole of the crop growing upon it, which is then to be his own property.

12th. If any labourer shall neglect to cultivate his provision ground, or allow his house to fall into decay, he shall pay his employer for putting it in order, by working an extra number of hours for him, as the magistrate shall direct.

13th. If the employer of any apprenticed labourer shall wilfully neglect or refuse to furnish the provisions, clothing, lodging, provision ground or other allowances, unless prevented by some sufficient cause, he shall pay a fine of 40s.; such part of the fine as the judge may think fit to be given to the apprentice complaining.

14th. There shall be a good and sufficient hospital upon every estate for the accommodation of the sick.

15th. Any labourer who may absent himself from his work improperly, shall be compelled to work double the time he may be so absent, provided the extra work does not exceed 15 hours in any one week.

16th. Any apprenticed labourer who may absent himself for more than seven hours and a half in any one week, shall be punished by sentence of imprisonment or by whipping with the cat, as the special justice shall think the case deserves. If he absent himself for a longer period, he will be punished with more severity according to his offence.

17th. Any labourer performing his work indolently or carelessly, shall, for the first offence, be sentenced to perform additional labour; for a second offence, confinement with hard labour; for a third offence, confinement, hard labour, and whipping if judged necessary.

18th. Any labourer guilty of drunkenness, or fighting or insolence, or insubordinate conduct to his employer, or persons set over him, shall be liable to imprisonment, with hard labour, or whipping not exceeding 15 stripes.

19th. Any labourer who by careless use of fire shall endanger his employer's property, or who shall wilfully ill-use the cattle, or by negligence expose his employer's property to damage of any sort, shall be liable to punishment according to the nature and extent of the offence.

20th. Any

20th. Any apprenticed labourer who being appointed a watchman, shall neglect his duty, shall be sentenced to three hours extra labour for each offence.

21st. No female apprenticed labourer shall be punished by whipping or beating her person, but by confinement, hard labour and solitary confinement.

22d. Labourers who may be sentenced to punishment by whipping, shall not be punished with the cart-whip, but by a cat-o'-nine-tails, as used in the army.

23d. Any person who shall take upon himself to inflict punishment upon an apprenticed labourer, otherwise than by sentence of the special magistrates, or shall keep in confinement any apprenticed labourer, shall be prosecuted for the offence before the Judges in the King's Court.

24th. No labourer is to be compelled to work before six o'clock in the morning nor after six in the evening. Labourers to rest for breakfast from seven to eight o'clock, and from twelve till two, or the same rest may be allowed at any other period.

25th. A signal to be given by blowing a shell, ringing a bell, or in some other manner to mark the time of beginning and leaving off work,

26th. No labourer to be compelled to work on Sunday, except in works of necessity, or in domestic services, or in tending of cattle. Nor is any labourer to be prevented attending divine service at his free will on Sundays.

27th. If the employer of any apprenticed labourer shall cause him to work beyond the period allowed by this law, he shall be sentenced by the special magistrate to pay a fine of 1s. for every hour's extra service to the labourer complaining.

28th. No labourer shall be compelled to undertake task-work without his own free consent; but if he consent, the special magistrate will explain what the law further requires.

29th. If the employer of any apprenticed labourer shall attempt to prevent him by force or threats from making a just complaint to the special magistrate, such employer shall be prosecuted for the same before the King's Court.

30th. The special justices to be appointed for this service, and none other, have power to hear complaints, and decide between apprenticed labourers and their employers.

31st. If an apprenticed labourer make a complaint against his employer, which the special justice shall consider frivolous or vexatious, he shall do extra work for his employer, not exceeding fifteen hours in the week. And if the employer shall make a frivolous complaint, he shall pay a fine not exceeding 30s. to the party complaining.

32d. Any apprenticed labourer who shall make a malicious complaint against his employer, may be sentenced to hard labour on the tread-mill, for any time not exceeding a month; and if the employer make such complaint against his apprentice, he shall pay a fine not exceeding 5*l.* for the benefit of the party accused.

33d. If apprenticed labourers have cause to make complaint to the special magistrate, they must upon no account leave the estate in gangs or large numbers for that purpose; not more than one in 20 must be chosen, and they must ask the manager or their employer for a pass, and if it is refused, they may then go without it. They must return to the estate to which they belong without loss of time, when dismissed by the magistrate, who will make inquiry into the complaint and decide accordingly.

34th. The special magistrate of each district will appoint six special constables, who will have the same power and authority as any other constables by whatever law appointed.

35th. The special justices may appoint one or more of the apprenticed labourers on each estate to act as constables, in maintaining the peace on such estate, under the direction of the proprietor or manager, or in apprehending any apprenticed labourer not employed on such estate, who may be found loitering thereon. Such constable may, under the direction of the manager, put in confinement for a space not exceeding 24 hours, any apprenticed labourer who may commit any offence or riot on the estate.

36th. If any three or more apprenticed labourers unite in any riot or tumultuous assemblage, and do not disperse in ten minutes, when ordered to do so by any magistrate, they shall be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for any period not exceeding 12 months.

37th. If any three or more apprenticed labourers shall agree together to resist the lawful commands of their employer, they shall be tried by the King's Court and be sentenced to confinement with hard labour for six months, with or without whipping.

38th. No apprenticed labourer shall reside beyond the limits of the estate to which he is attached, without the authority in writing of his employer.

39th. Any apprenticed labourer who shall harbour or conceal another, being a runaway, shall be liable to hard labour for 30 days, or receive any number of stripes, not exceeding 30, or both, as the nature of the case may justify.

40th. No apprenticed labourer, except mariners, to leave the Island without a passport from the Governor, granted on the written consent of his employer, under the penalty of imprisonment with or without hard labour for three months.

41st. Any labourers who shall habitually abandon and neglect to perform the duties imposed upon them by law, shall be sentenced to hard labour on the tread-mill, or to punishment by stripes (if a male) not exceeding 39.

42d. Any labourer who shall absent himself from his employer's service for seven days successively, shall be deemed a runaway, and be sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour, or to solitary confinement for three months, or (if a male) to whipping.

43d. Any labourer who shall absent himself from the service of his employer for any longer period, shall, if apprehended, make satisfaction to his employer after the expiration of his apprenticeship by serving for a longer period.

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44th. Any apprenticed labourer who may without lawful authority, take possession of any King's land, or land belonging to other persons, shall be dispossessed of the same, and the buildings and crops thereon be taken from him.

45th. Any apprenticed labourer who may have in his possession any guns, swords, pistols or other arms, without the knowledge and consent of his employer, shall be sentenced to hard labour for a month, or to 39 stripes, and the arms to be taken away from him.

46th. Apprenticed labourers may hold and own property of any description, except what is mentioned in the last article, and may sell, exchange or give away the same; but they must not keep on their employer's property without his consent, any hogs, goats or other animals.

47th. Persons entitled to the services of apprenticed labourers, may let them out or transfer their services to other persons.

48th. Apprenticed labourers cannot be compelled to serve in the militia, but may be employed as constables on the estate to which they are attached.

These are the principal laws by which you are to be governed until the end of your apprenticeship; and I hope you will be as well conducted under them, as you have been in a state of slavery. The special magistrates appointed by the King will explain all things that it may be necessary for you to know. Until those magistrates arrive, you must obey the gentlemen appointed by me to do their duty. I have only further to repeat my recommendation to you, to be obedient to your employers, be diligent and cheerful in the performance of your duty, and you will not fail, I hope, to be happy.

Government House,  
25th July 1834.

H. C. Darling, Lieutenant-Governor.

No. 285.

— No. 285. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to  
Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Colonial Office, 14 Oct. 1834.

I HAVE received Lieutenant-Governor Darling's Despatch of the 22d of August, which I have laid before the King.

His Majesty has commanded me to express the extreme satisfaction he feels at the favourable report therein made of the state of the Island of Tobago, and of the propriety and good conduct evinced by all classes of His Majesty's subjects within that Colony.

It is alike gratifying to His Majesty to learn, that the Lieutenant-Governor has had the zealous co-operation of the parties interested in property within his government, in aiding him to carry into full effect the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, and that the apprenticed labourers have cheerfully continued their operations of industry.

His Majesty has been graciously pleased to command me to express, through you, to the Lieutenant-Governor, and to all those persons, whether in public situations or in private life, who have assisted in producing this happy result, his satisfaction with their conduct; and considering the extreme importance of the united exertions of all classes in promoting the industry of the slaves and the well-being of the Colony, His Majesty feels confident that the same wise and prudent measures, which must have been adopted in order to produce a state of things so very encouraging, will be steadily persevered in.

The new social system in Tobago has happily begun, and it is His Majesty's most earnest desire and hope that it may conduce to future prosperity and security, and that it may lead to internal tranquillity, to the promotion of industry, and to the general happiness of his subjects in Tobago.

It will be the Lieutenant-Governor's office in the future administration of the Abolition Law, to impress upon all parties that it imposes duties and creates rights equally affecting the employer and the labourer, and that it will be carried imperatively into effect for the benefit of both.

His Majesty further commands me to convey his approval of the proclamation which the Lieutenant-Governor felt it his duty to issue on the 25th of July.

I have, &c.

(signed)

T. S. Rice.

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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— No. 286. —

TOBAGO.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to  
Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

No. 286.

Sir, Government House, Barbadoes, 20 September 1834.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for His Majesty's gracious approval, the transcripts of two Acts of the Legislature of Tobago, respectively intituled, "An Act to establish certain Rules and Regulations for the classification of those persons, hereafter to become apprenticed Labourers, and for ascertaining to which class they shall respectively belong."

"An Act to authorize the temporary Appointment of Special Magistrates, for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of an Act of the Legislature of this Island, intituled, 'An Act to carry into effect the provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, 'An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, &c.'"

I have, &amp;c.

(signed)

*Lionel Smith*.

Printed in the  
Appendix (B.)  
No. 52.  
Ditto, No. 53.

— No. 287. —

No. 287.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Darling* to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated Government House, Tobago, 31 Dec. 1834.

BEING aware that some anxiety has hitherto been usually felt in England at this season of the year, as to the conduct of the negroes in the West Indies, who, during the Christmas holidays, have been in the habit of receiving greater indulgence than at other periods, and considering that that feeling may be increased at present, in consequence of the late change in their condition, it may perhaps be excusable in me, if I address myself at once to you on this occasion, the mail-boat sailing direct to overtake the packet to-morrow.

It affords me the greatest satisfaction to report to you, that since the 1st of August last, the conduct of the apprenticed labourers throughout this Island has been most satisfactory, no alteration whatever having taken place in their behaviour since I had the honour to write on this subject, on the 22d August. The two holidays, the 25th and 26th of December, have passed in the usual recreations of feasting and dancing, but no instance of outrage or riot of any description has been reported to me. Saturday immediately following the 26th, and that day having been given to them in every week since the 1st of August, they appear in some instances to have thought it might reasonably have been added to their holidays; to this I believe many of the managers would have had no objection, but that Sunday coming after, making four successive holidays, it would have been somewhat imprudent to grant it, as affording the idly disposed inducement and opportunity to stay from the estates; they were therefore generally required to turn out on Saturday the 27th, more for the sake of roll-call than any thing else.

I am informed that their demonstrations of enjoyment on these holidays, have in some cases been of a less animated description than usual, owing probably to their having had throughout the year, a much greater proportion of time at their disposal than formerly, which has occasioned the contrast with the excessive indulgence, heretofore only granted at Christmas, to be the less striking. The managers may in some instances have thought themselves bound to curtail the customary gratifications of rum, &c. thus diminishing the stimulus to great hilarity. Be that as it may, the Island has been and is now in the most perfect state of tranquillity. There has arisen indeed some discussion as to the remuneration which the apprentices should receive for extra labour, during the crop season now commencing, but this has in general been settled with very little trouble. In many cases they have left it to the manager's liberality to reward them at the end of the period, in others, they have only stipulated for the usual quantities of hot liquor from the sugar, rum, and other like indulgences. If I might venture to form an opinion, on the experience of the five months that have elapsed since the extinction of slavery, I should say there is no reason whatever to apprehend any trouble or insubordination in this Island, under the system of apprenticeship; which notwithstanding occasional complaints of late turning out to work, will upon the whole prove as beneficial to the interests of the proprietor as the former system, and this too without reference to the greatly improved condition of the labourer.

TOBAGO.

— No. 288. —

No. 288.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Earl of *Aberdeen* to Governor  
Sir *Lionel Smith*, dated Downing-street, 10 February 1835.

You will have the goodness to express to Lieutenant-General Darling the great satisfaction felt by His Majesty's Government, at his reports of the demeanour of the apprentices during the period of the Christmas holidays.

— No. 289. —

No. 289.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Earl of *Aberdeen* to Governor  
Sir *Lionel Smith*, dated Downing-street, 1 April 1835.

I TRUST that it will be in my power to transmit to you by the next packet an Order of His Majesty in Council, leaving to their operation the Acts passed in the month of May last, by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Assembly of Tobago, for giving effect in that Island to the Act for the Abolition of Slavery. In anticipation of that order, I propose now to communicate to you such remarks as have been suggested to me by the perusal of the Acts in question.

In the enactments respecting the assignment of provision grounds to the apprenticed labourers, I observe the greatest distance from the abode of the cultivator, at which they may be apportioned to him, is three miles. It would demand a more exact topographical acquaintance with the Island of Tobago than is probably possessed by any persons in this kingdom, to determine whether this extreme limit might not be considerably narrowed. But it is sufficiently obvious that such a change, if really practicable, ought to be made; because the time lost, and the fatigue incurred in a daily walk of six miles, between the place of his residence and the place where his means of subsistence are to be procured, would be an unprofitable deduction from the leisure and repose of the labourer.

For the cultivation of the provision grounds, 14 days only in the year are allowed by this Act. By the Royal Order in Council, 40 days annually are assigned for the same purpose in Trinidad and St. Lucia, and although in those Islands there is a great extent of unoccupied and virgin soil in the immediate vicinity of almost all the plantations, yet even the allowance of 40 days appears to have been enlarged in St. Lucia, by a local ordinance passed during the existence of slavery there, to 52. It is incredible, therefore, that 14 days can suffice for this work in Tobago. The effect of so short an allowance must be, to cast on the cultivator of the soil the duty of maintaining himself by a deduction, not from the 45 weekly hours assigned to the employer, but from his own leisure. This, however, would be an infringement of the compact made with Colonies for the especial benefit of the emancipated slaves; and therefore the Council and Assembly of Tobago must be called upon to review and amend this enactment.

Compulsory labour on the provision grounds might seem unnecessary, since the urgent pressure of want will probably be a stimulus sufficient to quicken the most listless into that degree of activity which is requisite for procuring their daily food. The rule, however, if retained, should be qualified by two additions. The first, that the compulsion should never be used, except during the time deducted by law, for the purpose of cultivating these grounds, from the 45 hours of weekly labour. The second, that even during that time, an apprenticed labourer, who is earning his subsistence by honest industry in some other employment, should be left to pursue it without molestation.

The rules which forbid the apprenticed labourer to reside beyond the limits of the plantation, except by his employer's consent, or to quit it, even during his own leisure, except with a written pass from the employer, must prevent all free competition for wages, and must enable every planter to make his own terms with the labourers upon his estate for extra service. This, however, is opposed to the spirit of the Act of Parliament. It is necessary that power should be given to the special magistrate as well as to the employer to license the residence of the labourer beyond the limits of the plantation. The law must also be amended in such a manner as to leave the labourer at liberty to resort, during his own leisure, to any place in which he can obtain honest and profitable occupation; provided that it is not of such a nature or extent as to interfere with the performance of his prescribed duty on the estate to which he may belong.

In the 30th section of this Act some words appear to have been transcribed, without due consideration, from the laws formerly in force in the Island, for preventing the abuse of the power of punishment, which, during the existence of slavery, belonged to the owner. Fine and imprisonment are denounced as the penalty of cruelty towards apprentices, and especially in cases of the wanton or cruel cutting, wounding, maiming or mutilation of their persons. But offences of this kind being generally the indications of a murderous design, carried into effect as far as the power of the assailant has extended, are very inadequately punished by fine and imprisonment. Even, however, if it were not desirable to exact any more severe penalty, still there would be no sufficient reason for introducing a special rule of law, applying to those cases only in which the apprenticed labourer is the immediate sufferer. It is an object of great importance that the whole colonial society should henceforth live under the same penal code, and that the growth of all invidious distinctions of this nature should be checked at their first appearance."

TOBAGO.

— No. 290. —

No. 290.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 29 July 1835.

AS the time approaches for carrying into effect the intentions of Parliament in regard to the distribution of the compensation money awarded to the Colonies under the Slavery Abolition Act, I am desirous of calling your attention to the Despatch which was addressed to you by my predecessor on the 1st of April last, respecting the revision and amendment of the Act passed by the Legislature of Tobago for giving effect in that Island to the provisions of the Imperial Act. Should no steps have been taken by the Legislature of Tobago before this reaches you for amending their Act, in conformity with the views entertained by His Majesty and by Parliament, you will lose no time in calling their attention to the subject, pointing out to them that until they shall comply with the requisitions contained in Lord Aberdeen's Despatch, they will not be entitled to participate in the compensation provided for the late slave proprietors.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

## TRINIDAD.

TRINIDAI

— No. 291. —

No. 291

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *George F. Hill*, Bart. to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*, dated Trinidad, 12 October 1833.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your very important and very satisfactory Despatch, enclosing the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery.

The execution of this all-important measure has been provided for by Imperial legislation, the only effectual manner by which it could have been brought to so early a termination, or with uniform operation throughout the British Colonies.

I presume to make up a despatch bag addressed to you, by a merchant vessel, without waiting for the regular writing packet, conceiving that you will be pleased to learn that in this Colony no untoward circumstances in any manner interruptive of tranquillity have occurred.

The militia continues to increase in numbers and to improve in discipline, with a disposition of zeal on the part of the proprietors, far beyond my hope.

The public mind seems prepared to receive the measure of Abolition with serenity, and to give it fair play.

I immediately, on receipt of your Despatch, gave promulgation to His Majesty's Proclamation, as you will perceive by the enclosed gazette.

I have had some hundred copies of it printed and distributed in every part of the Colony.

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I being of opinion that careful explanation may be required to *mark* to the Black population the distinction between slavery and apprenticeship, I am preparing a letter of instruction for that purpose to assist persons I can depend upon in the different quarters of the Island, and when necessary I will personally join them to dispel misapprehension, and offer satisfactory information on every point, as well to proprietors as slaves.

I am warned of the instant departure of the vessel which takes charge of my despatch bag, but cannot conclude without offering you my sincere and hearty congratulations in having obtained the triumph of perfecting the most important measure that has borne on the interests of mankind for this past century.

— No. 292. —

No. 292.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Stanley* to Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 26th November 1833.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Despatch of the 12th October, and I beg to express to you the gratification which His Majesty's Government have derived from the satisfactory account of the state of Trinidad, and of the reception of the measure for the Abolition of Slavery.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. G. Stanley.*

— No. 293. —

No. 293.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Trinidad, 6th April 1834.

I HAVE the honour to state that I laid your Crown circular Despatch of the 19th of October last, and the model Guiana ordinance which accompanied it (suggesting the measures to be adopted for the purpose of giving effect to the Act for the Abolition of Slavery), before the Council of Government.

I had a sufficient number of this model ordinance printed for the use of the Council, inviting observations upon it.

It was discussed repeatedly at frequent meetings again and again of a committee of the Council, by whom every chapter was noted.

The observations of the committee were laid before the Council, who, after several meetings and much debate, resolved to avail themselves of the option you kindly gave them, and to proceed by report instead of ordinance (with one exception as explained in the inclosed document.)

That document is the final report of the Council of Government passed unanimsly in its present form, offering their suggestions for your assistance in the laborious and responsible task you have obligingly and cheerfully proposed to undertake for them in framing the laws whereby the employers and apprenticed labourers are to be governed from and after the 1st of August next.

Pursuant to the spirit of your Despatch of the 19th of October, I encouraged and invited full and free discussion on every point of the model ordinance, and felt much gratification in witnessing the manifest disposition in all parts of the Council to co-operate and render the proposed measures as perfect as experience and foresight can make them.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *G. F. Hill.*

Enclosure in  
No. 293.

Enclosure in No. 293.

TRINIDAD.—The REPORT of the Lieutenant-Governor and Council of Government of the Island of Trinidad upon certain Measures proposed by His Majesty's Government to be enacted for the purpose of carrying into effect the Act for the Abolition of Slavery in the British Colonies, 3 & 4 William 4. c. 73.

WE the Lieutenant-Governor and Members of the Council of Government of this Colony, have weighed and considered with anxious, careful and studious attention the Circular Despatch of the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, bearing date the nineteenth of October last, together with an abstract, containing the basis or outline

outline of the various measures proposed by His Majesty's Government to be enacted for the purpose of carrying into effect the Slavery Abolition Act.

The details of this law will, we presume, be so nearly similar throughout the British possessions, that with the exception of one ordinance, which we have passed and herewith transmit, we have deemed it more advisable to avail ourselves of the option which His Majesty's Secretary of State has been pleased to afford us of proceeding by way of report to furnish to His Majesty's Government the local information we possess, and the various suggestions that have presented themselves to our view upon the different bearings of this momentous question, rather than to frame an ordinance applying exclusively to the Island of Trinidad.

We have given the preference to this mode of proceeding under the firm conviction that His Majesty's Government intend to provide and establish one general code of laws for the government of the whole of the Colonial possessions.

In the suggestions which we deem it our duty to offer, His Majesty's Government will observe that we have adopted nearly the whole of those contained in the draft outline, with a few modifications and additions.

With a view to perspicuity, we have throughout this Report followed the draft, observing its order both as to chapters and titles.

## CHAPTER I.

### *On the Judicial and Ministerial Agency to be employed.*

Two considerations, we submit, must be especially attended to in the regulations for carrying into effect the all-important object of this chapter :

First.—That the number of the special justices and of the police force placed under their charge should be so fixed, and the districts in which they are to act so situated, that they may be enabled effectually to perform their duties.

Second.—That the regulations under which the justices and police are to be governed should ensure the most strict and active attention to their duties.

By the 18th clause of the Slavery Abolition Act it is provided, that every description of offence or dispute arising out of the relation of master and apprentice shall be decided by the special justice.

The power of punishing slave offences and redressing slave complaints has been hitherto exercised either by the individual proprietor, or by the commandant of the quarter or by the magistrates.

Probably not less than 2,000 persons have been occasionally engaged in the performance of these duties, all which are now to devolve on the special justices alone; nor is there much reason to expect that the number of offences and complaints which were formerly settled and punished by the masters' authority will be in any way diminished; on the contrary, we are inclined to think that disputes respecting real or alleged idleness and indisposition to labour, as well as other offences arising from the relation of master and apprentice, will for some time after the establishment of the new system be much increased. We are, therefore, confident that at least ten special justices will be required for the performance of these duties. We are also of opinion, that the Governor of this Colony may find it necessary to recommend to His Majesty's Government to appoint additional special justices, unpaid.

Considerable inconvenience must, we think, arise unless some general and uniform system of superintendence be adopted to regulate the duties and guide the conduct of the special justices in the several districts.

Differences must and will arise as to the manner in which the duties of these officers are to be performed; and if they are to act independently of each other, and to be accountable only for wilful misconduct, the various districts may in several most important particulars be subject to different modes of proceeding.

The change of a special justice may in many cases produce a change of system, causing great confusion and inconvenience. On the other hand, we think that many important advantages will be obtained by placing the whole system under the direction and control of one superior special justice, corresponding with and acting under the immediate control and instruction of the Executive.

Under this chief special justice we recommend that an assistant chief special justice should be appointed. By this means the machinery of apprenticeship may be made to work uniformly, and the results be more immediately and accurately known.

Independent of this advantage, the prospect of promotion under such an institution will operate as a most useful incentive for the active and faithful discharge of the duties confided to the inferior justices: nor do we consider that such a measure is in any respect at variance with the provisions of the Emancipation Act.

We consider that the number of special justices to be allotted for each Colony must depend not merely on the numbers of the slaves in that Colony, but on the greater or less facility of access to its several districts.

Adopting the principles which we have before stated, we recommend that the Island of Trinidad should be made to consist of two divisions; the First or Metropolitan Division to include all the portions of the Island north of the quarter of Chaguanas, with all the settlements of the eastern coast from the north to the south; the Second Division to comprise all the other quarters of the Island.



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The First Division should, we think, be placed under the immediate and personal superintendence of the chief special justice, whose residence should be at the town of Port of Spain.

The Second Division should be under the immediate direction of a chief assistant special justice, residing at San Fernando, acting however under the general superintendence of the chief special justice, with whom his correspondence is to be carried on, and from whom he is to receive such general instructions for the performance of the duties of the special justices in his division as may from time to time be thought requisite.

The reason for proposing this arrangement is, that the town of Port of Spain is the seat of Government, and consequently the fittest place of residence for the chief special justice, who is to be in constant communication with the Executive.

The inhabitants of the quarters in the First Division, however distant, communicate with the town of Port of Spain directly by means of the high roads.

The quarters of the Second Division have only a water access with Port of Spain, whilst Cedros, Hicacos, Quemada, Moruga and Erin have a constant intermediate intercourse with San Fernando.

By means of this division, therefore, all the populous parts of the Colony will be within the distance of a day's journey of a superior justice, whereas a voyage to and from the southern quarters of Port of Spain cannot at some seasons be calculated to be made in less than a week.

In the subdivision of the Colony into districts, and the selection of spots for the police establishments, regard must be had as well to the nature as the extent of the population.

In the town of Port of Spain, for instance, the numbers of employers will almost equal that of the apprentices. In the quarter of South Naparima where the sugar plantations are very numerous, the same number of apprentices will be divided amongst very few employers.

It is desirable, for the sake of convenient access, that the police establishments should be formed in the most populous parts of the several districts.

We are therefore of opinion that the Colony should be made to consist of two parts or divisions.

The Port of Spain, Tacarigua, and eastern districts should constitute the Northern Division.

The Naparima and southern districts should constitute the Southern Division.

The divisions we have proposed should be separated into five judicial districts, and the Governor by proclamation should define, and, as occasion might require, should alter the limits of such districts.

First.—The First District to be called the Port of Spain District, and to comprise the town of Port of Spain, the districts of Tragarete, St. Ann's, Mucurapo, Diego Martin, Maraval, Carenage and Cuesa, Chaguaramas, Bocas, La Ventille, Cimaronero, Aricagua, town of St. Juan's, Santa Cruz, Maraccas, Maraccas Valley and Las Cuevas, St. Joseph and town of St. Joseph.

The number of apprentices in this extensive district would be very large, including all the domestics and tradesmen in Port of Spain, and as the number of employers would also be much larger, as compared with the number of apprentices, than any other district, it may be presumed that the labour of the special justices in this district will be proportionably increased.

The duties of this district could not be satisfactorily performed with a less number than four special justices; one, the chief special justice, and one special justice to reside at Port of Spain; one special justice at the village of St. Juan's, and the other at the Carenage.

Second.—The Second District should be called the Tacarigua District, and should comprise Caroni, Tacarigua and Aranca, Caura, Arima, Guanapo and Aripo.

Third.—The Third District should be called the Eastern District, and should comprise the eastern coast, the soldiers' settlements, Oropauche, Toco, Cumana, Mayaro and Guayaguayare.

This district will comprise but a small number of apprentices; but its extent, and the distance and difficulty of access from other parts of the Island, render it absolutely necessary that a special justice should be appointed for its exclusive superintendence, otherwise the inhabitants would be deprived of all benefit from these establishments.

Fourth.—The fourth should be called the Naparima District, and should comprise Chaguanas, Couva, Cas-cajal Carapachaima, Savonetta, Point à Pierre, North Naparima, South Naparima, Savanna Grande, Oropouche and Moruga.

The residence of the chief special justice, under whose immediate control this and the remaining districts should be placed, should be at San Fernando, where a police establishment should be formed. Two other police establishments should also be formed in this district; one at Couva, and the other at South Naparima, near the Jordan Hill estate. This district will comprise the principal sugar quarters of the Island, about three-fourths of the sugar of the Island being made within its limits; it seems proper, therefore, that it should be subjected to the superintendence of a superior justice, who, residing in the town of San Fernando, the capital of this division, by continually visiting the police establishment at Couva and South Naparima and occasionally that of the southern district, may render more effectual the working of the police machinery.

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Fifth.—The fifth to be called the Southern District, and to comprise La Brea, Guapo, Irois, Cedros, Hicacos, Quemada and Erin.

The number of apprentices in this district is comparatively small; but its extent is great, and the difficulty of access to these parts considerable. One special justice may, but with much personal activity, be enabled to perform the duties required.

Under this arrangement, the number of special justices of the Island of Trinidad would be, one chief special justice, one assistant special justice, and eight special justices. There would be nine police establishments, at each of which one of the special justices would reside, viz.—

1st. Port of Spain.	6th. San Fernando.
2d. Carenage.	7th. Couva.
3d. St. Juans.	8th. South Naparima.
4th. Tacarigua.	9th. Irois.
5th. Mayaro.	

The residence of the chief special justice and one special justice should be at Port of Spain, and that of the chief assistant at San Fernando, the two capitals of the northern and southern divisions of the Island.

It would seem desirable that the residences of the special justices should be the police establishments in the several districts, and those of the chief, special and chief assistant special justices in the towns.

Great as the expense of these establishments will be, it does not appear possible to form an efficient system of police for this Colony at less cost; and every sacrifice must be made to prevent the failure of an experiment upon which the hopes of our fellow colonists depend.

The following Tables exhibit the quarters comprised in the several districts, the number of apprentices, and the total number of inhabitants in each district and quarter, taken from the last returns; also the distance in English miles of the remotest part of each quarter from the nearest police establishment.

## FIRST, OR PORT OF SPAIN DISTRICT.

*Police Establishment at Port of Spain.*

QUARTERS.	Number of Apprentices.	Number of Inhabitants.	Distance from Police Establishment.
			Miles.
Town of Port of Spain - - - -	2,938	9,870	-
Tragarete - - - - -	255	347	1
St. Ann's - - - - -	221	861	3
Mucurapo - - - - -	108	221	2½
Maraval - - - - -	411	897	7
Diego Martin - - - - -	625	953	9
Caunage and Cuesa - - - - -	450	729	13
Chaguaramas and Bocas - - - -	352	768	17 and 30
La Ventilli - - - - -	169	713	2
Cimarnero - - - - -	216	324	4
Aricagua - - - - -	476	583	6
Town of St. Juan's - - - - -	46	220	3½
Santa Cruz - - - - -	448	1,149	10
Maracas and Las Cuevas - - - -	268	857	11 and 18
St. Joseph's - - - - -	423	527	8
Town of St. Joseph's - - - - -	79	223	6
<b>TOTAL - - - - -</b>	<b>7,485</b>	<b>19,242</b>	<b>-</b>

## SECOND, OR TACARIGUA DISTRICT.

*Police Establishment at St. Juan's.*

QUARTERS.	Number of Apprentices.	Number of Inhabitants.	Distance from Police Establishment.
			Miles.
Caroni - - - - -	149	344	14
Tacarigua and Arouca - - - - -	1,281	1,670	15
Caura - - - - -	66	491	14
Arima - - - - -	311	563	20
Guanapo - - - - -	272	897	24
<b>TOTAL - - - - -</b>	<b>2,079</b>	<b>3,965</b>	<b>-</b>

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## THIRD, OR EASTERN DISTRICT.

*Police Establishment at Mayaro.*

Q U A R T E R S.	Number of Apprentices.	Number of Inhabitants.	Distance from Police Establishment.
			Miles.
Settlements - - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	32
Eastern Coast - - - - -	9	479	12
Toco and Cumana - - - - -	52	421	50 by Water
Mayaro and Guayaguayare - - - - -	526	701	12
TOTAL - - - - -			-

## FOURTH, OR NAPARIMA DISTRICT.

*Police Establishment at Couva and in South Naparima.*

Q U A R T E R S.	Number of Apprentices.	Number of Inhabitants.	Distance from Police Establishment.
			Miles.
Chaguanas - - - - -	621	700	16
Carapichaima and Sovonetta - - - - -	2,107	2,610	10 and 7
Point à Pierre - - - - -	963	1,099	13
South Naparima - - - - -	2,156	2,812	7
Savanna Grande - - - - -	977	2,762	10
North Naparima - - - - -	1,300	1,931	7
Oropouche - - - - -	413	608	12
Moruga - - - - -	24	129	22
TOTAL - - - - -	8,561	12,651	-

## FIFTH, OR SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

*Police Establishment at Irois.*

Q U A R T E R S.	Number of Apprentices.	Number of Inhabitants.	Distance from Police Establishment.
			Miles.
La Brea and Guapo - - - - -	523	730	18 and 13
Irois - - - - -	59	100	6
Cedros - - - - -	475	730	8
Hicacos and Erin - - - - -	229	728	14 and 14
TOTAL - - - - -	1,286	2,288	-

Having thus laid before His Majesty's Government a full detail of the locality, extent and population of the various districts we recommend to be established, and the distribution of the special justices therein, we now proceed to offer our suggestions on the extent of the police force, the time of service for which the individuals composing that force should be engaged, and the rate of pay to be allotted to them.

His Majesty's Government recommend that each police settlement should consist of one serjeant and ten privates.

In this suggestion we should be inclined to concur, did not our experience convince us that it would be impossible for the special justice or his serjeant to be constantly in personal attendance at the settlement.

The special justice will have his daily circuit visits to make. The serjeant may be on active out-door duty, and no responsible person (as an officer) will remain to superintend the settlement.

The variety of languages also spoken in Trinidad renders it necessary that some person of authority, who understands them, should always be present at the settlement to communicate at all hours and times with the numerous applicants.

We therefore recommend that a corporal should be added to the police force at each settlement. We also recommend that the privates at each settlement should receive pay at the

the rate of 2s. 2d. sterling per diem, the corporal 3s. 3d., and the serjeant 4s. 4d., and that they should be engaged to serve for a period of not less than three years.

And lastly, we beg leave to suggest that the police in general may be authorized to act (in case of need) in adjoining or other districts.

With these observations we beg leave to express our concurrence in the various enactments proposed in this chapter.

## CHAPTER II.

### *On the Procedure to be observed by the Special Justices in the exercise of their Jurisdiction.*

WE consider the regulations proposed by His Majesty's Government in this chapter, as admirably calculated to govern and guide the special justices in the exercise of their jurisdiction, and in the mode of procedure to be observed by them.

They appear to us to require very little alteration, and to admit of little improvement.

In addition to these, some few regulations will be required to be established for the guidance of the chief special justice and his assistant, and for a more summary mode of procedure in case of complaint, for the non or ill-performance of agricultural or other labour.

We therefore recommend the following Regulations to be added to those already laid down in this chapter.

First.—That the chief special justice should have general jurisdiction throughout the Colony.

Second.—That the assistant special justice should have the same authority throughout the Southern Division.

Third.—That the chief special justice should be bound to visit the police settlements as follows :—

Carenage, San Juan, and Tacarigua, at least once a month.

Mayaro, once in six months; and each settlement in the Southern Division once in six months.

That the assistant special justice should visit the settlements at Couva and South Naparima once every month, and Irois every two months.

Fourth.—That in their respective visits to the police settlements, it should be their duty to inspect the several journals and other books and papers belonging thereto, and to examine the police force, and to visit the houses of correction and the penal gang, and to ascertain whether the regulations of the police establishments are properly attended to and carried into effect.

That once in every six months the chief special justice should address a Report to the Governor on the state of the several police settlements, and the general working of the system, and therein specify the date of his several visits to the different police settlements since his last Report, and the result of his observations therein.

That the assistant special justice should make a similar Report to the chief special justice every three months.

That it be a misdemeanor for opposing the special justice, in discharge of his duty—penalty or imprisonment.

That at the end of each quarter, each special justice should transmit to the chief special justice a duplicate of his journal for the preceding quarter, with an affidavit thereto annexed (to be sworn before a magistrate) to the effect of section No. 6.

That the chief special justice should observe the same formalities as regards his own journal, and should transmit the whole number to the Governor.

That in all cases of complaints, for the non-performance or ill-performance of agricultural or other labour, they should be decided by the special justices on the spot in a summary manner, and that such decision should be immediately carried into effect.

That the complaint, decision, &c. should be entered in the journal of the special justice, in the same way as in other cases.

With respect to the penalties mentioned in the 18th and 19th sections, we beg leave to observe, that they are lower for the higher than the minor offences.

The 19th section subjects the apprenticed labourer to imprisonment for a month for a malicious complaint.

We respectfully submit, that the time thus lost to the master should be restored by the apprentice.

We crave reference to our observations on this subject in chapter 5th.

The draft states, that certain forms marked from A. to L. and M. respectively are annexed.

No such forms have accompanied the draft; but we presume they are prepared, and will be duly transmitted with the Order in Council.

With these suggestions, we recommend the adoption of chapter, No. 2.

## CHAPTER III.

### *On the Division of Apprenticed Labourers into their respective Classes.*

THE Regulations proposed by His Majesty's Government under this head have been duly attended to, and, with a few trivial alterations, have been embodied into an Ordinance, which is herewith transmitted.

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The object of this Ordinance, namely, the division of the apprenticed labourers into three classes, has been duly effected, the lists and affidavits required by the Ordinance having been duly delivered into the Registrar of Slave's Office.

These lists and affidavits amount in the whole to 1,945 returns, comprising all the slaves to be apprenticed.

It now remains with the Registrar to correct the lists, and to observe the various duties pointed out to him by the Ordinance.

## CHAPTER IV.

*On the Maintenance of the Apprenticed Labourers.*

WITH reference to the details required to give effect to the object of this chapter, we request that they may be provided by the Secretary of State, with our recommendation that the apprentice shall be entitled to one-half acre of ground, with three hours per week to cultivate the same, and not to have salt fish or other provisions; or, half an acre of ground, with one hour and a half per week to cultivate the same, and three pounds of fish; and in case of not allowing either land or fish, the apprentice to be entitled to the quantity of provisions now allowed by law.

We also recommend that the employer shall have the liberty of allotting the time to be allowed to the apprentices for the cultivation of their grounds, either by any day or days in one week, or any number of days consecutively, at such period of the year as the employer may think proper, provided that not more than two consecutive days, or two days in one week be allotted for that purpose.

In adverting to the subject of the medical care of apprentices, we think it will be necessary that the employer should have the power of confining any apprentice in the hospital during the time he is under medical treatment, provided that this is recommended by the medical gentleman or the person in charge of the hospital.

Clothing as heretofore.

## CHAPTER V.

*On the Duties to be performed by the Apprenticed Labourers, and the Penalties for their non-performance.*

WE entirely concur in the justice of the principle laid down in this chapter, but are of opinion it may be carried into effect with more advantage to the interests of both the employer and the apprentice than has been therein suggested.

We respectfully submit that the wrong committed by the slave should in no case (in which the welfare of society does not demand it) prove a source of grievance or loss to the employer. The time of the apprentice, subject to certain limitations, is absolutely and *bonâ fide* the property of his employer. Every moment therefore abstracted from the time allotted to him by the Act of Parliament, whether by maronage, imprisonment, detention at the police establishment or otherwise, is so much positive and actual loss to the employer.

The object of this chapter is to punish the apprentice for his delinquencies; but if this proceeding involves an inconvenience or loss to the employer, the punishment of the apprentice, although an act of merited justice towards him, becomes one of unmerited hardship towards the employer.

To remedy so great a defect, we therefore recommend, that in every case in which the principle can be made applicable, whether the offence be comprehended under the character of desertion, vagabondage or maronage, that the special justices should have an accumulative power to sentence and compel the apprentice to work in the service of his employer, subject to the employer's consent, at the rate of 15 hours in every week, until the period of his sentence should expire. And in case an apprentice should refuse or neglect to labour, or should not undergo his sentence, that the special justice, upon due proof, should be authorized to sentence him to an extended period of hard labour on the settlement, and that the whole time lost to the master by reason of the apprentice not undergoing his first sentence, as well as the period of imprisonment for the second offence, should be made good to the employer by the apprentice, by extending the duration of his apprenticeship; and so *toties quoties* as he may repeat offences under similar circumstances.

These observations apply equally to sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

We further recommend, that in all cases of conviction of female apprentices, solitary confinement should be substituted for the stocks; and in the event of any disturbance, breach of the peace, or other serious offence being committed on any estate, the employer to have the power of arresting and confining the offender in some place of confinement, previously to be approved of and set apart for such purpose by the special justice, where the offender is to be kept until taken before the special justice, which must be in 24 hours, unless a Sunday intervenes.

We recommend that a power should be given to the special justice, with the consent of the employer, to select out of the apprentices of good conduct and character one or more to act as constables on the estate.

The remaining clauses of this chapter approved.

## CHAPTER VI.

*On the Duties to be performed by the Employers towards their Apprenticed Labourers, and the Penalties for their non-performance.*

THE provisions made by His Majesty's Ministers under this head in the draft outline, seem to us generally well calculated to promote the objects of the Act of Parliament.

We

Ordinance printed in the  
Appendix, No.

We perceive that the penalties for the non-performance of the several duties directed to be performed by this chapter, are made to fall only upon the employer.

We presume that it is the intention of His Majesty's Government, in the legislative enactments to be framed upon this draft, to extend those penalties to managers and all other persons in authority, over any apprenticed labourer.

This addition might, with great propriety, be made throughout the whole chapter, with the exception of that section which directs, that upon the conviction of any employer for cruelty, the labourer be discharged from his apprenticeship.

If it is intended that by reason of any cruelty inflicted on an apprentice by a manager, or other person in authority, over such apprentice, the employer or person beneficially entitled to the services of such apprentice, should be liable to be deprived of those services.

The unmerited injury that the malice of any manager might thus inflict upon his employer is so apparent, that we trust, that in the Order in Council to be framed, His Majesty's Ministers will shield the employer from the possible loss he might thus sustain from the revenge of a disappointed or malicious servant.

In addition to these remarks, we are of opinion that the provisions of the Order in Council of November 1831, regarding marriage and religious instruction, should, *mutatis mutandis*, form part of the new code.

We approve the other suggestions contained in this chapter.

#### CHAPTER VII.

##### *On Offences which may be committed by the Apprenticed Labourer against the State, and the Punishment of such Offences.*

THE enactments proposed in this chapter will, we think, be sufficient to counteract the various dangers to which society will be exposed under the new relations about to be established.

We beg leave, however, to offer the following suggestions upon a few of its sections :

In section 3, the labourer is prohibited from residing beyond the limits of the district, in which he may be resident, unless either by the authority of his employer, or with the consent in writing of the special justice.

We do not consider that the special justice ought to have any power to interfere between employer and apprentice as to place of residence. The home of the employer (*viz.* his plantation), should be the residence of the apprentice.

We are therefore of opinion, and recommend that the word plantation should be substituted for district in this section, and that no interference should be permitted on the part of the special justice as to the place of residence of the apprentice.

In the next section, the apprentice is permitted to go beyond the limits of the district without a pass, provided he is on his way to or from market, or to or from some place of worship.

Unless this privilege be limited to market days, Sundays and festivals, we are of opinion that it may prove a source of continuous and unjust grievance to the employer, as the Protestant apprentices (particularly in the neighbourhood of town) might absent themselves from their labours on Wednesdays and Fridays in each week, and during the whole of Passion Week, on the pretext of going to church. Indeed the Roman Catholic, by far the most numerous class of apprentices, might urge this excuse daily.

We are therefore of opinion and recommend, that this privilege should be limited to Saturday (our established market day), and to Sundays and the four great festivals; *viz.* New Year's Day, Good Friday, Corpus Christi and Christmas Day.

In Trinidad, where Crown and other lands are so abundant, and the soil is so fertile, it becomes the especial duty of the Legislature to prevent apprentices from establishing themselves in distinct communities, by abstracting themselves from the ordinary services of their employers.

The inducements to the apprentice to withhold his services from his employers, whether arising from feelings of revenge, obstinacy, indolence or otherwise, are so manifold and manifest, that legislation cannot be too circumspectly or too strictly observed, upon a point of such vital importance to the well-being of our social system.

We would therefore suggest, that in cases such as are contemplated in sect. 6, that the habitations of the Maroons, and every description of cultivation, should be destroyed, and that if the Maroons should be found in arms and resisting the King's authority, that a severe and exemplary punishment should be provided.

In section 24, we do not consider alternative punishments equivalent.

We are of opinion that if the penalty be continued to fifty pounds (to which we do not object), that the imprisonment should be imprisonment not exceeding six months, and with or without hard labour.

We would also recommend that persons harbouring apprentices, or removing them from one district to another, without the consent in writing of the special justice or employer, should be liable to a penalty, to be recovered in a summary manner before any special justice, not exceeding twenty pounds sterling.

In concluding our remarks upon this chapter, we beg leave to observe, that in all cases of punishments to be awarded under the provisions of this order, we crave the attention of His Majesty's Ministers to our observations upon Chapter V.

## CHAPTER VIII.

*On the Dissolution of the Apprenticeship by Contract or Appointment.*

WE fully concur in the enactments proposed to be made by His Majesty's Government in this chapter.

## CHAPTER IX.

*On the Removal of prædial Apprenticed Labourers from one Plantation to another.*

THESE enactments claim our fullest approbation.

## CHAPTER X.

*On the Apprenticeship of Children.*

WE also approve of the enactments proposed in this chapter.

## CHAPTER XI.

*On the Alienation of Sale, Inheritance or Will of the Services of Apprenticed Labourers.*

WE concur in the suggestions contained in this chapter.

## CHAPTER XII.

*On the Relation in which the Apprenticed Labourers will stand towards the State.*

WE concur generally in the correctness of the observations made upon this chapter.

We beg leave, however, to recommend, that the apprentices should not be allowed to own, hold or retain fire-arms, or military weapons of any kind, or gunpowder or other ammunition, unless with the permission of the employer or the special justice; and that all such articles may be seized by the special justice or employer, where such permission shall not have been given. And also that apprentices may be capable of being appointed and of serving as constables, as recommended in Chapter V.

This document is respectfully submitted to the Right honourable E. G. Stanley, His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, by the Lieutenant-Governor of Trinidad, and the Council of Government, as their unanimous Report upon the important measures submitted to them for consideration.

(signed)

*G. F. Hill.*

*Geo. Scotland.*

*Philip D. Souper, Colonial Sec.*

*Stephen Rothery, Attorney Gen.*

*George Ford, Treasurer.*

*Henry Gloster, Protector of Slaves.*

*J. G. Rochford, Acting Collector of Customs.*

*Henry Murray.*

*Joseph Peschier.*

*Robert Neilson.*

*Henry Fuller.*

*Thomas Roxburgh.*

*Edward Jackson.*

Trinidad,  
6 April 1834.

— No. 294.—

No. 294.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Stanley* to Lieutenant-Governor  
Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 24th May 1834.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 6th April, enclosing the Report of the Council of Government, on the Model Draft transmitted to you with my Despatch of the 19th of October.

Having deferred the preparation of the Order in Council for the Colony of Trinidad, in the expectation of receiving this Report, I shall only be able to complete that instrument in time to forward it to you by the ensuing packet. I feel it due to the Council of Government to apprise you to what extent I have felt myself justified in acquiescing in the suggestions which are thrown out in the Report; and I am the more willing to adopt this course, as it will afford to the Council and yourself, an earlier opportunity of considering and commencing the necessary preliminary measures.

The interleaved copy of the Model Draft which accompanies this Despatch, will place you in possession of the modifications which in compliance with the Report I am prepared to recommend to be introduced into the Order in Council.

You will perceive that the intended alterations in the first chapter will admit of your establishing district divisions and police settlements in the manner proposed in the Report.

As far as the imperfections of the maps with which I am supplied enable me to judge, these divisions appear to be judiciously arranged and to meet the peculiar local difficulties of the Colony.

The

The Eastern District contains so small a number of apprentices, and those so widely separated, that I am disposed to think it advisable that this district should be confided to such voluntary special justices as you may be enabled to select, subject to visitation and inspection by one or more of the stipendiary justices.

With a view to enable you to confine the police settlement of this district within the narrowest limits, I have reduced the minimum number of policemen at each settlement, from ten to five, but this reduction will, of course, not prevent you from fixing upon a larger number for that or any other police settlement.

The Report strongly urges the appointment of a chief special magistrate for the Northern Division of the Colony, comprising the first three districts; and an inspector or deputy, for the Southern Division, comprising the two other districts. If, upon further consideration, the Council of Government should remain of this opinion, I am disposed to acquiesce in the arrangement: and with this view I have proposed to introduce into chapter 2, clauses which will admit of that object being accomplished.

If this plan should ultimately be decided on, it will be necessary for you to select for these offices, two of the stipendiary magistrates; and as they will be subject to a greater degree of responsibility, and possibly of labour, than would result from their ordinary duties, I shall not object to their receiving from the revenues of the Colony a moderate remuneration, not to exceed 200 *l.* sterling for the chief special magistrate, and 150 *l.* for the assistant, in addition to the discharge of the extra expenses which may thus be incurred by them. These salaries must however be granted to them, and to their successors, in case of vacancy, for the whole duration of the apprenticeship.

The Report notices an inconsistency in the penalties mentioned in the 18th and 19th sections of the second chapter. This accidental error I have corrected; and in both sections I propose to empower the special justice to adjudge corporal punishment, in order that the employer may not unnecessarily be deprived of the labour of his apprentice.

The forms referred to in the Model Draft will be transmitted with the Order in Council.

As regards chapter 10 which is to comprize the regulations for the maintenance of the apprenticed labourer, I have to make the following observations.

The Order in Council of 2d November 1831 established in Trinidad allowances of food, &c. taken from the jail allowances, settled by an Act of the Jamaica Legislature. By the order of the 6th November 1832 the Governor was authorized to substitute for that scale, any other which might be better adapted to the state of the Colony. Sir Lewis Grant accordingly issued a proclamation on the subject, dated 5th January 1833, establishing a new scale of allowances. These were in force in the Colony, and had the authority of law there, on the 28th of August last, when the Slavery Abolition Act was passed. By the 11th section of that Act, the employer of every labourer was required to supply him with such food, clothing and other allowances "as by any law now in force in the Colony to which such apprenticed labourer may belong, an owner is required to supply to and for any slave, being of the same age and sex as such apprenticed labourers shall be." I think it clear therefore that Sir Lewis Grant's scale of food must, during the apprenticeship, continue in force in Trinidad. Upon the subject of these allowances therefore it appears to me, that neither the local Legislature of Trinidad, nor His Majesty's Government have the power, even if it were desirable to exercise it, of diminishing the food and other allowances to which the slave was entitled, under the combined effect of the Orders in Council of November 1831 and November 1832, and the proclamation to which I have adverted.

As respects those prædial apprenticed labourers who may be maintained by provision grounds, I propose that they should be allowed for their cultivation, 26 days of nine hours each, out of the annual time, after the rate of 45 hours per week, during which they are bound by the Act for the Abolition of Slavery to work for their employers. The rules as to the apportionment of this time, I shall leave to the discretion of the Lieutenant-Governor and Council of Government.

As regards non-prædial apprenticed labourers, it is intended that they should, in all cases, be supported by an allowance of provisions.

Upon this part of the subject, the Report suggests that the employer should have the power of confining any apprentice in the hospital during the time he is under medical treatment, provided that this is recommended by the medical gentleman or person in charge of the hospital. I am disposed to approve of this suggestion, which I observe has also occurred to the Legislature of British Guiana.



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Upon the 5th chapter, the Council urge very forcibly the loss which the employer will sustain by the imprisonment of the apprentice; and it is suggested that the time of which the employer will thus be deprived, should be made good by a prolongation of the apprenticeship. It is evident however that such prolongation cannot lawfully be enacted by the local Legislature to which the Slavery Abolition Act applies, except in the particular case mentioned in section 20 of that Act.

The appointment of apprentices as constables, suggested by the Council, will be provided for by the additional clause to that effect, introduced into chapter 1. These constables, however, must, in the performance of their duties, act under the direction of the special justice, and not under that of the proprietor.

As respects chapter 6, you will perceive that by a very slight verbal alteration of the 13th and 14th clauses of that chapter, the observations which the Council have made upon the necessity of distinguishing the manager from the employer, in cases of cruelty, have been attended to.

In reference to this chapter, the Council propose that the provisions of the Order in Council of November 1831 regarding marriage and religious instruction, should, *mutatis mutandis*, form part of the new code. It appears to me, however, that as the apprenticed labourer will have all the rights of a free person, subject only to the obligations incidental to apprenticeship, it is unnecessary to legislate specially for them on these points.

The additional restrictions which the Council in their observations on chapter 7 suggest, as proper to be imposed upon the apprenticed labourers, demand the following remarks:

The Council propose to authorize the apprentices to exercise the right of attending public worship only on Sundays, and on four specified festivals. It is to be remembered however, that in many societies of christians dissenting from the Church of England, it is required by the established discipline or practice, that their members should meet together for devotional exercises on the week-days. To interdict such observances to those who might wish to follow them, would, I think, be at variance with the policy and principles by which Parliament was guided in passing the Slavery Abolition Act.

The Council moreover propose to permit the apprenticed labourer to exercise the right of attending markets on Saturdays only. So far from approving this additional restriction, I have, upon more mature consideration, arrived at the conviction that the provision, even as originally framed, requires to be modified so as to afford the prædial apprenticed labourer a greater degree of liberty during those hours which are not to be devoted to his employer, and with this view I have proposed a considerable alteration in clause 4, chapter 7.

Whilst upon this branch of the subject, I must observe that I feel justified in adopting the views of the Council so far as to oblige prædial apprenticed labourers to reside upon the plantations to which they belong.

Having regard, on the one hand, to the importance of fixing the negro to a specified domicile, during the apprenticeship, and, on the other hand, to the provisions in the Slavery Abolition Act requiring the employer to supply the apprenticed labourer with lodging, medical attendance, and with provision grounds within a limited distance of such lodgings, I am satisfied that this restriction is expedient, and that it is not inconsistent with the intentions of Parliament.

Having thus noticed all the principal points contained in your Report, I wish to call your attention to the proposed modifications in chapter 1 and chapter 5 of the Model Draft, by which many of the details of this important measure are left to the decision of the Council of Government and yourself.

I feel justified in adopting this course, not only on account of the almost insuperable difficulty of definitively settling such details, without being actually on the spot, but also because I am satisfied that the Council of Government, and its individual members (amongst whom I must not omit to include Mr. Burnley) are prepared to address themselves to the consideration of these subjects, with a full sense of their importance, in a spirit of justice towards the apprenticed labourers, and with a sincere desire to carry into execution the measures incidental to the Abolition of Slavery, in the manner most likely to ensure the general prosperity of the community of Trinidad.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) E. G. Stanley.

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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—No. 295.—

TRINIDAD.

No. 295.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Under-Secretary *Lefevre* to  
Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Geo. F. Hill*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 7th June 1834.

IN the unavoidable absence of Mr. Secretary Spring Rice, I have the honour to transmit to you an order which has been passed by His Majesty in Council "for giving effect in the Island of Trinidad, to the stat. 3 & 4 Will. IV. c. 73, for the Abolition of Slavery."

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *C. J. Lefevre.*

Dated 5th June 1834.  
Printed in the  
Appendix, No. 55.

—No. 296.—

No. 296.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Geo. F. Hill*, Bart.  
to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

Trinidad, 20th July 1834.

TO guard against a strike from work by the negroes on the 1st of August, which has been apprehended on many estates, I have deemed it expedient to explain by proclamation in English, French and Spanish, somewhat in detail, their duties and their employers' duties respectively towards each other; in truth, what was then to be their real situation.

I enclose copies of those documents, together with a copy of the letter of instruction to the commandants, to whom they were transmitted.

Considering the moment to be propitious to invite the numerous runaways to return to their duty, I proposed to the Council of Government to pass an ordinance to secure from punishment those who might voluntarily surrender themselves. That measure has been adopted, and I have the honour to enclose the ordinance passed to give it effect for His Majesty's approval.

I also enclose copies of a proclamation which I issued, grounded upon that ordinance, in order to afford to the runaways ample notoriety and assurance that they should be exempt from punishment on surrendering themselves.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Geo. F. Hill.*

No. 1.

No. 2.

No. 3.

No. 4.

Enclosures in No. 296.

Enclosures in  
No. 296.

Trinidad.

No. 1.

(L. s.)  
*G. F. Hill.*By His Excellency the Right honourable Sir *George Fitzgerald Hill*,  
Baronet, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief, &c. &c. &c.

## A PROCLAMATION.

His Majesty the King, the Lords and the Commons, in the British Parliament assembled, have determined that slavery shall be abolished throughout the British Colonies, on, from and after the 1st of August 1834.

Those who are in the state of slavery must in the mean time distinctly understand, and by careful explanation be made to know, that the abolition of slavery does not discharge them from all kind of labour, or from the performance of work and duties to those who are to be their employers, and that they are not to quit the estates of their present masters, who are to become their employers, without permission, except to go to church or market as by law allowed.

To prevent ignorance or misapprehension of the new state in which the slaves are soon to be placed, and the evil consequences that might arise therefrom, it is necessary, in justice to themselves, that they should be accurately informed of the terms and conditions of the law by which the King and his Parliament have abolished slavery.

Therefore be it known, That on and after the 1st of August 1834, all those who now are in a state of slavery are to become and be called Apprenticed Labourers, with the following rights and privileges secured to them.

Those who have been heretofore slaves for life, usually employed in agriculture or in the manufacture of colonial produce, or otherwise upon lands and registered as prædial apprentices, are to serve their employers six years as apprentices, and then to be entirely free. During these six years, however, they are only to work 45 hours in each week for their employers, with food, clothing, medicine and hospital care as heretofore.

## TRINIDAD.

If the employers require their apprentices to work during more hours than are herein specified, they must pay them for it upon bargain to be made. The extra hours beyond 45 in the week belong to the apprentices, which they may employ for their own benefit and profit.

The apprentices are not to be punished by their employers or managers, nor otherwise than by the decision of magistrates whom the King has ordered the Governor to commission, and some of whom His Majesty has sent here expressly from England to reside in the different districts of this Colony, with full authority and power to make the employers do justice to the apprentices, and to make the apprentices perform their work and duty to their employers.

These magistrates will hear all complaints of employers against apprentices, and of apprentices against employers; and these magistrates have alone the authority to punish. They will explain and secure to the apprentices all the rights, privileges and advantages the law has provided for them; and under the power and protection of the Governor and those magistrates, the apprentices may, by quiet and obedient conduct, ensure to themselves an easy and a happy time. But since His Majesty has been so indulgent to those who were until now slaves for life, he justly expects good conduct, submission and contentment from them as apprentices; and although he has appointed special magistrates on purpose to protect the apprentices, yet these magistrates are at the same time ordered to do justice to the employers, and in particular to punish those apprentices who neglect or imperfectly perform their work, who are guilty of insolence or insubordination, or who quit or run away from the service of their employers.

Those slaves, such as domestics, who have not before the 28th of August 1832, worked in the field or on lands or estates, are called non-prædial, and are to serve their employers as at present required, for only four years from the 1st of August 1834.

All children who shall be on the 1st of August 1834, under six years of age, shall be absolutely and entirely free; and those also who shall be born after that day, to be maintained at the expense of their parents, or to be apprenticed in case of inability on the part of the parents to support them; and measures are to be adopted to afford sufficient instruction to all those whose condition is thus to be changed, to fitly qualify them for the enjoyment of it.

Having thus described and proclaimed what is to be the improved situation of those who are to become apprenticed labourers compared with their former state of slavery, it now only remains to exhort them in the name of their King, and in the words of His Royal Proclamation given out in this Colony on the 11th of October last, to yield due obedience to this law, for His Majesty doth make known and declare his settled purpose and resolve to enforce obedience thereto by all the powers and authority in him vested, and to prevent, and if necessary to repress and punish all contraventions of the said law.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the Island, at Government-House, in the Town of Port of Spain, this 11th day of July 1834.

By His Excellency's command,

*Philip D. Souper*, Colonial Secretary.

(Circular.)

No. 2.

Government House, 12th July 1834.

Sir,  
I HAVE deemed it important to explain by proclamation to the slave population, the nature of the new state in which they will be placed on the 1st of August next, as contrasted with what has been their state of slavery.

I send you copies of my proclamation in English, French and Spanish. I most urgently request you to have the particulars of this proclamation explained and made known to every slave within your quarter. Let owners or managers have copies, and let due care be taken to divest the minds of the slaves from any erroneous impressions or misapprehension of the operation of the Abolition Slavery Act they may have imbibed.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

To the Commandant of  
The Quarter of

Your obedient Servant,

(signed) *G. F. Hill*.

Trinidad.

No. 3.

AN ORDINANCE enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor of Trinidad, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government thereof, to induce Runaway Slaves to return to their Owners or Employers on or before the 31st day of July instant, and to relieve them from punishment.

(L. s.) *G. F. Hill*.

WHEREAS there are many runaway slaves who are now absent from the service of their masters; and, for the purpose of inducing such runaway slaves to return to their masters, it is expedient that all such runaways who may voluntarily return to the service of their respective masters before the 1st day of August next, should be relieved and discharged from all punishment for or on account of their having so absented themselves as aforesaid:

Now, therefore, be it enacted by his Excellency the Right honourable Sir George Fitzgerald Hill, baronet, colonel of the Londonderry regiment of militia, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the said Island and its dependencies, by and with the advice

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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advice and consent of the Council of Government thereof, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the promulgation of this ordinance, it shall not be lawful for any master or employer or other person having authority over any slave in this Colony who is now a runaway or absent from the service of his or her master or employer or other person having authority over him or her, to inflict any punishment on such slave by reason of, or by way of punishment for such his or her running away or absence from the service of his or her master or employer or other person aforesaid: Provided such slave shall, of his or her own free will and without compulsion, return to the estate or plantation to which he or she may belong, or to the house or residence of such his or her master, employer or other person aforesaid, and shall deliver himself or herself up, and place himself or herself under the direction or control of such his or her master or employer or other person having authority over him or her as aforesaid, at any time on or before the 31st day of July now instant.

Passed in Council this 10th day of July 1834.

*Philip D. Souper*, Colonial Secretary.

TRINIDAD.

Trinidad.

No. 4.

(L. s.)  
*G. F. Hill.*

By His Excellency the Right honourable Sir *George Fitzgerald Hill*,  
Baronet, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief, &c. &c. &c.

## A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS it hath been represented to me that some of the slaves of this Island have absconded from their master's service, and are now idling through the country:

And whereas His Majesty has been graciously pleased to declare by and with the advice and consent of Parliament, that slavery shall cease and determine on the 1st of August next, and that all those who are now slaves should on and after that day become apprenticed labourers for a limited period, with advantages not heretofore enjoyed by slaves:

And whereas many of such runaway slaves may be desirous of returning to their duty, and availing themselves of the advantages thus offered, but may be deterred from so doing by fear of punishment:

Now therefore, I the said Lieutenant-Governor do hereby proclaim, promise and declare, That all those runaway slaves who shall present themselves at the Protector's Office, Government House, shall receive a free pardon and a pass to return to their respective masters, or who shall return direct to their respective masters without coming to Government House, before the 1st of August next, shall be pardoned for having so absconded, and shall not receive any punishment whatever on account thereof.

And whereas it has been reported to me that many runaway slaves have been encouraged to quit their masters' service, and are harboured and employed in various districts of this Colony; Be it therefore known, That any person who shall after this Proclamation harbour, conceal or employ any runaway slave, such person shall most assuredly be prosecuted with the utmost rigour of the law. And I do hereby promise a suitable reward for such information as shall lead to the detection and conviction of any such offender.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the Island at Government House, in the Town of Port of Spain, this 12th day of July 1834.

By His Excellency's Command,

*Philip D. Souper*, Colonial Secretary.

—No. 297.—

No. 297.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to  
Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Geo. F. Hill*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 5th September 1834.

I HAVE received and laid before the King, your Despatch of the 20th of July last.

I have the honour to convey to you His Majesty's approval of the proclamation you have issued, explanatory of the respective duties of the apprenticed negroes and their employers.

His Majesty has also been graciously pleased to approve of the ordinance which has passed the Council of Government of Trinidad, and the Proclamation which you issued thereupon, inviting the numerous runaways to return to their duty, and securing those from punishment who might voluntarily surrender themselves.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *T. Spring Rice.*

TRINIDAD.

—No. 298.—

No. 298.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Geo. F. Hill*, Bart.  
to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir, Trinidad, 20th July 1834.

I HAVE had the honour to receive through Mr. Lefevre, some copies of the Order of His Majesty in Council of 5th June 1834, for carrying into effect the Act for the Abolition of Slavery.

I am now engaged with the Council of Government in making the necessary preparations for giving effect to the details of that Order in Council, so far as their co-operation is required.

I have to regret the non-arrival up to the present moment of any of the special justices.

There is an indispensable necessity to secure the due execution of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery and of the Order in Council of the 5th of June, which could not be effected but under the authority of special justices, who ought to be located in their respective districts before the 1st of August, on which day their jurisdiction commences operation. I have therefore consulted with the Council of Government as to the steps I ought to take, and in pursuance of the advice of that board, it is my intention to appoint a large number of unpaid special justices, under the 14th clause of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery.

In addition to the present commandants of quarters and their adjoints, I shall select the most respectable persons in the several quarters for this commission.

I trust that these appointments to carry the new system into effect will not dissatisfy the negroes, but the arrival of the magistrates from home, should they yet arrive in time to superintend its commencement, will be of the greatest importance, as I shall have infinite difficulty in accounting to the negroes for the absence of the officers whom they have been taught to expect would be sent from England by His Majesty expressly to see justice done.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Geo. F. Hill*.

No. 299.

—No. 299.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Geo. F. Hill*, Bart.  
to Mr. Under-Secretary *Lefevre*.

Sir, Trinidad, 24 July 1834.

THE special justices for carrying into effect the provisions of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, and Order in Council of 5 June 1834, not having arrived at this Colony, I have made the best arrangements that my judgment suggested to me for carrying those enactments into effect, without the immediate aid of the special justices from home.

In the report of the Governor and Council of Government upon the model Guiana ordinance, transmitted in my Despatch of 6th April, it was recommended that Trinidad should be divided into five districts, and that there should be nine police stations, with one special justice at each station.

Upon re-consideration, however, it has been deemed essentially necessary to divide the Island into nine districts, which has accordingly been done by proclamation, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

In each of the eight country districts I have selected the most respectable inhabitants residing in a central situation, to be the acting superintendent special justice until the arrival of the functionaries from England. Under these eight gentlemen I have appointed 92 special justices.

One other acting superintendent special justice and a due proportion of special justices have been appointed for the Port of Spain district.

This large number of special justices is required on account of the extent of the Island, and the necessity of dividing the duty as much as possible, so that no gentleman should be called upon for an unreasonable sacrifice of the time usually devoted to his own avocations.

I transmit a copy of the letter of instruction addressed to the acting superintending special justices, to the special justices and to commandants of quarters.

The form of commission adopted was that of which I had the honour to transmit a copy in my Despatch of the 20th instant.

You shall have a detailed report by the next packet of all proceedings here at this important crisis.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *G. F. Hill*.

## Enclosures in No. 299.

Trinidad.

No. 1.

(L. S.)  
G. F. Hill.By His Excellency the Right hon. Sir *George Fitzgerald Hill*, Baronet,  
Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief, &c. &c. &c.Enclosures in  
No. 299.

## A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS by the Order of His Majesty in Council, bearing date the 5th day of June, 1834, it is amongst other things provided, that the Colony of Trinidad should be divided into judicial districts, and that the Lieutenant-Governor should by proclamation define the limits of such districts: Now, therefore, I do hereby order and proclaim as follows; that is to say, That for the purposes of the said Order of His Majesty in Council, the Island of Trinidad shall be divided into nine judicial districts:

That the first district shall be called the Port of Spain District, and shall comprise the town of Port of Spain, and the quarters of St. Ann's, Maraval, Mucurapo, and Tragarete:

That the second district shall be called the Western District, and comprise the quarters of Diego Martin, Carenage, and Cuesa, Chaguaramas and Bocas:

That the third district shall be called the St. Joseph's District, and comprise the quarters of La Ventille, Cimaronero, Aricagua, the town of San Juan, the quarters of Santa Cruz, Las Cuevas and Maracas, Maracas Valley, St. Joseph, and the town of St. Joseph:

That the fourth district shall be called the Tacarigua District, and shall comprise the quarters of Caroni, Tacarigua, and Arauca, Guanapo, Oropouche and Aripo:

That the fifth district shall be called the Eastern District, and comprise the quarters of Eastern Coast, Toco, Mayaro and Guayaguayare:

That the sixth district shall be called the Carapachaima District, and comprise the quarters of Chaguana, Carapachaima, Savanetta:

That the seventh district shall be called the District of North Naparima, and comprise the quarters of Point-à-Pierre, North Naparima, Savana Grande, the town of San Fernando, and the quarter of Moruga:

That the eighth district shall be called the South Naparima District, and comprise the quarters of South Naparima and Oropouche:

That the ninth district shall be called the Southern District, and comprise the quarters of La Brea, Guapo, Irois, Cedros, Hicacos and Erin.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the Island, at Government House, in the town of Port of Spain, this 22d day of July 1834.

By his Excellency's command,  
*Philip D. Souper*,  
Colonial Secretary.

No. 2.

Sir,

Colonial Secretary's Office, 22 July 1834.

I AM directed by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to forward to you your commission as acting superintending special justice of the — district; at the same time I also enclose a copy of his Excellency's proclamation, dated this day, from which you will learn the limits of the district placed under your superintendence, and a copy of the Order in Council of the 5th of June 1834, by which you will be apprized of the general nature of the duties of the office to which you have been appointed.

His Excellency has also directed me to forward to you the commissions of the several special justices who have been appointed in your district, and the letter of instructions to them, a copy of which you will also find enclosed. It is his Excellency's desire that you should forthwith deliver these commissions to the several special justices, at the same time administering to them the oath, of which a form is also forwarded.

A letter has been addressed by his Excellency's directions, to the several commandants of the quarters comprised in the district placed under your superintendence, of which a copy is herewith enclosed. It is his Excellency's request and direction, that you will proceed to swear in as constables as many of the persons mentioned in the lists, which will be furnished to you by the commandants as you may think necessary and proper to enable the special justices to carry into effect the laws respecting apprenticed labourers, with a due regard to the peace and tranquillity of the community.

The form of oath to be administered to them will be in the form herewith enclosed.

You are also requested to cause proper information to be given you respecting the places of confinement now existing within the district placed under your superintendence, and to license such places of safe custody and correction, situated at convenient distances therein as you may think needful, observing that no such license is to be given without a medical certificate of its being a proper and wholesome place for the purpose required.

To acting superintending Special Justice  
for ——— District.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Philip D. Souper*,  
Col<sup>l</sup> Secy.

TRINIDAD.

No. 3.

Circular to Special Justice.

Sir, Colonial Secretary's Office, 22 July 1834.  
 His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor has directed me to forward to you, through the acting superintendent special justice of the — district, a commission, appointing you a special justice of that district, together with a copy of the proclamation by which the limits of the several districts are determined, and of the Order of His Majesty in Council, of the 5th June 1834, by which the general nature of your duties, as a special justice, are specified and defined.

I have, &c.  
 (signed) P. D. Souper,  
 Col<sup>l</sup> Secy.

(Circular.)

No. 4.

Sir, Colonial Secretary's Office, 22 July 1834.  
 I AM directed by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to request that you will, without delay, make out a list of every individual in the quarter of — who may be fit and competent to perform the duties of constables, after the 1st of August, and to include therein such of the slaves who will on that day become apprentices, as may be specially recommended by their employers as intelligent and trustworthy subjects, likely to render themselves useful in that capacity. And his Excellency has further directed me to request that this list may be forwarded, as speedily as possible, to Mr. — who has been appointed by his Excellency, the acting superintendent special justice in the — district, in which the quarter of — is comprised.

You will be pleased to understand that the appointment of these constables is not intended to supersede the regular police force to be appointed by his Excellency, but that their duty will be to obey the orders of the special justices (who are to carry the provisions of the Order in Council relating to apprenticed labourers into effect,) in the neighbourhood of the several estates in which these constables may be resident.

I have, &c.  
 To the Commandant of — (signed) P. D. Souper,  
 The Quarter of — Col<sup>l</sup> Secy.

No. 300.

— No. 300. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.

Sir, Downing-street, 5 Sept. 1834.  
 I HAVE had under my consideration your Letter of the 24th of July last, addressed to Mr. Lefevre, and your Despatch of the 20th of July, and I feel every disposition to place confidence in the arrangements which your local knowledge has induced you to make, for carrying into effect the provisions of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, in consequence of the stipendiary magistrates not having arrived in the Colony.

I trust that proper care has been taken in the selection of the 92 magistrates who have been appointed to perform their duties in their absence, as well as in the superintendence to be exercised by yourself over their proceedings, to prevent any evil effects arising from local bias or personal interest.

As the whole number of special magistrates for Trinidad have been some time since appointed, I trust that they will have arrived and entered on their duties shortly after the date of your Despatch.

I have, &c.  
 (signed) T. Spring Rice.

No. 301.

— No. 301. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *George F. Hill*, Bart., to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir, Trinidad, 7 August 1834.  
 I AVAIL myself of the opportunity afforded this day by the departure for England of a merchant ship, to report to you the occurrences that have taken place in this Colony since the 1st of August.

A strike from work on many of the estates having been expected, I issued a proclamation on the 11th July, explaining to the apprentices the principal features of the

the change that was about to be made in their condition, of which proclamation I had the honour to transmit copies to you in my Despatch of the 20th ultimo.

Shortly after the promulgation of that proclamation, I visited in person that part of the Island where the apprentices are most numerous; and I made similar explanations to them in person, as reported in my Despatch of the 30th ultimo.

From the spirit of discontent which I then witnessed, I saw that it was necessary to take every precaution for preserving the peace of the country; and I did so by completing the equipment in arms and accoutrements of the country militia, and where there was no militia, by distributing arms to the respectable and well-disposed inhabitants.

Up to the 31st of July, the apprentices universally remained steady at their work; but large bodies of them left the estates on the night of that day, and flocked into town, when they repaired to Government House, and awaited my arrival in the morning.

I lost no time in meeting them at Government House, and summoned Mr. M'Kenzie and Captain Hay (the latter of whom had that moment arrived from England); and after presenting these gentlemen to the apprentices as being sent by His Majesty to superintend the execution of the law, I again explained to them in minute detail the nature of their actual situation, and exhorted them to return to their respective properties.

The two special justices referred to, then addressed them to the same effect, but they one and all refused positively to return to their work.

The whole day having thus been spent in explanation and exhortation, and night being near at hand, the special justices next notified the crowd that they were required to disperse; but the signal directed by the Order in Council of the 5th June 1834, cap. 7, sec. 1, having been made, and not the slightest attention paid to it, the police proceeded to take some of the most prominent characters into custody, and they were committed to prison.

From the large numbers who remained in the town, which numbers were constantly increasing by fresh arrivals from the country, it was thought prudent to establish strong guards of the militia in several parts of it.

The night passed off quietly; but on the following day hundreds of apprentices again assembled before Government House.

The justices proceeded in the trial of those who had been apprehended the preceding day, and the police continued to arrest the most turbulent and noisy of those who continued to congregate in the streets; but as these proceedings did not appear to produce the slightest effect, and the day being again nearly spent, the justices displayed the signal, and required the crowd to disperse, but without any attention being paid to them.

The militia were directed to clear the streets, which was effected without accident.

The inhabitants becoming alarmed at the determination evinced by the apprentices, and the total disregard by them of the requisitions and exhortations of the constituted authorities, sent numerous and respectable deputations to me, imploring that martial law might be proclaimed, as the only means of ensuring the security of life and property, and of compelling the apprentices to return to their duty.

I assembled the Council of Government, laid before them the state of the country, and the applications made to me for the proclamation of martial law. I found several of the members deeply impressed with the absolute necessity of resorting to that measure: others were opposed to it; and having announced my own determination under no present circumstances to have recourse to it, the Board were unanimous in the necessity of applying to the commander of the forces at Barbadoes for a reinforcement to the garrison of 200 men, and to the senior naval officer for a vessel of war.

It was also deemed to be a necessary example, that some of the most refractory apprentices who had persevered in exhibiting themselves prominently in the tumultuous assemblages, and had been sentenced by the special justices to corporal punishment, should receive it in the most public manner; in consequence, on Tuesday, the 5th instant, twenty-three apprentices received from fifteen to thirty-nine stripes each in the public square.

This measure produced an immediate effect. The apprentices dispersed, and many of them returned to the estates; and although several gangs subsequently came into town, they immediately returned.

By the exertions of the special justices in the country, who had been appointed  
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TRINIDAD.

by me in the absence of the special justices from England, order has been partially restored in many of the districts; but several were, by the last accounts received, still in a state of considerable insubordination; and although I not only hope, but feel confident, that by steady perseverance the law will be found sufficient to restore order, it is very perceptible that the negroes are sullen and discontented, and have only returned to their work because they have found that they would be compelled to do so.

They say they cannot comprehend that the King would call them "free," and yet compel them to work for any portion of time for their former owners; that they require no "apprenticeship," knowing their business perfectly at present; that if the King only intended to make them free at the expiration of six years, he would have done much better to have said nothing about it until the expiration of that time, and then to have declared them free at once.

They observed, that the slaves who had been condemned by the Court of Vice-Admiralty, and who were not such good subjects as themselves, were freed unconditionally; and they also pointed out that the gang of Government negroes had received a similar boon, and they could not comprehend why they were not to enjoy a like advantage.

It is evident from all this that mischievous agency has been employed. These arguments are used by the negroes in all parts of the Island, although there is but little communication between different districts of it.

The utmost pains have been taken to explain the several circumstances which they adduce in favour of their right or expectation of immediate freedom, and to remove from their minds the error under which they labour.

In the formation of the police, to aid the special justices, I have employed a considerable number of the disbanded men of the 3d West India regiment.

Captain Hay and Mr. M'Kenzie are the only special justices who have arrived from England.

The vessel which is to convey this Despatch is under weigh; I must therefore apologize for the haste in which it is written.

I have, &c.

(signed)

George F. Hill.

No. 302.

— No. 302. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Lieut.-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart., dated Downing-street, 30th September 1834.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 7th of August, giving an account of the events which have occurred in Trinidad subsequent to the 1st of that month.

I have laid your Despatch before the King, and am honoured by His Majesty's command to convey to you His Majesty's entire approval of the firm yet prudent course you have pursued in the exigency of affairs which has arisen within your government. The precautionary measures adopted under your authority have been such as the nature of the case pointed out as being the most expedient; and whilst His Majesty deeply regrets that any symptoms of insubordination and refusals to work should have manifested themselves, it is satisfactory to His Majesty to perceive that the decisive steps taken by you to enforce the law, to repress tumultuary meetings, and to punish delinquents, have been met by submission and obedience.

His Majesty also is pleased to approve of your conduct with respect to the applications made to you to proclaim martial law. At the period when that application was made, it does not appear that any acts of open violence had been committed; and whilst His Majesty is confident that you will not shrink from applying the most vigorous means for enforcing obedience to the laws, and defending the lives and properties of His Majesty's subjects if endangered, yet it is right that the resort to so extreme a remedy should be reserved for cases in which the necessity of such a measure is unquestionable.

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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— No. 303. —

TRINIDAD.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *George F. Hill*, Bart.  
to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

No. 303.

Sir,

Trinidad, 9th August 1834.

IN forwarding the duplicate of my Despatch of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that my intelligence this day from various quarters announces order to have been restored on many of the estates; and although there are still some refractory gangs, I have no reason to doubt their being speedily induced to return to their labour.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed)

*G. F. Hill*.

— No. 304. —

No. 304.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Lieutenant-Governor  
Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.

Sir,

Colonial Office, 10th October 1834.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 9th of August last; and I have sincere gratification in perceiving that you were enabled to report the restoration of order upon many estates, and your belief that the remaining refractory gangs will be speedily induced to return to their labour.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed)

*T. Spring Rice*.

— No. 305. —

No. 305.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *George F. Hill*, Bart.  
to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

Trinidad, 14th August 1834.

I HAVE the satisfaction to report that the apprentices throughout the Island with very few exceptions have returned to their work.

I feel assured that the civil power will be sufficient to preserve order.

I cannot avoid congratulating myself that I resisted the reiterated solicitations to proclaim martial law; a measure for the operation of which no defined provision is made or in reality comprehended. I am quite persuaded that scenes greatly to be deplored would have been the consequence of my compliance.

In dispensing with the permanent duty of the first division of the militia at their last parade, I addressed them in terms of approbation which they have well merited, of which I enclose a copy.

To guard against the events to be apprehended on and after the 1st of August in the most populous part of the Island, and with which at this season there is no communication from Port of Spain, but by water, I strengthened the important post of San Fernando, and with the consent of Lieutenant-Colonel Hardy, who commands the 19th regiment and the troops, I appointed Captain Burns of that regiment to be the superintending justice of that district, with a local commission of colonel, to give him rank and command over the officers of the country militia.

I now testify to you with pleasure and confidence the activity and judgment which he displayed in the North Naparima, South Naparima and the southern districts during the first days of this month, have contributed mainly to the speedy suppression of disorder in that extensive and important part of this Colony.

With a view to ensure to the apprentices throughout the Island the benefit of the superintendence of the two stipendiary justices who have arrived, I have divided the Colony into two grand divisions, and have issued a commission to Captain Hay, appointing him chief superintending special justice for the purposes expressed in the 26th clause of the 2d chapter of the Order of His Majesty in Council of 5th June 1834, over districts comprising about one-half of the Island, those districts and his duties being described in his commission; and I have issued a similar commission to Mr. M'Kenzie for the other half.

With these and other arrangements I do not feel any apprehension of effectually carrying into execution the laws and regulations applicable to the employers and their apprentices until the other special justices should arrive.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed)

*G. F. Hill*.

TRINIDAD.

Enclosure in No. 305.

M. G. O.

Adjutant-General's Office, 11th August 1834.

Enclosure in  
No. 305.

His Excellency the Right honourable Sir *George Hill*, Baronet, Governor and Commander-in-Chief, after having reviewed the First Division of Militia Forces yesterday, in Marine-square, addressed them as follows :—

Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Privates of the Cavalry, Artillery, Royals and Loyals,

I ADDRESS you on this occasion with pleasure and with pride.

This gratifying field display of militia force naturally impels me, although briefly, to contrast its present state with that in which I found it when I assumed the Government of this beautiful and interesting Island.

I made early inquiry, after my arrival, into the organization, discipline, and *esprit du corps* existing amongst the several militia regiments, which proved such relaxation to be found in these particulars as to require immediate remedy, and that this constitutional defence and necessary arm of authority should be restored to its former efficiency. I sought and happily acquired the confidence of many of the officers, and soon learnt that no want of loyalty to the King, or zeal for the interest of the country, or of a gallant spirit to defend both, had produced this regretted alteration in the militia.

Measures were successfully taken to remove erroneous impressions insidiously made, and jealousies mischievously excited, which, with conciliatory explanation and advice carefully given, have restored harmony and confidence, and produced this united phalanx of all castes, colours, and classes, in friendly and determined co-operation to secure the peace and defend the law of the land.

Diligent parades were resumed, and discipline gradually restored, when a crisis arrived to try the efficiency of these regiments I have now the honour to address, and the sincerity of that kind feeling and mutual respect with which all classes had professed to intermix in the service of their king and country.

Towards and during the first days of this month the tranquillity of the Colony was threatened and alarm generally excited.

I was urged and strongly pressed to supersede the civil and resort to martial law. I answered "No; I have ordered out the militia; they have with alacrity obeyed the call, and by them I will preserve the authority of the civil magistrates and secure the peace."

My friends, you have enabled me to fulfil that engagement. Your guards, picquets, and patrols, with all their attendant duties, have been zealously performed, but with due obedience to command and friendly co-operation with each other.

Your firm appearance, your soldier-like deportment, gave assurance of security to every family in this metropolis of the Colony, and have fixed dismay deep in the heart of every seditious agitator, of whom I hope, nay I believe, there are not many; but if they were ten-fold in number, you have annihilated their power of doing mischief.

I delight further in stating, that not an act of insubordination or irregularity deserving even a reprimand has been reported to me.

In the name of your Sovereign and of your country, I return you thanks for valuable services so admirably well performed.

For myself personally, I assure you of my sincere gratitude. The cheerfulness with which you have attended to all my orders since I have had the honour of governing in this Colony has induced me to believe I possess your esteem and confidence.

I now offer to Colonel Bland, individually, the expression of my warm approbation of his conduct, and of the high estimation in which I hold the service he has rendered as commandant during the absence of General Peschier, who had been ordered to Carapichaima on special duty.

I shall for the present dispense with your permanent duty, and direct that you may recur to your monthly parades.

By command,

*Henry Graham*, Col., Dep. Adj. Gen.

No. 306.

— No. 306. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 8th October 1834.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 14th of August, and have submitted it to the King.

I am commanded by His Majesty to repeat to you his entire approbation of the firm and judicious course which you have pursued under circumstances of a very trying kind.

Cases too frequently arise in public affairs, in which measures prepared with care and prudence, may, from unexpected and disturbing causes, fail in their practical results, and may disappoint the full expectations of those who framed them. But in the mode in which you have acted in respect to the negro population of Trinidad

His

His Majesty is gratified to perceive that you have acted on sound principles, and that your measures appear to have been attended with the utmost success.

TRINIDAD.

To adopt the extreme remedies of coercion, and punishment in every state of things short of an extreme case of violence and of crime, is no less reprehensible than it is dangerous. A government in thus misapplying the means at its command, by such ill-judged anticipation, deprives those ultimate powers and sanctions of their full force and authority, when their application becomes absolutely necessary. Your wise reluctance to proclaim martial law on the late occasion cannot lead to the inference that you would hesitate in resorting to the strongest measures, if property and life were really endangered; a contingency, however, which from your report of the state of Trinidad, His Majesty sees no reason to apprehend.

His Majesty has felt further gratification in being informed that the conduct of the militia of the Island has given you satisfaction; and I have received His Majesty's gracious commands to direct you to communicate His approval to the officers and men of that corps. You will not fail to persevere in those praiseworthy exertions which His Majesty has already had occasion to notice, by which the militia of Trinidad has been improved in discipline and in efficiency.

The arrangements made by you with respect to the military and magisterial authorities, appear to His Majesty to have been judicious and practical, and are such as to meet His Majesty's approbation. His Majesty commands me further to state, that he relies upon the exertions of all classes of his subjects in Trinidad, for the purpose of carrying into full effect the laws now in force, in respect to the apprenticed labourers. To make those laws effectual, care must be taken that the mutual obligations created under their provisions, shall be strictly fulfilled; and that whilst the labour of the apprentice is secured for the benefit of his employer, so his rights must also be secured, and his legal claims must be attended to with the strictest fidelity and justice. To ensure the faithful application of those principles, the cordial and earnest co-operation of all classes is required; and His Majesty feels confidence that you will not fail to secure such effectual co-operation, by all the means within your power.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *T. Spring Rice.*

— No. 307. —

No. 307.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *George F. Hill*, Bart.  
to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

Trinidad, 26 August 1834.

I HAVE the honour and satisfaction of reporting to you the continued tranquillity of this Colony.

With reference, however, to the dispositions of the apprentices, they exhibit, on some estates, a sullen unwillingness to work, and perform their work slowly and badly.

I expect, and doubt not, a change very shortly in this conduct, towards cheerful compliance with their duty, for on many estates the tasks they have taken, in lieu of seven hours and a half labour, they complete before twelve o'clock, and hire themselves to work for good wages during their spare hours. Nay, one instance has been stated to me of an entire gang of apprentices of an estate, who, having finished their task, adjourned to the adjoining estate to work the remainder of the day, where they got a better price for their work than their owner had offered them.

The experience of money paid for spare time, will soon prove to them that the explanations given to them of this advantage were correct, which they did not at first credit, but of which the apprenticed population will soon generally avail themselves.

In consequence of a proposition made, and a resolution passed in Council on the 23d of June last, in reference to the necessity of engaging and preparing a police force, to be qualified to act on the 1st of August, and of which I enclose a copy, I am under the necessity of requesting to be instructed whether the whole or only a part of this expense is to be borne by Great Britain.

TRINIDAD.

The police houses, the stipendiary justices' residences, prisons and hospitals, will occasion additional expense, which the Council seem to expect from the debates and proceedings in Parliament, is to be made good to the Colony.

Whether to be supplied by the Mother Country or by the Colony, or in what proportions, I trust I need not assure you that every attention to economy shall be scrupulously observed.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *G. F. Hill.*

Enclosure in No. 307.

Enclosure in  
No. 307.

Council of Government, 23 June 1834.

HIS Excellency brought under the consideration of the Board the subject of the new police force, and observed, that although he presumed the magistrates would arrive from England before the 1st of August, it would be indispensable that a portion at least of the police should be organized, and in readiness to aid the magistrates in the execution of their duty. He suggested that a sufficient force of serjeants and privates ought to be in readiness, to render the powers vested in the special magistrates efficient; and he thought that a proportion of the men might be procured from the disbanded West India regiment. To supply the serjeants, he hoped and believed the members of the Board would be enabled, from their intercourse with the various classes of society, to recommend individuals who might be known to them in point of character and qualification: in addition to good character, reading, writing and a capability of keeping accounts, must be required.

HIS Excellency was of opinion, that those persons should be embodied and disciplined for some time previous to their being separated and located in the respective districts, and therefore that it would be desirable to engage them as soon as possible. But his Excellency observed, that as a matter of course their pay must commence from the day they may be engaged, and that as he had not yet received instructions from His Majesty's Government from what fund this expense is to be supplied, he has deemed it not only advisable, but absolutely necessary to apply to the Council of Government to sanction the expenditure which will attend this proceeding, by an advance out of the Colonial funds, between this period and the 1st of August next, by which time, he had no doubt, he would be in receipt of explicit instructions upon the subject.

After a detailed explanation of the importance of the measure, and a full discussion on the proposition made by his Excellency, the Board came to the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Board of Council, that it is imperatively necessary that immediate measures should be adopted for providing a police force in the several divisions and districts into which the Colony may be divided, so that the same may be made effective, and be ready to enter on the discharge of their duties on or before the 1st of August next; and that for this purpose it will be requisite that a number, not exceeding ten proper persons, should be forthwith engaged to act as serjeants of police, the pay not exceeding 4s. 4d. sterling per diem to each; and a number, not exceeding ninety, as privates of police, at the pay of 2s. 2d. sterling per day to each; and that all such persons to be engaged, either as serjeants or privates, should be armed and accoutred in such manner as his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor may direct. And that all such persons should be forthwith employed in such exercises as may best fit them to discharge the duties which they will have to perform on the 1st of August next, at such place and under such regulations and directions, as his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor shall think proper; and further, that the expenses to be incurred in carrying these measures into effect between this and the 1st of August, should, in consideration of the pressing necessity of having this force in readiness, and in the absence of any specific instructions to the Governor, be advanced by the Colonial Treasury, under the confident expectation that they will be repaid by His Majesty's Government, according to the 5th resolution of both Houses of the British Parliament.

No. 308.

—No. 308.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, to Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.

Sir,

Colonial Office, 9 October 1834.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 26th of August, announcing the continued tranquillity of the Island of Trinidad, which, it is gratifying to think, may, in a very considerable degree, be attributed to the firm but prudent measures adopted by you; and respecting which it has already been my duty to convey to you His Majesty's gracious and marked approbation.

Whilst I cannot but regret that on any estates there should continue a sullen unwillingness to work, on the part of the apprenticed labourers, I feel every reasonable hope that the progress of those natural causes, which you so clearly and ably describe,

describe, will very soon lead to a development of a better feeling. The introduction of task work, contracted for on just and equitable terms, the application of the leisure hours of the labourers to work for money wages, cannot fail to impress upon the apprentices the value of industrious habits; and it may be anticipated, that under the operation of such a system, the productive industry of the Colony, and its wealth and resources, will suffer no diminution. I feel particularly gratified at the account you give me of the system of labour which is in progress; because it not only proves the good conduct of the labourer, but the humanity, prudence and discretion, with which the owners of those estates, to which your observations apply, are disposed to adapt their operations to the altered state of the law.

No engagement had been entered into, either by this office or by the British Legislature, with respect to police or gaol expenses. The payment of the stipendiary magistrates was alone provided for. It is true, that in the first proposition made by my predecessor, some assistance to the local police was involved. But when the proposed loan of 15,000,000 *l.* was converted into an absolute gift of 20,000,000 *l.* the other obligations of this country were limited and defined strictly as I have stated.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. Spring Rice.*

TRINIDAD.

— No. 309.—

No. 309.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *George F. Hill*, Bart.  
to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

Trinidad, 26 August 1834.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for His Majesty's approval, two rules passed by the Lieutenant-Governor and Council of Government of this Island, under the Order of His Majesty in Council, of 5 June 1834; viz.

Rule for fixing the time to be allowed to apprenticed labourers, for the cultivation of their grounds, and for apportioning their hours of labour.

Rule to authorize the special justices to decide in a summary manner, in cases of complaints for non-performance or mis-performance of work by apprenticed labourers.

I have, &c.

(signed) *G. F. Hill.*

No. 1.

No. 2.

Enclosures in No. 309.

Enclosures in  
No. 309.

TRINIDAD.

No. 1.

RULES and REGULATIONS framed and established by his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, in pursuance of the powers vested in them by the Order of His Majesty in Council of the fifth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, for fixing the time to be allowed to apprenticed Labourers for the cultivation of their grounds, and for apportioning their hours of labour.

(L. s.) *G. F. Hill.*

WHEREAS by an Order of His Majesty in Council, bearing date the 5th day of June 1834, it was, amongst other things, ordered and provided, That it should be the duty of every employer of prædial apprenticed labourers, within the third week of the month of September of each year, to deliver or cause to be delivered to the special justice of the district in which such prædial apprenticed labourers are resident, a written declaration, specifying whether it is the intention of such employer, during the current year, to maintain his prædial apprenticed labourers by the cultivation of grounds to be to them appropriated for that purpose, or by an allowance of provisions; and also, that every prædial apprenticed labourer for or in respect of whom any ground should be appropriated and set apart for his support as therein mentioned, should, out of the annual time during which such prædial apprenticed labourer is by law required to labour after the rate of 45 hours per week as aforesaid, be allowed such number of hours not being fewer than four hours and a half per week, and not being more than seven hours and a half per week, as the Lieutenant-Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, should, by rules to be framed for that purpose determine, which rules should be duly transmitted for His Majesty's approbation, and, until disallowed or altered, should remain in full force.

And whereas by the said Order of His Majesty in Council, it is further provided, that as regards the apportionment of the 45 hours per week, during which prædial apprenticed labourers are required by law to work for their employers, it should be lawful for the

Lieutenant-

## TRINIDAD.

Lieutenant-Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, to make such regulations in respect thereof as might appear to them best adapted to promote the interests both of the apprenticed labourers and their employers, and to frame and publish rules and ordinances for that purpose, which should be duly transmitted for His Majesty's approbation, and which, until disallowed or altered, should remain in full force.

Now therefore I, the Right honourable Sir George Fitzgerald Hill, baronet, colonel of the Londonderry regiment of militia, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the said Island and its Dependencies, by and with the advice and consent of the Council of Government thereof, have made and established, for the purposes aforesaid, the rules and regulations following; that is to say,—

First.—That from and after the 15th day of September next ensuing, every prædial apprenticed labourer who, under the provisions of the said recited Order in Council, is to be supported wholly by the cultivation of land, shall be allowed, from and out of the time of 45 hours allotted to his employer, a portion of time for the cultivation thereof equivalent to four and a half hours per week, and such portion of time shall be allowed to each prædial apprenticed labourer either on any day or days in any one week, or by any number of days successively, at such period of the year as such employer may select: Provided always, That such number of hours so allowed to the prædial apprenticed labourer shall not at any time exceed 18 hours per week, unless with the consent of the prædial apprenticed labourer.

Second.—Every prædial apprenticed labourer who shall be maintained partly by an allowance of provisions and partly by an allotment of land, shall in each and every week receive from his employer three and a half pounds of dried salt or pickled fish, and shall have allotted to him a portion of land in all respects similar to that allotted to labourers wholly supported by such allotment; that is to say, One half acre of land, properly adapted for the growth of provisions, and not more than two miles distant from the place of residence of such apprenticed labourer, and shall be allowed for the cultivation thereof one half of the time allowed to labourers wholly supported by the allotment of land; that is to say, four and a half hours in each fortnight to be allowed by the employer in the same manner and under the like restrictions.

Third.—No prædial apprenticed labourer can be compelled to labour for his employer for more than 45 hours in any one week, equal to seven hours and a half per day, exclusive of Sundays.

Fourth.—The time at which the labour of the prædial apprenticed labourers is required, and the intervals to be allowed in its performance, shall be in the discretion of the employer, subject to the following regulations:—

That no apprenticed labourer shall be employed for more than 12 hours in any one day, to be reckoned from six o'clock in the morning to six o'clock in the following morning.

That proper intervals from labour of sufficient duration be allowed for the labourers' meals, and if any dispute should arise with respect to this regulation, the same may be decided by the special justice in a summary manner.

That the master or employer shall be bound to give previous intimation to the apprenticed labourer of the time and place at which and where his services will be required, and the number of hours during which his services will be required, on the following day, and of the intervals to be allowed for his meals.

That the employer shall also, by some signal to be distinctly audible or visible to the labourer, and explained to and understood by him or her, intimate the time of beginning and ending of the hours of labour and of the intervals to be allowed for meals.

That no prædial apprenticed labourer shall be compelled or compellable to labour on Sundays, except attending on the sick or as watchman, or in the tending and care of cattle or in the protection of property, or in duties of absolute necessity.

Passed in Council this 31st day of July 1834.

*Philip D. Souper*, Colonial Secretary.

## TRINIDAD.

## No. 2.

RULES and REGULATIONS framed and established by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, in pursuance of the authority vested in them by the Order of His Majesty in Council of the 5th of June 1834, for the procedure of special Justices in cases of complaints for non-performance or mis-performance of work by apprenticed Labourers.

(L. s.) *G. F. Hill*.

WHEREAS by the Order of His Majesty in Council, bearing date the 5th day of June 1834, certain provisions are made for regulating the procedure of the special justices therein named; and it is also thereby enacted and provided, that if it should be made to appear to the satisfaction of the Lieutenant-Governor and Legislative Council that the forms of proceeding hereinbefore prescribed, are needlessly burthensome upon the justices of the several districts within the Colony, or of any one or more of such districts, or that they impede or interfere with the prompt and effective execution of the law, the Lieutenant-Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, should be entitled to suspend any part of the preceding Rules relating to such procedure, or to adapt the same to the circumstances of

of the case, so as more effectually to promote the punctual, orderly and effective execution of the law, and, for that purpose, to frame and publish rules and ordinances, which should be transmitted for His Majesty's confirmation, and which, until disallowed, should be in full force.

And whereas it has been made to appear, to the satisfaction of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and the Council of Government of the said Island, that the forms of procedure prescribed by the said Order in Council will, in the cases hereinafter mentioned, be needlessly burthensome upon the justices in the several districts: Now therefore I, the Right honourable Sir George Fitzgerald Hill, baronet, colonel of the Londonderry regiment of militia, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the said Island and its Dependencies, by and with the advice and consent of the Council of Government of the said Island, have made and established the following Rules for regulating the procedure of the special justices in the said Order in Council mentioned, in the cases hereinafter mentioned; that is to say,

The special justices shall and may hear and determine in a summary manner all complaints of indolence and neglect of, or of the non-performance or imperfect performance of work by apprentices: in all such cases it shall be sufficient for him to examine the parties and the witnesses, and when necessary the work to be performed in a short and summary manner, and thereupon to give his decision, and cause the same to be carried into immediate execution.

In all such cases the special justice shall be bound to reduce into writing and to deposit with the other records of proceedings before him, the particulars of the complaint and the substance of the evidence, and of his decision and of the execution thereof within as short a time as possible, and at furthest within three days after the same has been decided, and shall enter the particulars thereof in his journal.

Passed in Council this 31st day of July 1834.

*Philip D. Souper*, Colonial Secretary.

— No. 310. —

No. 310.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart. to  
Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

Trinidad, 3 September 1834.

THE reports made to me from most parts of this Colony announce a return to work by the apprentices, with contentment.

I enclose one of these reports from an intelligent gentleman, Mr. Schack, whom I had sent, as one of the appraisers, to the south-west coast, Cedros and Irois.

My expectation is, that in a short time all the labour will be performed by task, and the apprentices will have many extra hours to dispose of for wages.

I have, &c.

(signed) *G. F. Hill*.

Enclosure in No. 310.

Enclosure in  
No. 310.

Sir,

Port of Spain, August 30th, 1834.

YOUR Excellency having been pleased to request that I should communicate in writing the condition in which I found the apprentices in the quarters which I recently had the honour to visit, I regret much that the very short stay made by me in each quarter will prevent my giving much information upon the subject.

Had I known that a report from me would have been matter of satisfaction, that stay, however short, would have been employed in making minute inquiry, so as to afford your Excellency more ample information than I am at present able to offer.

Such intelligence as I have acquired I now proceed to convey, it being no less my duty than it is gratifying to my feelings to meet your Excellency's wishes.

I left the town of Port of Spain, for the purpose of classing the apprentices of my district, in the evening of the 13th instant, landed at Irod at six o'clock in the morning of the 14th, and, after traversing the woods, reached the cane fields of the Chatham estate, in the quarter of Erin, at a few minutes after 10, when I saw the apprentices of that estate advancing towards their habitations. I inquired if they were going to their breakfast, and was informed that they had finished their task, and were then returning home to do whatever they pleased.

Of the correctness of this answer I am convinced, because I remained on the estate during the remainder of that day, and no more work was done. In addition to this, when I proposed that the apprentices should be assembled for the purpose of classification, the manager replied that he could not answer for the presence of the whole gang, as many had gone to their provision grounds, and others were off the estate to procure from their neighbours some articles they required.



## TRINIDAD.

The next day I left the Chatham estate, and repaired to the quarter of Moruga, after classing the apprentices, Mr. Lumis, the commandant, requested that I would interpret and explain to them the Act of Parliament, as he had not yet received a copy; this I did in the Negro French dialect; after which they asked me various questions, in order that no misunderstanding might exist. I answered them, and they retired apparently well satisfied. In the evening they gave a grand Bel-Air Dance, to testify their joy upon the occasion, and the commandant, to assist them, gave a portion of his household provisions.

The only part which failed to please them was, that they would have to work on the Saturday, if they did not perform more than  $7\frac{1}{2}$  hours work on the other days of the week; however I told them that they might agree with their employers before a special justice to undertake task work, or probably arrange with him to labour nine hours a day during five days of the week.

I then left Moruga and proceeded to Cedros, where the apprentices appeared satisfied. On the Union Estate, the property of Messrs. Beque and Agarrat, they appeared content and happy; they have entered into an engagement with their employers, which I have read myself; I have heard it read to them, they understood it well, and it has been regularly executed.

The covenants are as follows:

1st. The apprentices are to do the same task work as heretofore, but only during five days of the week, the Saturday being allowed them throughout the year. The task being the weeding of 200 tufts of canes.

I have seen the apprentices return to their homes, after finishing the above task, between the hours of twelve and two o'clock, having commenced at about six in the morning.

2d. During the crop, the apprentices are to work also as heretofore; that is to say, they are to commence at about six o'clock in the morning, and furnish four or five coppers; this I am told does not occupy them after sunset.

3d. As the apprentices will be bound to work on the Saturday during the crop, the employers will pay them for that day at the following rate.

To cane cutters, persons employed about the mill, and crook boys, four bits each.

To the refiners, the captain of the crooks and the driver, five bits each.

Each person employed in cutting canes to deliver daily 20 mule loads, which the mule-boys are bound to carry to the mill.

4th. The employers will, in addition to all that is allowed *by law*, supply the apprentices with as much land as they can cultivate, and twice a year each apprentice will receive three pounds and a half of salt pork or beef, two pounds of tobacco and pipes.

5th. The apprentices will receive daily, out of crop, one glass of rum, and during crop, two glasses.

6th. The free children of the female apprentices on the estate will be maintained at the expense of the proprietors.

Several more of these engagements I have seen ready to be executed as soon as a magistrate visited the estates. Many of the proprietors informed me it was their intention to enter into similar arrangements, with which the apprentices were perfectly satisfied.

This, your Excellency, is all the information I can furnish; I did not seek for it, but it presented itself to me. Appearances are certainly favourable. Every thing seemed perfectly quiet, and that they may continue so, no one can more sincerely hope than

Sir, your Excellency's most obedient

To his Excellency Sir G. F. Hill,  
Lieut.-Governor, &c. &c. &c.

and very humble servant,

(signed) *Edward Schack.*

No. 311.

— No. 311. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to  
Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart. dated Colonial Office, 23 Oct. 1834.

I HAVE this day received your Despatch of the 3d of September.

I again resume the gratifying duty of expressing to you the extreme satisfaction which your reports of the tranquillity of Trinidad, and the industry of the labourer cannot fail to produce.

The system of task work, which you describe as extending in the Colony, is precisely the mode by which the new state of society may be rendered most advantageous and satisfactory to all parties; care being at all times taken that such contracts are equitable in themselves, and are carried steadily into effect.

No. 312.

— No. 312. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.  
to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, dated Trinidad, 3 January 1835.

I AM sure you will receive with satisfaction my report of the universal good conduct of the apprentices during the festivities of the holidays; in fact, all classes of society have enjoyed themselves with cheerfulness and good order.

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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— No. 313. —

TRINIDAD.

No. 313.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart. to the Right honourable the Earl of *Aberdeen*, dated Trinidad, 3 March 1835.

I HAVE been occupied in diligent inquiry, both by personal investigation, and queries and correspondence by letter, into the state and disposition to work of the apprenticed labourers, and with sincere pleasure I have the honour to assure your Lordship, that in all the districts, with very small exception, the apprentices give their labour, so far as the crop has hitherto proceeded, with cheerfulness, and to the satisfaction of the planters.

But this general disposition to work I must consider attributable to the wages paid for extra labour, although on a few estates the apprentices will not, for any hire, work beyond the Parliamentary hours.

I have not the least doubt in this matter that a favourable change will take place.

The disposition of the apprentices I attribute to the abolition of party spirit between the different classes, to the exposure of the mischievous efforts of a few agitators, and to the readiness with which I had every complaint heard, and when just, redressed.

— No. 314. —

No. 314.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Grant* to Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.

Sir,

Colonial Office, 28 April 1835.

I HAVE had great satisfaction in learning from the latter part of your Despatch of the 3d March, that the apprenticed labourers of the Colony under your Government were at that time working with cheerfulness, and exhibiting a disposition, from which you were led to believe that the few exceptions which now exist to the willingness of the apprentices to work for wages in extra time, would not be of long continuance.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *C. Grant*.

— No. 315. —

No. 315.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *George F. Hill*, Bart., to the Earl of *Aberdeen*.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 24 April 1835.

IN compliance with your Lordship's Despatch, dated the 16th ultimo, with the extract of an Order of the House of Commons, dated the 12th March instant, enclosed therein,—

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a statement of the corporal punishment inflicted on the apprenticed negroes between the 1st of August and 31st of December 1834, the latest period to which it can be made up.

I have deemed it prudent to distinguish the punishments inflicted in the month of August, from those during the remaining four months of the year.

Upon contrasting the punishments in the former period of one month (when every species of insidious misrepresentation was used by a few desperate characters to mislead the apprentices), with the latter period of four months, I am induced to anticipate that progressively the necessity of corporal punishment will almost entirely cease.

I feel the more encouraged to indulge this pleasing prospect, by the reports I constantly receive from the different estates; in almost all of them the proprietors have exerted themselves (and with much success) to induce the apprentices to employ their extra hours in their service for wages.

The regularity of payment, coupled with the friendly advice of the local special magistrates, have generally inspired the apprentices with confidence, and will eventually produce that respect towards their employers from kind feeling, which heretofore was the result of fear.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *G. F. Hill*.

TRINIDAD.

Enclosure in  
No. 315.

Enclosure in No. 315.

STATEMENT of CORPORAL PUNISHMENT inflicted on the APPRENTICED NEGROES in the Island of *Trinidad*, between the 1st day of August and 31st day of December 1834, as required by Resolution of the House of Commons.

DEGREE of PUNISHMENT.				Number of Persons Punished,	
				In August 1834.	Between the 1st September and 31st December 1834.
Stripes	39	-	-	77	4
"	34	-	-	1	—
"	30	-	-	49	92
"	29	-	-	1	—
"	25	-	-	18	17
"	24	-	-	1	—
"	22	-	-	3	—
"	20	-	-	14	42
"	19	-	-	1	1
"	17	-	-	2	—
"	16	-	-	1	—
"	15	-	-	125	90
"	12	-	-	3	4
"	10	-	-	4	4
"	9	-	-	1	2
"	7	-	-	-	1
"	6	-	-	-	2
				301	259

Trinidad, 24 April 1835.

(signed) *G. F. Hill.*

No. 316.

—No. 316.—

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart. to the Earl of *Aberdeen*, dated Trinidad, 22d May 1835.

AS I am aware of the anxiety of His Majesty's Government, to be occasionally informed of the conduct of the apprenticed labourers, I have felt it to be my duty to make strict inquiry from the special justices and intelligent persons in the different districts, in what manner labour is carried on, and with what degree of satisfaction to the planter and cheerfulness by the apprentices.

The sugar crop is now more than three-fourths finished; will produce (I expect) as much revenue as last year, and with general contentedness on the part of the apprentices.

I delight to remark that punishments have materially decreased; on some estates none have been inflicted since October last; and I entertain a strong belief that there is an advance towards a moral improvement, which, if carefully promoted, will realize the most sanguine hopes of the promoters of the important change effected on the 1st of August last.

After my next visit through the districts of the Colony, I will make a detailed Report on the condition of the population of the country.

No. 317.

—No. 317.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 15th June 1835.

WITH reference to my circular Despatch of this date, in which you are instructed to revoke the special commissions which have been issued to persons interested in apprentice labour or locally connected, I have to acquaint you, that in order to facilitate this measure and guard against immediate inconvenience, I shall take measures for sending out, with as little delay as possible, four additional paid magistrates, and I trust that the active and undivided exertions of this additional number of stipendiary

For Circular vide Second  
Part of Parliamentary  
Papers, No. 278. Page 8.

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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diary special magistrates will go far to compensate for the loss of services which must have been comparatively ineffective, owing to the time of the parties having been necessarily engrossed by their private occupations.

TRINIDAD.

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

— No. 318. —

No. 318.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-Governor  
Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 15th June 1835.

IN your Despatch of the 24th July 1834 addressed to Mr. Lefevre, you reported as follows:—

“In each of the eight country districts, I have selected the most respectable inhabitant residing in a central situation to be the acting superintendent special justice, until the arrival of the functionaries from England; under these eight gentlemen I have appointed 92 special justices.

“One other acting superintendent special justice and a due proportion of special justices have been appointed for the Port of Spain district.”

In the return which you have annexed to your Despatch of the 27th April, you state the number of unpaid special justices as 29.

I have to request that you will explain the cause of the difference between these two statements.

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

— No. 319. —

No. 319.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.  
to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 18th July 1835.

IN obedience to your Lordship's Despatch, dated 15th ultimo, which requests me to state the cause of the difference between two statements which I made, the *first* on the 24th July 1834, wherein I reported that I had appointed 92 special justices, and the *second* on the 27th of April 1835, in which was contained a return of *local* magistrates, who had been appointed special magistrates, amounting to twenty-nine. My Despatch of July 1834 stated the number of special justices I had then appointed, with my reasons in detail for having appointed so many.

The Return forwarded in my Despatch dated 27th of April was made in strict conformity with the Order of the House of Commons, which required a return of *local* magistrates who had been appointed special magistrates.

I confined that return strictly to the terms of the Order, which I have hitherto found to be the most correct and convenient mode of compliance.

But to prevent misapprehension, I introduced a paragraph into that Despatch in the following words: “exclusive of the local magistrates, (viz. commandants and adjoint commandants) who were appointed special, there were others also named who have acted,” alluding to those I had named in July 1834.

In conclusion of my Despatch of 27th April last, I state my intention of reducing the number of unpaid special magistrates to twenty-seven.

I trust this explanation may be satisfactory.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *G. F. Hill.*

— No. 320. —

No. 320.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-Governor  
Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3d August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 31st ultimo, declaring that adequate and satisfactory provision hath been made in the Colony of Trinidad for giving effect to an Act of Parliament made in the third and fourth year of His present Majesty for the Abolition of Slavery.

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

Return presented to  
Parliament and ordered  
to be Printed 24 July.  
Paper, No. 419.

Order in Council.  
31 July 1835.  
Printed in the  
Appendix (B.) No. 17.

## S T. L U C I A.

— No. 321. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Farquharson* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

St. Lucia, 2 August 1833.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 321.

*Vide* Papers printed  
by Parliament, 15  
April 1835, Part I.  
No. 177, p. 5.

I do myself the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your circular Despatch of the 13th June last, enclosing a copy of a series of Resolutions by the House of Commons on the subject of the Abolition of Slavery in the British Colonies, which came to hand on the 14th ultimo.

I have postponed acknowledging this Despatch till the day of the sailing of the packet, in order that I might be enabled to ascertain as far as possible, and report upon the feelings of all concerned in this important measure.

On the receipt of the Despatch mentioned I lost no time in transmitting to the Judges the extract therefrom in which they are principally concerned, and called upon them to “engage immediately in an inquiry by what enactments the existing law may be most conveniently adjusted to a state of society in which slavery will be unknown.”

All the proprietors and managers of slaves in this Colony appear to me extremely anxious to learn the ultimate decision of both Houses of Parliament upon this momentous measure, to the wisdom of which they appear calmly resigned, in consequence, as I presume, of the fairness of so much of the conditions as have already transpired, and as far as I have been able to collect their sentiments and to enter into their feelings, they seem apprehensive only that the apprentices will not give them a sufficient quantity of labour to enable them to bring their crops to market.

On the other hand, I am happy in having to state, that, generally speaking, the slaves in this Colony have shown no insubordinate disposition since His Majesty's gracious intentions towards them have become publicly known, although upon some of the estates an evident relaxation in their labour did manifest itself amongst a few of each gang; in consequence of which I sent the Protector of Slaves to admonish those persons, which service he readily performed, and found the circumstances of so trivial a nature as to require no specific report. Nevertheless, in order to induce the slaves to continue their labours uninterruptedly, I published a notice, of which a copy accompanies this, apprising them of the bad consequences likely to result to themselves from any insubordinate or indolent conduct on their part.

Notwithstanding that I do not apprehend any serious opposition to the measures of His Majesty's Government on the part of either proprietors or slaves, I shall hold in readiness every means at my disposal, and use every personal exertion in enforcing the laws and maintaining the tranquillity of the Colony.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *J. A. Farquharson*, M. Genl. Governor.

(Enclosure in No. 321.)

Government Notice.

Castries, 12 July 1833.

Enclosure in  
No. 321.

UNDER existing circumstances, the Governor considers it proper to direct, that all proprietors and managers of slaves throughout this Colony shall impress upon the minds of those under their superintendence, either immediately before or after prayers, once a week, for six weeks successively, that

The slaves will best deserve and ensure the favour of the mother country by a cheerful and peaceable submission to the existing laws, and by continuing to labour industriously for their employers and for themselves; and that by any manifestation of turbulence and disorder they may forfeit the advantages which His Majesty is anxious to confer upon them.

By his Excellency's command.

(signed)

*Geo. Lowen*, Col. Secy.

— No. 322. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Farquharson* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

St. Lucia, 24 October 1833.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging your circular Despatch of 5th September last, informing me that in your Circular of the 26th June preceding you had enclosed, for my information, copies of the Resolutions adopted by both Houses of Parliament on the subject of Colonial Slavery, (which I duly received,) and announcing the intention of His Majesty's Government to introduce a Bill into Parliament for the purpose of giving effect to those Resolutions; which design having been executed, I have now the honour of acknowledging receipt of 25 copies of the Statute which had passed into a law on the 28th August last, and, according to your desire, have caused them to be distributed among such of the principal inhabitants of this Colony as I consider most deeply interested in this subject.

I have also the honour of acknowledging the receipt of a Proclamation, approved by His Majesty in Council, upon the same subject, which I lost no time in causing to be promulgated for general information in the most public and authentic manner, and shall not fail to pay the utmost attention to all the suggestions contained in the circular Despatch now acknowledged.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *J. A. Farquharson*, M. G<sup>l</sup>. Governor.

No. 322.

*Vide Papers printed  
by Parliament, 15  
April 1835, Part I.  
No. 177, p. 8.*

— No. 323. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Farquharson* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

St. Lucia, 25 November 1833.

I HAVE had the honour to receive the Crown Circular of the 19th ultimo, which you have transmitted, accompanied by the draft of an Order in Council of the same date for the Colony of British Guiana, having for its object to bring into one view the various legislative measures which yet remain to be taken to carry into effect the Act for the Abolition of Slavery in the British Colonies.

In consequence I assembled a Legislative Council this day, and laid before the members the said document for their most serious and deliberate consideration.

After both had been perused, the members were unanimously of opinion that it would be desirable they should weigh the matter in their minds for a few days, and requested a delay for that purpose, which I considered reasonable, and therefore directed that the Assembly should be convened on Monday the 2d December next, when I am inclined to hope that the members will apply themselves to the consideration of this important subject in a spirit of frank and cordial co-operation with the views of His Majesty's Government, the result of which I shall do myself the honour of transmitting to you by the earliest opportunity.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *J. A. Farquharson*, M. G<sup>l</sup>. Governor.

No. 323.

*Vide Papers printed  
by Parliament, 15  
April 1835, Part I.  
No. 177, p. 11.*

— No. 324. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Farquharson* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

St. Lucia, 31 December 1833.

REFERRING to your Crown circular Despatch of the 19th October last, accompanied by the draft of an Order in Council of same date, for the Colony of British Guiana, having for its object to bring into one view the various legislative measures which yet remain to be taken to carry into effect the Act for the Abolition of Slavery in the British Colonies, and to my communication of 25th ultimo, in acknowledgment thereof, I have now the honour of transmitting to you herewith a Report from a Committee of the Legislative Council, giving their

No. 324.

ST. LUCIA. — their own and the opinions of the principal inhabitants touching the measures proposed, together with such extracts from the Minutes of the Legislative Council as regard this matter, whereby you will be pleased to perceive it has been unanimously resolved that such enactments should emanate from home, and that the same has been respectfully submitted to the discretion of His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. A. Farquharson*, M. G<sup>l</sup>. Governor.

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(Enclosure in No. 324.)

EXTRACT from the MINUTES of the Legislative Council of 2d December 1833.

Enclosure in  
No. 324.

HIS Excellency the Governor having then brought before the Council the subject of the Crown circular Despatch, dated Downing-street, 19th October 1833, his Honour the Chief Justice moved, that the circular Despatch and its printed Enclosure be referred to a committee of the unofficial members of the Council, to report as to the alterations or amendments in the proposed enactments which it may be desirable to adopt in St. Lucia, with liberty to advise with such of the inhabitants and planters as they may think fit to call to their assistance, which, having been seconded by the Honourable Villiers Surtees, was agreed to.

His Excellency the Governor was then pleased to name the unofficial members to form such committee, of whom any three to be a quorum, and requested them to present their report this day three weeks.

23 December 1833.

The Honourable James Macfarlane brought up the report of the committee of the Legislative Council, named by his Excellency the Governor at the last sitting, for the purpose of taking into consideration the draft Order in Council referred to in the circular Despatch of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 19th October last, and to report as to the alterations or amendments which it may be desirable to adopt in St. Lucia. His Excellency was pleased to order the report to be read. It was read accordingly, as follows. (See document (B.) annexed.)

His Honour the Chief Justice then moved, that the report be taken into consideration at the next meeting of Council, which was seconded by the Honourable S. Villiers Surtees, and agreed to.

30 Dec. 1833.

The report of the committee of the Legislative Council on the draft Ordinance referred to in the Crown circular Despatch of the 19th October last was then taken into consideration.

The Honourable Villiers Surtees moved the following resolution, seconded by his Honour the Chief Justice :

Resolved, That the committee of this Board, to whom it was referred to make a report on the subject of the legislative enactments for this Island rendered necessary by the Act of Parliament abolishing slavery, not having offered any suggestions on the intended plan or modifications of its provisions, this Board considers it expedient that such enactments should emanate from home, and respectfully submits the whole matter to the discretion of His Majesty's Government.

Which was agreed to, *nem. con.*

(Certified true extracts.)

(signed) *Geo. Lowen*, Col. Secy.

(B.)

St. Lucia, 23 Dec. 1833.

THE undersigned, members of the committee appointed by the Governor and Council to report as to the alterations or amendments which it might be desirable to adopt in St. Lucia in the draft Order in Council for British Guiana, referred to in the Crown circular Despatch of the 19th October 1833, having communicated with the planters, and having heard their observations and opinions thereon, have come to the following conclusion :

That as all legislation originating in the Colonies respecting the labourers is liable, in the present excited state of the British people, to be misconstrued or viewed with suspicion, the undersigned recommend that the legislative enactments for this Island should continue, as heretofore, to emanate from the mother country.

Such seems to be the wish of the inhabitants of this Colony, who appear prepared to give the enactments a fair and dispassionate trial; and in the event of such enactments not answering the expectations of the mother country, and occasioning the total loss of their property, they must throw themselves upon the mercy of the Imperial Parliament and British people for their support hereafter.

(signed) *Peter Muter.*  
*James Macfarlane.*  
*P. Smith.*  
*G. De Laubenque, fils.*

— No. 325. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Stanley* to the Officer administering the Government of *St. Lucia*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 22 May 1834.

No. 325.

SIR Dudley Hill, who will leave this country in a few days for *St. Lucia*, will take out with him an Order in Council for the Colony of *St. Lucia*, supplementary to the Act of the British Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery.

The intended provisions of this Order in Council are nearly the same as those which were contained in the model draft transmitted to your predecessor with my Despatch of the 19th October last, with the exception of a few modifications and alterations which have been introduced in consequence of the suggestions which I have received from some of the West India Colonies to which the same model draft was communicated.

Although I shall have an opportunity of giving full instructions to Sir D. Hill on this important subject, I think it right in the meantime to call your immediate attention to some points connected with the division of the Colony of *St. Lucia* into judicial districts, and with the establishment of a police, in order that you may, with the assistance of the Legislative Council, make some progress in the consideration of these preliminary measures before Sir D. Hill's arrival.

You are aware that the British Act for the Abolition of Slavery authorizes the appointment of special justices, but limits the number of those who are to receive the salaries granted by Parliament to 100. In the distribution of these stipendiary justices amongst the Colonies for whom they are intended, I find that I can only allot two for the Colony of *St. Lucia*. Although the Lieutenant-governor will be instructed to select from amongst the proprietors and others resident in the Colony a sufficient number of voluntary magistrates, and although I entertain no doubt of obtaining their assistance and co-operation, yet the principal share of the labour and superintendence must necessarily devolve upon the two who are remunerated for their services. It will, therefore, be desirable to divide the Colony of *St. Lucia* into two districts, placing one of them in the charge of each of the stipendiary magistrates. I think, however, from the size of the Colony and the difficulties of internal communication, that two police settlements will be necessary for each district. The stipendiary justice must of course reside at or near to one of these, which must be placed under his immediate charge. That at which he does not reside must be confided to one or more of the other special justices, subject to the general superintendence and frequent visitation of the stipendiary justice. As it will be impossible for some months to erect and complete the buildings necessary for police settlements, it is proposed that, as in most of the other Colonies, temporary arrangements should be made for the police, and for places of safe custody and correction, by hiring buildings which may be convenient for that purpose.

With regard to the police, I am disposed to consider it of much more importance that it should be composed of effective and competent persons, rather than that it should be numerous. Independent of the police necessary for the town of Castries, I should conceive that it would be sufficient to appoint seven or eight to each station, besides the serjeants. These, with the assistance of constables, whom it is proposed that the stipendiary magistrates should have the power of appointing from amongst the apprentices on the plantations, if necessary, will probably be found adequate for the enforcement of the law and the protection of property in ordinary cases.

I am well aware that the expenditure necessarily incidental to the formation and support of the police establishments will tend to increase the financial difficulties of the Colony of *St. Lucia*, and I regret that I cannot hold out any hope that these difficulties will be removed by pecuniary assistance from this country.

I can assure you, however, that it is my most anxious desire to afford to the Colony whatever relief can arise from the reduction of its expenditure to the furthest point which is attainable with a due regard to the performance of the public



ST. LUCIA. public services which are necessary for the welfare of the Colony. I fear, however, that I shall not be able to give any definitive instructions on the subject of the finances of St. Lucia until I have received the Blue Book for the year 1833.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. G. Stanley.*

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— No. 326. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Under-Secretary *Lefevre* to the Officer administering the Government of *St. Lucia*.

Downing-street, 7 June 1834.

No. 326.

Sir,  
IN the unavoidable absence of Mr. Secretary Spring Rice, I have the honour to transmit to you an Order which has been passed by His Majesty in Council “for giving effect in the Island of St. Lucia to the Statute 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 73, for the Abolition of Slavery.”

I am, &c.  
(signed) *John Lefevre.*

Order in Council,  
5 June 1834;  
printed in the Appendix (B.) No. 56.

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— No. 327. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-governor Sir *Dudley Hill* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir, Government House, St. Lucia, 1 August 1834.

No. 327.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that I arrived here on the 12th of last month, and having first, with the usual formalities, been sworn into office on that day, assumed the government of the Colony.

Having learned that much anxious doubt existed in the minds of the proprietary body on the probability of their labourers continuing subordinate under the great change in their social condition which takes effect from this day, I judged it expedient to issue the enclosed Proclamation, marked No. 3, for the purpose of not only imparting confidence to holders of property, but also of apprizing the negroes that without loss of time they should from my own lips receive an authentic account of the nature and extent of the privileges for which they were looking, naturally enough, with the most intense interest; and I was of opinion that a personal communication with them, deriving efficacy from those full and repeated explanations of which an oral address admits, would be the most successful mode of satisfying their expectations; and accordingly my intention to visit them was announced in the above-mentioned Proclamation, which I have now the honour to transmit.

The proper order of the narrative of my proceedings since my arrival should lead me to mention to you here the various transactions in Council with which I was constantly occupied in the interval between the publication of the document and the fulfilment of the promise it contained to make a tour through the Island. Yet, knowing that the conduct of the labouring population at the moment of transition from slavery to freedom is a subject on which the attention of His Majesty's Government is fixed with deep anxiety, I hasten with the most heartfelt satisfaction to express my conviction that the visit has realized the views which urged me to undertake it, and that the most favourable anticipations may be indulged respecting the continuance of tranquil and orderly behaviour on the part of the negroes of this Island.

As the substance of my address to them appears to be correctly reported in the Island papers, I beg leave to forward one for your perusal; and I have only to add, that in the several districts of the Colony I had much reason to be satisfied with the manner in which it was received by all parties.

I have the honour also to forward two other Proclamations, which were made public at the time of my Address. The one marked No. 5 holds out pardon to absentees from the service of their masters, provided they return to their duty immediately, and warns them against incurring the prolonged term of apprenticeship to which their absence will subject them.

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The other, marked No. 4, sets apart this day as sacred to the religious acknowledgment of the boon of freedom. The contents of both these Proclamations were hailed by the people with lively satisfaction and becoming feeling, and I trust they may also meet the honour of your approval.

I did not fail to avail myself of this opportunity minutely to inspect the whole of the militia, and I have used my best exertions to infuse a zealous spirit into both officers and men, and I am not without a sanguine hope that I shall shortly be able to place this force in a more respectable and efficient state than it is in at present.

I have already made application to Barbadoes for a partial supply of arms and accoutrements, of which they stand much in need, as also of clothing.

I now beg leave to advert to the proceedings of the Council, and to state that I have been under the necessity of making all the arrangements for the new system with more haste than I could have wished, but at the same time with a confident hope that they are the best of which existing circumstances and the urgency of the case would permit.

No stipendiary magistrates having arrived, I have named three gentlemen of the Colony to fill provisionally those offices, receiving the emoluments attached to them, and have also prevailed upon three others to accept the situation of voluntary magistrates under the superintendence of the stipendiaries.

I found it impossible, with any regard to the safe operation of the Act of Parliament, to divide the Colony into fewer than three districts, with three police stations in each district.

I have also the honour to state to you that these police stations are for the present to be occupied by men selected from the militia, for not only have I wanted time to organize the new police, but I have had to contend against a repugnance to enter into that service in consequence of the disrepute into which the ordinary police of the country seems to have fallen.

The present temporary police whom I have appointed consist of nine sergeants and 45 privates; and it may be as well to remark that their duties have been clearly defined to them as being of a civil and not of a military kind, and strictly confined to the description set forth in the King's Order in Council of 5th June last, and to the directions which, in pursuance of that Order, may be issued to them by the stipendiary magistrate.

To the Order in Council every publicity has been given, and all magistrates have been furnished with copies.

I have been under the necessity of detaining the mail-boat somewhat beyond her usual time of sailing, in order to send this Despatch, which, though hastily written, will I trust be acceptable to you as containing an assurance of the undisturbed tranquillity of the Island at this important crisis; and for any omissions in this communication, I must plead my very recent return from the country, the very great and harassing labour that has devolved upon me in consequence of the total absence, prior to my arrival, of any settled arrangements under the new system, and my actual employment in ushering in this day with the honours appropriate to the happy change of which it is the memorable epoch.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Dudley Hill*, Lieut.-governor.

Enclosure 1, in No. 327.

St. Lucia.—(No. 3.)

PROCLAMATION by his Excellency Sir *Dudley St. Leger Hill*, Knight, &c. &c. &c.

His Majesty having been graciously pleased to appoint me to the distinguished situation of Lieutenant-governor of this Island, I embrace the earliest opportunity which has occurred since my arrival to announce my deep conviction that there can be no pursuit more closely connected with my public duty, and I will add, nor any more consonant to my own individual feelings, than that of devoting my best exertions to the promotion and security of peace, good order and happiness amongst all classes of His Majesty's subjects in this Island; and, fully sensible of the vital importance of obtaining the effectual aid of all parties to render the operation of the Act for the extinction of slavery beneficial to the proprietors and advantageous to the apprenticed labourers, it is my intention, in furtherance of this important object, to visit the several districts of the Colony at the earliest period at which the public service may permit of an absence from the seat of government, and then personally

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personally to give an assurance of my firm determination to vindicate, on every occasion, the supremacy of the law over us all, without distinction of colour or station; to repress with speed and vigour any attempt at insubordination; and especially to invite from the proprietary body their honest co-operation in guiding to a successful issue the changes which are about to take place in our social system, and to inculcate upon the labouring population the just right which the Imperial Parliament and our local Legislature have to demand from them, on principles of gratitude and duty, the most tranquil and orderly submission to such laws as may have been framed for their government in a state of industrious freedom.

Given under my hand and seal of the said Island, this 12th day of July, in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign, and the year of our Lord 1834.

By his Excellency's command.

(For the Acting Colonial Secretary),  
*H. E. F. Young.*

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Enclosure 2, in No. 327.

St. Lucia.—(No. 4.)

PROCLAMATION by his Excellency Sir *Dudley St. Leger Hill*, Knight, &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 327.

WHEREAS it is at all times our bounden duty to render thanks to Heaven for the mercies extended to us: and whereas at this period the greatest temporal blessing is conferred upon a large portion of the population of this Island by the Abolition of Slavery, and the consequent change, to the adult negro, from hereditary perpetual bondage to a system of moderate labour for a limited time, carrying with it to his offspring under six years of age, and to his children's children for ever, the enjoyment of unrestricted freedom:

I have thought fit to direct, by this my Proclamation, that Friday the 1st day of August next ensuing, be observed in all churches and chapels as a day of general thanksgiving to Almighty God, for having in his infinite wisdom visited the people of this land with so gracious a dispensation of his good providence, and likewise of humble intercession and fervent prayer that He may be pleased mercifully to further this important change to a peaceable and happy end.

And I do hereby request and enjoin that the said 1st of August next ensuing be observed by all classes with the same reverence that is due to a Sabbath-day.

Given under my hand and seal of the said Island, this 25th day of July, in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign, and the year of our Lord 1834.

By command.

(For the Acting Colonial Secretary),  
*H. E. F. Young.*

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Enclosure 3, in No. 327.

St. Lucia.—(No. 5.)

PROCLAMATION by His Excellency Sir *Dudley St. Leger Hill*, Knight, &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 3,  
in No. 327.

WHEREAS it has been represented to me that there are at this present time many slaves absent without leave from the service of their masters, I have thought it fit to issue this my Proclamation, calling upon all such runaways to return forthwith to their duty, when an act of clemency will be extended towards them; otherwise they will be subjected to the prolonged term of apprenticeship provided for in the 20th clause of the Act intituled "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery," &c., which takes effect from the 1st of August next ensuing.

Given under my hand and seal of the said Island, this 25th day of July, in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign, and the year of our Lord 1834.

By command.

(For the Acting Colonial Secretary),  
*H. E. F. Young.*

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Enclosure 4, in No. 327.

My Friends,

Enclosure 4  
in No. 327.

You are aware that I have recently arrived from England to be Governor of this Colony. You see I lose no time in coming amongst you, and my reason is, that I know you have been for a length of time past expecting some great benefit to be conferred upon you. I am come to tell you, you are right. The King and the people of England, with your masters in this country, have mutually made sacrifices in order that you should enjoy the blessings of freedom. On the 1st day of next month the name of slave is to be forgotten. No man is to call another a slave. You are no longer to be slaves. You are free; not idle free people, but industrious free people, bound to labour moderately for your masters, in return for allowances which your masters, as they have hitherto done, will be bound to furnish you. Now, my friends, attend to what I say; believe what I say. I am here in this country representing the great and good King of England, who, with his people, is your friend; therefore my duty is also to be your friend; for your own sakes, believe and trust to the words I speak.

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The benefits which you are to have from the 1st of next month are very great. Whilst you are slaves, your children and your children's children are slaves; on the 1st of next month all your children under six years of age are free; all born after the 1st of next month are born free. As slaves, you had to work for your masters nine hours every day, or 54 hours every week; as free apprenticed labourers, you are to work  $7\frac{1}{2}$  hours per day, or 45 hours per week. As slaves, you were to work these nine hours every day of every week of your whole lives; after the 1st of next month, you are to work these  $7\frac{1}{2}$  hours per day for six years, or if you are domestics, for four years only. The domestics have the shorter term allotted to them because their services are without remission. You can release yourselves by purchase, at a fair valuation, from the service of your apprenticeship, in like manner as hitherto you had the right of buying your freedom from slavery. Yet during your apprenticeship you are to receive from your employers the same allowances as when they had from you your full time. As a slave, your master can order you to be punished; as a free apprenticed labourer, you are not subject to this authority. The King has appointed special justices to decide on all differences that may arise between you and your masters, with authority to prevent any wrong being done to you, and also to punish you when you do wrong; and he alone has this power. These officers have not yet arrived, but this gentleman, by my appointment, is to be your magistrate until the other does arrive. Obey him, respect him, for he has my authority.

Do not deceive yourselves: every man in this world must work; God, who made us all, has ordered that we should live by the sweat of our brow. Let me warn you against so great a mistake as supposing, because your master has no longer the power of punishing you, that therefore no punishment at all can happen to you. The magistrate has full power to punish you for every fault you commit; has full power to make you perform the  $7\frac{1}{2}$  hours of labour you owe to your master; has full power to punish you if you are lazy, careless, negligent, absent from work, impudent or disobedient. As the good things of which I have been before telling you are secured to you and your children, be sure you in your turn shall receive punishment if you do not honestly and fairly work for your masters the whole time to which by law he is entitled whilst the apprenticeship lasts. Some people tell me that perhaps you will try not to work at all. I cannot believe you to be such fools, or so ungrateful, or so wicked. Work you must, the moderate time required from you by law. If any of you dare to resist the law, and think that by combining together, you can evade or set it at defiance, be assured I shall instantly come amongst you, not as now, to do you good and advise you, but severely to punish the offenders. My duty is to have the laws obeyed; to protect all men and their properties. This duty, depend upon it, I will fully perform, if but one single act of general insubordination take place amongst you, whereby your master's property is endangered and the public peace disturbed. That moment I will be on the spot with the King's troops and other His Majesty's loyal subjects. But, my friends, I trust (and indeed, from the first moment of my coming amongst you, my confidence on that score is increased) that your conduct will not be such as to require my presence for any purpose of visiting the guilty.

From your magistrate, and from your masters too, you may learn many other things relating to your rights and to the duties you are to perform. There is but one other duty, and one other privilege which I shall now mention; the duty is a very sacred one, the penalty for its non-performance very severe. As your children are free, they must be supported as free children are supported, that is, by their parents; and for this, among other reasons, was the difference of labour between  $7\frac{1}{2}$  and nine hours per day granted you. If, however, your children are left destitute, they may by law be apprenticed, that is, bound to labour until they are 21 years of age.

The privilege of which I have to make mention is, that at your own free will and pleasure, without denial or interruption whatsoever, you may on every Sabbath-day perform religious worship at any church or chapel in the Island; and, my friends, not only when you may next meet at any place of worship, but when you leave this spot to-day and return to your domiciles, and are in the midst of your children, go down on your knees and thank the great God for the blessings of freedom, which I have told you are to be yours in part, and your children's altogether, after the 1st of next month.

Be grateful to the people of England, who have paid a great deal of money to make you free; be obedient to the laws; and on all occasions you shall have their protection.

Now, my friends, in conclusion, let me once more remind you of all the advantages you derive from this great measure:

1. That all grown-up persons are required to perform a moderate labour of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  hours per day, in lieu of nine hours per day as before, and these  $7\frac{1}{2}$  hours are for six years only, instead of for all your lives.

2. That in like manner as you could purchase freedom when you were slaves, so now you may purchase release from apprenticeship.

3. That children under six years of age, and all born after the 1st of next month, are free.

4. That the power of inflicting punishment is no longer arbitrary with your masters, but depends upon the decision of the magistrate.

5. That the most entire liberty is given to you to frequent on Sundays any place of worship you please.

And, my friends, I have to tell you that by proclamation I have appointed the 1st of next month, the day from which all these great things take effect, to be a day of general thanksgiving to God for all these blessings, which most heartily and sincerely I hope you may for ever enjoy in peace, content and happiness.

ST. LUCIA.

— No. 328. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-governor Sir *Dudley Hill* to  
Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

No. 328.

Sir, St. Lucia, 1 August 1834.  
I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a Proclamation issued this morning to announce the abolition of slavery, in virtue of the Act of Parliament passed in the Session held in the 3d and 4th years of the reign of His present most gracious Majesty.

And it is my gratifying duty to inform you that the announcement, which took place in my presence, and in that of the principal inhabitants of the Island, was received with the most hearty and grateful expressions of loyalty, and that the public tranquillity remains most perfectly undisturbed at the late hour of the day at which I now have the honour to forward this Despatch.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Dudley Hill*, Lieut.-governor.

St. Lucia.

## PROCLAMATION,

By His Excellency Sir *Dudley St. Ledger Hill*, Lieut.-Governor, &c.

I do hereby proclaim and make known, that by virtue of an Act of Parliament passed in the Session held in the 3d and 4th years of the reign of His most gracious Majesty King William the Fourth, slavery ceases on this present 1st day of August, and by virtue of the said Act, it is now abolished in this Colony henceforth and for ever. And I do further proclaim, that from and after this day prædial labourers are to become apprentices for six years, and non-prædial labourers for four years; and I do strictly exhort, enjoin and command all such apprenticed labourers as aforesaid to be obedient to their masters and those in authority, to be industrious in their habits, and submissive to the laws.

Given under my hand and the seal of the said Island, this 1st day of August, in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign, and the year of our Lord 1834.

By his Excellency's command.  
(For the Acting Colonial Secretary),  
(signed) *H. E. F. Young*.

God save the King.

— No. 329. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Lieutenant-governor Sir *Dudley Hill*.

No. 329.

Sir, Colonial Office, 6 Sept. 1834.  
I HAVE received your Despatches of the 1st August last, reporting the measures which you had taken to preserve tranquillity and subordination, and to give due effect to the Act for the Abolition of Slavery.

I have to convey to you His Majesty's approval of the three Proclamations which you had issued, the first dated the 5th of July, announcing your intention to visit the country districts; the second, dated the 25th of July, appointing the 1st of August to be a day of general thanksgiving; the third, dated also the 25th July, offering an indemnity to runaway negroes who should return to their masters forthwith, and warning them of the prolonged obligations of apprenticeship which they would incur by their continued absence.

It is also my duty to convey to you the expression of His Majesty's approbation of the active and judicious measures which you adopted to meet the difficulties which might have arisen on the Abolition Act first coming into operation. The address which you delivered to the negroes appears to me to have been well calculated to dispel any delusions which they may have laboured under, and the results of your exertions are gratifying.

The provisional appointment of stipendiary magistrates was indispensable, owing to the non-arrival of persons from this country to discharge the duties. I find, upon inquiring, that the delay in sending out such persons has arisen from the

the difficulty of meeting with individuals willing to accept the situations and qualified for such an employment in a Colony where the language spoken is French; but I beg to assure you that the quota of magistrates for St. Lucia will be despatched to your assistance without further loss of time.

ST. LUCIA.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *T. Spring Rice.*

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— No. 330. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-governor Sir *Dudley Hill* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice.*

Sir,

St. Lucia, 19 August 1834.

No. 330.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the following Public Acts, viz.:

No. 7. A Proclamation dividing the Island of St. Lucia into three judicial districts, and defining the limits of the said districts, dated 1st August 1834.

Proclamation, No. 7, printed in the Appendix (B.), No. 57.

No. 4. An Ordinance enacted by the Lieut.-governor and the Legislative Council on the 1st August, for fixing and determining the number of hours per week which shall be allowed to prædial apprenticed labourers for the cultivation of their provision grounds, &c.

Ordinance, No. 4, of the 1 Aug. 1834, printed in the Appendix (B.), No. 58.

No. 8. A Proclamation, issued in consequence of various false reports being prevalent respecting the state of the population in distant parts of the Island, and cautioning all persons against spreading reports calculated to mislead the public mind.

Proclamation, No. 8, printed in the Appendix (B.), No. 59.

No. 5. An Ordinance passed by the Lieut.-governor and Legislative Council on the 18th August, for providing for the acquiescence of the minority of the prædial apprenticed labourers in the apportionment of task-work, &c. &c.

Ordinance, No. 5, of the 18 Aug. 1834, printed in the Appendix (B.), No. 60.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Dudley Hill*, Lieut.-governor.

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— No. 331. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Lieut.-governor Sir *Dudley Hill.*

Sir,

Downing-street, 28 October 1834.

No. 331.

I HAVE received and have laid before the King your Despatch of the 19th of August last, enclosing two Proclamations issued by yourself, for dividing the Island of St. Lucia into three judicial districts, and defining the limits of the said districts; and "in consequence of various false reports being prevalent respecting the state of the population in distant parts of the Island, and cautioning all persons against spreading reports calculated to mislead the public mind;" and enclosing two Ordinances, enacted by yourself and the Legislative Council of St. Lucia, "for fixing and determining the number of hours per week which shall be allotted to prædial apprenticed labourers for the cultivation of their provision grounds, and also for regulating the apportionment of the 45 hours per week during which prædial apprenticed labourers are required by law to work for the benefit of their employers;" and "for providing for the acquiescence of the minority of the prædial apprenticed labourers in the apportionment of task-work, and also providing for the compensation compellable from apprenticed labourers absenting themselves from the service of their employers."

I have received His Majesty's commands to signify to you that he has been graciously pleased to approve and to confirm the Proclamations and Ordinances which have been so promulgated and enacted.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *T. Spring Rice.*

ST. LUCIA.

— No. 332. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-governor Sir *Dudley Hill* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, dated Government House, St. Lucia, 26th August 1834.

No. 332.

THE Despatches which I had the honour to transmit in the early part of this month will have apprized you that the abolition of slavery excited in this Island no other emotions amongst the parties most interested than those which so happy and great an event would naturally produce, nor did there result then, nor has there been exhibited since, any demonstration of public feeling which could give me serious uneasiness respecting the preservation of tranquillity throughout the Colony.

In announcing to you the continuance of this state of things, I think it right to glance at some of the measures adopted. I may safely mention as the first of these measures, (and as one to which my earliest and most strenuous exertions were directed) the dispelling from the minds of the proprietors an idea of the necessity or expediency of making a display of military force, with which they were so strongly impressed, that one influential party represented to me, in terms approaching to remonstrance, the impossibility of preserving peace unless the police should be supplied with fire-arms and ammunition.

I need hardly say that to such counsel my own judgment would have led me to object, even were it not, as I conceive it to be, opposed to the just and humane policy of His Majesty's Government; and to them it will no doubt be as gratifying to learn, as it is in the highest degree satisfactory to me to inform you, that the present orderly conduct of the labourers justifies the favourable opinion I entertain of their quiet and peaceable disposition.

I feel, however, that so necessary was it to disallow the spirit which would have induced many to secure the continuance of their labourers' industry, or as they would term it, the safety of the Colony, by an unusual display at this time of armed force; so necessary was it to discountenance the reports of general insubordination, nay, even of rebellion, which from distant parts of the Island were constantly pouring into the Government office, that had they not been counteracted on my part by a personal investigation into their accuracy, their exaggeration being undetected, steps would possibly have been taken against an imaginary danger, which might really have caused the very evil the reporters seemed to deprecate.

Having thus, then, by my earliest measures endeavoured to prevent any ill consequences from the unadvised conduct of one class of the population, my anxious attention was directed to the other, and in a second visit to the country districts, I had the pleasure to observe that there were no exceptions to the general good behaviour of the labourers, save those which, arising from simple misapprehension of their new rights, could be remedied gradually and temperately, and except also those breaches of discipline which amongst a large body of people would occur under any system of compulsory labour, and which were not less frequent under that just abolished.

For offences of the latter description the special magistracy might safely use their power, but for the former there was no better antidote than an unreserved communication from some unquestionable authority; this task I again undertook, and, as I have every reason to suppose, not unsuccessfully.

I feel indeed fully warranted by present appearances in allowing His Majesty's Government to entertain an expectation that St. Lucia will continue free from those commotions to which, I learn with regret, the tranquillity of Trinidad, St. Christopher, and other Islands, have been temporarily exposed, and I beg you to be assured that I shall not fail to devote all my energies to realize this expectation.

— No. 333. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Lieut.-governor  
Sir *Dudley Hill*.

Sir,

Colonial Office, 11 October 1834.

I HAVE just received your very satisfactory Despatch of the 26th August, which I have lost no time in laying before the King.

No. 333.

It is most gratifying to His Majesty's feelings to be informed that the Act for the Abolition of Slavery has been carried into effect in St. Lucia with the entire success so well described in your Despatch. His Majesty rejoices to learn that this great change has been effected without exciting any other emotion among the parties most interested than those which so important an improvement in their social condition would naturally produce, and that you entertain no serious apprehensions respecting the preservation of internal tranquillity.

You have acted with good sense and discretion in declining to make any display of military force, so long as the public peace was not disturbed. The interposition of the military authorities should be reserved for such exigencies only as render a recourse to that ultimate remedy unavoidable. To act upon other principles is not only to misapply the means of Government, but to impair, if not to destroy, the permanent efficiency of the civil power.

But the same discretion which induced you to decline resorting to such measures under the circumstances you have described, would I am sure have led you to apply all the means at your disposal, had the real interests of the Colony, or the lives and property of His Majesty's subjects, been exposed to real danger; I am however relieved by the satisfactory nature of your communication from the painful necessity of contemplating any such alternative.

A very important duty remains to be executed by you and all others conducting the functions of government in His Majesty's West-Indian Colonies. In carrying into effect the provisions of the Abolition Act, you will I am sure feel yourself called upon to assist the employers in obtaining from the apprentices the amount of labour to which by law they are entitled; and on the other hand you will apply your constant and most sedulous attention to secure to the labourer the full possession of every right and privilege conferred on him by law. By this union of firmness and strict impartiality, it is His Majesty's earnest hope that the new social system produced by the great change made in the condition of the apprenticed labourer may be matured and perfected, and the productive industry of the Colony and the pecuniary interests of the proprietors of land may also be secured.

His Majesty commands me to convey his gracious approval of your conduct to you; and to those who have co-operated with you, his gracious approbation.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *T. S. Rice.*

— No. 334. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-governor Sir *Dudley Hill* to  
Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

St. Lucia, 28 November 1834.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch dated 11th October last, in which you conveyed to me the highly gratifying announcement of His Majesty's most gracious approval of my conduct.

No. 334.

I would respectfully take leave to express my deep sense of this honour, and to assure you that I shall sedulously study to give effect to those wise and just views which His Majesty has been pleased to express in relation as well to the legal claims of the employer on his apprentice as to the secure possession by the latter of the rights and privileges lately conferred on him.

I avail myself of the present occasion to report that I have this day completed a tour of the whole Island, which was undertaken to explain to the apprentices



ST. LUCIA.

apprentices the apportionment that can by law be made during the season of crop of the 40 hours' labour per week to which the employer is entitled; and I have the pleasure to state, that in a very ample opportunity of learning the sentiments of the managers, I became acquainted with but very few complaints against their gangs, and was equally gratified, on special inquiry from the latter, to find this state of things to be reciprocal.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Dudley Hill.*

— No. 335. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-governor Sir *Dudley Hill* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, dated St. Lucia, 3 Nov. 1834.

No. 335.

SINCE I had the honour of forwarding my last Despatches, an Ordinance has passed the Legislative Council, and is herewith transmitted :

Ordinance, No. 7,  
passed 23 October  
1834; printed in the  
Appendix (B), No.  
61.

No. 7, An Ordinance to abolish the office of Commissary Commandant, and to substitute in lieu thereof the title and jurisdiction of a Justice of the Peace; by which several objects of no little importance were effected.

The duties of the situation are defined and comprised in one law, instead of being derived from a mixture of ordinances, mandates from the Governor, and even from alleged usage; and some advantage is obtained by giving a designation to the appointment, which may serve as an indication of an approach to a system more nearly resembling that of the mother country.

I have included all the special justices in the general commission of the peace, which was issued on the promulgation of this ordinance; and I trust this extension of their authority over all persons indiscriminately will give increased efficacy to their exertions in behalf of that numerous class for whose protection they were at first specially appointed; and on the other hand, having increased the number of voluntary magistrates under the Order in Council of 5th June last, I fully expect that its provisions will receive no less watchful attention than formerly.

I beg to inform you that in the course of the present month it is my intention again to make a tour through the whole Island, for the purpose of explaining to the apprentices the second clause of the ordinance, No. 4, enacted on the 1st August last, and I trust by so doing to obviate any misapprehension they may entertain respecting the apportionment during crop of their legal hours of labour, which at that period may be distributed differently, though not in the aggregate exceeding the specified term of 40 hours per week.

It is with no ordinary satisfaction that I profit by this opportunity to inform you that the tranquil and orderly conduct of the apprenticed labourers fully justifies my giving you an assurance which cannot fail to be gratifying to His Majesty's Government, and that is, that the abolition of slavery has not up to this period interrupted the industry which was customary previously to that happy event; and I may be forgiven for adding, that in an unusually fine season and an escape from the desolating scourge which so fearfully visited the closely neighbouring Colony of Dominica, Providence has given to this Island additional and very marked motives for thankfulness.

— No. 336. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of *Aberdeen* to Lieutenant-governor Sir *Dudley Hill*.

No. 336.

Sir,

Downing-street, 22 December 1834.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 3d November last, transmitting two Ordinances of the Legislature of St. Lucia.

No. 7, to abolish the office of Commissary Commandant, and for other purposes;

No. 8, to consolidate and amend the Militia Laws of the Island;—and I shall take the earliest opportunity of communicating to you the decision which His Majesty may be pleased to form upon these ordinances.

It

It has afforded His Majesty's Government the highest satisfaction to receive from you the assurances contained in the last paragraph of your Despatch, that the quiet and orderly conduct and industrious habits of the apprenticed labourer are such as would justify you in anticipating the most happy results from the abolition of slavery in the Colony under your government.

ST. LUCIA.  
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I have, &c.  
(signed) *Aberdeen.*

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— No. 337. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-governor Sir *Dudley St. Leger Hill* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*; dated St. Lucia, 31 December 1834.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the following public Act, passed by the Legislative Council of this Colony, which I request you will be pleased to submit for His Majesty's approbation, viz. :

“ An Ordinance enacting and ordaining certain Rules and Regulations respecting the Rural Police Establishments, and respecting Houses of Correction and Penal Gangs, within the Island of St. Lucia.”

No. 337.  
Ordinance, 1 Dec.  
1834; printed in the  
Appendix (B.) No.  
62.

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— No. 338. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Earl of *Aberdeen* to Lieutenant-governor Sir *Dudley Hill*; dated Downing-street, 8 April 1835.

THE Ordinance passed by yourself and the Council of St. Lucia, in the month of December last, fixing the taxes for the service of the year 1835, imposes a poll-tax upon the apprenticed labourers, to be paid by themselves, except in the case of domestic servants. In anticipation of the probable disallowance of this enactment, it is provided that, in that contingency, the impost should be transferred from the apprenticed labourer to his employer. His Majesty has been pleased to disallow so much of this law as subjects the apprenticed labourer to any share of the burthen; the result will consequently be not to diminish the annual revenue, but to render the proprietary body liable to the payment of the whole.

No. 338.

Although described by the same name, no two sources of revenue can be more distinct in their principle, or in their effects, than a poll-tax, exigible indifferently from every adult member of the colonial society, and the poll-tax which was formerly payable by the owner of slaves, calculated upon the number which he might happen to possess. His Majesty cannot sanction an enactment in which due regard is not had to the distinctions between the rich and the poor, and between those who have and those who have not the bodily strength necessary for earning the means of payment. A still more weighty objection is founded on the inequality of an impost which confounds together, in one equal pecuniary liability to the State, those who have the entire command of their time and the choice of their own employment, and those who, during three-fourths at least of the working hours of every day, are bound by law to labour in the service of another, for a fixed remuneration, intended to supply their indispensable wants only.

The Ordinance establishing rules and regulations for the rural police contains a clause, numbered 12, of which the indirect effect would seem to be that of rendering it illegal for an apprenticed labourer to quit the plantation to which he may belong, without the consent of his employer. There is no objection to this rule, if properly qualified. No restraint should be placed on the apprentice proceeding to any place of public worship, or to the public market, or to his own place of abode, when beyond the limits of the estate, or to any neighbouring place where he may have engaged himself to labour for hire, it being carefully provided that none of these causes of absence should be available as a reason for the neglect of his appropriate duties during the 45 hours of weekly labour which are due by law to the employer. The Ordinance should be so far amended as to obviate this objection.

ST. LUCIA.

— No. 339. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-governor Sir *Dudley St. Leger Hill* to Lord *Glenelg*; dated Government House, St. Lucia, 26 June 1835.

No. 339.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the following public Act, passed by the Legislative Council of this Government, viz.:

Ordinance, 15 June 1835; printed in the Appx. (B), No. 63.

“ An Ordinance for amending and explaining part of the 12th clause of an Ordinance respecting the Duties of the Rural Police in apprehending Absentee Apprenticed Labourers in the Island of St. Lucia.”

This Ordinance has been framed for the purpose of amending the 12th clause of the Ordinance establishing rules and regulations for the rural police, as directed by Despatch of 8th April last; and I trust it will be found sufficient to obviate the objection therein made.

— No. 340. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-governor Sir *Dudley Hill*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3 August 1835.

No. 340.

Order in Council, 31 July 1835; printed in Appendix of Part 2 (B), No. 17.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 31st ult., declaring that adequate and satisfactory provision hath been made in the Colony of St. Lucia, for giving effect to an Act of Parliament, made in the 3d and 4th year of His present Majesty, for the abolition of slavery.

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

## HONDURAS.

— No. 341. —

HONDURAS.

COPY of a LETTER from Mr. Under-Secretary *Lefevre* to Colonel *Cockburn*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 21 May 1833.

No. 341.

Vide Parl. Papers, Part I, printed 16 July 1835, No. 177, p. 3.

MR. SECRETARY STANLEY has desired me to send to you, for your information, a copy of the Circular Despatch, dated the 20th instant, and addressed with some modifications to the Governors of those of His Majesty's Colonies in which slavery exists.

You will by this means be in more complete possession of the views of His Majesty's Government on the subject of the extinction of slavery, than if Mr. Stanley had written to you a separate Despatch applicable only to the peculiar circumstances of the Settlement which you superintend.

Upon this, the first announcement of the benevolent designs of His Majesty's Government, Mr. Stanley relies upon your adopting a line of conduct similar to that which is recommended in the Circular to the Governor to whom it is addressed; and upon your exertion of the decision, prudence and caution which the critical circumstances of the time may render peculiarly necessary.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *John Lefevre*.

— No. 342. —

COPY of a LETTER from Colonel *Cockburn* to Mr. Under-Secretary *Lefevre*.

Sir,

Government House, Honduras, 17 July 1833.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st May, enclosing Mr. Secretary Stanley's Circular Despatch of the preceding day; in reference to both of which I beg you will assure Mr. Secretary Stanley that no exertion shall be wanting on my part to fulfil the instructions which have thus been transmitted to me. This Settlement I am happy to say is, and has been for some time past, perfectly quiet and tranquil; some anxiety certainly prevails, both on the part of the slaves and their owners, as to the result of the Bill which all parties are now fully aware is about to be brought before Parliament for laying the groundwork for the extinction of slavery; but I do not apprehend that any disturbance or insubordination will arise, provided the question is set at rest within a given time. Well disposed, however, as all parties in this Settlement now are, protracted anxiety might lead to dangerous excitement. I calculate our slave population to amount to 3,000; and would beg to call your attention to the fact, that the anomalous description of this place will exclude them from the benefit of the proposed Act for their relief, unless the Settlement of Honduras is specially alluded to therein. I would also observe, that it has long been the custom here to sell slaves for their freedom; that is, an owner wishing to do a service to the slave, binds himself, or sells the slave to another on condition to give him freedom after a limited number of years. Thus *A* sells a slave (worth perhaps 400*l.* currency) to *B* for 250*l.*, upon condition that said slave shall be entitled to his freedom at the end of seven years. Now, perhaps at the passing of the proposed Bill said slave will have served four years out of the seven; how then will the Bill affect him? Will he have a right to claim being apprenticed for the remaining three years? or, if he prefers the stipulations under which he was last sold to those of the proposed Bill, must he continue subject to the rigours of slavery for that period? There are very many cases of the above description now in this Settlement, and I am therefore the more anxious to receive instructions thereon. There is another point on which I would also request information: many slaves are too old and feeble to work at all; some are prevented from so doing by wounds or bodily infirmities, and others from mental incapacity; what is to become of these? Are their owners still bound to provide for them; can such claim to be apprenticed; and will any remuneration be allowed to the owners on their account? I also feel some doubt as to whether apprentices are to be considered as the property of their masters; that is, whether in the event of the death or insolvency of a master, the remainder of the service of an apprentice can be claimed by his heirs, or taken in execution by his creditors.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Francis Cockburn*,  
Colonel Commanding.

— No. 343. —

COPY of a NOTE from Mr. Secretary *Stanley* to Colonel *Cockburn*.

MR. SECRETARY STANLEY presents his compliments to Colonel Cockburn, and transmits herewith the copy of a Circular Despatch which he has addressed to the Governors of the West India Legislative Colonies, relating to the Government measures for the abolition of slavery; and Mr. Stanley requests that Colonel Cockburn will consider it as addressed to himself, so far as the provisions of the measure may be applicable to the Settlement of Honduras.

No. 343.

19 October.

*Vide* Parl. Papers,  
Part I, printed 16  
July 1835, No. 177,  
p. 11.

Colonial-office, 19 Oct. 1833.

HONDURAS.

— No. 344. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Colonel *Cockburn* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*; dated Government House, Honduras, 29 October 1833.

No. 344.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your perusal and consideration, a Memorial, drawn up by the principal slave owners and inhabitants of Honduras, in reference to the late Act for the Abolition of Slavery. To each of the statements this memorial contains I have given the utmost attention, and I consider it but justice on my part to bear testimony to the fairness and accuracy which prevails throughout. The fact so much dwelt upon, of the slaves and free labourers having been employed under the same rules and regulations, is beyond dispute. I have made it a point to visit the mahogany works, with a view to ascertaining the treatment experienced by the slaves, and a happier or more contented set of beings I have seldom seen. The description of their labour varies according to the seasons of the year, but at no period has an objection ever been raised on account of overwork. During the trucking or dry season, the cutter, of necessity, avails himself of the coolness of the night for getting out his wood; but so far from this being objectionable, I feel certain the slaves, were it left to their own option, would by no means wish it to be otherwise. I have witnessed this species of mahogany harvest-home with the greatest pleasure; a more enlivening scene cannot be imagined. The roads in many places over which the trucks must pass are cut through luxuriant palm groves; the cattle are of the finest description, the men in the highest spirits, and the whole scene most brilliantly illuminated by the numerous pitch-pine torches with which it is accompanied. On these, as on other occasions, the free labourer and slave work together; but though with the gangs for months together, it would be impossible to discover the one from the other, unless they were separately pointed out. It is true I have had occasion to notice some instances of cruelty and oppression towards the slaves, but this, as far as my experience goes, has invariably been confined to those employed for domestic purposes, and strange to say, in almost every instance, under the direction or at the instigation of females; but such cases, I am happy to say, have been very few, much fewer in proportion to our numbers, (and I say it to the honour of the Settlement,) than in any other part of the world where slavery has prevailed. The amount to be awarded by the Commissioners in remuneration for slaves in this Settlement will, I should think, under the stipulation of clause 45 of the Slave Bill, be of a higher amount than in any of the Colonies: 300*l.* and 400*l.* currency have been common prices for healthy active labourers, and females have borne a proportionate value: however, be the remuneration what it may, it is of vital importance to the welfare of the owners that they should receive the same with the least possible delay, and on this point I would respectfully solicit your particular attention to the last paragraph but one of the memorial. Slave property, as therein stated, is almost the only security on which it has been possible to raise money for years past, or on the faith of which advances in provisions, and other articles which cannot be dispensed with, are made by the merchants to the mahogany cutters. This resource is now at an end; for under the existing uncertainty, and the consequent depression in the value of slaves, this species of property could only be disposed of at a ruinous sacrifice. Persons employed in the Colonies are connected with houses in England, on which they can fall back in case of need; but not so in this Settlement: here the mahogany cutter depends on himself alone; he has no mortgagees with mutual interest to support his credit; the little he has is his own, but it is his all. I have gone into the point more at large, in the anxious hope that, as the 62d clause of the Bill vests the power of making all laws for this place, relating to the emancipation of slaves, in His Majesty in Council, the arrangements for Honduras may be at once decided on; and believe me, Sir, you cannot confer a greater boon on its inhabitants than by using your powerful influence to this effect.

Should any reference be deemed expedient to either magistrates, public meeting or inhabitants, I feel satisfied that one and all will cordially and zealously endeavour to fulfil the wishes of His Majesty's Government.

I cannot

I cannot conclude this letter without again referring to the loyalty and good feeling which prevails throughout this Settlement, and I am the more prompted in so doing by the conviction that it is the best means I can adopt of recommending the memorial now transmitted to your attention and favourable consideration.

HONDURAS.

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Enclosure in No. 344.

Meeting of Inhabitants, Slave Proprietors, and Representatives of Absentees, held at the Court-house, Belize, Honduras, the 21st day of October 1833.

WILLIAM GENTLE, esq. was unanimously chosen chairman, and stated, "that this meeting, comprising the principal slave proprietors of the Settlement, and also representing the principal absentees, is convened for the purpose of taking into consideration the Bill passed by Parliament for the abolition of slavery; and conformable with the 44th clause thereof, to elicit an expression of the sentiments of the colonists thereon, and of calling on them for their aid in carrying the same into effect."

Enclosure in  
No. 344.

A deputation, consisting of the chairman, John S. August and George Hyde, esqrs., were then appointed to wait upon His Majesty's Superintendent, and having returned, the chairman stated that His Majesty's Superintendent had nothing particular to communicate to the meeting excepting the Bill, but that he would be ready to co-operate with the meeting in any measure for the welfare of the Settlement.

At the request of some of the members, sundry clauses of the Bill were read to the meeting.

The following Resolutions were read, and unanimously agreed to:

1st. Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting, that every facility should be given in carrying into effect the measures adopted by Parliament for the extinction of negro slavery, and that the members of this meeting are ready and willing to co-operate accordingly, so far as the peculiar local situation of the Settlement will admit, from the assurance of justice being done the proprietors of slaves in the appropriation of the compensation money voted by Parliament.

2dly. Resolved, That in consequence of the very high price of labour in this Settlement, a corresponding high value has always been placed upon slaves; the proprietors are therefore in justice entitled to a proportionate compensation.

3dly. Resolved, That by a long course of mild treatment, and a liberal portion of the fruits of their labour having been bestowed on them towards promoting their personal comfort, the slave population of this Settlement are brought to an advanced state of improvement; in proof thereof, the same regulations by which they are governed in the business of wood-cutting, which is here their only employment, is applied to the free labourers, who voluntarily place themselves under the same regulations and management in every respect.

4thly. Resolved, That in the detail of such regulations as may be made for the government of apprenticed labourers, should the same materially interfere with the present system of the slave and free labourer working in conjunction, it will be the means of rendering the services of the former class unavailable, and defeat the object of combining the welfare of the negro with the interest of the proprietors; for that, during two months of the year, or the trucking season, the business of wood-cutting cannot be carried on by limiting the labourers to a certain number of hours work per day; and if such is persisted in, wood-cutting by apprenticed labourers must be abandoned.

5thly. Resolved, That it is to be hoped the protecting arm of His Majesty's Government will be extended towards this Settlement, and by its especial care afford such salutary protection to the wood-cutters in the home market, so as to enable them to meet the additional expense to be incurred by the new order of things and to compete with foreigners, otherwise mahogany must cease to be an article of export from this Settlement.

6thly. Resolved, That in order to ascertain the rate at which slaves have been sold for the eight years previous to December 1830, agreeable to the Bill, the Committee hereafter to be named be requested to call upon all persons who may have sold as well as those who have purchased slaves within the specified time, to give in lists of sale or purchase, showing the names of the slaves and price, and to affix an affidavit to the same.

7thly. Resolved, That the members of the Supreme Court and magistrates shall form a joint committee for the purpose of carrying into effect the object of this meeting; and that a memorial be prepared to accompany these resolutions and founded thereon, be laid before his Excellency His Majesty's Superintendent, with a request that the same be laid before His Majesty's Government; and that when the committee assembles on business, five shall form a quorum.

8thly. Resolved, That a copy of the proceedings of this meeting be also forwarded to the agent for the Settlement.

The chairman then proposed that this meeting do adjourn until Saturday next, the 26th instant, which was unanimously agreed to.

HONDURAS.

Saturday, 26 October 1833.

The meeting adjourned from Monday the 21st instant, re-assembled this day; William Gentle, esq., in the chair.

The chairman then laid before the meeting the following Memorial to His Majesty's Superintendent, drawn up by the committee, according to the 7th Resolve of the 21st instant, which was ordered to be read, and was unanimously approved of and adopted by the meeting.

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To his Excellency Colonel *Cockburn*, His Majesty's Superintendent, Commander-in-Chief, &c. &c. &c.

WE the inhabitants of the British Settlement of Honduras, slave proprietors and representatives of absentees, in public meeting assembled, beg leave to approach your Excellency with feelings of the most profound respect.

In presenting your Excellency with these resolutions at this momentous crisis of colonial affairs, we rely with confidence on a continuance of that deep interest you have invariably manifested in promoting the welfare and interest of this Settlement; and we beg to assure your Excellency that these resolutions have been passed fully confiding in the justice and honour of His Majesty's Ministers, and in the firm belief that sufficient compensation will be given to us, the proprietors, for losses sustained by the alienation of property solemnly guaranteed by the British nation.

By placing before your Excellency a true and comprehensive statement of the actual condition of the slave population of this Settlement, we will best explain the resolutions of our meeting, and the reasons why a high value has always been placed upon our slaves, independent of the prices at which they have been actually sold; and from the knowledge your Excellency has acquired of the real state of that class of persons, by several years' residence amongst us, you will be able duly to appreciate its correctness.

In the first place, the slaves of this Settlement receive by custom the benefit of one sixth part of their labour, or one day in the week; for this they are paid by their master, whether sick or well, every six months, without any deduction, at the rate of 3s. 4d. per day, or 8l. 13s. 4d. per annum. They receive stipulated quantities of clothing yearly.

The slave and free labourer, whether in the mahogany works or at Belize, are provided with an equal weekly allowance of the best Irish mess pork, flour or plantains; the slave is regularly supplied with a proportion of spirits, tobacco, pipes, powder and shot, being in possession of fire arms: the above-mentioned articles, together with medical attendance, brings the expense incurred for the maintenance of each slave to 20 l. sterling per annum.

The use of the cart-whip as a stimulus to labour, if ever in use, has entirely ceased, the present generation know nothing of its existence; as the best proof of this, the hired free labourer voluntarily submits to and is under the same management as the slave.

During nine months of the year labour is performed by task-work, both by the free labourer and slave, and this is generally finished in five and seldom exceeds six hours; the remaining part of the day is spent as the slave thinks fit.

It may not be improper to observe that there are no gangs at present employed in cutting mahogany exclusively composed of slaves, half of each gang being free labourers.

And while the freeman and slave labour together side by side, are subject to the same restraint and management in every respect, eat, drink and sleep together, it is surely not saying too much, that while slavery or compulsory labour exist under any shape as regards this Settlement, there can scarcely be a medium between its present condition and unqualified emancipation.

As regards female slaves, it may be observed, they are never employed in what may be termed field labour, their duties being entirely of a household or domestic nature.

The humanity thus shown by the inhabitants of this Settlement towards their slaves, by granting them so large a portion of their labour, and otherwise studying their comfort, has proportionably rendered them valuable when compared with those differently treated; it has at least brought them to that state of improvement, that they mix with and are governed in the mahogany works in the same manner as the free labourers.

It is however necessary to remark, that the free labourers alluded to are for the most part foreigners; few of the native free blacks possessing sufficient industry to induce them to engage as labourers in the cutting of mahogany, being satisfied with a mere animal existence, provided it is in indolence and idleness: a few instances to the contrary may be found, but the above is their general character, without the possibility of contradiction.

From the foregoing statement of the relative situations of the free and slave labourers, your Excellency will clearly perceive why so much anxiety has been evinced by the meeting in framing their 4th resolution, in which they have endeavoured to point out the impossibility of cutting mahogany by means of apprenticed labourers, with limited hours of labour, during a particular season of the year; for most assuredly during the dry season or trucking time, if the work is not carried on during the night, which is the part of the 24 hours in which the intense heat of the climate renders it absolutely necessary to drag out the wood, as the oxen employed in this work, if worked during the heat of the day, would be perfectly unable to endure the fatigue; any alteration therefore of limiting the hours of work of apprenticed labourers during the period above mentioned, will render it impossible to employ them in wood-cutting, the proprietors will be deprived of the benefit of their labour, and

and thus be compelled to abandon them, in which case they will be driven to the necessity of cultivating small spots of ground, earning thereby a bare subsistence, and in fact retrograding into a state of almost savage barbarism. It is worthy of remark, as regards the work done in the night during the trucking season, whatever time it may occupy, more than an equal portion of time is granted to the freeman and slaves during the day.

In reference to the high price of labour in this Settlement, we have to point out to your Excellency, (as a belief may obtain that free labourers being easily procured, the loss sustained in being deprived of our slaves will be less felt,) that free labour has been employed in every possible way, and found of itself too expensive for wood-cutting to support.

In proof of this assertion, we have appended to this communication a correct statement of the expenses of a gang consisting of 36 free labourers; this, when compared with the expense incurred by the same number of slaves under similar circumstances, will show the consequent loss sustained by the employer of freemen only. To this we beg to refer your Excellency.

By the statement alluded to, you will perceive that there is a difference of 24 *l.* in favour of each slave annually, which is the true loss the proprietor sustains by the manumission of his slave.

It may be argued that the chances of mortality will make a considerable reduction in the number of slaves in the course of a certain number of years. To this we would answer, that in those establishments where the number of the sexes are nearly equal, it is a circumstance well known to every inhabitant of the Settlement that the natural increase more than compensates for the contingencies of mortality, and this to a degree that will bear comparison with many healthy situations in Europe. Such being the actual state of things, we trust your Excellency will perceive that our claim to more than ordinary compensation is founded in justice and equity.

We will still trespass upon your Excellency's time, in adverting to the great amount of the imports and exports of this Settlement (supported by slave labour), and the consequent consumption of British manufactured goods, which, when compared with the small number of inhabitants, is a strong argument why a higher scale of compensation should be used in awarding us payment for our slaves. We have further to say, our claim to more than ordinary compensation has been fully recognised by His Majesty's Government on a former occasion, when payment was made to the proprietors of certain slaves emancipated by Colonel Arthur.

Finally, that as slave property is the principal stock or capital available for the purposes of security for the payment of debts or advances made to the proprietors in their business of mahogany cutting, unless speedily compensated for the same, great inconvenience, if not ultimate ruin, will be entailed on the greater part of them.

We shall now conclude, with expressing a hope that your Excellency will be pleased to take into your serious consideration a subject of such vital importance to this Settlement; and at the same time we beg to assure you, that nothing but a wish that the great losses that must accrue to us may be fully known to His Majesty's Government has dictated this address, and in the firm assurance that your Excellency's best endeavours will be exercised in protecting the interests of those under your government.

(signed) *William Gentle.* *John Young, M. D.*  
*William Mashall.* *W. H. Coffin.*  
*J. M'Donald.* *J. S. August.*  
*William Walsh.* *George Hyde.*  
*Charles Evans.*

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the EXPENSE of FREE and SLAVE LABOUR.

FREE.	£.	s.	d.	SLAVE.	£.	s.	d.
10 $\frac{1}{2}$ months' wages, at 80 <i>s.</i>	42	-	-	Saturday's pay - - -	9	-	-
220 lbs. pork - - -	11	-	-	240 lbs. pork - - -	12	-	-
324 quarts flour - - -	13	10	-	360 quarts flour - - -	15	-	-
Tobacco and rum - - -	2	1	8	Tobacco and rum - - -	2	1	8
Medicine - - - - -	-	10	-	Medical attendance - - -	1	-	-
Houses - - - - -	-	10	-	Sugar 6 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i> , Osnaburg 20 <i>s.</i>	1	6	8
				Red frocks, shoes, &c. - - -	3	-	-
				Christmas allowance - - -	1	-	-
				Houses - - - - -	1	-	-
	£.	69	11 8		£.	45	8 4

Leaving a difference of 24 *l.*, which a free labourer costs more than a slave, and which is the true loss the proprietor sustains annually by the emancipation of his slave. Thirty-six free labourers, at 69 *l.* each per annum, amounts to 2,484 *l.*, and 36 slaves, at 45 *l.*, according to the above statement, amounts to 1,620 *l.*, leaving a balance of 864 *l.* in favour of slave labour for every gang composed of 36 hands, and which additional charge wood-cutting cannot support. There is a difference in the quantity of provisions allowed each class, which



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arises from the circumstance that the slave receives provisions for the whole year, including all lost time, the hired labourer only for the time he is employed.

(signed) *William Gentle*, Chairman.

The chairman having left the chair, it was taken by William Walsh, esq.; and the thanks of the meeting were unanimously given to the late chairman for his able conduct in the chair.

The meeting was then closed.

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— No. 345. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Colonel *Cockburn* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

No. 345. Sir, Government House, Honduras, 10 Jan. 1834.  
HAVING duly received the copy of the Act of Parliament, 3 & 4 William 4, c. 73, for the Abolition of Slavery, as also the minute of a proposed Order in Council, dated 19th October, descriptive of those measures to be taken by the Governors, Council and General Assemblies in the Colonies possessing representative legislatures, or by the local legislatures in the Colonies subject to His Majesty's legislative authority, I lost no time in affording to the members of the Supreme Court, and to the Bench of Magistrates, an opportunity of perusing these documents; I also communicated to the same persons the substance of your circular Despatch of the same date as that of the Order in Council, and in conformity with their wish I subsequently called a public meeting for the purpose of making more generally known the contents of the Act of Parliament, and of the proposed Order in Council. A copy of the message I sent down to the meeting on the occasion is herewith enclosed.

The meeting (which assembled on the 13th Dec.) appeared to take great interest in the subject offered to consideration, and having appointed a committee to draw up such remarks as it might be deemed expedient to offer on the occasion, adjourned to the 31st December; having re-assembled on that day, they again adjourned to the 10th January (this day), and I have just been informed that a further adjournment has taken place until the 25th instant. There is every wish expressed by the leading persons, indeed I may say by all of this community, to meet to their utmost, and to be satisfied with, the views and intentions of His Majesty's Government; still, however, I cannot see any sufficient cause for the delay which has taken place, and I therefore feel the more anxious to receive your definite instructions, and the necessary authorities, as mentioned in the 7<sup>2</sup>d clause for carrying the Act into effect in the settlement of Honduras. These once received, I shall anticipate no positive difficulty in our further proceedings. The authority first required is the Order of the King in Council for establishing a registry of slaves. The appointment of the Commissioners is also anxiously looked for. With respect to the special justices, I have stated in a former Despatch that two or three, making Belize their place of principal residence, would best answer all the purposes required of them. One police settlement of one sergeant and 10 privates, in my opinion, would also be quite sufficient, provided these men were also resident at Belize, and subject to the orders and disposal of the special justices, either as constables, or to act as boatmen, or in any other way their services might be required. Under the 3<sup>d</sup> clause of the Bill several persons have already claimed and received their freedom; there are, however, two points with respect to this clause on which I beg to solicit your further instructions; viz. if a slave arrives in England subsequent to the passing of the Act, and previous to the 1st August 1834, the day on which slaves will become prædial labourers, will such slave be excluded from the benefit of claiming freedom?

If a woman was in England many years ago, will the children that she has born subsequent to her return to this country, but previous to the passing of the Act, have any claim to freedom?

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Francis Cockburn*.

## Enclosure in No. 345.

Government House, Honduras, 18 December 1833.

Enclosure in  
No. 345.

HIS Majesty's Superintendent has called the present special public meeting for the purpose of furnishing for its information two documents which have been officially transmitted to him by Mr. Secretary Stanley.

The first is a copy of the Act of Parliament, 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 73, for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies. The second is the minute of a proposed Order in Council indicative of the views of His Majesty's Government as respects the various legislative measures which remain to be taken in the Colonies for carrying into more detailed effect the provisions of the said Act.

These documents being thus generally made known, His Majesty's Superintendent has only to add, that should the public meeting wish to offer any remarks thereon as applicable to this Settlement, he shall most readily transmit the same for the information of the proper authorities at home.

(signed) *Fran. Cockburn.*

— No. 346. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Stanley* to Colonel *Cockburn*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 16 April 1834.

No. 346.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 10th January, requesting explanations on the following points; viz.

1st. "If a slave arrives in England subsequent to the passing of the Act, and previous to the 1st August 1834, the day on which slaves will become prædial labourers, will such slave be excluded from the benefit of claiming freedom?"

2d. "If a woman was in England many years ago, will the children that she has born subsequent to her return to Honduras, but previously to the passing of the Act, have any claim to freedom?"

In answer to the 1st question, the 3d section of the Slavery Abolition Act, 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 73, declares absolutely free "all slaves who may at any time previous to the passing of this Act have been brought, with the consent of their possessors, and all apprenticed labourers who may hereafter, with the like consent, be brought into any part of the United Kingdom." Here is no reference to the case of a slave brought into this kingdom after the passing of this Act. As this section was introductory of a new, and not declaratory of an existing law, I think that persons in this predicament are not affected by it. The law as it stood before the Act did not render freedom the consequence of a temporary residence in this kingdom. My conclusion, therefore, is, that if between the 28th of August 1833, the date of the Act, and the 1st of August 1834, the time when slavery ceases, a slave should be brought by his owner from Honduras to England, and should then return from England to Honduras, such a slave would not be emancipated under the 3d section, but would till the 1st of August 1834 continue in slavery, and would then become an apprenticed labourer.

In answer to the 2d question, my opinion is, that if a woman who was formerly in this country returned to Honduras, and there resumed her servil condition, and in that condition became the mother of children, the mother herself would be emancipated by the 3d section of the Statute, but that the children would not. The ground of this conclusion has already been noticed. The clause in question confers the right, but does not recognise its antecedent existence. It is in the case supposed a statutory manumission of the mother, and nothing is more clear than that a mother may be manumitted and her children continue slaves. Had it been a statutory declaration that the mother's residence in England had the legal effect of an emancipation, it would have followed that from the commencement of that residence she could have born none but children of free condition.

I avail myself of this opportunity to notice your Despatch of the 17th July 1833, which I received from you in September last; and, with reference to the 1st question therein proposed, respecting the duration of the apprenticeship of those slaves who may already be entitled to freedom in expectancy, after a fixed term of years, I have to transmit to you a copy of a communication which

HONDURAS. I have received on the subject from the Commissioners of West India Compensation, and to acquaint you with my concurrence in their opinion.

20 January.

With regard to the maintenance of the negroes during the apprenticeship, and to the nature of the proprietary right to their services, upon which points you appear to have felt some doubt, I need only refer you to the 11th and 10th clauses of the Slavery Abolition Act. It is obvious, however, that after the expiration of the apprenticeship, the maintenance of the aged and infirm who are unable to support themselves will fall upon the Settlement generally.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. G. Stanley.*

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Enclosure in No. 346.

Enclosure in  
No. 346.

Sir,

Office of Commissioners of Compensation,  
No. 25, Great George-street, 20 January 1834.

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, enclosing an extract from a Despatch from the Superintendent of Honduras, in order that we may take into consideration the questions arising out of it respecting persons held in slavery in that Settlement, under the peculiar circumstances therein stated.

These circumstances and questions are set forth in the extract as follows:

"It has long been the custom here to sell slaves for their freedom, that is, an owner wishing to do a service to the slave, binds himself, or sells the slave to another on condition to give him his freedom after a limited number of years. Thus *A.* sells a slave (worth perhaps 400 *l.* currency) to *B.* for 250 *l.*, on condition that said slave shall be entitled to his freedom at the end of seven years. Now, perhaps, at the passing of the proposed Bill said slave will have served four years out of the seven; how then will the Bill affect him? Will he have a right to claim being apprenticed for the remaining three years? or if he prefers the stipulations under which he was last sold to those of the proposed Bill, must he continue subject to the rigours of slavery for that period?"

We have considered the very peculiar circumstances out of which those questions arise, and though they appear to us to be of a description hardly within our province, as relating rather to the legal position of the slave than to any claim of compensation for their value, we are of opinion that all such persons, being six years old or upwards, and registered as slaves at the time of the passing of the Act, do in fact, by the first clause of the Act, become apprenticed labourers.

We are further of opinion, that by the 2d clause of the Act, the party entitled to the services of the slave will enjoy the benefit of those services in the character of an apprenticed labourer during the remainder of the period of servitude stipulated between the parties distinguished as *A.* and *B.*, and for which abridged time the owner *A.* has received a valuable consideration from the slave through *B.*, but in no case can the stipulated time of servitude extend beyond the term of apprenticeship limited by the Act.

In this opinion our colleagues all concur.

We learn from good authority that the slaves in question do not amount to more than six or seven.

We have, &c.  
(signed) *James Lewis.*  
*Henry Fred. Stephenson.*  
*Hastings Elwin.*

To John Lefevre, Esq. &c. &c. &c.  
Colonial Office.

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— No. 347. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Stanley* to Colonel *Cockburn*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 25 January 1834.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, for your information and guidance, an order passed by His Majesty in Council, for establishing a registry of slaves in the Settlement of Honduras.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. G. Stanley.*

No. 347.  
Order in Council,  
24 Jan.; printed in  
the Appendix (B),  
No. 64.

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— No. 348. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Colonel *Cockburn* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Government House, Honduras, 15 March 1834.

IN my Despatch of the 10th January last, I had the honour of reporting to you that I had submitted to the public meeting here the proposed Order in Council

No. 348.

Council of the 19th October, and which had been draughted as more immediately applicable to British Guiana, and that I had stated my readiness to forward any remarks thereon for your information which the meeting might wish to offer.

The meeting, which was in the first instance assembled on the 18th December, adjourned from period to period until the 25th January, and I now enclose the result of its deliberations.

I cannot say that I by any means agree with the meeting in the anticipation it has expressed of serious obstacles occurring to prevent the carrying the proposed measure into effect. The point most feared and objected to appears to be the appointment of special magistrates; an arrangement, in my opinion, of vital importance to the peace and tranquillity of the Colonies, and the best, indeed the only possible mode, of insuring justice alike to the owner and the apprentice.

Two special magistrates, I have already stated, will I think be sufficient for this Settlement, and I still think one police gang will suffice; but these I anxiously hope will be sent out before the 1st of August next. Having in my former Despatch alluded to this subject, I should not have troubled you upon it again, but that I have heard the agent of this Settlement (Mr. Hyde) has offered an opinion to Mr. Under-Secretary Lefevre unfavourable to the appointment of special magistrates here, because the conduct and treatment of slaves has been of a better description here than in other places, and I am therefore anxious that my opinion should be known and recorded as at variance in this respect with Mr. Hyde's.

I have already borne testimony to the general kindness and consideration with which slaves, particularly of late years, have been treated in this Settlement; but I should by no means feel warranted in recommending that the faults and omissions of apprenticed labourers, or the complaints made by them against their owners, should continue to be heard and decided upon by courts unavoidably composed, as the courts here must be, of persons who for so many years have been slave owners themselves.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Francis Cockburn.*

(Enclosure in No. 348.)

*Honduras,* } At a special public meeting, convened by order of His Majesty's Superintendent,  
to wit. } and held at the Court House, Belize, Wednesday the 18th day of Dec. 1833,  
William Gentle, esq., was unanimously chosen chairman,

Enclosure in  
No. 348.

A deputation, consisting of the chairman, Charles Evans and James M'Donald, was appointed to wait upon His Majesty's Superintendent, for the purpose of acquainting him that the meeting had assembled.

The deputation having returned, the chairman informed the meeting that he had received a message from his Excellency, which was directed to be read to the meeting, as follows :

“ Government House, Honduras, 18 Dec. 1833.

“ His Majesty's Superintendent has called the present special public meeting for the purpose of furnishing, for its information, two documents, which have been officially transmitted to him by Mr. Secretary Stanley.

“ The first is a copy of the Act of Parliament, 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 73, for the abolition of slavery throughout the British Colonies, &c. &c. &c.

“ The second is the minute of a proposed Order in Council, indicative of the views of His Majesty's Government as respects the various legislative measures which remain to be taken in the Colonies, for carrying into more detailed effect the provisions of the said Act.

“ These documents being thus generally made known, His Majesty's Superintendent has only to add, that should the public meeting wish to offer any remarks thereon as applicable to this settlement, he shall most readily transmit the same for the information of the proper authorities at home.

(signed) “ *Francis Cockburn.*”

The thanks of the meeting were unanimously voted to His Majesty's Superintendent for his gracious message of the day.

With respect to the two documents which His Majesty's Superintendent mentioned in his message as being transmitted to him by Mr. Secretary Stanley, and for the consideration of which he had been pleased to call the meeting together, the chairman stated that the contents

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tents of the former he supposed were well known to all present, but the latter was ordered to be read for their general information.

*(Here follow the Act of Parliament and the Printed Regulations.)*

Moved by John Samuel August, esq., and seconded by John Young, M. D., that a committee, to consist of the members of the Supreme Court and the magistrates, be appointed by this meeting to take into their immediate and serious consideration the foregoing draft of an Order in Council, with a view to reporting to this meeting in how far it may be necessary at this period to point out to the notice of His Majesty's Government what material changes may be required to adapt the enactments that may be framed for our guidance to the circumstances of the Settlement; and that the said committee do report thereon at an adjourned meeting, to be held on the 31st of December instant.

Carried unanimously; and the meeting adjourned accordingly.

(signed) *William Gentle*, Chairman.

31 December 1833.

The chairman stated, that it had escaped the observation of the meeting at the period of its adjournment, that the time and attention of the members of the committee would be necessarily engaged in other matter during the period of adjournment, and that the committee is not prepared to lay anything definitive before the meeting; it was therefore moved by George Hyde, and seconded by Alexander France, that the present meeting do stand adjourned till the 10th of January next.

Carried unanimously; and the meeting adjourned accordingly.

(signed) *William Gentle*, Chairman.

10 January 1834.

The report of the committee was laid upon the table and read.

Here followed the report which was withdrawn at a subsequent meeting.

The meeting having taken into consideration the report of the committee, approve of the same as far as it applies; and in consequence of the very great importance of the matter under consideration, resolve to adjourn until the 25th instant, that the committee may then report progress; and they add to the committee the names of Mr. Marshall Bennett and Mr. William H. Coffin.

And the meeting was adjourned accordingly.

25 January 1834.

The chairman informed the meeting, that the committee had agreed to this final report, which he would now cause to be read.

The following report was then read:

Report of the committee nominated at a public meeting of the inhabitants and slave proprietors in the British Settlement of Belize, to whom it was referred to consider further of certain enactments which had been framed by His Majesty's Government in reference to British Guiana, for the purpose of carrying into effect the Act of the Abolition of Slavery in the British West Indian Colonies.

The committee having read and considered with great attention the several chapters of the Order in Council relating to the British Guiana, have to observe, that as the public meeting at their sitting in October last did in their remarks on the same subject nearly embrace all the points contained in the Order in Council which can in any way apply to this Settlement, little has been left for them to do.

The committee, however, cannot refrain from saying, that the mode of government to be adopted towards the apprenticed labourer and his master, as laid down in the Order in Council, appears to them in itself so novel and difficult to be acted upon, that they anticipate serious obstacles in carrying its different measures into effect, especially as regards the duties of the stipendiary magistrates, in a Settlement where the apprenticed labourers will be necessarily scattered over an extensive tract of country, and the committee are further borne out on this question by the following facts:

1st. That in the few instances in which the slave has had occasion to complain of his owner, or *vice versa*, either party appeals to the courts of judicature established in the Settlement.

2d. That crimes of a more serious nature, whether committed by the free man or slave, invariably have the same measure of justice, the offender being tried in the Supreme Criminal Court of the Settlement, at which His Majesty's Superintendent presides, the same being established under royal authority, and the whole of its proceedings conformable to the laws of England; consequently the same protection is afforded to the slave as the free, and that in minor cases in the inferior courts the same practice is always resorted to.

The committee having nothing further to add at this time, conclude with expressing an earnest and anxious hope, that His Majesty's Government will in their wisdom be pleased to direct that such regulations as they deem meet to frame for furthering the purposes of the Slavery Abolition Bill, being without the test of experience, that a suspending power be vested

vested in the Governor to alter and amend such parts thereof as may, when put in practice, be found unsuitable and inapplicable.

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(signed)	<i>William Gentle.</i>	<i>Marshal Bennett.</i>
	<i>J. M'Donald.</i>	<i>John Young.</i>
	<i>William Maskall.</i>	<i>George Hyde.</i>
	<i>Charles Evans.</i>	<i>W. H. Coffin.</i>

Moved by William H. Coffin, esq., and seconded by Richard C. Wardlaw, esq., that the report made by the committee to this meeting on the 10th January instant be withdrawn, and that the chairman of the committee be allowed to substitute in its place the report just now made.

Carried unanimously.

Resolved unanimously, that this meeting approve of the report of the committee now read, and adopt the same as their answer to his Excellency His Majesty's Superintendent's message of the 18th December 1833, and most respectfully request that his Excellency will be pleased to transmit the same to the proper authorities.

(signed) *William Gentle*, Chairman.

— No. 349. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Under-Secretary *Lefevre* to Colonel *Cockburn*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 6 June 1834.

IN the absence of Mr. Secretary Spring Rice, but by his directions, I have the honour to transmit to you an order made on the 5th instant by His Majesty in Council, for regulating the condition of apprenticed labourers in His Majesty's Settlements at Honduras, in pursuance of the Statute of the 3d and 4th year of His Majesty's reign, for the Abolition of Slavery in the British Colonies.

No. 349.  
Order in Council,  
5 June 1834,  
printed in the Ap-  
pendix (B), No. 65.

In framing the Bill which was submitted to Parliament in their last session, it did not escape the notice of His Majesty's Government, that both the political relations in which Honduras stands to this kingdom, and the many peculiarities by which the internal economy of that Settlement is distinguished from that of all the other British possessions to which the Act applies, might give rise to many difficulties in the practical execution of it. To obviate questions arising from the political state of Honduras, the 62d section of the Statute placed beyond doubt the existence and extent of His Majesty's legislative authority. To escape as far as might be possible from those embarrassments which the peculiar employment of the slaves seemed likely to produce in the adaptation of the general system to the exigencies of the Settlement, I had the honour, by Mr. Stanley's direction, to apply for assistance to Mr. James Hyde, a gentleman well known to yourself and to the inhabitants at large, as long and intimately conversant with the employments, interests and habits of the different classes of the local population. From Mr. Hyde I accordingly received a letter replete with many valuable suggestions. Of that letter I enclose a copy for your information.

28 January.

In the absence of any specific advice from yourself for the guidance of His Majesty's Government in framing the necessary Order in Council, they have been induced to attach the greater weight to the counsels with which Mr. Hyde has favoured them; and which indeed had been strongly recommended by their inherent weight, and by their consistency with whatever could be learnt from other sources of intelligence.

The general result is, to show that the system introduced into the Colonies of British Guiana, Trinidad and St. Lucia, can be extended to Honduras but in a very partial and imperfect manner; and that in the adoption of any part of that system, it is necessary that there should always be on the spot resources sufficient for the correction of any errors or oversights into which persons residing in Europe must unavoidably fall in attempting such legislation. You will accordingly perceive, that while the Order in Council has laid down the general rule, that the Trinidad law on the subject of apprenticed labourers shall be transferred to Honduras, it at the same time authorizes you to introduce any exceptions to that general rule which you may think necessary, either by the subtraction of what may be redundant, or by the addition of what may be wanting. Your duty will therefore consist in maintaining the Trinidad order, as far as it may

be

HONDURAS. be found practicable; relaxing, abridging or enlarging it, to meet those circumstances which here it was not possible with much confidence to anticipate.

I limit myself to these general remarks. It is not impossible that Mr. Spring Rice may think it right, at some early period, to enter more at large into the subject.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *John Lefevre.*

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Enclosure in No. 349.

Sir,

St. Michael's-alley, Cornhill, 28 January 1834.

*Vide Parl. Papers,*  
Part 1, printed 16  
July 1835, No. 177,  
pages 16 to 24.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, transmitting a copy of the heads of a proposed Order in Council, in furtherance of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, and requesting from me such observations thereon as my experience as a merchant connected with Honduras enable me to offer, more especially as regards the effects of such an order in that Settlement; and, in reply, I beg leave to observe, that the regulations in the said proposed Order in Council being intended for British Guiana, are in most respects inapplicable to Honduras, which not being an agricultural Colony, the slaves hereafter to be apprenticed have not been in any way attached to the soil or to plantations, for during the principal part of their time the men have been, and must continue to be, dispersed in the woods of that extensive country, employed in cutting down and manufacturing mahogany and dye woods, the natural produce of the Settlement, (and to which they are restricted by the Convention Treaty with Spain of 1786), in the manner explained in the letter I had the honour to address to Mr. Secretary Stanley, on the 15th instant, and to which I beg leave to refer. The female slaves to be apprenticed have been, and must continue to be, employed as domestic servants, seamstresses, &c. And it appears to me that, in respect to the slaves to be apprenticed in Honduras under the Act, nothing further is or can be requisite or necessary than to place them in all respects on a footing with any white person under indentures for a certain term, except their being exempt from the civil and military services and offices, during their apprenticeship, provided against in the 12th clause of the Abolition Act. In this way the apprenticed labourer will have the same recourse to and protection from the court in the Settlement as any other of His Majesty's subjects; and the detailed regulations respecting special justices of the peace, and extra police establishments, would be avoided and rendered unnecessary. I have found, from a residence and experience of upwards of 30 years in the Settlement, that the labour got from the slaves was always in a great degree obtained through very great encouragement and conciliation, and this must continue to be the case, because the slaves, when they thought they were neglected or ill-used by their owners, were in the constant habit of crossing into the Spanish settlements contiguous to the British district, where they were as free, being beyond the reach of their masters; and as, on such occasions, they were sure to inveigle others to accompany them, the woodcutters in this way met with serious losses, which they could only hope to prevent by conciliating their slaves in every way in their power, and obtaining their attachment, and which has produced a degree of cordiality and familiarity between master and slave nowhere else known. And as the slaves to be apprenticed in Honduras are already on a far better footing in every respect than the Abolition Act will entitle them to claim during their apprenticeship, I would humbly suggest, the best thing that could be done for the apprenticed labourers would be to engage their employers to continue to them, during the period of their servitude, the same allowances and indulgences they received as slaves, and in return for the same quantum of labour as formerly, to be given according to the usage of the Settlement, as explained in my letter of the 15th, before referred to. The usual labour is within the number of hours per week allowed by the Act, although from necessity required partly during the night for five or six weeks in the year during the trucking season. Hitherto the slave has worked but five days in the week for his master, being always paid for his Saturday's labour at the rate of half a dollar a day, besides being fed; and on Sunday they never labour unless voluntarily, and in cases of necessity, and for which they are always so liberally paid that they are glad to be employed, and they have always about two weeks holdidays at Christmas, and usually some time allowed them, in the middle of the year, to visit their friends in town.

I do not consider the appointment of a special justice of the peace for the purposes of the Act necessary; but, as the Act seems to render such an appointment indispensable, I apprehend that one such magistrate would be sufficient for the small number of apprenticed labourers, and that his residence must be at Belize, which is the principal Settlement, and where the largest number of apprenticed servants will always be collected, that he may be present to hear the complaints of the labourers of this class, on their return from their occupations in the woods, which usually happens twice in the year.

In my humble judgment, the judicial and ministerial agency contemplated in the proposed Order in Council, as stated in chapter 1, are altogether inapplicable and unnecessary for Honduras, where special justices of the peace are not necessary to protect, and still less an extra police establishment to coerce, the apprenticed labourers, at least none should be appointed until His Majesty's Superintendent felt it necessary to establish it. My opinion is that such a police establishment would do more harm than good, and that the present police of the Settlement is sufficient for every purpose of the Act, and that the duty of the special justice

justice of the peace should be, at least in the first instance, to act in a great degree as a protector, and see that the same justice was exercised towards the apprenticed labourers by the courts of the Settlement, as to any other of His Majesty's subjects; and that all penalties for insubordination and non-performance of duty, shall be within the limits stated in the proposed Order in Council.

The procedure to be observed by the special magistrate in the exercise of his jurisdiction, as stated in chapter 2, could not be understood nor acted upon in Honduras, where there are no lawyers, and would be rendered altogether unnecessary if the labourers to be apprenticed under the Act are placed on a footing with white clerks and tradesmen who go out from this country under indenture to serve for a limited term, but without prejudice to the due fulfilment of their indentures under the Abolition Act.

I do not well understand the very detailed regulations for the division of apprenticed labourers into the classes as intended by the Act, and contained in chapter 3 of the proposed Order in Council; but in so small a community, where there are so few slaves, there can be no difficulty in obtaining and correcting returns with a just regard to the interest of both servant and employer.

In respect to the maintenance of labourers as proposed in chapter 4, I am persuaded the employer would not think of offering, nor would the apprenticed labourer in Honduras accept, or be at all satisfied with, a provision for his maintenance founded on the law of any other Colony: the manner in which they have been fed is pointed out in the documents I had the honour to transmit to the Colonial-office on the 15th instant.

I consider the regulations in chapter 5 proper for the guidance and restriction of the courts in the Settlement, and necessary to convince the apprentices of their obligation to serve their employers with the same diligence and fidelity as heretofore, until the end of their apprenticeship.

In reference to chapter 6, I would beg to observe, that the apprenticed labourer would, in the courts of Honduras, have a very simple, summary and effectual recourse upon his employer for payment due him for protracted labour extracted from him by force or fraud, or given voluntary, or for any other pecuniary claim; and I must at the same time point out the impossibility of any employer intimating to labourers dispersed in the woods the commencement or close of legal hours of labour, by any mode of signal visible or audible; but the necessity of this is obviated by task work always voluntarily undertaken by the labourers, from time to time, on the spot, upon viewing the trees to be cut down, and the nature of the ground upon which roads are to be formed. It will be evident that the remainder of the regulations of this chapter cannot be acted upon, as it respects gangs of free hired men and apprenticed labourers under the Act, working in the woods in Honduras; for these gangs being generally, for the greater part of the year, under the direction of a confidential and experienced slave, and where none can write, the agreements are necessarily verbal, and from day to day, for particular jobs. There is no difference made between free hired labourers and slaves or apprenticed labourers, in respect to task work, which is indeed always preferred by both parties; and there is little fear of one or other of these labourers undertaking a task they cannot very easily perform; in fact the performance of the task agreed upon cannot, from the desultory nature of the business, be looked after with anything like strictness; and on the whole, I am persuaded that any interference respecting the established modes of labour in Honduras would be as unacceptable to the apprenticed labourer as to his employer, and destructive to the good understanding which has always hitherto existed between them respecting work to be carried on.

I consider many of the enactments proposed in chapter 7 might be a useful guidance to the courts in Honduras; but the enactments 3 and 4 could not be acted upon, and are indeed rendered unnecessary by the enactment No. 5. On the subject of the enactment No. 8, I would observe, that the militia of the Settlement are under the command of the Governor for the time being, and can only be called out through him. And in respect to enactment No. 20, I believe all the vessels and crafts belonging to the Settlement are registered in the Governor's office at Belize; and I therefore consider the enactments Nos. 21, 22 and 23, as interfering with his department, and moreover, as superfluous and unnecessary.

Having never seen the Order in Council of November 1831, on the subject of slaves purchasing their freedom in British Guiana, referred to in chapter 8, I cannot judge how it would answer for Honduras; but the provision on this head, in the eighth clause of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, seems to make a sufficient and equitable provision for apprenticed labourers purchasing their discharge on an appraisement.

Chapter 9 cannot in any way apply to Honduras, where the labourers, from the nature of their occupation as wood-cutters, are almost daily on the move from one spot to another, and periodically from one river to another, and any restriction of, or interference with, their necessary movements is impossible.

The enactments in chapters 10, 11 and 12, seem proper and necessary.

I have thus, in obedience to your desire, made such observations on the subject of the proposed Order in Council as my very long residence in and local knowledge of the Settlement of Honduras enable me to offer; and I shall be happy to give any additional information or explanations which may appear necessary in reference to the heads of the proposed Order in Council sent to me, and which document I return herewith, agreeably to your desire, although I should feel obliged by being favoured with a copy of it, to forward to the magistrates of Honduras.

I have, &c.  
signed) *James Hyde.*

*John Lefevre, Esq. &c. &c. &c.*  
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HONDURAS.

— No. 350. —

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Colonel *Cockburn* to Mr. Under-Secretary *Lefevre*; dated Government House, Honduras, 24 July 1834.

No. 350.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th June, transmitting the Order of the King in Council, of the day preceding, for carrying into effect in this Settlement the Act of the 3d and 4th of His Majesty, for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; and I beg you will assure Mr. Secretary Rice, that in the exercise of the powers therein confided to me, all due caution and consideration shall be used. The discretionary authority with which I have been vested to introduce exceptions to the Trinidad law, when I may be satisfied of the necessity and propriety of so doing, cannot fail of being acceptable to the inhabitants of this Settlement; for it is in full concurrence with the request contained in their last memorial on the subject, forwarded with my Despatch of July 10 to Mr. Secretary Stanley.

I have attentively perused the letter addressed to you by Mr. Hyde on the 28th of January last; but I can by no means concur generally in the opinions it contains. My persuasion is directly at variance with his, as to the appointment of special magistrates and extra police establishments. He is of opinion that the courts of Honduras, as at present established, are fully competent to the duties of the one, and the present police of the Settlement to the duties of the other. On what grounds any one considering himself conversant with the actual and existing state of affairs in this Settlement could have formed such an opinion, I am at a loss to imagine. The duties of the magistrates to be specially appointed under the Slave Act will be very different, and ten times more burthensome than those devolving on the present bench. The latter are without any positive control over them. They go when and where they please; they stay from Belize or return to it as suits their convenience; nor in the event of their being wanted, would the knowing where to find them be by any means a matter of certainty. Would such practice and custom accord with the duties to be required from special magistrates? Again, the making the owners (which the magistrates generally are) judges with respect to their own conduct, as well as in that of their apprentices, when either the one or the other might be called in question, would be manifestly against the spirit of the Act of Parliament. With respect to the sufficiency of our present police establishment, I think Mr. Hyde must really have quite forgotten what it consists of. We have one police officer, who appoints and pays the expense of one constable (sworn in as such), to assist him. Mr. Hyde is of opinion that all the duties of the special magistracy can be performed in Belize. Here again I entirely differ with him; for were the apprentices once to imagine themselves, when in the mahogany woods, exempt from the visits of a superintending and controlling power, it would, I feel entirely convinced, operate as the greatest encouragement to idleness, profligacy and insubordination.

— No. 351. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Colonel *Cockburn* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Sir,

Government House, Honduras, 10 July 1834.

No. 351.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the proceedings of a public meeting which assembled on the 30th ult. Doubting whether the Orders of the King in Council would reach us before the 1st of August, I recommended to the meeting to pass a law of the Settlement, exempting apprenticed labourers from arrest for debt; considering that such a regulation might prevent much inconvenience both to the owner and to the apprentice. You will perceive that the meeting unhesitatingly adopted my suggestion, and concluded their proceedings by a renewal of their assurance to co-operate, in the fullest and most complete way, to carry into effect, as far as possible, all such regulations as His Majesty's Government may think necessary to make for the purposes of the Abolition Bill.

The

The memorial directed by the meeting to be addressed to His Majesty's Superintendent I have subsequently received, and a copy thereof is herewith enclosed. To every statement which it contains I can sincerely offer the strongest confirmation; and so fully am I aware that, if the regulation respecting the labour of apprentices was exclusively enforced, it would render the apprentices entirely useless, that, until further instructed by you, I shall take upon myself to sanction such an arrangement in this respect as may meet the views and interests of the mahogany cutters, and be in every respect unobjectionable to the apprentices.

HONDURAS

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Francis Cockburn.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 351.

EXTRACT from the MINUTES OF PROCEEDING at a Public Meeting of the Inhabitants, held at the Court House, Belize, Honduras, on the 30th June 1834.

Message :

In reference to the 22d clause of the Slave Abolition Bill, His Majesty's Superintendent suggests to the meeting the expediency of a regulation being made in this Settlement, to prevent legal process being had against apprenticed labourers, for debts contracted by them; and rendering all civil contracts entered into by them null and void, unless previously sanctioned and approved of by a special magistrate.

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 351.

The memorial drawn by a committee and approved of by the public meeting on the 25th January last, was transmitted to Mr. Secretary Stanley on the 5th March. No answer has yet been received, and His Majesty's Superintendent has nothing further on this head to submit for consideration. Should the meeting however, on its part, have any further suggestions to offer on any point connected with the emancipation of slaves, or the important change which is to take place respecting them on the 1st of August, such suggestions will be met on the part of His Majesty's Superintendent with all due consideration, and an anxious wish to fulfil the views and wishes of the public meeting, in this as in all other respects.

(signed) *Francis Cockburn.*

The thanks of the meeting were unanimously voted to his Excellency His Majesty's Superintendent, for his gracious message.

The meeting proceeded to take into consideration the clause of His Majesty's Superintendent's message, respecting the exemption of apprenticed labourers from being arrested for debt, when the following Resolution was moved by Jervis Harrison, and seconded by James Banks :

Whereas it appears by the 22d clause of an Act of the British Parliament, intituled " An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies," that it may be expedient that apprenticed labourers should, during the period of such apprenticeship, be exempted from arrest for debt: Be it therefore enacted, by and with the consent of His Majesty's Superintendent, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that from and after the 1st of August 1834, no person or persons becoming apprenticed labourers by virtue or under the authority of the said Act, shall be subject to arrest or imprisonment for any debts, due or demand contracted during the continuance of such apprenticeship; and that no apprenticed labourer shall be subject to any civil suit, process or molestation whatever, in any of the courts of this Settlement, for any debts, dues or demands contracted during the period of such apprenticeship; provided always, that nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to interfere with the usual course of the criminal jurisprudence of the Settlement.

Carried unanimously.

With regard to the clause of His Majesty's Superintendent's message, it was moved by George Hyde, and seconded by George Adolphus, that this meeting having had reference to the minutes of a special meeting, held at Belize River's mouth, the 21st of October last, for the purpose of declaring their acceptance of, and their willingness to co-operate as far as possible in carrying into effect the Act of the British Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery, considered they had fully complied with what is required by the 44th clause of the Act, in providing for the same being carried into effect. That they can only now reiterate their former declaration made at the meeting aforesaid; and that this meeting pledges itself to co-operate in the fullest and most complete manner, to carry into effect, as far as possible, such regulations as His Majesty's Government may think necessary to make for the purpose of this Act.

Further, that this meeting do appoint a committee for the purpose of taking into consideration the various other subjects already referred to in the reports made to the public meetings of last year by their committee, and to which his Excellency states, that he has received no answer from the Secretary of State; and in particular, that the attention of the committee be drawn to the subject of what exceptions it may be necessary to recommend regarding the inapplicability

HONDURAS. inapplicability to this Settlement of that part of the Abolition Bill which restricts the period of the labour of the apprentices to 7½ hours per day, and 45 per week.

That the committee shall consist of the same persons who formed the previous committee on this subject; and that it shall be authorized to draw up a memorial to His Majesty's Superintendent on this subject.

Carried unanimously.

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Enclosure 2, in No. 351.

Sir,

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 351.

THE undersigned members of a committee appointed by the legislative meeting, held at Belize River's mouth, on Monday the 30th of June 1834, for the purpose of drawing up an address to His Majesty's Superintendent on the subject of the 3d paragraph of his message to the meeting; having met, and after the most mature and deliberate consideration having been given to that important subject, beg leave in the first place to have reference to memorial of a public meeting held on Saturday the 26th October last, presented to your Excellency, for the purpose of being laid before His Majesty's Government; and also the report of a committee made at a special public meeting, held on the 25th January 1834, on the subject of a minute of a proposed Order in Council indicative of the views of His Majesty's Government, as respects the various legislative measures which remain to be taken in the Colonies, for carrying into more detailed effect the provisions of the said Act, leaving it to the meeting to offer any remarks thereon as applicable to this Settlement; by which memorial and report it was fully set forth and demonstrated that any material alteration in the number of hours of daily labour to be performed by apprenticed labourers, would render that class of persons altogether unavailable for the purposes of wood-cutting, and particularly for the following reasons:

First, that for three months of the year, or the trucking season, labour is performed for the most part during the night, as regards both the persons employed to load and drive the trucks; this does not arise from the whim or the caprice of the wood-cutter, but from causes over which he has no control, namely, the heat of the climate. The oxen employed for the purpose of dragging out mahogany are not so constituted as to work during the heat of the day; the great distance which wood has now to be brought to the river side, subject to the many casualties that may happen to cause detention, prevents any exact calculation from being made of the number of hours required for making a trip; your Excellency will therefore readily perceive, that it would be attended with the most fatal effect to the wood-cutters to employ persons who, at the expiration of seven-and-a-half hours labour, might, at any distance he might be from the river, say to himself, "my hours of labour have expired," and consequently abandon his charge, leaving his team of oxen to perish by being exposed to the heat of the sun, and for want of food and water.

Secondly, We also consider it of the highest importance to recal to your Excellency's consideration, what was set forth in our former memorial respecting free labour, that the free labourer in every respect performs the same duties as the slave in the business of wood-cutting, intermixed together, and, in fine, the one cannot be distinguished from the other but by personal knowledge; both generally perform their labour by task-work for nine months in the year; and while we can put it with confidence to your Excellency to say, if either freeman or slave ever complained of being overtaken, we humbly conceive we can with safety assert that the slaves of this country have heretofore never been overworked.

If apprenticed labourers could be employed exclusively by themselves, in the business of wood-cutting, their being restricted to a limited number of hours work daily would not be objectionable, at least for nine months in the year; seven-and-a-half hours being quite sufficient to perform the quantity of labour heretofore done, but the two classes cannot be separated; any alteration therefore affecting free labour cannot be carried into effect.

We can scarcely suppose, that with these facts authenticated by your Excellency, that His Majesty's Ministers, or the British nation, can have any insuperable objection that the apprenticed labourers in Honduras should be placed in the same condition regarding labour as freemen; we are the more assured of this, being convinced that the British Legislature never intended to render the labour of apprentices unavailing to their employers, but to prevent their being overworked.

Your Excellency may believe us when we express our deep regret at being constrained to advance so much difficulty in carrying into effect, according to its exact letter, the provisions of the Bill for the Abolition of Slavery, without such modification as to your Excellency may appear absolutely necessary. You will also, no doubt, readily perceive, that on the score of interest it would be preferable for the settlers to abandon the benefit to be derived from the apprenticed labourer, than to make such innovation and alteration in the present system of free labour; the slaves then, although unconditionally emancipated, could not be employed as wood-cutters, as we can scarcely contemplate the inconsistency of their engaging to perform as freemen the same quantum of labour as was objected to when apprenticed labourers; that class would therefore necessarily become a grade lower in the scale of society, by being compelled for subsistence to have recourse to that description of labour that merely yields animal existence. It will therefore be for your Excellency to modify that part of the Bill restricting to a limited number of hours labour, in such way as in your wisdom you may deem calculated to avert the consummation pointed out. As regards the non-arrival of any

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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of the stipendiary magistrates, it may be necessary to observe, that the free labourer is stimulated to a performance of his engagement, from a knowledge of being mulct in part his wages for non-performance or neglect of duty; in like manner the slave has been stimulated to a performance of his duty from a desire to preserve his character, and a reluctance of incurring the displeasure of his owner, rather than from the dread of punishment. These stimulants have been found to act, on these different classes, in a similar way; but those ties of mutual benefit which bound the slave to his former master being cut asunder, the authority of the magistrate appointed for that purpose will no doubt be necessary to preserve orderly conduct, and to punish the apprenticed labourer for neglect of duty. We therefore contemplate with consternation and dismay the probability of so numerous a class of persons being cast loose on the Settlement in the course of a very few days, without any laws to govern their conduct; we are therefore under the imperious necessity, in behalf of ourselves and fellow settlers, to call upon your Excellency to adopt such measures as in your wisdom you may think fit, for the preservation of the lives and properties of His Majesty's subjects, as well as for the maintenance of the peace and tranquillity of the Settlement.

HONDURAS.

We have, &amp;c.

(signed)

*Wm. Gentle.**Geo. Hyde.**Wm. Walsh.**John Young.**Wm. Mashall.**Andrew Kennedy.**J. M' Donald.**W. Williamson.*

To his Excellency Colonel Cockburn,  
His Majesty's Superintendent, &c. &c. &c.

— No. 352. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Colonel *Cockburn*.

Sir,

Colonial Office, 18 Sept. 1834.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 10th July, enclosing the proceedings of a public meeting held on the 30th of June at Belize; and with reference to the measure you recommended the meeting to adopt, in the absence of positive instructions from home, to meet the change in the condition of the negroes on the 1st of August last, I have only to express to you my hope that the Order of the King in Council, enclosed in Mr. Lefevre's Despatch to you of the 6th of June, will have enabled you to obviate the difficulty anticipated, in a manner consistent with the spirit of the Act. Under the impression that you will have been relieved from any embarrassment by the arrival of the Order, it appears to me unnecessary at the present moment to enter further into the contents of your Despatch.

No. 352.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *T. S. Rice.*

— No. 353. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Colonel *Cockburn* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

Government House, Honduras, 11 August 1834.

IN reference to my Despatch of the 24th July last, I have now the honour to enclose a copy of a document notified to the public here at the same time with the Orders in Council for Trinidad and Honduras; and by which you will perceive what alteration I have deemed it expedient to make in the regulations established for Trinidad, with a view to meeting the customs, habits and localities of this Settlement.

No. 353.

Document showing alterations made in the Trinidad Order in Council, 5 June 1834, by the Superintendent of Honduras; printed in the Appx. (B), No. 66.

It may be proper for me to add, in explanation of the alterations I have made from 2 to 15 inclusive, of the clauses contained in cap. 4, that the slaves in this Settlement received a ration doubly valuable compared with that laid down in the orders for Trinidad, and that they were paid for their Saturday's labour, which will still be the case.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Francis Cockburn.*

HONDURAS.

— No. 354. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of *Aberdeen* to Colonel *Cockburn*.

No. 354. Sir, Downing-street, 29 December 1834.  
Your Despatch of the 11th August last was duly received at this department, with the enclosed document, by which you notified to the settlers at Honduras the alterations which, in pursuance of the powers vested in you, have been made in His Majesty's Order in Council for regulating the condition of apprenticed labourers, in order to adapt that law to the peculiar circumstances of the Settlement.

I have to signify to you His Majesty's approbation of the substance of the measure which you adopted. The form, though very unusual, is recommended by so much practical convenience, and is at once so simple and intelligible, that an Act of far more artificial structure would probably have answered the purpose much less effectually. I do not, therefore, object to this innovation in this particular case, having regard to the reasons by which it was apparently dictated.

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

— No. 355. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Colonel *Cockburn* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*; dated Government House, Honduras, 12 August 1834.

No. 355. CONSIDERING the Order in Council imperative as concerns the employment of police gangs, and that their services are indispensable in this Settlement, two, consisting of one sergeant and five privates each, have been established accordingly; the rate of wages, 7*l.* 10*s.* currency per month to the sergeant, and 5*l.* currency (equal to 3*l.* sterling) per month to each of the privates; they are also to be supplied with a good and sufficient ration of provisions. I fear you will consider the terms on which these persons have been engaged as very high; but I can assure you they are the common prices of the country, and the same as paid to all the men employed in the coasting mahogany vessels.

— No. 356. —

COPY of a LETTER from Colonel *Cockburn* to Mr. Under-Secretary *Lefevre*.

No. 356. Sir, Government House, Honduras, 13 Aug. 1834.  
You will, I am sure, be anxious for information from all the Colonies as to the working of the Slave Abolition Bill. The period which has elapsed since the 31st July has been unattended here by any actual disturbance, though certainly much dissatisfaction has been evinced on the part of the manumitted slaves. They do not, nor can they easily be made to understand, the obligations attached to their freedom. Their idea is that the King has made them free, and therefore that the making them work for six years longer without pay, is an act of injustice. I have seen a great number of them, and endeavoured to explain to their comprehension the real state of the case. They do not dissent from what is told them; and they so far seem to comprehend it, that although several had avowed a disinclination to return to their work, yet more have persevered in a refusal so to do. It is, however, quite evident that the six years' apprenticeship has counterbalanced in their estimation all the ulterior advantages held out to them by the Bill; they look to the present only, and therefore, finding that they are not "to all intents and purposes set free, and discharged from all manner of slavery at once," they neither feel benefited nor gratified at what has been done for them. I shall not relax in my exertions to set them right; and in this respect feel confident of the cordial co-operation of the employers.

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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employers. Still I cannot but feel some apprehension that rather than meet the six years' apprenticeship, they will avail themselves of the facility which attends their quitting the Settlement, and proceeding to the neighbouring republics; such a result would be highly prejudicial; every precaution therefore, you may rely on it, shall be taken to prevent it. I shall continue to keep you informed on this interesting subject by succeeding opportunities.

I remain, &c.  
(signed) *Francis Cockburn.*

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— No. 357. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Colonel *Cockburn*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 6 October 1834.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to Mr. Lefevre, of the 13th August last. The misapprehensions which you describe as existing in the minds of the apprenticed labourers of Honduras have prevailed in other Colonies, and by advice and expostulation in many cases have been prevented from leading to any dangerous results. I have no doubt that your experience and prudence will devise and apply the best means of removing from the minds of the apprenticed labourers the impression, either that they are free from all restraint, or that there is no improvement in their social condition. I am quite aware that the position of the Settlement over which you preside is peculiar, and that cases may arise in which some of the negro population may abandon their homes for the territory of the neighbouring republics. But if the provisions of the new law are cordially and strictly carried into effect; if the rights and privileges secured to the apprentice are as firmly maintained as his obligations are on the other hand enforced, I cannot but entertain a confident expectation that desertions will not be numerous.

Awaiting the further communications which I shall hope soon to receive from you,

I have, &c.  
(signed) *T. Spring Rice.*

No. 357.

— No. 358. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Colonel *Cockburn* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

Government House, Honduras, 13 Aug. 1834.

THE 18th and 19th clauses of the Slave Abolition Act confine the investigations of special magistrates to matters between employers and apprentices; and I therefore consider, that should an apprentice have cause of complaint against any other than his employer, or *vice versa*, the matter must be referred to the court of the Settlement. I am however of opinion, that under the 11th and 24th clauses of the Order in Council, cap. 2d, special magistrates may require the attendance of any persons capable of giving evidence on any matter to be inquired into between an apprentice and employer. May I request to be informed whether my opinions in these respects are correct?

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Francis Cockburn.*

No. 358.

— No. 359. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Colonel *Cockburn*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 8 October 1834.

I HAVE received your Despatch, dated the 13th of August last, in which you express your opinion, that "should an apprentice have cause of complaint

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against any other than his employer, or *vice versa*, the matter must be referred to the courts of Settlement;” and that under the Order in Council, “special magistrates may require the attendance of any person capable of giving evidence on any matter to be inquired into between an apprentice and an employer;” and you request to be informed whether your opinions in these respects are correct.

I have therefore to acquaint you, that I concur in your interpretation of the law, upon each of the questions which you have thus brought under my notice.

I have, &c.  
(signed) T. Spring Rice.

— No. 360. —

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Colonel *Cockburn* to Mr. Under-Secretary *Lefevre*; dated Government House, Honduras, 11 Sept. 1834.

No. 360.

I HAD the honour of addressing a letter to you on the 13th August, relative to the working of the Slave Abolition Bill in this Settlement; and I have now much pleasure in stating, that the discontents and difficulties which I then expressed an apprehension of have been in no way realized; on the contrary, the apprentices have returned to their work, and their employers seem perfectly satisfied with their exertions. The gentlemen appointed by me to act as special magistrates have so far fulfilled the duties entrusted to them to my entire satisfaction; and I have so much confidence in a continuance of their best exertions, that I anxiously hope their appointments will not be interfered with from home.

— No. 361. —

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Colonel *Cockburn* to Mr. Under-Secretary *Lefevre*; dated Government House, Honduras, 22 Oct. 1834.

No. 361.

I AM much gratified in being able to confirm my favourable account of the Slave Bill; nothing can work better than it appears to do. In short, I have heard no complaint, and anticipate no difficulty.

— No. 362. —

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Colonel *Cockburn* to Sir *George Grey*, bart., Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies; dated Government House, Honduras, 15 Dec. 1834.

No. 362.

THE apprenticed labourers are going on well; and although nearly the whole of them will be assembled here at the ensuing Christmas, I do not anticipate any disturbance, complaint or difficulty.

— No. 363. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Colonel *Cockburn* to the Right Honourable Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 363.

My Lord, Government House, Honduras, 1 July 1835.  
I HAVE much satisfaction in transmitting herewith a letter which I have received from William Maskall, esq., a special magistrate of this Settlement, and which is accompanied by a journal, detailing his proceedings on a tour of inspection up the Belize River. In addition to the information received from Mr. Maskall, I have reports from all parts of the Settlement, and I am fully justified

justified in assuring you, that so far from receiving any complaints, the employers, on the one hand, express themselves fully satisfied with the labour performed for them by the apprentices, and the apprentices, on the other, declare themselves sensible of, and grateful for, the kind treatment they receive from their owners. At no period has labour been better, or more cheerfully performed; all parties are satisfied; and I trust I may say that the slave emancipation has answered, as far as this Settlement is concerned, the utmost wishes of its most sanguine supporters.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Francis Cockburn.*

HONDURAS.

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Enclosure 1, in No. 363.

Sir,  
I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency a journal of my tour up the River Belize, visiting all the mahogany and other establishments of apprenticed labourers, agreeably to your instructions; and it is most gratifying to me to relate, and I am certain it will be equally so to your Excellency to find, that during my route of three weeks I had but one solitary complaint, and that of a trivial nature, against a female; and I am fully justified in stating, that having frequently (during a residence in this Settlement for the last 18 years) had occasion to be with, and seen the management of various establishments, I have never witnessed more peace, good order and quietude than on the late occasion; and I am fully satisfied, that when the apprenticed labourers are away from Belize, and kept from those banes to society, grog-shops, and the idle and mischievous people in town, they are disposed to be civil, industrious and contented. Comfort and happiness are as much as possible studied by employer and apprenticed labourer, and every duty appears to be performed cheerfully and entirely satisfactory to both parties; inasmuch as I have observed, during my late visits in the establishments of Mr. Gentle and Mr. Anderson, in Roaring Creek, men who were very clamorous and noisy in your Excellency's presence, in the assemblage at the Government House, during last Christmas, have since that time behaved in a most exemplary manner; and their employers declared these labourers never behaved better, or so well before; and the labourers asserted their entire satisfaction with the employers during the late arduous undertaking of getting out mahogany, to the most minute scrutiny as to treatment; so much so, that the employers have declared to me, for such good conduct, it is their decided intention to reward them accordingly.

Belize, Honduras, 17 June 1835.

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 363.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *William Mashall.*

To his Excellency Colonel Cockburn,  
His Majesty's Superintendent,  
&c. &c. &c.

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Enclosure 2, in No. 363.

JOURNAL, 1835.

26th May, Tuesday.—BEING directed by the King's Superintendent to proceed up the Belize River to visit the various establishments and mahogany works in said river, left town this morning, and proceeded as far as Burrell's Bank to-day. A few apprenticed labourers at various plantations, and at the latter place, but upon inquiry, no complaints from either employer or labourer.

27th May, Wednesday.—Proceeded upwards; called at Baker's and a few other establishments, where the apprenticed labourers are more numerous than in the journey of yesterday, but found all quiet; no complaints, except by Susannah Potts against her female apprenticed labourer; but as she was on the point of going to town, I referred her to Special Justice Grigg; arrived at Pattanet's Bank, above Black Creek, about three o'clock P.M.; issued the following notice, and held a session at four; no complaints.

“ Copy of Notice proclaimed by Serjeant of Police, here and afterwards, at the several Mahogany Works during our Tour.

“ I, William Maskall, one of the special justices in and for this Settlement, do hereby make known to all concerned, that I shall hold a session here this day, and therefore call upon all and every employer or employers of, or apprenticed labourers, having any complaints to make, now to come forward and they shall be heard.—God save the King.”

28th May, Thursday.—This morning Mr. Robert Turnbull and part of his gang passed me for town; no complaints. Upwards, above the Great Falls; called at several small establishments on the way; no complaints.

29th May, Friday.—Visited the establishment of Mr. William M'Kay, Cochreco Bank; no complaints. Proceeded on to Mr. Robert Turnbull's Bank at Beaver Dam; all quiet; no complaints.

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30th May,

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 363.



## HONDURAS.

30th May, Saturday.—Visited Miss Mary Hume's gang at Rock Donda; no complaints. Onwards to Mr. George Hume's works at Mount Pleasant; found all perfectly quiet; no complaints. Slept at Orange Walk cattle pen.

31st May, Sunday.—Sabbath-day, rested.

1st June, Monday.—Went to Mr. William Gentle's mahogany works in Roaring Creek; flood in the same; all hands out driving wood.

2d June, Tuesday.—This morning held a session; no complaints; employer declared himself satisfied with labourers, and labourers with employer. Went to Mr. Richard Anderson's Bank above; hands all out at work.

3d June, Wednesday.—Held a session this morning; no complaints, employer and labourer declaring themselves quiet, contented, and perfectly satisfied as to all transactions during the late dry season. Returned back to Orange Walk; slept there.

4th June, Thursday.—Proceeded on to Mr. William Usher's Bank at Society Hall, above Monkey Falls; arrived about five o'clock; slept there.

5th June, Friday.—Held a session this morning; labourers assembled; no complaints by them or employer; onwards to Miss C. Paslow's cattle pen; met Mr. Samuel F. August and all his gang returning from the branch; no complaints.

6th June, Saturday.—Started early at branch mouth; about eight o'clock, A. M. entered the right-hand branch; visited Mr. Marshal Bennett's gang at the Hermitage Works; hands out at work; left notice with the captain that I shall call to see them early on Monday morning.

7th June, Sunday.—Sabbath; at Mr. Anderson's vacated bank, above the last works.

8th June, Monday.—Visited Mr. Marshal Bennett's gang at the Hermitage Works; held a session; no complaints. Rode over to Garbutt Falls, in left-hand branch; held a session at Mr. Marshal Bennett's establishment there; no complaints.

9th June, Tuesday.—Returned, calling at Miss Clarissa Paslow's establishments at Mountain Cow Fall; no complaints. Visited Mr. William Vaughan's works at Bamboo Bank in said branch; held a session; no complaints. Onwards to right-hand branch; proceeded downwards to Cakoow Run, in Main River, the bank of Mr. Samuel F. August; found he had moved to Mount Hope, at Cakoow Run. The police gang apprehended an apprenticed labourer named Jonathan Meighan, belonging to Mr. George Garnett, who has absented himself from his employer's service since the 1st of August last; kept him prisoner, complaint of bad conduct against him having been preferred in Belize by his employer previous to my departure.

10th June, Wednesday.—Visited Mr. Samuel August's gang in Barton Creek; held a session; no complaints. Returned to Mount Hope, the establishment of Mr. Samuel F. August.

11th June, Thursday.—This day held a session at Mount Hope; no complaints.

12th June, Friday.—Proceeded down the river to Beaver Dam.

13th June, Saturday.—Left the latter place; went up Labouring Creek; strong flood; got to Mr. Morris Cunningham's Bank about nine o'clock at night; found all quiet.

14th June, Sunday.—Rode to Mr. William St. Coffin's gang, above the latter bank; found all the people happy and contented. Being pressed for time, left their establishments, and returned down the creek. Slept immediately above the Great Falls.

15th June, Monday.—Downwards (flood in river) to Baker's.

16th June, Tuesday.—Returned to Belize; lodged prisoner, Jonathan Meighan, in gaol.

Belize, Honduras, 17 June 1835.

(signed) *William Maskall.*

— No. 364. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Colonel *Cockburn*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 15 August 1835.

No. 364.  
Order in Council,  
12 August 1835,  
printed in the Ap-  
pendix (B.), No. 67.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of the King in Council, dated the 12th instant, confirming and allowing certain regulations for adapting to the state and circumstances of the British Settlements at Honduras the provision of the Order made by His Majesty in Council for giving effect to the Act for the Abolition of Slavery within the Colony of Trinidad, and declaring that adequate and satisfactory provision hath been made by law in the said Settlements at Honduras for giving effect to the said Act by such further and supplementary enactments as are therein contained.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

## BAHAMAS.

BAHAMAS.

— No. 365. —

No. 365.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Balfour* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*, dated Government House, Bahamas, 5th August 1833.

I HASTEN to remove any anxiety which you may feel about the reception, in this Colony, of the debates and resolutions about Slavery.

We had heard some time (nearly fourteen days before the arrival of the mail) of the debates on Monday night, the 10th of June; but later intelligence we had not until Sunday the 28th ult., when the mail of the 13th of June arrived.

I found, in the interim, that though they were perfectly quiet, there were among the slaves evident symptoms of anxiety, and a watchful desire to know what the news would be, and how their fate was to be decided.

I therefore wrote a short and simple address to them (suited to the capacity of their understandings) which was given to be printed early on the 29th; but fearful lest I should be too soon in the field, and thus excite when I intended to lull, I did not mean to have it published, and gave orders to that effect.

The printer, however, having given a few copies to some gentlemen, who were on the point of calling on me to request that I would issue something of the sort, I conceived that it would be worse to check the publication after it had thus begun, than to allow it to go forth. It was, therefore, published; and I have the honour to enclose a copy.

I am glad to say, that however anxious the slaves are, yet they are perfectly tranquil.

I called on the four clergymen here (our two parish rectors, the head of the Methodists and the Baptist missions) and explained to them what His Majesty was pleased to say, through you, regarding their duties; and I requested that the very first symptom of insubordination or impatience which came to their knowledge might be reported to me. I spoke also to one of the leading free coloured men, and to one or two other respectable persons, in the lower grade of life, to the same effect, and I am rejoiced to say that I have not received any communication from them.

In sending copies of the address to the Out-Islands, I directed a short circular to be forwarded to the magistracy, exhorting them to quiet vigilance, at the same time cautioning them against becoming alarmists; and my belief is, that in the Bahamas at least, this important moment will pass in peace.

I have called upon the Attorney General for his report how far material changes must take place in the Colonial Code, in consequence of the change in the character of the labourer. The matter is now under his consideration; and as slaves here are chattels, great part of the difficulty vanishes at once.

In this Colony there are few gangs of slaves, except in one or two of the Out-Islands, where there are salt-ponds. This is strongly in favour of the success of the plan proposed; but more will depend on the efficiency of the means by which the law will be enabled to assert its rights, and punish those who treat their apprentices badly, than on any sort of declaratory enactment.

If the Legislature here meets His Majesty's views cordially, a great deal will be done.

Enclosure in No. 365.

Enclosure in  
No. 365.

### ADDRESS TO THE SLAVE POPULATION OF THE BAHAMA ISLANDS.

By His Excellency *Blayney Townley Balfour*, Esq. Lieutenant-Governor in and over the Bahama Islands, &c.

My Friends and Fellow Subjects,

You have heard that the Parliament of Great Britain is about to do something for you. I only heard yesterday what the House of Commons has agreed to do, and I hasten to let you know it, that you may not be led away by liars, or induced by ill-disposed persons to offer resistance or disobedience to your masters, nor in any way to disturb the public peace; for if you do, you will not only be severely punished, but you will prevent the Parliament from finishing what it has begun for you.

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The

## BAHAMAS.

The House of Commons (which is one great part of Parliament) has agreed to make a law, by which you will be *free*, but you all know that freedom does not mean that you must not work. You will be *free*, but you will be made apprentices to your masters for some years, and be obliged to work a certain number of hours every day for them.

In a few years afterwards, in six or seven perhaps, if you conduct yourselves well, you will be *altogether free people*, like those at Grant Town or Carmichael.

The House of Commons has not yet fixed when you are to begin to be apprentices, nor for how long you are to be so; do not believe any one therefore who says the change has yet begun, or that it will be immediate.

I am your friend; I will never deceive you: I will tell you whenever the time is fixed for slavery to end; that is, when you are to begin to become apprentices. But you must not forget that you are at present slaves, and that if you are disorderly or riotous I must punish you, and compel you to be quiet and obedient—so the King has ordered me, and so I will do. But I hope better things of you; I hope you will remain quiet, peaceable and obedient; if you are so, be assured that care will be taken of your interests, and better care than any exertions of your own can effect.

Government House, Nassau,  
July 29, 1833.

*B. T. Balfour.*

## — No. 366. —

No. 366. EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Balfour* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*, dated Government House, Bahamas, 18th November 1833.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your circular Despatch of the 5th of September, by which I perceive that it is proposed to issue Orders in Council for the code of the Crown Colonies and the guidance of the Legislative Assemblies.

In this Colony however, from the consideration that there is not, among the various Colonial possessions of His Majesty, any one whose productions are like, or whose inhabitants are placed in circumstances similar to the Bahamians, and therefore that no Order in Council framed for another place could apply to the local peculiarities of these Islands, I have myself undertaken, with the assistance of the Attorney-General, to propose to the legislative bodies here, the necessary measures auxiliary to the Slave Abolition Law.

I trust, Sir, that you will not see in this proceeding, any ill-judged effort of zeal. It is evident that your object must be to have your measures carried into effect with unanimity and ease, and if I am guilty of anticipating or even evading your directions, it has only been done in order that I might consult the feelings of the assembly.

I proceeded, on Tuesday last, to meet the two Houses, and in a speech which I have the honour to enclose, communicated to them the plan which I intended to pursue.

The Bill which I caused to be presented to them, was to continue the existing, but about to expire, Slave Registry Law. This I propose to re-enact for fifteen months longer, with a Schedule, including in addition to the usual provisions, one column, descriptive of the occupation of each labourer for the 12 months preceding the 28th of August 1833.

## — No. 367. —

No. 367.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Stanley* to Lieutenant-Governor *Balfour*, dated Downing-street, 2d January 1834.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 18th November last, in which you intimate your intention of proposing to the Legislature of Bahamas the necessary measures auxiliary to the Slavery Abolition Law, without reference to the suggestions which were intended to be furnished to you by His Majesty's Government.

You will already have received my circular Despatch of the 19th October last, enclosing those suggestions, in the form of heads of an Order in Council for the Colony of British Guiana. I trust that in accordance with the instructions to that effect, you will have laid that document before the Legislature of the Bahamas for their consideration; for although some of the provisions contained in it, may, owing to the very peculiar physical and local circumstances of the Bahamas, be inapplicable to that Colony, yet I think that many of the suggested regulations, especially those relating to a system of police, and to the manner of procedure before the special justices, will be found extremely useful.

Wide Papers printed by  
Parl. 15th April 1835,  
Part I. No. 177, p. 8.

— No. 368. —

BAHAMAS.

No. 368.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Balfour* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*, dated Government House, Bahamas, 19th November 1833.

THERE is nothing of interest to communicate in the present state of the Colony ; but I have, in the most earnest manner, to request that you will consider the extent of range in the Bahamas when apportioning the resident magistrates under the new law.

The separation into islets ; the distances between them ; the lengths of some of them, and the want of roads, and the little communication which the inhabitants have with each other, will altogether prove one of the greatest obstacles to the successful working of the new law in this Colony, for I am well aware that we ought reasonably to expect fewer magistrates than the other Colonies, if we are to be judged by our relative degrees of importance ; but if considered by the quantity of ground which the whole group of the Bahamas covers, we should require more than many of them.

This is, however, a matter, Sir, entirely for your consideration.

— No. 369. —

No. 369.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Balfour* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*, dated Government House, Bahamas, February 19th, 1834.

I HAVE the honour to enclose the Colonial Slavery Abolition Law as assented to by me last week, and which I trust will be found to be such as His Majesty may be advised to approve.

It does not, however, contain any suspending clause, because it appeared to some gentlemen that as we can only have the expression of His Majesty's pleasure at the earliest by the July mail, if any unforeseen delay were to occur in transmitting it, we should have run the risk of being without any code for the government of apprenticed labourers, had we inserted a clause of this nature.

We have, however, by the last clause of the Act, done what will, I trust, be considered as a fair compensation for the want of a suspending clause.

A Registry Act calling on all persons to return a list of their slaves as on the 31st of July, and the way in which they have been occupied since the 28th of August 1832, has also been passed this session.

And the division of the Colony into districts for the stipendiary magistrates, with some arrangement for gaols and constables, would, I believe, have been effected, had we known how many we are to have.

The want of this knowledge has, however, been a complete obstacle to any Bill of this nature, and at present nothing of the kind has been proposed.

— No. 370. —

No. 370.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Lieutenant-Governor *Balfour*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 19 July 1834.

I HAVE had under my consideration your Despatch of the 19th February last, and the Act which it enclosed, intituled, "An Act auxiliary to an Act of the Imperial Parliament, intituled, 'An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies ; for promoting the industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves.'"

It is a source of great regret to me, that I am unable to communicate to you His Majesty's unqualified approbation of this important Act ; for I am fully satisfied that the Legislature of the Bahamas have endeavoured to perform the task assigned to them with fidelity, and with a sincere intention to carry into complete effect the measures contemplated by Parliament and His Majesty's Government.

It is under this conviction, and in the confidence that the Legislature will be desirous of completing the good work which they have thus commenced, and that they will unhesitatingly adopt the amendments which His Majesty's Government find it necessary to recommend, that I shall proceed to point out, with as much succinctness as circumstances will permit, the various defects which appear to

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exist in this Act, and the modifications and alterations which will consequently be requisite.

As the Act has been put together with but little attention to the orderly arrangement of the topics it embraces, I shall, with a view to perspicuity in the following observations, adhere to the division and method observed in the draft of the projected Order in Council, circulated for general information, and transmitted to you in my circular Despatch of the 19th October last.

1st,—The first chapter of that model draft corresponds with the 48th and 55th and five following sections of this Act: the subject is the judicial and ministerial agency to be employed. There is, however, little resemblance or conformity between the provisions suggested and those which have been actually adopted under this head.

The omission of the provisions relating to the division of the Islands into districts, and to the police establishments, is accounted for by the Legislature having passed a distinct Act on that subject, which I shall notice in a subsequent communication to you.

The provision made by the 48th clause of the Act now under consideration, for securing peace and good order on the plantations, although beneficial both to the employer and the apprentice, requires some alteration, in order to bring it within the scope and intention of the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery. It should be made clear that the constables who are by this clause directed to be appointed, are only to be armed with the authority of the law, and are to be responsible for the due exercise of that authority to the special magistrates, and not to the proprietors or managers of the plantations.

The right to confine for safe custody should, as regards apprentices belonging to the plantation, be limited to cases in which any others of His Majesty's subjects might be taken into custody by the ordinary constables, and to cases in which it is presumable that the apprentice having offended against the law established by this Act will attempt to escape.

Moreover, all buildings used as places of confinement, however temporary, should be regularly licensed, and visited by one or more of the special magistrates.

This same section 48, authorizes the whipping by the master, of boys under the age of fourteen, and of girls under the age of twelve, who it is said "may be moderately chastised by their employers, in the same manner as apprentices and other children and youths in England are or may be then lawfully chastised by their parents or guardians, masters or teachers, for idleness or other petty offences." Conceiving this provision to be at variance with the Act of Parliament, which makes no exception of this nature, I trust that the Assembly will perceive the necessity of repealing it.

In addition to this observation, I feel it my duty to state, that in questions of penal legislation, above all others, it is necessary that enactments should be clear and distinct, and not founded, as in this clause, upon a very loose analogy, open to misconception, and not conveying any sufficiently distinct idea to the minds of those who are to administer, or who may be subject to the law.

The 55th, 57th and 58th clauses establish tables of fees to be paid to the special justices *not* receiving stipends under the Act of Parliament, to the provost, marshals and constables, to jailers and workhouse-keepers, and to the colonial secretary. These fees appear to me to be of such an exorbitant amount, that I should anticipate the entire obstruction of the law, unless they are altogether abolished, or very greatly indeed reduced. In support of this remark, I will trace the expense incidental to the case of a complaint to a justice of the peace, terminating in the imprisonment of an apprenticed labourer. The justice would receive 2*s.* for the summons or warrant, 2*s.* for each written examination, and 8*s.* for his judgment. The provost-marshal, or constable, would have for his attendance 2*s.*; the same sum for each verbal or written summons; 4*s.* for the arrest, 2*s.* upon the commitment, and 6*d.* upon each mile he had to travel, both coming and returning. Then the jailer would charge 1*s.* 6*d.* for receiving the prisoner, and 1*s.* 6*d.* more on his discharge. If the prisoner should be confined in the stocks, the jailer is to have an additional profit of 1*s.*: each solitary confinement will yield him 2*s.*, with 6*d.* for every additional day; but if the prisoner is to be whipped, the jailer's remuneration is to amount to 3*s.* Thus, in a case in which there should be but one summons, one witness and one examination, the charge of bringing an offender to justice must amount to 25*s.* at the least; but if a multiplication of witnesses or of punishments be supposed, the charge for fees might be double the amount, or much more. These fees

Circular, printed  
in the First Part of  
the Parliamentary  
Paper, No. 177, p. 11.

fees are in many cases to be paid by the party convicted, and in others by the prosecutor. There is little risk in predicting that such an enactment will prove the most effectual security which could be taken against the special magistrate having his powers called much into action. Employers will administer by their own assumed authority, domestic punishments to save the expense of invoking the magistrate. Labourers will submit to injustice rather than allow their little earnings to be devoured by these official fees.

Entertaining this opinion of the three clauses to which I have last adverted, it will be my duty to recommend His Majesty to disallow them, under the power given to him for that purpose in the 68th section of the Act.

I admit however that the question of remunerating the various parties, upon whom new official duties will be imposed under this Act, is one of considerable difficulty. With respect to the special magistrates, I am extremely unwilling that any of them should receive remuneration, except those for whom Parliament has provided a stipend. The peculiar local circumstances of the Bahamas, however, may render it impossible for you to find a sufficient number of individuals belonging to the Colony, able and willing to discharge the duties of special magistrates gratuitously. If this should be the case, and the Legislature of the Bahamas should think fit to assign a fixed annual remuneration to one or more additional stipendiary justices, not exceeding 300*l.* per annum each (the remuneration being definitively assigned to the office, and not to the individual holding it), I shall be prepared to sanction such an arrangement.

As regards the constables and other subordinate officers who cannot be expected to act gratuitously, I shall not object to their being reasonably remunerated by fixed annual stipends. As considerable expense will thus be thrown on the Colony, I should be disposed to recommend the addition of some adequate enactment, under which parties bringing forward groundless complaints should be compelled to pay certain reasonable fees or fines unto the Colonial Treasury.

2d,—The second chapter of the model draft regulate the procedure to be observed by the special magistrates, in the exercise of their jurisdiction; on that subject this Act is silent, except that the 62d clause authorizes the Governor in Council to establish forms for all summonses, writs, warrants and minutes of proceeding, to which the magistrates and others are required to conform. This delegation of authority avoids instead of encountering the difficulty, and is perhaps not made in terms of quite sufficient amplitude. Adverting however to the great peculiarities of the case of the Bahamas, I am not aware that any better method could have been taken than that which is supplied by the creation of this subordinate power of legislation.

3d,—The third chapter of the model draft provides for the division of apprenticed labourers into their respective classes. Although the sections of the Act which embraces this subject, and which are from the 2d to the 5th, from the 8th to the 10th and the 63d, might admit of simplification and improvement, I do not think it necessary to suggest any amendments upon them.

4th,—I might in like manner pass over the subject of the fourth chapter of the model draft, relating to the maintenance of the apprenticed labourers, and which in the Act before me is provided for by the sections 20 to 26; 41 & 65.

I am unwilling however to withhold the expression of my opinion, that these enactments provide amply and satisfactorily for the maintenance of an apprenticed labourer, and that having regard to the limited resources of the proprietors in the Bahamas, they deserve no small measure of praise for the humane and liberal spirit in which they have legislated both now and heretofore on this important subject.

5th,—The duties to be performed by the apprenticed labourers, and the penalties for their non-performance, constitute the subject of the fifth chapter of the model draft. In the Act under consideration, the same topic is comprised in the sections from 28 to 40, and sec. 46.

The correspondence is in general so well maintained, that this part of the law seems to me to require only the few following notices.

The 12th section of chapter five of the model draft, denounces punishments against labourers for drunkenness, fighting, insolence and insubordination. In substitution for these provisions, the 36th section of the Act authorizes the punishment of apprenticed labourers convicted before the special justices of "any offence against the person, property, just rights or character of his employer, or any other person or persons whatever." In other words, for any offence against any body, the

## BAHAMAS.

apprenticed labourer may be whipped or imprisoned, or placed in the stocks by the order of any one special justice.

In so far as this provision extends to offences against any other person or persons whatever, besides the employer of the apprenticed labourer, it appears to me to be at variance with the Act of Parliament, which did not contemplate distinctions between apprenticed labourers and other free persons, except such as were necessarily connected with the obligations of the apprenticeship. Independently of this objection, I cannot but disapprove of the generality of the enactment which would render the apprenticed labourer liable to punishment for offences, not susceptible of any previous definition; some of which, as for instance, offences against the character of the employer, which would in fact involve all the difficulties incidental to the law of libel, certainly should be left to be disposed of by the ordinary legal tribunals of the Colony.

I hope, therefore, that the Legislature of the Bahamas will consider, whether it is not expedient to adopt the more definite provision contained in the model draft, for which this section has been substituted.

The 13th section of the fifth chapter of the model draft, forbids the use of stocks in the punishment of women, unless made after the model which the Governor shall have previously sanctioned. This provision is omitted in this Act, but as experience has shown that the omission may lead to many and serious mischiefs, you will not fail to draw the attention of the Legislature to it, and to urge its insertion.

6th,—The sixth chapter of the model draft pointed out the duties to be performed by the employers towards their apprenticed labourers, and the penalties for their non-performance. These topics are treated of in sections 16 and 19 and 27 of the Act.

The 16th and 19th sections which relate to task-work, and to contracts for hire only, render it necessary that agreements of this nature shall be made in the presence of one or more competent or literate witness or witnesses.

This enactment does not appear to me to be adequate to the protection of the apprenticed labourers, and I should therefore recommend an enactment, requiring that such arrangements and contracts as are contemplated in the 16th and 19th sections, should be entered in books to be kept on the respective plantations for that purpose; and that upon complaint made to the special justice by any apprentice labourer who may be a party to such arrangement or contract, the special justice shall be authorized to inquire whether the terms of any such arrangement or contract were distinctly understood by such apprenticed labourers entering into the same, or by such majority of labourers as are mentioned in the 16th section, and whether such labourers, or majority of labourers, entered such arrangement or contract, freely and voluntarily, and whether the same is reasonable and just, and to make such adjudication in the matter as the justice of the case may require.

In the 18th section of the Act, the employer is authorized to employ his apprenticed labourers on Sunday in carrying his stock to market by water carriage. Unless this provision is intended to be confined to cases of actual necessity, it would be a direct infringement of the 21st clause of the Act of Parliament. I should, therefore, recommend the omission of this part of the 18th section, and the insertion of an exception coincident with that of the Act of Parliament.

The observations which I have made upon the objectionable generality of the 36th section apply in a considerable degree to the 27th section of the Act, which provides, that on the conviction of any employer or other person "for any offence against the person, property or just rights of any apprenticed labourer," before any special justice or justices, the punishment of which by the Act is not otherwise particularly provided for, the party shall suffer fine and imprisonment, the fine not exceeding 20*l.* nor the imprisonment lasting more than 30 days. I think that, in amending this enactment care should be taken to confine its operation strictly to offences incidental to the relation between employer and apprenticed labourer.

7th,—The model draft next contained the chapter numbered 7, on offences which might be committed by the apprenticed labourers against the State, and the punishment of such offences.

These suggestions have been to a considerable extent followed from the 42d to the 45th, and in the 47th, 49th, 50th, 52d, 61st, 66th and 67th of this Act.

I regret, however, that I am unable to sanction several of these clauses.

The restrictions imposed on the apprenticed labourer by the 52d section appear to me to be objectionable in principle, and at variance both with the letter and the spirit of the Act of Parliament. To prevent the apprenticed labourer from quitting the limits of the plantation to which he is attached without the leave of his employer, would preclude the labourer from hiring out his leisure time to any one but his employer, not only is a species of monopoly of the labourer's voluntary services thus given to the employer, but the liberty of the labourer is still further infringed upon, and an additional impediment to the free exercise of his industry is created by the arbitrary regulations contained in this section, under which he is prevented from cultivating or even dealing in a great variety of articles.

I am disposed to believe that these provisions would go far to prevent the acquisition by the negro of those habits of voluntary industry which it was conceived by those who framed the system of apprenticeship would be gradually but certainly introduced, and upon the attainment of which the future prosperity of the Colony entirely depends.

It is enacted (cap. 49) that the marriages of the labourers may be solemnized by a minister of the Church of England or of Scotland, or of any known religious persuasion, or by any justice of the peace. By the 55th clause a fee of 2s. is to be paid on the marriage, and 2s. more for the registration of it; a charge which, light as it may seem, might yet I apprehend not seldom turn the scale in favour of concubinage and against matrimony. Declining as beside the present purpose the abstract question as to whether marriage ought ever to be solemnized as a mere civil contract, I apprehend that it is contrary to the scheme of Parliament and the whole policy of their measures, that on a subject so important any distinction should be made between apprenticed labourers and other persons of free condition. The dissenting minister and the justice of the peace ought, I conceive, to be at liberty either to celebrate all marriages or ought to be incompetent to celebrate any. Whatever tends to perpetuate the distinction of caste in the Slave Colonies, however trifling in itself, arises from that circumstance into serious importance.

It is provided in the 50th section, that no one shall produce an apprenticed labourer as a witness unless the party requiring his evidence shall "by affidavit satisfy the court, judge, magistrate or other authority that the evidence verily expected from the intended witness is material to the case to be tried or investigated, and that the presence of such witness is necessary to the purposes of justice." The object is, I presume, to prevent labourers from being withdrawn too frequently from the plantations to give evidence. Without denying the possibility of some such inconvenience (which is not however peculiar to the Bahamas, but is felt from the same cause wherever courts of justice exist), I apprehend that the precaution taken by this Act will practically go far to exclude their evidence altogether. Such an affidavit as the Act requires could scarcely ever be made by the public prosecutor, still more rarely could it be taken by the litigant in a private suit or action. If, before issuing a writ or summons for the attendance of a witness, the court must be satisfied of the materiality and necessity of his testimony, they must hear the cause by anticipation, and supply by conjecture the evidence to be then given. The prosecutor and the suitor must publicly disclose the whole course of the evidence they propose to give, often to the utter defeat of justice, and endless delays must be interposed in the administration of the law. The adoption of this enactment would go very far to reinstate one of the most indefensible parts of the slave code, viz. the rejection of slave evidence.

It is enacted in the same clause, that no labourer shall be competent to give evidence to any fact committed before the 1st August 1834, and to which while in a state of slavery he would have been an incompetent witness. I can perceive no ground for supposing that the veracity of a free man, though worthy of trust as to what happens when he is free, is entitled to no confidence at all as to what may have happened when he was a slave; and I cannot but think that, to close the lips of the future free man in all courts of justice upon every occurrence antecedent to his manumission, would be to keep alive for no imaginable good purpose an opprobrious memorial of his former servile condition.

For the reasons which I have already stated, it will become my duty to recommend the disallowance of sections 52, 49 and 50.

I think, nevertheless, that in case the attendance of an apprenticed labourer is required as a witness before the ordinary tribunals of the Colony, the employer is entitled to a fair remuneration for the loss of the labourer's services occasioned to him



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him by such attendance, and I shall not object to a provision for effecting that object.

The 8th chapter of the model draft related to the dissolution of the apprenticeship by contract or purchase. The 11th, 12th and 13th sections of the Act under consideration embrace this subject. This part of the Act appears to be open to considerable objection; the enactments on this subject are ambiguously and unsatisfactorily expressed, and they contain no provision for the security and apportionment of the money to be paid for the discharge of the apprentice. These points are however of minor importance compared with the principle upon which the appraisalment of the apprentice's service is to be made.

In assessing the price to be paid to the employer for the discharge of the apprentice when effected, not by contract between the parties, but *invito domino*, the appraisers are required to take into account (sec. 12.) "not only the general value of the interest" to be bought and sold, "but also any particular circumstances attending the particular case submitted, taking into consideration any special damages, loss or inconvenience to which the party entitled as aforesaid may be exposed by reason of his, her or their being deprived of the service of such apprentice as aforesaid."

This enactment appears to have been borrowed from a corresponding provision in the law for the compulsory manumission of slaves, which was repeatedly condemned by the King in Council as unjust and inconvenient. The slave holder, not satisfied to obtain by appraisalment the market price of his slave, insisted on having an estimate made of all his own losses and incommodities, present or future, certain or contingent, which might arise from the manumission. For example, the loss of a head driver, if not replaced by the purchase of another before crop time, might diminish the crop by one-tenth in amount; therefore, in addition to the price which would probably be given for the substituted driver, if such a one could be found, the owner demanded compensation for the risk he run of losing one-tenth of his crop. I am satisfied that such a mode of appraisalment is not only unjust in principle, and inconsistent with the intention of the Imperial Parliament, but that it would throw many and almost insuperable difficulties in the way of that class of apprenticed labourers, who would in general be the most desirous of purchasing their discharge, the most likely to furnish the means of effecting such purchase, and the best fitted for the performance of the duties and obligations of free citizens. I earnestly hope, therefore, that the Legislature of the Bahamas will amend this part of the Act, so as to remove the objections which I have felt it my duty to notice.

The removal of prædial apprentice labourers from one plantation to another is the subject to which the 9th chapter of the model draft, and the 15th section of this Act are devoted.

The Act of Parliament, sec. 9, forbids any such removal until it should have been ascertained that the transfer would not have the effect of separating the labourer from his or her wife or husband, parent or child. The Act under consideration requires that the child to be so separated from his parents shall not be under the age of 14 years. This deviation from the terms of the British Statute may be pronounced contrary to law.

If any person shall remove an apprentice without the consent of the special magistrates, or if, on applying for such consent, he shall be guilty of any concealment or misrepresentation to the justices, whereby an unlawful separation shall take place then it is said, "the person so guilty, on being duly convicted of such concealment or misrepresentation, shall pay a fine varying from 10*l.* to 20*l.*" Here two offences are supposed, into one of which only concealment or misrepresentation must enter as an ingredient; yet the proof of such concealment or misrepresentation is required in order to the conviction in both cases. I have no doubt that this is a mere grammatical inaccuracy, but it would be material in practice.

The apprenticeship of children is regulated by the 10th chapter of the model draft, and the 61st section of the Act under consideration. Under this head I perceive nothing requiring notice.

Chapter 11th of the model draft relates to the alienation by sale, inheritance or will, of the services of apprenticed labourers; the 11th section of the Act relates to the same topic.

This clause authorizes the separation from their parents of children above the age of 14 years, a provision which I have before had occasion to note as illegal.

It

It provides that the interest of the employer shall not be subject to execution or sale under a judicial process. This appears to me perfectly unreasonable towards the creditor. If indeed execution sales were hereafter to be accompanied or followed, as hitherto they have been, by the seizure and imprisonment of the unoffending labourer, or by his forcible separation from his home or his kindred, there would be good reason why he should no longer be the subject of such legal process. But as those abuses are prohibited, this question is now to be debated merely between the creditor on the one hand and the debtor on the other. In that light it is of great and general importance.

In the Bahama Islands cultivation is carried on upon borrowed capital to a far less extent than in the West Indies properly so called. Yet there are not wanting in the Bahama Islands many mortgages; and if there the mortgagee be excluded from enforcing his demand against the services of the labourers, a precedent will be established for imitation in Jamaica and Trinidad. The result of it would be that the mortgagee could never enforce for the next six years his remedies for his debt. Should he seize the plantation without thereby entitling himself to services of the labourers, he must make with the mortgagor such terms as he could for obtaining those services. When the debtor had his creditor at this disadvantage it is needless to say what would be the consequence.

The last subject treated of in the proposed model draft is the relation in which the apprenticed labourers will stand to the State. Upon that topic corresponding provisions are to be found in the 14th, 23d and 51st sections of the Act. The words of disqualification for civil and military offices, employed in the 51st section, appear to me unnecessarily rigid. They forbid any apprenticed labourer from serving on any arbitration, appraisement or the like. I am unable to discover why such a person, if chosen as an umpire or appraiser, should be forbidden from discharging that duty, always assuming that the employment was performed in his own leisure and not in his master's time. He is also forbidden from holding any elective or other office or *situation* in His Majesty's service or *otherwise*, in or under His Government. These expressions are large enough to reach the case of a schoolmaster, a parish clerk, toll-keeper, and the like. Now the principle on which Parliament sanctioned the exclusion of the apprenticed labourers, I apprehend to have been, that while in that condition they could not safely be entrusted either with political authority or with military power. To carry the interdict any further would seem very bad policy, as it prevents men from rendering themselves fit for those higher stations which in the lapse of a few years they will be called to fill. To obliterate the memory and the feeling of caste, and to teach the apprentices to think of themselves as integral parts of the society to which they belong, partaking in its advantages and interested in its welfare, is the obvious policy by which all legislation on this subject should be directed.

I cannot conclude these observations without expressing my satisfaction that the Legislature of the Bahamas did not insert a suspending clause in this Act; and that they sanctioned the introduction of an enactment by which His Majesty is enabled to disallow any section or sections of it.

The course which they thus thought proper to adopt was well calculated to prevent, and will have actually prevented the serious inconveniences which might have ensued in the Colony, in case no law for the regulation of apprenticed labourers had been in actual operation on the 1st of August, or in case His Majesty had been under the necessity of disallowing the whole Act in consequence of the impossibility of sanctioning some particular sections thereof.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T, Spring Rice.*

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—No. 371.—

No. 371.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Balfour* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*, dated Government House, Nassau, Bahamas, 18 March 1834.

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of the Police District Act, passed in the present Session.

Act printed in the  
Appendix (B.) No. 69.

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— No. 372. —

No. 372.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Balfour* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*, dated Government House, Nassau, 14 July 1834.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have called together the General Assembly of these Islands, and that I this day opened the Session in a speech, of which I inclose a copy.

You will perceive, Sir, that I allude in it to some symptoms of insubordination among the negroes, and in my language on this head, I regret to say that I have, from prudential motives, rather understated my feelings. I fear, from accounts which have reached me within the last three weeks, that the slaves in some of the Islands are resolved not to work after August 1st, on the plea that the King has made them free, and that I, in concert with their masters, am endeavouring to cheat them of this boon. This feeling is, I find, most general among the slaves at Exuma and Eleuthera, where the largest gangs are, (excepting Turk's Islands, to which I shall hereafter allude), and the non-arrival of the special justices has made my situation more embarrassing, for, in the fullest confidence that they would have been here long since, I had not, till very lately, issued any address or proclamation to the slaves.

My reasons for this hope, were founded both on the nature of this Colony, (which I have had the honour to explain to you fully), and on the fact that in Jamaica some of these gentlemen arrived last year; I thought therefore that the three destined for the Bahamas, would probably have been sent out in sufficient time to enable them to reach their respective stations, make their arrangements, learn the nature of their local position, &c. &c., and take, if necessary, the proper precautions against any breach of the peace, before the 1st of August, which I now fear is hopeless. As, however, I had not heard of the approach of the special justices, I caused an address to be printed a few weeks ago, and about 14 days since, I engaged a vessel to take my private secretary round some of the Islands, that he might read it aloud to the chief gangs, and explain to them the real truth. In fact I am pretty well aware that their asserted ignorance of their approaching situation is unreal, and only assumed in order to furnish them with an excuse hereafter.

I also made use of the good terms on which I have ever been with the dissenting clergy here, to enlist them on my side; and as they have, from their habits and the tenor of their useful lives, no slight weight among the lower orders, I augur well from their exertions in favour of peace.

With reference to my address, which has, I am sorry to find, given some offence here to the masters, it was written with the express view of impressing on the slaves the exact truth of their position. I deem it both prudent and wise, in our present state, to take care that those, from whom alone I apprehend any insubordination, should know perfectly, both the rights which the law has given to them, and the duties which it requires from them.

Enclosure in  
No. 372.

Enclosure in No. 372.

EXTRACT of Lieutenant-Governor *Balfour's* Speech to the General Assembly.

I HAVE learned from the Secretary of State, that he has desired three special justices to proceed to this Colony; a proportion larger perhaps than strict reasoning would have led us to expect, when we reflect on the whole number furnished by England, and the smallness of our slave population, as compared with that of the other Colonies, among whom these magistrates are to be distributed; but at the same time so inadequate to the demand, caused by the natural position and local peculiarities of our Islands, that it would be vain for us to expect from them any thing like proper efficiency or power. If, therefore, the system of apprenticeship is to be maintained in full integrity, and with a proper regard to the peace of the community, and the welfare of employer and servant, it appears to me that we must supply, from among ourselves, a sufficient number of special justices. This consequence is, indeed, so clear to me, that I have sent to the Out-Islands, to 16 gentlemen, to entreat them to accept special commissions; which number, with the three from England, and one whom I mean to appoint in Nassau, will make up the whole allowed by law.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

It is evident that the duties imposed on the special justices, are neither light nor pleasing. I cannot, therefore, expect that these gentlemen will act without some remuneration, and for the means of affording it, I look to your liberality. At the same time you will have to recollect, that the small sum now allowed by law to each magistrate for house rent and the payment

payment of constables, weighs heavily, in the aggregate, upon the Colonial finances. You will, therefore, have to consider how far the present taxes will enable us to meet the expenditure thus called for, and if inadequate to that end, how they may be most easily augmented.

BAHAMAS.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Council,

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

The accounts which I have received from the Out-Islands, are not exactly such as I would wish, although I cannot say that they ought to inspire any considerable uneasiness. There appears to be prevalent among some of the negro population, a wilful, or if not a wilful, at least an unfortunate misconception of their approaching condition. To meet and dissipate this, I have done all in my power, and have, with this view, lately sent a friend round many of the Islands, for the purpose of clearly explaining the truth; and I have considerable reliance on the effect which his efforts will produce. At the same time I think, that the propriety of enabling me to call out the militia, if I think it necessary, may well enter into the subject matter of your deliberations.

I feel confident that, with the blessing of Providence, our counsels will be so guided, as to lead the Colony safely through the coming change; and I trust that I shall not be supposed to depart from the proper limits of an address of this nature, if I entreat you all, in your private as well as in your public characters, to seize every fit occasion of inculcating on all ranks and all colours, the stern necessity of maintaining a scrupulous and guarded obedience to the laws. Such, we know, ought at all times to be kept up, but in moments like the present, when we cannot expect the minds of men to be in their habitual repose, it is peculiarly incumbent on every good subject to take especial care, that he avoid all kind of provocation, for, if any excitement be given, it is beyond the power of man to calculate how far its consequences may be extended, by either ignorance or malevolence, or how they may affect the well-being and happiness of society.

Council Chamber, 14 July 1834.

(signed) *B. T. Balfour.*

#### ADDRESS TO THE POPULATION OF THE BAHAMAS.

By his Excellency *Blayne Townley Balfour*, esquire, Lieutenant-Governor, &c. &c. &c.

Fellow Subjects and Friends,

IN a few weeks slavery will be at an end, and I therefore address you, that you may all know the chief points in the new system, and that you may not offend the laws through ignorance.

Masters, remember that you must feed and clothe your apprentices, and otherwise provide them according to law. Remember, that you have no right to strike or imprison an apprentice, but if he deserves punishment you must take him to a special justice.

Slaves, you will on the 1st of August lose this name, and become free; but as I told you last year, you will not be altogether free, but for a few years you will have to work for your masters as apprentices; that is to say as free servants, who receive food and clothes, and house, instead of wages in money.

Now what is the difference between a slave and an apprentice? It is great: a master may flog a slave; he may not, dare not, strike an apprentice, or he will be punished.

A master may imprison a slave in the workhouse; he may not imprison an apprentice.

A master may make a slave work every day in his plantation; he may only make an apprentice work five days in each week, and only nine hours each day; and the master must feed his apprentice every day, and find him a house and clothing.

But some of you are sailors, and some are house servants, and of course those must work every day, and perhaps for more than nine hours. But then, in return, the law says that those who work every day shall be entirely free in four years, and those who work in the fields cannot be entirely free until the end of six years.

When you become entirely free, you will have to pay for the house and food and clothes, and medicine, which your masters are now obliged to give.

If you are idle or insolent to your masters, they will complain to the justice, and you will be punished. If your masters treat you badly or strike you, or imprison you, you may complain, and they will be punished.

And now farewell; be obedient and quiet, and the law will protect you; but if you are not so, remember the law can and will punish you.

Given under my hand and seal at arms, at Nassau, in the Island of New Providence, this twenty-seventh day of June, in the year of Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, and in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign.

(signed) *B. T. Balfour.*

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—No. 373.—

No. 373.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Lieutenant-Governor *Balfour*, dated Downing-street, 1 September 1834.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 14th July, reporting the measures which you had adopted, and the communications which had taken place between yourself and the Council and Assembly, in reference to the then approaching change in the condition of the negroes.

I trust that long before this Despatch reaches you, the three special magistrates sent out by my predecessor will have arrived in the Bahamas.

The representation which you make of the inadequacy of their numbers to give effect to the apprenticeship system, in a population scattered through the numerous islands, which constitute the Colony under your government, is so forcible as to be entitled to my most serious consideration. But as the total number of special magistrates has been communicated to Parliament by my predecessor, and as the provision for their support is limited by the vote of the House of Commons, it will be necessary that I should submit the case to the other members of His Majesty's Government, before I can convey to you a final decision upon it. I feel every confidence, however, that in my next I shall be enabled, to a certain limited extent, to meet your views.

Whilst I regret the difficulties to which you were exposed, by the delay which appears to have accidentally arisen in sending out three special magistrates, who were appointed by my predecessor, it affords me much satisfaction to perceive that your own efforts were very actively and judiciously employed, to make the transition from slavery to apprenticeship as safe and auspicious as possible. Your communications to the Assembly, and your address to all classes of the inhabitants, appear to me to have been well-judged; and the measure of sending your secretary round to the islands, to read the Address to the slaves, was the best that could be adopted under circumstances by which you were yourself necessarily detained at the seat of Government.

—No. 374.—

No. 374.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Balfour* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

Government House, Bahamas, 10 September 1834.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 19th of July.

As the Legislature meet on Saturday, after an adjournment of a few weeks, I shall then have an opportunity of laying your sentiments before them. I shall, nevertheless, venture on one or two remarks, in order to defend myself from the imputation of carelessness, in assenting to an Act of so important a nature, which appears to have so many failings.

The clauses containing the fees appeared to me at the time to be faulty in principle; but, as far as the apprentice was concerned, I conceive that the 59th clause amply defended him. I am, however, glad to say, that they have been already repealed by a law lately passed, intituled, "An Act to provide for the payment of Salaries to certain special Magistrates," &c., a copy of which I enclose.

The procedure to be observed by the special magistrates was not included in our Act on principle; it was felt that the Governor could impose whatever rules he thought fit over men, supposed to be removeable at his pleasure, or at least under his direct control; and as we did not anticipate that we should have so very few special justices, it was deemed safer to leave them as much discretionary power as possible, subject to the control only of the Governor.

In your remarks on the generality of the 36th clause of our Act, you have expressed a desire that some of the offences should be left to the ordinary tribunals of the Colony; on general principles, where the impartiality of the judiciary is necessarily supposed, this could not be disputed; but in this Colony, I fear the interests of the apprentice would have been much better guarded by the special justices, checked by their monthly report to the Governor, than by any higher tribunal.

Act printed in the  
Appendix (B.)  
No. 68 & No. 70.

The

The water-carriage allowed on Sunday applies only to vessels arriving from other islands, and, as the voyages are of uncertain length, it is impossible to prevent it.

There is no other water-carriage known here, so that it is in fact consistent with the clause in the Act of Parliament, but the language might have been more precise.

In the limitations of the fruits and vegetables cultivated by the labourer, in the 52d clause, I confess I fully concurred; and I regret that it does not meet with your sanction.

Experience has shown, that where no restrictions exist of this kind, the proprietor is plundered and the industrious labourer not always benefited: for instance, it may happen that A. an industrious and honest man, has Indian corn growing in his own grounds; B. an idle vagabond, buys some from him, and steals the same quantity from his master's plantation, sending it off to the market for sale. If suspected, he proves that he bought some about the time of the robbery; and thus the honest labour of the one causes, perhaps, suspicion to fall on several, gives a cloak to robbery, or rather to pilfering, and is eventually of little value to the labourer, to whom, by the same 52d clause, the permission is continued of cultivating almost every article that free negroes are in the habit of raising. With reference to the marriages of apprenticed labourers, the only addition to the existing law was the permission given to dissenting ministers to perform the ceremony, obviously meant for the benefit of the labourer. Justices of the peace have always performed such ceremonies on the islands here, where no resident clergymen are (that is to say, in all except Turk's Islands and New Providence), between people of every condition; and although I believe such marriages to be illegal, yet the Legislature refused lately either to legalize or to check the practice.

I am certain, therefore, that the negro will consider the proposed change as anything but a benefit, for his feelings of shame at having been a slave are much less acute than can be supposed; I doubt, indeed, if he feels it at all.

With respect to the remarks on the enactment, that the interest of the employer should not be liable to judicial process or execution, I beg leave to state this was entirely a boon to the labourer, not indeed to the prædial attached, but to the others, who, when the clause is altered, will be liable to be taken, if families are not separated, and removed from their homes and masters at the will of any creditor.

And as to mortgages, I do not, nor do any of my Council know of one in the Colony. There have been, in some cases, bonds given with warrants to satisfy judgment, in which certain slaves were named as the property to be forfeited in default of payment; and in these cases I know that the compensation-money is regarded by the creditor as the only property to be attached.

I cannot conclude these few remarks without expressing my own satisfaction that the only clause suggested directly by myself, being the last in the Act, has met with your approbation; although, as it was in direct opposition to the instructions which I received, I was in some doubt as to the propriety of proposing it.

I have, &c.

(signed) *B. T. Balfour.*

— No. 375. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Balfour* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, dated Government House, Bahamas, September 13th, 1834.

No. 375.

I HAVE the honour to report to you that the Colony is in a very tranquil and satisfactory state: there have been very few acts of insubordination during the last month, and every thing goes on better than I anticipated.

— No. 376. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to Lieutenant-Governor *Balfour*, dated Downing-street, 30th October 1834.

No. 376.

I HAVE great pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your Despatch of the 13th September, in which you inform me that the Colony under your Government at the period at which you wrote was in a very tranquil state. This fortunate result,  
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BAHAMAS.

amongst other circumstances, I attribute to the very prudent course taken by you, and the co-operation you have met with both from the authorities under your command and from other classes of His Majesty's subjects.

No. 377.

— No. 377. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Balfour* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, dated Government House, Bahamas, 14th October 1834.

WITH reference to your Despatch of the 19th July last, I have the honour to forward a copy of an Act passed by the Legislature of the Bahamas in the month of October last, intituled, "An Act to amend an Act of the General Assembly of these Islands, intituled, 'An Act auxiliary to an Act of the Imperial Parliament, 3 & 4 William IV. cap. 73. for the Abolition of Slavery.'"

Act printed in the  
Appendix (B.) No. 71.

No. 378.

— No. 378. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Balfour* to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, dated Government House, Bahamas, November 20th, 1834.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 1st of September, in which you allude to three magistrates as having in all probability arrived here, and I would draw your attention to the fact that although three were promised, only two special justices have arrived.

I rejoice to state that our community is perfectly quiet; that the punishments, under the new system, are few in number, and although in general slight, yet appear sufficient to ensure the attention of the negroes, and that in the Returns for the past month from the special justices, I find, in two districts, the Returns *nil*. In the others, very few lashes have been inflicted, a few hours' confinement in the stocks, or of labour on the Saturday, being all which the magistrates ordered.

I am also glad to say that there have not been any complaints from masters or labourers against the conduct of the magistrates in any one instance.

In conclusion, Sir, I cannot refrain from acknowledging most gratefully the view which you have been pleased to take of my conduct during the anxious moments of the past summer.

No. 379.

— No. 379. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from President *Hunter* to the Earl of *Aberdeen*, dated Government House, Bahamas, February 21st, 1835.

I AM happy to have it in my power to inform your Lordship of the continued tranquillity of the Bahamas, under the new system. To the judicious measures adopted by the late Lieutenant-Governor during the months immediately following the great change in the condition of the labouring population we are mainly indebted for the tranquillity we enjoy; and when we reflect upon the inadequacy of the number of special justices furnished by the mother country to carry into effect the intentions of Parliament, the peaceable demeanour of the apprenticed labourers in the more distant Islets, where they are under no kind of surveillance, cannot fail to be a matter of heartfelt gratification to all parties.

No. 380.

— No. 380. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Colebrooke* to the Earl of *Aberdeen*, dated Government House, Bahamas, 5th March 1835.

I AM happy in being able to report to your Lordship that tranquillity prevails throughout these Islands, and the inhabitants appear to look forward to an improvement in their circumstances which will contribute to the general contentment.

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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—No. 381.—

BAHAMAS.

No. 381.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Colebrooke* to the Earl of *Aberdeen*.

My Lord,

Government House, Bahamas, 2 June 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, to be laid before His Majesty in Council, an Act which has been passed to amend the auxiliary Act for the Abolition of Slavery, and which has remedied the defect noticed in your Lordship's Despatch, by making provision for the hearing of objections relative to their classification by or on behalf of the apprentices.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *W<sup>m</sup> M. G. Colebrooke.*

Act printed in the  
Appendix (B.) No. 72.

—No. 382.—

No. 382.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-Governor *Colebrooke*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 1 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 31st ult. leaving to their operation certain clauses of an Act passed by the Legislature of the Bahama Islands, in the month of February 1834, intituled, "An Act auxiliary to an Act of the Imperial Parliament, intituled, 'An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves,'" and disallowing the other clauses thereof.

I am, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

Order in Council,  
31 July 1835, printed  
in the Appendix (B.)  
No. 72.

—No. 383.—

No. 383.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-Governor *Colebrooke*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 2 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated 31st ultimo, leaving to its operation an Act passed by the Legislature of the Bahama Islands, in the month of September 1834, intituled,—

"An Act to amend an Act of the General Assembly of these Islands, intituled, 'An Act auxiliary to an Act of the Imperial Parliament, intituled, An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves.'"

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

—No. 384.—

No. 384.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-Governor *Colebrooke*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 31st ult., declaring that adequate and satisfactory provision hath been made in the Colony of Bahamas, for giving effect to an Act of Parliament made in the 3d and 4th year of His present Majesty, for the Abolition of Slavery.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

Order in Council,  
31 July 1835, printed  
in the Appendix (B.)  
No. 17.



GRAND  
CAYMANAS.

## GRAND CAYMANAS.

No. 385.

— No. 385. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Marquess of *Sligo* to the Right Honourable *Thomas Spring Rice*, dated the King's House, St. Jago de la Vega, 12th August 1834.

THE very peculiar state of the Caymanas is in the anomalous position of being *without laws of any sort, without any form of government, without any person with any title to pre-eminence*; and which, though it willingly admits itself to be a dependency of Jamaica, is not so by any enactment, has given me some uneasiness. On intimation which I have by this packet received from Mr. Lefevre in a private letter, that he had been unable to bring the state of those Islands under your consideration, combined with a paragraph in Mr. Burge's letter to the Committee of Correspondence, wherein he states that nothing is to be done about them till he can hear in reply to that letter from this Island, has induced me to determine at once on sending there a stipendiary magistrate; and as in the present state of this Island, when its tranquillity, I think, in a great measure depends upon the exertions of these gentlemen, I could not spare one, I have appointed Dr. Hulme, a Nottinghamshire gentleman, who came out here as a physician, but who, finding the ground completely occupied, was about to return home again. He will go there in a vessel of war on Monday next. I have mentioned to him that I could in no way lead him to imagine that he would be confirmed; but that I would recommend that he should be continued. In the mean time I have directed that his pay should be issued by the Commissary General. There is no physician resident in the Island, and the place is of so wretched a description, inhabited principally by turtle catchers, that it would be difficult to induce any person to reside there on the present magisterial allowance, without the hope of making something in some other way. He hopes, as a physician, so to do; on the other hand, it would be difficult to induce a physician to live there without some other consideration. I hope, therefore, that you will be pleased to confirm the appointment. I deemed it impossible to leave the apprentices in that Island without some protection. I have also applied to Sir Amos Norcott to send a subaltern and 20 men of the West India regiment there, in order to support the magistrate in the execution of the laws. Mr. Lefevre, in his letter to me, written I fancy just as you were on the point of assuming office, directing me to use a large discretion, has induced me to take these steps. I trust that you will not think that I have exceeded the due limits of that discretion in what I have done.

No. 386.

— No. 386. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Marquess of *Sligo* to the Right Honourable *Thomas Spring Rice*.

Sir,

King's House, Jamaica, 3d Nov. 1834.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, relative to the apprentices of the Caymanas, wherein you express considerable doubts whether they are not free subjects, and in consequence of their non-registration, absolutely relieved from the apprenticeship. In reply, I have to say, that I trust the law may not be so interpreted eventually. In the first place, there having been no law in force in *that Island* to render registration necessary, it appears hard that a decree of the British Parliament should, without any fault of their own, deprive them of that very valuable property, the apprenticeship. Their valuation, though not registered, appears to me to place them in precisely the same situation as if they had been registered.

Besides the apparent injustice to the proprietors of these apprentices, it strikes me that much danger would arise to this and the other West India Islands from the discontent which would be occasioned when the negroes hear that their comrades at the Caymanas have become absolutely free; they would, I fear, consider that similar advantages had been conceded to them, and concealed from them by their proprietors. The consequences of such an idea becoming prevalent, I need not say, would be most extensively injurious. Should, however, the law be decisive on the point, and that the apprentices are free subjects, I will of course immediately recall Dr. Hulme from the Caymanas, and employ him in this Island, where he is much required.

There

There is another case in this Island of a nature not precisely the same, but very similar. The Maroons are holders of many slaves, and have never registered them; but regular returns of their numbers, names, age and sex, have been sent in, as a matter of course, each session to the Assembly. The Board has directed the valuator to make a separate return of these individuals, detailing the peculiar circumstances of the case, in order that the matter may be considered by the Central Board at home.

With regard to the pensioners as serjeants of police, our experience here has shown us, that no persons are to be had here fit for those commissions, excepting old soldiers; the very good pay which they receive has induced several persons from the regiments quartered here, and entitled to their discharge, to apply for it and join the police. Where I have not been able to procure these persons, we are very badly off indeed for serjeants qualified to drill the men, or keep up any sort of discipline.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Sligo.*

GRAND  
CAYMANAS.

— No. 387. —

No. 387.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of *Aberdeen* to the Marquess of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 16th Feb. 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 3d Nov. last, respecting the apprentices in the Grand Caymanas.

The doubt which had been expressed by my predecessor, whether these negroes are not free subjects, and in consequence of their non-registration, relieved from the apprenticeship, involves considerations of such importance to the negroes themselves, as well as to their masters, who derive so valuable a property from the apprenticeship, that I felt it my duty to call for the opinion of the law officers of the Crown upon the question, Whether under the Slavery Abolition Act, the unregistered slaves in the Caymanas, as well as those belonging to the Maroons in the Island of Jamaica, whom you state to be in effect similarly circumstanced in regard to non-registry, could be lawfully employed as apprenticed labourers, from the 1st August last, or whether such bodies of slaves, or either of them, did on that day become entitled to the unqualified enjoyment of their personal freedom.

The report which has been received from the law officers of the Crown, has fully justified the view which was taken upon this subject by my predecessor. They are of opinion that the unregistered slaves, as well in the Grand Caymanas as in Jamaica, could not be lawfully treated as apprenticed labourers from the 1st August last, from which day they became absolutely manumitted.

In making this decision known to your Lordship, it is hardly necessary that I should advert to the course which will be necessary to adopt in consequence. It is a duty incumbent on His Majesty's Government to see the letter of the Abolition Act carried into full effect; and however inconveniently such a course may operate upon private interests, or those of the community, it is incumbent upon them, in a case of this nature, to adopt the law as it stands, without question or qualification. I am not insensible to the apparent injustice inflicted on the proprietors of the negroes by this construction of the law, nor of the injury they will sustain, by being deprived of the services of their apprentices. It may fairly be inferred, that the Act of the British Parliament did not intend that any distinction should be drawn between one slave owner and another, to the detriment of any party. But if from accidental circumstances there be cases which do not come within the scope and tenor of the enactment, His Majesty's Government have no power to interpose. It will be for Parliament itself to provide a remedy, and to decide how far those affected by the omission may be entitled to compensation for the loss unintentionally inflicted upon them.

It is no doubt a point which requires most serious deliberation in what manner this decision should be promulgated. I am not unmindful of the discontent which may be expected to arise amongst the apprentices when they find that there are those amongst them who enjoy at once unqualified freedom, whilst they are exposed to a temporary servitude, and how difficult it will be to convince them that this is a legal distinction, and not one of preference or partiality. But the present is one of those cases in which, with every desire to relieve the local government from responsibility, no specific instructions can be given for their guidance. I must, therefore, leave it to your Lordship's discretion to adopt the necessary measures for carrying this decision into effect; and I feel the greatest confidence that the course you will take will be that best calculated to prevent future embarrassment.

GRAND  
CAYMANAS.

20th January 1835.

In connexion with this subject, I have further to acquaint your Lordship, that upon the receipt of your Despatch, I caused a copy of it to be forwarded to the Commissioners of Compensation for their opinion, whether any claims against the compensation fund could be allowed in respect to the non-registered slaves at the Caymanas, or to the slaves in Jamaica, the property of Maroons, who are stated never to have been registered. I enclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the reply which has been received to this reference, from which it appears that the Commissioners (for reasons which are stated at length in their letter) consider the Caymanas as entitled to share in the compensation fund according to the interests of the respective owners in these Islands, and that in regard to the unregistered slaves in Jamaica belonging to Maroons, they are inclined to hold that the regular annual returns to the Assembly of these Maroons' slaves might be deemed, when properly authenticated, to satisfy the rule proposed by the Commissioners, that a certificate of registration should accompany the claim, and entitle the owners to compensation.

Your Lordship will observe, that the decision of the Commissioners is general, and is capable of reference to all slaves not illegally held in slavery.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Aberdeen.*

Enclosure in  
No. 387.

Enclosure in No. 387.

Office of Commissioners of Compensation, No. 25, Great George-street,  
Westminster, 20th January 1835.

Sir,

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter, transmitting, by the direction of the Earl of Aberdeen, a copy of a Despatch from the Marquess of Sligo, relative to a question which has arisen, whether the negroes at the Caymanas are not free subjects, and in consequence of their non-registration, absolutely relieved from the apprenticeship; and requesting that we should give Lord Aberdeen our opinion whether any claims against the compensation fund can be allowed in respect to the unregistered slaves at the Caymanas, or to the slaves in Jamaica, the property of Maroons, who are stated by Lord Sligo never to have been registered.

With respect to the compensation for slaves at the Caymanas, we beg to state that the situation of those Islands, as dependencies of Jamaica, became a subject for the consideration of the Commissioners in the beginning of their proceedings; and in their letter of instructions (signed by all the then Commissioners), of the 4th November 1833, to the Assistant Commissioners of Jamaica, upon the first head of inquiry for making the inter-colonial apportionment of the compensation money, they were directed to appoint an agent to proceed from Jamaica to the Caymanas, under the authority of the Assistant Commissioners, to procure a return of the number of slaves belonging to or settled in those Islands, and to ascertain the value or price of slaves therein, for eight years ending on the 31st December 1830. With these Islands, although dependencies of Jamaica, there is little or no communication, from their distant situation to leeward of Jamaica; they are governed by their own usages and customs, and the laws of the Jamaica Legislature do not necessarily extend to them. Not being included in the Registry Acts of that Island, the owners were under no legal obligation, and had no opportunity of registering their slaves. As, however, under the last clause of the Abolition Act, Islands dependent upon Colonies, were to be deemed part thereof for the purposes of the Act, such a return was required by our letter of instructions of the 4th November 1833, as supplementary to the registration of the slaves in Jamaica. A very complete return has accordingly been made, containing a registry of the names, numbers, ages and ownership of all the slaves in the Caymanas, upon the oaths of the respective owners; and we have continued to consider the Caymanas, in all subsequent proceedings, in every respect as an appendage to Jamaica, and entitled to share in the compensation fund, according to the interests of the respective owners in those Islands.

With respect to the claim for compensation for unregistered slaves in Jamaica belonging to Maroons, we beg to state that we have as yet received no return or communication upon this subject from the Assistant Commissioners of Jamaica; and that the question is now for the first time proposed to us.

We think, however, that according to the liberal and manifest interpretation of the Abolition Act, it was intended to give the compensation for all the slaves, not illegally held in slavery. And although the Registry Act of Jamaica would oblige all holders of slaves within the Colony to register them under a penalty, yet it does not make the omission to register work a forfeiture of property. We should be inclined, therefore, to hold, that the regular annual returns to the Assembly of the slaves belonging to the Maroons, as mentioned by Lord Sligo, might be deemed, when properly authenticated, to satisfy the rule, proposed by the Commissioners, that a certificate of registration should accompany the claim, and entitle the owners to compensation.

We have, &c.

(signed) *James Lewis.*  
*Hastings Elwin.*  
*Henry Frederick Stephenson.*

R. W. Hay, Esq. &c. &c.  
Colonial Office.

— No. 388. —

GRAND  
CAYMANAS.

No. 388.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Marquess of *Sligo* to the Earl of *Aberdeen*, dated Highgate, Jamaica, 27th April 1835.

I HAVE the honour to state for your information that I have deemed it expedient to postpone carrying into effect your orders with regard to the Caymanas apprentices, until this packet now in harbour should have arrived, and that as she has come in, it is my intention to proceed to sea on Wednesday evening, in the *Forte* frigate, for that purpose.

The Island of Grand Caymanas being very unhealthy in consequence of the marshes not being drained, and the incredible accumulation of vegetable matter, owing, I presume, to the fertility of the soil, I did not wish to leave any *white troops* quartered there. Indeed the want of barracks or any other species of accommodation there would have prevented me from so doing; I therefore was anxious to post 100 of the West India regiment there for about a month or six weeks, in order to support the laws. On consulting Major-General Sir Amos Norcott, he assented to my sending up to the Bahamas for these men, but at the same time added, that the numbers there were below the usual complement. Upon turning this in my mind, and the expense it would occasion to bring so many men so far, and then send them back again, I determined on adopting a different course, and one which I trust you will approve of. I applied to Commodore Pell, of whose readiness to meet my wishes in all possible ways and to afford me every assistance in his power it is impossible for me to speak in too high terms, to let me embark 25 men and a captain of the 84th on board the *Serpent* sloop of war, and to direct her to remain at that Island for a month or six weeks, in order to see that matters remained quiet between the two parties in the Island, the proprietors and the apprentices. He assented at once to my doing so, and the *Serpent* will accordingly accompany the *Forte* on her voyage. I propose to send her on, being a very fast sailer, to request that the custos, magistrâtes and principal inhabitants of the Island should come on board the *Forte* as soon as she shall have anchored at George Town, in order that I may communicate to them some important business. I propose to state the fact to them, that the law pronounces their apprentices to be absolutely free from all servitude. I have prepared a proclamation and an address to the people, copies of which I enclose herewith, which I will show to them, and will then act according to circumstances, as to making public the object of my mission to that Island. I propose to leave Dr. Thompson, and the black detachment already there, till the *Serpent* leaves the Island, and then to withdraw them all until I shall have heard your Lordship's decision as to the maintenance of a regular garrison there. I have calculated that Captain Pack, of the 84th, with his 25 men, the marines and small-arm men, which can be landed from the *Serpent*, and the 20 men of the black corps now stationed there, will amount to a force of 75 men, which will be quite sufficient to keep the peace there in case of any outbreak. There are 180 white militia in the Island, and in order to place them completely under the command of Captain Pack, I purpose to give him the commission of colonel in chief of the militia of the Grand Caymanas. I hope that all these arrangements will be attended with success, and will meet with your approbation; but I am bound to say that I am not at all easy at what may be the result. I trust that your Lordship will have represented the utter ruin which will be brought on these Caymanas proprietors, to Parliament, in order to procure them some additional compensation. What may be the effect on the apprentices of Jamaica, however, causes me much more consideration; every thing appears now to be going on so perfectly well, they are all so contented, the managers are relaxing down from their vexatious and teasing attacks upon the comforts of the negroes, finding from experience that they have not now the same sort of people to deal with that they had before, I fear much, lest their minds should be unsettled by the setting free of these people, and of the Maroon apprentices. I fear that the loyalty of the Maroons may be shaken, by what, in their ignorance, they will attribute to a partiality against their colour. It is, however, my duty to obey the instructions I have received, and do the best I can to make them as little injurious to my government as possible. I cannot conclude this Despatch without adding how sensibly I feel the considerate confidence which has induced your Lordship to leave the details and manner of my carrying into effect your instructions so entirely at my own discretion. I trust that you will not have reason to think that confidence misplaced.

GRAND  
CAYMANAS.Enclosures in  
No. 388.

Enclosures in No. 388.

Jamaica, ss.

## A PROCLAMATION.

By his Excellency the Most Noble *Howe Peter*, Marquess of *Sligo*, Knight of the most illustrious Order of Saint Patrick, and member of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Councils in England and Ireland, Captain-general and Governor in Chief of His Majesty's Island of Jamaica, and the Territories thereon depending in America, Chancellor and Vice-Admiral of the same.

WHEREAS the situation of the inhabitants of the Grand Caymanas having engaged the particular attention of His Majesty's Government, more especially as to the effect the recent changes under the laws of the Imperial Parliament have upon the structure of society in those Islands belonging to Great Britain, were slavery formerly existed; and the opinion of the law officers of the Crown having been obtained; I have received His Majesty's commands forthwith to communicate the decision at which they have arrived upon the question.

The Slavery Abolition Act having declared that all persons of the age of six or upwards, who, on or before the first of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, had been duly registered as slaves, should become and be apprenticed labourers, and such registration not having been adopted as respects the Islands of the Caymanas, previous to the passing thereof, such unregistered slaves have in consequence become entitled to the unqualified enjoyment of their personal freedom: And whereas it is incumbent on His Majesty's Government to see the letter of the Slavery Abolition Act carried into full effect, I do hereby, under the directions of His Majesty's Government, declare and make known, that all such unregistered slaves at the Islands of the Caymanas, have become absolutely manumitted, and can no longer be lawfully treated as apprenticed labourers.

Fully alive, however, to the inconvenience which the course I am commanded to pursue must entail upon the private interests or those of the community of this Island, and the apparent injustice inflicted on the proprietors of negroes by this construction of the law, owing to the injury which they will sustain in being deprived of the services of their apprentices, still His Majesty's Government have no power to interpose, and it will be for Parliament itself to provide a remedy, and to decide how far those affected by the omission may be entitled to compensation for the loss unintentionally inflicted upon them. On this subject a most earnest representation will be made to the King. And I have the satisfaction in the mean time to make known that the Commissioners for Compensation in England consider the Caymanas as an appendage to Jamaica, and entitled to share in the compensation fund, according to the interests of the respective owners in those Islands.

Given under my hand and seal at arms, at Saint Jago de la Vega, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign, annoque Domini 1835.

By His Excellency's command.

## TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE GRAND CAYMANAS.

THE Proclamation which I have this day made will have informed you of the state of the law with respect to this Island. To you who have heretofore been slave owners, do I at first address myself. That there is an apparent hardship in the case, as far as your not having the same advantage as to the service as apprentices of your former slaves, I freely admit; I also admit that the non-registration of these slaves was no culpable neglect of your own, as the law did not prescribe the necessity of your so doing; still however the undoubted construction of the Abolition Act is, that all unregistered slaves shall become absolutely and unconditionally free, and that you have no further claim upon those who were your slaves, for any services as apprentices. It will remain, therefore, for you to submit with decorum and patience to the law as it stands, and make an energetic but humble representation of the hardship of your being placed in a worse situation than other slave owners, in the shape of petitions to the two Houses of Parliament. That they will be most attentively considered, I am certain; and though it is impossible for me to do more than form my own idea of what their decision may be, I do feel assured that they will in this instance act with their accustomed regard to the rights of individuals. Should they provide His Majesty, my most gracious Master, with the necessary means, I can safely assure you that he will most favourably consider your claims, dependent as your Island is on Jamaica, which he has been pleased always to connect with his earliest recollections and most partial consideration. Should you intrust these petitions to my care, I can promise you all the support, private and public, that my position or influence can command; should you otherwise dispose of them, you will be equally certain of my ardent exertions in your behalf.

You who have been slaves and lately acting as apprentices, are by this decision made absolutely and unconditionally free; I trust you will show your gratitude to that nation which has made such great personal and pecuniary sacrifices to ensure your freedom, by your loyalty to your common Monarch, and by the willing and anxious obedience you will pay to the laws of the land. New duties devolve upon you with the new position you now occupy; and I hope that by the steadiness of your conduct, and your peaceable demeanour, you will prove that this greatest of all earthly boons has not been unworthily bestowed upon you; you must now entirely depend upon your own industry for your support. You must recollect that you have now no person to feed you, no person to clothe you, no person to give you medical assistance if you are ill. You must depend upon your own exertions for all these things; you have no houses or grounds of your own; those you have heretofore occupied

occupied must now be given up to their owners, your former masters, whose property they are; all belong to him excepting your furniture, clothes and the crops you have now in the ground; these you have a right to remove to where you may please to go, if you mean to do so; but I trust that a sense of what is so decidedly your own interests will induce you to offer to your former masters such equivalent, either in labour or money, as will induce him to leave you in the quiet occupation of your grounds and homes. Though he who was your master is no longer so, recollect of what service he may be to you. Do not imagine that because you are now free you are independent of one another; no class of the community can be independent of the other. All experience has shown how one hangs on the other. Those of you who have been well treated, recollect that it is now in your power to show your gratitude for past kindnesses; those who think that your masters have occasionally felt harshly towards you, recollect that probably you gave great provocation, and show that if they have been in the wrong, that will not now justify your acting improperly. I trust that on my next visit to this Island, I shall hear that your improved habits of industry, your quiet demeanour, and your increased and increasing wealth will show your obedience to the laws, and that you deserve this great benefit which you now receive.

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— No. 389. —

No. 389.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to the Marquess of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Colonial Office, Downing-street, 15 June 1835.

I HAVE received your Lordship's Despatch, dated the 27th April last, reporting the proceedings which you intended to adopt, and covering copies of the proclamation and address which you proposed to issue upon announcing to the inhabitants of the Grand Caymanas the immediate and entire liberation of the emancipated slaves of that Island from the duty of labouring as apprentices under the Slavery Abolition Act.

Your Lordship's arrangements for preventing, or, if necessary, repressing any breach of the public peace, appear to me entirely judicious and unexceptionable. I also approve of the proclamation and address. I must, however, qualify this statement by the remark, that if the people of the Caymanas shall be encouraged by your Lordship's language to anticipate any further Parliamentary grant as a compensation for their losses, such hopes will almost inevitably issue in disappointment. It would be vain to expect that any further charge will be undertaken by the House of Commons on this account. It would not, perhaps, be difficult to justify the distinction which has been drawn between the compensation made to the owners of registered and unregistered slaves; but I am not aware that any advantage could be expected from engaging at present in that discussion.

I trust that your Lordship's misgivings as to the excitement which will be produced in the minds of the inhabitants of the Caymanas, will not be verified; for I am well convinced, that on your own part nothing will be wanting to avert or to remedy such evils which can be effected by activity and an enlightened zeal for the welfare of all classes of His Majesty's subjects who live under your Lordship's government.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

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— No. 390. —

No. 390.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Marquess of *Sligo* to the Earl of *Aberdeen*, dated Highgate, Jamaica, 14th May 1835.

I HAVE the honour to state for your information, in reference to my Despatch announcing my intentions, that on Thursday morning the 30th April, I sailed from Port Royal for the Grand Caymanas, in His Majesty's ship *Forte*, Commodore Pell, accompanied by His Majesty's sloop *Serpent*, Commander Sweny, with Captain Pack, Lieutenant Hodgson, and 25 of the 84th regiment on board.

The *Serpent* being considered the fastest vessel on the station, I requested Captain Sweny to make the best of his way to our destination, to warn all the magistrates and principal inhabitants to meet me on our arrival in George Town, in order that I might make to them a particular communication. My object in so doing was to consult them, and find out their feelings as to my present most unpleasant duty, and then to make arrangements for as speedy a return to Jamaica as might be possible, in order that I should be on the spot, prepared for any consequences

GRAND  
CAYMANAS.

consequences which might arise on the news of what had taken place at the Caymanas reaching the apprentices on that Island. I arrived at George Town about three o'clock on the 2d May, and almost immediately Mr. Drayton, the custos, Dr. Thompson, the special justice, Lieutenant Williams, commanding the detachment of the 2d West India regiment stationed there, and about 25 of the principal inhabitants, came off. Having received them all in the Forte's cabin, I opened to them the object of my most painful mission. I need not say how thunderstruck they were when they heard the announcement I made to them; but I must add, that I did not conceive it possible that such a severe visitation could have been received in so patient and decorous a manner. They inquired whether any memorial could effect a postponement of the threatened evil. I then informed them, that I had long since received from the late Government a notification of this view of the subject having been entertained by them, and that I had remonstrated in the strongest terms, but that after long consideration and much consultation with the law officers of the Crown, the British Government had found that no choice was left them, and that I was ordered in consequence to see the law strictly and accurately carried into effect. I then continued to inform them, that I had come down for that purpose, and to express to them the deep sympathy I felt for them, and my readiness to forward for them to the Government any representation which they should consider might be of service to them, and support it with the best influence, public or private, which I could command. At first they appeared anxious for some delay, in order to make preparations for the change, but before I announced to them that this was impossible, I succeeded in persuading them that it was *not desirable for themselves*. They all agreed that I should land the following morning at seven o'clock, and make public the proclamation. I then dismissed them, praying that, as accommodation was difficult to be had in the Island away from their own homes, those who lived at a distance should not think of waiting for the morning, but that I should request those who were resident at George Town to meet me at that hour, as the occasion was most solemn. They at once replied, that as I had done them the honour of coming down from Jamaica to make the communication easier to them, they thought the least they could do would be to pay me the compliment of attending me. I explained to them all the arrangements I had made with respect to the Serpent remaining there with her troops on board, and that Commodore Pell had kindly promised to relieve her with another vessel at the conclusion of a month, in case the state of the Island should be at that time such as to make it desirable. They declared that it added much to their gratification to see so much consideration paid to them, but that they felt confident there could be no disturbance and no annoyance. I pointed out to them the necessity of my reaching Jamaica before the news of what occurred there should reach it, to which they acceded.

On the following morning, the 3d May, I landed, as arranged, at seven o'clock, under a salute, and was met by almost all the gentlemen I had seen the day before, and some others in addition. Captain Pack read the proclamation, and I then read my written advice to them, and gave copies of both to be stuck up in the most conspicuous parts of the Island, and explained to the people by Captain Pack and Dr. Thompson. Besides that address, I made to the assembled negroes some remarks which I considered advisable as to their liability to taxation, they having no longer any right to any houses or grounds *given to them by their masters*, and many matters which I considered it expedient that they should be made aware of. One of them stepped forward, and declared the change could be no change to him, as he would remain all his life with his master, who had always behaved so well to him. The rest of the apprentices did not seem to have any feeling on the occasion, or to know the extent of the blessing they were then receiving. I was then accompanied to the water-side by the gentlemen, and the custos, who just as I was on the point of embarkation addressed me in the name of the Island, humbly thanking me for the honour I had paid them in visiting them twice, an honour that had never before been conferred on them. They then saluted me from their Island battery, as I was rowing off to the Forte. We immediately made sail for Jamaica, which, owing to calms and contrary winds, we did not reach till the 13th of May.

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— No. 391. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to the Marquess of *Sligo*,  
dated Downing-street, 15th July 1835.

GRAND  
CAYMANAS.—  
No. 391.

I HAVE received and laid before The King your Lordship's Despatch of the 14th of May last, reporting the result of the measures you had adopted for the announcement of unconditional and immediate freedom to the negroes at the Caymanas.

I am commanded by His Majesty to signify to you the satisfaction he has felt at the happy termination of this important business, and His Majesty's sense of the prudence with which your arrangements have been made, and of the discretion and zeal with which they have been carried into effect.

## BERMUDA.

— No. 392. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Stephen R. Chapman* to  
Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

BERMUDA.

—  
No. 392.

Sir,

The Bermudas, February 1834.

EVERY attention has been paid to your commands, as signified in your circular Despatches of the 5th September and 19th October 1833, on the subject of the Abolition of Slavery; and although it did not appear to me advisable to convene the Legislature of this Colony, until I should receive the promised draft of an Order in Council, as stated in the last of the above-mentioned letters, yet every preparation was made to ascertain the general disposition of the inhabitants at large, in the expectation of its early arrival.

The enclosed copy of the Royal Gazette extra, of this Colony, contains a copy of my opening speech to the Legislature on the 9th ultimo; I have also the honour to forward copies of the addresses to me from both Houses on the above-mentioned occasion; and as I deemed it important to adhere as much as possible to the phraseology and spirit of your Despatches, as relating to this Colony, I am not without hopes, that the course I have pursued will be satisfactory to you.

An Act has been passed abolishing Slavery in the Bermudas on the 1st August next, and there will be time, I trust, for my receiving any further commands from you thereon which may be deemed necessary. I am not, however, without an opinion that a little more time would have been preferable; but the majority of the inhabitants in favour of unconditional emancipation at that early period was so overwhelming, and the unanimity in the Assembly so entire, that the Legislature have only acted in unison with the decidedly expressed wishes of the country at large, in adopting this measure, and the Act has accordingly passed dispensing altogether with the system of apprenticeship.

The period until the 1st August is certainly very short, but I have impressed on the minds of many of the influential inhabitants the necessity of an early consideration of what may be deemed requisite towards the employment of those persons upon their coming into a state of freedom, as well as of those who may be thrown upon the public, either by their own determination for change, or that of their owners to release themselves from an expense of maintaining such as are unwilling by their own industry, to support themselves, or who may be unable so to do. I do not, however, apprehend any difficulty which the Legislature, now engaged in the consideration of this matter, cannot meet.

I have the honour to enclose herewith attested copies of—

1. An Act for the Abolition of Slavery in these Islands in consideration of Compensation.

2. An Act to repeal the Laws exclusively applicable to free Black and free Coloured Persons, and extend to them the Laws applicable to White Persons, and to fix the Qualifications for Jurors, Voters, and the Electors and Candidates for certain Offices and Places of Trust.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *S. R. Chapman*, Governor, &c.

Vide Papers printed by  
Parl. 15 April 1835,  
Part I. No. 177,  
pages 8 & 11,  
10 January 1834.

13 January 1834.

Acts printed in the  
Appendix (B.)  
Nos. 74 & 75.



BERMUDA.

Enclosures in  
No. 392.

Enclosures in No. 392.

EXTRACTS from the ROYAL GAZETTE, extra Newspaper, dated Hamilton, Bermuda,  
10th January 1834.

Friday noon.

YESTERDAY, the day appointed by proclamation for convening the Legislature, the members of His Majesty's Council and the members of the House of Assembly having met accordingly in this town (Hamilton), a message from the administrator of the Government was sent, requesting their attendance at Mount Langton; where having assembled, his Excellency Sir S. R. Chapman was pleased to address them as follows:—

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I have brought you together at an earlier period than usual, for the purpose of calling your attention to an Act of Parliament, of which I have directed a copy to be sent to each of your Houses, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery," dated 28th August last.

Though anxious as I have been to enable you to commence the labours pointed out by this Act, I have deemed it expedient to delay convoking you, until I should receive from His Majesty's Government the draft of an Order in Council, as promised in a Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 5th September last, to serve as a model, though not for strict imitation, in the discharge of the duties imposed upon you by the operation of this Act. In the mean time, the principal inhabitants, the public in general, and the coloured population of this Colony, have been prepared to receive this important communication, whereby the interests of all classes of society are so deeply involved.

You will observe that this Act does not interfere with the appropriate duties of the Legislature of this Colony beyond the strict limits of necessity, and that a due and anxious regard has been manifested to the local knowledge of the Legislature.

Every information and assistance in my power I can afford shall be given; and as His Majesty's instructions and those of His Government are couched in language most conciliatory, I feel that they will be responded to in the same spirit by yourselves and the community at large; for I am persuaded that but one feeling of kindness pervades the minds of the inhabitants in general towards the coloured people of this happy and peaceable Colony; the greater part of whom have been fostered under the immediate eye of their owners, and who, from having formed a part of their respective families, will receive that encouragement and protection they have been accustomed to experience, it will tend much to the mutual comfort and advantage of all classes, and will be in accordance with the spirit and kind feeling of His Majesty to all his subjects.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

To you, gentlemen, will belong, in the first instance, a considerable degree of anxiety and labour in ascertaining and balancing the views and interests of both classes, in framing and enacting such laws as will best meet the momentous subject now before us, which, whilst they preserve the general tranquillity of the Colony, will embrace permanent benefit and comfort; for the laws to be good, must be reciprocally advantageous to all.

For such supplies as may be requisite, I rely with confidence upon your usual liberality.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

In again addressing you respectively, and together, I am most anxious to ensure your cordial co-operation with each other, and with myself, in endeavouring to meet the just expectations of His Majesty and the British Parliament. In using the words of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, as relates to the slaves, it is stated, "That His Majesty, the Parliament, and the nation of Great Britain, are entitled to expect and demand the most tranquil and orderly submission to such laws as shall be framed for their public government in a state of freedom."

All the instructions I have received, and particularly the plan which has been drawn up as a draft of an Order in Council, copies of which shall be sent to each House, manifest an anxious desire on the part of His Majesty's Government to assist you in your labours towards the accomplishment of this great change.

It is by no means intended to fetter the discretion which has been vested by Parliament in the Colonial Assembly, and as much is left to your local knowledge and practical experience, as well as intimate acquaintance with the peculiarities of your respective laws, as suited to the society for which they were framed, I have no doubt but that a corresponding spirit of anxiety will show itself in all classes to meet the change which you are called upon to facilitate and ultimately to bring together, with myself, into operation.

(signed) S. R. C.

Mount Langton, 9th January 1834.

The following Addresses from His Majesty's Council and the Honourable House of Assembly of Bermuda, in reply to his Excellency the Governor's Speech at the opening of the Session, 13th of January 1834 :—

BERMUDA.

To his Excellency Major-General Sir *Stephen R. Chapman, &c. &c. &c.*

THE ADDRESS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF BERMUDA.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council of Bermuda, have the honour to offer our thanks to your Excellency for the speech in which our attention has been directed to the highly important business on which your Excellency has been pleased to convene the Legislature of this Colony. Aware of the numerous and serious difficulties which attend any extensive alterations, even when they are of the most beneficial character, in the existing constitutions of society, and participating with many of our fellow subjects in His Majesty's Colonies, in an intense anxiety to promote the safe and equitable adjustment of the claims of all parties to be affected by the abolition of slavery, we cannot but gratefully appreciate the judicious and liberal spirit manifested by His Majesty's Government and the British Parliament, in the enactment of a law, which has at once provided to a considerable extent compensation for the proprietor and enfranchisement for the slave; nor can we be less sensible to that wise and just forbearance of the Imperial Parliament, which has left to the discretion and local knowledge of the Colonial Legislatures, the privilege of substituting for the Imperial Act, such laws as may, without infringing the general principle of emancipation, so modify its provisions with reference to particular exigencies, as to render them more safe and convenient.

When the documents to which your Excellency alludes shall be laid before our House, your Excellency may be assured that our best abilities and diligence will be devoted to the duty which is devolved upon us by the constitution of this Colony, and that we shall gladly co-operate with the other branches of the Legislature in completing those local enactments which, on mature deliberation, may appear to us most advantageous to the interests of this community, and most likely to satisfy the just expectation of the King, his Parliament and his people, on this momentous subject.

We respond with satisfaction to the opinion implied in your Excellency's speech, that our duties in this respect will be much facilitated by the paternal care and kindness with which the slaves of this Colony have generally been treated by their proprietors, and by the religious instruction which has, of late years especially, been extended to that class of this community, as a necessary preparation for a measure which will place them in a condition of greater moral responsibility and less personal restraint.

By order of the House,  
(signed) *Robert Kennedy, President.*

To his Excellency Major-General Sir *Stephen Remnant Chapman, &c. &c. &c.*

THE ADDRESS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF BERMUDA.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the General Assembly of Bermuda, have to thank your Excellency for your Excellency's speech on opening the present Session.

On a measure of such unprecedented importance in colonial politics as that to which your Excellency has called our attention, contemplating as it does most extensive changes in our civil relations, we shall, of course, deliberate with all the anxiety due to the magnitude of the question, but with a sincere desire to acquiesce in and promote the views of our most gracious Sovereign as far as local circumstances may require or permit; and we, therefore, fully appreciate the benefits likely to arise from that full development of those views which the documents promised to be laid before us by your Excellency are intended to afford.

Maintaining, as this Colony ever has done, the fairest and most unimpeachable character for general kindness to its coloured population, "the greater part of whom," as your Excellency remarks, "have been fostered under the immediate eye of their owners, and have formed a part of their respective families," we, nevertheless, attach much value to the official recognition of the fact in your Excellency's speech; and we confidently hope that this circumstance will ensure to all our proceedings on this momentous subject shortly to occupy our attention, the most favourable construction both from your Excellency and His Majesty's Government.

We shall be ready upon the present, as upon all former occasions, to grant such supplies as the exigencies of the public service may require, having due regard to the resources of our constituents, and to the possible effect on those resources, from the changes which may be produced on the condition of our society.

By order of the House,

11th January 1834.

(signed) *John Noble Harvey, Speaker.*

BERMUDA.

— No. 393. —

No. 393.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to  
Governor Sir *S. R. Chapman*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 24 June 1834.

I HAVE received your Despatch, dated in the month of February 1834, containing the gratifying intelligence that the Legislature of Bermuda has passed an Act for abolishing Slavery from the 1st of August next, and I have the honour to acquaint you that the course which you pursued upon the receipt of my predecessor's several circular Despatches on this important subject appears to me perfectly satisfactory.

The Acts which are inclosed in your present Despatch are intituled respectively as follows:—

“ An Act for the Abolition of Slavery in these Islands, in consideration of Compensation;” and

“ An Act to repeal the Laws exclusively applicable to the free Black and free Coloured Persons, and extend to them the Laws applicable to White Persons; and to fix the Qualification for Jurors, Voters and the Electors and Candidates for certain Offices and Places of Trust.”

The first of these Acts, which entirely abolishes Slavery from the 1st of August next, and dispenses altogether with the system of apprenticeship, is, I think, free from all objection, either of a legal nature or on grounds of discretion and sound policy.

The second Act relieves the free coloured population of the Bermuda Islands from every legal disability to which the white population are not subject, and thus far it is the necessary sequel or adjunct of the first Act.

But the Legislature have in this Act proceeded to raise very considerably the qualifications of Members of the House of Assembly, of Mayors, Aldermen and Common Councilmen, of Vestrymen, Churchwardens and Constables, and of the Electors by whom all those different functionaries are to be chosen. In some cases these qualifications are more than doubled. Before I can form a correct estimate of these provisions, it is necessary that I should possess more information than I can gather from your present Despatch. I should wish especially to be informed, as far as the means at your disposal will admit, what have been the actual numbers of the several constituent and elective bodies under the system hitherto in force, to what extent and in what particular directions those numbers will be diminished or increased by the operation of the Statute now under consideration; how far it is probable that under its provisions any of the free coloured population will, within any assignable period, actually participate in the privileges it professes to give them, or whether there is reason to conclude that the existing generation will find those privileges to have been nominal only. On all these points, and on any others which may occur to you as useful, I must request such information and remarks as you may be able to supply to me for the guidance of my judgment on the very important law which you have transmitted to me, in order that it may receive the decision of His Majesty in Council.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *T. Spring Rice*.

No. 394.

— No. 394. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *S. R. Chapman* to  
Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

The Bermudas, 8th October 1834.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you a copy of the Bermuda Gazette, of the 16th ultimo, containing a copy of my Speech, on the occasion of the prorogation of the Legislative Assemblies at this place.

It may not be irrelevant to observe to you, that the feeling of the two Houses was strongly marked at the moment, the favourable sentiments of the community at large strongly manifested, and that the Executive stands high in public estimation in consequence of the emancipation of Slavery having taken place here at the earliest possible period.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *S. R. Chapman*.

Enclosure in No. 394.

BERMUDA.

Enclosure in  
No. 394.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,  
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

As your labours for the present Session have been brought to a close, I am happy in being enabled to release you from further attendance on your legislative duties. Public service of no ordinary character called you early into session, and the same cause has made it a protracted one; but your zeal in meeting the views of His Majesty's Government, have led you not to consider your time as a sacrifice, although your private interests have been affected thereby.

Important have been your labours during this Session, and eminently beneficial the results to a large portion of the community at least. You have exceeded even the most sanguine expectations of His Majesty, and the Parliament of Great Britain, in the unrestricted freedom which you have granted to the coloured population of this happy Colony; and although we were the last to receive the Despatches on this subject from His Majesty's Government, and the Legislature was in consequence convened at a later period than it otherwise would have been, yet you have the proud satisfaction of reflecting, and history will record, that in passing a law for conferring this great boon, you have been second to none. Happy am I in finding myself associated with yourselves, and I may say, with the public in general, in feeling, determination and action on this memorable occasion.

The many laws necessarily required by the change in our social condition, or suggested by a prudential regard to the possible consequences of an untried experiment, have rendered the present a most laborious as well as important Session; and although, in the various enactments contained in so large an addition to our civil and criminal code, there may be found upon experience, some matters calling for revision and improvement, their general spirit and tendency will, I am well assured, be found in perfect unison with that which has dictated the leading measure of the Session.

As relates to the legislative precautions which have been adopted by way of police regulation, the good order, the decorum, the exemplary observance of the memorable first of August, as a day of thanksgiving to the Author of all good, and the more than ordinary tranquillity which has reigned since, sufficiently evince that in the moderate extent of those precautions, you have formed a correct estimate of the character of the coloured population, while they also afford a flattering presage of their future good conduct in their new situation. On them I would earnestly inculcate, nay, in His Majesty's name, enjoin the most scrupulous observance of the laws, respect to the constituted authorities, and a deferential regard to their superiors, as the most suitable return for the civil privileges to which they have been admitted, and as evidencing in a manner the most satisfactory, that they are qualified to enjoy them.

In adverting to the complete success of this great measure, achieved without a dissentient voice, for the most perfect harmony and cordiality have pervaded your councils, I cannot but felicitate you on the proud station in which you stand.

As His Majesty's representative, forming a part of the Legislature of the Colony, and identified with you, as I feel myself in every matter touching the public interest and happiness, I cannot deny to myself the right of participating in this proud reflection.

In issuing a Proclamation, with the concurrence of the Council, which I thought it advisable to promulgate, setting apart the day on which freedom dawned on so large a number of our fellow subjects, as a day of thanksgiving to the Almighty, I acted in accordance, I have reason to believe, with the sentiments of the entire population of this Colony; and most happy was I to see and to learn, that the House of Prayer was indeed one of Thanksgiving.

To the clergy we are highly indebted for the doctrines inculcated on the occasion, so calculated to excite in the minds of the coloured population that tone and tranquil line of conduct, not on that day alone, but since; for all seemed to feel the solemn occasion which brought them together, and solemn and quiet was their demeanor throughout.

I cannot dismiss you, gentlemen, without recommending that your watchful attention be given to those whom you have thus benefited: and in the event of your foreseeing the probability of distress taking place, either as respects the white or the coloured population, arising from this event, that you will meet with kindness and consideration the wants of those requiring your support; and I can assure you, that I shall not be found wanting in aiding and assisting your endeavours, whether publicly or by private means. And as I have been working with you, and for you, for a period of nearly three years, I trust I shall have credit for an earnest wish to promote the prosperity and comfort of the Colony which His Majesty has been graciously pleased to entrust to my charge.

I must not omit to call your serious attention, when you retire to your domestic occupations, to the consideration of what may be required for the general good of the community at large; and although much may be done by giving employment to the labouring class, yet the enforcement of your police regulations may become necessary to prevent the ill-disposed, of which there will always be some in every community, from running counter to the laws, and for bringing them to punishment upon the infringement of them.

I will not further trespass upon your attention, gentlemen, than by merely adverting to the communication from His Majesty's Secretary of State, of his being gratified by the receipt of the intelligence that Bermuda had passed an Act abolishing slavery from the 1st day of

BERMUDA.

August: that the course I had pursued upon the receipt of his predecessor's circular despatches on this important subject were perfectly satisfactory, and that the Act which entirely abolished slavery from that date, dispensing altogether with the system of apprenticeship, is, in the view of His Majesty's Government, free from all objection, either of a legal nature, or on grounds of discretion and sound policy.

Mount Langton, 9th September 1834.

S. R. C.

His Excellency was then pleased to prorogue the Colonial Parliament to Wednesday, the 8th of October next.

No. 395.

— No. 395. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *S. R. Chapman* to  
Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*.

Sir,

The Bermudas, 7th October 1834.

IN reply to the inquiries contained in your Despatch of the 24th June ult., respecting the operation of the Act passed during the late session, for repealing such laws as apply exclusively to black and coloured persons, and altering the amount of qualification for the exercise of certain elective and representative franchises, I have now the honour to transmit the results of my inquiries under their respective heads:—

1st.—The amount in number of electors for a member of the Assembly, immediately previous to the first of last August, when the above Act went into operation, was 654 for the whole Colony.

2d.—The present amount of white electors as above is 615; thus showing a diminution of 39 in the number of white electors for a member of the Assembly under the new law, which increases the pecuniary amount of qualification.

3d.—The number of black and coloured persons at present known to be qualified to vote at an election for a member of the Assembly, under the new law, is 31.

4th.—The number of black and coloured persons at present known to be qualified for a seat in the House of Assembly, is three.

5th.—The number of persons qualified to vote at an election of a vestryman or churchwarden previous to the 1st of August, was 746.

6th.—The present number of white electors as above is 612, showing a diminution of 134 in the number of white electors under the new law.

7th.—The number of black and coloured persons at present known to be qualified to vote as above, under the new law, is 33.

8th.—The number of persons qualified to serve as jurors previous to the 1st of August, was 513.

9th.—The present number of white persons qualified to serve as jurors, is 447; showing a diminution of 66 in the number of white persons qualified to serve as jurors under the new law.

10th.—The number of black and coloured persons at present known to be qualified to serve as jurors, is 18.

11th.—The number of black and coloured persons at present known to be qualified to serve as vestrymen or churchwarden is 17.

12th.—The number of persons qualified to vote at an election for a mayor, alderman or common councilman for the two corporate towns of Hamilton and St. George was, previous to the 1st of August, 145.

13th.—The present number of white electors as above, is 137; showing a diminution of eight white electors under the new law.

14th.—The number of black and coloured persons at present known to be qualified to vote as above, under the new law, is 12.

15th.—The number of black and coloured persons at present known to be qualified to be elected mayor, alderman or common-councilman for the two corporate towns, is two.

From the foregoing returns, it will appear, that the white constituencies are all reduced in number under the operation of the new law. With respect to the black and coloured population, now for the first time admitted to the elective and representative franchises, it is to be remarked, that as that description of persons has

has heretofore been excluded from the enjoyment of those franchises, it has never been customary to rate in the parish books any freehold property that such persons might possess, and the present returns, as respects that class of persons, being framed merely from the personal knowledge of the local authorities in the respective parishes, it is not improbable that their numbers will be found considerably larger when the freeholds possessed by those persons shall be valued, for the purpose of being assessed to the parish rates, in common with those of the whites, at next Easter.

The value of the freehold being now the only qualification required by law for any of the constituent bodies, there will, of course, be no impediment whatever to black and coloured freeholders exercising the elective franchise in any of the cases above referred to (if duly qualified as to the amount of their respective freeholds), in common with the white constituency.

With respect to the selection of jurors, the law which requires a juror to be a literate person remaining unchanged, this qualification is consequently necessary for a juror, in addition to the qualification in property which is now required for the exercise of the elective franchise in any of the capacities before mentioned.

I have, &c.

(signed) *S. R. Chapman*, Governor, &c.

BERMUDA.

— No. 396. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of *Aberdeen* to  
Governor Sir *S. R. Chapman*.

No. 396.

Sir,

Downing-street, 25th February 1835.

I HAVE had under my consideration your Despatch of the 7th October, respecting the probable operation of the Act passed during the last session of the Legislature of Bermuda, for repealing such laws as apply exclusively to black and coloured persons; and I have the pleasure to acquaint you, that this Act, in common with all others passed by the Legislature of Bermuda in their last session, has been left to its operation by His Majesty in Council.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Aberdeen*.

— No. 397. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to the Acting Governor  
of the Bermuda Islands.

No. 397.

Sir,

Downing-street, 2d August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 31st ult., confirming the Act passed by the Legislature of the Bermuda Islands in the month of February 1834, for the Abolition of Slavery in that Colony, and reciting and setting forth at length, in pursuance of the 23d section of the British Act, the several provisions and enactments of that Act which have been superseded by the Act of the Legislature of Bermuda.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

Printed in the  
Appendix (B.) No. 76.

— No. 398. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *S. R. Chapman*.

No. 398.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3d August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 31st ult., declaring, that adequate and satisfactory provision hath been made in the Colony of Bermuda, for giving effect to an Act of Parliament made in the 3d & 4th year of His present Majesty for the Abolition of Slavery.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

Printed in the App. of  
Part 2, (B.), No. 17.

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GOOD HOPE.

## CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 399.

—No. 399.—

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Colonel *Wade* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*, dated Government House, Cape Town, 6th December 1833.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 18th July last, enclosing a copy of a series of resolutions, by which the House of Commons and the House of Lords have declared the expediency of adopting immediate and effectual measures for the Abolition of Slavery, &c. &c. ; also a copy of the Bill, which, in pursuance of those resolutions, His Majesty's Government have brought into the House of Commons.

The resolutions were published here in the colonial newspapers as far back as the month of July last, and, as no doubt Sir Lowry Cole will have already apprised you, excited no open expression of discontent whatever. Subsequently, on the 4th September, there was also published a letter from Mr. Borradaile, of London, to the Committee of the Commercial Body of Cape Town, communicating the result of an interview the Cape Trade Society had with you relating to the measure in question; and the general impression produced by that document was, that the interests of the slave proprietors of this Colony would be favourably considered by His Majesty's Government.

At the moment I received your Despatch, I was setting out on an excursion through the Cape and neighbouring districts of Stellenbosch, Swellendam, and Worcester, containing, with Cape Town, a large proportion of the slave population; and as I subsequently required from the several civil commissioners, resident magistrates, and protectors of slaves, confidential reports of the state of feeling observable among both proprietors and slaves, as arising out of the proposed measure, I was unwilling to hazard a reply until I was in possession of the most ample information I could collect on the important subject it referred to.

From the reports of the public functionaries, the communications I have received from many other individuals who have the best opportunities of ascertaining the state of the public mind, and from my own personal observations, I feel that I may venture to assure you, that there is no cause to apprehend, on the part of the slave proprietors in this Colony, any openly avowed hostility to the Bill, still less any thing partaking of systematic resistance to it, or that the measure will be here productive of any collision between the different classes of society. . . . .

Before I proceed further with this part of the subject, I will state, that from the slaves themselves, I am satisfied there is nothing whatever to apprehend. It were needless on this occasion to recapitulate the great variety of circumstances that have, at all times, combined to deprive slavery, at the Cape of Good Hope, of many of its most odious features, and to impress upon it an essentially different character from what it bears elsewhere, and which have, at the same time, been greatly instrumental in preserving the imaginations of the slaves from those false impressions, which have so frequently been productive of the most fatal consequences in the West Indies. I will advert therefore only to a few of these, as forming, in some part, the ground of the opinion I have ventured to express.

1st. Slavery exists here, it is true; but as I believe has been universally admitted, in an exceedingly mitigated form.

2dly. The proportion which the slave population bears to the free, is, as compared with that proportion in other colonies, here reversed.

3dly. There are not here, and never have been, any *plantation slaves*, or slaves working in *gangs* under the *whip*; nor, except during a very short period of the year, viz. in the wine-making season, is there any *manufacturing labour*, requiring from the slave extraordinary exertion beyond his usual working hours.

4thly. A large proportion of the whole population is widely separated and dispersed over an immense extent of country.

5thly. There is not one proprietor of slaves in the Colony who possesses 100; but four who possess between 70 and 90; and 16 who have from 40 to 60; and besides these, there are very few indeed who have even 30; added to which, almost every one of the individuals above alluded to as possessing upwards of 40 slaves, and many of the smaller proprietors also, have either cattle or corn farms

exclusive

*Wade Circular, July 1834;  
Printed in Part I. Parl.  
Paper, No. 177.*

exclusive of, and commonly at a considerable distance from the estates on which they themselves reside; and the slaves of these persons are in general distributed amongst their farms.

Without trespassing further on your time, the above facts (and there are a multiplicity of others which have all had the same tendency) will suffice to show that, in this Colony, concert among the slaves, for any purpose whatever, was and is impracticable; and to explain why it is that the discussion of the slave question here has never, at any period, excited exaggerated hopes on the part of those most interested in its final issue. In fact, complete unfettered emancipation has never once been dreamt of by the most civilized slave in the Settlement.

The totally uneducated and almost barbarous beings, who are permanently fixed on the far distant and isolated farms of their owners in the interior, and who rarely mix with others than their fellow slaves, never with any less ignorant than themselves, are indeed aware, that during the last few years, laws have been made with a view to the amelioration of their condition, (and they have extensively availed themselves of their right to appeal to the magistrate against the undue exercise, or what they may deem such, of domestic authority); but for any measure, pretending to do more than regulate the amount of their food and clothing, and prescribe the periods of their daily labour, and the quantum of punishment to be inflicted by their master, they are, I am convinced, unsolicitous, and certainly unprepared.

In the more populous parts of the Colony the case is different; and in the districts nearest to Cape Town, an expectation has been awakened among the slaves that they are about to receive some more important, but to them as yet undefined benefit, than has hitherto been conferred upon them.

At Cape Town, again, the slaves are, of course, considerably better educated and more advanced in civilization than in the districts; but not even here have their most anxious hopes ever led them to anticipate a measure, having for its object their immediate emancipation from slavery, and eventual total liberation from compulsory service. The great majority of these last are domestic slaves, or artisans, hired out by their owners at exorbitantly high wages; and as they are in the way of hearing the merits of this question hourly discussed, and perfectly understand the nature, and appreciate the value of a change, which will enable them to realize for themselves some portion, at least, of the profits arising from their knowledge and industry, a desire for freedom has of late rapidly increased among them, which, however, I must add, is not always participated in by the older slaves, or by those who are domesticated in the family of their owner. It is due to the slave population to add, that in no one instance have I been able to ascertain that their hopes and expectations have manifested themselves in turbulent or disorderly conduct; it is stated to me, indeed, by the protectors and their assistants, that complaints of an insolent and disrespectful bearing towards the masters have of late become more frequent than usual. . . .

On this part of the subject I will only add, that of course very many slaves will hereafter be found, who will misunderstand or abuse both the probationary period of apprenticeship, and subsequent perfect emancipation; but, in my humble opinion at least, in an augmentation, a very considerable one, however, to the numbers, and almost as considerable an extension of the powers of the magistracy; and in well-digested apprentice and vagrant laws, carefully adapted to the various local and other peculiarities of the Colony and the people, will be found a perfectly sufficient remedy for any or all the evils which, it is obvious, will arise, and are indeed inseparable from this entire change in the frame of society.

I must, in the first place, be permitted to observe, that there is, I believe, no colony in which instances of manumission have been more frequent than at the Cape; and that the Dutch Government was constantly obliged, even to the last hour of its administration in 1806, to restrain the humane feelings of the slave owners on this point, and to obstruct emancipation by increasing, on different occasions, the amount of the deposit required from the person manumitting, and extending the period for which a guarantee was required to be given by him from five to ten, and subsequently to 20 years, avowedly because manumissions became so frequent, that the poor funds of the church were expected to prove inadequate to meet the demands to which such extensive emancipation necessarily exposed it.

Also, I feel that I shall be fully borne out by those best acquainted with this Colony, when I affirm, that the inhabitants in general cannot, with justice, be accused of brutal or inhuman treatment of their slaves; that there is not, and never



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has been at the Cape, an attachment to slavery; that the existence of it here has been a matter of necessity, not of choice; and that, until within the last few years, there was no disinclination on the part of the colonists to emancipation, on fair and equitable principles. On the contrary, more than one plan for the gradual extinction of slavery has emanated from the proprietors themselves, the latest of which was submitted for the approval of the Home Government by Major-General Bourke, in 1826; and I cannot help adding, that I have myself conversed with several slave proprietors of the better description, who were fully conscious of, and admitted the evils of slavery in all its bearings, its baneful influence on the general interests of society, its demoralizing effects on all who are concerned in or come in contact with it, slave or free; and its no less injurious consequences to the private interests of the proprietors themselves. . . . .

First, That a liberal compensation and a speedy settlement of the claims will go very far towards quieting their discontent, and that in their eager desire to obtain possession of the compensation money, let it amount to what it may, will be found the best remedy for the prevention of delay in the settlement of their claims, as far as that delay shall depend upon themselves; for when they shall fully understand, that whether they accede to the award made in each case or not, the period for the commencement of the apprenticeship is fixed and determinate, but that the payment of the compensation money must altogether depend upon their acquiescence in or refusal to abide by the award of the Commissioners, they will be less inclined to have recourse to the privilege of appeal, or to oppose the completion of the measure upon frivolous grounds. Secondly, That in one very material point of view, I conceive this Colony will benefit to a greater extent than any other by the present measure. The slave property, if I may so call it, is here, as elsewhere, almost universally mortgaged; but there is this great difference, that whereas the slaves of other Colonies are, almost in every case, mortgaged to absentees in London and elsewhere, who will, of course, be entitled to receive the amount due to them out of the compensation fund; those of the Cape are mortgaged to the merchants and others resident in and belonging to the Colony, and consequently, the compensation money, although it may change hands, will ultimately remain here.

It must be confessed that there is no enactment in the whole Bill in which the interests not only of the master and apprentice, but of society at large, are more seriously involved, or which will be attended with more difficulty of application to this Colony, than in the complete extinction of domestic authority and substitution for it of the authority of the magistrate.

It appears from the 15th section of the Bill, that His Majesty is empowered to appoint special justices of the peace, to the number of one hundred, for the whole of the Colonies, for the purpose of giving effect to the measure; and it is but natural to suppose, that the number to be appointed in each will be in proportion to that of its slave population, and to the density of the latter; but it is only necessary to glance at the map, to be convinced that though the number to be allotted here should infinitely exceed the proportion due to the slave population of the Colony, it never can be at all commensurate with the vast extent of country occupied, and the widely scattered and isolated habitations of the farmers to whom the slaves belong. It being at the same time no less evident, that the farther removed from the surveillance of the magistracy and of society the slave owner resides, the greater the necessity which exists for the frequent visits of the justices. It must be recollected that there are at present in the whole Settlement but twelve magistrates, having their fixed residence in the district towns, with twenty-three justices of the peace, the majority of whom reside there also; whilst of the slave proprietors the greater part live at the distance of from two to ten days' journey, and some of them at a much greater distance from the nearest seat of magistracy.

The districts, as you are aware, are divided into field cornetries, of which there are 160 in the Colony, some of which, although containing only a few inhabitants, extend over an immense space; and should the special commission be granted to one justice for each field cornetcy, it would hardly suffice for the performance of the important duties which must necessarily devolve upon him; and I must add, that it would be utterly unsafe to delegate to the field cornets any authority whatever in this matter, as they are themselves, probably without a single exception, proprietors of slaves, and closely connected by ties of friendship and of blood with others who are similarly situated.

The prejudices which very generally exist in regard to a "free labouring population,"

population," and the fears entertained as to the consequences of extensive vagrancy, are, as far as regards this Colony, certainly not unnatural, the inhabitants having daily before their eyes the effect of both in the persons of the "free blacks" and "Hottentots," who, since the promulgation of the law, (Ordinance, No. 50, 1828), "for improving their condition"; . . . although many have acquired habits of industry, and a relish for civilized life, infinitely the majority are wandering about the Colony, subsisting on plunder and depredation, to whose idle and profligate character the records of the courts of justice bear ample testimony. Never having witnessed the effect of any other system of free labour than this, the farmer cannot or will not comprehend how it is possible that the evils above alluded to may be corrected, and the agricultural wants of a country, in as far as hands are concerned, be altogether supplied by any other means than compulsory labour, with mutual benefit to the owner and cultivator of the soil, and it would be utterly useless to endeavour to convince them of their error; experience alone can remove it.

It is not improbable that the far distant farmers may experience some difficulty in procuring labourers at the expiration of the apprenticeship; but I am not of opinion that this will generally be the case; for, were a Vagrant Act at this moment in force, it would be the means of adding to the present working classes several thousands of the free blacks and Hottentots who are at present scattered over the Colony without occupation. And although a law compelling these and all other vagrants to work for an honest livelihood, will have to contend here with difficulties of no ordinary description, arising from the vast extent of territory occupied by a scanty population, and the natural inclination of a large portion of the lower orders to a wandering independent life, I do not conceive the difficulties are insurmountable. . . .

I have already stated that the resolutions were published here in the month of July last; had such not been the case, and that the first receipt of them had been with your Despatch, I should have promulgated them officially, accompanied by a proclamation in the spirit of the instructions contained in the latter, but as they had been made public so long ago without having caused any open expression of discontent, and as the dissatisfaction on the subject, be it what it may, had not at that period, and has not subsequently, assumed a character in the slightest degree requiring, or which would, I conceive, justify the interposition of authority, I have thought it better not to anticipate evil, or suppose that any discontent exists, and have therefore abstained from any official announcement on the subject. Were I, however, in possession of the Bill, as it received the royal assent, I should immediately publish it with an explanatory abstract, as in many places the inhabitants have expressed a great anxiety to be made acquainted with the details; and I am convinced that the sooner they are in possession of all the information on the matter that can be given, the better. . . .

I have only to add, that I have not failed to communicate to the Attorney-General that part of your Despatch, which requires him "to engage immediately in the inquiry by what enactments the existing law therein referred to may be most conveniently adjusted to a state of society in which slavery will be unknown."

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—No. 400.—

No. 400.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Col. *Wade* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*, dated Government House, Cape Town, 14th January 1834.

A COPY of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery had already reached the Colony, and been published in the newspapers, a few days before I had the honour of receiving your Despatch, giving cover to His Majesty's Proclamation of the 4th September last, together with twenty-five copies of the Bill, and I had, consequently, directed the Attorney-General to prepare a short explanatory abstract of the latter; which with a proclamation, framed in conformity to the instructions contained in your communication of the 16th July, it was my intention immediately to circulate throughout the Colony.

The receipt, however, of the Despatch in question (which I beg to remark only reached me on the 5th instant, although bearing date the 5th September last) and its enclosures, at the very moment I was about to do so, rendered this mode of proceeding unnecessary; and I therefore transmitted to the public functionaries,

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clergy and others, an Extraordinary Gazette, containing the King's Proclamation, and explanatory abstract of the Bill above alluded to, accompanied by a circular Letter (copies of both of which I have the honour to enclose) requiring them to unite with the Colonial Government in removing groundless misapprehensions, and allaying any excitement which exaggerated hopes or fears might naturally tend to create on occasion of this the first official announcement on the subject, which will, I trust, meet with your approbation.

I have much pleasure in informing you, that the public tranquillity has remained undisturbed since the date of my former Despatch.

Enclosure in  
No. 400.

Enclosure in No. 400.

(Circular.)

Sir,

Government House, Cape Town, 7th January 1834.

IN transmitting for your information and guidance the accompanying Proclamation of the King in Council, and in proceeding to point out to you how I conceive His Majesty's most gracious intentions may best be fulfilled, I feel that I should be guilty of the greatest injustice, were I not to embrace the earliest opportunity which has been afforded me, of acknowledging that the announcement of the contemplated and momentous change in the existing relations of society to which the Proclamation has reference, has not been, as far as I am aware, up to the present moment, productive of any one act, on the part of either slave owner or slave, tending to disturb the tranquillity of this Settlement; and I cannot but express my most anxious hope, that both parties will perceive the propriety and advantage of persevering in a line of conduct which I have not failed to report for the information of His Majesty, by whom, I have no doubt, it will be duly appreciated.

With a view to guard against the possibility of misconceptions, which might be attended by the most dangerous consequences to all classes of the community, the Attorney-General has prepared, by my direction, the accompanying explanatory Abstract of the general scope and meaning of the several provisions of the Act of Parliament; and it becomes my imperative duty at the same time to require the public functionaries, but more especially the colonial clergy and ministers of every religious persuasion, to unite with the local government, for the purpose of allaying any irritation or discontented feelings which may possibly be produced among the proprietors by the prospect of the contemplated change, and of dispelling any illusion under which the slaves may be found to labour, as to the real nature of that change.

It cannot, I conceive, be denied, that an early and final settlement of this question was essential to the welfare of the Colony, and the Bill having received the Royal Assent, the abolition of slavery, at the precise period therein fixed, has become inevitable; the peaceful extinction of it, however, must wholly depend upon the cordial co-operation of all classes of society with the Government in giving effect to the measure; but it is chiefly by the conduct and demeanor of the proprietors and slaves themselves that this very desirable end is to be obtained.

It is of the utmost importance then, that the proprietors should distinctly understand, that a cheerful acquiescence in the provisions of the law is not only required of them as a positive act of duty, but that their own individual interests, and the future welfare of the Colony, are deeply involved in the disposition and temper which they may evince on occasion of the promulgation of the Act;—for as, on the one hand, a hearty and zealous co-operation in prosecuting to its end the great design of absolving the Colony for ever from the reproach of slavery, will secure to them the approbation of the mother country, and at the same time considerably accelerate the completion of the preliminary arrangements for the distribution of the compensation money; so, on the other, any manifestations of hostility or resistance to the law, whilst they cannot have the effect of deferring, even for one hour, the emancipation of the slaves, or the subsequent final release of the apprentices from compulsory service, must inevitably retard the settlement of the claims of the proprietors, and cannot fail to produce unfriendly feelings towards the Colony, on the part of the people of Great Britain, who have made such an enormous pecuniary sacrifice to ensure a successful issue.

From the slaves His Majesty is entitled to expect and demand the most tranquil and orderly submission to such laws as shall be framed for their future government, whether as apprentices, or in a state of entire freedom; and no opportunity should be lost, of inculcating upon them, that they will best display their gratitude for the favour they are about to receive, by carefully abstaining from any insolence or insubordination towards their masters, and cheerfully performing the services which they may lawfully require of them; and that, by any turbulent or disorderly conduct, they will inevitably subject themselves to the severest punishments.

It is impossible at present to afford any further information as to the actual amount of the compensation to which the owner of a slave will be entitled, than is to be found in the Bill itself (which will be immediately published in the Government Gazette); but the Parliament having solemnly pledged itself to combine a due regard for the interests of the proprietors with the emancipation of the slaves, the former may rest assured, that the good faith of the British Nation will not be violated.

It

It may be as well that I should here endeavour to remove an impression which is, I understand, very general, in respect of the rule by which the total amount of compensation money to be allotted to the Colony is to be apportioned. It is a mistake to suppose that the sum to be awarded to each proprietor will depend upon the *number of slaves* he may possess; the apportionment will, on the contrary, be regulated by the value which shall be affixed to *each individual slave* by the Commissioners who will be appointed for that purpose.

As regards the fears and apprehensions which are, I am aware, entertained on the following points, viz.

The entire substitution of the authority of the magistrate for that of the master during the period of apprenticeship;

The difficulties which may occur in procuring a sufficiency of labourers to cultivate the farms;

And the losses to which property may be exposed from the depredations of the idle and dissolute, at the expiration of that period;

you will not fail to impress upon the proprietors, that the Legislature has not abolished the domestic authority of the master, or decided upon the emancipation of the slave, without, at the same time, providing for "an efficient stipendiary magistracy," and "for the frequent and punctual visitation by the special justices of the peace of the apprenticed labourers within their respective districts;" and also for the enactment of laws "for the prevention and punishment of insolence and insubordination on the part of the apprentices towards their employers," "of vagrancy," or "of any conduct on the part of the apprenticed labourers injuring or tending to injure the property of their employers;" and the proprietors may further rest satisfied, that long before the period of the expiration of apprenticeship arrives, other laws will be enacted, having in like manner for their object the prevention and punishment of vagrancy *after* that period, and for securing a sufficiency of labourers to the Colony, by *compelling*, not only the liberated apprentices to earn an honest livelihood, but all others who, being capable of doing so, may be inclined to lead an idle and vagabondizing life.

It will be seen, on reference to the Bill, but particularly to the 16th section of it, that various regulations necessary for giving effect to the Act, are, as regards this Colony, to be provided for by Orders of His Majesty in Council. On this subject, I am to state, that the *drafts* of such orders will be made known throughout the Colony, before they pass into a law; and His Majesty's Government will not only admit, but will invite, and weigh with all care, such observations as they may call forth, and such suggestions as any person may be disposed to make, for the improvement of the projected regulations.

In conclusion, I have only to express my earnest and confident hope, that His Majesty's faithful subjects of every class throughout the Colony, will approach this question with the dispassionate feelings due to the immense interests at stake; and that they will unite in one common effort to remove possible misapprehensions, and allay the excitement which exaggerated fears and hopes may tend to create.

You will be pleased to cause His Majesty's Proclamation, and the accompanying Abstract, to be disseminated, as extensively as possible, throughout your neighbourhood.

I have, &c.

(signed) T. F. Wade, Lieut.-Col., Acting Governor.

— No. 401. —

No. 401.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir B. D'Urban to  
Mr. Secretary Stanley.

Sir, Government House, Cape of Good Hope, 1 April 1834.

EARLY in the last month the inclosed Memorial was presented to me for permission to hold a public meeting of "Proprietors of, and others interested in, Slave Property," with reference to the Slave Abolition Act of the 28th of August last.

As it was the opinion of several very respectable and intelligent individuals among the memorialists that no other measure would effectually answer the desired end of ascertaining the opinions of all the colonists upon the details of this most important matter, and considering, moreover, that the resulting representations of such a meeting would better perhaps, than any other means, serve to furnish by anticipation, "the suggestions and observations" (contemplated in your Despatch of the 5th of September last), "which His Majesty's Government will not only admit but invite, upon the draft (to be made known throughout the Colony) of an Order in Council for supplying the subordinate but necessary details for carrying into effect the series of general rules indicated by the Act, so that the Order in Council may not be promulgated without all the assistance which can be derived from those who are most conversant with the state and circumstances of the Colony;" I granted permission to hold the meeting accordingly.

CAPE OF  
GOOD HOPE.

No. 2.—22 March 1834.

It was consequently held on the 22d of last month, and conducted with great decorum and propriety; and I have the honour also to transmit herewith the Minutes of its proceedings, which have been sent to me by the chairman.

The memorial, which I am thereby led to expect in a few days, shall form the subject of a separate Despatch; and I shall now therefore only express my hope, that the draft of the Order in Council, adverted to in the Despatch of the 5th September, may be on its way hither and soon arrive here, in order to enable it to be returned to England in due time, for the consideration of such "suggestions and observations" as may have been offered by the Colonists, before its promulgation, and for the order itself still to reach us before the Act of Parliament shall be in operation, viz. the 1st of December next.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *B. D'Urban.*

## Enclosures in No. 401.

Enclosures in  
No. 401.

(Copy.)

No. 1.

To his Excellency Major-General Sir *Benjamin D'Urban*, K. C. B., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope:

The MEMORIAL of the undersigned Proprietors of Slaves at the Cape of Good Hope,

Humbly prayeth,

THAT an Act of the British Parliament having been published here by authority, together with a Proclamation of His Majesty, bearing date the 4th of September 1833, declaring an entire Abolition of Slavery to take place in this Colony from and after the 1st day of December next, the undersigned pray that it may please your Excellency to allow a public meeting to be held in Cape Town, on the 8th of March next, of the slave proprietors in general, for the purpose of taking into consideration the provisions of the said Act of Parliament, and to submit to His Majesty such regulations and measures as may be deemed by the slave proprietors to be absolutely necessary to protect their interests and the welfare and security of the Colony in general, in carrying into effect the several enactments of this Act of Parliament.

And Memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray.

(signed)

*W. J. Odendaal.**G. H. de Wet.**J. J. L. Smuts.*

(And 80 others.)

(Copy.)

No. 2.

Sir,

Cape Town, 22d March 1834.

I do myself the honour as chairman of the public meeting of slave proprietors, held this day, under the sanction of his Excellency the Governor, to transmit for his Excellency's information copies of the resolutions *unanimously* passed at this meeting.

The petition founded upon these resolutions is in course of preparation, and will be laid before his Excellency at an early moment.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed)

*J. J. L. Smuts,*

Chairman.

The Honourable *J. G. Brink*, Esquire,  
Acting Secretary to Government,  
&c. &c. &c.

1st.—Proposed by Mr. *Letterstedt*; seconded by Mr. *de Wet*; and

Unanimously resolved,—That this meeting is of opinion, that the classification or division of apprentice labourers, as set forth in the fourth and following sections of the Act of Parliament, dated 28th August 1833, has been framed without the requisite knowledge of the state of agriculture and the division of labour within this Colony, and that the same cannot be made applicable to the labouring classes here.

2d.—Proposed by Mr. *Louw*, of *Phisante Kraal*; seconded by Mr. *Coenradie*, of *Bree River*.

Resolved,—That this meeting is of opinion, that the limitation of working hours, as fixed by the said Act of Parliament for all prædial apprentice labourers, has been made without due acquaintance with the state of agriculture and the distribution of labour here; that this limitation

limitation cannot possibly be observed within this Colony without the greatest injury to agriculture and the internal resources of this Colony, and without producing great injury to the moral character of the apprentice labourers themselves.

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3d.—Proposed by Mr. *Dreyer*, senior, of Alphen; seconded by Mr. *H. Cloete Llon*.

Resolved,—That this meeting conceives that the interests of this Colony in general, as much as the well-being of the apprentice labourers themselves, require that no distinction should prevail between prædial and domestic apprentice labourers; and that with a view of accomplishing so desirable an object the slave proprietors and agriculturists are willing to forego the right acquired by them, under the provisions of the said Act of Parliament to the services of the prædial labourers, until the year 1840; and are content to allow all apprentice labourers who, at the passing of the Act, had attained their sixteenth year, to be classed as domestic labourers, and to be released from their apprenticeship on the 1st December 1838, upon those apprentices who, at the passing of the Act, were between their sixth and fifteenth, being apprenticed until they successively attain their twenty-first year.

4th.—Proposed by Mr. *G. Vos*; seconded by Mr. *J. Van Breda*.

Resolved,—That the 10th section of the Act of Parliament does not provide for the many circumstances when the husband or parent may be transferred separate from the wife, reputed wife, or children; and that this meeting humbly begs to submit to his Excellency the Governor the expediency of enacting some local regulation, authorizing, in cases of such transfers, the separation of a husband from his wife, or reputed wife, with their mutual consent, or whenever such separation may appear expedient for the well-being of either party, upon the case being submitted to a justice of the peace, and also to authorize the separation of parents from their children, after the latter shall have attained their twelfth year.

5th.—Proposed by Mr. *A. Van Breda*; seconded by Mr. *de Kock*.

Resolved,—That with reference to the 14th and 15th sections of the said Act of Parliament, it is the opinion of this meeting that from the vast extent of this Colony, and the scattered population thereof, it will be impossible to expect an adequate number of justices of the peace to act at the very high salaries contemplated in the said Act, without heavily burthening the expenditure of this Colony, if they are to be paid out of the revenue thereof, or without great injury to the slave proprietors, if borne upon the sum allotted as a compensation for the slave property; and that it is the opinion of this meeting, that in either case the interests of this Colony would be best considered by extending to the present justices of the peace and by conferring on other respectable resident inhabitants throughout the several districts the powers and authorities, to be delegated by a special commission under the said Act; and that many such persons would be found willing to perform those duties at the comparatively low salary of not exceeding 100*l.*, thereby materially relieving the distressed state of the finances of the Colony.

6th.—Proposed by Mr. *J. de Villiers*; seconded by Mr. *Jones*.

Resolved,—That the slave proprietors view with deep concern that so much time has already elapsed from the passing of the said Act before the same shall come into full operation within this Colony; and that this meeting humbly submits that the present state of anxiety existing throughout the Colony will be materially allayed upon his Excellency being pleased, with the Assistant Commissioners mentioned in the said Act, to proceed in the discharge of the important duties delegated to them, to frame and prepare by the time that the said Act shall become operative, a statement exhibiting the estimated value of each slave, so as to afford the proprietor or mortgagee some approximation to the compensation about to be received, and thereby to arrest the losses and injuries under which the slave proprietors are already suffering and are likely still further to suffer.

7th.—Proposed by Mr. *Muller*, of Tullagh; seconded by Mr. Advocate *Brand*.

Resolved,—That this meeting conceives it necessary, for the welfare of this Colony and the interests of the slave proprietors, as well as strictly conformable to the principles of equity and justice, that the compensation held out to the proprietors, should be paid at the same time when liberty is proclaimed to the slave. That the mortgagees are thereby at once deprived of the effect of their mortgages, and that the most ruinous consequences otherwise await the holders of slave property. That should it therefore be impossible to expect the entire amount of compensation due to this Colony, to be paid over at that period, this meeting solicits that his Excellency will be pleased to apply to His Majesty to place the sum of four hundred thousand pounds at the disposal of his Excellency the Governor and the Assistant Commissioners to be appointed under the Act, in order therefrom to make a proportionate advance to applicant mortgagees of slave property; the amounts thus advanced to be allowed them upon the final payment due to them under the Act.

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GOOD HOPE.8th.—Proposed by Mr. *Minnaar*, of the Paarl; seconded by Mr. *S. Van Reenen*, of Constantia.

Resolved,—That it is the opinion of this meeting, that the mode contemplated to give the proprietors of slaves a right of appeal to His Majesty in Council from the appraisal of slave property, to be made under the said Act, will only subject the slave proprietors to great expense, delay and loss; and that his Excellency the Governor be therefore requested to solicit from His Majesty to extend to his Excellency the Governor for the time being, and the persons referred to in the said Act, the power of finally deciding upon all claims for compensation, upon taking to their aid a jury of nine men, to be chosen regularly from among the grand jury of the Colony.

9th.—Proposed by Mr. *Adriaan Louw*, of Koeberg; seconded by Mr. Advocate *Hofmeyr*.

Resolved,—That the date for bringing the said Act into operation into this Colony having unfortunately been fixed at the most critical period of the year, with reference to the agricultural interests of this Colony, that his Excellency may be earnestly solicited to prepare and enact such legislative enactments, to become operative at the same time with the Act, as may secure the harvest then about to be reaped, to restrain the labouring classes from acts of disobedience, vagrancy or desertion, and thereby protect the best interests of this Colony.

10th.—Proposed by Mr. *R. Hoets*, of Cape Town; seconded by Mr. *Vander Spuy*, of Koeberg.

Resolved,—That (the feelings of the slave proprietors, as to the operation of the Act, having been expressed by these resolutions) his Excellency the Governor be solicited to submit the same under the provisions of the 23d section of the said Act of Parliament, to the serious consideration of the Legislative Council of this Colony; and as these resolutions are submitted not to militate against the spirit of the said Act (in which it is the wish of the meeting to mark their general acquiescence), that his Excellency may be solicited under the aforesaid authority, to press the same for adoption upon the Legislative Council, in order that a declaratory Act may pass, which shall, in the terms of the Acts of Parliament, enable His Majesty to grant the relief prayed for.

11th.—Proposed by Mr. *D. Eksteen*, of Kerstenbosch; seconded by Mr. *J. Cloete*, of Constantia.

Resolved,—That a petition to his Excellency the Governor, founded upon the foregoing resolutions, be now read and approved, and submitted for signature.

12th.—Proposed by Mr. *Van Reenen*, of Ganzekraal; seconded by Mr. *J. Kotze*, of Berg River.

Resolved,—That the committee, nominated at a public meeting of the slave proprietors on the 17th September 1832, be thanked for their exertions on behalf of the interests of the slave proprietors, and that they be requested to continue their exertions in support of the interests of the slave proprietors and the slaves themselves, both in this Colony and in England.

13th.—Proposed by Mr. *G. Meyer*, of Cape Town; seconded by Mr. *Jurgens*.

Resolved,—That this meeting express their sincere thanks to his Excellency the Governor for the frank and candid manner in which he has pleased to sanction this public meeting.

14th.—Proposed by Mr. Advocate *Cloete*; seconded by Mr. *A. Smuts*, of Cape Town.

Resolved,—That copies of the foregoing Resolutions be transmitted by the Chairman to his Excellency the Governor, with the information that they have all been *unanimously* adopted by this meeting.

— No. 402. —

No. 402.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *B. D'Urban* to Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.Government House, Cape of Good Hope,  
21 April 1834.

Sir,

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 1st instant I have now the honour to transmit the Memorial of "Proprietors and others interested in slave property," resulting from the public meeting held on the 22d March last, with my appointment thereon.

The tone and temper of this Memorial seem to me moderate and unobjectionable, considering too how deeply the vital interests of the Memorialists are involved in the subject of it.

His

No. 1.—22 March 1834.  
No. 2.—19 April 1834.

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His Majesty's Government will judge how far their wishes can be met in any of the instances upon which they are expressed, "without being in contradiction to the Act of Parliament, or any part thereof;" but there is one part of their prayer to which I, with all deference but most earnestly, solicit a favourable consideration. It is that which prays that a certain portion at least of the compensation money may be made available within the Colony, by the time that the Act takes effect, viz. 1st December next. If this may not be acceded to, it is scarcely possible to foresee the extent of ruin and misery which will be the certain consequence, not only to the slave proprietors, but to all classes in the Colony, and necessarily therefore to the Colony itself.

With reference to the desire expressed in the Memorial for the formation of the Auxiliary Commission of Compensation, you will have seen by my Despatch of the 29th of March last, that I had already, without having received any official communication from the Commissioners of Compensation in England, taken the necessary preliminary measures for carrying that measure into effect.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *B. D'Urban.*

*P. S.*—It appears to me not superfluous to request your reference upon the two important points of the "compensation money," and of the necessary number of "special magistrates," to the observations thereon in Colonel Wade's Despatch of the 6th of December last.

(signed) *B. D.*

Enclosures in No. 402.

No. 1.

To His Excellency Sir *Benjamin D'Urban*, K. C. B., Governor, &c. &c. &c.  
Cape of Good Hope.Enclosures in  
No. 402.

The MEMORIAL of the undersigned Proprietors and others interested in Slave Property.

Humbly sheweth,

THAT the Memorialists having, under the sanction of your Excellency, assembled for the purpose of submitting such measures as may be necessary to the welfare of the Colony, as affected by the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery, take leave to suggest the following propositions, setting forth and tending to secure the interests both of the white and coloured population, without deviating from the spirit of the Act, especially as indicated by its 23d clause.

That the appropriation of the apprenticed labourer's time in the 4th and following sections of the Act, has been contemplated without full information or reference to the character of labour and nature of local circumstances.

That to preserve the apprentice in those industrious habits, which can alone render him competent in due time to earn an independent livelihood, and advance himself in the qualities of frugality, steadiness and application, so indispensable to the free burgher, and necessary to the well-being of society, it is requisite either to find him the means of occupation during the weekly disposable hours of his apprenticeship, or to make such arrangement as shall contract that period to the contentment both of the master and servant.

That the optional intermission of daily or weekly labour would strike at the root of every regular occupation, trade and manufacture, placing the master at the mercy of his assistant, defeating any certainty in operations requiring continuity, incurring a double expense in attendance, and entailing the decline of such as are, and the deprivation of such as would be, established; thus cutting off the future means of success and subsistence of the negroes themselves.

That the agriculturists of this Colony are for the most part poor, having invested their all in the part payment for slaves, and pledged their future labours for the residue of the purchase money. With means thus anticipated, his returns scanty and precarious, it is much if the farmer can (after paying his taxes and the annual interest due for these identical slaves or apprentices) pay wages for the apprentice's time at the busy seasons of harvest, wine-pressing, &c. The demand for their over-hours will therefore be simultaneous, occasional and dearly paid.

That even thus hiring would be a fresh expenditure upon the depressed produce of this country, diminish its extraction, and turn its export trade into foreign channels, to the future injury of the freed men themselves.

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That



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That the compensation money being withheld for a long time (as it must be till all the stipulated arrangements be completed according to the Act) the owner of mortgaged slaves is thereby compelled to pay double for interest: first, the interest to his creditor for purchase money of the slave, and then the wages to that slave, turned into a free labourer; so that before the compensation money can arrive to him, his utmost frugality, and all the indulgence of his creditors, cannot preserve him from the necessity of materially reducing, or totally abandoning the business of his farm, whereby agricultural improvement will be lost, farms fall to decay, and the condition of the whole country retrograde, to the great misery of the white inhabitants, and the reflective prejudice of negro apprentices and freed men.

That, without further dilating upon the increased causes of poverty to the whole of the country proprietors, the isolation of their homesteads originally established, because of a spring on the spot, and frequently surrounded with an arid desert, afford the negro apprentice no chance of seeking for work in an immediate neighbourhood for his over-time, as in a densely populated or manufacturing country; and with very few markets, and those distant, difficult of access, and adequately supplied from their environs, he is deprived of encouragement even where the sufficiency of moisture might permit him to exercise his industry. His over-time must, therefore, whether he wish it or not, be leisure; and to dissipate its ennui, there is no gainsaying that the vices of intemperance and gaming, the desultory pastime of the chase, &c. would be called in to render these irresponsible days, during six years, the bane of domestic order at the farm; but also devote the apprentice to habits as inveterate as they are subversive of those principles which must have been contemplated by His Majesty and the British nation, as calculated to prolong and render happy the existence of the dependent being, whose exaggerated bands have been broken at such vast expense.

That the prædial apprentice would, by the longer continuation of his term, be obliged to forego his family ties to the household female apprentice during two years, or the latter be virtually bound to the spot thus long beyond her due time.

Memorialists therefore submit, that it will not only better satisfy the prædial apprentice above sixteen years of age, but be more beneficial to him, that, as the aggregate of his spare hours would approximate to two years of his apprenticeship, he shall, instead of his weekly leisure hours, have the benefit of two years in the term of his apprenticeship, so that the term of the household and prædial apprenticeship shall expire together. And to the effecting of this suggestion, Memorialists add their most earnest supplication, as a measure calculated to avert a mass of wretchedness from the white colonists, and a miserable wreck of the good principles of the coloured inhabitants.

Memorialists beg leave further to represent, that the apprenticing of children of tender years with the same uncontrolled privilege as the grown up labourer, and for a shorter term than their attainment of the age of twenty-one years, would be unreasonable to the master, injurious to the skill and morals of the servant, and mischievous to social order.

That without recapitulating the temptations to irregularity, which would operate still more powerfully upon youth, unarmed with the sagacity and experience of the elder negro, with slight reference to the misguided tenderness, which would restrain the master from repressing nascent vice by domestic chastisement, and which leaves him the painful alternative of recurring to the hardening exposure of the magistrate's court, upon every aberration of thoughtless youth, or of allowing perverseness to ripen into crime, it is necessary to present to your Excellency's notice, that men who have families of their own to maintain, could not afford to teach their art or trade to apprentices, unless a few years of profit from their labour should be the bonus in reimbursement for the incumbrance, expense and trouble of their earlier years.

Memorialists, therefore, for the interest of both parties, and particularly for the forwarding in life, and the well-being of the freed youth under sixteen years of age, solicit that they be subject to apprenticeship until the age of twenty-one, under proper regulations.

That the separation of children from their parents, and these from each other, being sometimes desired by the parties themselves, and for their mutual advantage and restraint thereon appearing, as relates to the children, to be wholly unnecessary after twelve years of age, and on occasions (as where the parent is of irreclaimable bad habits) antecedent to that period, it is respectfully submitted that the Act, section 10, does on these points require to be qualified and explained by local enactments.

That the Memorialists, already impoverished by the continued languishing and unprofitable state of their export trade, are at this time with extreme difficulty able to meet the demands for the revenue, and have shown, in the course of the foregoing explanatory and deprecatory solicitations, that highly as they appreciate, and much as they hope from your Excellency's disposition to soften the rigour of this pronouncement of the will of the people of England, they can neither conceal from themselves, nor will they shrink from the view of others, that they must await a period of calamity;—a crisis, which will diminish the contributors and lessen the means of even such as remain.

With such an avowal of their knowledge of their trying situation, and with such a spirit of loyal obedience to a measure which destroys them, they are bold to declare that they confidently expect, in the solicitude of the sovereign, and the hands to which their fate has here been immediately intrusted, to meet with all the relief that the effectuation of the measure itself will admit.

Memorialists,

Memorialists, therefore, entreat your Excellency to recommend to His Majesty's gracious consideration, that in a Colony so extensive, so sterile and thinly spotted with farms, the special magistrates, to be efficient must be numerous; and that the salaries named in the Act, would in consequence be an intolerable burthen on the Colony; whilst Memorialists humbly offer to notice, that every useful purpose would be answered by extending the special commission to the actual justices of the peace (who would, moreover, require no interpreters), and by adding such number as might be further necessary, at a salary not exceeding one hundred pounds per annum, which Memorialists beg to add, would procure the services of men of education, intelligence and tried integrity throughout the Colony.

That a ruinous depreciation has, since the reception of the Act, ensued in slave property ordered for sale at auction; that the continuance of the uncertainty and anxiety thereon would, at a period when the mortgagees are rendered apprehensive for their security, be attended with such disastrous aggravation of this inevitable loss, that Memorialists deem it of the most imperious urgency that the public mind be quieted, and the interested parties re-assured, by the earliest possible promulgation of not only wholesome regulations, but of some guiding valuation; they, therefore, humbly crave that your Excellency will be pleased to appoint the Assistant Commissioners; and considering the pressure of the emergency, the large amount of property at stake, and that the suffering parties have in no manner brought their losses upon themselves, your Excellency will cause to be made up, before the said Act shall become operative, official statements, exhibiting the estimated value of each slave, whereby a proximate opinion can be formed of the accruing compensation money, and the proprietor and mortgagee be enabled to effect a compromise, without altogether breaking up the home and hopes of industrious families, who form, in number and respectability, the strength of the interior, upon vague and fluctuating apprehensions.

That as the Act of Parliament has adopted and acknowledged the principle of compensation in a manner equally solemn as emancipation, and as by not bringing them jointly into operation, an inevitable and certain ruin of nearly all the Colonists will therefore ensue, Memorialists pray your Excellency respectfully to submit to His Majesty's enlightened consideration the justness and fairness of ordering the compensation to take effect at the same time with the general emancipation.

That in the event of such being absolutely infeasible, your Excellency's Memorialists further beg leave to submit, that the greater proportion of slave property is held under mortgage; that the mortgagee, being by the first operation of the Act deprived of the effect and value of his mortgage, must sue the debtor, whose utter ruin will in most cases ensue, unless the Government at the same moment that it assumes and sets free the property be also prepared to liquidate the incumbrance thereon; that not only the interests of the proprietors of slaves require, but moreover that it would be but consistent with the first principles of justice and equity, that the amount of compensation to be awarded to the proprietors of slaves should be paid over to them at the same time when they are deprived of their right of property. But Memorialists, impressed with the difficulties which must necessarily beset the final appropriation of so large a sum to be allotted amongst so many, yet earnestly pray that your Excellency will, on their behalf, supplicate that His Majesty may be pleased to cause a sum of about four hundred thousand pounds (£.400,000) to be placed at the disposal of your Excellency and the Assistant Commissioners, so that provisional relief may, with due reference to proportionate value, be extended to applicant slave owners, in partial discharge of the mortgages now held, upon their slaves, and registered for adjustment upon the final apportionment under the Act.

That Memorialists request your Excellency to place before His Majesty their grateful acknowledgments for reserving to them the privilege to appeal to His Majesty in Council, and their humble suggestion, that if it meet His Majesty's pleasure, the slave proprietors would derive greater advantage (in obviating much cost, delay and obscurity of account) should His Majesty be graciously pleased to concede, that his Excellency the Governor of this Colony, and the Assistant Commissioners, were vested with powers finally to decide appeals, on calling to their aid nine persons indiscriminately out of the grand jury next on the court roll.

That this Colony has long laboured under much individual loss and vexation by the prevalence of vagrant and marauding habits among the coloured population, and without meaning to imply that there will exist a stronger disposition to restlessness and intemperance in the free apprentices than is found in the civilized poor in Europe, Memorialists humbly submit, that it is scarcely to be expected that there will be a greater bias to the contrary virtues, and that until experience shall convince them of the misery of seeking liberty in the wilderness, there will be more frequent and expensive depredations on the farmer's flocks, &c.

Memorialists therefore, with the fact before them that the Act unfortunately happens to commence its operation in the midst of harvest, and that the natural excitement arising from the alteration in condition, may lead the apprentice to an unmeasured conception of his liberty of will and person, humbly represent, that, as early as is consistent with the full consideration of a subject which they are well aware stamps the entire institutions of a country with the character of abasement or elevation, a sound and well-digested law for compelling persons who have no ostensible means of subsistence to account for their time, and to accept of employment to give them a legal settlement, and oblige them to contribute to the

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upholding of that system of order to which they are debtors for protection, should be enacted and promulgated, so that apprentices may seasonably learn, that whilst their rational liberty is guaranteed, there will be no scope allowed for licentiousness and desertion.

Memorialists, convinced that the advantage of one class can never be permanently founded upon the loss or detriment of another, have sought in all their representations as much the interest of the coloured as of the white population; they have kept strictly within the spirit of the Act; they have candidly stated the claims of the Colony, founded upon the universally recognized principles of justice. That admitted, Memorialists will neither withhold their wishes nor exertions, that the freed people shall become all that their deliverers can desire, and that the thus regulated Act would in due time render them.

Memorialists therefore humbly trust, that your Excellency will confirm their hopes, and after a declaratory enactment in Council to that effect, submit to His Majesty their request for the grant of provisional relief, as before solicited.

And your Excellency's Memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope,  
22d March 1834.

(signed) *J. J. L. Smuts.*

(signed) *R. C. Hoets.*

(signed) by 265 Individuals.

No. 2.

Sir,

Colonial Office, 19th April 1834.

WITH reference to the Memorial of Proprietors and others interested in slave property, dated 22d March 1834, and presented to his Excellency the Governor on the 7th instant, I am commanded to transmit to you' herewith, for the information of Memorialists, the accompanying appointment of his Excellency thereon; and have the honour, &c.

(signed)

*J. G. Brink,*

Acting Secretary to Government.

To *J. J. L. Smuts, esq.*

Chairman of the public Meeting of Slave Proprietors,  
held in Cape Town, on the 22d March 1834.

#### APPOINTMENT.

" MEMORIAL of Proprietors and others interested in Slave Property, dated 22d March 1834," and presented to me on the 7th April following:

I HAVE given my careful attention to this Memorial, and I hasten to transmit it to the Secretary of State for His Majesty's most gracious consideration.

By a reference to the 16th clause of the Act of Parliament of the 28th August 1833, as well as to the 23d clause of it, the Memorialists will be aware that the latter of these does not apply to this Colony, because it is one of those Colonies to which the legislative authority of His Majesty in Council extends, and consequently the office of supplying by local enactments such subordinate details as, without being repugnant or contradictory to the Act, or any part thereof, may be necessary for giving effect to the series of general rules which it indicates, for regulating the future relations of the employer and of those who are to labour in his service, devolves upon His Majesty, acting with the advice and consent of His Council; accordingly, the necessary local enactments for that purpose in this Colony will be made by an Order of His Majesty in Council; but that this may not be passed without first having had the advantage of local knowledge and experience, I have been instructed by His Majesty's Government to expect (and doubtless shall receive by one of the first mails from England now so long due) "a draft of the proposed Order in Council, that it may be generally made known throughout the Colony; and His Majesty's Government will then not only admit, but invite and weigh with all care such observations as it may call forth, and such suggestions as any persons may be disposed to make for the improvement of its projected regulations; so that it may not be finally promulgated without all the assistance which can be derived from those who are most conversant with the state and circumstances of the Colony."

Doubtless the representations and observations contained in the Memorial will not fail to furnish most essential suggestions upon the expected draft of the Order in Council, wherever they may be applicable to its provisions, and may not be found "repugnant or contradictory to the Act of Parliament."

Meanwhile, in transmitting the Memorial, I earnestly and especially recommend to the favourable consideration of His Majesty's Government, that part of it which prays, that the compensation, or at least a certain portion of it, may, as soon as possible, be rendered available in this Colony for the important and vital object therein set forth. I had already, before

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before the Memorial was prepared, appointed the "Auxiliary Commission" to which it adverts. I had not either been unmindful of the necessity of a law for providing for the location and employment of those who wander about the Colony, without either the one or the other, and its preliminary arrangements are in progress. It is not to be denied, however, that to render it effectual without being sometimes individually oppressive, is a task of no ordinary difficulty; it would indeed, at any rate, have been indispensable, before the conclusive enactment of such a law, for the legislators to become acquainted with the provisions which the Order in Council, with reference to the 16th clause of the Act of Parliament, will naturally have proposed, in that regard for the regulation of the apprenticed labourers, in order that there may be collision between the one and the other.

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GOOD HOPE.

Government House, Cape Town, 19th April 1834.

(signed) *B. D'Urban.*

— No. 403. —

No. 403.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *B. D'Urban* to  
Mr. Secretary *Stanley*.

Government House, Cape of Good Hope,  
31 May 1834.

Sir,  
WITH reference to the latter part of the Despatch which I had the honour to address to you on the 1st of April last, I think it right to apprise you, that hitherto no "draft of the Order in Council," therein adverted to as announced in your Despatch of the 5th September last, (and of which I have been in anxious expectation), has yet been received by me.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *B. D'Urban.*

— No. 404. —

No. 404.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice* to  
Governor Sir *B. D'Urban*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 12 September 1834.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 31st of May last.

FOR various reasons to which I need not stop to advert, it has not been thought necessary or advisable to submit for the consideration of the King in Council any distinct measure for the purpose of regulating the future relations of the apprenticed labourers at the Cape to their employers.

It has been considered that such a measure, grounded as it should be upon a comprehensive knowledge of the habitual relations in which all the parties concerned stand to each other, would best be devised and completed on the spot.

The accompanying circular instruction to the Governors of certain Sugar Colonies will impart to you generally the views and wishes of His Majesty's Government, in regard to the nature of the detailed enactments by which the intentions of the Legislature are to be carried into effect; and I beg leave to recommend to you to take the necessary steps for preparing the draft of an ordinance for the consideration of the Legislative Council, which shall be grounded upon the principles and rules laid down in the paper annexed to the circular instructions.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *T. Spring Rice.*

*P. S.*—It will be advisable, for the sake of despatch, that in all cases in which the proposed Cape Ordinance may differ from the Order in Council, you should report to me, most fully and distinctly, the reasons which in your mind make such deviations necessary.

(signed) *T. S. R.*

19th October 1833.  
Vide Parl. Papers,  
printed 16 April 1835.  
No. 177.

—No. 405.—

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GOOD HOPE.

No. 405.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir B. D'Urban to  
Mr. Secretary Spring Rice.Government House, Cape of Good Hope,  
7 January 1835.

Sir,

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 31st May, I have the honour to inform you, that yours to me of the 12th of September last, with the models of enactments for the guidance of the Legislative Council, reached me on the evening of Saturday the 29th of November.

I lost no time in proceeding thereon, and the Attorney-General having framed without delay a draft of an Ordinance, it was proposed to the Legislative Council, read a first time, and published on the 5th of December; and as soon as the prescribed three weeks had elapsed, again brought under discussion and passed, and is herewith transmitted.

The principles of the Act of Parliament and models transmitted have, I believe, been carefully observed; but the whole slave population have been classed as non-prædial labourers; this being alike the desire of the employers and employed, and doubtless much to the advantage of the latter, as will readily be seen by the enclosed schedule. The labour besides, in this Colony, of farmers, differing very widely from that in the West Indies, and being so promiscuous that it would have been in many instances impracticable to class it, and would have constantly led (and was accordingly deprecated by the labourers themselves) to the placing near connexions, husbands and wives for instance, respectively in different conditions; the one becoming altogether free two years sooner than the other.

I believe that this Ordinance is well adapted to those whom it concerns, and I therefore humbly trust to its receiving His Majesty's gracious approval and confirmation.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) B. D'Urban.

Enclosure in No. 405.

TABLE of HOURS of LABOUR, &c. for APPRENTICED LABOURERS at the *Cape of Good Hope*, being the usual Working Hours of Free Labourers in the Colony.

MONTHS.	Hours of Labour in each Day.	Intervals for Meals, &c.	Hours for Rest and Sleep.	Total Hours of exemption from Labour.	Average length of the Day and Night.	
					from Sunrise	to Sunset.
May - - - } June - - - } July - - - }	9	2	13	15	10½	13½
March - - - } April - - - } August - - - } September - - }	10	3	11	14	11½	12½
October - - - } November - - - } December - - - } January - - - } February - - - }	11	3	10	13	13½	10½

The average labour in a month is 25 days.

3 Months' labour	75 days at	9 hours per diem, give	675 hours.
4 " "	100 " " 10 " " "	" " "	1,000 "
5 " "	125 " " 11 " " "	" " "	1,375 "
12	300	Average 10 h. 10 min. per annum -	3,050 "

6 years' labour, or 1,800 days, at 7 h. 30 min. per diem, give 13,500 hours,  
4 " " 1,200 " " 10 h. 10 min. per diem, give 12,200 "

Gain to the Labour } 2 Years' freedom 600 days to earn wages, and - - - 1,300 hours' labour in the term of apprenticeship.

Ordinance, No. 1.  
5 Jan. 1835.  
Printed in the Appx. (B.)  
No. 76.  
No. 2.

Enclosure in  
No. 405.

—No. 406.—

CAPE OF  
GOOD HOPE.

No. 406.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Grant* to  
Governor Sir *B. D'Urban*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 30th April 1835.

I HAVE received and laid before the King your Despatch of the 7th January, enclosing an Ordinance, intituled, "An Ordinance for giving due effect to the provisions of an Act of Parliament, passed in the third and fourth years of the reign of His Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, 'An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the industry of the manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves,' and dated the 28th August 1833."

This Ordinance has been passed in fulfilment of the conditions imposed by the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery on the different Colonial Legislatures, in order to entitle the colonists to a participation in the compensation fund. In this instance, that obligation appears to have been fulfilled in the most complete and satisfactory manner. The law is in effect a mere transcript of His Majesty's Order in Council, made for a similar purpose in relation to Trinidad, St. Lucia and Mauritius, with such changes only as are necessarily incident to the essential distinctions between those Islands and the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, in rural economy, climate, and topographical circumstances.

I observe, however, that this Act supposes (*see cap. 1. sections 1 & 3,*) the employment of no less than 22 special justices, which number you have subsequently reduced to 14, and I am willing to believe that the extent, and still more the inaccessible character of many of the interior districts, would probably render the law altogether nugatory, if a very much larger number of magistrates were not employed for the execution of this Ordinance, than those who have been sent for this purpose from this kingdom. Hence may perhaps arise the necessity for the employment of some of the proprietary body as special magistrates, though I feel myself called upon to desire that you will avoid having recourse to such assistance, unless when it may be impossible to procure any other.

In this ordinance, the distinction between prædial and non-prædial apprenticed labourers, is entirely superseded. The whole slave population of the Colony are hereafter to be considered, for the purposes of the Act of Parliament, as non-prædial. It appears to me that this is an extremely judicious arrangement, since there is no doubt that the distinction was made by Parliament exclusively on account of the peculiar circumstances of the slaves in the sugar colonies. If the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope alone had been in question, Parliament would certainly have proceeded upon the principle which has been adopted by the Governor and Legislative Council. The result is, that in this important settlement every vestige of slavery will have disappeared by the 1st of December 1838.

In cap. 10. of this Ordinance, is a declaration, that hereafter the interests of an employer in the services of any labourer shall be liable to be seized and taken in execution, under process of law against such employer. In this case, the abandonment of the distinction between prædial and non-prædial labourers, may give to the Ordinance an effect injurious to the whole body, which could scarcely have been contemplated. Although the legal distinction between the two classes may, for the present purpose, have been disregarded, they will not the less be distinct from each other in point of fact. A man accustomed to work on a particular farm, and having there his home, his connexions and attachments, local and personal, ought not to be detached from it in satisfaction of the debts of his employer. At the present day, there is no part of the British West Indies in which the law admits such a separation. It appears to me, therefore, desirable that you should propose for the adoption of the Legislative Council an explanatory Ordinance, declaring that no labourer habitually employed on any farm, should be liable to be removed from it in pursuance of any judgment or execution against the employer; but that, in all such cases, the land and the services of the attached husbandmen must be seized and sold together.

CAPE OF  
GOOD HOPE.

Such are the only remarks which have been suggested to me by the perusal of the Ordinance, which, in all other respects, has appeared to me entitled to His Majesty's unqualified approbation; and I have accordingly to acquaint you that, subject to the qualification which I have mentioned, His Majesty is pleased to confirm the said Ordinance.

I have, &c.

(signed)

*C. Grant.*

No. 407.

—No. 407.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *B. D'Urban*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 3 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith, an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 31st ult., declaring that adequate and satisfactory provision hath been made in the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope for giving effect to an Act of Parliament made in the third and fourth year of His present Majesty, for the Abolition of Slavery.

I have, &c.

(signed)

*Glenelg.*

Printed in the Appendix,  
Part II. (B.), No. 17.

## Appendix (B.)

## COLONIAL LAWS.

## ANTIGUA.

## — No. 18. —

Antigua.

AN ACT for relieving the Slave Population from the Obligations imposed upon them by the recent Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves."—(Passed 4th June 1834.)

No. 18.

WHEREAS by the 23d section of an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the 3d and 4th years of the reign of His Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves," it is enacted, "that in case the Governor, Council and Assembly of any one or more of His Majesty's Colonies aforesaid shall, by any Act or Acts of General Assembly for that purpose made, substitute for the several enactments thereinbefore contained, or any of them, any enactments accomplishing the several objects in such thereinbefore contained enactments respectively contemplated as fully and to the like effect, but in a manner and form better adapted to the local circumstances of any such Colonies or Colony; and in case His Majesty shall, by any Order or Orders to be by Him made, by the advice of His Privy Council, confirm and allow any such Act or Acts of Assembly, and shall in and by any such Order or Orders in Council recite and set forth at length the several provisions and enactments of that Act for which such other enactments as aforesaid shall have been substituted by any such Act or Acts of General Assembly, then and in such case so much and such parts of that Act as shall be so recited and set forth at length in any such Order or Orders of His Majesty in Council shall be suspended and cease to be of any force or effect in any such Colony from and after the arrival and proclamation therein of any such Order or Orders of His Majesty in Council, and shall continue to be so suspended so long as any such substituted enactments shall continue in force and unrepealed, and no longer."

And whereas the Governor, Council and Assembly of this Colony, having maturely considered the system of apprenticeship prescribed by the said Act of Parliament in all its bearings, have arrived at a conviction of the expediency of dispensing with the same, and allowing the slave population to pass to a state of absolute and entire freedom on the 1st day of August 1834:

And whereas the ordinary local resources cannot be justly expected to be equal to bearing the increased expenditure which must obviously be required for accomplishing the several objects contemplated in this Act, and the Legislature is therefore imperatively called upon to appeal to the generous and benevolent feeling and consideration of the King's Most Excellent Majesty, and implore His gracious assistance in relieving this ancient Colony from "the 4½ per cent. impost," a burthen which has long and severely pressed upon its interests, under which Colonies not more conspicuous for their loyalty and attachment to His Majesty's person and Government, though possessing infinitely greater wealth and local advantages, have never laboured, and from which its present impoverished condition and dejecting prospects now urge it, with all due and profound reverence for His Majesty, and an implicit reliance upon His royal and paternal care, and the solicitude He has invariably manifested for the welfare of all classes of His faithful subjects, to prefer its strong equitable claim to be in future equally free:

1. May it therefore please Your Most Excellent Majesty, that it may be enacted, and be it enacted by the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Your Majesty's Islands of Antigua, Montserrat, Barbuda, St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla, the Virgin Islands and Dominica, and the Council and Assembly of this Your Majesty's Island of Antigua, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority of the same, that all and every the persons who, on the 1st day of August 1834, shall be holden in slavery within this Colony or its dependencies, shall upon and from and after the said 1st day of August 1834 become and be, to all intents and purposes, free and discharged of and from all manner of slavery, and of and from the obligations imposed by the said hereinbefore in part recited Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery



ANTIGUA.  
 Appendix (B.)  
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Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves," and shall be absolutely and for ever manumitted; and that the children thereafter to be born to any such persons, and the offspring of such children, shall in like manner be free from their birth; and that from and after the said 1st day of August 1834, slavery shall be and is hereby utterly and for ever abolished, and declared unlawful within this Colony and its dependencies.

2. And be it further enacted, that the said persons so manumitted shall on the said 1st day of August 1834 be considered eligible, in the several parishes in which they were last holden in slavery, to receive parochial relief on the same footing as all His Majesty's other subjects in this Colony.

3. And be it further enacted, that until the 1st day of August 1835, it shall not be lawful for the owners or directors of plantations to evict or expel any labourer or labourers, person or persons, who shall be willing to continue to perform such work as shall be assigned to him, her or them, and shall truly and faithfully perform the same for stipulated wages, or who shall be then labouring under any such disease or mental or bodily infirmity as may render him, her or them incapable of earning his, her or their subsistence, from the habitations or tenements which he, she or they respectively personally occupied in their state of slavery, except in case of insubordinate, quarrelsome, disorderly or riotous behaviour, or in case of drunkenness, theft, trespass or other gross delinquency on their part, when it shall be competent to any two or more justices of the peace, upon due and impartial inquiry made into the merits of the complaint, by an authority under their hands and seals, to sanction the expulsion of any such delinquent; but the said owners or directors of plantations shall be and are hereby required to permit and suffer the said labourers and persons to have and enjoy respectively the personal occupation of the said habitations or tenements, by way of a temporary and gratuitous accommodation, for the year ending on the said 1st day of August 1835, and no longer, without any molestation or interruption of or by the said owners or directors of plantations, under a penalty of 5 *l.* for every offence, to be recovered and applied in the manner hereinafter mentioned.

4. And be it further enacted, that from and after the said 1st day of August 1834, all owners or directors of plantations in this Colony shall be and are hereby required to supply those persons who in their state of slavery were attached to such plantations respectively, and shall at the time of emancipation be afflicted with any such disease or mental or bodily infirmity as may render them incapable of earning their subsistence, with such food, clothing, lodging, medicine, medical attendance, and such other maintenance and allowances, as by the laws now in force in this Colony an owner is required to supply to and for any slaves being of the same age and sex, and under the same circumstances as such persons shall respectively be, until proper arrangements and due and adequate provision shall be made for their maintenance and relief by the respective parishes, or by some other benevolent and effectual plan in their favour, and no longer, under a penalty of 5 *l.* for every offence, to be recovered and applied in the manner hereinafter mentioned.

5. Provided always, and be it enacted, that in the event of any dispute or difficulty in ascertaining whether any particular individual shall be included in such number of persons, it shall and may be lawful for the parties interested to make their appeal to two or more of the nearest of His Majesty's justices of the peace, who, taking to their counsel some experienced medical practitioner, shall under their hands and seals make a peremptory and conclusive decision in this behalf.

6. And be it further enacted, that the penalties imposed by this Act shall and may be recovered before any two or more justices of the peace; and all justices of the peace are hereby empowered and required, upon complaint to them made, to grant a warrant to bring the offender before them, at the time and place in such warrant specified; and if on conviction of such offender on his or her confession, or on the evidence of any one or more credible witness or witnesses upon oath (which oath such justices are hereby empowered to administer), any such penalty shall not be forthwith paid, it shall and may be lawful to and for such justices to levy the same by distress, and for want of distress to commit every such offender to the common gaol, there to remain without bail or mainprize for any time not exceeding 20 days, unless such penalty, and all reasonable charges attending the recovery thereof, shall be sooner paid; and all such penalties, when so recovered and levied as aforesaid, shall be paid into the public treasury, to be applied to the general uses of the Colony.

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— No. 19. —

Antigua.

No. 19-

AN ACT for establishing a new System of Police, and for increasing the Power of the Magistracy of this Island in the Appointment of Rural Constables, and for providing and regulating a House of Correction.—(Passed 31st July 1834).

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is highly expedient and necessary that the police establishment of this Island, and the laws regulating the same, should be altered and modified, so as to render them more suitable to the changes in the social condition and circumstances of the Colony, consequent on the entire abolition of slavery, from and after the 1st day of August next:

May

May it therefore please Your Most Excellent Majesty, that it may be enacted, and be it enacted, by the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Your Majesty's Islands of Antigua, Montserrat, Barbuda, St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla, the Virgin Islands and Dominica, and the Council and Assembly of this Your Majesty's Island of Antigua, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority of the same, that the several laws, establishing and regulating the police now in force in this Island, shall, from and after the 1st day of August next, be repealed, and the same are hereby repealed and declared void and of none effect.

2. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that his Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, or, in his absence, the Commander-in-Chief for the time being, shall select and, by commission or warrant under his hand and seal, appoint such able-bodied and discreet persons, between the ages of 21 and 45 years, as may appear to him to be properly qualified for their respective stations, to form a body of general police; that is to say,

One superintendent, or chief inspector of police, who shall receive monthly out of the public treasury, for the services to be by him performed, a salary of 600*l.* currency per annum.

Four assistant inspectors of police, who shall each receive, in like manner, a salary of 220*l.* currency for his services.

Twenty serjeants or subordinate officers of police, who shall each, in like manner, receive a salary of 120*l.* currency for his services.

And one clerk of police, who shall receive, in like manner, a salary of 200*l.* currency for his services.

3. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that every member of such body of police shall, on his appointment, take the following oath: "I do swear that I will, to the utmost of my ability, faithfully execute the several duties as of police, in the preservation of the public peace, and in the prevention of all offences against the persons and properties of His Majesty's subjects, as is required of me by and under an Act of this Island, intituled, 'An Act for establishing a new System of Police, and for increasing the Power of the Magistracy of this Island in the Appointment of Rural Constables, and for providing and regulating a House of Correction.' So help me God." And it shall not be lawful for any member of such police to pursue any other occupation in life, or take any fee whatever, or other emolument, beyond his salary for the performance of any of the duties required of him.

4. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that in the event of any vacancy by death, resignation or removal in this body of police, such vacancy shall, as promptly as possible, be filled up by a new appointment from his Excellency the Governor, or the Commander-in-Chief for the time being; and in the event of the incapacity, disobedience, insobriety or any misconduct on the part of any subordinate member of such police, it shall and may be lawful for the superintendent to report the circumstances to his Excellency the Governor, or Commander-in-Chief for the time being, who shall have power to cause the instant dismissal of such person or persons, and to make a new appointment in his or their room.

5. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that the persons composing such police shall wear such simple and unexpensive dress or uniform, or shall be distinguished by such badge or letters and numbers, on a conspicuous part of their dress, as his Excellency the Governor, or Commander-in-Chief for the time being, may be pleased to direct and appoint; and they shall each be furnished, at the public expense, with a suitable staff of office, and shall each be exempted from the performance of militia duties.

6. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that the duties of the said police shall be to aid and assist the magistrates in the performance of their duties, and vigilantly to detect, arrest, apprehend and bring to justice all persons guilty of felonies, larcenies of all descriptions, misdemeanors and trespasses, as well as all rogues, vagabonds, idle and disorderly persons, and to suppress and prevent all tumults, riots, brawls, outrages and disorders, and all other offences of any kind soever against the public peace and laws of this Island.

7. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that the superintendent of the said police shall be required to keep, for his exclusive use, two active and serviceable horses, to enable him to be constantly on the alert, to visit frequently the different posts or stations where any portion of such police may be placed, and to proceed as promptly as may be to any part of the Island; and he shall make such rules and orders for the interior government and discipline of the said body of police, taking care that each individual thereof performs the duty assigned him; and, if need be, he shall exercise the subordinate officers to the use of arms; and he shall report all particulars which may come under his observation relating to the preservation of the public peace, as often as may be required, to his Excellency the Governor, or Commander-in-Chief for the time being; and to enable such superintendent to act with more promptitude and decision on any particular emergency, he shall be named and appointed as one of His Majesty's justices in the several commissions of the peace for this Island; and it shall and may be lawful for the said superintendent, not only to command and control the persons composing such body of police, but at any time, as need may be, to put himself in communication with any other of His Majesty's justices of peace for this Island,

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All laws regulating the police now in force, repealed.

Governor, by commission or warrant, to appoint able-bodied persons between 21 and 45 years of age, to form new police.

Composition of police: 1 superintendent, 600*l.* currency, per ann.; 4 assistant inspectors, 220*l.* per ann. each, and 20 serjeants or subordinate officers, at 120*l.* per ann. each; 1 clerk, 200*l.* per annum.

Every member of police to take oath of office.

Form of oath.

Members of police to pursue no other occupation in life.

Vacancies by death, removal or resignation, to be filled up by new appointment by the Governor.

Police to wear such dress, uniform or badge as the Governor shall direct, and to be furnished with staff of office, to be exempted from militia duty.

Duties of police to aid and assist the magistrates, to apprehend all persons guilty of felonies, &c., all idle and disorderly persons, rogues, vagabonds, &c.

Superintendent of police to keep 2 active serviceable horses, to visit frequently out-stations, to frame rules for interior government of police, to exercise subordinate officers to the use of arms.

Superintendent to be in the several commissions of the peace; justices of the peace to co-operate, to call to his aid ordinary constables or rural constables.

## ANTIGUA.

## Appendix (B.)

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## No. 19.

Island, who are all hereby required to co-operate with him, and to give him every aid and information in their power in the lawful execution of his duties; and it shall and may be lawful for the said superintendent, at any time, to call to his aid and assistance any neighbouring constable or constables, whether the same be the ordinary constables of divisions appointed by His Majesty's justices in grand sessions, or the rural constables on neighbouring plantations, to be appointed under and by virtue of this Act, who are each and all hereby required to afford a ready and prompt assistance, and to obey any written or verbal summons by or on behalf of the said superintendent of police.

Each assistant inspector to act as chief or senior at his station.

8. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that each assistant of police shall act as the chief or senior officer at the particular station to which he may be appointed, under the supervision and direction nevertheless of the superintendent, who shall be regarded as the superior of the whole police department within the Island.

Every inspector and subordinate officer of police to have the same authority belonging to constables.

9. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that every assistant inspector and serjeant, or subordinate officer of police, shall have the authority appertaining generally to the office of constable, and each and every of them shall have the same power and authority in executing all warrants, summonses and other orders of magistrates generally, as any other constable duly appointed and sworn by virtue of any law or usage now in force.

Clerk of police to be stationed in St. John's; to attend sitting magistrates, to keep record of all convictions.

10. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be the duty of the clerk of police, who shall always be stationed in St. John's, to attend the sittings of any magistrate or magistrates before whom any offenders may be brought for examination by the agency of the police, to make out the necessary summonses, warrants and commitments, to file and preserve all documents and correspondences relating to matters of police, all notes and particulars of written examinations, to assist the clerk of the Crown and public prosecutor in preparing all criminal cases for trial, and to keep a register in a book of large size and strongly bound, in which shall be set down the date of any particular complaint or offence charged, the name of the party accused and party by whom accused, together with any general remarks which may promise to be useful in the investigation of any future charges or complaints.

Principal station, or head-quarters, to be the town of St. John, at the old gaol, to be repaired for such purpose.

11. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that the principal station, head-quarters or rendezvous of the said police department shall be in the town of St. John, at the public building formerly occupied as the common gaol, and to which the present police officers shall be annexed, and which shall immediately undergo sufficient repair for this purpose, and have suitable places for the temporary confinement of offenders taken into custody, and detained for examination before the justices; reserving nevertheless, in the said public building, suitable apartments for the use and accommodation of the sitting magistrates, or any other magistrates before whom parties may be brought for examination, or who may be engaged in any judicial proceedings appertaining to their offices; and the said police apartments shall be provided, at the public expense, with such seats, benches, tables, arms and arm-racks as may be required, and with at least two good lamps, which shall always be kept burning during the hours of darkness, at the public cost; and the arms to be provided shall consist of at least one fusil or blunderbuss, with appropriate belts and pouches, one pair of pistols, and one sword or cutlass, for each member of police, with an adequate supply of requisite ammunition, which said arms shall at all times be kept clean and in perfectly serviceable order and repair; and such station in St. John's shall be the centre of an intimate and constant communication with the other police offices on all matters relating to the disturbance of the public peace, and to the commission of all offences of a serious character.

Each member of police to be furnished with 1 fusil or blunderbuss, with belts and pouches, 1 pair pistols and 1 cutlass, with ammunition, &c.

12. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that the ordinary strength of the police force at St. John's shall consist (exclusive of the superintendent) of one assistant-inspector and eight subordinate officers.

Ordinary strength of police in St. John's, 1 assistant inspector, and 8 subordinate officers.

Besides general and extended constabulary duties, members of police in St. John's to patrol the streets, lanes, wharfs, &c., and to apprehend all suspicious persons, and commit them to the watch-house.

13. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that over and above the more general and extended constabulary duties contemplated by this Act, the members of the police station in St. John's shall be required, as far as their numbers may permit, to keep watch and ward, and shall visit and inspect the different precincts, streets, lanes, wharfs, purlieus and outskirts of the said town, patrolling at such hours and successive intervals during the day and night, and in such rotation as the superintendent of police may think fit to direct, in order to the prevention and detection of all felonies, burglaries, firing of buildings, robberies, larcenies, affrays of persons, outrages and disorders, or injuries to property of any kind, as well as to apprehend all night-walkers, rogues, vagabonds and other idle, disorderly, lurking and suspicious persons, and to lodge all such as may be so taken into their custody at the watch-house or apartment allotted for that purpose within the police station, till their several offences be inquired into, and determined on by the sitting magistrate, or any other magistrate appointed for the town or district of St. John.

Police in St. John's to apprehend all persons at any time selling or bartering sugar canes, and all other articles, contrary to the law for abolishing Sunday markets, all persons riding or

14. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that the said police stationed in St. John's shall be and are hereby authorized to apprehend all persons at any time selling, bartering or disposing of sugar canes, all persons selling, bartering or disposing of articles contrary to the spirit and intent of the law of this Island for the abolition of the Sunday markets, all persons furiously or improperly riding or driving in the streets, all carters who may be found riding on their carts, or who may not have the owner's name or initials,

or the plantation to which the same belong marked legibly on the same, all persons flying kites, playing with bat and ball, or other games whereby horses may be startled, or persons committing any nuisances, dangerous or unsuitable for the public streets; and such police officers shall detain any such offender or offenders, and carry him, her or them with as little delay as possible before the sitting magistrate, or any magistrate, who, on due conviction on oath of any such offender or offenders, shall have authority to fine him, her or them in a sum not exceeding 5 *l.*, or, in default of immediate payment thereof, to commit the offender or offenders to the common gaol or house of correction for a period not exceeding 21 days, unless the said fine be sooner paid.

15. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that the police on duty in St. John's shall be required to take up all animals straying or feeding in the public streets, and which by law may be liable to be pounded, and at any time after three days public notice may destroy all hogs found loose in the public streets.

16. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that two other stations of police shall be formed and established; one in the town of Falmouth or English Harbour, or in the immediate vicinity thereof, and the other in the town or vicinity of the town of Parham; and until suitable and convenient buildings can be erected or provided for such purposes, houses shall be hired at the public expense, not exceeding 100 *l.* per annum, each having contained therein, adjoining or attached thereto, secure and commodious apartments for the temporary safe custody of offenders apprehended by the said police, and intended to be brought to justice by them.

17. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that the ordinary establishment at each of the last-mentioned stations shall consist of one assistant inspector and four serjeants or subordinate officers of police, who, besides their staves, shall be provided with arms, accoutrements and ammunition as are hereinbefore specified; and the said members of police shall be subject to the like control and regulations as those in St. John's; and from them shall be required the same duties and observances, as far as the local circumstances of the station may render practicable or expedient, taking all offenders who may be apprehended by them for examination before any one or more of the nearest of His Majesty's justices of the peace, two or more of whom shall, if to them it seem more convenient, associate themselves and sit on some stated day of the week in petty sessions, for the purpose of hearing and determining on such matters as may be brought before them by the said police.

18. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that another station of police shall be formed and established at the Old Road, either at the Old Road Fort, or at Johnson's Point Fort, or both, the buildings of which, if not already suitable to the purpose, shall receive such requisite alterations as may render them more commodious, unless a more suitable and convenient position can be obtained in lieu thereof, under the authority of his Excellency the Governor, in Bermudian Valley or New Division; and the ordinary establishment at such station shall consist, in like manner, of one assistant inspector and four serjeants or subordinate officers of police, who shall be subject to the same control, regulations, and the performance of the same duties in the active preservation of the public peace, and in the prevention and suppression of all crimes and offences against the laws of this Island, as is hereby required from all other members of the department of police; and on apprehending any offender or offenders against the public peace or laws of this Island, they shall take them, as promptly as possible, before any one or more of the nearest of His Majesty's justices of the peace, two or more of whom shall have authority, if to them it seem more convenient, to associate themselves, on any stated day of the week, in petty sessions for hearing and determining all such matters as may be brought before them by the said police.

19. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that there shall be provided, at the public expense, books, to be kept at the several out-stations of police, for the due recording of all proceedings within their cognizance respectively; and on the assistant inspectors thereat shall devolve the duties of clerk to the station.

20. Provided always, and be it enacted, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent the superintendent of police from changing or shifting temporarily the out-stations of police as events or circumstances may seem to require, and as quarters for their accommodation can elsewhere be procured, as well as to withdraw or draft from any station, with the view of augmenting the strength at any other station, as well as at any time to relieve and change the individual members of police from one post to another, as to the said superintendent may seem fit and proper.

21. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that in the event of its appearing expedient to his Excellency the Governor or Commander-in-chief for the time being, on the representation of the superintendent or chief officer of police, that any one of the out-stations should be removed to any other part of the country, or that any number of the persons composing the police establishment should be detached and posted in any other part of the Island, his Excellency shall be and is hereby authorized to hire or rent suitable houses or quarters for their accommodation and lodging, at a rate not exceeding 100 *l.* currency per annum for each, which sum the public treasurer shall be and is hereby authorized to pay.

driving furiously in the streets, all carter's riding on their carts, all persons flying kites or playing at bat and ball, &c.; offender to be carried before sitting magistrate; on conviction, offender to be fined 5 *l.* and in default of payment, to commit to gaol or house of correction for 21 days, *maximum*.

Police in St. John's to take up all animals straying or feeding in the public streets, and after three days notice to destroy all hogs found loose upon the streets.

Two other stations of police, one at Falmouth or English Harbour, and the other at Parham; houses to be provided at the public expense, not exceeding 100 *l.* per annum each.

Ordinary establishment at each station to be, 1 assistant inspector, and 4 serjeants or subordinate officers, to be furnished with arms, &c., in like manner as the police in St. John's, and to perform the same duties.

One other station of police to be at the old road, either at Old Road Fort or Johnson's Point Fort, under the authority of the Governor, to consist of 1 assistant inspector and 4 serjeants; duties the same as other members of police.

Books, at the public expense, to be provided for each station. Proceedings to be recorded.

Superintendent may change out-stations as events occur, as well as withdraw or draft from any to augment the strength at any other station, as well as to relieve and change any individual member of police.

Governor empowered, on the representation of superintendent, to remove any out-station to any part of the country, and to hire or rent suitable quarters at public expense, not exceeding 100 *l.* per annum.

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Present substituted police to perform all the duties required from the pre-existent police under the Alien Act. Book to be kept at each station for registering the names of aliens.

In every case where complaint is made before a magistrate against any person, magistrate to demand 6 s. for his warrant.

If person complained against found to be in error, party to pay 12 s., and complainant reimbursed the 6 s. paid for the warrant.

Party complained against refusing to pay such sum of 12 s., to be committed to common gaol for 7 days.

Any two justices, on the request and recommendation of owner or director of plantation, whereon may be living 100 persons, labourers and their families, to appoint under their hands 2 persons out of that number, or 1 person if under 100 and not less than 50, to act as constable on such plantation. Same powers incident to the office of constable.

Form of oath to be taken by constables.

Not to prevent justices from appointing special constables when necessary.

Constables appointed and sworn, to be enrolled in the office of clerk of the vestry of the parish, and list thereof published every half year. Constable to be furnished, at expense of plantation, with staff of office.

22. And whereas an Act of this Island was passed on the 16th day of July 1823, intituled, "An Act for preventing Aliens of dangerous Principles from residing in this Island, and for establishing other Regulations for the Security of the Inhabitants," the chief duties of which Act were thereby imposed on the then existing police establishment: And whereas strangers were then made, and still continue to be subjected to certain rules and regulations therein laid down as necessary for the public welfare: And whereas by this Act that police is hereinbefore declared to cease to have existence; Be it therefore, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that the present substituted police shall do and perform all the duties heretofore required from the pre-existent police, the duties of which shall merge into the new system of police established by this Act; and that a book shall be kept at each station for the registering of the names and domiciles of all aliens, agreeable to the provisions contained in the former before-mentioned Act; and the whole of the other duties therein prescribed to said police shall be devolved on the police established under this Act.

23. And whereas it frequently happens that complaints are exhibited before the magistrates of the said Island which turn out upon investigation to be very frivolous and vexatious; Be it and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that in every case where a complaint is made against any person or persons, that the magistrate or magistrates to whom such complaint is made shall demand as a remuneration for his or their trouble, for issuing the warrant and hearing the complaint, the sum of 6s.

24. And be it further enacted, that if upon hearing the complaint in any case, the person or persons so complained against shall be found to have been in error in any degree, that then and in such case, whether they be bound over to appear to answer to such complaint at the next Court of King's Bench and grand sessions of the peace, or other sessions of the peace, to be holden for the said Island, or the complaint dismissed upon reprimand or otherwise by the said magistrate or magistrates, that he or they shall order or direct that the said party so complained against or found in error, shall immediately, and before departure from the presence of the said magistrate or magistrates, reimburse to the said complainant the said sum of 6s. so paid for obtaining the warrant to appear and answer to the said complaint, and shall also pay to the said magistrates the further sum of 6s., making together the sum of 12s.; if otherwise, the said sum of 6s. paid for issuing the warrant and hearing the complaint, to be borne by the complainant.

25. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that should the party complained against refuse to pay, under the circumstances aforesaid, the said sum of 12s., when so ordered and directed, the said magistrate or magistrates are hereby authorized and directed to commit him, her or them so contemptuously refusing, to the common gaol, there to remain for the space of seven days or until the said sum of 12s. be fully paid and satisfied.

26. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful for any two of His Majesty's justices of the peace, on the request and recommendation of the owner or director of any plantation whereon may be domiciliated the number of 100 persons, labourers, and their families, to appoint by precept in writing, under their hands respectively, two persons out of that number, or one person if under 100, and not less than 50, to act as constables or constable on such plantation, which constables or constable shall have and are hereby declared to be invested with all the powers and authorities incident and belonging to the office of constable generally, and as such shall and may act, if need be, in the performance and prosecution of his or their duty as fully and effectually on any other plantation as on the particular one for which he or they may have been appointed, in preserving the public peace, and apprehending all offenders against the same, and in preventing or suppressing all tumults, riots, trespasses, misdemeanors and felonies; and such magistrates are hereby empowered to administer to all such persons so appointed, the following oath; viz.

"I. A. B., do swear, that I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord the King in the office of rural constable for the plantation called ——— and as constable generally, if need be, without favour or affection, malice or ill-will; and that I will to the best of my power cause the peace to be kept and preserved, and prevent all offences against the persons and properties of His Majesty's subjects, and that while I hold the office, I will, to the best of my skill and knowledge, discharge all the duties thereof. So help me God."

Provided always, that nothing in this Act contained shall alter, affect or abridge any power or authority which by law appertains to any justice or justices of the peace to appoint special constables in cases of actual necessity.

27. And be it further enacted, that every such constable so appointed and sworn shall, on the requisition of the justice making such appointment, be enrolled in the office of the clerk of the vestry of the parish in which the plantation for which such constable may be appointed shall be situated, which clerk of the vestry shall, and he is hereby directed to publish in one of the newspapers of this Island, half yearly, a list of such constables so appointed; and such constable shall, at the expense of such plantation, be provided with a staff of office, and every staff so supplied shall bear the name of the plantation to which the said constable is appointed, in addition to the usual marks, which staff shall be given up to the owner or director of the plantation whenever any constable so appointed removes from it; which removal, whenever the same shall occur, shall be deemed and taken to be a removal from office,

office, so as to give the magistrates aforesaid the opportunity of making a fresh appointment to the office so vacated.

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28. And be it further enacted, that every such constable shall, for every warrant under hand and seal which he may execute, be entitled to receive from the public treasury the sum of 4s. 6d. for the caption, and 9d. per mile for every mile such constable shall convey the person apprehended to the magistrate issuing the warrant, and from thence to his ultimate destination.

Constable to receive 4s. 6d. for executing justice's warrant, and 9d. per mile.

29. And be it further enacted, that all gross dereliction or wilful neglect of duty on the part of such constable or constables shall be inquired into by the magistrate or magistrates of the division, and that on conviction before him or them, it shall be in the power of such magistrate or magistrates to dismiss from office the person or persons who may be so convicted before him or them: provided always, that such conviction and dismissal shall not prevent, lessen or impeach, any remedy at law which any party aggrieved by any such offence of such constable might or would have had if such conviction and dismissal had not taken place.

Gross dereliction or wilful neglect of duty by constable, to be inquired into by magistrate, and upon conviction dismissed from office.

Dismissal of constable not to prevent remedy at law by party aggrieved.

30. Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby further enacted, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to extend to require the attendance of such constables at the Court of King's Bench and grand sessions of the peace, or at any other courts held for the said Island, unless specially summoned thereto.

Rural constables not required to attend any of the courts, unless summoned.

31. And be it further enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that until full and adequate provision shall be made for the erection and maintenance of houses of correction in the different parishes, or other convenient districts of the said Island, there shall from and after the 1st day of August next be established a central house of correction at the New Gaol, near the town of St. John, for the reception and confinement of such rogues, vagabonds, idle and disorderly persons, and such other persons as may be committed by any of His Majesty's justices of the peace under the authority of any Act of this Island to such house of correction; and that there shall be provided therein, at the public cost, a tread-mill or tread-wheel, and such other machinery, materials and implements as may be necessary to set on work on such tread-mill or tread-wheel, or in the breaking or hewing of stones, in picking oakum, or any other suitable, customary or eligible manner, all such persons as for their several offences may by any such justice or justices be committed to such house of correction and sentenced to hard labour.

Until provision made for the erection of houses of correction in the several parishes, south wing of New Gaol to be central house of correction. Tread-wheel, and other machinery, to be provided at the public cost.

32. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that to extend and enlarge the before-mentioned New Gaol near St. John's, so as to afford the necessary additional space and accommodation which will be required therein in consequence of the present enactment, the unoccupied southern wing of the range of buildings wherein the said gaol is comprised, and which has hitherto been reserved for an hospital and public dispensary, shall be connected with the said gaol by opening a door of communication with the gaol yard, and the whole of the said southern wing shall likewise be inclosed with a secure and substantial wall at the public expense.

South wing of New Gaol to be enclosed with thick wall, with door of communication with the gaol yard.

33. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that the justices assembled at the grand sessions of the peace to be next holden for this Island shall appoint three justices of their number to act as visitors of the house of correction, who shall visit and inspect the same four times a year, or oftener if need be, and report the state thereof to the next sessions, and shall draw up such orders and rules for the proper governing and regulating the said house of correction, for keeping the prison wholesome and clean, for receiving, separating, (according to their sex or the nature of their offences), dieting, clothing, relieving, employing, reforming, managing, punishing and watching of all such persons as shall be sent to, confined or continued in the same, and may also examine into the behaviour and conduct of the officer or officers, and treatment of the prisoners, as may occur to their observation; but such rules and orders so to be made shall not begin to have force and effect till they have been submitted to the justices in sessions and duly confirmed by them, when such rules and regulations shall be printed in plain legible characters, and fixed in some conspicuous part of such house of correction: provided nevertheless, that the following shall form part of such rules and regulations, and shall be observed and enforced at the said house of correction until added to and rendered more copious by such visitors and bench of justices aforesaid; viz.

Justices assembled at grand sessions to appoint 3 of their number to act as visitors of house of correction; to visit at least four times a year, or oftener, and to report to next grand sessions; to frame rules and regulations, &c.

1st. That the several persons who shall be committed to the house of correction to be kept to hard labour shall be employed (unless prevented by ill health) every day during their confinement (except Sundays, Christmas-day and Good Friday) for so many hours as the day-light will admit, not exceeding 12 hours, being allowed thereout to rest half an hour at breakfast, an hour and a half at dinner, and that the intervals shall be noticed by the ringing of a bell.

Rules to form part, and to be added to rules framed by justices.

2d. That the master of the house of correction shall adapt the various employments which shall be directed by the justices at sessions to each person in such manner as shall be best suited to his or her strength and ability, regard being had to age and sex.

3d. That the males and females shall be employed, and shall also eat and be lodged in separate apartments, and shall have no intercourse or communication with each other.

4th. That every person so committed shall be sustained with bread, or any coarse but wholesome food, and water; but persons under medical care shall be sustained with such food and liquor as the medical attendant shall direct.

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5th. That the master and such other persons, if any, as shall be employed by the justices to assist the master, shall be very watchful and attentive in seeing that the persons so committed are constantly employed during the hours of work, and if any person shall be found remiss or negligent in performing what is required to be done by such persons, to the best of his or her power and ability, or shall wilfully do any waste, spoil or damage of any kind soever, the master shall punish every such person in the manner hereafter directed.

6th. That if any person so committed shall refuse to obey the orders given by the master, or shall be guilty of profane cursing and swearing, or of any indecent behaviour or expression, or of any assault, quarrel or abusive words to or with any other person, he or she shall be punished for the same in the manner hereafter directed.

7th. That the master shall have power to punish the several offenders as before described, by close confinement, and shall enter in a book, to be kept by him for the inspection of the justices at sessions and the visiting justices, the name of every person who shall be so punished by him, expressing the offence and duration of the punishment inflicted.

Justices assembled at grand sessions to appoint a fit person to be keeper of house of correction; to receive 200 l. per annum.

34. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that the justices assembled in grand sessions shall appoint a fit person to be the master or keeper of such house of correction, who shall receive quarterly, out of the public treasury, the yearly salary of the sum of 200 l.; and the said master or keeper shall give to the justices, if it seem proper, sufficient security for the continuance and performance of his services and duty.

Until justices shall assemble at grand sessions, Governor to appoint keeper of house of correction *ad interim*.

35. And be it enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that until His Majesty's justices shall be assembled in grand sessions, his Excellency the Governor shall have power and authority to nominate and appoint a master or keeper of such house of correction *ad interim*, who shall receive a remuneration for his services at and after the rate of the above-mentioned sum per annum of 200 l.

Act to be in force for two years from publication.

36. And be it further enacted, that this Act shall be and continue in force for the space of two years from the publication thereof, and thenceforward to the next meeting of the Council and Assembly of this Island.

## — No. 20. —

## Antigua.

## No. 20.

AN ACT for enabling Labourers, Artificers and Servants, to recover by Summary Process their Wages from their Employers, and for repealing an Act dated the 28th of October, in the year 1684, intituled, "An Act for enabling Artificers, Labourers and Servants to recover their Wages from their Masters."—(Passed 31st July 1834.)

## Preamble.

WHEREAS from the change of circumstances in this Island, the provisions of an Act thereof, passed on the 28th day of October, 1684, "for enabling artificers, labourers and servants to recover their wages from their masters," have been rendered inadequate to the end therein contemplated :

And whereas from the alteration in the condition of the labouring classes in this Island about to take place, some enactment for the like purpose and effect will become highly necessary and expedient :

Any one of the justices of the peace, on complaint made to him, on oath, of the withholding from any artificer, labourer or servant, his or her just wages, to call before him such person neglecting to make satisfaction, and upon hearing if wages are due, to order payment within 10 days; order not complied with, or party neglecting to appear, justice to issue warrant to constable of the division to levy on the goods and chattels of party, and sell in satisfaction, with costs. Proviso; complaint to be made within 30 days, and sum not to exceed 5 l. currency.

We, therefore, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Governor and Commander-in-chief in and over Your Majesty's Islands of Antigua, Montserrat, Barbuda, St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla, the Virgin Islands and Dominica, and the Council and Assembly of this Your Majesty's Island of Antigua, do humbly pray Your Most Excellent Majesty that it may be enacted and ordained, and be it and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority of Your Majesty's said Governor and Commander-in-chief, and the Council and Assembly of this Your Majesty's Island of Antigua aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful for any one of His Majesty's justices of the peace in this Island, on complaint to him made on oath by any artificer, labourer or servant therein, of the withholding from any such artificer, labourer or servant, of the just wages due to him or her, on any contract or agreement from any person or persons by whom he or she shall have been employed, to call before him such person refusing or neglecting to make satisfaction, and if, upon hearing and examining such person on oath, it shall appear to the said justice that any such wages are due and owing, or on an adjustment of claims between the parties, that any balance of wages is due or owing, such justice is hereby authorized to order the same to be paid to such artificer, labourer or servant within 10 days after order made, and if such order be not complied with, or in case of the party complained against having neglected to appear after being duly summoned by such justice, it shall be lawful for such justice to issue his warrant, directed to any constable of the division, authorizing and directing him to levy on the goods and chattels of any such person making default as aforesaid, and them to sell in satisfaction thereof, and of all costs and charges : provided always, that such complaint be made within 30 days from the time any part of such wages shall be due, and that such wages do not exceed the sum of 5 l. current gold and silver money; any law, custom or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

2. And be it further enacted, that from and after the publication of this Act, an Act of the said Island, dated the 28th of October, in the year of Our Lord 1684, intituled "An Act for enabling Artificers, Labourers and Servants to recover their Wages from their Masters," shall be and the same is hereby repealed.

Act of the 28th October 1684, "for enabling artificers, labourers, &c. to recover their wages," repealed.

— No. 21. —

Antigua.

AN ACT for regulating Special Contracts between Labourers and their Employers, and enforcing a strict Observance of such Contracts.—(Passed 29th Dec. 1834.)

No. 21.

WHEREAS it is essential to the prosperity of this Island that special contracts between labourers and their employers should be properly regulated, and all breaches of the same by either party be promptly redressed by means of summary convictions. May it therefore please Your Most Excellent Majesty, that it may be enacted, and be it enacted by the Governor and Commander-in-chief of Your Majesty's Islands of Antigua, Montserrat, Barbuda, St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla, the Virgin Islands and Dominica, and the Council and Assembly of this Your Majesty's Island of Antigua, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority of the same, that special contracts between labourers and their employers in this Island shall not be valid if made to endure for more than one year, and unless the same shall be made or entered into in writing or otherwise, in the presence of two or more witnesses.

Special contracts with labourers not valid, if made for a term exceeding 12 months; nor unless entered into in the presence of two or more witnesses.

2. And be it further enacted, that any labourer bound by any special contract entered into in the manner and form hereinbefore prescribed, who shall absent himself or herself from his or her employment, even with reasonable cause, shall forfeit for the benefit of his or her employer the wages which shall have accrued during the time of such absence.

Labourers under contract to forfeit wages accrued during absence, even with reasonable cause.

3. And be it further enacted, that any labourer bound by any special contract entered into in the manner and form hereinbefore prescribed, who shall absent himself or herself from his or her employment with reasonable cause, and not give to his or her employer the earliest possible intimation of such intended absence and of the cause thereof, shall forfeit for the benefit of his or her employer twice the amount of the wages which shall have accrued during the time of such absence.

Labourer under contract failing to give employer the earliest information of intended absence, to forfeit twice the amount of wages accrued during such absence.

4. And be it further enacted, that any labourer bound by any special contract entered into in the manner and form hereinbefore prescribed, who shall absent himself or herself from his or her employment with reasonable cause for half or any smaller proportion of a day, shall forfeit a whole day's wages for the benefit of his or her employer.

Labourer under contract absenting himself without reasonable cause for half or smaller portion of a day, to forfeit whole day's wages.

5. And be it further enacted, that any labourer bound by any special contract entered into in the manner and form hereinbefore prescribed, who shall absent himself or herself from his or her employment without reasonable cause for more than half a day, shall forfeit three days' wages for the benefit of his or her employer.

Labourer under contract absenting himself without reasonable cause for more than half a day, to forfeit three days' wages.

6. And be it further enacted, that any labourer bound by any special contract entered into in the manner and form hereinbefore prescribed, who shall absent himself or herself from his or her employment without reasonable cause for two successive days, or on two distinct days within the same fortnight, shall, on conviction on oath before one or more of His Majesty's justices of the peace, be sentenced to hard labour in the house of correction for one week.

Labourer under contract absent without reasonable cause for two successive days, or two days within the fortnight, to suffer one week's confinement with hard labour in the house of correction.

7. And be it further enacted, that any labourer bound by any special contract entered into in the manner and form hereinbefore prescribed, who shall absent himself or herself from his or her employment without reasonable cause for three or more successive days, or on three distinct days within the same fortnight, shall, on conviction on oath before one or more of His Majesty's justices of the peace, be sentenced to hard labour in the house of correction for two weeks.

Labourer under contract absenting without reasonable cause for three days, to suffer confinement with hard labour in house of correction for two weeks.

8. And be it further enacted, that any labourer bound by any special contract entered into in the manner and form hereinbefore prescribed, who shall neglect to perform any labour for which he or she shall have so engaged himself or herself, or who shall perform the same in a negligent and improper manner, or who shall by wilful negligence damage the property of his or her employer, shall, on conviction on oath before one or more of His Majesty's justices of the peace, for the first offence, forfeit for the benefit of his or her employer any number of days' wages not exceeding six, and for the second offence shall be subject to imprisonment and hard labour for any time not exceeding one week, and for the third or any future offence, to three times that amount of punishment.

Wilful damage to employer's property, or negligent manner of performing contract, punishable by imprisonment and hard labour for six days, maximum; second offence, one week; and future offence, three times that amount.

9. And be it further enacted, that any labourer bound by any special contract entered into in the manner and form hereinbefore prescribed, who shall be convicted on oath before one or more of His Majesty's justices of the peace of endangering the property of his or her employer, or of any other person, by the careless use of fire or of drunkenness, or of ill-using any cattle or other stock, or of wantonly destroying or injuring the property of his or her employer intrusted to his or her charge, or of failing to provide, according to his or her ability

Labourer under contract, endangering property by careless use of fire or drunkenness, or ill-using cattle, &c., or wantonly destroying property, or failing to provide for his or her ability



infant children, liable to imprisonment and hard labour for three months, *maximum*.

Wages accruing during imprisonment forfeited to employer.

Ill-usage or nonpayment of wages on the part of employer, or imperfect fulfilment of contract, liable to penalty of 10*l.*; and in case of ill-usage, labourer to be released from contract.

Persons employing labourer who may be already under contract, or in the occupation of a house on the estate of his employer, after due notice shall have been given of such pre-existing contract, to forfeit 10*l.* for each offence.

Costs and penalties recoverable in same manner as prescribed by other Acts, and to be paid into public treasury.

Nothing in this Act to invalidate verbal agreements for labour by the day or by the job, where parties have mutual confidence in each other, and content to forego legal remedies for non-performance.

Mechanics and headmen, watchmen and stock-keepers, included in the term labourer.

This Act in force for one year.

ability, for his or her infant children, shall for any such offences, at the discretion of the justice or justices of the peace before whom he or she shall or may be so convicted, be adjudged to imprisonment and hard labour for any term not exceeding three months.

10. And be it further enacted, that during the imprisonment of any such labourer, all wages which according to his or her contract would have accrued to him or her, shall be forfeited for the benefit of his or her employer.

11. And be it further enacted, that in the event of ill-usage, or of the wages for which the employer shall have contracted being unpaid or in arrear, or if any other part of the contract shall be unfulfilled on the part of the employer, it shall be lawful for any one or more of the labourers, not exceeding three; on behalf of himself, herself or themselves, and the other aggrieved parties, to complain to any justice of the peace in the parish of such ill-usage or breach of contract, and that it shall be lawful for such justice of the peace to adjudge the employer to the payment of the wages in arrear with costs, and a penalty not exceeding 10*l.* for the breach of contract, and in case of ill-usage, to discharge the labourer from his or her contract.

12. And whereas it is highly desirable that servants in husbandry should, as far as may be practicable, be associated in labour and located on the same estates; and it is both impolitic and unjust towards their present employers, as well as injurious to themselves, that they should be allowed to be seduced by the temptation of a temporary increase of wages held out to them by any other proprietor, with a particular object, to desert the estates to which they are attached, and where they enjoy the more solid advantage of permanent employment with a comfortable place of abode; Be it therefore further enacted, that if any person shall knowingly employ any servant in husbandry who shall either be under contract to another person, or retain the occupation of a house upon the estate of such other person, or if any person shall continue to employ any servant in husbandry so under contract to another, or so retaining the occupation of a house upon the estate of such other person, after receiving due notice of the relation in which such servant in husbandry stands towards such other person, the person so offending shall, on conviction on oath before any one or more of His Majesty's justices of the peace, forfeit for every offence the sum of 10*l.*, to be recovered and applied in the manner hereinafter mentioned.

13. And be it further enacted, that all wages and costs so adjudged to be paid, and all penalties imposed by this Act, shall be recovered in the manner prescribed for the recovery of penalties imposed by any other Act of this Island, and such penalties paid into the public treasury.

14. Provided always, and be it further enacted, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to invalidate or interdict verbal agreements for labour by the day, or by the piece, task or job, with persons not already under contract as aforesaid, and where the contracting parties are content to forego the benefit of a legal remedy for non-performance, and place a mutual reliance on the good faith and integrity of each other for the due fulfilment of such agreements.

15. And be it further enacted, that all persons who have not been trained to any employment but that of labour in the fields, or in the manufactories, all persons who have been trained to labour as smiths, wheelwrights, carpenters, or otherwise, as mechanics and artisans, and all persons who have been accustomed to the occupation of headmen or drivers, in superintending the labour of slaves, stock-keepers and watchmen, shall be considered as labourers within the meaning and provisions of this Act.

16. And be it further enacted, that this Act shall continue and be in force for one year from the publication thereof, and from thence until the next meeting of the Council and Assembly.

— No. 22. —

Antigua.

No. 22.

AT the Court at St. James's, the 10th day of June 1835:—Present, The King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the 3d & 4th year of His Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves;" after reciting, amongst other things, that it would be desirable that such of the provisions of the said Act as related to the internal concerns of the said respective Colonies should be enacted in such respective Colonies, so far as might be possible, by the authority of the several local legislatures of such Colonies respectively, it is enacted, that in case the Governor, Council and Assembly of any one or more of His Majesty's Colonies should, by any Act or Acts of General Assembly for that purpose made, substitute for the several enactments thereinbefore contained, or any of them, any enactments accomplishing the several objects in such thereinbefore contained enactments respectively contemplated, as fully and to the like effect, but in a manner and form better adapted to the local circumstances of any such Colonies or Colony; and in case His Majesty should, by any Order or Orders

Orders to be by him made by the advice of His Privy Council, confirm and allow any such Act or Acts of Assembly, and should, in and by any such Order or Orders in Council, recite and set forth at length the several provisions and enactments of the said Act of Parliament for which such other enactments as aforesaid should have been substituted by any such Act or Acts of General Assembly, then and in such case so much and such parts of the said Act of Parliament as should be so recited and set forth at length in any such Order or Orders of His Majesty in Council, should be suspended and cease to be of any force or effect in any such Colony from and after the arrival and proclamation therein of any such Order or Orders of His Majesty in Council, and should continue to be so suspended so long as any such substituted enactment should continue in force and unrepealed, and no longer :

And whereas the Governor, Council and Assembly of the Island of Antigua, have, by a certain Act of General Assembly for that purpose made, bearing date the 4th day of June 1834, substituted for such of the several enactments in the said Act of Parliament contained as relate to the apprenticeship of the labourers therein mentioned, certain other enactments accomplishing the several objects in the said last-mentioned enactments of the said Act of Parliament respectively contemplated, as fully and to the like effect as the same are accomplished by the said Act of Parliament, but in a manner and form better adapted to the local circumstances of the said Island of Antigua: Now therefore, in pursuance of the said Act of Parliament, and in exercise of the powers thereby in His Majesty in that behalf vested, His Majesty, by the advice of His Privy Council, doth confirm and allow the said Act of General Assembly; and it is further declared, by the authority aforesaid, that so much and such parts of the said Act of Parliament as are recited and set forth at length in the schedule hereto annexed, are the provisions and enactments of the said Act of Parliament for which such other enactments have been substituted by the said Act of Assembly; and His Majesty doth therefore, by the advice aforesaid, declare that so much and such parts of the said Act of Parliament as are so recited and set forth in the said schedule, shall be suspended and cease to be of any force and effect in the said Island of Antigua from and after the arrival and proclamation therein of this present Order, and shall continue to be so suspended so long as such substituted enactments shall continue in force and unrepealed, and no longer. And the Right honourable the Lord Glenelg, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, is to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

(signed) *William L. Bathurst.*

*Note.*—The sections suspended by this Order are the first 22 of the Act of Parliament 3d & 4th Will. IV. c. 73, for the Abolition of Slavery.

## MONTSERRAT.

— No. 23. —

Montserrat.

AN ACT for the Abolition of Slavery in this Island.—(Passed 30th July 1834.)

WHEREAS by an Act of the 3d & 4th William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves; and for compensating Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves," it has been rendered incumbent on us, in order to effectuate the views and intentions of His Majesty's Government, to pass an Act of this Island with similar enactments, and to confirm as far as we can the said Act: We, therefore, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the President administering the Government, and the Council and Assembly of this Your Majesty's Island of Montserrat, do pray Your Most Excellent Majesty, that it may be enacted, and be it and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that from and after the 1st day of August 1834, all persons who, in conformity with the laws now in force in this Island respectively, shall on or before the 1st day of August 1834 have been duly registered as slaves in the said Island, who on the said 1st day of August 1834 shall be actually within the said Island, and who shall by such registries appear to be on the said 1st day of August 1834 of the full age of six years or upwards, shall by force and virtue of this Act, and without the previous execution of any indenture of apprenticeship, or other deed or instrument for that purpose, become and be apprenticed labourers; provided that for the purposes aforesaid, every slave engaged in his ordinary occupation on the seas shall be deemed and taken to be within the said Island.

2. And be it further enacted, that during the continuance of the apprenticeship of any such apprenticed labourer, such person or persons shall be entitled to the services of such apprenticed labourer as would for the time being have been entitled to his or her services as a slave if this Act had not been made.

3. Provided also, and be it further enacted, that all slaves who may at any time previous to the passing of this Act have been carried with the consent of their possessors, and all apprenticed labourers who may hereafter with the like consent be carried into any part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, shall from and after the passing of this Act be absolutely and entirely free to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

4. And whereas it is expedient that all such apprenticed labourers should, for the purposes hereinafter mentioned, be divided into three distinct classes; the first of such classes consisting of prædial apprenticed labourers attached to the soil, and comprising all persons who in their

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their state of slavery were usually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce, or otherwise, upon lands belonging to their owners; the second of such classes consisting of prædial apprenticed labourers not attached to the soil, and comprising all persons who in their state of slavery were usually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce, or otherwise, upon lands not belonging to their owners; and the third of such classes consisting of non-prædial apprenticed labourers, and comprising all apprenticed labourers not included within either of the two preceding classes; Be it therefore enacted, that such division as aforesaid of the said apprenticed labourers into such classes as aforesaid, shall be carried into effect in such manner and form, and subject to such rules and regulations as shall for that purpose be established under such authority, and in and by such Acts of Assembly as hereinafter mentioned: provided always, that no person of the age of 12 years and upwards, shall by or by virtue of any such Act of Assembly be included in either of the said two classes of prædial apprenticed labourers, unless such person shall, for 12 calendar months at the least next before the passing of this present Act, have been habitually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce.

5. And be it further enacted, that no person, who by virtue of this Act shall become a prædial apprenticed labourer, whether attached or not attached to the soil, shall continue in such apprenticeship beyond the 1st day of August 1840, and that during such his or her apprenticeship no such prædial apprenticed labourer, whether attached or not attached to the soil, shall be bound or liable by virtue of such apprenticeship to perform any labour in the service of his or her employer or employers for more than 45 hours in the whole in any one week.

6. And be it further enacted, that no person, who by virtue of this Act shall become a non-prædial apprenticed labourer, shall continue in such apprenticeship beyond the 1st day of August 1838.

7. And be it further enacted, that if, before any such apprenticeship shall have expired, the person or persons entitled for and during the remainder of any such term to the services of such apprenticed labourer, shall be desirous to discharge him or her from such apprenticeship, it shall be lawful for such person or persons so to do by any deed or instrument to be by him, her or them for that purpose made and executed, which deed or instrument shall be in such form, and shall be executed and recorded in such manner, and with such solemnities as shall for that purpose be prescribed under such authority, and in and by such Acts of Legislature as hereinafter mentioned: provided nevertheless, that if any person so discharged from any such apprenticeship, by any such voluntary act as aforesaid, shall at that time be of the age of 50 years or upwards, or shall be then labouring under any such disease or mental or bodily infirmity as may render him or her incapable of earning his or her subsistence, then and in every such case the person or persons so discharging any such apprenticed labourer as aforesaid shall continue and be liable to provide for the support and maintenance of such apprenticed labourer during the remaining term of such original apprenticeship, as fully as if such apprenticed labourer had not been discharged therefrom.

8. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any such apprenticed labourer to purchase his or her discharge from such apprenticeship even without the consent or in opposition, if necessary, to the will of the person or persons entitled to his or her services, upon payment to such person or persons of the appraised value of such services, which appraisal shall be effected, and which purchase money shall be paid and applied, and which discharge shall be given and executed in such manner and form, and upon, under and subject to such conditions as shall be prescribed under such authority and by such Acts of Legislature as hereinafter mentioned.

9. And be it further enacted, that no apprenticed labourer shall be subject or liable to be removed from this Island, and that no prædial apprenticed labourer who may in manner aforesaid become attached to the soil, shall be subject or liable to perform any labour in the service of his or her employer or employers, except upon or in or about the works and business of the plantations or estates to which such prædial apprenticed labourer shall have been attached, or on which he or she shall have been usually employed on or previously to the said 1st day of August 1834: provided nevertheless, that with the consent in writing of any one or more justices of the peace, holding a special commission by virtue of the said hereinbefore recited Act of the 3d & 4th of William the Fourth, it shall be lawful for the person or persons entitled to the services of any such attached prædial apprenticed labourer or labourers to transfer his or their services to any other estate or plantation within this Island to such person or persons belonging, which written consent shall in no case be given or be of any validity, unless any such justice or justices of the peace shall first have ascertained that such transfer would not have the effect of separating any such attached prædial apprenticed labourer from his or her wife or husband, parent or child, or from any person or persons reputed to bear any such relation to him or her, and that such transfer would not probably be injurious to the health or welfare of such attached prædial apprenticed labourer, and such written consent to any such removal shall be expressed in such terms, and shall be in each case given, attested and recorded in such manner as shall for that purpose be prescribed by Acts of Legislature as hereinafter mentioned.

10. And be it further enacted and declared, that the right or interest of any employer or employers to and in the services of any such apprenticed labourers as aforesaid shall pass and be transferable by bargain and sale, contract, deed, conveyance, will or descent, according to such rules and in such manner as shall for that purpose be provided by any Acts of Legislature as hereinafter mentioned: provided that no such apprenticed labourer shall by virtue of any such bargain and sale, contract, deed, conveyance, will or descent, be subject or

or liable to be separated from his or her wife or husband, parent or child, or from any person or persons reputed to bear any such relation to him or her.

11. And be it further enacted, that during the continuance of any such apprenticeship as aforesaid, the person or persons for the time being entitled to the services of every such apprenticed labourer shall be and is and are hereby required to supply him or her with such food, clothing, lodging, medicine, medical attendance, and such other maintenance and allowances, as by any law now in force in this Island an owner is required to supply to and for any slave, being of the same age and sex as such apprenticed labourer shall be; and in cases in which the food of any such prædial apprenticed labourer shall be supplied, not by the delivery to him or her of provisions, but by the cultivation by such prædial apprenticed labourer of ground set apart for the growth of provisions, the person or persons entitled to his or her services shall and is or are hereby required to provide such prædial apprenticed labourer with ground adequate both in quantity and quality for his or her support, and within a reasonable distance of his or her usual place of abode, and to allow to such prædial apprenticed labourer, from and out of the annual time during which he or she may be required to labour, after the rate of 45 hours per week as aforesaid, in the service of such his or her employer or employers, such a portion of time as shall be adequate for the proper cultivation of such ground, and for the raising and securing the crops thereon grown, the actual extent of which ground, and the distance thereof from the place of residence of the prædial apprenticed labourer for whose use it may be so allotted, and the length of time to be deducted for the cultivation of the said ground from the said annual time, shall and may be regulated by such Acts of Legislature as hereinafter mentioned.

12. And be it further enacted, that subject to the obligations imposed by this Act, or to be imposed by any such Act of Legislature as hereinafter mentioned, upon such apprenticed labourers as aforesaid, all and every the persons who on the said 1st day of August 1834 shall be holden in slavery within this Island, shall upon and from and after the said 1st day of August 1834 become and be to all intents and purposes free and discharged of and from all manner of slavery, and shall be absolutely and for ever manumitted, and that the children thereafter to be born to any such persons, and the offspring of such children, shall in like manner be free from their birth; and that from and after the said 1st day of August 1834, slavery shall be and is hereby utterly and for ever abolished in this Island.

13. And whereas it may happen that children who have not attained the age of six years on the said 1st day of August 1834, or that children who after that day may be born to any female apprenticed labourers, may not be properly supported by their parents, and that no person may be disposed voluntarily to undertake the support of such children, and it is necessary that provision should be made for the maintenance of such children in any such contingency; Be it therefore enacted, that if any child who on the said 1st day of August 1834 had not completed his or her sixth year, or if any child to which any female apprenticed labourer may give birth on or after the said 1st day of August 1834, shall be brought before any justice of the peace holding any such special commission as hereinbefore mentioned, and if it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of such justice that any such child is unprovided with an adequate maintenance, and that such child hath not completed his or her age of 12 years, it shall be lawful for such justice, and he is hereby required on behalf of any such child, to execute an indenture of apprenticeship, thereby binding such child as an apprenticed labourer to the person or persons entitled to the services of the mother of such child, or who had been last entitled to the services of such mother; but in case it shall be made to appear to any such justice that such person or persons aforesaid is or are unable or unfit to enter into such indenture, and properly to perform the conditions thereof, then it shall be lawful for such justice, and he is hereby required by such indenture to bind any such child to any other person or persons to be by him for that purpose approved, and who may be willing and able properly to perform such conditions; and it shall by every such indenture of apprenticeship be declared whether such child shall thenceforward belong to the class of attached prædial apprenticed labourers, or to the class of unattached prædial apprenticed labourers, or to the class of non-prædial apprenticed labourers, and the term of such apprenticeship of any such child shall by such indenture be limited and made to continue in force until such child shall have completed his or her 21st year, and no longer; and every child so apprenticed as aforesaid by the order of any such justice of the peace as aforesaid, shall, during his or her apprenticeship, be subject to all such and the same rules and regulations respecting the work or labour to be by them done or performed, and respecting the food and other supplies to be to him or her furnished, as any other such apprenticed labourers as aforesaid: provided always, that the said indenture of apprenticeship shall contain sufficient words of obligation upon the employer to allow reasonable time and opportunity for the education and religious instruction of such child.

14. And whereas it is necessary that various rules and regulations should be framed and established for ascertaining with reference to each apprenticed labourer within this Island, whether he or she belongs to the class of attached prædial apprenticed labourers, or to the class of unattached prædial apprenticed labourers, or to the class of non-prædial apprenticed labourers, and for determining the manner and form in which, and the solemnities with which the voluntary discharge of any apprenticed labourer from such his or her apprenticeship may be effected, and for prescribing the form and manner in which, and the solemnities with which the purchase by any such apprenticed labourer of his or her discharge from such apprenticeship, without or in opposition, if necessary, to the consent of the person or persons entitled to his or her services, shall be effected, and how the necessary appraisal of the future value of such services shall be made, and how and to whom the amount

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of such appraisement shall in each case be paid and applied, and in what manner and form, and by whom the discharge from any such apprenticeship shall thereupon be given, executed and recorded; and it is also necessary, for the preservation of peace throughout this Island, that proper regulations should be framed and established for the maintenance of order and good discipline amongst the said apprenticed labourers, and for insuring the punctual discharge of the services due by them to their respective employers, and for the prevention and punishment of indolence, or the neglect or improper performance of work by any such apprenticed labourer, and for enforcing the due performance by any such apprenticed labourer of any contract into which he or she may voluntarily enter for any hired service during the time in which he or she may not be bound to labour for his or her employer; and for the prevention and punishment of insolence and insubordination on the part of any such apprenticed labourers towards their employers, and for the prevention or punishment of vagrancy, or of any conduct on the part of any such apprenticed labourers injuring or tending to the injury of the property of any such employer, and for the suppression and punishment of any riot or combined resistance of the laws on the part of any such apprenticed labourer, and for preventing the escape of any such apprenticed labourers during their term of apprenticeship from this Island: And whereas it will also be necessary for the protection of such apprenticed labourers as aforesaid, that various regulations should be framed and established in the said Island for securing punctuality and method in the supply to them of such food, clothing, lodging, medicines, medical attendance, and such other maintenance and allowances as they are hereinbefore declared entitled to receive, and for regulating the amount and quality of all such articles, in cases where the laws at present existing in this Island may not, in the case of slaves, have made any regulation or any adequate regulation for that purpose; and it is also necessary that proper rules should be established for the prevention and punishment of any frauds which might be practised, or of any omissions or neglects which might occur, respecting the quantity or the quality of the supplies so to be furnished, or respecting the periods for the delivery of the same: And whereas it is necessary, in those cases in which the food of any such prædial apprenticed labourers aforesaid may, either wholly or in part, be raised by themselves by the cultivation of ground to be set apart and allotted for that purpose, that proper regulations should be made and established as to the extent of such grounds, and as to the distance at which such grounds may be so allotted from the ordinary place of abode of such prædial apprenticed labourers, and respecting the deductions to be made from the cultivation of such grounds from the annual time during which such prædial apprenticed labourers are hereinbefore declared liable to labour: And whereas it may also be necessary, by such regulations as aforesaid, to secure to the said prædial apprenticed labourers the enjoyment for their own benefit of that portion of their time during which they are not hereby required to labour in the service of their respective employers, and for securing exactness in the computation of the time during which such prædial apprenticed labourers are hereby required to labour in the service of such their respective employers; and it is also necessary that provision should be made for preventing the imposition of task-work on any such apprenticed labourer without his or her free consent to undertake the same; but it may be necessary, by such regulations in certain cases, to require and provide for the acquiescence of the minority of the prædial apprenticed labourers attached to any plantation or estate in the distribution and apportionment amongst the whole body of such labourers of any task-work which the majority of such body shall be willing and desirous collectively to undertake; and it is also necessary that regulations should be made respecting any voluntary contracts into which any apprenticed labourers may enter with their respective employers or with any other person for hired service for any future period, and for limiting the greatest period of time to which such voluntary contract may extend, and for enforcing the punctual and effectual performance of such voluntary contracts on the part both of such apprenticed labourers and of the person or persons engaging for their employment and hire; and it is also necessary that regulations should be made for the prevention or punishment of any cruelty, injustice or other wrong or injury which may be done to, or inflicted upon, any such apprenticed labourers by the persons entitled to their services; and it is also necessary that proper regulations should be made respecting the manner and form in which such indentures of apprenticeship as aforesaid shall be made on behalf of such children as aforesaid, and respecting the registering and preservation of all such indentures: And whereas it is also necessary that provision should be made for ensuring promptitude and dispatch, and for preventing all unnecessary expense in the discharge by the justices of the peace holding such special commissions as aforesaid, of the jurisdiction and authorities thereby committed to them, and for enabling such justices to decide, in a summary way, such questions as may be brought before them in that capacity, and for the division of the said Island into districts for the purposes of such jurisdiction, and for the frequent and punctual visitation by such justices of the peace of the apprenticed labourers within such their respective districts; and it is also necessary that regulations should be made for indemnifying and protecting such justices of the peace in the upright execution and discharge of their duties.

15. And be it further enacted and declared, that it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Council and Assembly of this Island, to pass such Acts as may be requisite for making and establishing such several rules and regulations as aforesaid, or any of them, or for carrying the same or any of them into full and complete effect.

16. Provided always, and be it further enacted, that it shall not be lawful for the Governor, Council and Assembly of this Island, to authorize any person or persons entitled to the services of any such apprenticed labourer, or any other person or persons other than such justices

justices of the peace holding such special commissions as aforesaid, to punish any such apprenticed labourer for any offence by him or her committed or alleged to have been committed, by the whipping, beating or imprisonment of his or her person, or by any other personal or other correction or punishment whatsoever, or by any addition to the hours of labour hereinbefore limited, nor to authorize any court, judge or justice of the peace, to punish any such apprenticed labourer, being a female, for any offence by her committed, by whipping or beating her person; and that every enactment, regulation, provision, rule or order for any such purpose, in any such Act contained, shall be and is hereby declared to be absolutely null and void and of no effect: provided always, that nothing in this Act contained doth or shall extend to and exempt any apprenticed labourer in the said Island from the operation of any law or police regulation which is or shall be in force therein for the prevention or punishment of any offence, such law or police regulation being in force against and applicable to all other persons of free condition.

17. Provided also, and be it further enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any magistrate other than such justice of the peace holding such special commissions as aforesaid, to take cognizance of any offence committed or alleged to have been committed by such apprenticed labourer, or by his or her employer, in such their relation to each other, or of the breach, violation or neglect of any of the obligations owed by them to each other, or of any question, matter or thing incident to or arising out of the relations subsisting between such apprenticed labourers and the persons respectively entitled to their services; and every enactment, regulation, provision, rule or order in any such Acts to the contrary contained, shall be and is hereby declared to be null and void and of no effect.

18. And it is hereby further declared and enacted, that the special justice or justices to be appointed for this Island shall have, exercise and enjoy a sole and exclusive jurisdiction over, and shall solely and exclusively take cognizance of all such offences or alleged offences as last aforesaid, and of every such breach, violation or neglect of any of the aforesaid obligations, and of every such question, matter or thing as aforesaid, any law, custom or usage in this Island to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding: provided nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to abrogate or take away the powers by law vested in the supreme courts of record, or the superior courts of civil and criminal justice in this Island.

19. Provided also, and be it further enacted, that no apprenticed labourer shall by any such Act of Legislature be declared or rendered liable for and in respect of any offence by him or her committed, or for any cause or upon any ground or pretext whatsoever, except as hereafter is mentioned, to any prolongation of his or her term of apprenticeship, or to any new or additional apprenticeship, or to any such additional labour as shall impose upon any such apprenticed labourer the obligation of working in the service or for the benefit of the person or persons entitled to his or her services, for more than 15 extra hours in the whole in any one week; but every such enactment, regulation, provision, rule or order, shall be and is hereby declared null and void and of no effect: provided nevertheless, that any such Act of Legislature may contain provisions for compelling any apprenticed labourer who shall during his or her apprenticeship wilfully absent himself or herself from the service of his or her employer, either to serve his or her employer after the expiration of his or her apprenticeship for so long a time as he or she shall have so absented himself or herself from such service, or to make satisfaction to his or her employer for the loss sustained by such absence (except so far as he or she shall have made satisfaction for such absence, either out of such extra hours as aforesaid or otherwise); but nevertheless, so that such extra service or compensation shall not be compelled after the expiration of seven years next after the termination of the apprenticeship of such apprentice.

20. Provided always, and be it hereby further enacted, that neither under the provisions of this Act, nor under the obligations imposed by this Act, or to be imposed by any Act of Legislature, shall any apprenticed labourer be compelled or compellable to labour on Sundays, except in works of necessity, or in domestic services, or in the protection of property, or in tending of cattle; nor shall any apprenticed labourer be liable to be hindered or prevented from attending anywhere on Sundays for religious worship, at his or her free will or pleasure, but shall be at full liberty so to do without any let, denial or interruption whatsoever.

21. And whereas it may be expedient that persons in the condition of apprenticed labourers should during the continuance of such their apprenticeship be exempted from the performance of certain civil and military services, and be disqualified from holding certain civil and military offices, and from the enjoyment of certain political franchises within the said Island, and be exempted from being arrested or imprisoned for debt; Be it therefore enacted, that nothing in this Act contained extends or shall be considered to extend to interfere with or prevent the enactment by the respective Governor, Council and Assembly of this Island, for exempting any such apprenticed labourers as aforesaid, during the continuance of such their apprenticeship, from any such civil or military service as aforesaid, or for disqualifying them or any of them during the continuance of any such apprenticeships from the enjoyment or discharge of any such political franchise as aforesaid, or for exempting them during the continuance of such apprenticeships from being arrested or imprisoned for debt.

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ST. CHRISTOPHER.

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No. 24.

## ST. CHRISTOPHER.

— No. 24. —

St. Christopher.

AN ACT for the Abolition of Slavery in this Island, and for the Establishment of a System of Apprenticeship for a limited time in lieu thereof.

Preamble.

We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lieutenant-governor of Your Majesty's Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and the Council and Assembly of this Your Majesty's Island of St. Christopher, humbly reserving to ourselves the right of claiming all and all manner of compensation for all and every injury which may arise to the interests of this Island of St. Christopher, by the operation of an Act passed in the 3d & 4th year of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves," pray Your Majesty that it may be enacted,

All slaves within this Island on 1st August 1834, and who shall be of the full age of six years and upwards, shall become apprenticed labourers.

Slaves absent from the Island without the owner's leave, and slaves employed on the seas, to be deemed to be within this Island.

Declaratory of the persons who shall be entitled to the services of apprenticed labourers.

Apprenticeship of prædials to continue to 1st August 1840.

Not to be compelled to labour for more than 45 hours in each week.

Apprenticeship of non-prædials limited to 1st August 1838.

Slaves declared to be free on the 1st August 1834, but subject to the obligations by law imposed on apprenticed labourers.

Children thereafter to be born to any such persons, and the offspring of such children, to be free from their birth.

1. And be it and it is hereby enacted, by the authority of the same, that from and after the 1st day of August 1834, all persons who, in conformity with the laws now in force in this Island, shall, on or before the said 1st day of August 1834, have been duly registered as slaves in the said Island, and who, on the said 1st day of August 1834, shall be actually within the same, and who shall by such registry appear to be, on the 1st day of August 1834, of the full age of six years or upwards, shall by force and virtue of this Act, and without the previous execution of any indenture of apprenticeship, or other deed or instrument for that purpose, become and be apprenticed labourers: provided that, for the purposes aforesaid, every slave engaged in his ordinary occupation on the seas, and belonging to this Island, or who shall be absent from this Island against his or her master's or mistress's leave, or without his or her master's or mistress's consent, shall be deemed and taken to be within this Island.

2. And be it further enacted, that during the continuance of the apprenticeship of any such apprenticed labourer, such person or persons shall be entitled to the services of such apprenticed labourer, as would for the time being have been entitled to his or her services as a slave if this or any other Act of the Legislature of this Island, or any Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, for the abolition of slavery, had not been made.

3. And be it further enacted, that no person who, by virtue of this Act, or of any other Act of the Legislature of this Island, or of any enactment of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, shall become a prædial apprenticed labourer, whether attached or not attached to the soil, shall continue in such apprenticeship beyond the 1st day of August 1840; and that during such his or her apprenticeship, no such prædial apprenticed labourer, whether attached or not attached to the soil, shall be bound or liable, by virtue of such apprenticeship, to perform *any labour* in the service of his or her employer or employers, for more than 45 hours *in the whole in any one week*.

4. And be it further enacted, that no person who, by virtue of this Act, or of any other Act of the Legislature of this Island, or of any enactment of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland as aforesaid, shall become non-prædial apprenticed labourer, shall continue in such apprenticeship beyond the 1st day of August 1838.

5. And be it further enacted, that, subject to the obligations by law imposed upon apprenticed labourers, all and every the persons who, on the said 1st day of August 1834, shall be holden in slavery in this Island, shall, upon and from after the said 1st day of August 1834, become and be to all intents and purposes free and discharged of and from all and all manner of slavery, and shall be absolutely and for ever manumitted; and that the children there after to be born to any such persons, and the offspring of such children, shall in like manner be free from their birth; and that from and after the said 1st day of August 1834, slavery shall be and is hereby utterly and for ever abolished and declared unlawful within this Island.

Passed the Assembly, this 17th day of July 1834.

*John Hazell*, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Council, this 17th day of July 1834.

*Thomas Harper*, Clerk of Council.

*George Henry Burt*, Speaker.

Dated at St. Christopher, the 18th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1834, and in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign.

*John Lyons* (l. s.) *Nixon*.

Saint Christopher.

Appendix (B.)

Colonial Laws.

No. 25.

## AN ACT for prescribing the Powers and Duties of Special Magistrates.

WHEREAS it is expedient that the special magistrates should be upheld in the discharge of their duties, and that all persons having occasion to resort to them should be put to the least possible expense on such occasions: We, therefore, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lieutenant-governor of Your Majesty's Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and the Council and Assembly of this Your Majesty's Island of St. Christopher, pray Your Most Excellent Majesty that it may be enacted and ordained,

Preamble.

1. And be it, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that the several justices of the peace holding special commissions granted to them under and by virtue of a certain Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain, made and passed in the 3d and 4th year of the reign of His present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves;" shall, within this Island, have, exercise and enjoy a sole and exclusive jurisdiction over, and shall solely and exclusively take cognizance of all offences or alleged offences committed by or against any apprenticed labourer for any cause, matter or thing connected with, or arising out of or from the relation of employer and labourer, any law, custom or usage to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding: provided nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to abrogate or take away the powers by law vested in the superior courts of criminal and civil jurisdiction in this Island.

Special justices invested with the sole and exclusive jurisdiction over offences committed by or against apprenticed labourers.

But the powers of the superior courts retained.

2. And be it further enacted, that every special stipendiary magistrate shall visit, and he is hereby authorized and empowered and directed once in every fortnight, or oftener if need be, to visit every plantation within his district, upon which ten or any greater number of apprenticed labourers shall be employed, there to take cognizance of any cases which may be brought before him, and for the purpose of observing the behaviour and condition of such apprenticed labourers.

Special justices to visit every estate once in every fortnight, and oftener if necessary.

3. And be it further enacted, that every special magistrate shall keep a journal of all cases which may be brought before him, in which he shall enter; first, the date of the complaint; secondly, the name of the complainant; thirdly, the substance of the complaint; fourthly, the names of the witnesses adduced on either side; fifthly, the substance of the evidence; sixthly, his decision on the case; seventhly, whether the decision has been carried into effect; eighthly, any general remarks which he may think necessary; and that any person, party thereto, desiring a copy and certificate of such entries in any particular case, shall be entitled to and receive the same from such special magistrate, on paying for the same the sum of 6 *d.* for every 100 words of such entry or entries, and the sum of 4 *s.* 6 *d.* for every the certificate aforesaid.

Special magistrates to keep a journal of cases brought before them, in the form herein prescribed.

Persons requiring copies of entries therein, and certificate, to pay 4 *s.* 6 *d.*, and 6 *d.* for every 100 words.

4. And be it further enacted, that all such journals shall be kept in one uniform manner, as aforesaid.

5. And be it further enacted, that at the end of each three months each special magistrate in the said Island shall transmit to the person first in command in the said Island a duplicate of his journal for the preceding three months, with an affidavit thereunto annexed, to the effect that it has been faithfully kept, and that, with the exception of unintentional errors, it contains a true account of all the proceedings in which the deponent has been engaged as such special magistrate during the three months to which it refers; and an account showing how the fines appearing therein to have been imposed, have been applied.

Copies of such journals to be transmitted every 3 months to the person first in command, with affidavit of its correctness.

6. And be it further enacted, that until the person first in command in this Island shall have actually received such duplicate journal, so verified as aforesaid, and account of fines as aforesaid, the said first in command shall not be at liberty to pay or direct to be paid any salary to which such special magistrate shall or may be entitled for the three months last past.

Special justices not to receive salary until such copies are furnished.

7. And be it further enacted, that the special magistrate aforesaid, for the purpose of ascertaining the truth in all matters which may be by any law cognizable by them, are hereby empowered and authorized to administer an oath or oaths to all or to any person or persons appearing before him or them, as to the truth of all matters to which such person or persons shall depose, and all persons swearing falsely as to any matter or thing whatsoever before such special magistrate, shall be and hereby are declared to be guilty of the crime of perjury, and liable to all the pains and penalties by law attaching to the same: provided always, that any apprenticed labourer swearing falsely as aforesaid, shall be punished by the said special magistrate, by whipping, not exceeding 30 stripes, if a male, and by confinement in the stocks, if a female, with distinguishing marks, for any time not exceeding three months, and that such punishment shall be a bar to any prosecution at law for the perjury; and the said special magistrates shall be and are hereby declared to be entitled to all the privileges and protections which are by law allowed to the justices assigned to keep the peace of our Lord the King throughout this Island.

Special justices to administer oaths to persons giving evidence in matters brought before them.

Punishment of apprenticed labourers swearing falsely.



Complaints to be reduced to writing, and read over to complainant, who shall sign the same.

8. And be it further enacted, that on receiving any complaint the said special magistrate shall reduce the same into writing, and read the same over to the complainant, by whom it shall then be subscribed, and if the complaint shall appear to the said special magistrate to be immaterial, he may at once dismiss the said complaint, but if he shall think inquiry necessary, he shall call upon the said complainant to make oath that the said complaint is true.

Summons or warrant to issue to bring up the party charged, as may seem proper to the justices.

9. And be it further enacted, that upon taking any such complaint, to the truth of which such oath shall have been so made, the said special magistrate shall either issue his warrant for the arrest of the party charged, or shall issue a summons for his attendance, as the case may require: provided, that the warrant of arrest shall be issued in all cases which impute to the party charged a transportable offence, in all cases where there is reason to apprehend that the party charged will endeavour to escape, and in all cases where there is reason to apprehend danger to the public peace from delay; and that in all other cases the said special magistrate shall proceed in the first place by summons.

Forms of summonses and warrants to be in the forms hereunto annexed.

10. And be it further enacted, that such warrant of arrest shall be in the form annexed, marked (A.), and the form of the said summons shall be in the form annexed, marked (B.)

Forms of summonses to witnesses.

11. And be it further enacted, that when it may be necessary to adduce witnesses in support or denial of any charge, the said special magistrate shall and may issue a summons to every such witness in the annexed form, marked (C.)

Justices to read over complaints to all parties, and take down the answers of the party charged, and of the witnesses.

12. And be it further enacted, that the said special magistrate shall at the time and place appointed by any such warrant or summons for proceeding upon any such complaint, first read over the written complaint in the presence of all parties, and then take down in writing the answer of the party charged, and then proceed to examine on oath the party complaining, and the witnesses, taking down in writing the depositions of each witness, which shall be read over to, and signed by such witness.

Justices may adjourn proceedings.

13. And be it further enacted, that the said special magistrate may from time to time adjourn such proceedings for further inquiry, and if necessary commit the party charged to custody pending such adjournment, or to take bail in such amount as to him shall seem fit, for his appearance: provided, that every such commitment shall be in the form annexed, marked (D.), and that every such recognizance of bail be taken in the form annexed, marked (E.)

Form of commitment.

Decision to be in writing, and signed by justice.

14. And be it further enacted, that at the close of such proceedings the special magistrate shall pronounce his decision thereon, which decision he shall reduce into writing and subscribe with his hand.

Justices may dismiss or compromise complaints, or commit the party charged.

15. And be it further enacted, that at the close of such proceedings and investigation of such complaints as aforesaid, the said special magistrate shall either dismiss the complaint or sanction any compromise between the parties which he may think just, or convict the party charged, or commit him to prison to take his, her or their trial for the imputed offence.

If the complaint be dismissed, justice to state in his written decision his reasons.

16. And be it further enacted, that if such complaint shall be dismissed, the said special magistrate shall, in such his written decision as aforesaid, state whether it was so dismissed as being unproved, or as being frivolous, vexatious or malicious; and that if any such complaint shall be so dismissed as frivolous or vexatious, the said special magistrate shall and may adjudge the complainant, if an apprenticed labourer, to work in the service of his employer for any time not exceeding in the whole 15 extra hours in any one week, or if the complainant be the employer of such apprenticed labourer, the said special magistrate may adjudge such employer to the payment of a penalty for the use of the labourer of any sum not exceeding 50s.; and that if the said complaint shall be dismissed as malicious, it shall be competent to the said special magistrate, at the instance of the party charged, to adjudge the complainant, if an apprenticed labourer, to imprisonment with hard labour for any time not exceeding one month, or, if the employer of any such apprenticed labourer, to a fine not exceeding 5*l.*, for the benefit of the party charged, which judgment shall be a bar to any suit, action or prosecution against such complainant for calumny, defamation or otherwise, in respect of such his, her or their complaint: provided, that all convictions against a party or parties charged with any offence shall be in the form hereunto annexed, marked (F.), and all convictions against any party or parties preferring a frivolous or vexatious charge, shall be in the form annexed, marked (G.), and all convictions against any party or parties for preferring a malicious charge, shall be in the form annexed, marked (H.); and that if the said special magistrate shall commit the party charged to take his, her or their trial for the imputed offence, such commitment shall be drawn up in the form annexed, marked (I.): provided always, that upon such conviction as aforesaid, the said special magistrate shall issue a warrant for the execution thereof, which warrant shall be in the form annexed, marked (K.)

Punishment for frivolous or vexatious, or malicious charges.

Convictions to be in the forms hereunto annexed.

Form of warrants for execution of convictions.

Police officers to execute summonses, warrants, &c., or jointly with any constable, as justices may direct, and the same may be executed out of the district.

17. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all summonses, warrants, commitments and other orders so to be issued by any such special magistrate as aforesaid, shall be executed by the police officers of his district: provided always, nevertheless, that such special magistrate shall and may, as occasion may require, address the same to any constable or constables jointly with or instead of such officers of police as to him may seem requisite, and that any such summons, warrant or order, issued by any such special magistrate within his own district, shall and may be carried into effect and executed by any of the parties aforesaid, in any part of this Island, though beyond the district of the special magistrate issuing the same.

18. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any person or persons summoned as aforesaid as a witness or witnesses, shall not appear in obedience to such summons, or appearing shall refuse to be sworn or examined, or to answer any question or questions legally proposed to him, her or them, by any such special magistrate, in relation to the matters depending before him, it shall be lawful for the said special magistrate to issue his warrant for the arrest of any such defaulter or defaulters, or to commit him, her or them, to close custody, there to remain until he, she or they shall submit to be sworn and examined, or to make such answers as aforesaid, and such warrant of arrest shall be in the form annexed, marked (L.), and that every such commitment in this clause prescribed shall be in the form annexed, marked (M.)
19. And be it further enacted, that all penalties and fines imposed by this Act shall be raised and levied by the police officer or constable to whom the warrant of levy and distress may be directed by the said special magistrate, and that such warrant of levy and distress shall be in the form annexed, marked (N.)
20. And be it further enacted, that if any suit or action shall be commenced against any special magistrate, in respect of any act, matter or thing by him done in pursuance of this Act, and judgment shall be given by the court for the defendant in such action or suit, the said plaintiff shall, by the said judgment, be condemned to pay treble costs.
21. And be it further enacted, that if upon any such action or suit such special magistrate shall at any time before final judgment tender to the plaintiff sufficient amends for the wrong or injury in respect of which the same may be brought, and submit to pay the costs of suit up to that time incurred, and if the plaintiff shall refuse to accept such amends and costs of suit, then upon proof made to the court, at the trial of such action or suit, that such amends were so tendered and were sufficient, judgment shall be given in the amount so tendered; subject, nevertheless, to the reduction therefrom of the costs of suit of the said defendant: provided always, that no action or suit shall be brought against any such special magistrate in respect of any matter or thing by him done under or in pursuance of this Act, unless the same shall be commenced within six calendar months after the cause of action occurred.
22. And be it further enacted, that this Act, and every clause, matter and thing herein contained, shall commence and take effect from and after the 31st day of July 1834, and not before.
23. And be it further enacted, that all special justices shall have authority to hear and decide on every charge preferred by any owner or person entitled to the services of any slave after the 1st day of July next, for neglect of any duty, absence from work, insolent or unruly conduct, or disobedience of any sort to the master's or owner's accustomed authority: provided always, that no owner or owners, agent or person entitled to the services of any slave between the 1st day of July next and the 1st day of August next, shall be deprived of that power of correction and enforcing obedience to their lawful orders, except after complaint made to such special justices at the instance of the said owner or owners, agent or person entitled to any person's services as a slave between the said periods.
24. And be it further enacted, that the said special justices shall inquire into and decide on every complaint made of any offence committed before the 1st day of August next, but undetected, or from the absence of the party offending, or other sufficient cause, previously unpunished by any other authority; and the said special justices, on conviction of any offender between the 1st day of July next and the 1st day of August next, shall award and direct the infliction of any one or more of the punishments that by any law of this Island shall be directed for the breach of the duties of apprenticed labourers; and all offenders undetected or unpunished before the 1st day of August next, shall be treated as if at the time of their several offences they had been in the condition of apprenticed labourers.
25. And be it further enacted, that this Act may be altered or varied, amended or explained, by any other Act or Acts to be passed during this session, or during the existence of the present Assembly.

Justices to commit persons summoned as witness and not appearing, or appearing shall refuse to be examined.

Form of commitments.

Form of warrant for levying fines and penalties.

In actions against special justices, and judgment given in their favour, plaintiff to pay treble costs.

Special justices may tender amends before final judgment for any injury or wrong by them done.

If refused and proved to be sufficient, judgment to be given for the amount so tendered.

Actions against them to be commenced within 6 calendar months.

This Act to take effect from and after 31st July 1834.

Offences committed by slaves after 1st July may be heard and determined by special justices after.

Undetected or unpunished offences committed by them before 1st August to be heard and determined by special justices, and punished as if, at the time the offence was committed, such slaves had been in the condition of apprenticed labourers.

*Appendix of Forms referred to in this Act.*

(A.)

St. Christopher.

To  
Constable for the said Island. Special Constable for this Island, or to any other Special  
These are to authorize and command you to take the body of and  
have before me on at to answer the charge of  
against the said for that the said  
did on the day of and hereof fail not at your peril.  
Witness my hand and seal this day of

## ST. CHRISTOPHER.

Appendix (B.)

Colonial Laws.

No. 25.

(B.)

St. Christopher.

Sir (or Madam)

You are required to attend before me on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_, to hear and answer to the complaint of \_\_\_\_\_ against you, for that you the said \_\_\_\_\_ (here state the complaint).

Your obedient Servant,  
(Signed by the Special Magistrate, and dated.)

(C.)

St. Christopher.

To

(the witness.)

You are required to attend me on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_, to give evidence touching the complaint of \_\_\_\_\_ against \_\_\_\_\_, Dated this \_\_\_\_\_.

(Signed by the Special Magistrate.)

(D.)

St. Christopher.

To

\_\_\_\_\_, Special Constable for the said Island.

Whereas *A. B.*, of (description), is now brought before me, charged with (here state the nature of the charge). These are, therefore, to command you to take the body of the said \_\_\_\_\_ (to the place of confinement), and there he is to be safely kept until \_\_\_\_\_, when you are hereby required to bring (him or her) the said \_\_\_\_\_ again before me, to be re-examined and further dealt with according to law. And for so doing this shall be your sufficient warrant.

Given under my hand and seal, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

(E.)

St. Christopher.

Be it remembered, that on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, *C. D.* personally came and appeared before me, *E. F.* esquire, one of the Special Justices of the said Island, and acknowledged himself (or herself) to be indebted to our Sovereign Lord the King, in the sum of \_\_\_\_\_, current money of the said Island, upon the condition (he or she) the said (*C. D.* or *G. H.*, as the case may be), shall personally appear before me on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_, to answer the charge of \_\_\_\_\_, and not to depart without leave: then this recognizance to be void, otherwise to be and remain in full force and virtue.

Taken and acknowledged before me, the same day and year aforesaid.

(F.)

St. Christopher.

Be it remembered, that on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, in the year of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_, in the said Island, *A. B.* of \_\_\_\_\_, personally came before me, *C. D.*, Special Magistrate of the district of \_\_\_\_\_, and informed me that *E. F.*, of \_\_\_\_\_, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_, in the said Island, did (here set forth the offence complained of) contrary to the form of the Act of the said Island in such case made and provided; whereupon the said *E. F.*, after being duly summoned to answer the said charge, appeared before me on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_, and having heard the said charge, declared he was not guilty of the said offence (or, as the case may be, did not appear pursuant to the said summons (or did neglect and refuse to make any defence to the said charge); whereupon I, the said Special Justice, did proceed to examine into the truth of the said charge, and on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, one witness, to wit, *Y. X.*, of \_\_\_\_\_ (if *E. F.* be present, say, in the presence of the said *E. F.*), on his oath deposed, and said that (here state the evidence), or if *E. F.* confesses, leave out the evidence and say, that *E. F.* confessed the same.\*

Therefore, it manifestly appearing unto me, that the said *E. F.* is guilty of the said offence laid to his charge, I do hereby convict him of the same, and do declare and adjudge that according to the Act of the said Island, in such case made and provided.

Given under my hand and seal, at St. Christopher, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

(G. &amp; H.)

Same as above to the asterisk,\* suiting the same to the case and say—Therefore, it manifestly appearing to me that the said complaint of the said *A. B.* was frivolous (or vexatious or malicious), I do hereby dismiss the said complaint as being unproved (or frivolous or malicious), and I do hereby convict him, the said *A. B.*, of making a very frivolous, or vexatious, or malicious charge, and adjudge that according to the Act of the said Island, in such case made and provided.

Given under my hand and seal, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

(I.)

St. Christopher.

To (the party in whose custody the person offending is to be kept.)

Receive into your custody the body of *A. B.*, of \_\_\_\_\_, charged before me, *C. D.* Special Magistrate of \_\_\_\_\_, of having (state the offence), and you are hereby required safely to keep the said *A. B.* in your gaol (or as may be), until he be thence delivered by due course of law.

Given under my hand and seal, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

(K. No. 1.)

St. Christopher.

To *A. B.* (Policeman, or as it may be).

Whereas *C. D.*, of \_\_\_\_\_, stands convicted before me, *E. F.*, Special Magistrate, of having (state the offence), and hath been adjudged to pay the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ for the use of *E. F.*, apprenticed labourer; these are, therefore, to command you, and you are hereby authorized and required to demand the same of the said *C. D.*, and on receipt thereof to return the same together with this writ to me the said Special Magistrate, and in default of payment, you are to levy the same upon the goods and chattels of the said *C. D.* sufficient to pay the same; and having made such levy, you shall give notice thereof to the said *C. D.*; and 10 days after such notice you shall expose the same to public sale, in the presence of five or more credible witnesses, and having raised such amount, you shall, as aforesaid, pay over the same to me, and return the overplus of such sale, if any, to the said *C. D.*; and for want of such goods and chattels, you are to take the body of the said *C. D.*, and him deliver over to the safe custody of the deputy provost marshal of the said Island, together with this warrant, and the said deputy provost marshal is hereby directed to keep the body of the said *C. D.* until he be discharged by due course of law.

Given under my hand and seal, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

(K. No. 2.)

St. Christopher.

To the Constable of the Estate on which the offender is employed, or to (Policeman, or as it may be).

Whereas *C. D.*, apprenticed labourer of \_\_\_\_\_ stands convicted of having made a frivolous, vexatious or malicious complaint against *E. F.* of \_\_\_\_\_, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ last past, and hath been adjudged to (state conviction); these are, therefore, to command you to take the said *C. D.* into your charge, and under your order and direction to make him or her undergo, receive or perform the punishment aforesaid; and what shall be done pursuant to this warrant you shall report unto me, and return unto me this writ.

Given under my hand and seal, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

(L.)

St. Christopher.

To

Whereas *A. B.* hath been summoned to appear before me, *C. D.*, Special Magistrate, to give evidence in a certain complaint preferred before me by *E. F.*, of \_\_\_\_\_, against *G. H.*, of \_\_\_\_\_, and the said *A. B.* hath neglected or refused to appear pursuant to such summons; these are, therefore, to command you to have the said *A. B.*, together with this writ, before me at \_\_\_\_\_ as soon as he can be found, there to abide by such order in the premises as shall be made.

Given under my hand and seal, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

Appendix (B.)

Colonial Laws.

No. 25.

St. Christopher.

(M.)

To

Whereas (as in the last to the mark \*), and the said *A. B.* hath refused to be sworn (or examined, or to answer such questions as were put to him); these are, therefore, to command you to take the body of the said *A. B.* and him in safe custody to keep until discharged by due course of law.

(N. same as K.)

Passed the Assembly, this 17th day of July 1834.

*John Hazell*, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Council, this 17th day of July 1834.

*Thomas Harper*, Clerk of Council.*George Henry Burt*, Speaker.

Dated at St. Christopher, the 18th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1834, and in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign.

*John Lyons* (L. s.) *Nixon*.

— No. 26. —

No. 26.

St. Christopher.

## AN ACT to divide Apprenticed Labourers into several Classes.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient that apprenticed labourers should be divided into distinct classes, as hereinafter mentioned: we, therefore, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lieutenant-governor of Your Majesty's Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and the Council and Assembly of this Your Majesty's Island of St. Christopher, pray Your Most Excellent Majesty, that it may be enacted and ordained:

Apprenticed labourers divided into 3 classes; viz. prædial attached, prædial unattached, and non-prædial.

1. And be it, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that from and after the 31st day of July 1834, all persons then slaves shall be divided into three distinct classes: the first of such classes to consist of prædial apprenticed labourers attached to the soil, and comprising all persons who in their state of slavery were usually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce, or otherwise, upon lands belonging to their owners; the second of such classes to consist of prædial apprenticed labourers not attached to the soil, and comprising all persons who in their state of slavery were usually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce, or otherwise, upon lands not belonging to their owners; and the third of such classes to consist of non-prædial apprenticed labourers, and comprising all apprenticed labourers not included within either of the two preceding classes: provided always, that no person of the age of 12 years or upwards shall be included in either of the said two classes of prædial apprenticed labourers, unless such person shall for 12 calendar months at the least next before the 28th day of August 1833, have been habitually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce.

No person of the age of 12 years or upwards to be included in either of the 3 classes of prædials, unless such person shall have been employed in agriculture for 12 months preceding 28th August 1833.

Returns of slaves to be made on 28th July, or within 10 days after. Form of Return (A.)

2. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that on the 20th day of July now next ensuing, or within 10 days after, every owner of any slave or slaves within the said Island shall return unto the registrar of slaves for this Island, a list of the slaves belonging to him, her or them, and which return shall be in the form marked (A.), hereunto annexed; distinguishing, in reference to each slave therein mentioned, to which of the three classes aforesaid such slave belongs; and to which return shall be annexed an affidavit, to be sworn before any justice of the peace, who is hereby required to administer an oath in that behalf without fee or reward, which affidavit shall be to the effect, that the distinctions in the said return made correspond with the occupations usually pursued for 12 months next preceding the date of an Act passed by the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, on the 28th of August 1833, and intituled, "An Act for the abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves," by each of the slaves to whom such returns may refer.

Returns may be amended up to 30th August, by inserting the increase and decrease up to 31st July, and the person first in command may extend the time.

3. And be it further enacted, that all and every person and persons making such returns as aforesaid on the said 20th day of July, or within 10 days after, shall and are hereby directed, until the 30th day of August next ensuing, to alter and amend such return, upon oath, to be taken and administered as aforesaid, and also to amend such return, by stating the increase and decrease of the same slaves up to the 31st day of July inclusive, and the registrar of slaves shall receive and record such amendment at any time up to the said 30th day

day of August, on which day the said return shall be closed, and no amended return shall be received after that day, unless permission for that purpose shall be granted by the Lieutenant-governor or Commander-in-chief, upon satisfactory proof of any omission or error having undesignedly occurred in any such return.

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4. And be it further enacted, that in case the registrar of slaves shall see cause to doubt the accuracy of the return so to be made as aforesaid, he shall and is hereby authorized to appoint a time and place at which such owner, or his or her authorized agent, shall attend him the said registrar to substantiate the accuracy of such return: provided that notice in writing of the appointment of such time and place, for the purpose aforesaid, shall be served on the owner, or his or her attorney, or left at his, her or their usual place of abode, 12 hours at the least before the time appointed for his, her or their attendance.

In case the registrar shall doubt the accuracy of any return, he shall appoint a time and place for the owner to substantiate the same.

5. And be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said registrar of slaves to proceed to examine on oath the person making such return as aforesaid, and also the slaves respecting whom such doubt has arisen, or, in the absence of either, such other evidence as he may deem necessary and sufficient, and examine on oath any witnesses who may be adduced respecting the truth of such return, and may, if necessary, adjourn any such examination from time to time; and the said registrar is hereby authorized to confirm or correct any such return as he may see fit, and shall, within 24 hours after such confirmation or correction, give notice of his decision to the party making such return, and to the slaves respectively of such his decision.

Registrar in such cases to examine on oath the owner and the slave, and any witnesses touching such return.

Registrar may confirm or correct the return as he may see fit.

6. And be it further enacted, that if either the party making such return, or the slave to whom it may refer, shall be dissatisfied with the decision of the registrar, such party may on his own behalf appeal; and the registrar is hereby required, on behalf of the said slave, to appeal to the next Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas to be held within this Island, after such notice of the said registrar's decision aforesaid, by petition, setting forth the nature of such decision and the objections thereto; and the said court are hereby required to proceed in a summary way to hear and decide upon the same, and its decision shall be final and conclusive; and the said court are hereby authorized and required to make all necessary rules for regulating the proceedings upon every such petition, in the manner which may be most conducive to method, punctuality and dispatch.

Should the master or the slave be dissatisfied with the decision of the registrar, appeal may be made to the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas by petition, &c.

7. And be it further enacted, that upon the termination of any such proceedings as aforesaid, there shall be affixed to the entry of the name of such prædial attached slave in the registry of slaves the letters P. A., of each prædial unattached slave the letters P. U., and of each non-prædial slave the letters N. P.

In the entry of the names of the slaves, P. A. to be affixed to prædial attached, P. U. prædial unattached, and N. P. to non-prædial.

8. And be it further enacted, that during the continuance of the apprenticeship of such labourers as aforesaid, the slave registry, so corrected as aforesaid, shall be deposited and kept in the office of the secretary of this Island among the records of the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas; and should any question arise respecting the class to which any such apprenticed labourer shall belong, such corrected registry, or a certified extract thereof, shall be deemed and taken as conclusive evidence of the fact.

The corrected slave registry to be deposited in the secretary's office, and shall be deemed conclusive in any case of dispute.

9. And be it further enacted, that the registrar of slaves shall, within 30 days after the passing of this Act, deposit the original and triennial returns of slaves (and all other documents in his possession relating thereto) in the office of the secretary of this Island: provided always, that the registrar of slaves shall continue to make copies and extracts, and grant certificates of registration, and receive the usual and lawful fees thereon.

Thirty days after the passing of this Act registrar to deposit the books of original and triennial returns in the secretary's office.

10. And be it further enacted, that in case any person shall make or take any false oath to any matter or thing by this Act prescribed, he or she shall be and is hereby declared to be guilty of the crime of perjury, and be liable to all the pains and penalties by law attaching to the same.

Persons taking false oath declared guilty of perjury.

11. And be it further enacted, that if any person shall neglect or omit to make any return or affidavit by this Act required, or to attend the registrar of slaves when summoned by him for that purpose as aforesaid, such person shall for each and every such neglect or default as aforesaid incur a penalty of not less than 20 s., nor more than 10 l.; and in the event of the wilful absence of any such person so summoned as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the registrar to proceed to decide any such question as though such party had attended, and that in case of any such default as aforesaid, and complaint thereof to any justice of the peace, he shall be and is hereby authorized to summon the offender before him; and in case such offender shall fail to obey such summons, or to make sufficient excuse for not making such return or affidavit as aforesaid, he shall forfeit and pay such sum, not less than 20 s. nor more than 10 l. as aforesaid, to be recovered by warrant under the hand and seal of such justice of the peace, and to be executed by such constable as the same shall be directed to, according to the exigency of such warrant, which shall be in the form following:

Persons neglecting to make their returns, or to obey the summons of the registrar, to forfeit not less than 20 s., nor more than 10 l.

to be recovered by warrant under the hand and seal of any justice of the peace.

To (A. B.) or to any other Constable of the said Island.

Form of warrant.

Whereas C. D. hath neglected to make the return or affidavit required by a certain Act, intituled, "An Act to divide Apprenticed Labourers into several Classes," or to attend the registrar of slaves, being lawfully summoned for that purpose under and by virtue of a certain Act intituled, "An Act to divide Apprenticed Labourers into several Classes," (as the case may be) you are therefore hereby required to levy the sum of

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current money of this Island, on the goods and chattels of the said *C. D.*, sufficient to pay the said sum of \_\_\_\_\_ and the same forthwith to bring to public sale, and the surplus, if any, after deducting a fee of 9s., payable to you the said *A. B.* or such other constable as may execute this warrant, to render and pay to the said *C. D.*

Witness my hand and seal, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

FORM of Schedule (A.) within referred to.

Name and Description of Person making the Return.	Names of Slaves.	Sex.	Colour.	Reputed Age on the 20th July 1834.	Reputed Country.	Usual Employment since the 28th August 1832.	Class : 1 Prædial attached, 2 Prædial unattach'd, 3 Non-prædial.

Passed the Assembly, the 17th day of July 1834.  
*John Hazell*, Clerk of Assembly.  
 Passed the Council, this 17th day of July 1834.  
*Thomas Harper*, Clerk of Council  
*George Henry Burt*, Speaker.

Dated at St. Christopher, the 18th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1834, and in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign.  
*J. Lyons (l. s.) Nixon.*

— No. 27. —

St. Christopher.

No. 27. AN ACT to provide for Apprenticed Labourers during the term of their Apprenticeship.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is necessary to make provision for the due care and maintenance of apprenticed labourers during the term of their apprenticeship: We, therefore, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lieutenant-governor of Your Majesty's Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and the Council and Assembly of the Island of St. Christopher, pray Your Most Excellent Majesty that it may be enacted and ordained:

Various clauses of an Act of this Island, intituled, "An Act more effectually to provide for the Support, and to extend certain regulations for the Protection of Slaves, to promote and encourage their Increase, and generally to meliorate their Condition," declared to be in force.

1. And be it, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that from and after the 31st day of July, in the present year 1834, the several clauses hereinafter enumerated of an Act of the Commander-in-chief of the Leeward Caribbee Islands in America, and the General Council and the General Assembly of the said Islands, intituled "An Act more effectually to provide for the Support, and to extend certain Regulations for the Protection of Slaves; to promote and encourage their Increase, and generally to meliorate their Condition," shall be, and the same are hereby declared to be in force, and applicable for the protection and benefit of all and every person and persons who shall become apprenticed labourer and labourers within this Island, on the 1st day of August next, so long as he, she and they respectively shall continue in such state of apprenticeship: that is to say, Clause the first; so much of Clause the second, as applies to this Island; Clause the sixth; Clause the seventh; Clause the nineteenth; Clause the twenty-seventh; Clause the twenty-eighth, with the exception of the word "white," when and as often as the same shall occur therein; Clause the twenty-ninth; Clause the thirtieth, with exception as above; Clause the thirty-first; Clause the thirty-fourth; and Clause the forty-ninth.

Allowances to labourers may be commuted with the sanction of the special justices.

2. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any employer within this Island, with the sanction of the special justice of the district in which such employer shall reside, to make any bargain or agreement with any labourer for a commutation of the allowances of provisions and clothing, or either of them, by this law required to be furnished to such labourer.

While abourers are receiving food and nutriment under the direction of the medical attendant, employers not to be compelled to furnish the weekly allowance.

3. And be it further enacted, that while any apprenticed labourer or labourers shall be receiving from his, her or their master, manager or director, food and nutriment under the orders and direction of any medical practitioner in attendance on such labourer or labourers, such master, manager or director shall not be compelled or compellable to furnish any such labourer or labourers with the quantum of weekly food hereby required to be supplied to such labourer and labourers.

Certificate of medical attendant to be received in evidence of any

4. And be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for any special justice who is hereby authorized to inquire into any offence against this Act, in his discretion to receive and

and take in evidence touching any such offence, the certificate of any medical practitioner, under his hand, of any matter or thing appertaining or relating to such offence. breach of the provisions of this Act.

5. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that every penalty and forfeiture imposed under and by virtue of this Act, shall be recovered by warrant under the hand and seal of the special justice of the district in which such offence shall be committed; such warrant to be directed to and executed by some constable or police officer within the said district, who is hereby authorized to levy the same on the goods and chattels of every person or persons offending against this Act, and who shall be convicted thereof before such justice, and shall bring the same to sale within 10 days after such levy, and for want of such goods and chattels, such offender shall be committed to the common gaol of this Island for any time not exceeding three months, at the discretion of such justice; and all such penalties shall be applied to the use of the public of this Island, and be paid into the treasury thereof: provided nevertheless, that every person so convicted may appeal to the next superior court of criminal jurisdiction, if he or she conceives himself or herself aggrieved. Penalties how to be recovered.

6. And be it further enacted, that this Act may be altered or varied, amended or explained, by any other Act or Acts to be passed this session, or during the existence of the present Assembly. Appeal allowed from the sentence of special justices.

Passed the Assembly, this 17th day of July 1834. This Act may be altered during the present session.  
*John Hazell, Clerk of Assembly.*

Passed the Council, this 17th day of July 1834.  
*Thos. Harper, Clerk of Council.*

*George Henry Burt, Speaker.*

Dated at St. Christopher, the 18th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1834, and in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign.  
*John Lyons (L. s.) Nixon.*

— No. 28. —

St. Christopher.

AN ACT for prescribing the Duties, and regulating the Conduct of Apprenticed Labourers within this Island. No. 28.

WHEREAS it is expedient to define by law the duties of apprenticed labourers within this Island, and to prevent any unruly conduct or any insolent language in such apprenticed labourers towards the persons entitled to their services, and to establish rules for the conduct of such apprenticed labourers: We, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lieutenant-governor of Your Majesty's Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and Council of the Island of St. Christopher, together with the Assembly of the same, humbly pray Your most Excellent Majesty that it may be enacted and ordained, Preamble.

1. And it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that from and after the 1st day of August 1834, every person who shall have become a prædial apprenticed labourer by force of the laws in such case made and provided, shall be bound and compellable by law, for and during the continuance of their apprenticeship, to work on the estate of the person or persons entitled to his or her services for the space of 45 hours in each week, and no longer, during the term of his or her apprenticeship: provided, that no such prædial apprenticed labourer shall be liable to perform any labour whatever on any Sunday during the term of his or her apprenticeship, except in watching and protecting the property of the person or persons entitled to his or her services, or in tending, protecting and feeding the stock of the same, or in other works of necessity. Prædial apprenticed labourers to work for their employers 45 hours in each week.

2. And be it further enacted, that every person who shall have become a non-prædial apprenticed labourer by force of the laws aforesaid, shall be bound and compellable by law, during the continuance of such apprenticeship, to do for the person or persons entitled to his or her services, all such work as they have hitherto been accustomed to do, or as free hired servants are accustomed and ought to do for the person to whom they hire their services; and every such apprenticed non-prædial labourer shall be bound to do so much of all such works for the persons entitled to his or her services as such free hired servants are accustomed and ought to do for the persons to whom they hire their services: and the special magistrates of this Island shall, in every case where any dispute shall arise as to the quality or quantity of the work to be done by any non-prædial apprenticed labourer for the person or persons entitled to his or her services, judge and determine whether any such work is, both in quality and quantity, such work as ought to be performed by non-prædial apprenticed labourers, according to the provisions of this Act: provided, that no non-prædial apprenticed labourer shall be liable to perform any labour whatever on any Sunday during the term of his or her apprenticeship, except in the protection of property usually confided to his, her or their care, and in other works of necessity, and in domestic services. Non-prædials to perform the same services they were accustomed to as slaves.

3. And Special magistrates to determine, in cases of dispute, whether the work required of non-prædials be such as they ought to perform.

Proviso respecting labour on Sunday.



Prædial labourers to conform to all the rules laid down for the good government of the estate on which they reside.

The same rules to apply to labourers occasionally employed on estates.

Non-prædials to conform to the rules laid down for them.

Punishment for offences committed by apprenticed labourers.

Apprenticed labourers residing on estates without being bound to labour, to conform to all the rules laid down for labourers.

Apprenticed labourers absent for 1 hour, or any part of an hour, to serve 2 extra hours, or double the time of absence.

Provided such extra hours do not exceed 15 in any one week.

Such extra service not to extend beyond 7 years after expiration of apprenticeship.

For absence for more than 7½ hours in any one week, labourer to be adjudged a deserter, and confined to hard labour for any time not exceeding 1 week; and if a male, to receive any number of stripes not exceeding 15 with a cat, according to the discretion of the special magistrate.

For absence for 2 days in any one week, labourer to be adjudged a vagabond, and confined to hard labour for any time not exceeding 2 weeks; or if a male, shall receive any number of stripes not exceeding 15.

For absence for 6 days in any one week, labourer to be adjudged a runaway, and confined to hard labour for any time not exceeding 1 month; or if a male, to receive any number of stripes not exceeding 30; and in addition thereto shall make satisfaction for the absent time, and for the time employed in hard labour, unless such labour shall be performed on the estate for the benefit of the employer.

3. And it is hereby further enacted, that every prædial apprenticed labourer shall be bound and compellable by law to conform himself or herself at all times to all the rules laid down by any person or persons having the control or management of the estate on which such apprenticed labourer may be employed, for the good government of such estate: provided, that such rules do not militate in any respect against this or any other Act of this Island.

4. And it is hereby further enacted, that every prædial apprenticed labourer who shall come at certain times to do certain work on the estate of any employer or employers, or shall occasionally be or reside on any such estate, shall be bound and compellable by law, during the performance of such work, on going to and returning from the same, and during such occasional residence, to conform himself or herself to all the lawful rules laid down as aforesaid for the control and direction of such apprenticed labourer by such employer or employers.

5. And it is hereby further enacted, that every non-prædial apprenticed labourer shall conform himself or herself at all times to all such rules as shall be lawfully laid down as aforesaid, by the person or persons entitled to his or her services, or by any person acting under the authority of such person or persons.

6. And it is hereby further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall offend against any of the hereinbefore recited clauses of this Act, such apprenticed labourer, on conviction of the same before any special magistrate, shall be liable to any of the hereinafter mentioned punishments, or any part thereof, according to the discretion of the said special magistrate, subject to all the rules hereinafter prescribed for the infliction of punishments on apprenticed labourers.

7. And it is hereby further enacted, that every apprenticed labourer who may reside on the estate of any person or persons whatever, without being bound to perform any work whatever in the service of such person or persons, shall conform himself or herself to all such rules as shall be lawfully laid down as aforesaid by such person or persons, or by any person appointed by such person or persons, for the management and direction of such estate.

8. And for avoiding all doubts as to what shall be deemed improper conduct in any apprenticed labourer, it is hereby further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall for one hour, or any part of an hour, absent himself or herself from the service of his or her employer without reasonable cause, he or she shall be compelled for every such offence, on conviction of the same before the special magistrate of the district in which such labourer shall reside, to serve two extra hours, or double the time of absence in the service of such employer: provided, that such extra hours shall not exceed 15 in the whole in any one week; and provided also, that if such extra labour shall not have been performed in any one week for such absence, it shall be made in any subsequent week or weeks; and provided always nevertheless, that no such period of extra labour shall extend to compel such apprenticed labourer to labour in the service of any employer beyond the period of seven years next after the termination of the apprenticeship of such labourer.

9. And it is hereby further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall absent himself or herself for more than seven hours and a half in any one week from the service of his or her employer, without reasonable cause, he or she shall, on conviction of the same before a special magistrate of this Island, be adjudged a deserter, and as such shall be confined to hard labour in any house of correction or place of confinement by this or any other Act to be appointed in this Island, for any time not exceeding one week, according to the discretion of the said special magistrate; and in case such offender should be a male, then such male apprenticed labourer shall receive any number of stripes, not exceeding 15, with a cat-of-nine-tails, according to the discretion of the said special magistrate.

10. And it is hereby further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall absent himself or herself for two days during one week from the service of his or her employer, without reasonable cause, he or she shall, on conviction of the same before a special magistrate of this Island, be adjudged a vagabond, and as such shall be confined to hard labour in any house of correction or place of confinement in this Island, for any time not exceeding two weeks, according to the discretion of the said special magistrate; or in case such offender should be a male apprenticed labourer, then such male apprenticed labourer shall receive any number of stripes, not exceeding 15, with a cat-of-nine-tails, according to the discretion of the said special magistrate.

11. And it is hereby further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall absent himself or herself for six days in any one week from the service of his or her employer, without reasonable cause, he or she shall, on conviction of the same before any special magistrate of this Island, be adjudged a runaway, and as such shall be confined to hard labour in any house of correction or place of confinement in this Island, for any time not exceeding one month, according to the discretion of the said special magistrate; or in case such offender should be a male apprenticed labourer, then such apprenticed labourer shall receive any number of stripes, not exceeding 30, with a cat-of-nine-tails, according to the discretion of the said special magistrate: provided always, that every such offender shall (in addition to such punishment) be bound to make satisfaction to his or her employer for the time he or she shall have been absent from such employer (and also for the time such apprenticed labourer shall or may be employed in hard labour as aforesaid), unless such hard labour shall be,

be, by the sentence of the said special magistrate, performed on the estate of, and for the benefit of the employer of such apprenticed labourer. ST. CHRISTOPHER.

12. And it is hereby further enacted, that in all cases where any apprenticed labourer, charged with any of the three last-mentioned offences, shall assign any cause as a reasonable cause for the offence with which he is charged, and the employer of such apprenticed labourer shall deny that such cause is a reasonable cause for the said absence, the special magistrate before whom such apprenticed labourer shall be examined on such charge shall judge and determine whether such alleged cause be reasonable or not.

Special magistrates to decide whether labourers assign reasonable cause for their absence.

13. And it is hereby further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall be convicted before a special magistrate of this Island, of having performed the work committed to him or her by his or her employer in an indolent, careless or negligent manner, he or she shall, on conviction of such offence before such magistrate, be adjudged to labour in the service of his or her employer for any time not exceeding 15 hours in the whole in any one week, according to the discretion of such magistrate, for the first time when the said apprenticed labourer shall be convicted of such offence. And it is hereby further enacted, that for the second time when any apprenticed labourer shall be convicted before a special magistrate of such last-mentioned offence, he or she shall be adjudged to confinement with hard labour in any house of correction or place of confinement in this Island, for any time not exceeding one week, according to the discretion of such special magistrate. And it is hereby further enacted, that for the third or any subsequent occasion when any apprenticed labourer shall be convicted before a special magistrate of such last-mentioned offence, he or she shall be adjudged to confinement with hard labour in any house of correction or place of confinement in this Island, for any time not exceeding one fortnight, according to the discretion of such special magistrate; or in case such offender should be a male apprenticed labourer, then such male apprenticed labourer shall receive any number of stripes, not exceeding 20, with a cat-of-nine-tails, according to the discretion of such special magistrate.

Labourers performing their work in an indolent, careless or negligent manner to be adjudged to labour for the employer not exceeding 15 hours in any week, for the first offence of that nature.

For the second like offence, labourer to be confined to hard labour for any time not exceeding 1 week.

For the third like offence, labourer to be confined for any time not exceeding 1 fortnight, or if a male, shall receive any number of stripes not exceeding 20.

14. And it is hereby further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall, by the careless use of fire, endanger, injure or destroy the property of his or her employer, or of any other person, or shall wantonly injure the property of his or her employer entrusted to his or her care, or shall wantonly injure the property of any person whatever, or shall ill-use the cattle or other live stock of his or her employer, or shall by negligence expose his or her employer's property to any damage or injury, such apprenticed labourer shall, on conviction of any of the above-mentioned offences before any special magistrate, be adjudged to do extra labour in the service of his or her employer for any time not exceeding 15 hours in the whole in any one week, according to the discretion of such magistrate, or shall be adjudged to confinement with hard labour in any house of correction or place of confinement in this Island, for any time not exceeding one month, according to the discretion of such magistrate; or in case such offender should be a male apprenticed labourer, then such male apprenticed labourer shall receive any number of stripes, not exceeding 30, with a cat-of-nine-tails, according to the discretion of such magistrate; and any special magistrate before whom any apprenticed labourer shall have been convicted of any of the offences in this present clause of this Act mentioned, shall and may adjudge such apprenticed labourer to suffer any two or more of the said last-mentioned punishments, if it shall appear to him proper to do so.

Labourers, by the careless use of fire, injuring property, or who shall ill-treat the cattle or other live stock of any employer, or shall by negligence expose his or her property to any damage or injury, to be compelled to do extra labour for any time not exceeding 15 hours in any 1 week, or to confinement with hard labour not exceeding 1 month, or if a male, to receive any number not exceeding 30 stripes with a cat-of-nine-tails.

And special justices may adjudge any such offender to suffer any 2 or more of the said punishments, if he shall think proper so to do.

15. And it is hereby further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall contumaciously disobey the lawful commands of his or her employer, such apprenticed labourer shall, on conviction of such contumacious disobedience before any special magistrate, be adjudged to suffer any one or more of the punishments last mentioned, according to the discretion of the said magistrate.

For contumacious disobedience, labourer to suffer any 1 or more of the last-mentioned punishments, according to the discretion of the special justice.

16. And it is hereby further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall neglect to perform his or her lawful work, business and employment, on pretence of any feigned sickness, malady or disability, it shall be lawful for any special magistrate having jurisdiction in the premises, on the information of a medical practitioner that such person is able to work, to sentence any such apprenticed labourer to solitary confinement on the estate on which such apprenticed labourer may be employed, or in any other place to be appointed by such special justice, for any period not exceeding 24 hours in and during the time by law allowed to such apprenticed labourer for his or her own use and enjoyment; and in case of such offender being a male, such male offender may, in addition to such solitary confinement, be flogged with any number of stripes, with a cat-of-nine-tails, not exceeding 30, at the discretion of the said special magistrate.

Neglect to perform work on pretence of any feigned sickness, to be sentenced to solitary confinement for any time not exceeding 24 hours, during the time allowed to any such labourer for his own enjoyment, on the information of a medical practitioner that such labourer is able to work; and if a male, to any number of stripes not exceeding 30, in addition to such confinement.

17. And it is hereby further enacted, that if any three or more apprenticed labourers shall agree together to make any resistance to the lawful commands of their employers or directors, or of any one of the same, or shall be engaged in a combined and open resistance to the lawful commands of their employer, such three or more apprenticed labourers, on conviction of such agreement, or of such combined and open resistance, before any special magistrate, shall be adjudged to be confined with hard labour, in any house of correction or place of confinement in this Island, for any period not exceeding six months, according to the discretion of such magistrate; and in all cases where such offenders shall be male apprenticed labourers, then such apprenticed labourers shall receive any number of stripes, not exceeding 39, with a cat-of-nine-tails, according to the discretion of such magistrate.

Any 3 or more labourers agreeing together to make resistance to the lawful commands of their employers, or who shall be combined in open resistance to such commands, shall suffer confinement with hard labour for any time not exceeding 6 months; and if males, to receive any number not exceeding 30 stripes.

For drunkenness, fighting or riotous conduct, &c.

Labourer to be confined 1 week, or if a male, to any number of stripes not exceeding 15.

In all cases where whipping is directed to be inflicted on male labourers, the punishment for females to be confinement in the stocks, with a distinguishing dress or badge of infamy, for like offences, and in proportion to the quantity of whipping inflicted on males.

Females not to be kept in stocks after sunset or before sunrise, nor for more than 8 hours in any 1 day, nor for more than 6 days for any 1 offence, or for more than 2 days consecutively.

All stocks to be according to 1 general model.

Persons who shall by threats, intimidation, reward, or by any other means whatever, seduce or attempt to seduce any labourer from the service of his or her employer, or shall attempt to persuade any such labourer to neglect his work, or shall knowingly shelter any labourer who may have absconded, or left any work unfinished, shall pay a fine not exceeding 20*l.*, or suffer imprisonment not exceeding 3 months.

Should such offender be himself an apprenticed labourer, he shall undergo any 1 or more of the punishments specified in this Act for any other breach of its provisions.

Apprenticed labourers may choose their own employers at such times as they are not compellable to work for their master or mistress.

No apprenticed labourer to use or have in possession any gunpowder, fire-arms, &c., unless with the knowledge of the employer or director, who have authority to seize such arms, &c.

Majority of labourers on any plantation agreeing to perform extra or task-work, such agreement to be binding on the rest.

Persons aggrieved by apprenticed labourers may seek their remedy either according to the general laws of this Island, or according to the provisions of this Act;

But not allowed to proceed under both the laws.

18. And it is hereby further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall be found in a state of drunkenness, or fighting, or conducting himself or herself in a riotous manner, or behaving insolently towards his or her employer or director, or towards any person appointed by his or her employer to superintend the conduct of such apprenticed labourer, or shall use insolent language towards any person whatsoever, then such apprenticed labourer, on conviction of any of the said last-mentioned offences before any special magistrate, shall be adjudged to be confined with hard labour in any house of correction or place of confinement in this Island, for any time not exceeding one week, according to the discretion of such magistrate; or if such offender should be a male apprenticed labourer, he may be adjudged to receive any number of stripes not exceeding 15, with a cat-of-nine-tails, according to the discretion of such magistrate.

19. And whereas it has been deemed inexpedient to punish female apprenticed labourers by whipping for any offence by them committed: Now, therefore, be it further enacted, that in all cases in which the punishment of whipping is directed by any clauses of this Act to be inflicted upon male apprenticed labourers for any offences by them committed, the punishment of confinement in the stocks, with a distinguishing dress or badge of infamy, shall be inflicted upon female apprenticed labourers when convicted of the same offences, according to the discretion of the special magistrate before whom such female apprenticed labourers shall be convicted, and in proportion to the quantity of such whipping directed to be inflicted upon male apprenticed labourers for such offences respectively: provided, that no female apprenticed labourer shall for any offence whatever be put or kept in the stocks after sunset or before sunrise, or shall be confined in the same for more than eight hours in the whole for any one day, or shall be confined for more than six days for any one offence, or shall be confined more than two days consecutively for any offence, or under any circumstances whatsoever.

20. And it is hereby further enacted, that all stocks to be employed for the purpose of punishing female apprenticed labourers, shall be made according to one general model, to be sanctioned by the officer administering the government in this Colony.

21. And it is hereby further enacted, that if any person or persons shall by any threat or intimidation, reward, or promise of reward, or by any means of influence whatever, seduce, or attempt to seduce any apprenticed labourer from the performance of those services he or she legally owes to his or her employer; or shall persuade, or attempt to persuade any apprenticed labourer to neglect or not to finish any piece or contract work undertaken by such apprentice; or shall knowingly shelter or suffer to be sheltered on his or her premises, any apprenticed labourer who shall have absconded from his or her master's or mistress's service, or who shall have left unfinished any work contracted to be done by such apprentice, such person shall, on conviction before any special justice of the peace, be compelled to pay a fine not exceeding 20*l.*, and in default of payment of the same immediately, or within such time as the said special justice shall appoint at the time of conviction, be committed to the common gaol or other place of confinement in this Island, for any period not exceeding three months; and if such person so offending against this Act, shall himself or herself be an apprenticed labourer, he or she shall, on conviction before any special justice as aforesaid, be sentenced to undergo any one or more of the punishments specified in this Act for any other breach of the provisions of the same: provided always, that nothing in this clause shall extend to prevent or restrain in any way the power of every apprenticed labourer, at those times when he is not compellable to work for his master or mistress, to choose his or her own employer, as well as the service he or she may be willing to undertake.

22. And it is hereby further enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any apprenticed labourer to keep, use, or have in his or her possession any gunpowder or fire-arms of any description, swords or other offensive weapon, unless with the knowledge and consent of his or her employer or director; and that it shall be lawful for any such employer or director to seize and retain to his own use any gunpowder and fire-arms of any description, swords or other offensive weapons, which any such apprenticed labourer may have in his or her possession without such knowledge and consent as aforesaid.

23. And it is hereby further enacted, that in cases where the majority of the apprenticed labourers on any plantation shall agree, in conformity with law, to any task or extra work for any employer in the said Island, such contract and agreement for such task or extra work shall be binding on the rest and remainder of the said apprenticed labourers on such plantation.

24. And it is hereby further enacted, that wherever any apprenticed labourer shall be amenable to the general laws of this Island for any of the offences in this Act mentioned, the person or persons aggrieved by such apprenticed labourers may seek their remedy against such apprenticed labourers either according to the general laws of this Island, or according to the provisions of this Act: provided always, that it shall in no case be competent to any person aggrieved by the misconduct of any apprenticed labourer, to proceed against such apprenticed labourer both according to the general law of this Island and according to the provisions of this Act, for the same offence.

25. And it is hereby further enacted, that in all cases of urgent necessity, it shall be lawful for the owner or other person in management of any plantation or property in this Island, where such necessity shall exist, to require and exact, as long as the necessity may exist, the service of all or any of the apprenticed labourers on such his or her plantation or property; and every apprenticed labourer refusing to comply with such requisition, shall be liable, on conviction of the same before any special magistrate, to suffer any one or more of the punishments in this Act mentioned for breach of the duties of apprenticed labourers.

In cases of urgent necessity, directors of estates may require the service of all the apprenticed labourers during such necessity. Punishment of labourers refusing to comply.

26. And it is hereby further enacted, that no such apprenticed labourer shall, during the continuance of such their apprenticeship, be liable to be arrested or imprisoned for debt, or be liable to be called on, or be competent to serve in the militia of this Island, or to serve as a juror.

No apprenticed labourer to be imprisoned for debt, or to perform any public duty.

27. And it is hereby further enacted, that all such apprenticed labourers shall during the term of such their apprenticeship be, and they are hereby disqualified from being elected members of Assembly, or churchwardens, or coroners, or vestrymen, or of voting at any election for any of the offices aforesaid, or being appointed justices of the peace.

Not to serve in the Assembly, &c. &c.

28. And it is hereby further enacted, that this Act may be altered or varied, amended or explained, by any other Act or Acts to be passed this session, or during the existence of the present Assembly.

This Act may be altered during the present session.

Passed the Assembly, this 17th day of July 1834.

*John Hazell*, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Council, this 17th day of July 1834.

*Thos. Harper*, Clerk of Council.

*George Henry Burt*, Speaker.

Dated at St. Christopher, the 18th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1834, and in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign.

*John Lyons (l. s.) Nixon.*

— No. 29. —

Saint Christopher.

AN ACT to prescribe the Duties to be performed by Employers towards their Apprenticed Labourers, and to enforce the performance of the same.

No. 29.

WHEREAS it is necessary to establish certain rules and regulations to prescribe the conduct of employers towards their apprenticed labourers, and to compel the observance of the same by fit and proper penalties to be enforced as hereinafter shall be provided: We, therefore, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lieutenant-governor of Your Majesty's Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and the Council and Assembly of this Your Majesty's Island of St. Christopher, pray Your most Excellent Majesty, that it may be enacted and ordained,

Preamble.

1. And be it, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that if any employer of any prædial apprenticed labourer shall by force or fraud protract the weekly services of such labourer beyond the period by law allowed for that purpose, he shall forfeit for the benefit of such labourer, the sum of 1s. in respect of every hour which such service shall be protracted.

Penalty on employer for compelling labour beyond the period prescribed by law.

2. And it is further enacted, that it shall be the duty of every such employer to intimate to the labourers in his or her employment, by sounding of a bell, or other sufficient signal, the commencement and the close of the legal hours of labour, which signal shall always be of a nature to be distinctly visible or audible to the several prædial apprenticed labourers in the service of any such employer.

The commencement and close of labour to be intimated by signal.

3. And it is further enacted, that no apprenticed labourer shall be bound to undertake any task work, except with his or her own free assent to the same, save as hereinafter excepted.

Labourers not compellable to undertake task work without their own consent.

4. And it is further enacted, that every contract between the employer and the prædial apprenticed labourer, for the performance of specific work as a task, and in lieu of the prescribed daily labour, or for the performance of any labour in extra hours, shall by such employer be reduced into writing, and entered into a book to be kept for that purpose on the plantation, which book it shall be the duty of the special justice of the district to inspect, as often as he shall by law be required to repair to the several plantations within his district.

Contracts for task work to be in writing, and entered in a book for the inspection of the special magistrate.

Such contracts not to be binding for more than 30 days, unless entered into in the presence of and with the approbation of the special justice.

Contracts for task work not to continue longer than 1 year.

Execution to issue against employer for non-payment of compensation for task work or extra labour.

Form of execution.

Execution to be levied by special constables on goods, chattels and produce, save and except articles and stock employed and used in husbandry.

Forty-eight hours notice of sale to be given to the employer.

Labourers violating the terms of contract to be liable to the same pains and penalties as for non-performance of the duties owing to the employer.

Children not having attained the age of 6 years on the 1st August 1834, or who may be born after that day, may under certain circumstances be apprenticed out.

5. And be it further enacted, that no contract between the employer and the prædial apprenticed labourer for the performance of any specific or task work, or for the performance of any labour in extra hours, shall endure or continue in force, or be binding upon the parties entering into the same, or either of them, after the expiration of 30 days from the making thereof, unless the same shall have been made and entered into by such parties in the presence and with the approbation of such special justice of the peace, or unless, having been entered into in his absence, the same shall be confirmed and approved by him before the expiration of such 30 days; and every such approbation of every such contract shall by such special justice be attested under his hand in the book so to be kept as aforesaid; and the said special justice shall, before approving any such contract, ascertain that the terms thereof are distinctly understood by the apprenticed labourers entering into the same, and that such labourers have entered into such contract freely and voluntarily, and that the same is not unreasonable or unjust; and that in every such contract for task work, or for extra service extending beyond the period of 30 days, the nature and amount of the extra labour to be performed, and the amount of the compensation to be given for the same, and the time and manner of paying or giving such compensation, shall be distinctly expressed: provided always, that no contract for such extra service as aforesaid, shall continue in force for more than one year from the day of the date thereof.

6. And be it further enacted, that upon due proof being given to the satisfaction of such special justice, of the non-payment of or failure to render or perform the compensation stipulated for in any such contract as aforesaid, whether for task work or for extra services, it shall be competent for such justice, and he is hereby authorized to award execution against any such employer for the amount or value of such compensation; and if the same shall not be paid within one week next after such award, to cause the same execution to be levied as hereinafter mentioned, on the produce, goods and chattels of every such employer, save and except articles and stock employed and used in his or her trade or business of husbandry; and which execution shall be in the form following:

St. Christopher.

WILLIAM THE FOURTH, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King:

To any Special Constable within the said Island.

Whereas *A. B.* stands convicted before me of a failure to perform the conditions stipulated for by him with *C. D.* an apprenticed labourer, for the work and labour of such apprenticed labourer, and the said *A. B.* hath been awarded to pay the sum of £ for such failure as aforesaid, and the said *A. B.* not having paid the same within the time limited for that purpose, you are required and authorized to levy this execution on the produce, goods and chattels of the said *A. B.*, save and except articles and stock employed and used in the trade or business of husbandry of the said *A. B.*, sufficient to pay and satisfy the said sum of £; and the produce, goods and chattels so levied on as aforesaid, you are to take into your custody and them safely to keep, unless the said *A. B.* shall give a good bond, in which he shall procure one sufficient surety to join, to deliver the produce, goods and chattels levied on as aforesaid, on the day of sale, and which sale you hereby are required to make on the sixth day after such levy as aforesaid at the nearest town, and apply the proceeds thereof to the payment of the said sum of £; and you are hereby required to return the overplus of such sale, if any, to the said *A. B.*

Witness my hand and seal, this      day of      .

7. And be it further enacted, that such execution as aforesaid shall be levied and executed by any special constable of the district wherein the same shall issue, to whom the said special justice shall direct the same, and such special constable shall thereunder seize and sell so much of the produce, goods and chattels of such employer as aforesaid, save and except articles and stock employed and used in his or her trade or business of husbandry, as may be necessary for the payment of such debt, and the surplus of such sale shall be forthwith delivered over to such employer: provided always, that no such sale shall take place as aforesaid without 48 hours previous notice in writing made and given to the said employer, either by personal service on him or her, or by leaving the same at his or her place of abode, of such sale, and the time and place thereof, such notice to be made and given by such special justice as aforesaid.

8. And be it further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall violate the terms of such contract as aforesaid, for task work or for extra service, he or she shall be liable to the same penalties and pains as are by law provided in respect of the violation by such labourer of the duties to be by him or her performed in the discharge of the services owing by him or her by law to such his or her employer.

9. And whereas it may happen that children who have not attained the age of six years on the said 1st day of August 1834, or that children who after that day may be born to any female apprenticed labourers, may not be properly supported by their parents, and that no other person may be disposed voluntarily to undertake the support of such children; and it is necessary that provision should be made for the maintenance of such children in any such contingency; Be it therefore enacted, that if any child who on the said 1st day of August 1834 had not completed his or her sixth year, or if any child to which any female apprenticed labourer may give birth on or after the said 1st day of August 1834, shall be brought before any justice of the peace holding any special commission, and if it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of such justice that any such child is unprovided with an adequate maintenance,

maintenance, and that such child hath not completed his or her age of 12 years, it shall be lawful for such justice, and he is hereby required on behalf of any such child, to execute an indenture of apprenticeship, thereby binding such child as an apprenticed labourer to the person or persons entitled to the services of the mother of such child, or who had been last entitled to the services of such mother; but in case it shall be made to appear to any such justice that any such person or persons aforesaid is or are unable, unwilling or unfit to enter into such indentures, and properly to perform the conditions thereof, then it shall be lawful for such justice, and he is hereby required by such indenture to bind any such child to any person or persons to be by him for that purpose approved, and who may be willing and able properly to perform such conditions; and it shall by every such indenture of apprenticeship be declared in what capacity such child is apprenticed, whether as an agricultural labourer or house servant, or tradesman, and such master and apprentice shall in relation to each other be bound by the laws of England applicable to master and apprentice, as far as the same are in force in this Island, and such apprenticeship shall not extend beyond the 21st year of such apprentice's age.

10. And be it further enacted, that every married woman being such apprentice as aforesaid, notwithstanding her coverture, and every child of 12 years and upwards, notwithstanding his or her infancy, shall be competent to enter into such contract as aforesaid for task work or for extra service; and it shall be lawful for any mother, guardian or other person standing in the place of parent, to enter into such contract as aforesaid for task work or for extra service, for and on behalf of any child under the age of 12 years, with reference to whom any such person entering into such contract as aforesaid may stand in the situation of mother, guardian or parent.

11. And be it further enacted, that if any employer of any apprenticed labourer shall whip, beat, imprison, confine in the stocks, or otherwise maltreat such apprenticed labourer, or shall by way of punishment commit any violence upon his or her person, such employer shall incur a penalty to be imposed by such special justice as aforesaid not exceeding 5 *l.*, with imprisonment not exceeding 14 days in default of the payment of such fine: provided always, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent any employer from confining any labourer for safe custody until such labourer can be delivered over to some policeman or constable, in order to secure his or her attendance before the special justice.

12. And be it further enacted, that it shall be competent for any apprenticed labourer, in any such case of whipping, beating, imprisoning, confining in stocks or other maltreatment, or of violence committed on his or her person by way of punishment as aforesaid, instead of preferring his or her complaint to such special justice, to maintain any civil suit or action, as in the case of any other free person, for damages for such offences; and it shall also be competent to such special justice, if he shall see occasion, to abstain from imposing such penalty, and to commit the offender to take his or her trial for such offence before any court having jurisdiction in the premises; and if any such employer shall be convicted before any court of competent jurisdiction of any cruelty towards his or her apprenticed labourer, or if any such employer be twice convicted of inflicting any corporal punishment, or of any violence upon the person of such labourer, then the labourer shall at his or her instance be transferred to another employer, under the direction of the said court, and the sum received for the services of such labourer shall be paid into the public treasury of this Island, to be applied to the use of the same; and it shall and may be lawful for such court to punish such offending employer by fine not exceeding the sum of 20 *l.*, and in default of payment thereof, by imprisonment in the common gaol of this Island for any term not exceeding one month, at the discretion of the said court: provided always, that no master or employer of apprenticed labourer shall be amenable to any special justice for any act done in defence of his person or property, for which he would not be equally amenable to any justice of the general commission of the peace, if the said act had been committed towards any person not in the condition of an apprenticed labourer.

13. And be it further enacted, that none of the pains and penalties which any special justice is hereby authorized to award shall be imposed in any case unless due notice in writing shall be personally served on or left at the place of abode of the offender, of the justice's intention to proceed to inquire into the complaint against such offender, and which notice shall express the time and place of hearing such complaint, the nature of the said complaint, and by whom preferred, and shall be signed by such special justice, and be served at the least 24 hours before the hearing of such complaint, and the evidence touching such complaint shall be taken at the time and place mentioned in the said notice.

14. And be it further enacted, that this Act may be altered or varied, amended or explained, by any other Act or Acts to be passed during this session, or during the existence of the present Assembly.

Passed the Assembly, this 17th day of July 1834.

*John Hazell*, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Council, this 17th day of July 1834.

*Thomas Harper*, Clerk of Council.

*George Henry Burt*, Speaker.

Dated at St. Christopher, the 18th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1834, and in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign.

*John Lyons (L. s.) Nixon*.

Married women and children of 12 years and upwards competent to enter into contracts for task work or extra labour.  
Parents, guardians, &c. may enter into contracts for task work for children under 12 years.

Punishment of employers for ill-treating labourers.

Labourers may maintain civil actions or suits against employers for ill-usage, instead of applying to the special magistrate.

Special justice may commit offenders for trial before any court having competent jurisdiction.

On conviction of employers for twice inflicting corporal punishment, or of any violence on the person of the labourer, such labourer may be transferred to another employer, and the amount received for the services be paid into the public treasury.

And the court may punish such offender by fine not exceeding 20 *l.*, and in default of payment, by imprisonment not exceeding 1 month.

No fine to be imposed by special justices unless 24 hours notice be given to party of the justice's intention to investigate the complaint.

This Act may be altered during the present session.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

— No. 30. —

Appendix (B.)

Colonial Laws.  
No. 30.

St. Christopher.

AN ACT to regulate the removal of Prædial Apprenticed Labourers from one Plantation to another; to establish certain Rules to govern the Sale of the Services of all Classes of Apprenticed Labourers, and the disposition thereof by Will, as well as to regulate the Descent of the same in cases of Intestacy.

Preamble.

WE, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lieutenant-governor of the Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and the Council and Assembly of the Island of St. Christopher, do pray Your most Excellent Majesty that it may be enacted and ordained,

Apprenticed labourers not to be removed from the Island.

1. And be it, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that no apprenticed labourer shall be subject or liable to be removed from this Island to any place whatsoever, save and except in his ordinary business upon the high seas, or otherwise, as a fisherman or mariner.

Prædial apprentices not to be employed in any labour except the usual business of the plantation.

2. And be it further enacted, that no prædial apprenticed labourer who, under and by virtue of any law, may become attached to the soil, shall be subject or liable to perform any labour in the service of his or her employer or employers, except upon or in or about the works and business of the plantation or estates to which such prædial apprenticed labourer shall have been attached, or on which he or she shall have been usually employed previously to the 1st day of August 1834: provided nevertheless, that, with the consent in writing of any one or more justices of the peace holding such special commission as specially provided for in and by a certain Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves," it shall be lawful for the person or persons entitled to the services of any such attached prædial apprenticed labourer or labourers, to transfer his or their services to any other estate or plantation within this Island to such person or persons belonging, which written consent shall in no case be given or be of any validity, unless such justice of the peace shall first have ascertained that such transfer would not have the effect of separating any such attached prædial apprenticed labourer from his or her lawful wife or husband, parent or child, or from any person or persons reputed to bear any such relation to such apprenticed labourer, at the time living on the said estate together with such person in such reputed relationship: provided always, that such reputed husband and wife shall be interpreted to mean only one such reputed husband or wife as any apprenticed labourer shall for 12 months then next preceding have cohabited with under appearance of marriage, and shall at the time of such intended removal be actually cohabiting with and treating as husband or wife, and that such transfer would not probably be injurious to the health or welfare of such attached prædial apprenticed labourer; such consent in writing of such justice of the peace as aforesaid to be recorded in the book of proceedings which is by law required to be kept by the said special justice.

Their services may be transferred, under certain restrictions, from one plantation to another belonging to the same employer.

Services of apprentices to be deemed a chattel interest, be transferable by bargain and sale, &c., and be distributable in cases of intestacy.

Husband and wife, parent and child, not to be separated.

Prædial labourers not to be removed from the soil to which they are attached, without the written consent of one or more special justices.

Services of prædial labourers not to be sold under execution except with the soil to which they be attached.

3. And be it further enacted and declared, that the right and interest of any employer or employers to and in the services of any apprenticed labourer shall be deemed and taken to be a chattel interest, and of the nature of personal estate, and shall pass and be transferable by bargain and sale, gift, contract and conveyance, and will, and be distributable, in case the person or persons entitled to such services shall depart this life intestate, in the like and same manner as chattel interest or personal estate: provided always, that no apprenticed labourer shall, by virtue of any such bargain and sale, gift, contract and conveyance, or will or descent, in case of intestacy, be subject or liable to be separated from his or her lawful wife or husband, or parent or child; nor shall any prædial apprenticed labourer, under and by virtue of any bargain and sale, gift, contract and conveyance, or will or descent, in case of intestacy, be removed from the soil to which he or she shall be attached, or on which he or she shall have been usually employed, without the consent in writing of any one or more justices of the peace holding such special commission as hereinbefore mentioned, such consent to be recorded as aforesaid: and provided further, that no such apprenticed labourer or labourers, or the right of the employer or employers to the services thereof, shall be the subject of any writ of attachment, sequestration or execution, save and except in case of any prædial apprenticed labourer or labourers attached to the soil, in which case he, she or they may be levied on and sold together with the soil to which he, she or they may be so attached as aforesaid, but not otherwise.

4. And be it further enacted, that this Act may be altered or varied, amended or explained, by any other Act or Acts to be passed during this session, or during the existence of the present Assembly.

Passed the Assembly, this 17th day of July 1834.

*John Hazell*, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Council, this 17th day of July 1834.

*Thomas Harper*, Clerk of Council.

*George Henry Burt*, Speaker.

Dated at St. Christopher, the 18th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1834, and in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign.

*John Lyons* (l. s.) *Nixon*.

St. Christopher.

— No. 31. —

AN ACT for dividing this Island into Districts, and for establishing a sufficient Police within the same.

WHEREAS it is necessary to divide this Island into certain districts, for the more convenient exercise of the authority of certain special magistrates to be appointed for this Island in pursuance of an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, made and passed in the 3d & 4th years of the reign of His present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for the abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves:" And whereas it is also necessary that a sufficient police should be established in the said several districts: We, therefore, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lieutenant-governor of Your Majesty's Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and the Council and Assembly of this Your Majesty's Island of St. Christopher, do pray Your most Excellent Majesty that it may be enacted and ordained,

Preamble.

1. And be it, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, that from and after the passing of this Act, this Island shall be divided into four districts, for the purposes of the jurisdiction of such special magistrates. And it is hereby further enacted, that the first of the said districts shall include and comprise the several parishes of St. George, Basseterre, St. Peter, Basseterre, and Trinity, Palmetto Point; and the second of the said districts shall include and comprise the several parishes of St. Mary, Cayon and Christchurch, Nichola Town; and the third of the said districts shall include and comprise the several parishes of St. John, Capisterre, and St. Paul, Capisterre; and the fourth of the said districts shall include and comprise the parishes of St. Ann, Sandy Point, and St. Thomas, Middle Island.

The Island divided into 4 districts.

Parishes comprised in each district.

2. And it is hereby further enacted, that each one of the above-mentioned districts shall be assigned to one or more special magistrates, as the proper and peculiar district in which such special magistrate or magistrates shall perform the duties prescribed to special magistrates: provided, that every special magistrate shall reside within the district to which he is appointed, unless when prevented by sickness or other reasonable cause to be allowed by the person first in command in this Island.

Each district to be assigned to one or more special magistrates, who shall reside within the same.

3. And it is hereby further enacted, that in each of the above-mentioned districts there shall be provided for the use of the special magistrate of such district a convenient and sufficient justice-room, wherein such special magistrate shall sit, as by law directed, for the purpose of administering the laws relating to the apprenticed labourers of this Island; and that in three of the said districts there shall be formed a police establishment, and a place of confinement or house of correction, and for that purpose the officer administering the government of this Colony is hereby authorized to appropriate any waste lands of the Crown that may be conveniently situated; and a committee of the Board of Council and House of Assembly, to be appointed for that purpose, are hereby authorized to receive tenders for the purchase or rent of any other lands that may be necessary, and for the erecting, renting or purchasing of any buildings for perfecting such police establishment as aforesaid; and of their proceedings in respect of the duty hereby delegated to them, the aforesaid committee shall duly make a report to the Council and Assembly of this Island, as soon as such committee shall have obtained tenders, in order that the Council and Assembly may, if satisfactory, conclude the same without delay.

A justice-room to be provided in each district.

Also a police establishment and place of confinement in 3 of said districts.

Waste land of the Crown to be appropriated to such establishments.

A committee of the Council and Assembly to receive tenders for the purchase or rent of other lands, and for the erecting, renting or purchasing buildings, who shall report their proceedings to the Legislature, in order to conclude the same, if satisfactory.

4. And be it further enacted, that if at any time the said places of confinement or houses of correction appointed under this Act, should not be able to accommodate a greater number of offenders than shall be then therein confined, it shall be lawful for any special magistrate, under such circumstances, or in any other case of urgent necessity, to commit any other offender or offenders to any other place of confinement where the said special justice may be satisfied the said offender or offenders may be safely confined, and to be removed from thence whenever any other place of confinement more adapted for the execution of the sentence of the said special justice shall be provided: provided always, that until such places of confinement shall be erected and provided, it shall be lawful for any special justice to commit any offenders to any place of confinement on the estate to which such offender may be attached.

For want of room in the said places of confinement, justices may commit offenders to some other.

Until such places of confinement shall be provided, apprenticed labourers may be confined on the estate to which they belong, by order of special justices.

5. And it is hereby further enacted, that the said special stipendiary magistrates shall sit weekly, in rotation if more than one, at the justice-room in the district assigned to such magistrate, every day in each week, when he is not engaged in visiting the plantations within his district, pursuant to an Act intituled, "An Act for prescribing the Powers and Duties of Special Magistrates," from the hour of 11 in the forenoon until the hour of two in the afternoon of every such day, and longer if necessary, for the purpose of hearing and deciding all such cases as may be brought before them: nevertheless, it shall and may be lawful at any time, in case of necessity, for any complainant to make application to the nearest special magistrate, who shall, according to the exigency of the case, proceed to investigate and determine on the charge preferred.

Special stipendiary magistrates to sit in rotation every day in each week.

In cases of necessity complaints may be heard by the nearest special magistrate.



A penal gang to be established at the 3 police establishments.

One sergeant and not more than 9 policemen to be employed at each police establishment. And on each estate 2 policemen from among the apprentices to be nominated by the employer or director, and if there be more than 100 apprentices on such estate, 2 policemen for each 100, to act as auxiliary to the policemen of the district, and to do the duty of the estate when not employed as policemen.

Auxiliary policemen to be paid 4s. 6d. by the employer.

And at the instance of the employer or director to take offenders before a special magistrate without summons or warrant, and to keep them in safe custody until so taken.

Policemen and auxiliary policemen to be appointed by the person administering the Government, and to be removed by him for bad conduct.

Labourers refusing to act as auxiliary constables, or auxiliary constables neglecting their duty, and not promptly executing the orders of the justices or their employers, shall suffer any one or more of the punishments specified in the Act for breach of the duties prescribed for apprenticed labourers.

Auxiliary constables to be sworn by the person first in command, and the nature of their office explained to them, and a staff delivered to each as an emblem of office.

On default of payment of the monthly allowance to the auxiliary constables, special justice to issue warrant of levy against the employer.

Constables and policemen may be suspended.

Penal gang may be ordered by the special magistrate to work on the provision ground of the district, or may be hired out to work for the benefit of the establishment.

Special justice to make a quarterly return to the officer administering the Government of the effective strength and condition of police force, and

Committee of the Council and Assembly to establish rules for the internal discipline of the

6. And be it, and it is hereby further enacted, that at the three police establishments to be fixed upon as hereinafter provided, there shall also be established a penal gang, to be composed of such persons as shall be condemned to imprisonment with hard labour.

7. And be it, and it is hereby further enacted, that at three of the police establishments to be fixed upon for that purpose, as hereinafter provided for, there shall be employed one sergeant and not more than nine policemen or constables; and that on each estate in this Island there shall be appointed from the apprentices upon such estate two policemen or constables, to be nominated by the master, director or employer of such apprentices; and on each estate having more than 100 apprenticed labourers, there shall be appointed from among them not less than two constables for every such 100, to act as auxiliary to the policemen of the district: provided that such auxiliary policemen shall not be required to do duty off the estate to which they are attached, except with the consent of the person or employer entitled to their services; such auxiliary policemen to be paid at the rate of one half dollar per month by the estate to which they are attached: and provided also, that such appointment of such apprenticed labourer shall not prevent him or them from executing such duties as he should be bound to do if not so appointed, except at the particular time in which he is actually engaged as such policeman. And be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for any auxiliary policeman or men, at the instance of the master or director or employer of such apprentices, to take any offender or offenders charged by such master or director or employer, before a special magistrate, to investigate any charge, without previous summons or warrant for that purpose, and to keep him or them in safe custody until he or they can be so taken before such special magistrate. And be it further enacted, that all such constables or policemen, and auxiliary policemen, so nominated as aforesaid, shall be appointed by the officer administering the government of this Colony, and may be removed by him for bad conduct or inefficiency.

Policemen and auxiliary policemen to be appointed by the person administering the Government, and to be removed by him for bad conduct.

8. And be it further enacted, that if any labourer shall refuse to act as an auxiliary constable, after being appointed as such, or if any auxiliary constable who shall, on complaint made to any special justice, be found not to have promptly executed all orders and directions given by any special justice, or by any other justice of the peace, under the restrictions hereinbefore contained, in every case to which their several jurisdictions may extend, or of any employer or person having authority to command the services of such auxiliary constable, shall suffer, on conviction of the said neglect or reluctance, or disobedience, as aforesaid, before the said special justice, or other justice of the peace, any one or more of the punishments specified in the Act for breach of the duties prescribed for apprenticed labourers.

9. And be it further enacted, that after the passing of this Act, and before the 1st day of August next, a time and place shall be fixed in each district, by the appointment of the person first in command in this Island, for administering the oaths of office to the said auxiliary constables, and that the officer by whom the said oaths shall be administered, whose duty it shall be, before such auxiliary constables are sworn, to explain to them the duties of the office they are about to undertake, and the penalties incurred for neglect of the same, shall deliver to such auxiliary constable, so sworn, a staff as an emblem of office; which shall be provided according to the directions of the committee of the Council and Assembly to be appointed as aforesaid: provided always, that upon complaint made by any such auxiliary policeman to the special magistrate within his district, that the master or director of any estate on which he shall have served as such policeman, shall have refused to pay him the said sum of 4s. 6d. per month for any one or more months, the said special magistrate shall upon conviction before him of the said master or director having so refused, issue his warrant under his hand and seal, authorizing any constable within his district to levy the amount in which such master or director shall be so convicted, on his goods and chattels, and to sell sufficient of the same to satisfy such amount.

10. And it is hereby further enacted, that any constable or policeman, and auxiliary policeman, may be suspended from office by any special magistrate of the district, subject to disallowance or confirmation by the officer administering the government within this Colony.

11. And it is hereby further enacted, that as often as the special magistrate of the district on duty shall so direct, the penal gang before mentioned shall, under the superintendence of some member of the police, be employed in any laborious work upon the provision grounds of the police establishment, for the support of the prisoners at such settlement, or such penal gang may be employed as hired labourers in any laborious work, or otherwise, towards the general maintenance of the establishment.

12. And it is hereby further enacted, that the special justice shall, once in each quarter, make to the officer administering the government within this Colony, a report of the effective strength and condition of the police force at each settlement, and of the state of the buildings and provision grounds there, and of the state and conduct of the prisoners confined therein.

13. And it is hereby further enacted, that a committee shall be appointed from the Board of Council and House of Assembly, to determine on the three districts in which the said police establishments shall be fixed; to establish necessary rules for the internal discipline of the

the said police settlement; for a due separation of prisoners of different sexes; for the classification of prisoners; for their religious instruction; for the maintenance of order, cleanliness and sobriety among them; and for the prevention and prompt punishment of any neglect or violation of such rules; and also for ascertaining the necessary weapons and accoutrements to be furnished to the policemen or constables, and auxiliary policemen, and fixing a distinguishing dress to be worn by them; and that such committee shall duly report to the Board of Council and House of Assembly what they shall determine in pursuance of such reference to them as aforesaid; and such report being approved by the officer administering the government within this Colony, and the Council and Assembly of the same, shall have therein the force and effect of law: provided always, that the officer administering the government within this Colony, and the Council and Assembly of the same, may, if they think fit, either absolutely confirm such report, or partially or wholly alter and change the rules thereby established, and may from time to time vary such rules as circumstances may require.

14. And it is hereby further enacted, that the constables or policemen in each district shall receive pay from the public treasury, at the rate of 3 s. currency per day for each private, and 4 s. 6 d. currency for each sergeant. Pay of policemen.

15. And it is hereby further enacted, that it shall be the duty of the policemen or constables and auxiliary policemen, to carry into execution such orders as they shall receive from the special justice, for the prevention or repressing of crimes, and for enforcing obedience to the law; and such policemen or constables, and such auxiliary policemen, shall detain and carry, without summons or warrant, on their own view, before a special justice, any person in the actual commission of a breach of the peace, or any injury to public or private property. Policemen and auxiliary policemen may on their own view, without warrant, take offenders before a special magistrate.

16. And be it further enacted, that this Act shall not be in force for any longer period than 12 months from the passing thereof. Act in force for 12 months.

17. And be it further enacted, that this Act may be altered or varied, amended or explained, by any other Act or Acts to be passed during this session, or during the existence of the present Assembly. This Act may be altered during the present session.

Passed the Assembly, this 24th day of July 1834.

*John Hazell*, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Council, this 15th day of July 1834.

*Thomas Harper*, Clerk of Council.

*George Henry Burt*, Speaker.

Dated at St. Christopher, the 31st day of July, in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign, and in the year of our Lord 1834.

*John Lyons* (L. S.) *Nixon*.

— No. 31. —

St. Christopher.

AN ACT to punish Apprenticed Labourers for Offences against the public Welfare.

No. 31.

WHEREAS the peace and good order of society in this Island may be endangered by the distinct class of apprenticed labourers within the same, and it is necessary to provide against the said offences; Be it, and it is hereby enacted by the Lieutenant-governor of Your Majesty's Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and the Council and Assembly of the Island of St. Christopher, Preamble.

1. That from and after the 1st day of August 1834, if any three or more apprenticed labourers shall unite together in any riot or tumultuous assemblage, any justice of the peace within this Island who shall or may be present at the same, shall order the said three or more apprenticed labourers to disperse, and in case of neglect or refusal to obey such order, then the said justice of the peace shall cause a flag, or some other conspicuous signal to be exhibited as a warning to all persons then and there present, to separate and disperse quietly. Three or more apprenticed labourers uniting together in tumultuous assemblage, to disperse by order of a justice of the peace.

2. And be it further enacted, that all persons who at the expiration of 10 minutes from and after the exhibition of such flag or signal, shall continue present at any such riotous assemblage, shall, on conviction before any one or more justices of the peace within this Island, be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for any time not exceeding 12 months. Punishment of apprenticed labourers for riotous conduct.

3. And be it further enacted, that no apprenticed labourer shall after the 1st day of August 1834, reside beyond the limits of the district in which such apprenticed labourer may be resident on the said 1st day of August 1834, unless by the authority of his or her employer, to be for that purpose given him or her in writing: provided always, that in cases where such consent is refused by the employer aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Not to reside beyond the limits of the district to which they belong, except with consent of the employer.

in case of refusal by the employer, special justice may, if he see fit, grant leave for such residence.

Such leave to be recorded.

Labourers found beyond their district without a pass may be apprehended by any constable, and shall on conviction be adjudged a vagabond, and be punished by order of special justice.

If absent for 7 days or more, labourer to be adjudged a runaway.

Punishment for such offence.

Labourers establishing themselves as a distinct community in any part of the Island to be dislodged,

And may be transported.

Person first in command may order out the militia to assist in dislodging any such community as aforesaid.

Fathers to provide for their children under 12 years not being apprentices, and in default to be compelled to labour in their extra hours for such purpose.

Such persons may be hired out to labour as aforesaid.

For so long a time as may be necessary to provide for such child for 1 month in advance.

If no father living, the mother to provide for the child.

the special magistrate of the district in which such labourer shall as aforesaid be resident on the said 1st day of August 1834, to inquire into and investigate the cause or causes of such refusal, and if the said employer doth not sufficiently account for such refusal, then the said special magistrate shall and may give to such apprenticed labourer, under his the said special magistrate's hand and seal, an authority to reside out of the said district: provided always, that the said special magistrate shall record such investigation, and the evidence taken respecting the same, and the date of the authority in such case given as aforesaid, in the record book directed by the second clause of an Act intituled "An Act for prescribing the Powers and Duties of Special Magistrates."

4. And be it further enacted, that every apprenticed labourer found or to be found beyond the limits of the district in which he or she shall have been on the said 1st day of August 1834 resident as aforesaid, except in his or her way to and from the nearest market, or to or from some place of public worship, and not having a written pass or authority for that purpose from his employer, or from the special magistrate as hereinbefore directed, shall be liable to be apprehended and detained by any constable or policeman within this Island, and shall, on conviction before any justice of the peace within this Island, be adjudged a vagabond, and shall by the order and conviction under the hand and seal of such justice, be taken by any constable or policemen into the district to which such apprenticed labourer belongs, and there delivered over to the special magistrate of such district, together with such order and conviction, and the said special magistrate of the district to which the said apprenticed labourer belongs, shall forthwith cause the said apprenticed labourer to undergo the punishment directed in such conviction: provided always, that the said special magistrate shall record the said conviction, and the date of the execution of the same, in the same manner as is provided for the record of conviction in clause second of an Act intituled "An Act for prescribing the Powers and Duties of Special Magistrates."

5. And it be further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any apprenticed labourer shall, for seven days or upwards, absent himself or herself from his or her employer's service, without a reasonable cause, to be allowed by the special magistrate of the district to which he or she may belong, he or she shall, on complaint being made to such special magistrate, and on conviction of such offence, be adjudged a runaway, and shall be sentenced to three months imprisonment and hard labour in case of females, and in case of males to three months imprisonment and hard labour, and whipping, not exceeding 39 stripes with a cat.

6. And be it further enacted, that if it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of any special justice, that any apprenticed labourers have without lawful authority established themselves in any part of this Island as a distinct community, such justice of the peace shall cause any such community to be dislodged, and if necessary, shall also cause their habitations to be taken down and removed, and disposed of in such manner as to the said justice shall seem fit.

7. And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer convicted of having been a member of any such community, shall be liable to transportation, and to imprisonment and hard labour until such transportation can be effected, or to imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding six months, and to whipping by any number of stripes not exceeding 39 with a cat, in case of such offender being a male, but in case of such offender being a female, the punishment by whipping not to be inflicted.

8. And be it further enacted, that the officer administering the government of this Island, shall and may at the request of any magistrate, order out the whole or any part of the militia of this Island, and all officers and privates of the said militia, so ordered out as aforesaid, shall aid and assist in carrying into effect any directions which may be issued to them by the said first in command, for dislodging any such community as aforesaid, and the said officers and privates of the said militia are hereby indemnified against all and all manner of prosecutions, suits and punishment for any loss of life or injury that may arise in the lawful execution of such duty as aforesaid.

9. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any apprenticed labourer, being in good health and able to work, and being the reputed father of a child under the age of 12 years, not being an apprenticed labourer under the terms of the laws of this Island, shall not make adequate provision for the subsistence of such child, it shall be lawful for any special magistrate to adjudge any such labourer to labour in his extra hours, and in case of refusal, then to hard labour, and to apply the earnings of such labour towards the support and maintenance of any such child.

10. And be it further enacted, that for the purpose last aforesaid, such special justice may hire out the labour of any such reputed father to any person who may be willing to agree for the same, or to labour on any public works, on the best terms which can be procured for the same.

11. And be it further enacted, that such compulsory labour as aforesaid shall not be continued longer than may be necessary to provide for the maintenance of the child of such labourer, for one month in advance.

12. And be it further enacted, that in case any such child so unprovided for as aforesaid shall have no father living, then the regulations aforesaid shall apply to the mother of such child

child or children, if alive, and competent by her labour to provide for the maintenance of such child or children. ST. CHRISTOPHER.

13. And be it further enacted, that all the penalties by law denounced in case of indolence, neglect of work, or otherwise in respect of labour performed by the apprenticed labourers, in the service of their employers, shall apply to the case of labour undertaken for the maintenance of any such child as aforesaid, by virtue of any such order as aforesaid. Penalties in cases of default.

14. And be it further enacted, that if any labourer or labourers shall, without lawful authority, enter into possession of any land belonging to His Majesty, or to any person, it shall be lawful for any special justice to dispossess such labourer or labourers from such land, and from any buildings thereon erected, and to cause the same, with all the crops thereon growing, and all cattle, stock and goods thereon found, to be delivered up to the owner of such land; or in case such owner shall not within one month after such seizure appear and prefer his claim to such land, then the special justice shall order the crops, cattle and other goods seized thereupon to be sold, and cause the proceeds of such sales to be paid over to the public treasurer of this Island. Labourers unlawfully entering into possession of land to be dispossessed by special justices, &c.

15. And be it further enacted, that the summary process last aforesaid shall not be taken or used in any case where any such apprenticed labourer may have been for two years then next preceding in the undisturbed and authorized possession of any such land. Unless such labourer shall have 2 years quiet possession.

16. And be it further enacted, that the said special magistrate may further adjudge any apprenticed labourer unlawfully taking possession of such land, to imprisonment with hard labour for any time not exceeding three months, if it be made to appear to his the said special magistrate's satisfaction that such possession was taken with the knowledge that the party so taking possession had no lawful claim thereto. Such unlawful possession may be punished with 3 months imprisonment.

17. And be it further enacted, that no apprenticed labourer shall quit this Island, except with a passport from the person first in command, which passport shall not be granted without the written consent of the employer of such apprenticed labourer. Person first in command may grant a pass to apprenticed labourer to quit the Island.

18. And be it further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall quit or attempt to quit this Island without such passport as aforesaid, such apprenticed labourer shall, on conviction before the special magistrate, be liable to imprisonment, with hard labour, for any time not exceeding six months. Labourer quitting the Island without such pass liable to 6 months imprisonment with hard labour.

19. And be it further enacted, that every apprenticed labourer whose ordinary occupation is on the sea, or in any navigable stream, as a fisherman or mariner, shall be registered as such at the office of the special magistrate of the district, with the knowledge and consent of his employer; and any apprenticed labourer engaging in such occupation without being first so registered, shall, on conviction before the said special magistrate, be liable to imprisonment, with hard labour, for any time not exceeding three months. Labourers being mariners or fishermen to be registered as such.

20. And be it further enacted, that all vessels and boats in this Island not registered under the Navigation Acts shall be registered and numbered at the office of the special magistrate of the district to which they belong, with whom shall be entered the description of the vessel or boat, the name of the owner, and the place at which the same is usually moored or hauled up. Vessels and boats not registered under the Navigation Act to be registered at the office of the special magistrate of the district.

21. And be it further enacted, that no person within this Island shall keep a vessel or boat so registered, except by a licence under the hands of two of His Majesty's justices assigned to keep the peace within this Island, which licence must be recorded in the secretary's office, for the recording of which the secretary of the Island shall and may demand and receive the sum of 4 s. 6 d. from the person presenting the same to be recorded. Persons owning such vessels and boats to obtain a licence from 2 justices of the peace.

22. And be it further enacted, that the owners or directors of such licensed vessels or boats shall be bound to secure them when not actually afloat at the place or places mentioned in such licence. Vessels and boats to be secured when not afloat.

23. And be it further enacted, that all unlicensed vessels or boats shall be liable to seizure and confiscation; and that all officers of His Majesty's customs, magistrates and peace officers within this Island may seize the same, and prosecute the same to condemnation before two or more justices of the peace, one half of the proceeds of sale whereof, after payment of costs and expenses, to be given to such seizor and prosecutor, and the other half to be paid into the treasury of this Island. Unlicensed vessels and boats liable to seizure and condemnation before one or more justices of the peace.

24. And be it further enacted, that all other vessels and boats moored at any place not mentioned in the licence shall be liable to detention by any of the above officers or magistrates, until the owner thereof shall have order for restitution, or shall have paid a fine of not less than 20 s. nor more than 5 l.: provided always, that the person or persons so detaining the said boat or vessel for being moored at a place not mentioned in the licence, shall forthwith report the same to the special magistrate of the district in which the same is detained, to whom the person claiming the boat or vessel shall apply for restitution of the same, and to whom the said person claiming as aforesaid shall, if it shall seem fit to the said magistrate, pay the said fine, one half to be delivered over by the said magistrate to the person seizing or detaining, and the other half into the public treasury of this Island. Vessels and boats not moored as directed in licence to be detained, and owner to pay a penalty not less than 20s., nor more than 5l. Such detentions to be reported to special magistrates.

Penalty of 50*l.* against any person taking any apprenticed labourer off the Island without licence, and in default of payment to imprisonment not exceeding 3 months for the first offence, and to transportation not exceeding 7 years for second offence.

25. And be it further enacted, that all and every person and persons removing or assisting to remove any apprenticed labourer from this Island in any boat or vessel, without such labourer having such licence as hereinbefore directed, shall be liable, on conviction thereof before any two magistrates of the Island, to pay a fine of 50 *l.*, to be recovered by warrant of levy and distress, under the hands and seals of the said magistrates, and in default of such payment to imprisonment for any time not exceeding three months for the first offence, and to transportation for any term not exceeding seven years for the second offence.

26. And whereas there may be certain acts done by apprenticed labourers which may be considered to amount to offences under this Act, and also under an Act intituled, "An Act for prescribing the Duties and regulating the Conduct of Apprenticed Labourers;" Be it further enacted, that no apprenticed labourer shall be liable to be punished both under the provisions of the said last recited Act, and of this present Act, for any offence by him or her committed.

27. And be it further enacted, that this Act may be altered or varied, amended or explained, by any other Act or Acts to be passed this session, or during the existence of the present Assembly.

Passed the Council, this 17th day of July 1834.

*Thomas Harper*, Clerk of Council.

Passed the Assembly, this 17th day of July 1834.

*John Hazell*, Clerk of Assembly.

*George Henry Burt*, Speaker.

Dated at St. Christopher, this 18th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1834, and in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign.

*John Lyons* (L. s.) *Nixon*.

— No. 33. —

St. Christopher.

No. 33.

AN ACT to regulate the dissolution of Apprenticeship by the voluntary act of the Employer, and to compel such dissolution in cases where the Labourer is able and willing to purchase his or her discharge from Apprenticeship.

Preamble.

WHEREAS by a certain Act of the Governor, Council and Assembly of this Island, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery in the said Island, and for the establishment of a system of Apprenticeship for a limited time in lieu thereof," persons hitherto held in slavery will become apprenticed labourers, and it is necessary to provide certain rules for the dissolution of such apprenticeship under the circumstances hereinafter mentioned: We, therefore, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lieutenant-governor of Your Majesty's Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and the Council and Assembly of the Island of St. Christopher, pray Your most Excellent Majesty that it may be enacted and ordained,

Apprenticed labourers may be discharged from such apprenticeship before the expiration of the term.

1. And be it, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that if before the apprenticeship created by the hereinbefore mentioned Act, or by any other Act of the Legislature of this Island, or any enactment of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, shall have expired, the person or persons entitled for and during the remainder of any term to the services of any apprenticed labourer, under and by such laws as aforesaid, shall be desirous to discharge him or her from such apprenticeship, it shall be lawful for such person or persons so to do by any deed or instrument to be by him, her or them for that purpose made and executed, which deed or instrument shall be in such form, and shall be executed and recorded in such manner and with such solemnities as hereinafter mentioned: provided nevertheless, that if any person so discharged from any such apprenticeship, by any such voluntary act as aforesaid, shall at that time be of the age of 50 years or upwards, or shall be then labouring under any such disease, mental or bodily infirmity, as may render him or her incapable of earning his or her subsistence, then and in every such case the person or persons so discharging any such apprenticed labourer as aforesaid, shall continue and be liable to provide for the support and maintenance of such apprenticed labourer during the remaining term of such original apprenticeship, as fully as if such apprenticed labourer had not been discharged therefrom.

Employers discharging apprentices of the age of 50 years, or who may be incapable of earning their own subsistence, shall provide for them in the same manner as if they had not been so discharged.

Such discharge to be by deed under the hand and seal of the party executing the same.

2. And be it further enacted, that such discharge shall be by deed, under the hand and seal of the party making the same, to be executed in the presence of and attested by one or more credible witness, and shall be recorded in the office of the registrar of deeds within one month from the day of the execution thereof; and failing in any of the particulars aforesaid, every such discharge shall be void.

The proceedings to be taken in cases where the employer is unwilling,

3. And be it further enacted, that in order to provide for the discharge of apprenticed labourers, in cases where the employers of any such apprenticed labourer may be unwilling or

or unable to contract for such discharge, if the employer of any apprenticed labourer in the said Island, or any person having any interest in the services of any such apprenticed labourer, shall be unwilling to effect his or her discharge from apprenticeship, or shall by reason of any mortgage, or settlement or lease, or charge upon or interest in the services of any such apprenticed labourer being vested in any other person or persons, be unable to execute a valid and effectual discharge from apprenticeship of such apprenticed labourer, or if the employer or any other person having a charge upon or interest in the services of such apprenticed labourer shall be a minor or married woman, or idiot or lunatic, or if the person really entitled to the services of such apprenticed labourer shall be absent from the said Island, or shall not be known, or if any suit or action shall be depending in any court of justice in the said Island, wherein the title or right to the services of the said apprenticed labourer shall or may be in controversy, or if the employer of any such apprenticed labourer shall demand, as the price of his or her discharge, a greater sum of money than may appear to the said apprenticed labourer to be his or her fair and just value, then and in each and every of the cases aforesaid any special justice to be appointed under and by virtue of any Act of this Island, or any law of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, on application to him for that purpose made by the said apprenticed labourer, or any person on his or her behalf, shall issue a summons under his hand and seal, requiring the employer, or legal representative of such employer of such apprenticed labourer, to appear before him by themselves or their agents, at some convenient time and place to be in such summons for that purpose appointed, and notice shall be published by the said special justice, in the public newspapers of the Island, of the time and place appointed for the purpose aforesaid; and in such notice all persons having or claiming to have any title or interest to or in the services of the said apprenticed labourer proposed to be discharged, either in their own right or as the agents, guardians, trustees or representatives of any other person, shall be required to attend and prefer such claims.

or unable by reason of any mortgage or other legal impediment, to effect a discharge from apprenticeship.

4. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that at the time appointed for any such meeting as aforesaid, the said special justice, in the presence of the employer or legal representative of such employer of the apprenticed labourer proposed to be discharged, or upon proof being made to him upon oath of the due service and publication of such notice as aforesaid, then, if necessary, in the absence of such employer (or legal representative of such employer), shall proceed to hear, in a summary way, what may be alleged by or on behalf of such apprenticed labourer, and by the employer (or legal representative of such employer) or other person claiming any interest in the services of the said apprenticed labourer proposed to be discharged, and attending in pursuance of any such notice; or in case it shall be made to appear to the said special justice that a valid and effectual discharge of such apprenticed labourer cannot legally be effected by private contract, or that the employer of such apprenticed labourer, or any person having any charge upon or interest in the services of such apprenticed labourer, is a minor or a married woman, or idiot or lunatic, or that the real employer of such apprenticed labourer, or any person having charge upon or interest in the services of such apprenticed labourer, is absent from the Island, or is unknown, or cannot be found, or that any action is depending in any court of justice in the Island wherein the right or title to the services of such apprenticed labourer is in controversy, then and in every such case the said special justice shall require the apprenticed labourer, or some person on his behalf, and the employer (or legal representative of such employer) of such apprenticed labourer, if attending in pursuance of such notice, each to nominate a good and substantial freeholder of the said Island as an appraiser of the value of his or her services; and the two appraisers so chosen shall forthwith choose and appoint another freeholder of the said Island to be an umpire between such appraisers; but if such employer (or legal representative of such employer), being duly summoned as aforesaid, shall fail to attend, or attending shall refuse or omit to nominate an appraiser, then the said special justice shall nominate an appraiser on behalf of the employer (or legal representative of such employer) omitting or refusing to do so, which two appraisers so appointed shall appoint an umpire as hereinbefore directed.

Proceedings as above continued.

In cases where by any legal impediment a discharge from apprenticeship cannot be effected, the labourer and employer may each appoint an appraiser of the value of the services of the labourer proposed to be discharged from apprenticeship, and such appraiser may appoint an umpire, &c.

5. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the appraisers so to be nominated as aforesaid, shall be duly sworn before the said special justice, to make a fair and impartial appraisement of the services of the apprenticed labourer so proposed to be discharged; and within 14 days next after their appointment, such appraisers shall make a joint valuation of the services of the said apprenticed labourer, and shall certify such their valuation to the said special justice, under their hands and seals, and in case such joint certificate shall not be so made and delivered to the said special justice, within the said term of 14 days, then the said umpire being duly sworn in the manner aforesaid, shall within the next succeeding seven days, certify his valuation to the said special justice; and the valuation to be made in manner aforesaid, either by the said joint appraisers, or in their default, by the said umpire, shall be binding and conclusive, and shall be entered and enrolled among the records of the secretary's office, in a book to be by the said secretary kept for that purpose: provided, and be it further enacted, that if the amount of any such valuation shall not be paid in manner hereinafter mentioned, within three calendar months next after the enrolment thereof, such enrolment shall be cancelled, and it shall not be lawful for any such apprenticed labourer, or any other person on his or her behalf, again to institute such proceedings as before mentioned for his or her discharge, until the expiration of 12 calendar months, to be computed from the date of such former valuation.

Appraisers to be sworn by special justice, and to certify their award within 14 days, and in case of their default the umpire shall within 7 days certify his valuation.

The valuation of the appraisers or umpire to be enrolled in the secretary's office.

If the valuation be not paid within 3 months the enrolment to be void, and no other proceedings for discharge from apprenticeship to be instituted until the expiration of 12 months.

Appraisers and umpires to take into consideration the qualities, &c. of the apprentice proposed to be discharged, in order to come to a fair valuation.

The provisions of this clause to be qualified in cases where a husband wishes to purchase the discharge of his wife or child, the wife of her husband or child.

On proof being made that any apprentice proposed to be discharged has, within 5 years preceding the application, committed any theft or robbery, the enrolment of the valuation, and all further proceedings to be stayed for the space of 5 years from the time of the commission of the theft or robbery.

The apprenticed labourer proposed to be discharged shall pay the appraised value to his employer or to the treasurer, as is provided for in this clause, which being done the special justice shall give his written certificate of such discharge, which shall be recorded in the office of the registrar of deeds.

Employer receiving the amount of any such valuation shall be liable to answer any person claiming to have any right in the labourer so discharged.

Respecting the amount of valuation paid over to the treasurer, how the same is to be appropriated.

6. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that in making any such valuation as aforesaid, the appraisers or umpires, as the case may be, shall and they are hereby required to take into their consideration the qualities of the apprenticed labourer proposed to be discharged, as well as his or her skill in any domestic services or employment, or other labour whatsoever, with any other facts or circumstances which, in the opinion of such appraisers or umpire, ought to influence their or his judgment, as to the price to be paid by such apprenticed labourer for his or her discharge: provided always, that if any husband shall be desirous to purchase the discharge of his wife, any wife of her husband, or any parent of his or her legitimate child, it shall be competent for the said special justice so to release or qualify the provisions in this clause of the Act contained, under the circumstances of the case disclosed, as shall be consistent with humanity and justice: provided also, and be it further enacted, that if at any time before the enrolment of any such valuation, it shall be alleged before the said special justice by the employer (or legal representative of such employer) of the apprenticed labourer proposed to be discharged, that such apprenticed labourer hath within five years next preceding the date of the application made to such special justice on his or her behalf for such discharge as aforesaid, committed any robbery or theft, the said special justice shall inquire into the truth of such allegation, and if it shall be made to appear to him, by good and sufficient evidence on oath, that such apprenticed labourer hath within the said term of five years committed any robbery or theft, the said special justice shall, and he is required, to make an order for staying such enrolment as aforesaid, and thereupon the same and all other proceedings for the discharge of any such apprenticed labourer shall be stayed until the expiration of the full time of five years from the time of the commission of any such theft or robbery.

7. And be it further enacted, that within three calendar months next after the enrolment of any such valuation as aforesaid, such apprenticed labourer so to be discharged shall pay, under the direction of the said special justice, to the employer or employers, (or legal representative of such employer or employers,) his or her appraised value, taking a receipt in writing from such employer or employers, (or legal representative of such employer or employers,) for every such payment, or if it shall have appeared that any person hath a charge upon or interest in the said apprenticed labourer, and shall have not been a party to the proceedings had for the purpose of effecting the discharge of such apprenticed labourer, or shall be a minor, or a married woman, or idiot, or lunatic, or if the real employer of such apprenticed labourer shall be absent from the Colony, and not legally represented, or shall not be known, then and in such case, the apprenticed labourer proposed to be discharged shall pay to the treasurer of the said Island the said appraised value, taking a receipt in writing from such treasurer for every such payment, and the said special justice shall, upon production before him of such receipt from the employer or employers, (or legal representative of such employer or employers) of the apprenticed labourer proposed to be discharged, or from the said treasurer of the said Island, upon application to him for that purpose made, make an order for enrolment in 14 days of such receipt, and the said special justice shall further proceed to declare and adjudge that the apprenticed labourer by or on behalf of whom such money hath been paid, is discharged, and shall thereupon give his written certificate to this effect, which may be recorded as all other discharges in the office of the record of deeds, and such apprenticed labourer shall therefrom be deemed, taken and reputed to be discharged to all intents and purposes: provided always, that the reputed employer or employers, (or legal representative of such reputed employer or employers,) so receiving the appraised value of the services of any such apprenticed labourer, shall be liable to answer any person having or claiming to have any right or title to or interest in the services of the said apprenticed labourer, to the extent of such sum so received by any such reputed employer or employers, (or legal representative of such reputed employer or employers.)

8. And it is hereby further enacted, that the money to arise from the discharge of any apprenticed labourer, and paid as hereinbefore directed to the treasurer of the Island, shall remain in the hands of the said treasurer, and shall bear interest at and after the rate of 5*l.* per centum per annum, and His Majesty's revenue in the said Island shall and is hereby declared to be pledged and responsible for the due payment of such principal money and interest, or shall in the discretion of the said special justice, on application to him for that purpose made, be invested in the purchase, in the name of the said treasurer, of any public funds or securities of Great Britain or Ireland, and the special justice as aforesaid shall, and he is hereby authorized, upon application to him for that purpose made, to direct that any such money be laid out and invested in the purchase of the services of any other apprenticed labourer or labourers, and the apprenticed labourer or labourers so to be purchased as aforesaid, or in case of no such purchase being made, then this money in the hands of the said treasurer, and the interest accruing on such money, or the public funds of Great Britain and Ireland so to be purchased as aforesaid, and the dividends payable thereupon, shall be the property of the person or persons who was or were the employer or employers, (or legal representative of such employer or employers,) of such discharged apprenticed labourer, and shall be subject and liable to all such and the same uses, trusts, limitations, conditions, mortgages, claims and demands of what nature or kind soever, as such apprenticed labourer was held upon, under or subject unto at such time of his, her or their discharge; and the said treasurer shall hold the said money, and the interest accruing thereupon, or the said public funds and dividends, subject to such order as the said special justice may, upon a summary application of any person interested therein, and upon notice to all other persons interested therein, or their agents, see fit to make, and such principal sum and interest shall by such treasurer be paid and disposed of in pursuance of and in obedience to any such order.

9. And

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9. And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any such appraisement as aforesaid shall have been rendered necessary by any difference of opinion between the apprenticed labourer and the employer or employers (or legal representative of such employer or employers), respecting the price to be paid by the said apprenticed labourer for his or her discharge, the expense of such appraisement shall be borne by the apprenticed labourer, and be added to the amount of the valuation, if such apprenticed labourer shall be appraised at a sum exceeding or equal to the price demanded by such employer or employers (or legal representative of such employer or employers), or exceeding the sum offered by the apprenticed labourer as the price of his or her discharge, but if the appraised value of the services of such apprenticed labourer shall be less than the price previously demanded by his or her employer or employers (or legal representative of such employer or employers), then the expense of such appraisement shall be wholly borne and defrayed by such employer or employers (or legal representative of such employer or employers), and in case any such appraisement shall have been rendered necessary by any other cause than a difference of opinion as to the price to be paid for the discharge of the apprenticed labourer, the expense of the appraisement shall be equally divided between such apprenticed labourer, and his or her employer or employers, (or legal representative of such employer or employers.)

By whom the expense of appraisement is to be borne, in cases where the same is rendered necessary by any difference between the labourer and employer as to the value of the services of such labourer; where the appraisement has not been so caused the expenses to be equally borne by the two parties.

10. And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful for the said special justice to make and prescribe, and from time to time to make and alter as occasion may require, such rules and orders (not herein provided for) as may be necessary for the regular and proper exercise of the jurisdiction hereby in him vested, and for regulating the proceedings of all persons who may be parties to, or interested in any question so depending before him.

Special justices to make and prescribe rules and orders, and from time to time to alter the same as occasion may require.

11. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any person taking any oath under and in pursuance of this Act, who shall be convicted of swearing falsely, shall incur and suffer such punishment as by the law of the Island may be inflicted on any person guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury.

Persons convicted of false swearing, how to be punished.

12. And be it enacted, that this Act may be altered or varied, amended or explained, by any other Act or Acts to be passed this session, or during the existence of the present Assembly.

This Act may be altered during the present session.

Passed the Assembly, this 17th day of July 1834.

*John Hazell*, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Council, this 17th day of July 1834.

*Thos. Harper*, Clerk of Council.

*George Henry Burt*, Speaker.

Dated at St. Christopher, this 18th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1834, and in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign.

*John Lyons* (L. S.) *Nixon*.

— No. 34. —

St. Christopher.

AN ACT to extend to the Island of Anguilla the several Acts passed by the Legislature of the Island of St. Christopher, pursuant to an Act of Parliament made and passed in the 3d & 4th years of the reign of His present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves," except as hereinafter provided.—(Passed 18th July 1834.)

No. 34.

WHEREAS the Legislature of the Island of St. Christopher have in pursuance of the above-mentioned Act of Parliament, made and passed a certain Act, intituled, "An Act for prescribing the Duties and regulating the Conduct of Apprenticed Labourers in this Island;" a certain other Act, intituled, "An Act for dividing this Island into Districts, and for establishing a sufficient Police within the same;" a certain other Act, intituled, "An Act for prescribing the Powers and Duties of Special Magistrates;" a certain other Act, intituled, "An Act for dividing Apprenticed Labourers into several Classes;" a certain other Act, intituled, "An Act to provide for Apprenticed Labourers during the term of their Apprenticeship;" a certain other Act, intituled, "An Act to prescribe the Duties to be performed by Employers towards their Apprenticed Labourers, and to enforce the performance of the same;" a certain other Act, intituled, "An Act to punish Apprenticed Labourers for Offences against the public welfare;" a certain other Act, intituled, "An Act to regulate the removal of prædial Apprenticed Labourers from one plantation to another, and to establish certain rules to govern the sale of the services of all classes of Apprenticed Labourers, and the disposition thereof by Will, as well as to regulate the descent of the same in cases of Intestacy;" a certain other Act, intituled, "An Act for the abolition of Slavery in this Island, and for the establishment of a system of Apprenticeship for a limited time in lieu thereof;" and a certain other Act, intituled, "An Act to regulate the dissolution of Apprenticeships by the voluntary act

Preamble.



ST. CHRISTOPHER.

Appendix (B.)

Colonial Laws.

No. 34.

Clause 1.  
The several Acts of the Island of St. Christopher for the Abolition of Slavery, and for the good government of apprenticed labourers, declared to be in force in the Island of Anguilla, save and except the division of the Island into districts.

Clause 2.  
President and Council of Anguilla, with the consent and approbation of the Governor or Lieut.-governor, may divide the Island into districts, and appoint policemen, &c.

Clause 3.

act of the Employer, and to compel such dissolution in cases where the Labourer is able and willing to purchase his or her discharge from Apprenticeship;" and it is expedient that all and singular the clauses and enactments of the said above-mentioned Acts passed by the Legislature of the said Island of St. Christopher, should be in full force and effect in the Island of Anguilla, save and except as hereinafter provided: We, therefore, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lieutenant-governor of Your Majesty's Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, and the Council and Assembly of this Your Majesty's Island of St. Christopher, pray Your most Excellent Majesty, that it may be enacted,

And be it, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, that from and after the passing of this Act, all and every the enactments, clauses, matters and things in the said above-mentioned Acts, and each and every of them contained, to be observed, done and performed, in the said Island of St. Christopher, shall be and the same are hereby declared to be in full force and effect in the said Island of Anguilla, save and except such provisions of the said above-mentioned Act, intituled, "An Act for dividing this Island into Districts, and for establishing a sufficient Police within the same," as relate to the dividing the said Island of Anguilla into a district or districts, the number of policemen to be appointed, and the remuneration to be paid to such policemen when appointed.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for the President and Council of the said Island of Anguilla, by and with the consent and approbation of the Governor and Commander-in-chief in and over the Islands of Antigua, Montserrat, Barbuda, St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla, the Virgin Islands, and Dominica, or the Lieutenant-governor of the said Islands of St. Christopher and Anguilla, to constitute the said Island of Anguilla a district, or to divide the said Island of Anguilla into districts, and to appoint such number of persons to act as policemen within the same, and to allow such remuneration to such policemen when appointed, as the local circumstances of the said Island of Anguilla shall require or admit of, subject nevertheless to the same rules and regulations enacted and declared in and by the last above-mentioned Act for the governance of the police in the said Island of St. Christopher.

And be it further enacted, that this Act may be altered or varied, amended or explained, by any other Act or Acts to be passed this session, or during the existence of the present Assembly.

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## N E V I S.

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— No. 35. —

Nevis.

No. 35.

AN ACT to provide for the maintenance, protection and good government of Apprenticed Labourers, and to settle the jurisdiction and authority of Special Magistrates. —(18th July 1834.)

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, in the 3d & 4th year of His present Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves," it is amongst other things enacted, that from and after the 1st day of August, in the year of our Lord 1834, slavery shall be utterly and for ever abolished, and declared unlawful throughout the British colonies, plantations and possessions abroad; and that all persons who in conformity with the laws now in force in the said Colonies respectively shall have been duly registered as slaves, and who shall by such registries appear to be on the said 1st day of August 1834 of the full age of six years or upwards, being actually within any such Colony, shall be and become apprenticed labourers: And whereas it is expedient and necessary that such apprenticed labourers should be divided into classes, and that due provision be made to secure sufficient maintenance, support and protection to the said apprenticed labourers during the term of their apprenticeship, and that salutary powers to restrain and punish evil-doers, and to compel the idle and dissolute to labour, be established by law and vested in the magistrates to be for such purposes specially appointed under the authority of the hereinbefore recited Act: We, therefore, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Governor and Commander-in-chief of Your Majesty's Islands of Antigua, Montserrat, Barbuda, St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla and the Virgin Islands, and Dominica, and the Council and Assembly of this Your Majesty's Island of Nevis, do pray Your most Excellent Majesty, that it be enacted, and be it and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that all apprenticed labourers who in their state of slavery were usually employed in the cultivation of the land, or in the manufacture of colonial produce on the lands belonging to their owners, and who have been registered as attached to such lands, shall be and shall be termed prædial attached apprenticed labourers; and all apprenticed labourers who in their state of slavery were usually employed as aforesaid, but have been registered as personal slaves, and not as attached to any lands or estate belonging to their owners, shall be and shall be termed prædial unattached apprenticed labourers; and all apprenticed labourers who shall not have been usually employed in works of agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce, whether registered in their state of slavery as attached to lands or as personal slaves,

slaves, shall be and shall be termed non-prædial apprenticed labourers: provided always, that no person of the age of 12 years or upwards shall be included in either of the two aforesaid classes of prædial apprenticed labourers, unless such person for 12 calendar months at the least next before the passing of the Act of the Imperial Parliament hereinbefore cited, shall have been habitually employed in the cultivation of the land, or in the manufacture of colonial produce.

2. And to the intent that the classification of apprenticed labourers may be definitively and securely settled and determined, Be it further enacted, that the registrar of slaves shall extract from the books of registration separate lists or returns of all the slaves appearing by the said books of registration to belong to the several owners of slaves in this Island, and shall deliver such lists to such owners of slaves, and to the legal representatives of such owners as shall be absent; and such returns shall contain the names, sexes and ages of such slaves, made up to the latest period antecedent to the 1st day of August 1834, at which the registration of slaves by any law now in force or hereafter to be enacted for such purpose may be legally authorized to be made; and a certificate signed by the registrar, that such return has been truly extracted from the books of registration, shall to each return be affixed; and for such returns the registrar of slaves shall be entitled to and shall receive from the public funds of this Island the sum of 300 *l.* current money, as soon as the said returns shall all be completed and filed in his office as hereinafter is provided.

3. And be further enacted, that every owner of slaves and legal representative of any absent owner shall mark on the list of his slaves delivered to him by the registrar as is aforesaid, the names, in the first place, of such slaves as shall on the said 1st day of August, in the year 1834, be under the age of six years, by affixing to each of such names the word "Infant;" and shall then distinguish to which of the three aforesaid classes of apprenticed labourers the residue of the slaves on such list will belong, by affixing to the name of each prædial attached slave the letters P. A., of each prædial unattached slave the letters P. U., and of each non-prædial slave the letters N. P.; and at the foot of every such list or return so marked and distinguished by words and letters as aforesaid, shall be annexed an affidavit, sworn to by the owner or legal representative of the owner therein concerned, before any judge of the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas, or any justice of the peace, to the effect that the distinctions therein made correspond with the condition and occupation usually appertaining to and pursued by each of the slaves therein referred to, according to the provisions and regulations with regard to the classification of apprenticed labourers as hereinbefore established; and every such list or return, when completed in manner aforesaid, shall be filed in the office of the registrar of slaves, and shall there remain during the continuance of the apprenticeship of the persons therein enumerated, and shall be open to the inspection of any person who shall desire to examine the same, at all reasonable hours, without any fee or reward whatever.

4. And be it further enacted, that if any person whatsoever be aggrieved or dissatisfied by or on account of any matter or thing contained in any return of slaves made as aforesaid, it shall be lawful at any time antecedent to the 1st day of August, in the year 1836, for such person to apply by petition to the chief or to any other judge of the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas, setting forth the nature of the grievance complained of; and the judge to whom any such petition may be preferred is hereby declared to have full power and authority to summon all persons whom he may deem necessary to appear before him, and to proceed in a summary way to hear and to decide upon the same, and to order such return so complained against to be corrected as he may deem meet, and his decision shall be final and conclusive.

5. And be it further enacted, that if any question shall arise at any time respecting the class to which any apprenticed labourer shall belong, the return filed in the registrar's office as aforesaid, or a certified extract thereof, shall be taken as conclusive evidence thereupon, subject nevertheless to any alteration to be made therein by the authority hereinbefore last provided.

6. And be it further enacted, that every person for the time being entitled to the services of any apprenticed labourer, shall supply every such apprenticed labourer weekly with nine pints of Indian or Guinea corn or beans, or eight pints of pease or wheat, or rye flour or Indian corn meal, or nine pints of oatmeal, or seven pints of rice, or eight pints of cassava flour or farine, or eight pounds of biscuit, or 20 pounds of yams or potatoes, or 16 pounds of eddoes or tania, or 30 pounds of plantains or bananas, and also one pound and one quarter of herrings, shads, mackarel or other salted provisions, or two pounds and one half of fresh fish or other fresh provisions; all which said provisions shall be of good and wholesome quality, upon pain of incurring a penalty of any sum not exceeding 10 *s.* current money per week for every apprenticed labourer whom he shall neglect to supply with provisions as aforesaid: provided always, that no penalty shall be recoverable for or on account of any neglect to supply provisions to any apprenticed labourer as aforesaid, unless complaint of such neglect shall be made to any magistrate having special jurisdiction therein, within one week after the time that such provisions ought to have been supplied as aforesaid; provided also, that it shall and may be lawful for such person entitled for the time being to the services of any apprenticed labourer to reduce the quantity of provisions hereinbefore mentioned to four fifths in the whole of the quantity hereby required to be given to such apprenticed labourer, during such time as such apprenticed labourer shall be actually employed in the manufacture of sugar.

7. And whereas from the situation and local circumstances of many estates in this Island, the owners and directors of such estates may be enabled to allot portions of land to the apprenticed labourers, sufficient for their support and maintenance; Be it therefore enacted, that

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that it shall and may be lawful for any employer of apprenticed labourers to assign to such apprenticed labourers any piece or pieces of land in cultivation, at and after the proportion of one acre to every five apprenticed labourers in his employ, for the purpose of raising provisions for their subsistence, in lieu of any allowance hereinbefore required to be given, excepting salt or fresh provisions; and for the cultivation of such provision grounds, every employer is hereby required to allow to every apprenticed labourer in his employ nine hours in every week, to be deducted from any time during which such apprenticed labourers may by law be required to labour for the benefit of such employer.

8. And be it further enacted, that every person entitled for the time being to the services of any apprenticed labourer shall supply every such apprenticed labourer yearly with five yards of woollen cloth and six yards of linen (Osnaburgh), upon pain of incurring a penalty of any sum not exceeding 2 *l.* current money for every such apprenticed labourer whom he shall neglect to supply yearly with such clothing as aforesaid.

9. And be it further enacted, that if any person entitled for the time being to the services of any apprenticed labourer shall wilfully omit or neglect to procure proper medical assistance for any apprenticed labourer who, from sickness or any other cause, may stand in need thereof, or shall wilfully omit or neglect to provide and furnish such apprenticed labourer with all such food, wine, nourishment and necessaries as the medical practitioner in attendance shall order or direct, being duly convicted thereof, he shall forfeit and pay for every such omission or neglect a fine of any sum not exceeding 10 *l.* current money.

10. And for the better prevention and punishment of cruelty, injustice, or other wrong or injury which may be done to or inflicted upon any apprenticed labourer by the person or persons entitled to his or her services, Be it further enacted, that if any person entitled to the services of any apprenticed labourer shall whip, beat, confine, imprison or otherwise maltreat any such apprenticed labourer, being actually employed in his or her service, he or she so offending, being duly convicted of such offence, shall incur a penalty of any sum not exceeding 10 *l.* current money, or in default of payment thereof shall suffer imprisonment for any time not exceeding 30 days.

Provided always, that it shall and may be competent for any apprenticed labourer to maintain any civil suit or action for damages on account of any such injury or maltreatment, as in the case of any other free person, instead of preferring his complaint before any magistrate having jurisdiction therein; provided also, that any such magistrate may abstain from imposing such penalty as aforesaid if he shall see fit so to do, and in lieu thereof may bind by recognizance, or if need be, may commit the offender to take his trial for such offence in the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas; and if any person shall be convicted in the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas of cruelty to any apprenticed labourer, or shall twice be convicted in the said court of inflicting any corporal punishment, or of making any assault und battery upon any apprenticed labourer to whose services such person shall be legally entitled, such apprenticed labourer shall be discharged from his or her apprenticeship by order of the court before which such conviction shall be had.

11. And whereas by the Act hereinbefore cited, it is enacted and declared, that no prædial apprenticed labourer shall be bound or be liable by virtue of such apprenticeship to perform any labour in the service of his or her employer for more than 45 hours in the whole in any one week: And whereas it is expedient that such employer and apprenticed labourer should be rendered competent to enter into mutual contracts or agreements, for the purpose of settling the method of apportioning the time during which such apprenticed labourer shall be required to labour in the service of his employer, into such divisions as may be mutually agreed upon; Be it therefore enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for any person entitled to the services of any apprenticed labourer to contract in writing with any such apprenticed labourer respecting the distribution of labour in any number of separate apportionments or subdivisions which the said parties may mutually agree upon: provided always, that no such contract shall continue in force or be binding upon the parties entering into the same for a longer period than 14 days, unless approved and signed by a magistrate having special jurisdiction therein; and if any person entitled to the services of any prædial apprenticed labourer shall compel such prædial apprenticed labourer to labour in his service for more than 45 hours in the whole in any one week, he or she being duly convicted thereof, shall forfeit and pay for the benefit of such apprenticed labourer for every such offence the sum of 2 *s.* for every hour in which such prædial apprenticed labourer shall be compelled to labour beyond the time allowed by law as aforesaid.

12. And be it further enacted, that every married woman, notwithstanding her coverture, and every child of the age of 12 years and upwards, notwithstanding his infancy, shall be competent to enter into any contract for extra service or labour for hire; but that no contract between any employer and any apprenticed labourer for any extra service or labour for hire shall continue in force for more than one year from the day of the date thereof.

13. And be it further enacted, that if any employer shall neglect or refuse to pay to any apprenticed labourer in his employ the consideration stipulated for in any contract for extra service or labour for hire, it shall be competent for any magistrate having special jurisdiction in the premises, upon complaint made to him by such apprenticed labourer, to investigate the same, and upon proof of such neglect or refusal such magistrate may award payment of such consideration; and if such consideration be not fully paid and satisfied within one week next after such award, it shall be lawful for such magistrate to issue an attachment directed to the provost-marshal, or his lawful deputy, against the produce, utensils and other chattels upon such plantation, respecting the cultivation of which such contract had been made, which attachment shall be executed at any season of the year, and the property thereby levied

levied shall be sold in like manner as is provided in similar cases with respect to executions issued out of the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas.

14. And be it further enacted, that no apprenticed labourer shall be subjected by his employer to task work of any description against his or her consent.

15. And whereas great benefits have frequently been obtained by removing the labourers, or some of them, from one plantation to another, being the property of one and the same proprietor; Be it therefore enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for any person entitled to the services of any attached prædial apprenticed labourer or labourers to transfer his or their services to any other estate or plantation within this Island to such person belonging, having previously obtained the written consent and approbation so to do of any one or more justices of the peace having special jurisdiction therein.

16. And whereas it is necessary that rules should be established for determining the manner and form in which the voluntary discharge of any apprenticed labourer from such apprenticeship may be effected, and for prescribing the form and manner in which the purchase, by any such apprenticed labourer, of his discharge from such apprenticeship, without, or if necessary, in opposition to the consent of the person entitled to his services, shall also be effected; Be it therefore enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for any apprenticed labourer, or for any other person on his behalf, to purchase his discharge from such apprenticeship, for such sum of money or other consideration as may be agreed upon between such apprenticed labourer, or any person on his behalf, and the person entitled for the time being to the services of such apprenticed labourer: provided nevertheless, that if any person discharged from any such apprenticeship, by any such voluntary act as aforesaid, shall at that time be of the age of 50 years or upwards, or shall be then labouring under any such disease, or mental or bodily infirmity, as may render him or her incapable of earning his or her subsistence, then and in every such case the person or persons so discharging any such apprenticed labourer as aforesaid shall continue and be liable to provide for the support and maintenance of such apprenticed labourer during the remaining term of such original apprenticeship, as fully as if such apprenticed labourer had not been discharged therefrom; but if it shall happen that the person or persons entitled to the services of such apprenticed labourer shall be unwilling to grant such discharge from apprenticeship as aforesaid for the consideration in that behalf proposed, or if such person or persons, or any of them, shall be a minor, or married woman, or idiot, or lunatic, or shall be under any legal or other disability, or shall be absent from this Island without having a lawful and authorized representative therein, or cannot be found or known, or if any suit or action shall be depending in any court, either in this Island or elsewhere, touching the right or title to the services of such apprenticed labourer, then and in every such case it shall and may be lawful for such apprenticed labourer to appoint one appraiser on his part, and for the person entitled to the services of such apprenticed labourer, or having the immediate direction and control of such apprenticed labourer, as the case may be, to appoint one other appraiser on his part, which two appraisers shall determine the price to be paid for the full discharge of such apprenticed labourer from his apprenticeship; but if the appraisers so appointed shall not agree in their determination respecting the price to be paid by or on account of such apprenticed labourer for his discharge from apprenticeship as aforesaid, the said appraisers shall refer the whole matter in difference to an umpire to be by them chosen, and the determination of such umpire shall in all respects be final and conclusive upon all parties concerned therein; and in all cases where the person or persons entitled, or claiming to be entitled, to the services of any such apprenticed labourers, shall be subject to any of the disabilities hereinbefore mentioned, or shall be absent from this Island without having a lawful and authorized representative therein, or cannot be found or known, it shall and may be lawful for such apprenticed labourer to pay the money so assessed as the value of his discharge from apprenticeship by the appraisers or umpire, as the case may be, into the hands of the treasurer of this Island, or his lawful deputy, which money shall remain and be a lien in the public revenues of this Island, for the benefit of such person or persons, his or their heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, who may be or may become legally or equitably entitled thereto; and upon the payment of such money by such apprenticed labourer to the treasurer, or his lawful deputy as aforesaid, the apprenticeship of such apprenticed labourer shall immediately cease and determine.

17. And to the intent that no doubt or difficulty may arise respecting the proof or validity of the discharge of any apprenticed labourer from his apprenticeship, after such discharge shall have been purchased as aforesaid; Be it further enacted, that any receipt or other document in writing which shall contain sufficient words of acknowledgment by the person or persons whose signature or signatures shall be affixed thereto (being by law entitled to grant such discharge), by which it shall appear that the money therein mentioned had been paid as the purchase money for the discharge of such apprenticed labourer as shall be therein named from his apprenticeship, or words to the tenor and effect thereof (which receipt or document the grantor of such discharge is hereby required to execute and deliver to the party thereby discharged), shall be deemed and taken to be sufficient proof of such discharge, and such discharge shall to all intents and purposes be valid and effectual in the law.

18. And be it further enacted, that if any person shall falsely pretend to grant to any apprenticed labourer his or her discharge from apprenticeship, not being legally entitled so to do, and under colour of such pretended discharge shall receive from any person whomsoever any money or other valuable consideration for or on account thereof, such person so falsely pretending as aforesaid is hereby declared to be guilty of a misdemeanor, and may be indicted for the same in the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas in this Island, and being duly convicted thereof, shall suffer such punishment by fine not exceeding 100*l.* current

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rent money, or by imprisonment for any time not exceeding six calendar months, or both, as the court shall deem it proper to inflict; and no punishment inflicted by the said court shall be a bar to any action or suit which may be commenced by any person aggrieved by reason of the premises, or shall be considered a mitigation of any damages which may be recovered by law for or on account of such trespass or injury.

19. And be it further enacted, that the right or interest of any person to and in the services of any prædial attached apprenticed labourer, shall pass and be transferable by bargain and sale, contract, deed, conveyance, will or descent, in all respects according to the rules, and subject to the forms and ceremonies of the law which are necessary in this Island to pass or transfer real estate; and such right or interest to and in the services of any prædial unattached apprenticed labourer, or of any non-prædial apprenticed labourer, shall pass and be transferable by the means and in the manner aforesaid, in all respects according to the rules, and subject to the forms and ceremonies of the law which are necessary in this Island to pass or transfer personal estate.

20. And whereas it is necessary for the preservation of peace in this Island, that proper regulations should be framed and established for the maintenance of order and good discipline amongst the apprenticed labourers, and for ensuring the punctual and regular discharge of their duty; Be it therefore enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall omit or refuse to perform any work or labour which he may be lawfully required by his employer, or by the sentence of any magistrate having special jurisdiction in such case, to do, or shall be guilty of wilful negligence or waste in performing the same, or shall wilfully and maliciously destroy or injure any goods or property of his employer, whether committed to his charge or otherwise, or shall commit any wilful breach of trust in regard to such goods or property, or shall wilfully ill use or kill the cattle or other live stock belonging to his employer, or shall neglect or refuse to obey the lawful commands of any person lawfully in authority over him, or shall use insolent language or demeanour to or against such person, or shall be guilty of tumultuous or disorderly conduct on the estate or plantation to which he may be attached or on which he may usually reside, or shall neglect or refuse to perform and fulfil any contract for any hired service with the person entitled for the time being to his service, or shall wilfully abscond from his employer's service during any part of the time in which he may be bound to labour for his employer by virtue of his apprenticeship, such apprenticed labourer, being duly convicted of any such offence, shall be liable to be imprisoned for any time not exceeding one calendar month: provided always, that when any apprenticed labourer shall wilfully and without any reasonable cause abscond from his employer's service, during any part of the time in which he may be bound to labour for his employer by virtue of his apprenticeship, such apprenticed labourer, in lieu of being sentenced to suffer imprisonment, may be compelled, at the discretion of the convicting magistrate, either to serve his employer two extra hours for every hour in which he shall have absented himself as aforesaid, provided that such extra hours shall not exceed 15 in the whole in any one week, or for so long a time after the expiration of his apprenticeship as he shall have so absented himself from such service, or may be compelled to make satisfaction to his employer for the loss sustained by such absence, but nevertheless, so that such extra service or satisfaction shall not be compellable after the expiration of seven years next after the termination of the apprenticeship of such apprenticed labourer.

21. And be it further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer, being in good health and able to work, and being the father of a child under the age of 12 years, not being an apprenticed labourer, shall not make adequate provision for the subsistence of such child, it shall be lawful for any magistrate having special jurisdiction therein, to adjudge and sentence any such apprenticed labourer to hard labour on any public works, or such magistrate may hire any such apprenticed labourer on the best terms which can be procured, to labour in extra hours for any person who may be willing to contract for the same: provided always, that in case such child so unprovided for as aforesaid shall have no father living, the mother of such child, if alive and competent by her labour to provide for the maintenance of such child, shall be liable to be sentenced to such compulsory labour as aforesaid; provided also, that such compulsory labour shall not be continued longer than may be necessary to provide for the maintenance of such child for one month in advance.

22. And be it further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall without lawful authority enter upon and take possession of any land belonging to any other person, it shall and may be lawful for any magistrate having special jurisdiction therein, to dispossess and eject such apprenticed labourer from such land, and to cause the same with all crops growing thereupon, and all buildings thereon erected, to be delivered up to the owner of such land, and may further adjudge such apprenticed labourer to suffer imprisonment for any time not exceeding three calendar months, if it shall appear to the satisfaction of such magistrate that such apprenticed labourer had wrongfully and fraudulently taken such possession.

23. And be it further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall depart or attempt to depart from this Island without a passport under the hand of the Governor or the officer administering the government of this Island for the time being, which passport shall not be granted except with the consent in writing of the employer of such apprenticed labourer, such apprenticed labourer shall be liable to suffer imprisonment for any time not exceeding six calendar months: provided always, that nothing herein contained shall be deemed or taken to prevent any non-prædial apprenticed labourer, who shall be truly a domestic servant, or an attendant upon the person of his employer, or of any part of his family, from departing from this Island in attendance upon or in the same ship or vessel with his said employer,

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employer, or any part of his family, without any passport or other written authority whatsoever.

24. And be it further enacted, that if any person shall carry away or assist to carry away any apprenticed labourer from this Colony in any boat or vessel, without a passport, except in such cases as hereinbefore is excepted, such person so offending is hereby declared to be guilty of a misdemeanor, and may be indicted for the same in the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas, as for an offence against this Act, and being duly convicted thereof, shall be liable to a penalty to our Sovereign Lord the King, in any sum not exceeding 100*l.*, or to be imprisoned for any time not exceeding six months, or to both, at the discretion of the court.

25. And be it further enacted, that if any three or more apprenticed labourers shall be engaged in a combined and open resistance to the lawful commands of their employer, such apprenticed labourers shall be deemed to be guilty of an unlawful conspiracy, and being duly convicted thereof, shall be adjudged to be imprisoned for any period not exceeding six calendar months.

26. And be it further enacted, that no apprenticed labourer shall be compelled by virtue of any law in force in this Island to serve in the militia, or to be a juror on any trial had in any of the courts of justice in this Island, during the term of his apprenticeship.

27. And be it further enacted, that no apprenticed labourer shall be arrested or imprisoned for debt under or by authority of any legal process whatsoever.

28. And whereas by the Act of the Imperial Parliament hereinbefore cited, His Majesty is authorized and empowered to appoint, by one or more special commission or commissions, one or more person or persons to be a justice or justices of the peace for this Island, for the special purpose of giving effect to the aforesaid Act of the Imperial Parliament, and to such Acts as may be passed by the Legislature of this Island, for giving more complete effect thereto: And whereas it is expedient that the jurisdiction and duties of such special justice or justices should be accurately settled and defined by law; Be it therefore enacted, that such justice or justices so appointed by special commission or commissions as aforesaid, but not any justice or justices appointed by the general commission of the peace or otherwise, shall have full power and authority to hear and determine, according to the provisions of this or of any other Act for such purpose to be enacted, all such complaints, charges and offences as are hereinbefore mentioned and recited, which may be made by any apprenticed labourer against the person or persons entitled by law for the time being to his or her services, or by any such person or persons so entitled to such services against any apprenticed labourer who may be actually in his or her employ, and to give judgment thereupon, and shall have power to compel the attendance of witnesses and persons charged with any such offence of which such justice is or shall hereafter be authorized by law to take cognizance, and may punish for contempts, and may cause the execution of his or their judgments to be done by such ways and means, and by such legal process, as justices of the peace, in the ordinary and accustomed execution of their office, are authorized by law to use and employ in similar cases.

29. And be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for any justice having special jurisdiction under this Act, to visit any plantation at any time by day, and to inspect the apprenticed labourers thereon resident whensoever he may think proper.

30. And for the better protection of such special justice or justices in executing the duties of his or their office, Be it further enacted, that an Act passed by the Captain-general, the Council and Assembly of this Island, in the 60th year of the reign of his late Majesty George the Third, intituled "An Act for rendering Justices more safe in the execution of their Office, and for indemnifying Constables and others acting in obedience to their warrants," shall be and is hereby declared to be in force with relation to such justice or justices so specially appointed as aforesaid, and to all acts done or performed by him or them, and to all constables or other peace officers acting under or by virtue of the authority of such justice or justices, as fully and effectually as if such justice or justices had been named in the said Act, and had been appointed as justices by virtue of the general commission of the peace.

31. And be it further enacted, that if any charge or complaint shall be made before any magistrate having special jurisdiction therein, by any employer against any apprenticed labourer in his employ, or by any apprenticed labourer against his employer, which charge or complaint shall prove in the judgment of such magistrate to be frivolous and vexatious, it shall and may be lawful for such magistrate to adjudge the party making such frivolous and vexatious complaint, if an apprenticed labourer, to work in the service of his employer for any extra time or times not exceeding 15 hours in the whole in any one week; or if the employer of any apprenticed labourer be the complainant, such magistrate may adjudge such employer to the payment of a penalty in any sum not exceeding 10*l.* current money to the use of the apprenticed labourer against whom he shall have made such frivolous and vexatious complaint; and if any charge or complaint which shall be made as aforesaid shall prove to be malicious, it shall and may be lawful for the magistrate before whom such charge or complaint shall have been brought, to adjudge the complainant, if an apprenticed labourer, to suffer imprisonment for any time not exceeding one calendar month; or if the complainant be the employer, to the payment of a penalty of any sum not exceeding 40*l.* current money, to the use of the apprenticed labourer against whom he shall have made such malicious charge or complaint.

32. And be it further enacted, that every penalty and forfeiture incurred by virtue of this Act shall be levied and recovered (except in such cases as hereinbefore is excepted) in a

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summary manner by a warrant directed to the provost-marshal, or his lawful deputy, and issued under the hand and seal of any justice who shall be duly and specially authorized as hereinbefore is provided, to hear and determine offences against this Act; and such warrant shall be executed, and the property thereby taken in execution shall be sold, according to the form and manner, and subject to the rules and regulations which are now in force respecting proceedings had under writs of execution issuing out of the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas, except that property may be taken in execution and sold by virtue of any process which shall issue under the authority of this Act, at any season of the year.

33. And be it further enacted, that when any person shall be convicted of any misdemeanor or other offence punishable under this Act, for which imprisonment may be by this Act awarded, it shall be lawful for the court or justice having jurisdiction therein, to sentence the offender to be imprisoned or to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour, and if a male, to be once, twice, or thrice whipped with any number of stripes not exceeding 30 in each whipping, in addition to such imprisonment, and if a female, to be once, or twice, or thrice confined in the stocks for any number of hours not exceeding eight in each confinement, in addition to such imprisonment; and also to direct that the offender shall be kept in solitary confinement for the whole or any portion or portions of such imprisonment, or of such imprisonment with hard labour.

34. And be it further enacted, that wherever words have been used in this Act, or in any Act which is now in force, or which may hereafter be enacted, importing the singular number or the masculine gender only, yet this or any other Act shall be understood to include several matters as well as one matter, and several persons as well as one person, and females as well as males, unless it be otherwise specially provided, or there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction.

35. And be it further enacted, that this Act shall take effect and come into operation on the 1st day of August, in the year of our Lord 1834.

Dated at this day of , in the fourth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord William the Fourth, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and in the year of our Lord 1834.

Passed the Assembly, this 23d day of January 1834.

*Josiah Nicholson*, Pro. Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Board of Council, this 23d day of January, in the year of our Lord 1834.

*S. T. Pemberton*, Deputy Secretary, &c.

*George Webbe*, Speaker.

Published 18th July 1834.

*Js. Daniell*.

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— No. 36. —

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No. 36.

AN ACT to establish a Local Constabulary Force on the several Plantations in this Island. (31st July 1834.)

WHEREAS it is expedient that means should be taken to preserve peace and good order on the several plantations in this Island, by a constabulary force established and resident on the said plantations: Be it therefore enacted, by his Honor James Daniell, esquire, President, administering the government of this Island, and by the Council and Assembly of the same, that it shall and may be lawful for the proprietor or director of any plantation in this Island on which any body of labourers shall be settled, either as apprentices or otherwise, to appoint as local constables such of the said labourers, not exceeding two for every 100, as he shall think most trustworthy and eligible for such office; and such local constables shall be sworn by any judge or justice of peace to the due and faithful discharge of their duty, and shall be responsible for the tranquillity and good order of the plantation for which they shall respectively be appointed by the proprietor or director thereof, and shall be removable for misconduct or neglect, and shall moreover have power to act in all cases as ordinary and general constables; and each of the said local constables shall receive the same fees for the performance of his duties which other constables are by law entitled to, or may be entitled to receive, and shall also be supplied once in every year, at the public expense, with a uniform jacket of green cloth, with scarlet collar and cuffs, and a black glazed hat.

And be it further enacted, that every proprietor or director of a plantation shall from time to time return into the secretary's office a list of the names of such persons whom he shall appoint to be local constables, in manner aforesaid, on the plantation or estate belonging to him or under his control; and the secretary of this Island is hereby required to prepare from such returns a general list of such local constables, specifying the plantations to which they shall be respectively attached, and shall keep the same at all times suspended publicly in his office, upon pain of incurring a penalty of 5*l.* for neglecting so to do, which penalty shall be recovered in a summary manner before any two magistrates; and no local constable shall be competent to act in such capacity before his name shall be inserted in such general list.

And

And be it further enacted, that if any proprietor or director of any plantation shall omit or refuse to appoint and return such local constables in manner aforesaid, before the expiration of one week from and after the passing and publication of this Act, he shall incur a penalty for such his omission or neglect of 50*l.* current money, to be recovered by a warrant under the hands of any two magistrates, directed to the provost-marshal or his lawful deputy, requiring him to levy the same on the goods and chattels of the person in such case offending, two thirds of which penalty shall be paid into the public treasury for the public uses of this Island, and one third to the person who shall inform and sue for the same.

And be it further enacted, that this Act shall continue in force for the space of three years from and after the passing and publication thereof, and from thence until the expiration of the then sitting House of Assembly.

Dated at Nevis, this 2d day of August, in the year of our Lord 1834.

Passed the Assembly, the 18th day of July 1834.

*S. A. Rawlins*, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Board of Council, this 31st day of July 1834.

*Thomas Slater*, Secretary and Clerk of the Council.

*George Webbe*, Speaker.

Published this day, 2d August 1834.

*Walter Maynard*, Deputy Provost Marshal.

*James (L. S.) Daniell*.

## VIRGIN ISLANDS:—TORTOLA.

— No. 37. —

Virgin Islands:—Tortola.

VIRGIN ISLANDS:

TORTOLA.

No. 37.

AN ACT for regulating the division of Apprenticed Labourers into their respective Classes, and for providing for the dissolution of the Apprenticeship by Contract or otherwise.

WHEREAS by an Act made and passed in the 3d & 4th years of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act for the abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves," it is amongst other things enacted, that from and after the 1st day of August 1834, all persons who, in conformity to the laws now in force in the said Colonies respectively, shall, on or before the 1st day of August 1834, have been duly registered as slaves in any such Colony, and who on the 1st day of August 1834 shall be actually within such Colony, and who shall by such registry appear to be on the said 1st day of August 1834 of the full age of six years or upwards, shall, by force and virtue of the above-recited Act, and without the previous execution of any indenture of apprenticeship, or any other deed or instrument for that purpose, become and be apprenticed labourers: provided, that for the purposes aforesaid every slave engaged in his ordinary occupation on the seas shall be deemed and taken to be within the Colony to which such slaves shall belong, and that during the continuance of the apprenticeship of such apprenticed labourer such person or persons shall be entitled to the services of such apprenticed labourer as would for the time being have been entitled to his or her services as a slave if such recited Act had not been made: And whereas by the 16th section of the said before-recited Act, it is amongst other things declared necessary, that various rules and regulations should be enacted for ascertaining, with reference to each apprenticed labourer within the said Colonies respectively, whether he or she belongs to the class of attached prædial apprenticed labourers, or to the class of unattached apprenticed labourers, or to the class of non-prædial apprenticed labourers; and for determining the manner and form in which, and the solemnities with which the discharging of any apprenticed labourer from such his or her apprenticeship, may be effected, either with or without, or in opposition, if necessary, to the consent of the person entitled to his or her services, and how the necessary appraisement of the future value of such services shall be made, and how and to whom the amount of such appraisement shall in each case be paid and applied, and in what manner and form, and to whom the discharge from any such apprenticeship shall thereupon be given, executed and recorded: We, therefore, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Your Majesty's Islands of Antigua, Montserrat, Barbuda, St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla, the Virgin Islands and Dominica, and in his absence, the chief officer administering the government of the said Virgin Islands, and the Council and Assembly of these Your Majesty's Virgin Islands, do humbly pray Your most Excellent Majesty that it may be enacted and ordained,

And be it, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority aforesaid, that all persons who by virtue of the above-recited Act are about to become apprenticed labourers shall be divided into three distinct classes; the first of such classes consisting of prædial apprenticed labourers attached to the soil, and comprising all persons who in their state of slavery were usually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce or otherwise, upon lands belonging to their owners; the second, to prædial apprenticed

Clause 1.  
Apprenticed labourers to be divided into three distinct classes.  
Mode of classification.



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ticed labourers not attached to the soil, and comprising all persons who in their state of slavery were usually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce or otherwise, upon lands not belonging to their owners; and the third of such classes consisting of non-prædial apprenticed labourers, and comprising all apprenticed labourers not included within either of the two preceding classes: provided always, that no person of the age of 12 years shall be included in either of the said two classes of prædial apprenticed labourers, unless such person shall, for 12 calendar months previous to the 28th day of August 1833, have been usually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce, or in the performance of any other work or labour necessary to be done or performed, or connected with the business of any estate or plantation, whether as mechanics, boatmen, watchmen, messengers, stock-keepers, or otherwise.

Clause 2.  
 Owners of slaves to make a return of the number, age and usual occupation of such slaves to the assistant commissioners.

And be it further enacted, that in order to designate and make it appear with certainty to what particular class each such apprenticed labourer doth actually belong, that previously to the 1st day of August 1834, every owner or possessor of any slave or slaves within the Virgin Islands, or some person authorized in his, her or their behalf, shall make a return to the assistant commissioners appointed by virtue of the said Act of Parliament of all such slaves, mentioning in separate columns in each such return the name or names of the owner or owners, the names, ages, or reputed ages, and usual occupations of all such slaves, which return shall be headed "Return of Slaves belonging to, or in the possession of, *A. B.*, this day of 1834:" and each person making any such return shall be sworn by any one of the said commissioners to an affidavit to be thereunder written, in the following words: "I, *A. B.*, do solemnly swear, that the return now by me made is just and true, and the distinctions correspond with the occupations usually pursued by each of the slaves contained therein for 12 calendar months next preceding the 28th day of August 1833. So help me God." Which return shall be delivered to the said commissioners; and that the commissioners before whom such affidavit shall be sworn to shall, at the time of swearing, certify a counterpart of such return and affidavit to be produced to him by the person making the same to be a true and correct copy, which copy shall on or before the said 1st day of August 1834 be delivered to one of the special justices of these Islands, to be by him kept, and produced, when necessarily required, before any lawful tribunal in these Islands.

Form of return to be sworn to, and where to be lodged.

Clause 3.  
 Persons may discharge their apprenticed labourers before the expiration of the term, to be signed before two witnesses, and duly recorded.

And be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful, at any time before the expiration of the term mentioned in the before-recited statute of the 3d & 4th William the Fourth, for the duration of the apprenticeship, for the person or persons entitled to the services of such apprenticed labourer, to discharge him, her or them from such apprenticeship: provided always, that such discharge shall be in writing, and signed in the presence of two competent witnesses, and such deed shall, either at the instance of the employer or apprentice, be recorded in the secretary's office in these Islands; and after such discharge shall be so recorded, the employer or apprentice shall be relieved from all responsibility that by law might or did exist between, or in relation to, any or either of them previously to the recording of such discharge or release.

Clause 4.  
 Cannot discharge them if of the age of 50, or diseased, without being liable to provide for them until the end of the term.

And be it further enacted, that if any person so discharged from such apprenticeship by any such voluntary act as aforesaid, shall at that time be of the age of 50 years or upwards, or shall be then labouring under any disease, or mental or bodily infirmity, as may render him or her incapable of earning his or her subsistence, then and in such case the person or persons so discharging any such apprenticed labourer shall be liable to provide for the support and maintenance of such apprenticed labourer during the remaining term of such original apprenticeship, as fully as if such apprenticed labourer had not been discharged therefrom.

Clause 5.  
 Apprenticed labourers may purchase their discharge without consent, or in opposition to their employers; value of services to be appraised.

And be it enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for any such apprenticed labourer to purchase his or her discharge from such apprenticeship without consent, or in opposition, if necessary, to the will of the person or persons entitled to his or her services, upon payment to such person or persons of the appraised value of such services, which appraisement shall be effected, and which purchase-money shall be paid and applied, and which discharge shall be given and executed in such manner and form, and upon and subject to the conditions as shall be hereinafter prescribed.

Clause 6.  
 In case the employer refuses to effect the discharge of apprentice on tender of the value of services, or be unable so to do, must appear before the special magistrate to show cause.

And, to provide for the discharge of such apprentice, where the employer of such apprentice may be unable or unwilling to contract for such discharge, Be it further enacted, that where the employer of such apprentice, or any person or persons representing such employer, or the heirs or executors of such employer, or assigns of such employer having possession of such apprentice, shall refuse to contract with or effect the discharge of such apprentice or apprentices, upon tender to him made of the full value of the future services of such apprentice or apprentices, in good current gold and silver money of these Islands; or shall, by reason of any mortgage or settlement, or lease or charge upon or interest in the labour of such apprentice or apprentices being vested in any other person or persons, be unable to effect a valid discharge; or if the employer, or any person having an interest in the labour of such apprentice or apprentices, be a minor or married woman, lunatic or idiot; or if the employer of such apprentice shall be absent from these Islands without having any attorney or representative, or shall not be known; or if any suit or action shall be depending in any court of these Islands, wherein the title to the labour of the said apprentice, or the right to his or her services shall or may be in controversy; or where such employer, by means of any entry of actions or judgment obtained against him, may be debarred by law from disposing of any personal

personal property, in all or any such cases the special justice of the district to which the said apprentice or apprentices shall be attached, upon application to him made by such apprentice or apprentices, shall cause the employer, reputed employer or possessor of such apprentice or apprentices, to be summoned to appear before him, producing the said apprentice or apprentices, at any time being not less than 10 days from the time of such summons, and then and there to show cause wherefore he refused to accept value for the said apprentice or apprentices, and discharge him, her or them accordingly.

And be it further enacted, that if the employer, reputed employer or possessor of such apprentice or apprentices, shall appear and show, to the satisfaction of the said justice, by means of one or more credible witness or witnesses, that the said apprentice wishing to purchase his or her discharge, has or had, at any time since his or her said apprenticeship, been guilty of any theft, larceny, or any crime or felony, or being knowingly, wilfully or wittingly the receiver of any stolen goods, or that the money to be paid by such apprentice as the price of his or her discharge, or any part thereof, was or has been dishonestly or fraudulently acquired, or if it shall be proven that the said apprentice has run away or absented himself or herself from the services of his or her employer or possessor for upwards of 20 days at one or several times during his or her said apprenticeship, or have been convicted of harbouring any other runaway apprentice, then in all or any such case or cases, it shall be incumbent on such special justice to stay further proceedings, and enter the same in his journal, which entry shall debar all further proceedings for the compulsory discharge of such apprentice or apprentices.

And be it further enacted, that in case any employer, or other person having any interest in the labour of such apprentice, shall be unwilling to effect his or her discharge, or shall by reason of any mortgage or settlement, or lease or charge upon or interest in the labour of such apprentice being vested in any other person or persons, be unable to execute a valid and effectual discharge of such apprentice; or if the employer, or any other person having charge upon or interest in the labour of such apprentice, shall be a minor or married woman, or idiot or lunatic, or shall be absent from these Islands, or shall not be known; or if any suit or action shall be depending in any court of justice in these Islands, wherein the right to the services of such apprentice may be in controversy; or if the employer of any such apprentice shall demand as a price for his or her discharge a greater sum of money than may appear to the said special justice to be the fair and just value of his or her future services, then and in each and every case as aforesaid the chief justice of the Court of Common Pleas, on application to him for that purpose made by such special justice, shall issue a summons under his hand and seal, requiring the employer or possessor of such apprentice to appear before him by themselves or their agents, at some convenient time and place to be in such such summons for that purpose appointed; and notice shall be published by the said special justice, by affixing the same to the court-house door of the time and place appointed for the purpose aforesaid; and in such notice all persons having or claiming to have any title or interest to the labour of such apprentice proposed to be discharged, either in their own right or as the agents, guardians, attorney, trustees or representative of any other person, shall be required to attend and prefer such claim.

And be it further enacted, that at the time appointed for such meeting as aforesaid, the said chief justice, in the presence of such special justice, and also in the presence of the employer, if the apprentice so proposed to be discharged, or his agent or manager, or upon proof being made to him upon oath of the due publication of such notice as aforesaid, then, if necessary, in the absence of such employer, or his agent or manager, shall proceed to hear, in a summary way, what may be alleged by the said special justice, or by the employer or his agent or manager, or other person claiming interest in the labour of the said apprentice so proposed to be discharged, and attending in pursuance of any such notice; and in case the said parties, or any of them, shall refuse to effect such discharge at a price approved by such special justice, or in case it shall be made to appear to the said chief justice that a valid and legal discharge of such apprentice cannot be effected by private contract, or that the employer or person entitled to the services of such apprentice, or any person having any charge upon or interest therein, is a minor or married woman, or idiot or lunatic, or is absent from these Islands, or cannot be found, or that any action is depending in any court of justice in these Islands, wherein the title to the future services of such apprentice is in controversy, then and in every such case the chief justice shall require the said special justice, and the employer or person representing such employer, if attending in pursuance to notice, each to nominate an appraiser of the value of the future services of such apprentice, and such chief justice shall nominate an umpire between such appraisers; but if such employer, or his or her representative, shall fail to attend, or attending shall refuse or omit to nominate an appraiser, then the said chief justice shall not only nominate such umpire as aforesaid, but shall also nominate an appraiser in behalf of such owner or manager.

And be it further enacted, that the appraisers to be nominated as aforesaid shall be duly sworn by and before the said chief justice to make a fair and impartial appraisal of the future services of such apprentice, taking into their consideration the qualities of the apprentice so proposed to be discharged, as well as his or her skill in any trade, domestic service or employment, or other labour whatsoever, with any other facts which, in the opinion of such appraisers, ought to influence them, or either of them, in their judgment, and within four days after such their appointment such appraisers shall make a joint valuation to the said chief justice under their hands and seals; and in case such joint certificate shall not be

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Clause 7.

If he can prove to the satisfaction of such justice that such apprentice has been guilty of theft or felony, or receiver of stolen goods, or a runaway, the justice may stay proceedings, and enter the same in his journal.

Clause 8.

If he is unable to effect it by reason of the right being vested in other persons, or otherwise, chief justice may summon all persons before him to prefer such claim.

Clause 9.

On attendance the chief justice, in presence of the special justice, may hear in a summary way parties refusing, or unable from any cause to comply, Appraisers to be nominated, and how.

Clause 10.

Appraisers to be sworn by the chief justice to make a fair and impartial appraisal, taking into consideration the qualities of the apprentice. Appraisal to be recorded.

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so made and delivered to the said chief justice within the said four days, then the said umpire, being duly sworn in manner aforesaid, shall, within the next succeeding four days, certify the valuation of the said future services of such apprentice to the said chief justice; and the valuation to be made in manner aforesaid, either by the said joint appraisers, or, on their default, by the said umpire, shall be binding and conclusive, and shall be entered and enrolled amongst the records of the said Court of Common Pleas of these Islands: provided nevertheless, that if the amount of such valuation shall not be paid in manner hereinafter mentioned, within 10 days next after the enrolment thereof, such enrolment shall be cancelled; and it shall not be lawful for such apprentice, or for the said special justice in behalf of such apprentice, again to institute proceedings as before mentioned for his or her discharge.

Clause 11.  
 Chief justice to pay out of the monies supplied by the apprentice the appraised value to the employer, taking a receipt, which must be enrolled in the records of the Court of Common Pleas; or if the person entitled is absent, or has no legal attorney, or not known, the appraised value to be paid into the public treasury, to be held until the chief justice thinks fit to make an order when the money must be paid.

And be it further enacted, that upon or within 12 days from the date of such enrolment of the valuation aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the said special justice, out of the monies supplied to him for that purpose by the apprentice proposed to be discharged, to pay the employer or person entitled to receive the same the appraised value of the services of such apprentice, taking a receipt in writing from such employer or other person entitled to receive the same; and the chief justice shall, upon application to him made by such special justice, make an order for the enrolment of the said receipt in the records of the Court of Common Pleas; and the said chief justice shall by such order further proceed to declare and adjudge that the apprentice by or in behalf of whom such money hath been paid is discharged, and such apprentice shall be deemed free and exonerated from all claims upon him by or in behalf of such employer or employers, for or in behalf or in virtue of his former apprenticeship: provided always, that when the person entitled to the services of such apprentice shall be absent from these Islands, and having no legal attorney or representative therein, or shall not be known, or if any suit or action shall be depending in any court of justice for these Islands, wherein the right to his or her future services may be in controversy, or where the person entitled to receive the same shall refuse to give the necessary receipt, then and in all such cases it shall be lawful for the said special justice to pay the said appraised value into the public treasury of these Islands; and the treasurer's receipt for the same shall be sufficient for the purpose herein intended and provided; and the said treasurer shall hold the said money, subject to such order as the chief justice of the Court of Common Pleas for these Islands may, upon a summary application of any person interested therein, or their agents, see fit to make; and such money shall by such treasurer be paid and disposed of in pursuance of and in obedience to any such order.

Clause 12.  
 Council and Assembly to fix a moderate scale of fees.

And be it further enacted, that the Council and Assembly for these Islands shall establish a moderate and reasonable table of fees and expenses to be paid and secured in the proceedings, for the compulsory discharge of any such apprenticed labourer as aforesaid.

Clause 13.  
 By whom expenses to be paid.

And be it further enacted, that if any such appraisalment as aforesaid shall have been rendered necessary by any difference of opinion between such special justice and the employer or employers, or his, or her, or their agent or agents, respecting the price to be paid for the apprentice proposed to be discharged, the expense of such appraisalment shall be borne by such apprentice, and be added to the amount of the valuation if the services of such apprentice shall be appraised at a sum exceeding or equal to the price demanded by such employer or his agent, or exceeding the sum offered by such apprentice, or by such special justice in his or her behalf, as the price of his or her discharge; but in case the appraised value shall be less than the price previously demanded by his or her employer, or the agent of such employer, then the expense of such appraisalment shall be wholly borne by such employer; and in case any such appraisalment should have been rendered necessary by any other cause than a difference of opinion as to the price to be paid for the discharge of such apprentice, the expense of such appraisalment shall be equally divided between such apprentice and his or her employer or employers.

Clause 14.  
 Chief justice to make, from time to time, rules and regulations necessary for the jurisdiction hereby in him vested.

And be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for the chief justice of the Court of Common Pleas to make and prescribe, and from time to time revoke and alter, as occasion may require, all such rules and orders as may and shall be necessary for the regular and proper exercise of the jurisdiction hereby in him vested, and for regulating the proceedings of all persons who may be parties to, or interested in, any question so depending before him.

Clause 15.  
 This Act to be deemed and taken as a Public Act.

And be it further enacted, that this Act shall be deemed, taken and received as a general Act, and all persons to take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

Dated at Tortola, the 19th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1834, and in the fifth year of the reign of His Majesty King William the Fourth.

Passed the Assembly, this 11th day of April 1834.

*Thomas Wm. Crooke*, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Council, this 11th day of April 1834.

By command, *Richard King*, Clerk of Council.

*Thomas Marsh*, Speaker.

(signed) *Wm. Roger Isaacs*, President.

— No. 38. —

Virgin Islands: Tortola.

AN ACT prescribing the Duties of Apprenticed Labourers and Employers respectively, and imposing Penalties for the non-performance thereof, and providing other Regulations for the maintenance of Good Order.

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WHEREAS by an Act made and passed in the 3d & 4th years of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves," it is amongst other things enacted, that from and after the 1st day of August 1834, all persons who, in conformity to the laws now in force in the said Colonies respectively, shall, on or before the 1st day of August 1834, have been duly registered as slaves in any such Colony, shall by force and virtue of the above-recited Act, and without the previous execution of any indenture of apprenticeship, or other deed or instrument for that purpose, become and be apprenticed labourers; and by the second section of the said recited Act it is provided, that during the continuance of the apprenticeship of such apprenticed labourer, such person or persons shall be entitled to the services of such apprenticed labourer as would for the time being have been entitled to his or her services as a slave if such recited Act had not been made:

And whereas by the 16th section of said before-recited Act it hath been submitted, amongst other things, to the several and respective Colonial Legislatures to frame, conformably with the said Act, certain laws and regulations intended for the maintenance of order and good discipline amongst the said apprenticed labourers, and for ensuring the punctual discharge of the services due by them to their respective employers, and for the prevention and punishment of indolence or neglect, or improper performance of work by any such apprenticed labourer, and for enforcing the due performance, by any such apprenticed labourer, of any contract into which he or she may voluntarily enter for any hired services during the time in which he or she may not be bound to labour for his or her employer, and for the prevention and punishment of insolence and insubordination on the part of any such apprenticed labourers towards their employers, and for the prevention and punishment of vagrancy, or of any conduct on the part of such apprenticed labourer injuring, or tending to the injury of the property of such employer, and also for the suppression and punishment of any riot or combined resistance to the laws on the part of any such apprenticed labourer, and for preventing the escape of any such apprenticed labourer from any of these Islands to which they may respectively belong:

And whereas it is also necessary, for the protection of such apprenticed labourer as aforesaid, that various laws should be framed and enacted for regulating the supply of food and clothing, medicine and medical attendance, and for securing punctuality in the distribution thereof; and also to secure to the prædial apprenticed labourers the enjoyment, for their own benefit, of that portion of their time during which they are not hereinafter required to labour in the service of their respective employers; and also that provision should be made for regulating the imposition of task work; and also that regulations should be made respecting any voluntary contract, and for limiting the period of time to which such voluntary contract may extend; and it is also necessary that regulation should be made for the prevention and punishment of cruelty, injustice, or other wrongs or injury which may be done to or inflicted upon any such apprenticed labourer by persons entitled to their services, and that a variety of other regulations should be made relating to such apprenticed labourer, conducive to the peace and good order of society: We, therefore, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Governor and Commander-in-chief of Your Majesty's Islands of Antigua, Montserrat, Barbuda, St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla, the Virgin Islands and Dominica, and in his absence the chief officer administering the government of the said Virgin Islands, and the Council and Assembly of the said Virgin Islands, do humbly pray Your most Excellent Majesty that it may be enacted,

And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that for every hour in which any apprenticed labourer shall absent himself, herself or themselves from his or her or their employer's service without just and reasonable cause, he, she or they shall be compelled to serve in such service two extra hours: provided always, that such extra hours which he, she or they shall be compelled to serve as aforesaid, shall not exceed 15 in the whole in any one week.

Clause 1.  
Punishment for apprenticed labourers absenting themselves from their employer's service.

And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer so absenting himself, herself or themselves from his, her or their employer's service as aforesaid for more than seven hours and a half in any one week, shall be adjudged a deserter, and he, she or they respectively shall, upon conviction, be adjudged to imprisonment with hard labour for any time not exceeding one week, at the discretion of the special justice to whom such offender shall be reported.

Clause 2.  
If more than 7½ hours in one week, to be adjudged a deserter.

And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer so absenting himself, herself or themselves from their employer's service as aforesaid for two days in any one week, shall be adjudged a vagabond; and he, she or they shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for any time not exceeding two weeks, with whipping not exceeding 15 stripes, or to either or both such punishments, at the discretion of the special justice to whom such offender or offenders shall be reported.

Clause 3.  
If for more than 2 days in one week, to be adjudged a vagabond.

Clause 4.  
If for 6 days in succession, adjudged a runaway, and punishment.

And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer so absenting himself, herself or themselves as aforesaid from his, her or their employer's service for six days in succession, shall be adjudged a runaway; and he, she or they shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for any time not exceeding one month, and to whipping not exceeding 30 stripes, or to either or both of such punishments, at the discretion of the special justice to whom such offender or offenders shall be reported.

Clause 5.  
If the said apprentice performs his work indolently, carelessly or negligently, punishment thereof.

And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer who shall perform his work indolently, carelessly or negligently, shall, upon conviction, for the first offence, be adjudged to work in his, her or their employer's service for any extra time not exceeding 15 hours in any one week, and for the second offence to confinement with hard labour for any time not exceeding one week, and for the third or any subsequent offence, to confinement with hard labour for any time not exceeding two weeks, with whipping not exceeding 20 stripes.

Clause 6.  
Injuring or endangering the property of employer, or not preventing others, punishment thereof.

And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer who by the careless use of fire shall injure or endanger the property of his, her or their employer, or the property of any person or persons, or who shall in any manner, or by any means, wantonly or wilfully injure any of the property of his, her or their employers, or the property of any other person or persons, or shall permit such property to be injured by any other person or persons, he, she or they having the power to prevent the same, or shall neglect to report any such injury done to any such property to his, her or their employer, or the representative of such employer, he, she or they shall, upon conviction, be adjudged to extra labour in his, her or their employer's service for any time not exceeding 15 hours in the whole in any one week, or to confinement with hard labour for any time not exceeding one month, or to any number of stripes not exceeding 30, or to one or more of any such punishments, at the discretion of the special justice to whom such offender or offenders shall be reported.

Clause 7.  
Neglecting, ill-using or injuring any cattle, or other live stock, liable to the punishments last aforesaid.

And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer who shall injure, neglect or ill-use any cattle or other live stock intrusted to his, her or their care by his, her or their employer, or the representative of such employer, or shall, by wilful negligence, expose such cattle or other live stock, or any other property of his, her or their employer, or representative of such employer, or of any other person or persons intrusted by such employer or such representative to his, her or their care, to any damage or injury, he, she or they shall, upon conviction, be adjudged, at the discretion of the special justice to whom he, she or they shall be reported, to any one or more of the punishments last aforesaid.

Clause 8.  
Disobeying the lawful commands of their employer, liable as aforesaid.

And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer who shall contumaciously disobey the lawful command of his, her or their employer, shall, upon conviction, be adjudged, at the discretion of the special justice to whom he, she or they shall be reported, to any one or more of the punishments last aforesaid.

Clause 9.  
Three or more agreeing to make resistance to the lawful commands of their employer, guilty of conspiracy, to imprisonment for six months.

And be it further enacted, that if any three or more apprenticed labourers shall agree together to make any resistance to the lawful commands of his, her or their employer, such apprenticed labourers so agreeing together shall be deemed guilty of an unlawful conspiracy, and shall, upon conviction before any special justice to whom they shall be reported, be severally adjudged to imprisonment with hard labour for any time not exceeding six months, with whipping not exceeding 39 stripes.

Clause 10.  
If engaged in open and combined resistance to the lawful commands of employer, adjudged to imprisonment last aforesaid.

And be it further enacted, that any three or more apprenticed labourers who shall be engaged in combined and open disobedience or resistance to the lawful commands of their employer, shall, upon conviction before any special justice to whom they shall be reported, be severally adjudged to the punishments last aforesaid, or any one of them.

Clause 11.  
If in a state of drunkenness, or found fighting, or conducting themselves in an insubordinate manner, punishment thereof.

And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer who shall be in a state of drunkenness, or who shall be found fighting, or who shall conduct himself, herself or themselves in an insolent and insubordinate manner towards his, her or their employer, or any person in the immediate superintendence of his, or her, or their labour, for every such offence shall be liable, on conviction, to imprisonment with hard labour not exceeding one week, or to whipping not exceeding 25 stripes, or to either or both such punishments, at the discretion of the special justice to whom he, she or they shall be reported.

Clause 12.  
Apprenticed labourer harbouring any runaway apprenticed labourer, or lodging same, and on employer's estate, liable to the punishment last aforesaid.

And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer who shall harbour any runaway apprenticed labourer, or shall lodge, entertain or encourage any person or persons on the estate or premises of his, her or their employer contrary to the direction of such employer, shall, on conviction, be subject and liable to any one or more of the punishments last aforesaid.

Clause 13.  
Taking up a residence in any house, &c. occupied by apprenticed labourers, or on his employer's estate without permission of such, and shall refuse or neglect to quit on being required, or found quarrelling with said labourers, punishment thereof.

And be it further enacted, that any person or persons whomsoever who shall take up a permanent or temporary residence or abode in any house or hut occupied by any apprenticed labourer on any estate, plantation or premises of the employer of such apprenticed labourer, without having first obtained permission in writing from such employer, or other person having the immediate care, management or possession of such estate, plantation or premises, or shall refuse or neglect to quit such house or hut, or estate, plantation or premises, on being required to do so by any such employer, or other person having the immediate care, management or possession thereof; or shall be found thereon quarrelling with any of the apprenticed labourers, such person or persons shall, if an apprenticed labourer, on conviction before any special justice, be adjudged to imprisonment with hard labour for any time not exceeding four weeks; and if other person than an apprenticed labourer shall be so convicted, he, she or

or they shall respectively be fined in any sum not exceeding 40 s., or in default of payment committed to the common gaol for any time not exceeding one month : provided always, that no such consent or permission shall be refused to any person of good character having a wife or husband on any such estate or plantation, if asked for in a proper manner, which permission shall be enjoyed at proper times so long as he or she shall conduct himself or herself in a proper manner.

And be it further enacted, that if any three or more apprenticed labourers shall unite together in any riot or tumultuous assembly, any justice of the peace for these Islands who shall be present, or the manager, overseer or other person having the charge or direction of any estate or plantation, or any other person, shall, in case he can make himself heard, desire all persons there present to separate and disperse quietly, or shall cause a white flag, if in the daytime, or if at night, shall fire a musket or pistol, as a warning, and all persons who at the expiration of five minutes from such desire to disperse, or the exhibition of such flag, or the firing of such musket or pistol, shall continue present at such riotous assembly, shall, if an apprenticed labourer, on conviction before any special justice, be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for any time not exceeding three months ; or if any person other than an apprenticed labourer shall be convicted before any justice of the peace of these Islands of being present at such riotous or tumultuous assembly, and shall not disperse as hereinbefore required, such person so convicted shall be fined at the discretion of such justice of the peace in any sum not exceeding 5 l., or in default of payment of such fine, to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months.

And be it further enacted, that no apprenticed labourer shall reside beyond the limits of the district in which he or she may be resident at the time this Act shall come into operation, unless either by the consent in writing of his or her employer, and any labourer found beyond the limits of such district, except in his or her way to and from market, or to or from some place of public worship, and not having with him or her a written pass for that purpose from his or her employer, he or she shall be liable to be apprehended and detained until he or she can be conveniently conveyed before any special justice, and such person so apprehended shall, upon conviction, be adjudged a vagabond, and punished accordingly.

And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer who shall for seven days or upwards absent himself from his or her employer's service without reasonable cause, shall, upon conviction before the special justice, be adjudged a runaway, and shall be sentenced to three months imprisonment with hard labour, or to any part of such imprisonment with hard labour, together with whipping not exceeding 39 stripes.

And be it further enacted, that if it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of any special justice that any apprenticed labourers have, without lawful authority, established themselves in any part of these Islands as a distinct community, habitually abandoning and neglecting to perform the duties imposed upon him, her or them under and by virtue of this or any other Act of these Islands, such justice shall cause any such community to be dislodged, and, if necessary, shall cause their habitation to be taken down and removed, and provision ground and cultivation destroyed ; and any apprenticed labourer convicted of having been a member of such community shall be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding six months, or to whipping not exceeding 39 stripes, or to both such punishments, at the discretion of the special justice before whom such offender shall be taken.

And be it further enacted, that on proclamation of martial law in these Islands, no prædial apprenticed labourers, excepting such only as shall be appointed to the performance of any duty or service, shall, during day or night, leave the estate or plantation to which he, she or they may respectively be attached, without having a written pass from his, her or their employer, and any such apprentice found off the estate or plantation to which they may respectively be attached during the continuance of such martial law, and not having such written pass, may be apprehended and lodged in gaol, and shall be punished, on conviction before any special justice, by confinement with hard labour for one week, or by whipping with 15 stripes, or both.

And be it further enacted, that no apprenticed labourer shall graze, pasture or keep on the estate or plantation of his, her or their employer, or on the lands or premises of any other person or persons whomsoever, any horned cattle, horse, mare, gelding, sheep, hog or goat, without having first obtained the written permission of such employer or other person by whom such land or premises may be possessed ; and in such written permission shall be expressed the number and description of any such cattle, horses, or other live stock he, she or they may be permitted to keep as aforesaid, and for what time and on what terms the same are to be kept ; and any cattle, horse, mare, gelding, sheep, hog or goat kept by or found in the possession of any apprenticed labourer on such estate, plantation or lands as aforesaid, without he, she or they having first obtained such written permission as aforesaid, or kept, fed or pastured otherwise than according to the terms therein expressed, such cattle, horse or other stock, shall be dealt with in the same manner and subject to the same penalties as cattle, horses or other stock caught trespassing are subject and liable to under and by virtue of a certain Act of these Islands, intituled, " An Act for appointing Pound-keepers, and for the more effectually preventing and regulating Trespasses, and to repeal an Act for regulating Trespasses."

VIRGIN ISLANDS :

TORTOLA.

Appendix (B.)

Colonial Laws.  
No. 38.

Clause 14.

Three or more apprenticed labourers uniting in any riot or tumultuous assembly, manner of dispersing the same.

Clause 15.

No apprenticed labourer to reside beyond the district he resided in at the time this Act came into operation, without permission of his employer, nor to go beyond without a written pass.

Clause 16.

Any apprenticed labourer absenting himself 7 days or upwards from his employer's service deemed a runaway ; punishment.

Clause 17.

Labourers establishing themselves as a distinct community, neglecting the duties imposed by this Act, to be dislodged, and habitations and grounds destroyed ; punishment.

Clause 18.

During martial law no apprentice to leave the estate without a pass, except such appointed to any duty or service.

Clause 19.

No apprentice to keep any horse or horned cattle, &c. on any estate without permission, otherwise to be dealt with as if in trespass.

## Clause 20.

Any apprentice quitting these Islands, liable to imprisonment at the discretion of the special justice, not to extend to such in the personal attendance of their employers.

And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer quitting or attempting to quit these or any one of these Islands to which he, she or they shall be respectively attached, shall, upon conviction, be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding three months, at the discretion of any special justice before whom such offender shall be taken; provided nothing herein shall prevent, or be taken or deemed to prevent such apprentices going from one of these Islands to another within this government, in the personal attendance on his or her employer, or with a written pass from such employer as aforesaid.

## Clause 21.

In order to prevent the escape of such apprentices, no boat or other craft to anchor in any of the out-bays or creeks after sunset, except by stress of weather. How to be dealt with.

And in order the more effectually to prevent the escape of apprenticed labourers, Be it also enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any craft or boat of any description whatever, not belonging to any such place, to enter or anchor in any of the out-bays, creeks or inlets thereof, or to haul up any boat on the beach or sea-shore of any such place after sunset, unless going there on particular and lawful business, or compelled to enter by stress of weather or the appearance of danger, in either of which cases a report of such entry, and the cause thereof, shall be made with the least possible delay to the owner, manager, or other person resident on and having the care and direction of the estate or plantation, or other lands forming such bays, creeks or inlets; neither shall it be lawful for any craft or boat so entering to depart before the rising of the sun on the next morning, nor until such owner, manager or other person as above mentioned shall have an opportunity of examining and searching such craft or boat, which it shall be lawful for such person so to do; and if any craft or boat of any description shall after sunset anchor or be hauled up at any such place, having no such cause as above mentioned, or having any such cause, shall depart before the rising of the sun on the following morning, or without making such report, or shall avoid, prevent or resist the making of any such search, every such craft or boat shall be subject and liable to confiscation, and may be seized at any time by any person whatever, and delivered with an affidavit of the facts sworn to before any justice of the peace, to the treasurer of these Islands, who shall sell such craft or boat, paying to the person making such seizure one-third of the net proceeds thereof, and retaining the other two thirds to be applied by him to the use of the public of the said Islands; and any person on board of such craft or boat at the time of any such unlawful act as aforesaid, if an apprenticed labourer, shall, on conviction before any special justice, be adjudged to imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding three months, or to whipping not exceeding 25 stripes; and if any person other than an apprenticed labourer, he shall, on conviction before any justice of the peace of these Islands, be fined in any sum not exceeding 10 £, to be recovered and applied in like manner as other penalties are in and by this Act directed.

## Clause 22.

Any persons removing, or assisting to remove, any such apprentice to be fined, and if the offender be an apprentice, to be imprisoned.

And be it further enacted, that all or any person or persons whomsoever removing or assisting to remove any apprenticed labourer from any of these Islands, in any boat or vessel, such person or persons shall, upon conviction before any of His Majesty's justices of the peace of these Islands, be fined in any sum not less than 10 £ nor exceeding 100 £, and in default of payment, to imprisonment not less than one or exceeding six months; and if such offender shall be an apprenticed labourer, he or she shall, upon conviction before any special justice, be adjudged to imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding six months.

## Clause 23.

Any such apprentice committing any offence against any Acts which would subject any other person to pecuniary fines, to be imprisoned, &c. according to the nature of the offence.

And be it further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall commit any offence against any Act of these Islands which subjects other persons to pecuniary fines, such apprenticed labourer shall for any such offence or offences be taken before any special justice of these Islands, who shall upon conviction adjudge him, her or them to imprisonment with hard labour according to the nature of the offence, and the extent of the penalty imposed on other persons so offending by any such Act or Acts as aforesaid.

## Clause 24.

No such labourer exempt from liability to indictment, &c. which other persons are liable to, but not to be liable both under this Act and also under such law.

And be it further enacted, that nothing herein contained shall exempt any apprenticed labourer from his, her or their liability to any indictment, prosecutions or actions as other persons may be subject or liable to in respect to any act or acts by him, her or them done, or as accessory either before or after the fact, or for any other matter or thing for which any other person or persons would be liable to be sued, prosecuted or indicted; provided that no such apprenticed labourer shall be liable to be sued or prosecuted both under and by virtue of this Act, and under such general law as aforesaid.

## Clause 25.

Any person who shall harbour, entertain, &c. any such apprentice away from his employer's service, to be fined and imprisoned, also liable to the action of the employer for damages.

And be it further enacted, that any person not being an apprenticed labourer, who shall harbour, entertain or encourage any runaway apprenticed labourer, or shall inveigle, entice or persuade any apprenticed labourer from his, her or their employer's service, shall, upon conviction before any justice of the peace for these Islands, be fined in any sum not exceeding 20 £ or less than 5 £, and in default of payment shall be committed to the common gaol for any time not exceeding three months, at the discretion of the justice before whom he, she or they shall be convicted, and shall moreover be subject to the action of the employer of such apprenticed labourer for damages.

## Clause 26.

All such apprentices adjudged to imprisonment with hard labour to work for 10 hours in each day, no one to converse with them, except by permission of the special justice.

And be it further enacted, that all persons who shall be adjudged to imprisonment with hard labour shall be compelled to work for 10 hours in each day, and shall when not so engaged, or when such hard labour shall be performed within doors, be kept in close confinement; and any person not being a prisoner or gaoler, shall not be permitted to have access to or converse with them, unless by permission of such special justice; and should any such person so adjudged evince a refractory spirit, or escape or attempt to escape, or show a disposition thereto, it shall be lawful for such special justice to order and direct such person to be worked in irons, or otherwise so secured as such justice may in his discretion deem necessary.

And

And be it further enacted, that no woman shall be subject to the punishment of whipping for any offence by her committed, but in all cases in this Act where that punishment is authorized, it shall be understood as applying to the cases of males only; and that all offences, in respect of which such punishment may be inflicted on any such male offender, shall, when committed by females, be punished by solitary confinement or any other punishment, at the discretion of such special justice.

Clause 27.  
No woman to be subject to the punishment of whipping, and for any offence which would subject a male to it, to be imprisoned in solitary confinement, &c. at the discretion of the special justice.

And be it also enacted, that when any apprenticed labourer shall be sentenced to confinement with hard labour, in order to save the expense of gaol fees and of feeding, by which the confinement might be prolonged, and to obviate the difficulty of enforced labour if such confinement should be in the public gaol, the same may take place, by order of the special justice trying the offender, upon the estate or plantation to which any such apprentice is attached or employed, the confinement to be during the intervals of relaxation from labour, to be fixed by such justice at the time of trial; and if any apprenticed labourer shall be imprisoned by the sentence of any such special justice, or by virtue of any judgment of court at any other place than the estate or plantation to which he or she is attached or employed on, the employer of such apprentice shall not be liable for any expenses incurred by such apprentice, nor shall any such apprentice be entitled to any provision or supply of food from his or her employer during the time such apprentice shall be absent from his or her employer's service: provided nevertheless, that if any such employer shall at the time of passing of any such sentence be indebted to any such apprentice in any sum for wages, for hired services or otherwise, the same shall at all times be applicable, in a regular course, to the payment of any such expenses or sum of money, for the payment whereof such apprenticed labourer shall be liable, so far as the same will go, to be ordered at the time of trial.

Clause 28.  
Any such apprentice sentenced to confinement with hard labour in the public gaol, in order to save expenses, may be confined on the estate; if not tried on the estate, employer not liable to any expenses.

And be it further enacted, that the employer or renter of any estate or plantation having prædial apprenticed labourers attached thereto, shall provide for such labourers all such medicine and medical attendance as shall be necessary; and that the medical attendant shall insert in a book, to be kept on such estate, whether employed by the year or otherwise, every visit by him paid; and if any patient shall be labouring under any dangerous or severe illness, he shall also insert in the said book the nature thereof, and his prescription of any particular kind of food or nourishment for such patients.

Clause 29.  
Employer of such apprentices to provide medicine and medical attendance; book to be kept, and manner of such attendance to be inserted, also the nature of the diseases, medicine, food, &c. prescribed.

And be it further enacted, that all prædial apprenticed labourers being ill, or complaining of being ill, shall immediately report himself or herself to the employer or chief superintendent; and should any such apprenticed labourer neglect so to report himself or herself to his or her employer, or his or her chief superintendent, such apprenticed labourer shall, for any time which he or she shall be absent from work and not so reported, on conviction be adjudged guilty of being absent from his or her employer's service, and dealt with accordingly.

Clause 30.  
Apprentices when sick must report such to the employer; neglecting so to do, and being absent, shall be so adjudged and dealt with accordingly.

And be it further enacted, that should any such apprenticed labourer at any time during the day or night, from the time of his being admitted into the hospital or sick-house on any estate or plantation, leave or absent himself or herself therefrom without having obtained the consent of his or her employer, or his or her chief superintendent so to do, he, she or they shall on conviction be adjudged guilty of disobedience of the orders of his, her or their employer, and punished accordingly.

Clause 31.  
Any such apprentice leaving the hospital without consent of employer, guilty of disobedience of orders, and dealt with accordingly.

And be it further enacted, that every employer of any prædial apprenticed labourer within these Islands shall weekly and every week give or cause to be given to each prædial apprenticed labourer in his, her or their service or employ, a sufficient quantity of good and wholesome food, that is to say, to each of the prædial apprenticed labourers above the age of 12 years, two pounds of salted provision, or four pounds of fresh fish and six pints of corn or beans or peas, or four pints of wheat or rye flour, or six pints of Indian corn meal, or four pints of oatmeal, or four pints of rice, or six pounds of cassava bread or farine, or six pounds of biscuit, or 20 pounds of yams, potatoes or other esculent roots, or 15 pounds of plantains or bananas; and to each of the other prædial apprentices such sufficient quantity, in the same proportion as the employer shall think proper, according to the different labour, size, strength, age or otherwise of such apprentice or apprentices: provided always, that every aged, infirm or sickly prædial apprentice being pronounced by the medical practitioner of any such prædial apprenticed labourer, or of the estate or plantation to which he, she or they shall be attached, as being incapable, by means of such age, infirmity or sickness, of labour, such prædial apprenticed labourer shall weekly and every week receive a full ratio of allowances as aforesaid, or such other nourishment and allowance as shall be requisite and necessary; all which provisions and nourishment shall be of good and wholesome quality.

Clause 32.  
Employer of such apprentices to give weekly, and every week, a sufficient quantity of good and wholesome food; provided, that when any such are pronounced incapable of labour from sickness or other cause to receive a full ratio of allowances.

And be it further enacted, that such allowance as aforesaid shall be given to the full extent only to such prædial apprenticed labourers (not being aged, infirm or sickly) who shall be absolutely engaged in the service, and working for such employer for the full time directed and allowed by law for such labourer to work in the service of such employer, for each week, and in proportion for any part or portion of such time such labourer shall have been for the preceding six days employed in his, her or their employer's service.

Clause 33.  
Full extent of allowance to be given only to such apprentices absolutely engaged and working in the service of their employer.

And be it further enacted, that every employer shall have the option of feeding such prædial apprentice or apprentices (except aged, infirm or sickly apprentices) to the first extent as hereinbefore directed, or of allotting to him, her or them a sufficient portion of land,

Clause 34.  
Every employer shall have the option of feeding to the full extent beforementioned, or of



allotting a portion of land properly adapted for the growth of provisions.

land, properly adapted for the growth of provisions, for the purpose of cultivation, not being less than one quarter of an acre for each such apprentice, and not more than two miles from the place of residence of the apprentices on any estate or plantation to which they may be attached, which shall be deemed taken and considered as equivalent and in lieu of the one half part of the farinaceous food, or esculent roots, or vegetables hereinbefore directed to be given to each such prædial apprentice weekly: provided always, that such portion of land, so allotted to the said apprentice or apprentices for cultivation, shall not be resumed or taken back during the term of such apprenticeship by such employer, until six months previous notice is given to such apprentice or apprentices, to enable him, her or them to reap any crop or crops planted therein; and on such notice being given, either other good and sufficient land shall be apportioned or attached to the said apprentice or apprentices in the same proportion as aforesaid, or the full weekly allowance hereinbefore directed shall be given and allowed.

**Clause 35.**  
To allow one day, comprising 7  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours, for the purpose of cultivating such provision ground, and for every neglect to allowance regularly, for each and every day shall forfeit 1s. 6d.

And be it further enacted, that on all such estates or plantations when such land shall be allotted to such prædial apprenticed labourers as aforesaid, it shall be optional with the employer of such apprentice or apprentices (not being aged, infirm or sickly,) to allow one day, comprising 7  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours, of the time directed and allowed by law for such prædial apprenticed labourer to work in the service of his, her or their employer in each and every week, to each and every such apprenticed labourer as aforesaid, for the purpose of cultivating such provision ground so apportioned as aforesaid, and such day shall be deemed, taken and considered as equivalent for such allowance of such farinaceous food, or esculent roots, or vegetables; and every such employer shall for every such apprentice which he, she or they shall neglect or refuse to allowance weekly as aforesaid, or for any day, or any portion of such day so given and allowed as an equivalent for such weekly allowance of farinaceous food, or esculent roots, or vegetables, which he, she or they shall withhold from any such apprentice, or for neglect or refusal to supply such other nourishment and allowance which shall or may be ordered for the aged, infirm or sickly by such medical practitioner in attendance thereon, or shall share out damaged or unwholesome food, shall, on conviction before the special justice, pay for each and every apprentice so neglected to be allowed or provided for, or to whom such unwholesome food shall be shared, or for each and every day, or any part of such day, so withheld as aforesaid, the sum of 1s. 6d., to be recovered and applied in manner hereinafter provided, as in case of non-payment of the consideration stipulated for in contract for task-work or extra services.

**Clause 36.**  
Such is not to prevent the employer from employing such apprentice on the day allotted to him, provided he gives an equivalent before the end of the ensuing week.

And be it further enacted, that nothing herein contained shall be deemed, taken or construed to prevent any employer from employing such apprenticed labourers, or any part of them, on such day as aforesaid, or any part thereof, in his, her or their service, provided he, she or they shall give to such apprentice an equivalent for such day, or any part thereof, in time or otherwise, before the end of the next ensuing week: and provided always, that in case of any unforeseen circumstance preventing such employer from receiving any allowance to be distributed as aforesaid, he, she or they may give to such apprenticed labourers a day in lieu thereof, or any other matter or thing which such apprenticed labourer, or the justice, shall deem equivalent to such allowance.

**Clause 37.**  
Every employer shall provide and give a proper allowance of clothing. Quantity of such.

And be it further enacted, that every employer shall once in every year provide for and give to each and every male adult prædial apprenticed labourer under his, her or their care, or in his, her or their employment, a kersey pennistouns, or drugget jacket, or three yards of pennistouns, with seven yards of osnaburghs or checks, and six skeins of thread; to every female adult prædial apprentice a kersey pennistouns or drugget wrapper, or three yards of pennistouns, with seven yards of osnaburghs or checks, and six skeins of thread; and to children under the age of 12 years five yards of osnaburghs or checks, and two yards of pennistouns, with four skeins of thread, under a penalty of 2l. for every prædial apprentice neglected to be furnished as aforesaid, such penalty to be recovered and applied in manner hereinafter provided as in cases of non-payment of the consideration stipulated for in contracts for task-work or extra service.

**Clause 38.**  
Good Friday, Christmas and St. Stephen's days to be holidays, and none other.

And be it further enacted, that Good Friday, Christmas and St. Stephen's days, shall in every year be given and allowed to each and every prædial apprentice as holidays, and no other holidays shall be given or allowed.

**Clause 39.**  
No such apprentices shall be obliged to work for their employer more than 45 hours in any one week, except watchmen, &c. &c.

And be it further enacted, that no prædial apprenticed labourer, whether attached or not attached to the soil, shall be bound or liable, by virtue of such apprenticeship, to perform any labour in the service of his or her employer or employers for more than 45 hours in the whole in any one week, such time to be computed from the time such labourer shall arrive at the field or place where such labour is to be performed: provided always, that such limited time of labour shall not extend, or be taken or construed to extend, to any such prædial apprenticed labourer who shall be employed in attendance on stock, or as watchman, or by sentence of any special justice for any offence committed against this or any other Act of these Islands, which may subject him, her or them to labour for any extra time in his, her or their employer's service.

**Clause 40.**  
If the employer protracts such labour beyond that time, to forfeit 9d. per

And be it further enacted, that should the employer of any such prædial apprenticed labourer protract the weekly services of any such labourer beyond the period herein allowed for that purpose, he shall, upon conviction before a special justice, forfeit, for the benefit of such

such labourer, the sum of 9*d.* in respect of every hour which such service shall be protracted; and it shall be the duty of every such employer to intimate to the labourers in his employment the commencement and close of the legal hours of labour, for which purpose a signal shall be given in such manner as shall, in reference to each plantation or estate, have been approved by the special justice, which signal shall always be of such nature as to be distinctly visible or audible to the several apprenticed labourers resident on such estate.

And be it further enacted, that no apprenticed labourer shall be bound to undertake any task-work but with his or her own free assent to the same.

And be it further enacted, that the acquiescence of the minority of prædial apprenticed labourers attached to any plantation or estate, in the distribution and appointment amongst the whole body of such labourers of any task-work which the majority of such body shall be willing and desirous collectively to undertake, shall not be necessary, but the acquiescence of such majority, made and approved of in the manner and form hereinafter provided, shall be binding on the whole of such collective body.

And whereas much difficulty would occur in regulating the time for the completion of that portion of work of each department of the body of prædial apprenticed labourers attached to sugar estates during the time that they are absolutely employed in the manufacture of sugar, and circumstances connected with the process would render it wholly dependant on the labourers, and perfectly uncontrollable by the employer; Be it therefore enacted, that on all estates or plantations, when about to commence crop, and as often as circumstances may render it necessary, the special justice shall, in case he should be applied to by the employer or chief superintendent for that purpose, proceed within three days from such application to such estate or plantation, and then and there inform himself of the quantity of liquor which may be ground in one day, and converted into Muscovado sugar, by the uniform and proper exertion of the body to be employed, by his own observation, and by evidence collected from two or more neighbours, planters, who he shall summons for that purpose; and such justice shall then declare that the quantity fixed shall be the daily task for any time not exceeding 20 days from such inspection and decision thereon; and he shall also determine what shall be allowed to the apprentices, and how such allowance shall be distributed for each hundred gallons of liquor over and above the daily task so fixed, which such apprentices shall, with their own consent and by the desire of their employer, grind and convert into sugar, such allowance not to exceed one-tenth of the value per hundred weight of such sugar.

And be it enacted, that every contract between the employer and the prædial apprenticed labourer or labourers for the performance of any specific work, or as a task, and in lieu of the prescribed daily labour, or the performance of any labour in extra hours, shall by such employer be reduced into writing, and entered into a book to be kept for that purpose on the plantation or estate.

And be it further enacted, that no contract between the employer and prædial apprenticed labourer for the performance of any such specific task-work, or for the performance of any labour in extra hours, shall continue in force, or be binding upon the parties entering into the same, or either of them, after the expiration of 14 days from the making thereof, unless the same shall have been made and entered into by such parties in the presence and with the approbation of the special justice, or unless, having been entered into in his absence, the same shall be confirmed or approved by him.

And be it further enacted, that it shall be the duty of the special justice, before approving any such contract, to ascertain that the terms thereof are distinctly understood by the apprenticed labourers entering into the same, and that such labourers have entered into such contract freely and voluntarily, and that the same is not unreasonable or unjust; and in every such contract for task work, or for extra service, extending beyond the period of one fortnight, the nature and amount of such extra labour to be performed, and the amount of the consideration to be given for the same, and the time and manner of paying such consideration, shall be distinctly expressed, and no contract for such extra service as aforesaid shall continue in force for more than one year from the day of the date thereof.

And be it further enacted, that upon proof being made to the satisfaction of such special justice of the non-payment of the consideration stipulated for in any such contract as aforesaid, whether for task-work or for extra services, it shall be competent to such justice, and he is hereby authorized to award execution against such employer for the amount of such consideration, and if the same shall not be paid within one week next after such award, to issue an attachment against the produce, utensils and other chattels upon such plantation, which execution and award shall be in form similar to the form in the Court of Common Pleas of these Islands for the recovery of debts under 20*l.*, and such writ of execution shall bear test in the name of, and be signed by, the special justice of the division; and such execution and attachment as aforesaid shall be directed to any special constable (not being an apprenticed labourer), who is hereby required to serve the same by levying on so much of the produce, utensils or other chattels, estate or plantation, or belonging to the person for whom such contract labour or task was performed, as may be necessary for the payment of such debt, and the produce, utensils or other chattels so levied upon by virtue of such execution shall, together with the time and place of sale, be advertised by affixing a notice thereof at some conspicuous place in the district, and which sale shall not take place before the sixth day from such levy and advertisement; and such produce, utensils or other chattels shall

hour; signal to be given when the legal hours begin and end.

Clause 41.  
No labourer shall undertake any task-work but with his own free assent.

Clause 42.  
The majority of such labourers willing collectively to undertake any task-work shall bind the minority.

Clause 43.  
In time of crop the special magistrate when required shall by observation inform himself of the quantity of liquor ground or sugar made in a given time, and fix the rate of task-work.

Clause 44.  
All contracts between labourers and their employers shall be entered into a book to be kept for that purpose.

Clause 45.  
No contract shall be binding for more than 14 days unless entered into in the presence of the special magistrate, or confirmed by him, and none for more than one year.

Clause 46.  
It shall be the duty of the special justice to ascertain if any contract is accurately understood by such apprentice, and that the same is undertaken freely and voluntarily.

Clause 47.  
In case such contract money is not paid, the special justice may issue execution against employer, and sell produce, &c.

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Clause 48.  
Any such apprentice violating the terms of such contract, liable to the same pains and penalties as if in the duties owing to his employer, and if 3 or more agree so to do, be deemed guilty of a conspiracy.

Clause 49.  
Every such prædial apprentice, although a married woman or an infant, is competent to enter into contract for task-work notwithstanding such coverture or infancy.

Clause 50.  
Every employer committing an assault upon such apprentice by whipping, beating, &c. to be fined 10*l.*, or if such apprentice, instead of preferring the complaints to the special justice, to maintain a civil suit for damages.

Clause 51.  
Any persons, not being such apprentice, convicted by such justice of any offence under this Act may appeal to the Court of King's Bench.

Clause 52.  
A book to be kept on every estate, in which the manager must enter the quantity of food given, or anything in lieu thereof, also clothing, and when such apprentices are engaged in the service of employer, and when in task-work, &c. &c.

Clause 53.  
When any complaint is made to such special justice, in order to acquire the best information, to visit the estate, and inspect provision grounds and other matters, but to be done in the presence of the manager.

then and there be put up by such special constable, and knocked down to the highest bidder; and such special constable shall, within three days from such sale, pay to the person or persons the amount adjudged by such special justice to be due to them respectively for such extra services or task-work as aforesaid, and the surplus, if any, shall be delivered over to the defendant.

And be it further enacted, that any prædial apprenticed labourer violating or disregarding the terms of such contract as aforesaid for task-work or for extra service, shall be liable to the same pains and penalties as are hereinbefore provided in respect of the neglect or violation by any such labourer of the duties, or any of them, to be performed by such apprenticed labourer in discharge of the service owing by him by law to such his or her employer; and if three or more apprenticed labourers shall agree together to break or violate such contract, they shall, upon conviction, be deemed guilty of an unlawful conspiracy, and punished accordingly.

And be it further enacted, that any prædial apprenticed labourer, being a married woman, shall, notwithstanding her coverture, and every child of the age of 12 years and upwards, notwithstanding his infancy, shall be competent to enter into any such contract as aforesaid for task-work, or for extra services; and in respect to married women, her coverture shall in no manner annul or abridge the right which her employer might or would have to her services in case such coverture did not exist.

And be it further enacted, that if any employer of such apprenticed labourer, or the representative of such employer, shall whip, beat, imprison, confine in the stocks, or otherwise maltreat any such apprenticed labourer, or shall by way of punishment commit any assault upon his or her person, such employer or representative shall, upon conviction before any special justice as aforesaid, be fined in any sum not exceeding 10*l.*, or imprisonment for any time not exceeding one month, in the default of the payment of such fine: provided always, that it shall be competent for any such apprenticed labourer, instead of preferring his complaint to such special justice, to maintain any civil suit or action, as in the case of any other person, for damages for such assault; and it shall also be competent to such special justice, if he shall see occasion, to abstain from imposing such penalty, and to commit or bind over such offender to take his trial for such offence at the next Court of King's Bench and grand sessions of the peace to be holden for these Islands; and in failure of sufficient bail, or if the offence should not be of aailable nature, then to commit such offender to the common gaol, there to remain till delivered by due course of law.

And be it further enacted, that any person or persons, not being an apprenticed labourer, convicted by any special justice or other magistrate of any offence or offences under and by virtue of this Act, may, upon tender of good and sufficient bail, appeal from such conviction to the next Court of King's Bench and grand sessions of the peace to be holden for these Islands, where the offence shall be tried; and if such person or persons so appealing shall be found guilty, he she or they shall be fined or imprisoned, or both, at the discretion of such Court, in any sum, or for any time not exceeding the amount of fine or imprisonment, or both, which he she or they are declared subject and liable to for such offence or offences respectively, under and by virtue of this Act: provided always, that in case such conviction shall be for any offence enumerated in the clause next preceding, then such Court shall punish the offender with fine and imprisonment, or either or both, at their discretion.

And be it also enacted, that on every estate or plantation on which apprenticed labourers are employed, the manager or person having the charge, care, direction or superintendence thereof, shall keep a book in which shall be inserted with precision the quantities of each particular article of food (or anything in lieu thereof) and clothing shared, furnished or supplied to every apprenticed labourer on the said estate or plantation, and at what particular times, as also the particular times when such labourers are engaged in the service of their employers, and if in the performance of extra work, whether the same is in pursuance of any contract voluntarily entered into for hire or work of necessity, and from what cause, the times during which any apprenticed labourer may be absent from his or her employer's service when they ought to be engaged therein, the nature of any offence committed by any apprenticed labourer, whether it be intended to lodge a complaint thereof or not, and all other matters and things which shall take place on the said estate or plantation on which any apprenticed labourer is in any manner concerned out of the usual course of occurrences thereon, and in which book the medical attendant thereon, whether employed by the year or otherwise, shall insert every visit by him paid; and if any patient shall be labouring under any dangerous or severe illness, he shall also insert in the said book the nature thereof, and his prescriptions of any particular kind of food or nourishment for such patient, and which book, on proof being made of the entries therein being truly and correctly inserted, shall be received as evidence in any court before any jurisdiction or authority in these Islands.

And be it also enacted, that if, from the nature of any complaint made to any justice of the peace so specially commissioned to hear and decide on complaints made by or against apprenticed labourers, it shall be necessary, in order to acquire such knowledge and information of the facts and circumstances connected therewith as cannot otherwise be obtained, it shall and may in every such case be lawful for such justice to visit the estate, plantation or other place whereon or to which the apprenticed labourer by whom or on whose behalf, or against whom such complaint was made, is resident or belonging, and to inspect the provision ground allotted to him or her, or make such inquiry and examination into all such matters relating

relating to such complaint as shall be necessary: provided always, that the same shall in every such case take place and be done in the presence and hearing of the employer, manager, overseer or other person having the care, management or direction, of such apprentice.

And be it also enacted, that every domestic and other non-prædial apprenticed servant or labourer, engaged in the performance of any work and labour other than such as appertains to any estate or plantation in these Islands, shall, during the term of his apprenticeship, perform in an honest, faithful and obedient manner, consistently with his or her employer's lawful and reasonable commands, such work and labour in his or her situation as such employer shall require to be done and performed by such domestic, or other servant or labourer; that he or she shall not be insolent, or guilty of any offensive, indecent or improper language or conduct, or be addicted to drunkenness, or quit his or her employer's service, or absent himself or herself therefrom at improper times, or without permission, during such period; and if any such apprenticed servant or labourer shall in any manner whatever fail in the due performance of his or her duties as required by this clause, or act contrary to the true meaning and intention thereof, he or she so offending, and being thereof lawfully convicted, shall for every such offence be subject and liable to the same punishments as the prædial apprentices are or may be subject to for the like offence.

And be it also enacted, that every employer of any such apprenticed servant or labourer not engaged in the performance of any plantation work, shall provide every such servant or labourer with sufficient and proper lodging, food and clothing, such as servants and labourers in his or her situation have been usually supplied and provided with, and such medicines and medical assistance as shall be necessary, and that such employer shall not beat or punish in any manner whatever any such servant or labourer for any offence by him or her committed, but shall in every such case proceed in manner and form hereinbefore directed for the punishment of offences committed by prædial apprenticed labourers; and every employer failing to comply with the requisitions contained in this clause, or in any respect acting contrary thereto, shall in every such case be subject and liable, on being duly convicted thereof in like manner as for offences committed against prædial apprentices, to any fine not exceeding 5*l.*, nor less than 1*s.*, to be recovered and applied as other fines are by this Act directed to be recovered and applied.

And be it further enacted, that the person legally in the possession of, or having the legal right or title to the services of any slave becoming apprentices under and by virtue of the before recited statute passed in the 3d & 4th years of the reign of King William the Fourth, or having the right in the services of any apprentice or apprentices by virtue of any indenture or instrument made conformably with such statute, or the attorney, agent, executor or administrator or assigns of such person, or the person hiring the services of such apprentice or apprentices from them, or either or any of them, shall be deemed, taken and considered for the purposes of this Act, as the employer of such apprentice or apprentices; and any person or persons entrusted or empowered by such employer with the chief superintendence and direction of the labour of such apprentices, shall be deemed as the representative of such employer, and any offence committed by any apprenticed labourer against such representative, or the deputy or deputies of such representative, or any disobedience of his or their orders, shall be deemed, taken, considered and treated as an offence committed against the employer; and wherever words are used in this Act importing the singular number or the masculine gender only, yet this Act shall be understood to include several matters as well as one matter, and several persons as well as one person, and females as well as males, unless it be otherwise specially provided, or there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction.

And be it further enacted, that all fines and penalties imposed under and by virtue of this Act, shall be deemed and taken to be imposed in current gold and silver money, and shall in all cases herein not otherwise provided, be paid into the treasury of these Islands, for the public uses thereof.

And be it further enacted, that any person or persons refusing or neglecting to comply with any of the requisitions of this Act to which an express penalty is not hereinbefore attached, shall, upon conviction before any special justice of the peace of these Islands, be subject to any fine not less than 5*s.*, or more than 5*l.*, or in default of payment, to imprisonment to any time not exceeding one month.

And be it further enacted, that this Act shall be in force on the 1st day of August 1834, and not before, and shall thenceforward be deemed a General Act, and all persons to take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

And be it further enacted, that this Act shall be published and proclaimed in the usual places.

Dated at Tortola, this 19th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1834, and in the fifth year of the reign of His Majesty King William the Fourth.

Passed the Assembly, this 16th day of April 1834.

*Thomas William Crooke*, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Council, this 16th day of April 1834.

By command, *Richard King*, Clerk of Council.

*Thomas Marsh*, Speaker.

(signed) *William Roger Isaacs*, President.

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Clause 54.

Every non-prædial apprenticed labourer or domestic not conducting himself properly shall be subject to the same punishments as prædial apprentices.

Clause 55.

Every employer of such non-prædial apprentice shall provide him with sufficient lodging, food, medical assistance; and neglecting so to do, liable to be punished as in case of prædial apprentices.

Clause 56.

Any persons legally in possession of the services of apprenticed labourers shall be considered as the employer, and any offences committed against the deputy or representative of such, shall be considered as against the employer.

Clause 57.

All fines and penalties under this Act to be in current gold and silver money.

Clause 58.

Any person refusing to comply with any of the requisitions of this Act to which a penalty is not attached, liable to fine by the special justice.

Clause 59.

This Act to be in force on the 1st day of August 1834.

Clause 60.

Act to be published in the usual places.

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Virgin Islands: Tortola.

AN ACT for prescribing the Powers and Duties of Special Justices, and for defining the Jurisdiction of the same.

Preamble.

WHEREAS by the 14th section of an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain, made and passed in the 3d & 4th years of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves," it is enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for His Majesty to issue, or to authorize the Governor of any such Colony, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, to issue, under the public seal of any such Colony, one or more special commission or commissions to any one or more person or persons, constituting him or them a justice or justices of the peace for the whole of any such Colony, or for any parish, precinct, quarter or district within the same, for the special purpose of giving effect thereto, and to any laws which may in any manner thereinbefore mentioned be made for giving more complete effect to the same: We, therefore, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Governor and Commander-in-chief of Your Majesty's Islands of Antigua, Barbuda, Montserrat, St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla, the Virgin Islands and Dominica, and in his absence the chief officer administering the government of the said Virgin Islands, and the Council and Assembly of these Your Majesty's Virgin Islands, humbly pray Your most Excellent Majesty, that it may be enacted and ordained, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority aforesaid, that on every plantation or estate the special justice of the peace shall appoint one or more of the male apprenticed labourers thereon, with the consent and approbation of the employer thereof, to be special constables, who shall be empowered to maintain peace and order on such plantation or estate, under the direction of the owner or manager thereof, or employer of the apprenticed labourer thereon, and to secure and place in confinement when absolutely necessary any apprenticed labourer who shall commit any offence on such plantation or estate, or any apprenticed labourer not employed on such plantation or estate who may be found loitering thereon without the knowledge and permission of the owner or manager thereof, such apprentice confined as aforesaid to be not kept in custody longer than shall be necessary to obtain the trial of such apprentice before a special justice of the peace: provided always, that no such apprentice shall be kept in confinement beyond 24 hours before trial, unless by order of any such justice; provided nevertheless, that such trial shall take place as soon as possible after such release; and provided always, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to give any such constable appointed as aforesaid any power or authority over any of His Majesty's subjects other than apprenticed labourers.

Clause .  
Special constables may be appointed out of the apprenticed labourers by consent of the employer.

Clause 2.  
The deputy provost-marshal, or any constable, may execute any writ or other process as directed by the special justice.

Clause 3.  
Said justice to hold a session once a week, or oftener if necessary.

Clause 4.  
He shall keep a journal of all the cases brought before him, which is to be kept as a record in his office.

Clause 5.  
If any complaint brought before him is considered immaterial he may dismiss it.

Clause 6.  
No apprenticed labourer to have in his possession fire-arms, gunpowder, &c. without consent of employer.

And be it further enacted, that the deputy provost-marshal, or any constable of these Islands, is hereby authorized and required to execute any writ or attachment, or to serve any summons, warrant or other process to him or them directed by such special justice, or to do any other matter or thing for the more effectually carrying into effect the provisions of any of the Acts of these Islands passed conformably to the said Act of the Imperial Parliament aforesaid.

And be it further enacted, that every such special justice of the peace shall one day in each week, or oftener if need be, at the place of his residence, hold a session for the hearing and deciding upon such cases as may be brought before him, and which shall and is hereby directed to be open and public to all and every and any person or persons who may please to attend.

And be it further enacted, that every such special justice of the peace shall keep a journal of all the cases brought before him, in which he shall enter, 1st, the date of the complaint; 2d, the name of the complainant; 3d, the substance of the complaint; 4th, the name of the witnesses adduced on either side; 5th, the substance of the evidence; 6th, his decision on the case; 7th, whether the decision has been carried into effect; 8th, any general remarks which the circumstances of the case may call for: and he shall and he is hereby required to take all complaints, accusations, charges or informations in writing, which shall be sworn to in due form of law, and such justice shall file the same, and keep them of record in his office ready to be produced as occasion may require.

And be it further enacted, that if any complaint or accusation made to any special justice shall appear to him on previous inquiry, which he is hereby allowed to make prior to his reducing the same into writing as before directed, immaterial and not to deserve further consideration, he may dismiss the same, unless the person appearing before him shall insist upon proceeding therewith.

And be it further enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any apprenticed labourer to have in his or her possession any gunpowder, fire-arms or other offensive weapons of any description whatever, without the knowledge, consent and approbation of his or her employer, or the representative of such employer, and that every such offender, on conviction before any special justice, shall be adjudged to confinement with hard labour for any time not exceeding three months, or to whipping not exceeding 39 lashes, or to both of such punishments, at the discretion of the said special justice; and every employer of, or manager, overseer,

overseer, or other person having the direction or superintendence of any apprenticed labourer or labourers, and all constables, special constables, and other persons in authority, civil or military, within these Islands, are hereby required to dispossess any such apprentice or apprentices of any gunpowder, muskets, pistols, swords, cutlasses, pikes, spears, daggers or other offensive or dangerous weapons, which he, she or they may have in his, her or their possession without such permission, and cause the same to be delivered to or as directed by the Governor, to be disposed of or kept in such place of security as he shall order; and in order to prevent a collection of gunpowder and offensive and dangerous weapons getting into improper hands, by which the safety of the Colony may be endangered, that any justice of the peace for these Islands may, on receiving such information as shall show a probability of any such collection being making, to give authority to such proper persons as he may appoint to search any such suspected depositories of arms or gunpowder for improper purposes as he may receive information of.

And be it further enacted, that upon any complaint or information to any special justice of the peace, made by or against any apprenticed labourer, for or on account of any matter or thing or offence against the provisions of this or any other Act or Acts relating to apprenticed labourers and their employers, or which is or may be incidental to or arising out of the relation of any apprenticed labourer to his or her employer, or the person entitled to his or her services, or upon or for the infliction of any corporal punishment upon any apprenticed labourer by his or her employer, or upon or for any breach of the peace by any apprenticed labourer upon the person of his or her employer, it shall and may be lawful for the special justice of the peace before whom any such complaint or information is made or lodged, and he is hereby directed to receive and take the same in the manner and form aforesaid, and to hear, and in a summary manner determine the same, either dismissing such complaint or information as frivolous or vexatious, or malicious, and summarily punishing the party bringing the same as hereinafter directed, or sentencing, on conviction, the party complained against to any of the pains and penalties particularly prescribed for such offence as he or she shall have been found guilty against this or any other Act or Acts of these Islands, passed or to be passed in conformity with the said Act of the Imperial Parliament aforesaid.

And be it further enacted, that upon the preferring or lodging of any accusation, charge or information imputing to the party charged a capital or transportable offence, or upon or for the infliction of any corporal punishment upon any apprenticed labourer by his or her employer, or upon or for any breach of the peace by any apprenticed labourer upon the person of his or her employer, it shall and may be lawful for the special justice of the peace receiving the same, and he is hereby directed, after having taken the said accusation, charge or information in the manner and form hereinbefore prescribed, to issue his warrant for the apprehension of the alleged offender, and having him or her before him, to commit him or her to the common gaol of these Islands; or if the alleged offence is one bailable by law, to take bail in such sum as to the said justice shall seem sufficient, with one or more responsible sureties, who is or are to justify, should the said justice so please, for the appearance of the said alleged offender at the Court of King's Bench and quarter sessions of the peace then next to be holden for the said Islands, then and there to answer to any prosecution that may be preferred against him or her by the party complaining; and the said special justice of the peace is hereby further empowered, in cases of any capital or transportable offence, to bind over the party accusing to prosecute such alleged offender for such offence at the said court.

And be it further enacted, that upon the taking in the manner and form hereinbefore prescribed, by any special justice of the peace, of any complaint or information made by any apprenticed labourer, or by any employer of any apprenticed labourer, for or in respect of any matter, thing or offence against the provisions of this or any other Act or Acts passed or to be passed relative to apprenticed labourers or their employers, or the persons entitled to their services (other than a capital or transportable offence, or in cases where there is reason to apprehend that the party charged would endeavour to escape, or in all cases when there is reason to apprehend danger to the public peace from delay), the said special justice shall summon the person complained against or informed upon to appear at a time and place to be named in such summons; and if he or she shall not appear accordingly, then, upon proof upon oath of the due service of the said summons upon such person, by delivering the same to him or her personally, or by leaving the same at his or her usual place of abode, or by reading the same to him or her, the said special justice may, unless a good and sufficient cause for such non-attendance be made, issue his warrant to the deputy provost-marshal or to a constable for compelling the same, and may, should he deem it necessary, bind over the person so complained of by recognizance to appear before him at such time and place as he shall appoint for hearing and deciding upon such complaint; and should such person refuse to enter into such recognizance and give the required security for his or her appearance, such person shall, by order of the said justice, be sent to gaol, or, if any apprenticed labourers, to gaol or such other place of confinement as the said justice shall think proper to order, there to remain until the time appointed for the hearing, or until such recognizance shall be entered into; and such justice shall upon conviction sentence such offender to the punishment or punishments prescribed in and by this or any other Act or Acts to the commission of the particular offence he or she hath been so convicted of.

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Any justice of the peace may search for such suspected depositories.

Clause 7.  
The special justice may proceed to examine in a summary manner any complaint brought by or against any such apprentice.

Clause 8.  
In complaints for offences such justice may issue his warrant, examine, and either commit or bail the offender.

Clause 9.  
But where there is no fear of escape, said justice may summon parties to appear.

Clause 10.  
Any person against whom a charge is preferred may obtain a copy of same in writing.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, that all or any person or persons who shall have preferred against him, her or them any complaint, charge or accusation or information, shall at any time, upon demand made to the special justice of the peace receiving the same, be entitled to a sight, and also a true copy, if required, of such complaint, charge, accusation or information reduced into writing as aforesaid.

Clause 11.  
On proceeding in the charge said justice must read over the charge to the defendant, or in presence of some person appearing in his behalf.

And be it further enacted, that at the time and place specified in any summons issued by any special justice for proceeding upon any complaint, charge or information preferred or lodged before him, such special justice shall, in the presence of the party complained against, or charged or informed upon, if in attendance, or in the presence of any other person attending on his or her behalf, read over the complaint or charge or information subscribed and sworn to in the manner and form hereinbefore directed, and shall take in writing the plea or answer of the party complained against, or charged or informed upon, whether guilty or not guilty, if he or she be in attendance; and the said special justice shall examine all the witnesses in support of the said complaint, or charge or information, and then examine all the witnesses on the part of the party complained against, or charged or informed upon, and shall take in writing the evidence of any or all of the witnesses on either side, which, when finished, shall be read, signed or marked, certified and attested, in the manner and form directed in cases of complaints, charges, accusations or informations made before, and taken and received by any special justice.

Clause 12.  
Employer of such apprenticed labourer may proceed by indictment in the first instance, if he thinks proper.

Provided always, and it is hereby enacted and declared, that nothing herein contained shall prevent or be construed to prevent any employer of any apprenticed labourer, on whose person any breach of the peace may have been committed by any such apprenticed labourer, from applying for redress by warrant from any justice of the peace for these Islands in the first instance, and by indictment in ordinary form of law, if he or she shall prefer so doing to complaining to the special justice: provided always, that any punishment by summary conviction and sentence of such special justice under this Act, inflicted on any apprenticed labourer for any such breach of the peace, shall be a bar to any further punishment for the same by any superior court of criminal jurisdiction within these Islands, anything herein contained to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

Clause 13.  
Such justice may issue his summons for the attendance of witnesses; how to proceed if such is not attended to.

And be it enacted, that the special justice before whom any witness or witnesses shall be required to give testimony in support or in refutation of any complaints or accusations made by or against any apprenticed labourer, is hereby empowered and required to issue his summons respecting the time and place when and where such witness or witnesses is or are to give his, her or their attendance; and in case of the non-attendance of any such witness, upon due proof being made of the service of such summons upon him or her, such justice is hereby required to issue his further summons, calling upon such non-attending witness to be and appear at such time and place as shall be therein specified, to show cause for such non-attendance, and failing so to do, on his or her oath, or by the oath of some other person, or if he or she shall not attend such further summons, due proof of service thereof being made, he or she shall, if an apprenticed labourer, be imprisoned by order of such justice, with hard labour, for any time not exceeding three nor less than one month, or if any other than an apprenticed labourer, fined in any sum not exceeding 5*l.* to the use of the person on whose behalf he or she was summoned to give evidence, and in default of payment, the same to be levied on his or her goods and chattels, and for want thereof, to be imprisoned for any time not exceeding three nor less than one month.

Clause 14.  
Any person giving false testimony to be liable to all penalties of perjury.

And be it further enacted, that if any person or persons, upon examination on oath or affirmation before any special justice or any commissioner appointed or to be appointed conformably to the said Act of the Imperial Parliament, shall wilfully and corruptly give false evidence, or shall in such affidavit or deposition wilfully or corruptly swear, affirm or allege any matter or thing which shall be false or untrue, every such person or persons so offending, and being thereof duly convicted, shall be and is and are hereby declared to be subject and liable to the pains and penalties of persons convicted of wilful and corrupt perjury.

Clause 15.  
In case there is no witness other than the person making the charge, said justice may take the oath of the accused, except for an indictable offence.

And be it further enacted, that in case there is no witness in support of any complaint, charge, accusation or information, but the person making the same, it shall and may be lawful, and the special justice is hereby required and directed to take the oath of the party complained against, accused or charged or informed upon, he or she consenting thereto, and the said special justice is hereby required to take the same in the same manner and form as hereinbefore directed by this Act to be made and taken in cases of complaints or accusations, charges or informations made, preferred or adjudged before any such special justice: provided always, that such oath shall not be made, taken or received in any case which imputes to the party charged a capital or transportable offence, or disobedience of orders by any apprenticed labourer to the lawful commands of his or her employer, or any insolence or insubordination, or breach of the peace, on the part of any apprenticed labourer to his or her employer; and provided also, that evidence shall in all such cases be received, when necessary, as to the credibility of any witness, and that such special justice shall, should any doubt arise, satisfy himself, previously to the swearing of any witness, that he or she hath a competent knowledge of the nature and obligation of an oath.

Clause 16.  
Said justice may adjourn his proceedings, and commit the party charged, if necessary.

And be it further enacted, that any special justice before whom any complaint, charge or accusation or information is made, may from time to time adjourn any proceedings therein, and if necessary shall commit the party charged with a capital or transportable offence

offence to custody, if an apprenticed labourer, to the house of correction or any other place of confinement established by law, and if any other person, to the common gaol of these Islands, pending such adjournment, or to take bail, if such offence is by law bailable, for his future appearance.

And be it further enacted, that all fines and penalties imposed by this Act to the use of the party damnified, shall be paid into the hands of such special justice of the peace who imposed the same, and he is hereby directed to pay over the same to the party entitled thereto, taking an acknowledgment from the party receiving, if he shall see fit.

And be it further enacted, that any and every special justice under this Act awarding to any person any punishment not authorized by law for him to award, shall be subject and liable to the action or suit of the party aggrieved by the award of such unlawful or unauthorized punishment.

And be it further enacted, that in all prosecutions or actions in any of the superior courts of the said Virgin Islands, in which any apprenticed labourer appears as plaintiff or defendant, or in which any such apprenticed labourer may be concerned, that the special justice of the peace in which such apprenticed labourer resides, shall appear on the part of and prosecute for, or defend, or otherwise protect, any such apprenticed labourer or his interests, in the same manner as owners of slaves, before the 1st day of August 1834, did protect the interests of their slaves.

And be it enacted, that all summonses, warrants, commitments and other process to be issued by any special justice, shall be executed by, and such justice is hereby authorized to issue and address the same to the provost-marshal of these Islands, or his lawful deputy, or to any constable of the said Virgin Islands.

And be it further enacted, that all fines and penalties imposed in and by virtue of this Act, shall be and the same are of current gold and silver money of these Islands.

And be it enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall, during the term of his or her apprenticeship, wilfully absent himself or herself from the service of his or her employer, or commit any offence for which he or she shall be sentenced to confinement, by which the employer of such apprentice shall lose his or her services, that such apprentice shall be subject and liable to make satisfaction for the loss thereby sustained by such employer, by working in the service and for the benefit of the person or persons so entitled to his or her services for so long a time, during the hours by this Act allowed to him or her for his or her benefit, as shall be equal to the loss so sustained by any such absence, so that such extra service shall not in any case exceed 15 hours in any one week; or if full compensation shall not thereby be made to the person or persons entitled to the services of any such apprentice for the loss sustained by any such absence, that such apprentice shall be liable to a prolongation of his or her apprenticeship after the original term shall have expired, for so long a time as will be sufficient to make up such loss: provided always, that no such additional or new apprenticeship shall be compellable after the expiration of seven years next after the termination of such original apprenticeship.

And be it further enacted, that every special justice of the peace who shall take any recognizance under this Act shall, seven days preceding the sitting of the Court of King's Bench and quarter sessions of the peace, holden in and for these Islands next after the taking of the same, transmit such recognizance to the clerk of the Crown of these Islands, by him to be kept among the records of the said court, for the purpose of any prosecution which the party aggrieved may please to institute.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, that in all cases any person other than an apprenticed labourer who shall think himself or herself aggrieved by any such conviction, may appeal to the next Court of King's Bench and quarter sessions of the peace, which shall be holden not less than 12 days after such conviction; provided that such person shall give to the complainant a notice in writing of such appeal, and of the cause and matter thereof, within three days after such conviction, and seven clear days at the least before the first sittings of such Court, and shall also either remain in custody until the said first sittings, or enter into a recognizance with two sufficient sureties, who shall justify upon oath, if necessary, before a special justice of the peace, conditioned personally to appear at the said King's Bench or quarter sessions of the peace, and to try such appeal, and to abide the judgment of the Court thereupon, and to pay such costs as shall be by the Court awarded; and upon such notice being given, and such recognizance being entered into, the justice before whom the same shall be entered into, shall liberate such person if in custody, and the said court at its first or subsequent sittings shall hear and determine the matter of the appeal, and shall make such order therein, with or without costs to either party, as to the said Court shall seem meet; and in case of dismissal of the appeal or the affirmance of the conviction, shall order and adjudge the offender to be punished according to the conviction, and to pay such costs as shall be awarded, and shall, if necessary, issue process for enforcing such judgment.

And for the protection of the special justices of the peace acting under this or any other Act or Acts passed or to be passed respecting the relation subsisting between apprenticed labourers

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Clause 17.

All fines, &c. imposed to be paid into the hands of the justice who imposed them; who to be given to.

Clause 18.

Any special justice awarding any punishment not authorized by law, liable to action of party aggrieved.

Clause 19.

The special justice shall protect the apprenticed labourers in any suit or action, as owners of slaves did before the 1st August.

Clause 20.

Special justice may address summonses, warrants, &c. to the deputy provost-marshal, or to any constable.

Clause 21.

All fines and penalties to be in current gold and silver money.

Clause 22.

Any such apprentice absenting himself from employer's service must make reparation for the loss of time, by after servitude.

Clause 23.

All recognizances to be delivered to the clerk of the Crown 7 days previous to the sitting of the court.

Clause 24.

Any person other than such apprentice, aggrieved by sentence of special justice, may appeal. Mode of.

Clause 25.

Any prosecution against any special justice for



anything done in pursuance of this Act to be commenced within six months. Notice to be given.

labourers and their employers or other persons entitled to their services, Be it enacted, that all actions and prosecutions to be commenced against any such special justice of the peace for anything done in pursuance of this or any other Act or Acts as before mentioned, or by mistake or misapprehension in the conception, or under the impression that he was acting under any of the same, shall be commenced within six calendar months after the fact committed, and not otherwise, and notice of such action, and of the cause thereof, shall be given to the defender one calendar month at least before the commencement of the action; and no such action or prosecution shall be commenced against any such special justice of the peace for any thing done in the execution of his office, until such notice in writing of such intended commencement of such action or prosecution shall have been delivered to him; and in any such action or prosecution the defendant may plead the general issue, and give this or any other Act or Acts before mentioned, and the special matter, in evidence at any trial to be had thereupon, and no plaintiff shall recover in any such action if tender of sufficient amends is proved on any such trial to have been made by any such special justice of the peace before such action brought; and in any such action, if any such special justice of the peace shall at any time before judgment tender to the plaintiff sufficient amends for the wrong or injury in respect of which the same may be brought, and submit to pay the costs of suit up to that time incurred, then upon proof thereof produced at the trial of such action, and that sufficient amends had been tendered and refused, judgment shall be given for the plaintiff in the amount only of the sum so tendered, subject nevertheless to the reduction therefrom of the costs of suit of the defendant; and if a verdict shall pass for the defendant, or the plaintiff shall become nonsuit or discontinue any such action after issue joined, or upon demurrer or otherwise judgment shall be given against the plaintiff, the defendant shall recover treble costs of suit, and have the like remedy for the same as any defendant hath by law in other cases; and although a verdict shall be given for the plaintiff in any such action, such plaintiff shall not have costs against the defendant unless the chief or other justice presiding in the court in which such action is tried, shall certify his approbation of the action and of the verdict obtained thereupon.

Clause 26.  
If any such justice shall abuse the powers in him vested, liable to action at suit of party.

And be it further enacted, that if any special justice of the peace shall exceed or abuse the powers in him vested by this or any other Act passed or to be passed in pursuance of the said Act of Parliament for the abolition of slavery, he shall be subject and liable to the action or suit of the party aggrieved; and if any person shall recover a verdict against him in such action or suit, such person so recovering a verdict against him shall be entitled to receive treble costs from such special justice of the peace.

Clause 27.  
Special justices are under the same protection, and governed by the same rules as other justices.

And for providing for any omission as to the protection, or as regards the responsibility of any special justice of the peace, Be it further enacted, that all any and every such special justice of the peace within the said Virgin Islands are and is hereby declared to be under the same protection, liable to the same responsibility, and governed by the same rules, as all or any other justices of the peace of England or of the Virgin Islands are, or is, or may be by the common law, or by any statute of Great Britain, or by any other Act of the said Virgin Islands.

Clause 28.  
Instrument of punishment to be a cat-o'-nine-tails.

And be it further enacted, that the instrument to be used in the infliction of corporal punishment by flogging under this Act, shall be a cat-o'-nine-tails similar to those used for the purpose in His Majesty's navy.

Clause 29.  
This Act to be deemed and taken to be a general Act.

And be it further enacted, that this Act shall be deemed, taken and considered as a General Act, and shall be taken notice of as such by all judges, justices and jurors, and other persons whomsoever, without specially pleading or showing forth the same.

Dated at Tortola, this 19th day of July 1834, and in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign.

Passed the Assembly, the 8th day of April 1834.

*Thomas Wm. Crooke*, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Council, the 23d day of April 1834.

By command, *Richard King*, Clerk of Council.

*Thomas Marsh*, Speaker.

(signed) *Wm. Roger Isaacs*, President.

— No. 40. —

Virgin Islands:—Tortola.

No. 40.

AN ACT to regulate the removal of prædial Apprenticed Labourers from one plantation or estate to another; the Alienation, by sale, inheritance or will, of the Services of Apprenticed Labourers; the Apprenticeship of Children of Apprenticed Labourers; and the relation in which Apprenticed Labourers will stand towards the State in the said Virgin Islands; and thereby to carry more effectually into operation the enactments contained in that behalf in an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves"

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is deemed expedient to provide for the removal of prædial apprenticed labourers from one plantation or estate in this Colony to another, to regulate the manner in which

which the services of apprenticed labourers shall pass, by sale, inheritance or otherwise, and to establish rules for the apprenticeship of children who shall not have attained the age of six years on the 1st day of August 1834, and of those thereafter to be born of apprenticed labourers, conformably with certain provisions of an Act of Parliament of the 3d & 4th years of His Majesty King William the Fourth, for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies: We, therefore, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Your Majesty's Islands of Antigua, Montserrat, Barbuda, St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla, the Virgin Islands and Dominica, and in his absence, the chief officer administering the government of the said Virgin Islands, and the Council and Assembly of these Your Majesty's Virgin Islands, do humbly pray Your most Excellent Majesty that it may be,

And be it, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that no prædial apprenticed labourer who may, in the manner provided and declared of and concerning the same in and by the said hereinbefore mentioned Act of Parliament, become attached to the soil, shall be subject or liable to perform any labour in the service of his or her employer or employers, except upon, or in, or about the works and business of the plantations or estates to which such prædial apprenticed labourer shall have been attached, or on which he or she shall have been usually employed on or previously to the 1st day of August 1834: provided nevertheless, that with the consent in writing of any two or more justices of the peace holding special commissions, it shall and may be lawful for the person or persons entitled to the services of any such attached prædial apprenticed labourer or labourers, to transfer his, her or their services to any other estate or plantation within the same Colony to such person or persons belonging; which written consent shall in no case be given, or be of any validity, unless any such justice shall first have ascertained that such transfer would not have the effect of separating any such attached prædial apprenticed labourer from his or her wife or husband, parent or child, or from any person or persons reputed to bear any such relation to him or her, and that such transfer would not probably be injurious to the health or welfare of such attached prædial apprenticed labourer; and such written consent to any such removal shall be expressed in such terms, and shall be in such case given, attested and recorded in such manner as shall for that purpose be hereinafter prescribed.

And for the purpose of supplying the deficiency of the section last recited, Be it further enacted, that in case of there being but one justice so specially commissioned as aforesaid residing within the said Virgin Islands at any time when any such consent shall be required, the consent of that one shall be sufficient for the purpose of removal or transfer of any such prædial attached apprenticed labourer or labourers: provided always, that such consent shall be in writing, and shall be signed by the special justices, or special justice, if only one special justice be residing in the said Virgin Islands, as required by this Act; and that such consent shall express to be given in their or his capacity of special justice, and that the form of the consent aforesaid be in words following:

" These are to certify, that upon the application of (the name of the employer desirous of removing his apprenticed labourers or labourer), according to the provisions of an Act, intitled, ' An Act (this Act),' we (or I, as the necessity of the case may be), have inquired into the circumstances of the case, and being satisfied that such removal may be made without infringing any of the regulations in the said Act in this respect contained, we (or I, as the necessity of the case may require), do hereby permit the said (employer aforesaid) to remove the several attached prædial apprentices named (here name them, specifying the relations, or reputed relations, they may bear to each other), from \_\_\_\_\_ plantation or estate, in the \_\_\_\_\_ district, to \_\_\_\_\_ plantation or estate in the same or \_\_\_\_\_ district. Given under our hands (or my hand, as the necessity of the case may be,) this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_."

And be it further enacted, that any special justice giving and joining in such consent, shall insert in a book, which is hereby directed to be by him kept for the purpose, a true copy of the consent by himself so given or joined in as aforesaid, there to remain as a record of such transfer, and shall deliver such written consent to the employer or employers applying therefor.

And be it further enacted, that such consent as aforesaid shall not be necessary where such attached prædial apprenticed labourers or labourer may be employed in any occasional work or business, by desire of their employer, on any estate or plantation, or otherwise, which work or business shall not continue for more than five days in succession, and that the foregoing clauses shall apply only to removal for the permanent domicile of such labourers.

And be it enacted, in conformity to the 10th section of the said hereinbefore mentioned Act of Parliament, that the right or interest of any employer or employers to and in the services of any apprenticed labourers, shall pass and be transferable by bargain and sale, contract, deed, conveyance, will or descent, according to law; provided that no such apprenticed labourer shall by virtue of any such bargain and sale, contract, deed, conveyance, will or descent, be subject to or liable to be separated from his or her wife or husband, parent or child, or from any person or persons reputed to bear any such relation to him or her.

And in accordance with the 13th section of the said Act of Parliament, Be it further enacted, that if any child who, on the said 1st day of August 1834, had not completed his or her sixth year, or if any child to whom any female apprenticed labourer may give birth on or after the said 1st day of August 1834, shall be brought before any justice

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Clause 1.  
That no apprenticed labourer shall be liable to work for employer on any other estate than the one they were usually employed upon previously to 1st August 1834, except by consent of two special justices; such consent to be attested and recorded.

Clause 2.  
If only one special justice is appointed, the consent of that one shall be sufficient. Form thereof.

Clause 3.  
Such consent to be recorded in a book for that purpose to be kept, and a true copy thereof given to employer, if required.

Clause 4.  
Such consent not necessary for occasional work or business, but only in case of removal for permanent domicile.

Clause 5.  
Services of such apprentices may be transferred by sale or otherwise, but such transfer not to separate husband and wife, parent and child, &c.

Clause 6.  
On the 1st August 1834 every child under six years, or any born after, to be brought before the special justice, and it is

appears to him that such child is unprovided with an adequate maintenance, may apprentice him to the person entitled to the services of the mother; exceptions thereto.

of the peace holding any such special commission as in the said Act of Parliament mentioned, and if it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of such justice that any such child is unprovided with an adequate maintenance, and that such child hath not completed his or her age of 12 years, it shall be lawful for such justice, and he is hereby required, on behalf of any such child, to execute an indenture of apprenticeship, thereby binding such child as an apprenticed labourer to the person or persons entitled to the services of the mother of such child, or who had been last entitled to the services of such mother; but in case it shall be made to appear to any such justice, that such person or persons aforesaid is or are unable or unfit to enter into such indenture, and properly to perform the conditions thereof, then it shall be lawful for such justice, and he is hereby required, by such indenture to bind any such child to any other person or persons to be by him for that purpose approved, and who may be willing and able properly to perform such conditions; and it shall by every such indenture of apprenticeship be declared whether such child shall thenceforward belong to the class of attached prædial apprenticed labourers, or to the class of unattached prædial apprenticed labourers, or to the class of non-prædial apprenticed labourers, and the term of such apprenticeship of any such child shall by such indenture be limited and made to continue in force until such child shall have completed his or her 21st year, and no longer; and every child so apprenticed as aforesaid, by the order of any such justice of the peace as aforesaid, shall, during his or her apprenticeship, be subject to all such and the same rules and regulations respecting the work and labour to be by them done or performed, and respecting the food and other supplies to be to him or her furnished, as any other apprenticed labourers in the said Act before mentioned: provided always, that the said indenture of apprenticeship shall contain sufficient words of obligation upon the employer to allow reasonable time and opportunity for the education and religious instruction of such child.

**Clause 7.**  
Form of such indentures of apprenticeship to be the same used in England, conformably to this Act.

And for the settling the form of the indenture requisite and necessary for the purpose of apprenticeship, Be it further enacted, that the form of such indenture of apprenticeship shall be the same as forms of apprenticeship used in England, making the same conformable with the requisitions of this Act.

**Clause 8.**  
When such indenture is properly executed, copy to be delivered to the party.

And be it further enacted, that whensoever any such indenture of apprenticeship is executed by the necessary parties, that a counterpart shall likewise be executed, and delivered to the party to whom any such apprenticed labourer is apprenticed.

**Clause 9.**  
Such indenture to be recorded in a book to be kept for that purpose. Indenture to be preserved by the special justice for inspection.

And be it further enacted, that whensoever any of such indentures of apprenticeship shall be executed by the necessary parties thereto, the same shall be recorded in a book by such special justice executing the same, which is hereby directed to be kept for the purpose by such special justice, and the special justice shall preserve the said indenture of apprenticeship in his said office ready for inspection, or any other purpose for which it may be required.

**Clause 10.**  
All apprenticed labourers under this Act are exempted and excluded from all offices, civil or military, during such term; exceptions thereto.

And be it further enacted, in accordance with the 22d section of the said hereinbefore mentioned Act of Parliament, that all and every persons or person in the said Virgin Islands who, on or after the 1st day of August 1834, shall become apprenticed labourers or labourer by the terms and force and effect of this Act, or of the said Act of the said Imperial Parliament, shall, during the continuance of any term of apprenticeship as therein and thereby specified, be exempted and excluded, except in the cases hereafter mentioned, from the performance of any service, civil or military, in the same, and shall be and are and is hereby disqualified from holding or exercising, and shall be and are and is hereby declared incompetent, except in the cases hereinafter mentioned, to hold any situation, civil or military, in the said Virgin Islands, during the continuance of every term of such apprenticeship; and also shall be and are and is hereby exempted from all or any imprisonment for any debts or debt which they, or any of them, may contract or incur; anything contained, or which may be construed or considered as contained to the contrary in any Act or Acts, and particularly in an Act of the said Virgin Islands, intituled, "An Act to extend to His Majesty's free Coloured and free Black subjects of the said Virgin Islands, in the manner thereafter mentioned, all the rights, privileges and immunities which are now held and enjoyed by His Majesty's White subjects," in anywise notwithstanding: provided always, that nothing herein shall extend, or be construed to extend, to absolve, disqualify or declare incompetent any apprenticed labourers or labourer, during the term of any of their or his time of apprenticeship aforesaid, from the duty of serving, at the request of his or their employer or employers, in a civil or military capacity, if appointed thereto by the Governor, or person lawfully administering the government of the said Virgin Islands, by and with the advice and consent of the Privy Council of the same, in case of rebellion or other great public exigency, or to serve as special constable as directed by any other Act passed in pursuance of said Act of Parliament.

**Clause 11.**  
This Act to be in force on 1st August 1834.

And be it further enacted, that this Act shall be in force on the 1st day of August 1834, and not before, and shall thenceforward be deemed a general Act, and all persons to take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

Dated at Tortola, this 19th day July 1834, and in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign.

Passed the Assembly, this 8th day of April 1834.

*Thomas William Crooke*, Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Council, this 23d day of April 1834.

By command, *Richard King*, Clerk of Council.

*Thomas Marsh*, Speaker.

(signed) *William Roger Isaacs*, President.

## DOMINICA.

— No. 41. —

Dominica.

AN ACT for registering all Persons actually within this Island, on the 1st day of August in this present Year of our Lord 1834, and who shall have been duly registered as Slaves, in conformity with the Laws now in force; and also, for establishing a Classification thereof, for the purposes set forth in and by an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, "An Act for the abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves."—

(Passed 19th May 1834.)

WHEREAS it is necessary that a registry should be made of all persons actually within this Island, on the 1st day of August in this present year of our Lord 1834, and who shall have been duly registered as slaves, in conformity with the laws now in force: And whereas it is also necessary that the slaves actually appearing by such registry to remain, should be divided into classes, as hereinafter directed: We, therefore, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Governor and Commander-in-chief of Your Majesty's Islands of Antigua, Montserrat, Barbuda, St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla, the Virgin Islands, and Dominica, and the Council and Assembly of this Your Majesty's Island of Dominica, humbly pray Your Most Excellent Majesty that it may be enacted and ordained,

1. And be it and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all persons who on the 31st day of July, in the present year of our Lord 1834, shall be in possession of any slave or slaves in this Island, and who by the laws now in force are required to make triennial returns thereof, shall on the 1st day of August 1834, or within 30 days thereafter, make and give in to the registrar of slaves, returns thereof, in all respects in conformity with the laws now in force, establishing such triennial registry; and in addition thereto shall make an alphabetical list of all slaves, &c. &c. appearing by such returns to remain on the date aforesaid, divided into the following heads and classes; that is to say, "prædial attached," "prædial unattached," "non-prædial," and "under six years": provided always, and be it enacted, that under the head of "prædial attached," shall be included alone all persons who, on the said 31st day of July 1834, shall be of the full age of six years and upwards, and who in their state of slavery were usually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce or otherwise, upon lands belonging to their owners; under the head of "prædial unattached," shall be included all such persons who in their state of slavery were actually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce, or otherwise, upon lands not belonging to their owners; and under the head of "non-prædial" shall be included all such persons as are not included in either of the two last-mentioned classes: provided also, that for the purposes aforesaid, every slave engaged in his ordinary occupation on the seas, shall be deemed and taken to be within this Island; and for the greater uniformity of such returns, and that no person may pretend ignorance of the proper form thereof, an example is contained in a schedule to this Act annexed, to which all persons are required to conform: provided always, that no person above the age of 12 years shall be included in either of the classes of "prædial attached," or "prædial unattached," unless such person shall for 12 months at least, previous to the 28th day of August 1833, have been habitually employed in prædial labour.

2. And, to the intent that all persons required to deliver in returns and lists as aforesaid may be duly apprised of the proper time of doing so, and of the manner and form thereof; be it enacted, that the registrar or his deputy shall, and he is hereby required, as soon as possible after the passing of this Act, to send printed copies of the same to the way-wardens of the respective parishes, for distribution amongst the inhabitants thereof; and shall cause advertisements to be inserted in the newspaper of this Island, notifying the proper time of delivering in the said returns; and shall also cause to be printed, at the public expense, a sufficient number of the forms of returns directed by the first clause of this Act, and shall transmit the same, with the printed copies of this Act, to the way-wardens as aforesaid, who are hereby required to distribute the said schedules or forms, to such persons as shall apply for the same: and if the said registrar or his deputy, or any of the way-wardens, shall neglect to perform any of the duties by this Act directed, such party so offending shall for every such neglect forfeit the sum of 200 *l.* current money: provided always, that the way-wardens shall be allowed to employ such constables, or other as many free persons as may be necessary in their respective parishes, for giving publicity to this Act, and notification of the time for making the returns; and the said constables or other free persons shall be entitled to demand and receive, on the production of a certificate from a majority of the respective way-wardens, the sum of 1 *s.* 6 *d.* for each person so summoned or notified.

3. And be it further enacted, that the registrar shall carefully preserve the original lists or returns given in to him, and cause the same, within six months after receiving them, to be copied clearly and distinctly (under the names of the parishes from which such returns are respectively made), in a book strongly bound and duly paged and indexed, to be by him

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provided and kept in his office; and such book or books are hereby declared to be public property: and when and so soon as the said lists or returns shall have been duly entered and recorded as aforesaid, the said registrar or his deputy shall give notice forthwith, by advertisements in the public newspapers, that the same are completed, and the said book or books shall continue open in his office for the inspection of the public.

4. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the registrar or his deputy shall, at the expiration of the period aforesaid, authenticate the said registry in the same manner and form as by law he is now required to do in regard to the registry of slaves.

5. And be it enacted, that the persons making and giving in the returns and lists by this Act directed, shall, on the said 1st day of August 1834, or within 30 days thereafter, appear before the registrar of slaves, or his lawful deputy, and make an affidavit of the truth thereof, in the form set forth at foot of the schedule to this Act annexed.

6. That if the registrar of slaves shall see cause to doubt the accuracy of any such return, he shall summon the party making such return, and also the labourer, respecting whom such doubt shall have arisen, and also any witnesses on behalf of such labourer, and on behalf of the party who may have made such return, to appear before him at a time and place to be appointed by the registrar, who shall then and there proceed to inquire into the accuracy of such return, and for that purpose examine the person making such return, the labourer respecting whom such doubt shall have arisen, as well as any witnesses on behalf of either party; and the registrar may, if necessary, from time to time adjourn such examination, and after full examination the registrar shall either confirm or correct such return as he may see fit, and shall thereupon give notice to the person who may have made such return, and to the apprenticed labourer, of his decision: provided always, that if either the party making such return, or the labourer to whom it may refer, shall be dissatisfied with the decision of the registrar, such party may, on his own behalf and the registrar, or any special magistrate may, on the behalf of such labourer, apply to the chief, or to any other judge of the Court of Common Pleas, by petition, setting forth the nature of such decision and the objections thereto; and the judge to whom any such petition may be preferred shall proceed in any summary way to hear and to decide upon the same; and his decision shall be final and conclusive.

7. That any person neglecting or omitting to make the return or the affidavit hereinbefore mentioned, or to attend the registrar when summoned by him for the purpose aforesaid, shall incur a penalty of not more than 25*l.*, nor less than 50*s.* current money, to be recovered in the manner hereinafter provided; and in the event of the wilful absence of any person so summoned, it shall be lawful for the registrar to proceed and to decide any such question as though such party had attended.

8. That the judges of the said court shall make all necessary rules for regulating the proceedings upon every such petition, in the manner which may be most conducive to method, punctuality and dispatch.

9. That when such proceedings as aforesaid shall have taken place, the registrar or his lawful deputy shall amend such return accordingly; and when any question shall arise respecting the class to which any apprenticed labourer belongs, such registry, or a certified extract thereof, shall be taken as conclusive evidence of the fact.

10. That if the registrar or his deputy shall, in the exercise of his said office, refuse or neglect to do anything which he is herein required to do, such registrar or his lawful deputy shall, for every such offence, incur the penalty of 200*l.* currency; and shall, moreover, be liable to civil suits or actions of such person or persons as may be aggrieved, or sustain any damage or injury by such refusal or neglect.

11. That the said registrar shall, after the authentication of the returns hereinbefore directed, receive out of any public monies in the treasury the sum of 300*l.* current money, for the duties required of him by this Act; and any person or persons requiring a certified copy or copies, or an extract or extracts from the said registry, the registrar is hereby authorized to demand and receive for such copies or extracts at and after the same rate that the registrar of deeds is allowed by his docket for copies or extracts of deeds out of his office.

12. That all and every the fines, forfeitures and penalties imposed by this Act, shall be recovered by bill, plaint or information, in any court of record in this Island, and that one moiety of the said fines shall go to the informer, or person suing for the same, and the other moiety to be paid into the treasury of the Colony, for the public uses thereof.

13. That if any person or persons shall knowingly and wilfully make any false oath to any of the matters or things by this Act required, or shall corruptly procure or suborn any person or persons to make any false oath, such person or persons so making or procuring to be made such false oath as aforesaid, shall be declared guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury, or subornation of perjury, and shall, upon conviction thereof, suffer such punishment as is inflicted for such offences by the laws of England.

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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SCHEDULE and AFFIDAVIT referred to in and by the foregoing Act.

RETURN of all Slaves (belonging to *A. B.*, or attached to the Plantation called \_\_\_\_\_ the Property of *C. D.*, as the case may be,) in the Parish of \_\_\_\_\_ on the 31st day of July 1834; with an Alphabetical List and Classification thereof made by (himself, or by *E. F.* as Attorney, or otherwise, as the case may be).

No.	NAMES.	Sex.		COLOUR.	Reputed Age.	Country.		Ordinary Employment.	Causes of Increase or Decrease.	Observations.		
		Male.	Female.			African.	Creole.					
4	Per last Return	2	2	- - -	- -	2	2	-				
	Increase :											
1	Adam - - -	1	- -	Black -	28	- -	1	Labourer -	Purchased from <i>A. B.</i> Gift of <i>C. D.</i>			
2	Betsey - - -	- -	1	Mulatto -	25	- -	1	Domestic -				
6		3	3			2	4					
	Decrease :											
1	Alexandre - - -	1	- -	Black -	50	1	- -	Field labourer	Sold to <i>E. F.</i> Died.			
2	Bob - - -	1	- -	ditto -	40	- -	1	ditto - -				
2		2	-			1	1					
4	Total remaining -	1	3			1	3					
									CLASSIFICATION.			
LIST.									Predial attached.	Predial unattached.	Non-Predial.	Under Six Years.
1	Adam - - -	1	- -	Black -	28	- -	1	Labourer -	1	-	-	-
2	Betsey - - -	- -	1	Mulatto -	25	- -	1	Domestic -	-	-	1	-
3	Bacchus - - -	1	- -	Cabre -	45	1	- -	Field labourer	-	1	-	-
4	Cæsar - - -	1	- -	Black -	30	- -	1	Mason -	-	1	-	-

I, *A. B.*, do swear that the Return and List now by me given in, contains a true and exact account and description, according to the several particulars herein specified, of all the slaves who on the 31st day of July 1834, were attached to the plantation called \_\_\_\_\_ in the parish of \_\_\_\_\_ (or belonging to me, if an owner, or belonging to \_\_\_\_\_, for whom I am attorney, agent, trustee, or otherwise, as the case may be,) according to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Sworn before me, this }  
day of 1834. }

So help me God.

— No. 42. —

Dominica.

AN ACT for the abolition of Slavery in this Island, in consideration of Compensation; and for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves.—(Passed 19th May 1834.)

No. 42.

1. WHEREAS an Act has recently passed the Imperial Parliament, intituled, "An Act for the abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves:" and whereas by that Act the sum of twenty millions pounds sterling is appropriated towards compensating the holders of slaves whose property is thereby affected: and whereas, in consideration thereof, it is expedient that a Bill should pass the Legislature of this Island to effect the abolition of slavery; be it therefore enacted, by the Governor and Commander-in-chief of His Majesty's Islands of Antigua, Montserrat, Barbuda, Saint Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla, the Virgin Islands and Dominica, and of the Council and Assembly of this His Majesty's Island of Dominica, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority of the same, that from and after the 1st day of August 1834, all persons who in conformity with the laws now in force in this Island, shall on or before the 1st day of August 1834, have been duly registered as slaves in this Island, and who on

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the said 1st day of August 1834, shall be actually within this Island, and who shall be such registries appear to be, on the said 1st day of August 1834, of the full age of six years, or upwards, shall by force and virtue of this Act, and without the previous execution of any indenture of apprenticeship, or other deed or instrument for that purpose, become and be apprenticed labourers; provided, that for the purposes aforesaid, every slave belonging to this Island, engaged in his ordinary occupation on the seas, shall be deemed and taken to be within this Island, to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

2. And be it further enacted, that during the continuance of the apprenticeship of any such apprenticed labourer, such person or persons shall be entitled to the services of such apprenticed labourer as would for the time being have been entitled to his or her services as a slave if this Act had not been made.

3. Provided also, and be it further enacted, that all slaves who may at any time previous to the passing of this Act have been taken with the consent of their possessors, and all apprenticed labourers who may hereafter with like consent be taken into any part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, shall from and after the passing of this Act be free, to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

4. And be it enacted, that all such apprenticed labourers shall, for the purpose of this Act, be divided into three distinct classes; the first of such classes consisting of prædial apprenticed labourers, attached to the soil, and comprising all persons who in their state of slavery were usually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce, or otherwise, upon lands belonging to their owners; the second of such classes consisting of prædial apprenticed labourers not attached to the soil, and comprising all persons who in their state of slavery were usually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce, or otherwise, upon lands not belonging to their owners; and the third of such classes consisting of non-prædial apprenticed labourers, and comprising all apprenticed labourers not included within either of the two preceding classes: provided always, that no person of the age of 12 years and upwards shall be included in either of the said two classes of prædial apprenticed labourers, unless such person shall have been, since the 28th day of August 1832, habitually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce.

5. And be it further enacted, that no person who by virtue of this Act shall become a prædial apprenticed labourer, whether attached or not attached to the soil, shall continue in such apprenticeship beyond the 1st day of August 1840, and that during such his or her apprenticeship no such prædial apprenticed labourer, whether attached or not attached to the soil, shall be bound or liable, by virtue of such apprenticeship, to perform any labour in the service of his or her employer or employers, for more than 45 hours in the whole of any one week.

6. And be it further enacted, that no person who by virtue of this Act shall become a non-prædial apprenticed labourer, shall continue in such apprenticeship beyond the 1st day of August 1838.

7. And be it further enacted, that if before any such apprenticeship shall have expired, the person or persons entitled for and during the remainder of any such term to the services of such apprenticed labourer, shall be desirous to discharge him or her from such apprenticeship, it shall be lawful for such person or persons so to do by deed poll or instrument in writing, to be proved before a judge or justice of the peace, and recorded in the Secretary's-office of this Island: provided nevertheless, that if any person so discharged from any such apprenticeship by any such voluntary act as aforesaid, shall at that time be of the age of 50 years or upwards, or shall be then labouring under any such disease, or mental or bodily infirmity as may render him or her incapable of earning his or her subsistence, then and in every such case the person or persons so discharging any such apprenticed labourers as aforesaid, shall continue and be liable to provide for the support and maintenance of such apprenticed labourer during the remaining term of such original apprenticeship, as fully as if such apprenticed labourer had not been discharged therefrom.

8. That, in order to prevent the improper discharge of labourers, incompetent from age or disease, to earn their own living, be it enacted, that if any deed or discharge shall be executed gratuitously, and without any valuable consideration passing to the owner or other person effecting the same, the labourer so to be discharged shall, previously to the actual execution of any such deed, appear before any special justice, and if it shall appear to the said special justice that such labourer is under the age of 14 years, or above the age of 50 years, or is labouring under any habitual disease or infirmity of mind or body, the employer or person effecting such discharge shall, under his or her hand and seal, execute and deliver to the said special justice a good and sufficient bond to His Majesty, in the penal sum of 200 l., with a condition thereunder written for the defeatance thereof, such labourer shall be properly fed, clothed and maintained until the 1st day of August 1838, in the case of non-prædial labourers, or until the 1st day of August 1840, in case of prædial labourers; and no such gratuitous discharge shall be valid and effectual in the law, or shall be received to be recorded in the office of the secretary of the Island, until such bond aforesaid shall be duly executed, registered and deposited in the said office: provided nevertheless, that the Chief Justice, and in case of his absence any other judge of the Court of Common Pleas, shall be and is hereby declared authorized, by an order under his hand, to dispense with such bond as aforesaid, in any case in which it shall be made to appear to him that neither the welfare of the labourer to be discharged, nor the interest of the Colony at large, requires that such bond shall be so entered into.

9. Provided

9. Provided nevertheless, and be it further enacted, that no such bond as aforesaid shall be required in the case of any discharge by will; but if at the time of the death of the testator, the labourer so discharged shall be under the age of 14 years, or above the age of 50 years, or labouring under any such disease or infirmity as aforesaid, the estate of such testator shall be liable to and chargeable with the maintenance of such labourer, until the 1st day of August 1838, in the case of a non-prædial labourer, and until the 1st day of August 1840, in the case of a prædial labourer, as fully as if the said testator had in his or her life-time executed such bond as aforesaid: provided always, and be it hereby enacted, that in the event of the discharge of a person as aforesaid, under the age of 14 years, the estate of the testator shall only be liable and bound until such apprenticed labourer attains that age, unless he or she shall at that time be labouring under any habitual disease or infirmity of mind or body as aforesaid.

10. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any such apprenticed labourer to purchase his or her discharge from such apprenticeship, even without the consent, or in opposition, if necessary, to the will of the person or persons entitled to his or her services, upon payment to such person or persons of the appraised value of such services.

11. And be it enacted, that when any apprentice under this Act shall be able and willing to purchase his or her discharge, and the party entitled to the services of such apprentice shall refuse or be unwilling to sell such discharge, such apprentice shall be at liberty to apply to the nearest magistrate, to be appointed by special commission, who shall thereupon give notice to the person entitled to the service of such apprentice, or his or her representative or agent, and such last-mentioned person shall thereupon appoint a justice of the peace of the parish or precinct in or nearest to which the apprentice shall reside, who shall and is hereby required to associate himself with such special justice of the peace, and the said two justices shall also associate with them one other justice of the peace, who is also hereby required to associate himself as aforesaid; and in case the said special justice and general justice of the peace cannot agree on the third justice so to be called in, then the Governor or Commander-in-chief of this Island shall name and appoint such third justice.

12. And be it further enacted, that the said three justices shall meet at the usual place of public business for the parish or precinct, or at such other place as the justices themselves shall appoint, and shall proceed to fix a value upon such apprentice, which valuation shall be binding and conclusive on all parties; and, upon the amount of such valuation being paid to the person entitled to receive the same, or to the public treasurer as hereafter mentioned, such apprentice shall be absolutely discharged from the remainder of the term of apprenticeship, and the three justices shall grant a certificate under their hands in the form following: "We do hereby certify and declare, that *A. B.*, the apprentice of *C. D.*, of the parish of \_\_\_\_\_ (or otherwise, as the case may be,) hath this day been discharged and released from the remainder of the term of his or her apprenticeship. Given under our hands this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_." Provided, that notice of the time and place of meeting shall be given to the person entitled to the services of such apprentice, or other person in charge, to be left at his or her usual place of residence at least 10 days before such meeting, and that the said justices shall and may issue their summons to any witness of whose materiality they shall be satisfied, either on the part of the apprentice or the person entitled to his or her services, and shall examine such witnesses on oath touching the value of the services of such apprentice; and in case any person so summoned to attend shall refuse or neglect to attend, the said three justices shall, and they are hereby empowered and required to issue their warrant, authorizing any lawful constable to apprehend and bring any such person so summoned before them, in order that he or she may be examined in the premises.

13. And be it enacted, that in case any person shall, by virtue of any title or interest either in remainder, reversion, expectancy or otherwise, or by virtue of any security, claim any right to the services of the said apprentice for the remainder of the term of his apprenticeship, expectant upon the death of the person then entitled to his or her services, or by virtue of such security, and shall by reason thereof claim a right to participate in the amount paid for the discharge of such apprentice, the said three justices shall direct such amount to be paid to the public treasurer, until the rights of the parties are ascertained and decided, as hereinafter mentioned; and such sum shall bear interest at 6*l.* per centum per annum until again paid out, and shall in the meantime be used as the public funds of the Island.

14. And be it enacted, that any party claiming to be entitled to the sum so paid to the public treasurer shall be at liberty to apply, by summary petition or special motion, to any of the supreme courts of judicature of this Island, who shall, upon hearing the matter, adjudge and determine how and to whom such sum of money shall be paid and applied; and such judgment shall be binding and conclusive on all the parties, and the public treasurer shall thereupon pay such amount as the Court shall by their order direct.

15. And be it enacted, that in case the person entitled to the service of any apprentice so applying to be discharged, shall refuse or neglect to appoint a justice, such special justice shall associate with him a general justice of the peace, and such two justices shall thereupon proceed in manner hereinbefore directed, and with the same power as hereinbefore enacted respecting the said three justices.

16. And be it further enacted, that no apprenticed labourer shall be subject or liable to be removed from this Island; and that no prædial apprenticed labourer, who may in manner aforesaid become attached to the soil, shall be subject or liable to perform any labour in the service



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service of his or her employer or employers, except upon or in or about the works and business of the plantations or estates to which such prædial apprenticed labourer shall have been attached, or on which he or she shall have been usually employed on or previously to the said 1st day of August 1834: provided nevertheless, that with the consent in writing of any two or more justices of the peace holding special commission, it shall be lawful for the person or persons entitled to the services of any such attached prædial apprenticed labourer or labourers, to transfer his or their services to any other estate or plantation within this Island to such person or persons belonging; which written consent in no case shall be given, or be of any validity, unless any such justices of the peace shall first have ascertained that such transfer would not have the effect of separating any such attached prædial apprenticed labourer from his or her wife or husband, parent or child, or from any person or persons reputed to bear any such relation to him or her, and that such transfer would not probably be injurious to the health or welfare of such attached prædial apprenticed labourer; and that such consent shall be in the form following: "These are to certify, that upon the application of *A. B.* for liberty to remove certain prædial attached labourers, according to the provisions of an Act, intituled, 'An Act for the abolition of Slavery in this Island, in consideration of Compensation, and for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves,' we have inquired into the circumstances of the case, and being satisfied that such removal may be made without infringing any of the regulations in the said Act in this respect contained, we do hereby permit the said *A. B.* to remove the several prædial apprentices named (here name them, setting them out in families where it can be done) from \_\_\_\_\_ plantation, in the parish of \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ plantation, in the parish of \_\_\_\_\_ (or otherwise, as the case may be). Given under our hands, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_;" which said certificate shall be recorded in a book to be kept by the public secretary of the Island, and for which service the said public secretary shall receive the sum of 3*s.* and no more; and such record, or a copy thereof, certified by such secretary, shall be received and taken as evidence in all courts.

17. And be it further enacted, that the laws now in force as to the alienation by sale, and as to the inheritance and bequest of slaves, shall during the time of apprenticeship, so far as the same may be applicable to the interest of the persons entitled to the services of all apprenticed labourers, and which interest shall and may pass by sale, inheritance or will in such manner as slaves could or might pass by the laws in force in this Island: provided that no such apprenticed labourer shall be removed from his or her usual place of abode for the purpose of any judicial sale; and in case of attached prædial labourers, such sales shall not take place but together with the land.

18. And be it further enacted, that during the continuance of any such apprenticeship as aforesaid, the person or persons for the time being entitled to the services of such apprenticed labourer shall be, and is and are hereby required to supply him or her with such food, clothing, lodging, medicine, medical attendance, and such other maintenance and allowances as by an Act, intituled "An Act for the further Encouragement, Protection and better Government of Slaves, and for the general Amelioration of their Condition," now in force in this Island, an owner is required to supply to and for any slave being of the same age and sex as any such apprenticed labourer shall be.

19. And be it further enacted, that, subject to the obligations imposed by this Act upon such apprenticed labourers as aforesaid, all and every the persons who on the said 1st day of August 1834 shall be holden in slavery within this Island shall, upon and from and after the said 1st day of August 1834, become and be, to all intents and purposes, free and discharged of and from all manner of slavery, and shall be absolutely and for ever manumitted; and that the children thereafter to be born to any such persons, and the offspring of such children, shall in like manner be free from their birth; and that from and after the said 1st day of August 1834 slavery shall be and is hereby utterly and for ever abolished and declared unlawful in His Majesty's Island of Dominica.

20. And whereas it may happen that children who have not attained the age of six years on the said 1st day of August 1834, or that children who after that day may be born to any female apprenticed labourers, may not be properly supported by their parents, and no other person may be disposed voluntarily to undertake the support of such children, and it is necessary that provision should be made for the maintenance of such children in any such contingency; be it therefore enacted, that if any child on the said 1st day of August 1834 had not completed his or her sixth year, or if any child to which any female apprenticed labourer may give birth on or after the said 1st day of August 1834, shall be brought before any justice of the peace holding special commission, and if it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of such justice that any such child is unprovided with an adequate maintenance, and that such child hath not completed his or her age of twelve years, it shall be lawful for such justice, and he is hereby required, on behalf of any such child, to execute an indenture of apprenticeship, thereby binding such child as an apprenticed labourer to the person or persons entitled to the services of the mother of such child, or who had been last entitled to the services of such mother; but in case it shall be made to appear to any such justice that such person or persons aforesaid is or are unable or unfit to enter into such indenture, and properly to perform the conditions thereof, then it shall be lawful for such justice, and he is thereby required by such indenture, to bind any such child to any other person or persons to be by him for that purpose approved, and who may be willing and able properly to perform such conditions; and it shall by every such indenture of apprenticeship be declared whether such child shall thenceforward belong to the class of attached prædial apprenticed labourers,

labourers, or to the class of unattached prædial apprenticed labourers, or to the class of non-prædial apprenticed labourers; and the term of such apprenticeship of any such child shall by such indenture be limited and made to continue in force until such child shall have completed his or her twenty-first year, and no longer; and every child so apprenticed as aforesaid by the order of any such justice of the peace as aforesaid, shall, during his or her apprenticeship, be subject to all such and the same rules and regulations respecting the work or labour to be by them done or performed, and respecting the food and other supplies to be to him or her furnished, as any other such apprenticed labourer as aforesaid: provided always, that the said indenture of apprenticeship shall contain sufficient words of obligation upon the employer to allow reasonable time and opportunity for the education and religious instruction of such child.

21. And be it further enacted, that the several justices of the peace having special commissions (and no other magistrate or justice of the peace in this Island) shall have, exercise and enjoy a sole and exclusive jurisdiction over, and shall solely and exclusively take cognizance of all offences committed or alleged to have been committed by any such apprenticed labourer, or by his or her employer, in such their relation to each other; or of the breach, violation or neglect of any of the obligations owed by them to each other; or of any question, matter or thing incident to, or arising out of, the relations subsisting between such apprenticed labourers and the persons respectively entitled to their services: provided, that nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to abrogate or take away the powers by law vested in the supreme courts of record, or the superior courts of civil and criminal justice in this Island.

22. And be it further enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any person or persons entitled to the services of any such apprenticed labourer, or any other person or persons other than such justices of the peace, holding such special commissions as aforesaid, to punish any such apprenticed labourer for any offence by him or her committed, by the whipping, beating or imprisonment of his or her person, or by any other personal or other correction or punishment whatever, or by an addition to the hours of labour hereinbefore limited; nor shall any court, judge or justice of the peace punish any such apprenticed labourer, being a female, for any offence by her committed, by whipping or beating her person: provided always, that nothing in this Act contained shall extend to exempt any apprenticed labourer from the operation of any law or police regulation for the prevention or punishment of any offence which is or shall hereafter be in force in this Island in respect to all other persons of free condition.

23. And whereas it is necessary that proper regulations should be provided for the maintenance of order and good discipline among the said apprenticed labourers, and for ensuring the discharge of the services due by them to their respective employers, and for the prevention and punishment of indolence, or the neglect or improper performance of work by any such apprenticed labourer; and for enforcing the due performance by any such apprenticed labourer of any contract into which he or she may voluntarily enter, for any hired service during the time in which he or she may not be bound to labour for his or her employer; and for the prevention and punishment of insolence and insubordination on the part of any such apprenticed labourers towards their employers; and for the prevention or punishment of vagrancy, or of any conduct on the part of any such apprenticed labourers, injuring, or tending to the injury of the property of any such employer; and for the suppression and punishment of any riot or combined resistance of the laws, on the part of any such apprenticed labourers, and for preventing the escape from this Island of any such apprenticed labourers during their term of apprenticeship: Be it therefore enacted, that all such offences shall be tried in a summary manner before any justice appointed by special commission; and any apprenticed labourer convicted of absenting himself or herself from the service of his or her employer, without reasonable cause, he or she shall be compelled to serve, for every hour of such absence, two extra hours, provided that such extra hours shall not exceed 15 in the whole in any one week.

24. And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer convicted as aforesaid of being absent without reasonable cause, for more than one day, shall in like manner forfeit not exceeding two days' labour of his or her own time: provided always, that it shall be lawful for the special justice before whom such complaint shall have been heard, on which he shall have adjudged that the said apprentice shall forfeit two days' labour of his or her own time, and he is hereby authorized and required so to divide the said two days' labour as shall not impose the obligation on such apprentice of working for more than 15 extra hours in any one week.

25. And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer, convicted as aforesaid of being absent without reasonable cause for two succeeding days, or on two distinct days within the same fortnight, shall be adjudged a deserter, and sentenced to hard labour for a period not exceeding one week, or to any penal gang of the Island, or to receive a flogging not exceeding 15 stripes.

26. And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer, convicted as aforesaid of being absent without reasonable cause for three or more successive days, or for three distinct days, during any one fortnight, shall be adjudged a vagabond, and sentenced to hard labour for a period not exceeding 14 days, or to any penal gang of the Island, or to receive a flogging not exceeding 30 stripes.

27. And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer convicted, as aforesaid of being absent without reasonable cause for one entire week, or any longer time, shall, in addition

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addition to such punishment by hard labour as aforesaid, be further sentenced to receive, as any justice appointed by special commission shall direct, any number of stripes not exceeding 30.

28. And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer who shall be found wandering as a vagrant beyond the limits of the plantation of his or her employer, without a written permission from such employer, and who shall not be able to give a satisfactory account of himself or herself, shall be liable to be apprehended, and upon conviction before any special justice aforesaid, shall be adjudged a vagabond, and sentenced accordingly: provided, that nothing in this clause contained shall be applied to apprenticed labourers on their way to or from any place of divine worship, or to or from market, or at such market or place: provided, that nothing herein contained shall be deemed or construed to abridge or in anywise interfere with the full and free use and enjoyment by such apprentices of the time allotted to them as their own, under and by virtue of the provisions of this Act.

29. And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer who shall refuse or neglect to perform any labour required under this Act, or who shall, by wilful negligence, damage the property of his or her employer, or who shall be guilty of drunkenness, or of fighting, shall, upon conviction thereof as aforesaid, forfeit to such employer any number of days' labour not exceeding four, out of his or her own time, or be sentenced to receive any number of stripes not exceeding 20, and for the second offence within one month, shall be sentenced to double that amount of punishment: provided always, that it shall be lawful for the special justice before whom such complaint shall have been heard, on which he shall have adjudged that the said apprentice shall forfeit three days' labour of his or her own time, and he is hereby authorized and required so to divide the said three days' labour as shall not impose the obligation on such apprentice of working for more than 15 hours in any one week.

30. And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer who shall be convicted, as aforesaid, of insolence or insubordination to his or her employer, shall be sentenced to hard labour, or to any penal gang of the Island, for any time not exceeding two weeks, or to receive any number of stripes not exceeding 39.

31. And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer who shall, by the careless use of fire, endanger the property of his or her employer, or of any other person, or who shall ill-use any cattle, or other stock, or who shall wantonly destroy or injure the property of his or her employer, entrusted to his or her charge, shall, upon conviction thereof, as aforesaid, be sentenced either to extra labour in his employer's service for any time not exceeding 15 hours in the whole in any one week, or to confinement to hard labour for any time not exceeding one month, or to any number of stripes not exceeding 30 lashes, or to any two or more such punishments.

32. And be it further enacted, that in case of any riot or combined resistance to the laws on the part of any three or more apprenticed labourers, the police of the parish, or of any neighbouring parish, shall, on receiving information thereof, immediately repair to the spot, and act as shall be directed by any special justice, for the repression of any such riot or lawless proceedings; and all apprenticed labourers engaged in any such riot shall, on conviction thereof as aforesaid, be sentenced to hard labour as aforesaid, for any term not exceeding three months, or to receive any number of stripes not exceeding 39.

33. And be it further enacted, that any special justice resorting to or present at any such riotous assemblage, shall cause a flag, or some other appropriate signal, to be approved of by the Governor, to be exhibited as a warning to all persons there present to separate and quietly disperse; and all apprenticed labourers who after the exhibition of such flag or signal, shall not immediately disperse, shall, on conviction thereof before any two or more special justices, be sentenced to hard labour as aforesaid for any term not exceeding three months, and to receive any number of stripes not exceeding 39: provided, that in the event of the unavoidable absence of such special justice, nothing herein contained shall be taken to prevent any justice of the peace from quelling any riot or disturbance among such apprentices in the same way and by the same means as by law he is now authorized to use in quelling any riot, or preventing any breach of the peace among or by any of His Majesty's free subjects in this Island: And be it enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any apprenticed labourer to keep, use, or have in his or her possession any gunpowder, gun, swords, pistols, or fire-arms of any description whatsoever, or any other offensive weapons, unless with the knowledge and consent of his or her master, employer, or manager.

34. And be it enacted, that every apprentice so offending shall, on conviction before any special justice, be punished with whipping, imprisonment, hard labour in the penal gang, or any two or more of these punishments, as may be awarded by such special justice: provided, that such whipping shall not exceed 39 lashes, and such imprisonment shall not exceed one month.

35. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any such master, manager, or lawful employer, to seize and retain any gunpowder, guns, swords, pistols, or fire-arms of any description whatsoever, or any other offensive weapon unlawfully in the possession of any apprenticed labourer, to be disposed of as any special magistrate may direct.

36. And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer quitting or attempting to quit the Island without the permission in writing of his or her employer, shall, on conviction thereof before any special justice, be sentenced to hard labour, or to the penal gang of the Island,

Island, for a term not exceeding three months, or to receive any number of stripes not exceeding 39.

37. And be it further enacted, that in cases wherein any apprenticed labourer shall have been convicted of having absented himself or herself from the service of his or her employer, without reasonable cause, for more than one day at a time, during 14 days, such time so lost to such employer shall be made up to him or her by such apprenticed labourer out of his or her own time, not exceeding 15 hours in each week: provided, that such extra service or compensation shall not be compellable after the expiration of seven years.

38. And be it further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall, by wilful neglect or indolence during his or her own time, suffer his or her house or provision ground to fall into decay and bad order, it shall and may be lawful for the employer of such apprenticed labourer, with the sanction in writing of any special justice, to be obtained upon proof before him of such neglect or indolence, to put the house or provision ground of such apprenticed labourer into proper order for his or her comfort and support, and to deduct an equivalent quantity of labour from his or her own time, not exceeding 15 hours in any week.

39. And be it further enacted, that on every plantation the special justices shall appoint one or more of the apprenticed labourers thereon, with the consent of the master or manager, to be constables, who shall be empowered to maintain peace and order on such plantation, under the directions of the proprietor or manager thereof, and to secure and place in confinement any apprenticed labourer who shall commit any offence on such plantation, or any apprenticed labourer not employed on such plantation who may be found loitering thereon without the knowledge or permission of the proprietor or manager thereof; such apprentice, confined as aforesaid, not to be kept in custody longer than shall be necessary to procure the attendance of the special justice: provided always, that if the attendance of the special justice cannot be procured within 24 hours, it shall and may be lawful for the proprietor or manager aforesaid to order the release of such apprentice so confined as aforesaid, after the expiration of 24 hours: provided nevertheless, that in the event of such apprentice being discharged as aforesaid, the proprietor or manager shall, and he is hereby required to prefer the complaint on which such apprentice was confined before the special justice when he shall next come upon the estate: and provided, that nothing shall be construed to give any such constable any power or authority over any of His Majesty's subjects except such apprenticed labourers.

40. And be it further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer or labourers shall resort to a special justice to complain against his, her or their employer, and that such complaint shall be adjudged frivolous or groundless, it shall be lawful for such special justice to punish such complaining parties by adjudging them to repay double the extent of time which may have been lost to his or her employer, not exceeding 15 hours in any one week, or such other punishment by stripes not exceeding 20.

41. And be it enacted, that for all offences where punishment by flogging is authorized to be awarded by this Act, it shall be lawful for the special justices, in case such offences shall be committed by females, to sentence such females to solitary confinement, or confinement in the stocks, for any period not exceeding six days, such stocks to be according to one general model, to be sanctioned by the Governor.

42. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for any special justice to substitute solitary confinement, or confinement in the stocks, in any case where punishment by flogging or hard labour is hereinbefore directed, provided such solitary confinement or confinement in the stocks shall not exceed, for any offence, and at any one time, six days.

43. Be it further enacted, that in all cases of solitary confinement or confinement in the stocks, the person so confined shall be fed on such diet as the special justice shall direct, and no other.

44. And be it enacted, that all other inferior misdemeanors, and other crimes committed by apprenticed labourers against each other, or against the person entitled to his or her service, or against any other person, and not hereinbefore specified, shall be heard and determined before any justice appointed by special commission, reasonable notice of the time and place of such trial being given to the person complained against; and such justice, upon conviction of such apprentice, shall order and direct such punishment to be inflicted as he may think proper, not exceeding 39 lashes, nor three months' imprisonment, with hard labour, or 20 days' solitary confinement, or confinement in the stocks for any period not exceeding six days: provided, that nothing in this clause contained shall be taken to authorize such magistrate to sentence any female apprentice to be flogged or beaten: and provided also, that nothing herein contained shall be deemed or taken to deprive any of His Majesty's subjects of his or her right to proceed against any such apprentice in any of the courts of civil or criminal justice of this Island, for remedy against any apprentice for any wrong or injury done to or committed against the person or property of such subject: and provided also, that when any apprenticed labourer shall be convicted of indolence or neglect, or improper performance of work, the special justice before whom such conviction shall take place, may, if he see fit, sentence the offender, either alone or in addition to the punishment by flogging or hard labour hereinbefore directed, to labour for any such number of hours or days in his or her own time, for the benefit of the person entitled to his or her services, as the justice of the case may seem to require, not exceeding 15 hours in any one week.

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45. And be it further enacted, that in cases in which the food of any such prædial apprenticed labourer is supplied not by the delivery to him or her of provision, but by the cultivation by such prædial apprenticed labourer of grounds set apart for the growth of provisions, the persons entitled to their services shall, and are hereby required, during the term of such apprenticeship, and no longer, to provide such prædial apprenticed labourer with ground adequate, both in quality and quantity, for his or her support, and within a reasonable distance from his or her usual place of abode, under a penalty not exceeding 10*l.* for each offence.

46. And whereas it is necessary that proper regulations should be made and established as to the extent of such provision grounds hereinbefore mentioned, and as to the distance at which such grounds may be so allotted from the ordinary place of abode of such prædial apprenticed labourer; be it enacted, that, for the purposes of this Act, all grounds hitherto allotted to every slave during such his or her state of slavery, for his or her maintenance and support, shall, during the term of his or her apprenticeship, in quantity, quality and locality be deemed adequate and proper for the maintenance and support of every prædial apprenticed labourer, unless good and sufficient cause be shown to the contrary: provided, and be it enacted, that such prædial or non-prædial apprenticed labourer shall satisfy, in case of complaint, such special justice that he or she has kept his or her ground in a due and proper state of cultivation.

47. And whereas by the Act of the Imperial Parliament it is provided, that such prædial apprenticed labourer shall be allowed out of the time, at the rate of 45 hours per week, which the master or employer is entitled to from such labourer, such a portion of time as shall be adequate for the proper cultivation of his or her provision ground, and for the raising and securing the crops thereon grown; be it enacted, that from and after the 1st day of August next every prædial apprenticed labourer shall be entitled to four hours and one half of an hour out of the 45 weekly working hours hereinbefore mentioned, for the cultivation of his or her grounds; and such portion of time shall be allowed to each apprentice, either on any day or days in any one week, or by any number of days consecutively, at such period of the year as may be deemed by the employer or manager of such property least detrimental and injurious to the cultivation of the plantation on which he or she shall reside, and the gathering in of the crops and the manufacture of the produce thereof; and any person entitled to the service of any such prædial apprenticed labourer, who shall refuse or neglect to allow such portion of time to any such labourer, shall be subject and liable to a penalty of 40*s.* for each offence, to be recovered as hereinbefore provided: provided always, that such number of days so allowed to the apprenticed labourer, shall not exceed three consecutive days at one time: provided, and it shall and may be lawful for the employer and the apprentice to enter into an agreement in writing, of which a copy shall be given to the apprentice, to pay to the said apprentice such sum as may be agreed on between them, in lieu of time: and provided also, that in the event of non-payment of the sum agreed on at such times as shall be stipulated in the said agreement, it shall and may be lawful for the special justice, on the application of the apprentice, of which the employer shall have due notice, to issue a warrant against the goods of such employer for the amount of the money due at the time of such application, which warrant any constable is hereby required to execute, and make sale of the goods so taken under the warrant, unless the amount for which the same is issued shall be paid within three days, and the money to be received or levied under such warrant shall, immediately after the receipt thereof by such constable, be paid over to the said apprentice.

48. And whereas in certain parts of this Island there may not be lands proper for the cultivation of provisions, or by reason of long continuance of dry weather or other casualty, the grounds hitherto appropriated for negro grounds may be rendered unproductive; be it enacted, that in such case the master, owner or other person entitled to the service of such apprenticed labourer shall, by some other ways and means, make good and ample provision for all such apprenticed labourers to whose services they shall be entitled, in order that they may be properly supported and maintained, under a penalty not exceeding 40*s.* for each offence: provided always, that in such case no diminution of the 45 hours, as hereinbefore mentioned, shall take place.

49. And be it further enacted, that all complaints made by an apprenticed labourer against the person entitled to his or her services, touching any fraud practised, or refusal or neglect to furnish any such apprenticed labourer with sufficiency of provision ground, or of other means of maintenance and support, in cases where such apprentice has no provision ground, or of illegally and improperly withholding from such apprentice any portion of the time allowed him or her to cultivate such ground, or of imposing task-work on any apprenticed labourer contrary to the provisions of this Act, or of breach of any contract on the part of any person engaging the voluntary services of an apprenticed labourer, or of any cruelty, injustice, or other wrong or injury done to or inflicted upon any apprenticed labourer by the person entitled to his or her services, shall be heard, adjudged and determined before any one or more special justice or justices, and he or they is or are hereby empowered to punish any offender in any of these respects last mentioned with a fine not exceeding 10*l.*; and for default of goods and chattels whereon to levy such fine, the offender shall be committed to gaol until he or she shall pay or satisfy the same, but such imprisonment shall not exceed five days: provided, that nothing herein mentioned shall be deemed or taken to bar or destroy the right of an apprenticed labourer to proceed in the supreme courts of civil or criminal justice for any wrong or injury done to or committed against his or her property or person, by any person whomsoever.

50. And

50. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that in cases where it shall be necessary for the cultivation of any plantation, sugar work or other settlement, or for gathering in or manufacturing the crops and produce thereof, to impose task-work on the prædial apprenticed labourers thereof, or working thereupon, it shall be lawful for any special justice to sanction such task-work; provided such apprenticed labourers, or a majority of the adults among them, shall be willing and desirous collectively to undertake the same.

51. And be it enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for any employer and apprenticed labourer mutually to contract together for work to be done, either by the day or by the task, for such wages or consideration as they may agree upon: provided always, that such contracts or engagements shall be sanctioned by a special justice, and that no such agreement shall be for a longer period than one year, and that no task-work shall be imposed upon any body of apprenticed labourers except by consent of a majority thereof.

52. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all indentures of apprenticeship of children required by this Act shall be as nearly as the nature of the case will admit, in conformity with, and upon the same terms and conditions as indentures of apprenticeship of children, made by the parochial or municipal authorities in any parish or town in England, and shall be approved of by such special justice, and recorded in the Secretary's-office of this Island.

53. And be it enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer, being in good health and able to work, and being the father of a child under the age of 12 years, shall not make adequate provision for the subsistence of such child, and which child the special justice has been unable to apprentice as directed by the last clause of this Act, then and in such case it shall be lawful for any special magistrate to adjudge any such labourer to hard labour during such time as the said labourer is not compelled to work in the service of his or her employer, and to apply the earnings of such labourer towards the support and maintenance of any such child; and for that purpose such special justice may hire out the labour of any such father to any person who may be willing to agree for the same, or to labour on any public works, on the best terms which can be procured; but such compulsory labour as aforesaid shall not be continued longer than may be necessary to provide for the maintenance of the child of such labourer for one month in advance.

54. And be it also enacted, that in case any such child so unprovided for as aforesaid shall have no father living, then the regulations aforesaid shall apply to the mother of such child, if competent by her labour to provide for the maintenance of such child.

55. And be it further enacted, that all the penalties before denounced in cases of indolence, neglect of work or otherwise, in respect of labour to be performed by the apprenticed labourers in the service of their employers, shall apply to the case of labour to be ordered to be undertaken for the maintenance of any such child as aforesaid.

56. And be it further enacted, that if any labourer shall, without lawful authority enter into possession of any land belonging to His Majesty, or to any person, any special justice, applied to for that purpose, shall dispossess such labourer from such land, and from any buildings thereon erected, and cause the same, with all crops growing thereupon, to be delivered up to the owner of such land; or in case such owner shall not within one month after such seizure appear and prefer his claim to such land, then the special justice shall order the crops, cattle, and other goods seized thereupon to be sold, and the proceeds of such sales to be paid over to the public treasurer of the Colony.

57. And be it further enacted, that the summary process aforesaid shall not be taken in any case where any such apprenticed labourer may have been for two years in the undisturbed possession of any such land.

58. And be it further enacted, that the special justice may further adjudge any apprenticed labourer unlawfully taking possession of such land, to imprisonment with hard labour, for any time not exceeding three months, if it should be made to appear to his satisfaction that such possession was taken fraudulently, and with the knowledge of the labourer that he had no lawful claim to such possession.

59. And whereas it is necessary that provision should be made for ensuring promptitude and dispatch, and for preventing all unnecessary expense, in discharge, by the justices holding special commissions, of the jurisdiction and authorities by this Act committed to them, and for enabling such justices to decide in a summary way such questions as may be brought before them in that capacity, and for the division of this Island into districts, for the purposes of such jurisdiction, and for the frequent and punctual visitation, by such special justices, of the apprenticed labourers within their districts; and it is also necessary that regulations should be made for indemnifying and protecting such special justices of the peace in the upright execution and discharge of their duties; be it therefore enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the Governor, or person exercising the functions of Governor of this Island, shall and he is hereby authorized, required and empowered to make division of the Island into districts for the purposes of this Act, which division shall be made and set out by metes and bounds, to be laid down and expressed by the Governor; and which division and districts shall be made known and be publicly signified by proclamation to be issued for that purpose.

60. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the special justices to be appointed for such districts, or some other special justice, shall visit such plantation, sugar work, or settlement within such district, upon or to which there shall be attached or upon which there shall be working any number of prædial apprenticed labourers exceeding 20,

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one day at least in every 14 days, and oftener if required, for the purpose of hearing and determining the several matters and things by this Act declared to be within their authority and jurisdiction; and such special justices shall for that purpose have full and free ingress and egress into and out of all such plantations, sugar-works, or other settlements, without hindrance or molestation, at any time between sunrise and sunset; and shall also have power, for the purpose of investigating any complaint, to cause to be brought before him any of the apprenticed labourers belonging to or upon the said plantation, sugar-work, or other settlement; and shall have such powers to summon and enforce the attendance of witnesses, in cases of compulsory discharge from apprenticeship; and such special justice may, if he pass sentence of confinement upon such apprentice, and if he shall see fit, direct that confinement shall take place upon the plantation or settlement to which such apprentice shall belong, or be then working upon.

61. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the person entitled to the services of any apprenticed labourer working upon or attached to or living at any plantation or settlement upon which there shall be less than 20 apprentices, shall be at liberty to carry an offending apprentice before any special justice, at the plantation or settlement at which such special justice shall sit by virtue of this Act, nearest to the place where the offences shall have been committed, or to any place within the district where such special justice shall sit; provided such place shall be nearer than any plantation or settlement at which such special justice shall so sit; and any apprenticed labourer attached to or working upon or living at any plantation or settlement upon which there are less than 20 apprentices, may in like manner prefer his or her complaint, for any offences committed against him or her, before the special justice at the plantation or settlement at which such special justice shall sit, nearest to the place where such offence shall have been committed, or to any place within the district where such special justice shall sit; provided, as aforesaid, that such place shall be nearer than any plantation or settlement at which such special justice shall so sit; provided, that when and as soon as police stations shall be appointed, under and by virtue of any Act of the Governor, Council and Assembly of this Island, in any such districts, all such offences committed by and against apprentices upon plantations or settlements having less than 20 apprentices, may be heard and determined before such special justice at such station-house.

62. And be it further enacted, that any such apprenticed labourer, who shall during his or her apprenticeship wilfully absent himself or herself from the service of his or her employer, for a period exceeding three months at any one time, may be sentenced by any special justice, either to serve his or her employer, after the expiration of his or her apprenticeship, for so long a time as he or she shall have so absented himself or herself from such service, or to make satisfaction to his or her employer for the loss sustained by such absence (except so far as he or she shall have made satisfaction for such absence, either out of such extra hours as aforesaid, or otherwise); provided, that such extra service or compensation shall not be compellable after the expiration of seven years next after the termination of the apprenticeship of such apprentice.

63. And be it further enacted, that no apprenticed labourer shall be compelled or compellable to labour on Sundays, except in works of necessity, or in tending of cattle; nor shall any apprenticed labourer, except as aforesaid, be liable to be hindered or prevented from attending anywhere on Sundays for religious worship, at his or her free will or pleasure, but shall be at full liberty so to do, without any let, denial or interruption whatsoever.

64. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that from and after the 1st day of August 1834, no person whosoever shall, on Sunday, expose for sale in any market or other place, or in any shop or other place, any goods, wares or merchandize, or provisions, under a penalty not exceeding 5*l.* for every offence; provided, that in case the goods or provisions so exposed for sale shall not exceed in value the sum of 5*l.*, the same may, in lieu of such penalty, be forfeited by order of any justice of the peace for the benefit of the poor of the parish in which such offence is committed; and provided also, that nothing herein shall extend to prevent the keeping open of any druggist shop, tavern, lodging-house, or the sale of fresh meat, fresh fish or milk, on Sunday; such sale, however, not to take place in any town or village during the celebration of Divine Service therein; and that from and after the 1st day of August 1834, Saturday in each week shall be the day given to every prædial labourer; provided, that prædial labourers employed in works of necessity, tending cattle, domestic services and protecting property, shall have some other day in lieu of Saturday.

65. And be it enacted, that in all cases of urgent necessity it shall be lawful for the owner, or other persons in management of such property where such necessity shall occur, to require and compel the immediate and continued service of any or all the apprenticed labourers during such emergency.

66. And be it enacted, that no such apprenticed labourer shall, during the continuance of such their apprenticeship, be liable to be arrested or imprisoned for debt, or be liable to be called on or be competent to serve in the militia of this Island, or to serve as a juror.

67. And be it enacted, that all such apprenticed labourers shall, during the term of such their apprenticeship, be and they are hereby disqualified from being elected members of Assembly, or churchwardens, or of voting at any election for any of the offices aforesaid, or being appointed justices of the peace.

68. And

68. And be it further enacted, that if any slave or slaves shall be guilty of any offence not triable under an Act intituled, "An Act for the further Encouragement, Protection and better Government of Slaves, and for the general Amelioration of their Condition," and not brought to trial before the 1st day of August 1834, it shall and may be lawful to bring such slave or slaves to trial under and by virtue of the powers and provisions of this Act, and to award such punishment as the law provides.

69. And be it enacted, that if any suit or action shall be commenced against any special justice, in respect of any act, matter or thing by him done by virtue and in pursuance thereof, and the Court shall give judgment for the defendant, the plaintiff shall by that judgment be condemned to pay treble costs of suit.

70. And be it further enacted, that if in any suit or action such justice shall at any time before final judgment tender to the plaintiff sufficient amends for the wrong or injury in respect of which the same be brought, and submit to pay the costs of suit up to that time incurred; and if the plaintiff shall refuse to accept such amends and costs of suit; then, upon proof made to the Court, at the trial of such suit, that such amends have been so tendered and were sufficient, judgment shall be given for the plaintiff in the amount of the sum so tendered, subject, nevertheless, to the reduction therefrom of the costs of suit of the defendant.

71. And be it enacted, that no suit or action shall be brought against any such justice in respect of any matter or thing by him done under or in pursuance thereof, unless the same shall be commenced within six months after the cause of action occurred.

72. And be it enacted, that all fines and penalties imposed by this Act, shall be recovered before any special justice of the peace by warrant of distress, and sale of offender's goods and chattels, to be applied for the use of the public of this Island.

73. And be it also enacted, that every such special justice shall keep a journal of all cases brought before him, such journal to be kept in one uniform manner, to be prescribed for that purpose by the Governor, a duplicate of which journal shall be transmitted by him to the Governor at the end of every quarter.

74. And be it further enacted, that the said special justice shall issue all necessary summonses, warrants and commitments, and draw up all convictions and other necessary and sufficient documents for the purposes hereinbefore mentioned; and he is hereby vested with all and every necessary authority to enable him to carry into effect the several duties hereby imposed upon him, according to the true intent and meaning of the various provisions of this Act.

75. And be it further enacted, that if any person or persons shall knowingly and wilfully make any false oath to any of the matters or things by this Act required, or shall corruptly procure or suborn any person or persons to make any false oath, such person or persons so making or procuring to be made such false oath as aforesaid, shall be declared guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury, and shall, upon conviction thereof, suffer such punishment as is inflicted for such offence by the laws of England.

76. And be it enacted, that a certain statute, made in the 52d year of his late Majesty King George the Third, intituled "An Act to repeal certain Acts, and amend other Acts relating to Religious Worship and Assemblies, and Persons teaching or preaching therein," shall be, and is hereby declared to be in force in this Island: provided nevertheless, that any two or more justices of the peace holding special commission under the 3d & 4th Will. 4, c. 73, shall have, exercise and enjoy all and every the jurisdiction, powers and authorities whatsoever which, by force and virtue of the said Act, are within the realm of England had and exercised and enjoyed by the several justices of the peace, and by the court of sessions therein mentioned.

77. And be it further enacted, that within the meaning and for the purposes of this Act, every person who shall have the lawful direction or charge of any apprenticed labourer, shall be deemed and taken to be the employer of such apprenticed labourer.

78. And be it further enacted, that within the meaning and for the purposes of this Act, every person who for the time being shall be in the lawful administration of the government of this Island, shall be taken to be the Governor thereof.

79. And be it enacted, that this Act may be altered or varied, amended or explained, by any other Act or Acts to be passed this Session.



## S T. V I N C E N T.

ST. VINCENT.

Appendix (B.)

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St. Vincent.—(No. 308.)

AN ACT for the Abolition of Slavery in the Island of Saint Vincent and its Dependencies, in consideration of Compensation, and for promoting the Industry and good conduct of the Manumitted Slaves.—(Passed 2d April 1834.)

Preamble :

WHEREAS an Act has recently passed the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, " An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies ; for promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves : "

And whereas in consequence of such Act, it is necessary not only that provision should be made for promoting the industry and securing the good [conduct of the persons so to be manumitted, but also that the laws now in force in these Islands should forthwith be adapted to the new state and relations of society which will follow upon such general manumission as aforesaid of the said slaves :

And whereas it has been provided in the said recited Act, that the sum of twenty millions pounds sterling should be given to the persons entitled to the services of such slaves, towards compensation for the loss which they will incur by their being deprived of their right to such services :

And whereas in consideration of such compensation, it is necessary that a Bill should pass the Legislature of these Islands to effect those purposes :

We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lieutenant Governor, Council and Assembly of the Island of St. Vincent and its Dependencies, humbly pray Your most Excellent Majesty that it may be enacted, and be it and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That from and after the 1st day of August 1834, all persons who in conformity with the laws now in force in these Islands shall, on or before the 1st day of August 1834, have been duly registered as slaves, and who on the said 1st day of August 1834, shall be actually within these Islands, and who shall by such registry appear to be on the said 1st day of August 1834 of the full age of six years or upwards shall, by force and virtue of this Act, and without the previous execution of any indenture of apprenticeship, or other deed or instrument for that purpose, become and be apprenticed labourers ; provided that for the purposes aforesaid, every slave belonging to these Islands engaged in his ordinary occupation on the seas, shall be deemed and taken to be within these Islands, to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

All persons of the age of six years or upwards, and duly registered on the 1st of August 1834 as Slaves, to become Apprentices.

The person who held the Apprentice as a Slave entitled to his services.

2. And be it further enacted, that during the continuance of the apprenticeship of any such apprenticed labourer, such person shall be entitled to the services of such apprenticed labourer as would for the time being have been entitled to his services as a slave if this Act had not been made.

Slaves taken to the United Kingdom, free.

3. Provided also, and be it further enacted, that all slaves within these Islands, who may at any time previous to the passing of this Act have been taken with the consent of their possessors, and all apprenticed labourers who may hereafter, with the like consent, be taken into any part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, shall from and after the passing of this Act be absolutely and entirely free, to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

Apprenticed Labourers divided into three classes.

4. And be it enacted, that all such apprenticed labourers shall, for the purpose of this Act, be divided into three distinct classes ; the first of such classes consisting of prædial apprenticed labourers attached to the soil, and comprising all persons, who in their state of slavery were usually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce or otherwise, upon lands belonging to their owners ; the second of such classes consisting of prædial apprenticed labourers not attached to the soil, and comprising all persons who in their state of slavery were usually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce or otherwise, upon lands not belonging to their owners ; and the third of such classes, consisting of non-prædial apprenticed labourers, and comprising all apprenticed labourers not included within either of the two preceding classes : provided always, that no persons of the age of twelve years and upwards shall be included in either of the said two classes of prædial apprenticed labourers, unless such person shall for 12 calendar months at the least next before the passing of the Act of the Imperial Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery, have been habitually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce, or employed in prædial labour.

Apprenticeships of prædials to cease on the 1st August 1840, and no prædial to labour more than 45 hours in the week for his employer.

5. And be it further enacted, that no person who by virtue of this Act shall become a prædial apprenticed labourer, whether attached or not attached to the soil, shall continue in such apprenticeship beyond the 1st day of August 1840 ; and that during such apprenticeship, no such prædial apprenticed labourer, whether attached or not attached to the soil, shall be bound or liable, by virtue of such apprenticeship, to perform any labour in the service of his employer for more than 45 hours in the whole in any one week.

6. And

6. And be it further enacted, that no person who by virtue of this Act shall become a non-prædial apprenticed labourer, shall continue in such apprenticeship beyond the 1st day of August 1838.

Apprenticeships of non-prædials to cease on the 1st August 1838.

7. And be it further enacted, that if before any such apprenticeship shall have expired, the person entitled for and during the remainder of any such term to the services of such apprenticed labourer, shall be desirous to discharge him from such apprenticeship, it shall be lawful for such person so to do by deed poll or instrument in writing, to be by him for that purpose made and executed, and which shall be acknowledged before the register of deeds, and recorded in his office: provided nevertheless, that if any person so discharged from any such apprenticeship by any such voluntary act as aforesaid, shall at that time be of the age of 50 years or upwards, or shall be then labouring under any such disease or mental or bodily infirmity as may render him incapable of earning his subsistence, then and in every such case the person so discharging any such apprenticed labourer as aforesaid, shall continue and be liable to provide for the support and maintenance of such apprenticed labourer during the remaining term of such original apprenticeship, as fully as if such apprenticed labourer had not been discharged therefrom.

Apprentices may be discharged from their apprenticeships.

If 50 years of age or upwards at the time of discharge, employers to provide for their support.

8. And to provide for the release of the services of labourers desiring to obtain the same by purchase, in cases where the employers of such labourers may be unwilling or unable to contract for such release, it is hereby further enacted, that if the employer of any apprenticed labourer in any of these Islands, or any person having an interest in any such labourer, shall be unwilling to effect his release, or if the employer or any other person having a charge upon, or interest in, any such labourer, shall be a minor or a married woman, or idiot or lunatic, or if the person entitled to the services of any such labourer shall be absent from these Islands, or if the employer of any such labourer shall demand as the price of his release a greater sum of money than may appear to the special justice to be the fair and just value thereof, then and in each and every of the cases aforesaid, the chief justice of the Island, or in case of his death, absence or disability, the next judge in commission, on application to him for that purpose made by the special justice, shall issue a summons under his hand and seal, requiring the employer of such labourer to appear before him by himself or his agents at some convenient time and place, to be in such summons for that purpose appointed, and notice shall be published by the said special justice in the public Gazette of this Island, of the time and place appointed for the purpose aforesaid, and in such notice all persons having or claiming to have any title or interest to or in the services of the labourer proposed to be released, either in their own right, or as the agents, guardians, trustees or representatives of any other person, shall be required to attend and prefer such claim.

Proceedings where apprentices are desirous of purchasing the term of their apprenticeships and obstacles are in the way.

9. And be it further enacted, that at the time appointed for any such meeting as aforesaid, the chief justice or other judge as aforesaid of the Island, in the presence of the special justice of the district in which such labourer is resident, and also in the presence of the employer of the labourer proposed to be released, or his agent, or upon proof being made to him upon oath of the due service and publication of such notice as aforesaid, then, if necessary, in the absence of such employer or his agent, shall proceed to hear in a summary way what may be alleged by the said special justice, and by the employer or his agent, or other person claiming any interest in the services of the said labourer proposed to be released and attending in pursuance of any such notice; and the said chief justice or other judge as aforesaid shall require the special justice, and the employer of such labourer or his agent, if attending in pursuance of such notice, each to nominate an appraiser of the value of his services, and the said chief justice or other judge as aforesaid shall himself nominate an umpire between such appraisers; but if such employer or his agent, being duly summoned as aforesaid, shall fail to attend, or attending shall refuse or omit to nominate an appraiser, then the said chief justice or other judge as aforesaid shall not only nominate such umpire as aforesaid, but shall also nominate an appraiser on behalf of such employer or his agent.

Proceedings to be had before the Chief Justice and appraisers appointed.

10. And be it further enacted, that the appraisers so to be nominated as aforesaid shall be duly sworn by and before the said chief justice or other judge as aforesaid, to make a fair and impartial appraisement of the services of the labourer so proposed to be released, and within seven days next after such their appointment, such appraisers shall make a joint valuation of the said services of the said labourer, and shall certify such their valuation to the said chief justice or other judge as aforesaid, under their hands and seals; and in case such joint certificate shall not be so made and delivered to the said chief justice or other judge as aforesaid within the said term of seven days, then the said umpire, being duly sworn in manner aforesaid, shall within the next succeeding seven days certify his valuation to the said chief justice or other judge as aforesaid; and the valuation to be made in manner aforesaid, either by the said joint appraisers, or in their default by the said umpire, shall be binding and conclusive, and shall be entered and inrolled among the records in the Register's Office of the said Island; and the said labourers whose services are so appraised, shall immediately pay down the whole of their appraised value in gold and silver money unto the person entitled to receive the same; and if the money be not immediately paid, all the proceedings shall be and are hereby declared to be null and void, to all intents and purposes whatsoever, and the inrolment aforesaid shall not take place.

Appraisers to make a return of their valuation in seven days.

Upon failure umpire to make such valuation.

Labourers to pay down their appraised value.

11. And be it further enacted, that no apprenticed labourers belonging to these Islands, shall be subject or liable to be removed therefrom, and that no prædial apprenticed labourer who may in manner aforesaid, become attached to the soil, shall be subject or liable to perform

Apprentices not liable to be removed without consent of special justice.

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Nor to be separated from husband, wife, parent or child.

Services of apprentices real estate.

Services of apprentices transferable by bargain and sale.

No market to be held or goods sold on Sunday.

Proviso.

One day in each week to be given to prædial labourers. Not to extend to domestic work, &c.

No apprentices to labour on Sunday, except in cases of necessity.

Land, fish and time to be allowed prædial labourers.

Regulations respecting provision grounds.

perform any labour in the service of his employer except upon or in or about the works and business of the plantations or estates to which such prædial apprenticed labourer shall have been attached, or on which he shall have been usually employed on or previously to the 1st day of August 1834: provided nevertheless, that with the consent in writing of any one of the justices of the peace holding such special commissions as hereinafter mentioned, it shall be lawful for the person entitled to the services of any such attached prædial apprenticed labourer, to transfer his services to any other estate or plantation within these Islands to such person belonging; which written consent shall in no case be given, or be of any validity, unless any such justice of the peace shall first have ascertained that such transfer would not have the effect of separating any such attached prædial apprenticed labourer from his or her wife or husband, parent or child, or from any person or persons reputed to bear any such relation to him or her, except with the consent of the party to be removed, and that such transfer would not probably be injurious to the health or welfare of such attached prædial apprenticed labourer; and such consent shall be recorded in a book to be kept by the special justice of the district to which such labourers shall be removed, and which consent shall be in form following:—"These are to certify that upon the application of A. B. for liberty to remove certain prædial attached labourers [naming them] according to the provisions of this Act, I have assented thereto. C. D., Special Justice."

12. And be it further enacted, that the services of all such apprenticed labourers shall and are hereby declared to be real estate, and not chattels, and shall descend unto the heir of the person dying seised thereof according to the custom and manner of inheritance held in fee simple, and widows shall be capable of being endowed thereof: provided always, that any executor or administrator may inventory the said labourers, but not take them into his custody, to the intent that if there be not sufficient goods and chattels to pay the debts of the deceased, the residue of the services of the said labourers shall be taken and sold by such executor or administrator for the payment of the said debts, and be chattels for that purpose, and not otherwise.

13. And be it further enacted and declared, that the right or interest of any employer or employers to and in the services of any such apprenticed labourers as aforesaid, shall pass and be transferable by bargain and sale, contract, deed or conveyance, in the same manner as real estate passes, or is transferred according to the laws of these Islands; provided, that no such apprenticed labourer shall, by virtue of any such bargain and sale, contract, deed or conveyance, be subject or liable to be separated from his or her wife or husband, parent or child, or from any person or persons reputed to bear any such relation to him, except with the consent of the party whose services are proposed to be sold or transferred.

14. And be it further enacted, that from and after the 1st day of August 1834, no person whosoever shall on Sunday expose for sale in any market or other place, or in any shop or other place, any goods, wares or merchandize, or provisions, under a penalty not exceeding 5*l.* for every offence; provided, that in case the goods or provisions so exposed for sale, shall not exceed in value the sum of 5*l.*, the same may, in lieu of such penalty, be forfeited by order of any justice of the peace, for the benefit of the poor of the parish in which such offence is committed: And provided also, that nothing herein shall extend to prevent the keeping open of any druggist shop, tavern or lodging house, or the sale of bread, fresh meat, fresh fish, or milk on Sunday, such sale, however, not to take place in any town or village during the celebration of divine service therein; and that from and after the 1st day of August 1834, one day in each week shall be given to every prædial labourer: provided, that nothing hereinbefore enacted, shall extend to any domestic work or labour which may be performed by any apprenticed labourers usually employed as domestics or watchmen by day or night, or mariners, nor to any labour performed by any apprenticed labourer in the tending or care of live stock, who shall continue to perform, for the usual periods, and at the usual hours, the duties respectively assigned to them; and except as aforesaid, no apprenticed labourer shall be compelled or compellable to labour on Sundays, except in cases of urgent necessity; in which case it shall be lawful for the owner or other person in management of such property where such necessity shall occur, to require and compel the immediate and continued service of any or all the apprenticed labourers during such emergency: And provided also, that prædial labourers employed in such works of necessity, tending cattle, domestic services, and protecting property, if employed on their own day, shall have some other day in lieu thereof.

15. And whereas, prædial slaves in these Islands are supplied partly by food, and partly by the cultivation of grounds set apart for the growth of provisions; Be it therefore enacted, that during the continuance of such apprenticeship as aforesaid, the person for the time being entitled to the services of every prædial apprenticed labourer shall allow to each and every such prædial apprenticed labourer a sufficient portion of land adapted to the growth of provisions, and at the rate of two pounds of salted fish in each and every week, for his support and maintenance, or some other equivalent, to the satisfaction of the prædial apprenticed labourer; and shall allow to each and every such prædial apprenticed labourer eleven days, to be deducted out of the 45 working hours in each week, over and above the one day allowed in each week and Sundays, in every year, at the discretion of such employer of the said prædial apprenticed labourers or their agent, and as by them may be deemed most advantageous and beneficial to such prædial apprenticed labourers.

16. And whereas it is necessary that proper regulations should be made and established, as to the extent of such provision grounds hereinbefore mentioned, and as to the distance at which

which such grounds may be so allotted from the ordinary place of abode of such prædial apprenticed labourer; Be it enacted, that for the purposes of this Act, all grounds hitherto allotted to every slave during such his state of slavery for his maintenance and support shall, during the term of his apprenticeship, in quantity, quality and locality, be deemed adequate and proper for the maintenance and support of every prædial apprenticed labourer, unless good and sufficient cause be shown to the contrary: provided, and be it enacted, that such prædial or non-prædial apprenticed labourer shall satisfy, in case of complaint, such special justice that he has kept his ground in a due and proper state of cultivation.

17. And be it further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall, by wilful neglect or indolence during his own time, suffer his house or provision ground to fall into decay and bad order, it shall and may be lawful for the employer of such apprenticed labourer, with the sanction in writing of any special justice, to be obtained upon proof before him of such neglect or indolence, to put the house or provision ground of such apprenticed labourer into proper order for his comfort and support, and to deduct an equivalent quantity of labour from his own time, not exceeding 15 hours in any one week.

18. And whereas, in certain parts of these Islands, there may not be lands proper for the cultivation of provisions, or by reason of long continuance of dry weather, or other casualty, the grounds hitherto appropriated for negro grounds may be rendered unproductive; Be it enacted, that in such case the master, owner or other person entitled to the service of such apprenticed labourer shall, by some other ways and means, make good and ample provision for all such apprenticed labourers to whose services they shall be entitled, in order that they may be properly supported and maintained, under a penalty not exceeding 40s. for each offence: provided always, that in such case, no diminution of the 45 hours, as hereinbefore mentioned, shall take place.

19. And be it further enacted, That it is and shall be the duty of every employer, or his agent, of apprenticed labourers, and he is hereby required, once in every year to deliver for the use of the labourers, clothing of the following description:—Six yards of oznaburgs, six yards of pennistons, or three yards six-fourths wide cloth for every labourer above 12 years of age, and half the quantity for every labourer under that age, and to each labourer one hat or cap: provided always, that employers may substitute other articles of clothing in lieu of those named, but which shall be in value equal to those mentioned in this clause.

20. And be it further enacted, that every employer of apprenticed labourers shall employ some person duly qualified in the practice of physic and surgery, to attend them as occasion shall require, provided such medical practitioner can be procured; and that when any labourer shall be sick, or unable from any accident or cause whatsoever to perform his usual labour, the employer or his agent shall cause such labourer to be visited by the said medical practitioner, and shall provide such medicines, food and other necessaries as shall be deemed requisite by him; and the said practitioner, as has heretofore been customary, shall keep a book upon each estate, wherein the names of the patients, diseases, and his prescriptions shall be inserted.

21. And be it further enacted, that subject to the obligations imposed by this Act upon such apprenticed labourers as aforesaid, all and every the persons who on the said 1st day of August 1834 shall be holden in slavery within these Islands, shall upon, and from and after the said 1st day of August 1834 become, and be, to all intents and purposes, free and discharged of and from all manner of slavery, and shall be absolutely and for ever manumitted; and that the children thereafter to be born to any such persons, and the offspring of such children, shall, in like manner be free from their birth; and that from and after the said 1st day of August 1834, slavery shall be, and is hereby utterly and for ever abolished and declared unlawful throughout these Islands.

22. And be it further enacted, that all persons who shall become apprenticed labourers on the said 1st day of August 1834, shall be, and are hereby declared to be entitled to all the rights and privileges of free persons, except as the same may be restricted by this or any other Act: provided always, that no person who shall become an apprenticed labourer by virtue of such Act, shall have or exercise any political franchise whatsoever by virtue of any property which he may acquire; nor be capable of serving as a juror, or of holding any office except as a constable or beadle; nor shall he be eligible to serve in the militia, unless in cases of great emergency, to be judged of by the Governor and a Council of War, when he shall be compelled to serve with the same liabilities as all other persons.

23. And be it further enacted, that such apprenticed labourers shall not, during the continuance of such their apprenticeship, be liable to be arrested or imprisoned for debt.

24. And be it further enacted, that all offenders triable under the Act commonly called the Slave Act, and who shall not have been brought to trial before the 1st day of August next, shall and may be proceeded against and punished as the said Act provides, and as if this Act had not been passed.

25. And whereas it may happen that children who have not attained the age of six years on the said 1st day of August 1834, or that children who after that day may be born to any female apprenticed labourers, may not be properly supported by their parents, and that no other person may be disposed voluntarily to undertake the support of such children; Be it therefore enacted, that if any child, who on the said 1st day of August 1834, had

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Penalty on labourers neglecting their houses and provision grounds.

Provision to be made for labourers in cases where their grounds cannot support them.

Clothing.

Medical practitioner to be employed.

Slavery utterly and for ever abolished after the 1st day of August 1834.

Apprenticed labourers entitled to the privileges of free persons.

Exceptions.

Not to be arrested or imprisoned for debt.

Offenders under the Slave Act may be proceeded against.

Children under six years of age on 1st August 1834, and those born after that day, how provided for.

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not completed his sixth year; or if any child, to which any female apprenticed labourer may give birth on or after the said 1st day of August 1834, shall be brought before a special justice, and if it shall appear to the satisfaction of such justice, that the parent of any such child is incapable of providing it with an adequate maintenance, and that such child has not completed his age of 12 years, it shall be lawful for such justice, and he is hereby required, on behalf of any such child, to execute an indenture of apprenticeship, thereby binding such child as an apprenticed labourer to the person entitled to the services of the mother of such child, or who had been last entitled to the services of such mother; but in case it shall be made to appear to any such justice that such person aforesaid is unable or unfit to enter into such indenture, and properly to perform the covenants thereof, then it shall be lawful for such justice, and he is hereby required, to bind any such child to any other person to be by him for that purpose approved, and who may be willing and able properly to perform such conditions; and the term of such apprenticeship of any such child shall, by such indenture, be limited and made to continue in force until such child shall have completed his twenty-first year, and no longer; and every child so apprenticed as aforesaid by the order of any such justice of the peace aforesaid, shall, during his apprenticeship, be subject to all such and the same rules and regulations respecting the work or labour to be by him done or performed, and respecting the food and other supplies to be to him furnished, as any other such apprenticed labourers as aforesaid.

Parents to make provision for their children.

26. And be it further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer, being of good health and able to work, and being the father of a child under twelve years of age, shall not make adequate provision for the subsistence of such child, the special justice shall, on due proof, adjudge such labourer to be punished by hard labour, or by hiring him out during his own extra hours, and shall direct his earnings to be applied to the support of such child; and in case any child, so unprovided for as aforesaid, shall have no father living, then the mother, if competent by her labour, shall be compelled to provide for the subsistence of such child, and in default shall be sentenced to hard labour for any term not exceeding 20 days.

Indentures of apprenticeship of children.

27. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all indentures of apprenticeship of children required by this Act shall be, as nearly as the nature of the case will admit, in conformity with, and upon the same terms and conditions as indentures of apprenticeship of children made in England.

Special Justices.

28. And for ensuring the effectual superintendence of the said apprenticed labourers, and the execution of this Act; Be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for His Majesty to issue, or to authorize the Governor, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, to issue, under the public seal of these Islands, special commissions to one or more person or persons, constituting him or them a justice or justices of the peace for the whole of these Islands, or for any district within the same, for the special purpose of giving effect to this present Act, and to any laws which may hereafter be made for giving more complete effect to the same; and every person to, or in favour of whom any such commission may be issued, shall, by force and virtue thereof, and without any other qualification, be entitled and competent to act as a justice of the peace within the limits prescribed by such his commission, for such special purposes as aforesaid, but for no other purposes: provided nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall prevent, or be construed to prevent, any person commissioned as a justice of the peace for such special purpose as aforesaid, from being included in the general commission of the peace for these Islands, in case it shall seem fit to the Governor to address both such special commission and such general commission as aforesaid, in any case to the same person or persons.

Special Justices to have sole jurisdiction over all matters between employer and apprentice.

29. And be it further enacted, that the several justices of the peace having special commissions as aforesaid (and no other magistrate or justice of the peace in these Islands), shall have, exercise and enjoy a sole and exclusive jurisdiction over, and shall solely and exclusively take cognizance of all offences committed, or alleged to have been committed, by any such apprenticed labourer, or by his employer, in such their relation to each other, or of the breach, violation or neglect of any of the obligations owed by them to each other, or of any question, matter or thing incident to or arising out of the relations subsisting between such apprenticed labourers and the persons respectively entitled to their services; provided that nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to abrogate or take away the powers by law vested in the superior courts of civil and criminal justice in these Islands.

Special Justices alone to punish apprentices.

30. And be it further enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any person entitled to the services of any such apprenticed labourer, or any other person other than such justices of the peace holding such special commissions as aforesaid, to punish any such apprenticed labourer for any offence by him committed, or alleged to have been committed, by the whipping, beating or imprisonment of his person, or by any other personal or other correction or punishment whatever, or by any addition to the hour of labour hereinbefore limited; nor shall any court, judge or justice of the peace punish any such apprenticed labourer, being a female, for any offence by her committed, by whipping or beating her person: provided always, that nothing in this Act contained shall extend to exempt any apprenticed labourer from the operation of any law or police regulation, for the prevention or punishment of any offence which is or shall hereafter be in force in these Islands, in respect to all other persons of free condition.

No female apprentice to be whipped or beaten.

Proviso.

Special Justices to appoint constables on each plantation.

31. And be it enacted, that on every plantation the special justices shall appoint one or more of the apprenticed labourers thereon, with the consent of the master or manager, to be constables,

constables, who shall be empowered to maintain peace and order on such plantation, under the directions of the proprietor or manager thereof, and to secure and place in confinement any apprenticed labourer who shall commit any offence on such plantation, or any apprenticed labourer not employed on such plantation, who may be found loitering thereon without the knowledge or permission of the proprietor or manager thereof; such apprentice confined as aforesaid, not to be kept in custody longer than shall be necessary to procure the attendance of the special justice: provided always, that if the attendance of a special justice cannot be procured within 24 hours, it shall and may be lawful for the proprietor or manager aforesaid, to order the release of such apprentice so confined as aforesaid, after the expiration of 24 hours: provided nevertheless, that in the event of such apprentice being discharged as aforesaid, the proprietor or manager shall and he is hereby required to prefer the complaint, on which such apprentice was confined, before the special justice, when he shall next come upon the estate; and provided that nothing shall be construed to give to any such constable any power or authority over any of His Majesty's subjects, except such apprenticed labourers.

32. And be it further enacted, that any such special justice may, if he pass sentence of imprisonment or confinement upon any apprenticed labourer, if he shall see fit, direct that such confinement or imprisonment shall take place upon the plantation to which such apprentice shall belong, or be then working upon.

33. And be it further enacted, that the person entitled to the services of any apprenticed labourer working upon or attached to or living at any plantation or settlement upon which there shall be less than 40 apprenticed labourers, shall be at liberty to carry any offending apprentice before any special justice, at the plantation or settlement at which such special justice shall sit, nearest to the place where the offence shall have been committed, or to any place within the district where such special justice shall sit.

34. And whereas it is necessary that proper regulations should be provided for the maintenance of order and good discipline among the said apprenticed labourers, and for ensuring the punctual discharge of the services due by them to their respective employers, and for the prevention and punishment of indolence, or the neglect or improper performance of work by any such apprenticed labourer, and for enforcing the due performance by any such apprenticed labourer of any contract into which he may voluntarily enter for any hired service during the time in which he may not be bound to labour for his employer, and for the prevention and punishment of insolence and insubordination on the part of any such apprenticed labourers towards their employers, and for the prevention and punishment of vagrancy, or of any conduct on the part of any such apprenticed labourers injuring or tending to the injury of the property of any such employer, and for the suppression and punishment of any riot, or combined resistance of the laws on the part of any such apprenticed labourers, and for preventing the escape from these Islands of any such apprenticed labourers during their term of apprenticeship; Be it therefore enacted, that all such offences shall be tried in a summary manner before any justice appointed by special commission.

35. And be it further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall resort to a special justice to complain against his employer, and that such complaint shall be adjudged frivolous or groundless, it shall be lawful for such special justice to punish such complaining parties, by adjudging them to repay double the extent of time which may have been lost to his employer, not exceeding fifteen hours in any one week, or such other punishment by stripes not exceeding twenty.

36. And be it further enacted, that for every hour in which any labourer shall absent himself from the service of his employer without reasonable cause, to be decided by the special justice, he shall be compelled to serve two extra hours: provided, that such extra hours shall not exceed 15 in the whole in any one week.

37. And be it further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall absent himself for more than six hours in any one week without a reasonable cause, to be decided on by the special justice, he shall be adjudged a deserter; if for two days during one week in like manner, he shall be adjudged a vagabond; if for five days in any one week in like manner, he shall be adjudged a runaway: those adjudged deserters shall be confined to hard labour for any time not exceeding one week; those adjudged vagabonds to hard labour for any time not exceeding two weeks, and to any number of stripes not exceeding 15; and those adjudged runaways to hard labour for any time not exceeding one month, and to any number of stripes not exceeding 30.

38. And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer who shall during his apprenticeship wilfully absent himself from the service of his employer for a period exceeding three months at any one time, may be sentenced by any special justice either to serve his employer after the expiration of his apprenticeship for so long a time as he shall have so absented himself from such service, or to make satisfaction to his employer for the loss sustained by such absence (except so far as he shall have made satisfaction for such absence, either out of such extra hours as aforesaid or otherwise); provided, that such extra service or compensation shall not be compellable after the expiration of seven years next after the termination of the apprenticeship of such apprentice.

39. And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer who shall be found wandering beyond the limits of the plantation of his employer without a written permission from such employer,

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Their duty.

Apprentices may be confined on the estates to which they belong.

Offending apprentices on small properties may be carried before a Special Justice.

Offences which may be tried in a summary manner.

Groundless complaints punished.

Apprentice absenting himself for one hour punished.

Apprentice absenting himself for more than six hours, &c. in one week, deemed deserter, &c.

Punishments.

Apprentice absenting himself for more than three months.

Punishment.

Apprentice found wandering may be apprehended.

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Apprentice harbouring deserter, &c. punished.

employer, and who shall not be able to give a satisfactory account of himself, shall be liable to be apprehended, and upon conviction before any special justice aforesaid, shall be adjudged a vagabond and sentenced accordingly: provided, that nothing in this clause contained shall be applied to apprenticed labourers on their way to or from any place of divine worship on Sundays, or to or from market, or at such market or place: provided, that nothing herein contained shall be deemed or construed to abridge or in any wise interfere with the full and free use and enjoyment by such apprentices of the time allotted to them as their own under and by virtue of the provisions of this Act.

Apprentice performing his work indolently, &c. punished.

40. And be it further enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall harbour or conceal a deserter, vagabond or runaway apprenticed labourer, he shall, on conviction thereof, be punished by additional labour, confinement or labour on the tread-mill for any number of days not exceeding 20, at the discretion of the special justice.

41. And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer convicted before the special justice of performing his work indolently, carelessly or negligently, shall for the first offence be adjudged to labour in the service of his employer for any time not exceeding 15 hours in the whole in any one week; for the second offence to confinement with hard labour for any time not exceeding one week; for the third or any subsequent offence, to confinement with hard labour for any time not exceeding two weeks, with whipping not exceeding 20 stripes.

Careless use of fire, injury to property, &c. by apprentices punished.

42. And be it further enacted, that any labourer who, by the careless use of fire, shall wilfully endanger the property of his employer or any other person, or who shall wantonly injure the property of his employer or any other person, or who shall ill-use the cattle or other live stock of his employer or any other person, or who shall, by wilful negligence, expose the property of his employer or any other person to any damage or injury, or who shall contumaciously disobey the lawful commands of his employer, shall for every such offence, be adjudged, in the discretion of the justice, either to extra labour in the service of his employer for any time not exceeding 15 hours in the whole in any one week, or to confinement to hard labour for any time not exceeding one month, or to any number of stripes not exceeding 30, or to any two or more such punishments: provided, that this enactment shall not exempt any such labourer from his liability to such actions or prosecutions as other persons of free condition may be subject and liable to, in respect of any such acts by him done or committed; but no such labourer shall be liable to be sued or prosecuted both under this Act, and under any such general laws as aforesaid.

Not to exempt apprentice from liability to actions, &c.

Illegal combinations among apprentices punished.

43. And be it further enacted, that any three or more apprenticed labourers who shall agree together to make any resistance to the lawful commands of their employers, or who shall be engaged in a combined and open resistance to such lawful commands, shall be deemed guilty of an unlawful conspiracy, and shall be adjudged to confinement to hard labour for any period not exceeding six months, with whipping not exceeding 39 stripes.

Apprentices found drunk or fighting, or insolent, punished.

44. And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer who shall be in a state of drunkenness, or who shall be found fighting, or who shall conduct himself in an insolent or insubordinate manner towards his employer, or any person in the immediate superintendence of his labour, shall, for every such offence be liable on conviction to imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding one week, and whipping not exceeding 15 stripes.

No employer to inflict corporal punishment on apprentices, and no female apprentice to be whipped.

45. And be it further enacted, that all the offences specified in the three preceding clauses shall be inquired of by one of the justices having a special commission, unless he shall see cause to refer any case for trial to the court of grand sessions of the peace; and no employer shall be authorized to inflict any corporal punishment on any male apprenticed labourer, nor shall any woman be subject to be punished by whipping for any offence by her committed; but in all cases in which that punishment is authorized, it shall be understood as applying to the case of males only, and that all the offences in respect of which such punishment may be inflicted on any such male offender shall, when committed by women for minor offences, be punished by confinement in the stocks, or solitary confinement for any period not exceeding 10 days, and for heinous offences not otherwise provided for, by hard labour on the tread-mill not exceeding 30 days, or such other punishment as shall be awarded by the special justice.

Inferior misdemeanors and crimes of apprentices to be heard and determined by special justice.

46. And be it further enacted, that all other inferior misdemeanors and other crimes committed by apprenticed labourers against each other, or against the person entitled to their services, or against any other person, and not hereinbefore specified, shall be heard and determined before any justice appointed by special commission, reasonable notice of the time and place of such trial being given to the person entitled to the services of the apprentice complained against, where such person so entitled to his services is not the complainant; and such justice upon conviction of such apprentice shall order and direct such punishment to be inflicted as he shall think proper, not exceeding 50 lashes, nor three months' imprisonment to hard labour or 10 days' solitary confinement: provided, that nothing in this clause contained shall be taken to authorize such magistrate to sentence any female apprentice above the age of twelve years to be flogged or beaten: and provided also, that nothing herein contained shall be deemed or taken to deprive any of His Majesty's subjects of their right to proceed against any such apprentice in any of the superior courts of this Island, for remedy against any apprentice for any wrong or injury done or committed to or against the person or property of such subject: and provided also, that when any apprenticed labourer shall be convicted of indolence or neglect, or improper performance of work, the special justice before whom such conviction

Females above the age of 12 years not to be flogged or beaten.

Special Justice may award additional punishment of labour.

viction shall take place, may if he sees fit, sentence the offender either alone or in addition to the punishment by flogging or hard labour hereinbefore directed, to labour for such number of hours or days in his own time for the benefit of the person entitled to his services, as the justice of the case may seem to require, not exceeding 15 hours in any one week.

47. And be it further enacted, that every employer of apprenticed labourers on estates shall intimate to such labourers the commencement and the close of the hours of labour; for which purpose a signal shall be given in such manner as shall, in reference to each estate, have been previously approved of by the special justice of the district; which signal shall always be of such a nature as shall be distinctly visible or audible to the several labourers in the service of such person.

48. And be it further enacted, that every contract between the employer and the apprenticed labourer, for the performance of any specific work as a task and in lieu of the prescribed daily labour, or for the performance of any labour in extra hours, shall only be entered into with the free assent of the latter to the same, and shall not continue in force for more than one year from the date thereof; and if such contract extends beyond the period of fourteen days, it shall be reduced into writing by the employer, and entered in a book to be kept for that purpose on the estate, wherein shall be specified the nature and amount of the extra labour and the amount of the consideration to be given for the same, and the time and manner of payment thereof shall be distinctly expressed; which book it shall be the duty of the special justice to inspect as often as he may visit the estate in the execution of his duties: provided always, that every married woman, notwithstanding her coverture, and every child of the age of twelve years and upwards, notwithstanding his infancy, shall be competent to enter into such contracts as aforesaid.

49. And be it further enacted, that no such contract as last aforesaid shall endure or continue in force, or be binding upon the parties entering into the same, or either of them, after the expiration of fourteen days from the making thereof, unless the same shall have been made and entered into by such parties with the approbation of such special justice, or unless, having been entered into in his absence, the same shall be confirmed and approved by him before the expiration of such fourteen days; and every such approbation of any such contract shall be attested by such special justice, under his hand, in the book so to be kept as aforesaid: provided always, that the said special justice, before his approbation of any such contract, shall ascertain that the terms thereof are distinctly understood by the apprenticed labourers entering into the same, and that they have entered into such contract freely and voluntarily, and that the same is not unreasonable or unjust.

50. And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourer violating the terms of such contract as aforesaid for task work or for extra service, shall be liable to the same pains and penalties as are hereinbefore provided in respect of the violation by any such labourer of the duties to be by him performed in the discharge of the services owing by him by law to such his employer.

51. And be it further enacted, that all complaints made by any apprenticed labourer against the person entitled to his services, touching any fraud practised, or refusal to furnish any such apprenticed labourer with sufficiency of provision ground, or of other means of maintenance and support, in cases where such apprentice hath no provision ground, or of illegally and improperly withholding from such apprentice any portion of the time allowed him to cultivate such ground, or of imposing task work on any apprenticed labourer contrary to the provisions of this Act, or of breach of any contract on the part of any person engaging the voluntary services of any apprenticed labourer, or of any cruelty, injustice or other wrong or injury done to or inflicted upon any apprenticed labourer by the person entitled to his services, shall be heard, adjudged and determined before any one or more special justice or justices; and he or they is and are hereby empowered to punish any offender in any of these respects last mentioned with a fine not exceeding 5*l.*; and for default of goods and chattels whereon to levy such fine, the offender shall be committed to gaol until he shall pay or satisfy the same, but such imprisonment shall not exceed five days: provided that nothing herein mentioned shall be deemed or taken to bar or destroy the right of any apprenticed labourer to proceed in the superior courts for any wrong or injury done to or committed against his property or person by any person whomsoever.

52. And be it further enacted, that if any three or more apprenticed labourers shall unite together in any riot or tumultuous assemblage, any justice of the peace who shall be present at the same, shall proclaim, or cause a flag or some other conspicuous signal to be exhibited as a warning to all persons there present to separate and disperse quietly; and all persons who at the expiration of ten minutes from such proclamation, or exhibition of such flag or signal, shall continue present at any such riotous assemblage, shall, on conviction, be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for any time not exceeding twelve months.

53. And be it further enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any apprenticed labourer to keep, use or have in his possession any gunpowder, gun, swords, pistols or fire-arms of any description whatsoever, or any other offensive weapons, unless with the knowledge and consent of his master or manager.

54. And be it further enacted, that every apprentice so offending shall, on conviction before any special justice, be punished with whipping, imprisonment, hard labour in the penal gang

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of labour to be intimated  
by signal.Contracts between em-  
ployer and labourer for  
task work and other  
labour.Contracts between em-  
ployer and labourer to  
be approved of by special  
justice.Apprentice violating  
terms of contract  
punished.Complaints of appren-  
tices to be heard and de-  
termined by special  
justices.Riotous assemblages of  
apprentices punished.Apprentices not to keep  
gunpowder or fire-arms.Punishment for such of-  
fence.



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Employer may seize fire-arms, &c.

or house of correction of the district, or any two or more of those punishments, as may be awarded by such special justice: provided that such whipping shall not exceed 39 lashes, and such imprisonment shall not exceed one month.

55. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any such master, manager or lawful employer to seize and retain to his own use any gunpowder, guns, swords, pistols or fire-arms of any description whatsoever, or any other offensive weapon unlawfully in the possession of any apprenticed labourer.

Unlawful meetings of apprentices deemed felony.

56. And whereas it is necessary to prevent secret and unlawful meetings of apprenticed labourers; Be it further enacted, that all such labourers who shall be found at any meeting, formed either for the purpose of administering unlawful oaths or entering into unlawful compacts, or of learning the use of arms, or opposing or resisting any persons employed to apprehend them, or for any other unlawful purpose, such labourers shall, on conviction thereof, be deemed guilty of felony, and shall suffer transportation for life, or such other punishment as the court shall direct; and if any other person shall be present at any such meeting, and aiding and assisting in any of the unlawful purposes hereinbefore mentioned, such person shall, upon conviction thereof in the court of grand sessions of the peace, be punished by transportation for life, or fine, or imprisonment with hard labour, or both, as the court shall direct; and if any person, having any knowledge of such unlawful meetings as aforesaid shall not forthwith give information thereof to a justice of the peace, such person shall, on conviction before the court of grand sessions of the peace, suffer such punishment by fine, or imprisonment with hard labour, or both, as the court shall direct.

Labourer not to reside beyond limits of estate on which he resided on 1st August 1834, and not to quit the colony.

57. And be it further enacted, that no labourer shall reside beyond the limits of the estate on which he may be resident, on the 1st day of August 1834, without the consent in writing of his employer; and if any labourer shall quit or attempt to quit the colony without a passport from the Governor, which shall not be granted without the written consent of his employer, he shall, on conviction, be sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour, for any term not exceeding six months; and any person removing or assisting to remove any labourer as aforesaid, shall, on conviction, be liable to a penalty not exceeding 100*l.* currency, or to imprisonment for any time not exceeding 12 months; such fine to be paid to the person entitled to the services of the labourer so removed.

Apprentices forming unlawful establishments punished.

58. And be it further enacted, that any apprenticed labourers who shall or may establish themselves without lawful authority in any part of the colony as a distinct community, habitually abandoning and neglecting to perform the duties imposed on them by law, shall, on conviction before a special justice, be sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding six months; and, if a male, to whipping, by any number of stripes not exceeding 39; and the said justice shall cause such community to be dislodged, and their habitations to be taken down and removed, if necessary.

Labourers taking unlawful possession of land to be dispossessed.

59. And be it further enacted, that if any labourer shall, without lawful authority, enter into the possession of any land belonging to His Majesty or to any other person, it shall be the duty of the special justice to dispossess such labourer from such land, and from any buildings erected thereon, and to cause the same, with all the crops growing thereon, to be delivered up to the owner of the land, or in case the owner shall not within one month after such seizure appear and prefer his claim to such land, then the said justice shall order the crops, cattle and other goods seized thereupon, to be sold, and the proceeds of such sales to be paid to the treasurer for the public use; and if such possession was fraudulently taken, or with full knowledge that the party had no claim thereto, such labourer shall be sentenced by the said justice to imprisonment with hard labour for any term not exceeding three months; provided always, that where a labourer shall have been two years in undisturbed possession of any such land, the summary process aforesaid shall not be taken without one month's notice being previously given to the occupant.

Fishermen and mariners to be registered.

60. And be it further enacted, that all apprenticed labourers, whose ordinary occupation is on the sea as fishermen or mariners, shall be registered as such at the office of the special justice by their employer; and any apprenticed labourer engaging in such occupation unknown to his employer, shall be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for any time not exceeding three months.

Vessels and boats to be numbered and registered.

61. And be it further enacted, that all vessels and boats, not registered under the Navigation Acts, shall be numbered and registered at the office of the special justice, and the number shall be conspicuously painted on the outside of each bow thereof; and the said justice shall be authorized and required to grant a license to keep such vessel or boat, together with her description, the name of the owner, and the place at which the same is usually moored or hauled up; and all unlicensed vessels or boats shall be liable to seizure and condemnation by the special justice; and all vessels and boats, moored or hauled up at any place not mentioned in the license, shall be liable to detention by the special justice, until the owner thereof shall have paid a fine of not less than 40*s.*, nor more than 10*l.* currency, and in default of payment within 24 hours, the same shall be sold by order of the special justice.

No person to purchase sugar, cotton, &c. from apprentices.

62. And be it further enacted, that if any person whomsoever shall buy, barter, or truck for, or receive by any means, of or from any apprenticed labourer, sugar, cotton, rum, molasses, cocoa, coffee, charcoal, firewood or other goods or merchandize of any sort, fish, poultry, goats, hogs, grass, fruit and vegetables of any sort excepted, without the knowledge or consent of the employer of such labourer, signified by a note in writing specifying the nature and

and quantity of the goods, upon complaint made to any justice of the peace, the person so offending shall be bound over to appear at the next sessions of the peace to be held for these Islands; and, upon conviction thereof, such person shall be fined in a sum not exceeding 5*l.*, or double the value of the goods so clandestinely bought.

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63. And be it further enacted, that in all cases where an apprenticed labourer shall have been convicted of an offence punishable by fine under this or any other Act, if he shall be unwilling or unable to pay such fine, it shall be lawful for the court or special justice to sentence such labourer to hard labour, in the proportion of one day for every 5*s.* of fine imposed; and in all cases in this Act where hard labour is mentioned, it shall be deemed to be hard labour on the tread-mill in the manner prescribed by the Act for the regulation thereof, or in repairing the public works or highways, or otherwise.

Apprentices fined may, upon non-payment, be sentenced to hard labour on tread-mill.

64. And be it further enacted, that all warrants from any justice of the peace, directed to any constable or to the Provost Marshal General, or his lawful deputy, to make levies, or for any other matter whatsoever, shall be duly executed by such constable, the Provost Marshal General, or his lawful deputy, under a penalty not exceeding 50*l.* current money, to be levied by warrant of any justice whose former warrant he shall neglect or refuse to execute; and if the Provost Marshal General, or his lawful deputy, shall neglect or refuse to perform or execute any of the duties prescribed unto him by this Act, and for which no penalty is declared, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of 50*l.* current money for every neglect or refusal, to be levied as aforesaid; and whenever any warrant shall be granted against any apprenticed labourer who cannot be taken, and it should be proved that the employer, attorney or manager of such apprenticed labourer wilfully detained or concealed the said labourer, he shall forfeit any sum not exceeding 100*l.*

Warrants of justices of the peace to be duly executed.

Penalty on employer concealing apprentice.

65. And be it further enacted, that if any special or other justice of the peace shall refuse or neglect, upon application made to him, immediately to take proper measures to apprehend and bring to trial any apprenticed labourer whatsoever, for felony or any offence of an inferior nature charged on any such labourer, such justice shall forfeit 50*l.* current money, to be recovered in any court of record within these Islands, one moiety whereof shall be paid to the prosecutor or informer, and the other moiety to His Majesty, his heirs and successors, for the public uses of these Islands.

Penalty on Justices of the peace refusing to act.

66. And be it further enacted, that all fines and forfeitures laid by this Act shall be deemed and taken to be current money; and where no particular method of recovery of the forfeitures mentioned in this Act is directed, and the same do not amount to more than 5*l.* current money, the same shall be recovered before any special justice of the peace by warrant of distress and sale of the offender's goods and chattels, to be applied to the use of the public of these Islands.

Fines and forfeitures.

67. And for the protection of persons acting in the execution of this Act; Be it further enacted, that all actions and prosecutions to be commenced against any person for any thing done in pursuance of this Act, shall be commenced within 10 calendar months after the act committed, and not otherwise; and notice in writing of such action, and the cause thereof, shall be given to the defendant one calendar month, at least, before the commencement of the action; and in any such action the defendant may plead the general issue, and give this Act and the special matter in evidence at any trial to be had thereupon: and no plaintiff shall recover in any such action if tender of sufficient amends shall have been made before such action brought, or if a sufficient sum of money shall have been paid into court after such action brought, by or on behalf of the defendant; and if a verdict shall pass for the defendant, or the plaintiff shall become nonsuit or discontinue any such action after issue joined, or if upon demurrer or otherwise, judgment shall be given against the plaintiff, the defendant shall recover his full costs as between attorney and client, and have the like remedy for the same as any defendant hath by law in other cases.

Protection of persons acting under this Act.

68. And be it further enacted, that in all cases where words in this Act importing the singular number or the masculine gender only are used, yet the Act shall be understood to include several matters as well as one matter, and several persons as one person, and females as well as males; and the word person shall be construed as applicable to every description of persons whatsoever, unless it be otherwise specially provided, or there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction.

Interpretation of words used.

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— No. 44. —

St. Vincent.—(No. 311.)

AN ACT to provide for the general Registration of all Slaves belonging to or settled in these Islands.—(Passed 19th May 1834.)

No. 44.

WHEREAS by an Act recently passed the British Parliament, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves," it has become necessary that a general registry of the slaves within these Islands should be made for the purpose of ascertaining the exact number of slaves belonging to or settled in these Islands; Be it therefore enacted, by the Lieutenant Governor, Council

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and Assembly of the Island of St. Vincent and its dependencies, that from and after the 1st day of August now next ensuing, the several Acts relative to the registry of slaves and all parts thereof shall be wholly repealed, save and except for the punishment of such offences or the recovery and levying of such fines as may have been committed or incurred during the present registry, the said Acts and every of them shall be considered and taken to be in force for the space of twelve calendar months from the said first day of August.

2. And be it further enacted, that the registrar of slaves shall provide at the public expense the necessary books for the registry and enrolment hereinafter directed, in which books shall be entered and registered the names, sexes, ages and occupations of all slaves belonging to or settled in these Islands.

3. And be it further enacted, that between the passing of this Act and the 1st day of June in the present year, every person who shall be possessed of any slaves within these Islands shall upon oath make and deliver to the registrar of slaves a list, in manner and form directed by the schedule hereto annexed, of all slaves owned or possessed by them, whether in their own right or in right of others, and of whom in particular by name, and which shall contain the names, sexes, ages and occupations of all such slaves.

4. And whereas it will be necessary to ascertain the exact increase and decrease which shall take place in the number of slaves between the said 1st day of June hereinbefore mentioned and the 1st day of August next; Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, that on or before the 1st day of August next, a return upon oath shall be made to the registrar of all increase or decrease of slaves which shall have taken place between the said 1st day of June and the 1st day of August, specifying the particular cause of increase or decrease, whether by birth, gift, inheritance, purchase, sale, death or otherwise.

5. And be it further enacted, that in case any person or persons whatsoever shall wilfully neglect to give in to the said registrar a list or lists, schedule or schedules of his her or their slave or slaves as directed by this Act, every such person or persons so neglecting shall be liable to all such pains, penalties and forfeitures as are imposed by the Acts of these Islands for the registration of slaves upon any person or persons wilfully guilty of such neglect.

6. And be it further enacted, that in case any person or persons whatsoever shall wilfully insert or cause to be inserted in the list or lists, schedule or schedules of his her or their slave or slaves, so by them given in as directed by this Act to the said registrar the name or names of any slave or slaves who shall not actually and *bonâ fide* belong to or be in the possession of the person making such return at the time of making such returns, every person or persons so offending shall upon conviction thereof forfeit and pay for each and every name so falsely inserted as abovesaid, the sum of 100 *l.* current money of this Island, one moiety thereof to be paid to the informer, and the other moiety to be paid into the public treasury of this Island.

7. And be it further enacted, that the registrar shall do and perform all such acts and things in and about this general registration appointed to be taken by this Act as are required by the several Slave Registry Acts of these Islands to be done and performed at any previous registry or return of slaves; and if the registrar shall omit or neglect to perform any of the duties required of him in and by the said registry Acts of these Islands, or either of them, or if he shall in any matter or thing relating to the general Registry established by this Act be guilty of any offence contrary to the provisions hereof, he shall for every omission, neglect or offence be subject and liable to and shall incur the like fines, forfeitures, pains and penalties as are imposed by the said Registry of Slave Acts, or either of them, for such and the like omission, neglect or offence.

8. And be it further enacted, that as soon as the said returns shall have been made, the registrar shall proceed to register and copy the same, with all convenient speed, in a distinct and legible hand in the books hereinbefore directed, to be kept by him precisely according to the returns given in.

9. And be it further enacted, that as soon as the registrar shall have entered and recorded in the said books the returns made to him, he shall subscribe his name and affix his seal of office thereto, and below his signature shall write the following affidavit, which shall be sworn to by him before the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor in manner following:

“Before *A. B.* [inserting the name and title of the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor, as the case may be.]

“Personally appeared *C. D.*, the registrar of slaves for the Island of St. Vincent and its dependencies, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists, makes oath and says, That he the said *C. D.* has twice carefully examined and compared all the preceding entries in this book [or this set of books] with all the different returns of slaves delivered to him, first by examining the said entries, while his clerk or assistant read the original returns respectively entered therein, and afterwards by examining the said returns, while his clerk or assistant read the said entries in the book [or set of books] respectively made therefrom; and that he is enabled thereby to depose and does depose that the preceding registry of slaves of the Island of St. Vincent and its dependencies is in all respects correctly and faithfully made.”

Which

Which affidavit shall be authenticated under the hand of the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor, and the great seal of these Islands, in manner following:

"I, *E. F.*, [inserting his name and title of office] do hereby certify, That the above affidavit was duly sworn before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 183—. Witness my hand and great seal of these Islands, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ One thousand eight hundred and \_\_\_\_\_."

10. And be it further enacted, that as soon as the registrar shall have completed the registry and sworn to the same in the manner hereinbefore directed, all the books containing registry of slaves shall be by the said registrar deposited in the secretary's office of this Island, and a certificate by the secretary subscribed, certifying any copies or extracts from the same, shall be received in all courts and by all judges, magistrates and others in authority within these Islands as sufficient evidence of the authority of said copy, and a sufficient *prima facie* evidence of the matters so certified, and shall be allowed for each certificate the sum of 3s. for every 96 words, a figure counting for a word.

The RETURN of *A. B.* of Slaves, his own property, or the property of others, [as the case may be.]

#### SCHEDULE.

NAMES.	SEXES.	AGES.	OCCUPATIONS.

— No. 45. —

St. Vincent.—(No. 316.)

AN ACT for establishing a Police for the Regulation of Apprenticed Labourers, and for carrying into effect certain provisions of an Act, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery in the Island of St. Vincent and its Dependencies, in consideration of Compensation, and for promoting the Industry and good conduct of the Manumitted Slaves."—(Passed 23d June 1834.)

WHEREAS by an Act recently passed the Imperial Parliament, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves," exclusive cognizance of all matters incident to and arising out of the relation of the apprenticed labourers and their employers, is given to the magistrates to be appointed by virtue of the said Act, and it has become necessary to assign certain limits, and to make provision for the exercise of their jurisdiction, and for ensuring the effectual superintendence of apprenticed labourers; Be it therefore enacted by the Lieutenant Governor, Council and Assembly of the Island of St. Vincent and its dependencies, that the Island of St. Vincent and its dependencies be divided into three divisions, to be denominated the first or Windward division, which shall include Charlotte parish; the second or Southern division, which shall include St. George's parish, the Grenadines and that part of St. Andrew's parish, called New Edinburgh; and the third or Leeward division, which shall include St. Patrick and St. David's parish, and that part of St. Andrew's not included in the second or southern division, and that each of the said divisions be subdivided into three judicial districts.

2. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the boundaries of the judicial districts shall be as follows; namely, in the first or windward division, the first judicial district to be denominated the George Town district, to include that part of Charlotte parish lying between the western boundary of the Fancy Estate and Byera River; the second judicial district to be denominated Colonarie Bay district, to include that part of Charlotte parish lying between Byera River and the northern boundary of the Union estate; the third judicial district to be denominated Biabou district, to include that part of Charlotte parish, lying between the northern boundary of the Union estate and Yambou River, together with the northern portion of Marriaqua Valley; in the second or southern division, the first judicial district to be denominated the Calliaqua district, to include that part of St. George's parish lying between Yambou River and the western boundary of the Villa estate, together with the southern portion of Marriaqua Valley; the second judicial district to be denominated the Kingstown district, to include the remaining part of St. George's parish, and that part of St. Andrew's parish called New Edinburgh; the third judicial district to be denominated the Grenadine district, to include Bequia and such of the islands as lie to the northward of Carriacou; in the third or leeward division, the first judicial district to be denominated the Buccament district, to include that part of St. Andrew's parish not included in the second division; the second judicial district to be denominated the Barrouallie district, to include St. Patrick's parish; and the third judicial district to be denominated the Cbatcaubeliar district, to include St. David's parish,

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3. And be it further enacted, that the Governor of this Colony shall be empowered, with the advice and consent of His Majesty's Privy Council of these Islands, to make such alterations in the said limits and boundaries, as may be found by experience to be expedient to the public convenience and advantage, or necessary to carry the purposes and intentions of this Act more fully into effect.

4. And be it further enacted, that a stipendiary justice shall preside over each of the divisions, and shall actually reside within the limits thereof, except prevented by sickness or other reasonable cause to be allowed by the Governor.

5. And that for the purpose of more effectually maintaining the public peace, the Governor shall be empowered to appoint, in each of the said judicial districts, three or more special magistrates, with the same powers and authorities as are given to the stipendiary magistrates.

6. And be it further enacted, that such justices shall on the Saturday in each and every week, or oftener, if necessary, hold a petty session within their divisions and districts, for hearing and deciding upon such cases as may be brought before them; and the stipendiary justice shall once in each fortnight, or oftener if need be, repair to each estate within his division, then and there to take cognizance of such cases as may be brought before him.

7. And be it further enacted, that every stipendiary magistrate shall keep a journal of all cases brought before him, in which he shall enter—1st, the date of the complaint; 2d, the name of the complainant; 3d, the substance of the complaint; 4th, the names of the witnesses adduced on either side; 5th, the substance of the evidence; 6th, his decision on the case; 7th, whether the decision had been carried into effect; 8th, any general remarks which he may think desirable.

8. And be it further enacted, that at the end of each quarter, the stipendiary magistrate shall transmit to the Governor a duplicate of his journal, for the preceding quarter, with an affidavit thereto annexed, to be sworn before any magistrate, to the effect that it has been faithfully kept, with the exception of unintentional errors, it contains a true account of all the proceedings in which the deponent has been engaged as such stipendiary magistrate, during the quarter to which it refers.

9. And be it further enacted, that it shall be the duty of the stipendiary and special justices, on receiving any complaint, to reduce it to writing, and to cause it to be read by, or to read it over to the complainant by whom it shall be then subscribed, when if the complaint shall appear to the justice immaterial and not to deserve further inquiry, he may dismiss the complaint; but if he shall think inquiry necessary, he shall call upon the complainant to make oath that the complaint is true.

10. And be it further enacted, that upon taking any complaint, to the truth of which such oath may have been made as aforesaid, the justice in all cases which impute to the party charged a capital or transportable offence, where there is reason to apprehend that the party charged will endeavour to escape, or when there is reason to apprehend danger to the public peace, shall issue his warrant for the arrest and apprehension of the party charged, and in all other cases the justice shall proceed in the first instance by summons.

11. And be it further enacted, that in all cases in which it may be necessary to adduce witnesses in support of or in answer to any complaint, the stipendiary or special justice shall issue a summons to every such witness; and if any person summoned as aforesaid, shall not appear in obedience to such summons, or appearing, shall refuse to be sworn or examined, or to answer any question proposed to him by such justice, in relation to the matters depending before him, it shall be lawful for such justice to issue his warrant for the arrest and apprehension of such defaulter, or to commit to close custody, there to remain until he shall submit to be sworn and examined, and to make such answers as aforesaid.

12. And be it further enacted, that at the time and place appointed by any such warrant or summons for proceeding upon any complaint, the justice shall in the presence of all parties, first read over the written complaint, and then take down in writing the answer of the party charged, and proceed to examine on oath the party complaining and the witnesses; taking down in writing the deposition of each witness, which shall be read over by or to such witness, and signed by him.

13. And be it further enacted, that the justice may from time to time adjourn any such proceeding for further inquiry, and if necessary commit the party charged to custody, pending such adjournment, or take bail for his appearance; and at the close of the proceedings the justice shall pronounce his decision thereupon, which shall be reduced into writing and subscribed with his hand.

14. And be it further enacted, that the justice shall either dismiss the complaint, and state in his written decision whether it was dismissed as being unproved, or as frivolous and vexatious or malicious; or sanction any compromise between the parties which he may think just, or convict the party charged, or commit him to prison to take his trial at the court of grand sessions of the peace for the imputed offence.

15. And be it further enacted, that any summons, warrant or order issued by any stipendiary or special justice within his own district, may without further authority be carried into execution in any part of these Islands.

16. And be it further enacted, that if any suit or action shall be commenced against any stipendiary or special justice, in respect of any act, matter or thing by him done, by virtue  
and

and in pursuance thereof, the court shall give judgment for the defendant, the plaintiff shall by such judgment be condemned to pay treble costs of suit.

17. And for the protection of all persons acting in the execution of this Act; Be it enacted, that all actions and prosecutions to be commenced against any person for any thing done in pursuance of this Act, shall be commenced within six calendar months after the fact committed, and not otherwise; and notice in writing of such action and of the cause thereof shall be given to the defendant, one calendar month at least before the commencement of the action; and in any such action the defendant may plead the general issue and give this Act and the special matter in evidence at any trial to be had thereupon; and no plaintiff shall recover in any such action, if tender of sufficient amends shall have been made before such action brought, or if a sufficient sum of money shall have been paid into court after such action brought, by or on behalf of the defendant; and if a verdict shall pass for the defendant, or the plaintiff shall become nonsuit or discontinue any such action after issue joined, or if upon demurrer or otherwise judgment shall be given against the plaintiff, the defendant shall recover his full costs as between attorney and client, and have the like remedy for the same as any defendant hath by law in other cases.

18. And be it further enacted, that in each of the divisions into which these Islands shall be divided, a police settlement shall be established, and be under the particular superintendence of the stipendiary justice who may for the purposes of this Act be appointed thereto; and that whenever an Act of the Lieutenant Governor, Council and Assembly shall be passed for the purpose, there shall be erected at each of such police settlements such buildings as may be deemed necessary.

19. And be it further enacted, that each police establishment shall consist of one serjeant and four policemen, all able-bodied men, between the ages of 20 and 50 years, to be appointed by the Governor, and liable to be removed by him for bad conduct or inefficiency.

20. And be it further enacted, that the serjeants and policemen so to be appointed shall be liable to be suspended from office by the stipendiary justice for the division, subject to the Governor's confirmation or disallowance of such suspension.

21. And be it further enacted, that the serjeants and policemen of each police settlement shall be annually provided with a uniform, and with such weapons and accoutrements as may be best adapted to the service.

22. And be it further enacted, that the policemen in each police settlement shall receive pay at the rate of 50 *l.*, and the serjeants 100 *l.* currency per annum.

23. And be it further enacted, that it shall be the duty of the serjeants and policemen to carry into execution such orders as they shall receive from any of His Majesty's justices of the peace, or any stipendiary or special magistrate, or special justice, for the prevention and repressing of crime and for enforcing obedience to the laws.

24. And be it further enacted, that the employer of the labourer sentenced to the treadmill shall pay to the keeper 9*d.* currency per day for feeding him; and no fees for commitment and release shall be allowed.

25. And be it further enacted, that at each police settlement shall also be established a penal gang, to be composed of such persons as may be sentenced to labour therein.

26. And be it further enacted, that as often as the stipendiary magistrate of the division shall so direct, the said penal gang shall, under the superintendence of the serjeant, or in his absence, of some other member of the police, be employed in any laborious work, either upon the public roads or works, or otherwise, as may be deemed expedient, either for the support of the prisoners at such settlement, or for the public advantage.

27. And be it further enacted, that each stipendiary justice shall once in each quarter make to the Governor a report of the effective strength and condition of the police force at each settlement, and of the state of the buildings, and also of the state and conduct of the prisoners therein confined.

28. And be it further enacted, that the stipendiary justice of each division shall from time to time establish all necessary rules for the internal discipline of the said police establishment, for a due separation of prisoners of different sexes, for their religious instruction, for the maintenance of cleanliness, order and sobriety among them, and for the prevention and prompt punishment of any neglect or violation of such rules, which shall be first submitted to and approved of by the Governor; and within the meaning and for the purposes of this Act every person who for the time being shall be in the lawful administration of this government shall be taken to be the Governor thereof.

29. And be it further enacted, that in all cases where words in this Act importing the singular number or masculine gender only are used, yet the Act shall be understood to include several matters as well as one matter, and several persons as well as one person, and females as well as males; and the word "person" shall be construed as applicable to every description of persons whatsoever, unless it be otherwise specially provided, or there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction.

30. And be it further enacted, that this Act shall commence and be in force on, from and after the 1st day of August 1834, and continue until the 1st day of August 1840.

ST. VINCENT.

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No. 45.

## ST. VINCENT.

Appendix (B.)

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No. 46.

— No. 46. —

St. Vincent.—(No. 318.)

AN ACT to repeal the 21st and 22d Clauses of an Act, intituled, "An Act for establishing a Police for the regulation of Apprenticed Labourers, &c. &c. &c., and to increase the Pay of the Policemen in each Police Settlement."—(Passed 29th December 1834.)

WHEREAS it is expedient that the 21st and 22d clauses of an Act for establishing a police for the regulation of apprenticed labourers, &c. &c. &c. should be repealed: We, therefore, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lieutenant Governor, Council and Assembly of the Island of St. Vincent and its dependencies, pray Your most Excellent Majesty, that it may be enacted, and be it and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the said 21st and 22d clauses of the said Act shall be and the same are hereby repealed accordingly.

And be it further enacted, that the policemen in each settlement shall from and after the publication of this Act receive pay at the rate of 80*l.*, and the serjeants 120*l.* currency per annum, each payable monthly, and shall annually provide themselves with a uniform under the direction of the stipendiary magistrates.

And be it further enacted, that the serjeants and policemen of each police settlement shall be provided, at the public expense, with such weapons and accoutrements as may be best adapted to the public service.

## GRENADA.

— No. 47. —

## GRENADA.

No. 47.

Grenada.

AN ACT for carrying into effect the Provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the third and fourth years of the reign of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies.—(Passed 8th March 1834.)

Preamble.

WHEREAS an Act has recently passed the Imperial Parliament, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves:" And whereas by that Act the sum of 20,000,000*l.* sterling is appropriated as a compensation for the holders of slaves whose property is thereby effected: And whereas in consideration thereof it is expedient that a Bill should pass the Legislature of this Island, for giving effect to the said Act for the Abolition of Slavery: And whereas in and by the first section of the said Act, of the 3d and 4th of William the Fourth, it is enacted, "That from and after the 1st day of August 1834, all persons who in conformity with the laws now in force in the said Colonies respectively, shall, on or before the 1st day of August 1834, have been duly registered as slaves in any such Colony, and who on the said 1st day of August 1834 shall be actually within such Colony, and who shall by such registries appear to be on the said 1st day of August 1834, of the full age of six years or upwards, shall by force and virtue of this (the now in part reciting Act) and without the previous execution of any indenture of apprenticeship or other deed or instrument for that purpose become and be apprenticed labourers, provided that for the purposes aforesaid every slave engaged in his ordinary occupation on the seas shall be deemed and taken to be within the Colony to which such slave shall belong:" And whereas it is further provided and enacted in and by the said Act, that amongst other things therein contained, during the continuance of the apprenticeship of any such apprenticed labourer, such person or persons shall be entitled to the services of such apprenticed labourer as would for the time being have been entitled to his or her services as a slave, if the said Act had not been made; and that a division of the said apprenticed labourers into three distinct classes should be made and effected as therein mentioned and hereinafter enacted; the first class to consist of prædial apprenticed labourers attached to the soil, and comprising such persons as are therein mentioned; the second class to consist of prædial apprenticed labourers not attached to the soil, and comprising such persons as are therein also mentioned; and the third class to consist of non-prædial apprenticed labourers, and comprising all apprenticed labourers not included within either of the two preceding classes, subject to the proviso therein mentioned, that no person of the age of 12 years or upwards should be included in either of the said two classes of prædial apprenticed labourers, unless such person should for 12 calendar months at the least, next before the passing of the said in part reciting Act, have been habitually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce; and that no such prædial apprenticed labourer, whether attached or not attached to the soil, shall continue in such apprenticeship beyond the 1st day of August 1840, nor during such his or her said apprenticeship be liable to labour in his or her employer's service for more than forty-five hours in the whole in any one week, and no such non-prædial apprenticed labourer should continue in such apprenticeship

ship beyond the 1st day of August 1838, and that before the expiration of the apprenticeship of any apprenticed labourer, it shall be lawful for the person or persons entitled to the services of such apprenticed labourer to discharge him or her therefrom, in such manner as therein provided for, and as hereinafter enacted: provided, nevertheless, that if any person so discharged from any such apprenticeship by any such voluntary act as aforesaid, shall at that time be of the age of 50 years or upwards, or shall be then labouring under any such disease, or mental or bodily infirmity, as may render him or her incapable of earning his or her subsistence, then and in every such case the person or persons so discharging any such apprenticed labourer as aforesaid, shall continue and be liable to provide for the support and maintenance of such apprenticed labourer during the remaining term of such original apprenticeship, as fully as if such apprenticed labourer had not been discharged therefrom, and that any apprenticed labourer might purchase his or her discharge from such apprenticeship without the consent, or in opposition, if necessary, to his or her employer's will, in the manner therein provided for, and hereinafter enacted; and that no prædial apprenticed labourer, attached to the soil, should be liable to perform any labour in the service of his or her employer, except upon, or in or about the works and business of the plantations or estates, to or on which such prædial apprenticed labourers shall have been attached or worked, or usually employed on or previously to the said 1st day of August 1834, except with a written consent of two special justices of the peace, as thereinafter directed to be appointed, which consent shall be in such manner and form as therein is provided for, and hereinafter enacted; and that the right or interest of any employer to or in the services of any apprenticed labourers, shall be transferable in such manner and form as therein is mentioned and hereinafter is enacted, and that in cases in which the food therein directed to be allowed to any prædial apprenticed labourer shall be supplied, not by the delivery to him or her of provisions, but by the cultivation by such prædial apprenticed labourer, of ground set apart for the growth of provisions, the actual extent of such ground, and the distance thereof from the place of residence of the prædial apprenticed labourer, for whose use it may be so allotted, and the length of time to be deducted and allowed to him or her for the cultivation of the said ground, shall be regulated in manner therein provided for and hereinafter enacted: And whereas by the 14th section of the said in part recited Act, His Majesty, or the Governor of any Colony, by His Majesty's authority, may appoint justices of the peace by a special commission to give effect to the said in part recited Act, and to all Colonial Laws to be made in pursuance thereof: And whereas in and by the 16th section of the said in part recited Act, after reciting as therein mentioned, it is enacted and declared, that nothing in the said in part recited Act contained, extends or shall be construed to extend to prevent the enactment by the respective Governors, Councils and Assemblies of any such Acts of General Assembly as may be requisite for making and establishing such several rules and regulations as are therein as aforesaid, or in any of them, or for carrying the same or any of them into full and complete effect: provided nevertheless, that it shall not be lawful for any such Governor, Council and Assembly, by any such Acts of Assembly as aforesaid, to make or establish any enactment, regulation, provision, rule or order, which shall be in anywise repugnant or contradictory to the said reciting Act, or any part thereof, but that every such enactment, regulation, provision, rule or order, shall be and is thereby declared to be absolutely null and void and of no effect: And whereas it is in and by the 18th and 19th sections of the said in part recited Act provided and enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any such Governor, Council and Assembly, by any such Acts of General Assembly as aforesaid, to authorize any magistrate or justice of the peace, other than and except the justices of the peace holding such special commissions as aforesaid, to take cognizance of any offence committed or alleged to have been committed by any such apprenticed labourer, or by his or her employer, in such their relation to each other, or of the breach, violation or neglect of any of the obligations owed by them to each other, or of any question, matter or thing, incident to or arising out of the relations subsisting between such apprenticed labourers and the persons respectively entitled to their services; and every enactment, regulation, provision, rule or order, in any such Acts to the contrary contained, shall be, and is thereby declared to be null and void, and of no effect; and that the several justices of the peace having such special commissions as aforesaid, shall, within the respective colonies to which they shall be respectively appointed, have, exercise and enjoy a sole and exclusive jurisdiction over, and shall solely and exclusively take cognizance of all such offences or alleged offences as last aforesaid, and of every such breach, violation or neglect of any of the aforesaid obligations, and of every such question, matter or thing as aforesaid, any law, custom or usage in any of the said colonies to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding: provided, nevertheless, that nothing therein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to abrogate or take away the powers by law vested in the Supreme Courts of Record, or the Superior Courts of civil and criminal justice, in any of the said respective Colonies: And whereas it is desirable and expedient, that such of the provisions of the said in part recited Act, as relate to the internal concerns of this Island and its dependencies, and as far as the Legislature thereof has power and authority reserved to it under the said in part recited Act, to enact, should be forthwith enacted in the manner hereinafter mentioned, expressed and contained: And whereas it is necessary in furtherance of the said Act of the 3d and 4th of William the Fourth, and for the purposes of this Act, and for the effectually carrying into operation the several rules, regulations and provisions in the said Act of the 3d and 4th of William the Fourth, and hereinafter contained, that this Colony be divided into districts for the judicial cognizance by and peculiar jurisdiction of justices of the peace, appointed or to be appointed by special commission under the said Act of the 3d and 4th of William the Fourth, relative to the several offences, duties, matters and things hereinafter mentioned, expressed and enacted:



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1. Be it therefore enacted, by his Excellency Major-General Sir Lionel Smith, knight, commander of the most honourable military Order of the Bath, Governor-General in and over the Islands of Barbadoes, Grenada, Saint Vincent and Tobago, and their several dependencies, the members of His Majesty's Council and the representatives of the people of the said Island of Grenada and its dependencies, that from and after the 1st day of August 1834, for the purposes of this Act, this Colony shall be divided into six districts, and that within each district there shall be established a police, consisting of one special justice, one serjeant and ten privates, to be at the disposal of such special justice and under his orders; and the limits of such districts shall be settled and fixed by a proclamation or proclamations to be issued from time to time by the Governor; and that for the purposes of this Act such districts shall be under the judicial charge and especial jurisdiction of the respective special justices, to be from time to time appointed thereto.

2. And be it enacted, that the common gaol or cage of every parish, or united parishes of each district, shall be divided into such apartments or in such manner as that the male and female prisoners therein shall be kept apart; and in each cage or gaol there shall be established and fixed such stocks for the male prisoners, and such stocks for the female prisoners, and such cells for solitary confinement, and such machinery for labour as may be approved by the Governor.

3. And be it enacted, that in each district there shall be established and formed a culprit's gang, to be composed of all such apprenticed labourers as shall be by the special justice of the district condemned to imprisonment with hard labour.

4. And be it enacted, that when any apprenticed labourers shall be by the special justice of any district condemned to imprisonment with hard labour, it shall be either on the tread-mill, or under some mark of disgrace on the plantation to which such apprentice or apprentices may be attached, or in cleaning, widening, mending and repairing effectually the public streets, roads and highways within the district in which such culprit or culprits shall be condemned to labour, at the discretion of the special justice of such district.

5. And be it enacted, that the special justice of each district shall upon the application of any proprietor, agent, manager or other person having charge of any estate whereon there may be ten labourers employed, or on the application of any apprenticed labourer or labourers, repair to any such plantation, and shall investigate any complaint that may be then and there made to him, and shall decide and adjudge thereon according to law, or shall appoint some other time to investigate and decide such matter on such plantation.

6. And be it enacted, that the special justice of each district shall keep a journal and a duplicate journal of all the cases that shall be brought before him, either at his place of residence or at any plantation or estate, in which journals he shall first enter the date when the complaint was lodged with him; secondly, the name of the complainant and the name of the defendant; thirdly, the substance of the complaint; fourthly, the names of the witnesses adduced on both sides or on either side; fifthly, the substance of the evidence; sixthly, the special justice's decision upon the case; seventhly, whether and when the decision has been carried into effect; and eighthly, any remarks which he may think proper to insert therein.

7. And be it enacted, that the journal of each district shall be kept in one and the same uniform manner, to be prescribed by the Governor; for which purpose the Governor is hereby authorized to alter or vary the form in and by the last preceding clause of this Act defined, and to substitute such other form or plan as to him shall seem more advisable.

8. And be it enacted, that at the end of each quarter of a year the special justice of each district shall transmit to the Governor the duplicate journal for the then preceding quarter, with an affidavit thereto annexed, and which affidavit shall be to the effect that the journal has been faithfully kept, and that, with the exception of unintentional errors, it contains a true account of all the complaints, cases and proceedings which have been had and taken by and before him during the quarter to which it refers, and that the duplicate journal is a complete, accurate and perfect transcript of the original in his keeping.

9. And be it enacted, that until the Governor shall have actually received such duplicate journal so verified as aforesaid, the special justice, whose duty it shall be to transmit to him such duplicate journal so verified as aforesaid, shall not be entitled to receive or to draw any order for, and the Governor shall not be at liberty to pay or to issue any order for the payment of the salary of the said special justice, for the period of that quarter of which his duplicate journal shall not be so transmitted as aforesaid.

10. And be it enacted, that upon entering any such complaint in his journal, to the truth of which such oath shall have been made by the complainant, the special justice shall either issue his warrant for the arrest of the party charged or shall issue a summons for his attendance as the case may require, and as in the next succeeding section of this Act is specified; and every such warrant of arrest shall be in the form or to the effect hereunto annexed, marked (A.), and every such summons shall be in the form or to the effect hereunto annexed marked (B.)

11. And be it enacted, that the warrant of arrest shall or may be issued in all cases which impute a felony to the party charged, and in all cases where there is reason or suspicion to apprehend that the party charged will endeavour to escape, and also in all cases where there is reason to apprehend danger to the public peace from delay; in all other cases the special justice shall proceed in the first instance by summons to the party charged.

12. And

12. And be it enacted, that in all cases where the special justice shall proceed in the first instance by warrant of arrest, if there be not sufficient time after such arrest to investigate the cause of complaint upon the same day of such arrest, the special justice shall and may adjourn or postpone such investigation unto some other day, to be by him for that purpose fixed; and if he see fit may require bail of and from the party charged, to appear on such other day to answer the complaint; and in all offences bailable under this Act, if the party arrested cannot find bail for his appearance on the day assigned to answer the complaint, he shall be committed to safe keeping by the special justice under whose warrant he was arrested, and the hearing of the complaint and answer shall not be postponed beyond 24 hours after such commitment.

13. And be it enacted, that in all cases where the special justice shall proceed in the first instance by summons to the party charged, such summons shall and may be served either upon the party in person or by leaving the same at the usual residence or place of abode of such party, charged at least 48 hours before the time in and by such summons required for his attendance: provided always, that if the person or persons to be summoned shall be an apprentice or apprentices, the service of such summons shall be upon the person or persons in whose immediate employ such apprentice or apprentices shall be; and such employer shall produce or cause to be produced the apprentice so summoned, pursuant to such summons.

14. And be it enacted, that in all cases where it may be necessary or advisable to adduce witnesses in support of, or in answer to any such complaint, the special justice shall issue his summons to every such witness in the form or to the effect hereunto annexed, marked (C.)

15. And be it enacted, that at the time and place appointed by any such warrant or summons for proceeding upon any such complaint, the special justice shall in the presence of all parties, first read aloud to the party charged the written complaint, and then take down in writing the plea or answer of the party charged, and then proceed to examine on oath the party complaining, and the witnesses in support of and in answer to such complaint, and shall take down in writing the depositions, and which depositions, when taken down in writing, shall be read over to and shall be signed by the deponent.

16. And be it enacted, that the special justice before whom any such complaint shall be investigated, may from time to time, as occasion shall require, adjourn any such inquiry to some other day, or to some other time of the same day; and shall enter in his journal every such adjournment, and the cause thereof, and may, if necessary, commit the party charged in all cases which impute a felony to the party charged, and in all cases where there is reason or suspicion to apprehend that the party charged will endeavour to escape, and in all cases where there is reason to apprehend danger to the public peace from delay; in all other cases the special justice shall, if necessary, take bail for the appearance of the party charged; and every such commitment shall be in the form or to the effect hereunto annexed, marked (D.); and every such recognizance of bail shall be in the form or to the effect hereunto annexed, marked (E.)

17. And be it enacted, that when the proceedings upon any complaint shall be closed, the special justice shall pronounce his decision thereupon, and shall reduce the same to writing, and subscribe it with his hand, and all such proceedings shall be entered in his journal forthwith, after such decision shall have been pronounced.

18. And be it enacted, that the special justice before whom such proceedings shall be taken shall, within 10 days after demand, and upon payment of a fee of 2s. currency, per folio of 90 words, deliver a true copy of his said proceedings, and of his decision thereon, to either or both of the parties demanding it, under a penalty of 50 l. currency for neglecting or refusing so to do.

19. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for such special justice, by any decision to be by him made upon any such complaint, and as the justice or reason of the case may require, either to dismiss the complaint, or if not for a felony, to sanction any compromise between the parties which he may think fair or equitable, or to convict the party charged, or according to the nature of the offence, to commit the party charged to prison to take his trial for the imputed offence, or to take bail for his appearance to answer to a bill of indictment or information for the imputed offence; such commitment or bail to be regulated in the same manner and under such circumstances as are in and by the 16th section of this Act hereinbefore mentioned and specified.

20. And be it enacted, that if any such complaint be dismissed, the special justice shall, in such his written decision entered in his journal, state whether such dismissal was in consequence of the complaint not being sufficiently or satisfactorily proved, or frivolous, vexatious, malicious or negatived.

21. And be it enacted, that if any such complaint shall be so dismissed as frivolous, vexatious, malicious or negatived, the special justice may adjudge the complainant, if an apprenticed labourer, to work in the service of his employer for any time not exceeding in the whole 15 extra hours in any one week, or if the complainant be the employer, the special justice may adjudge such employer to the payment of a penalty, for the use of the apprenticed labourer charged, of not less than 10s., nor more than 50s., currency.

22. And be it enacted, that if any such complaint shall be so dismissed as being malicious, the said special justice may, at the instance of the party charged, adjudge the complainant, if an

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apprenticed labourer, to whipping, not exceeding 30 stripes, or imprisonment with hard labour, for any time not exceeding one month; or if the complainant be the employer of any such apprenticed labourer, to a fine not exceeding 4*l.* currency, for the benefit of the party charged.

23. And be it enacted, that if the special justice shall, by such his decision, convict the party charged, or shall convict the complainant of having preferred a frivolous and vexatious, or a malicious complaint, such conviction shall be severally drawn up and entered in the journal, according to some or one of the forms, or to the effect hereunto annexed, marked (F.) (G.) (H.)

24. And be it enacted, that if the special justice shall commit the party charged to take his trial for the imputed offence, such commitment shall be drawn up in the form, or to the effect hereunto annexed, marked (I.)

25. And be it enacted, that upon any conviction of the party charged, the special justice shall forthwith issue his warrant, under his hand and seal, for the execution of his decision or judgment, except where fines are imposed and payment tendered, which warrant shall be in the form or to the effect hereunto annexed, marked (K.)

26. And be it enacted, that all summonses, warrants, commitments and other orders, so to be issued by any special justice as aforesaid, shall be directed to and executed by the police officers of his district: provided, nevertheless, that it shall be lawful for such special justice, as occasion may require, to direct any such summons, warrant, commitment, or other order, to any other peace officer or peace officers of the Colony, either jointly with or instead of such his officers of police, as to him may seem requisite; and such other peace officer or officers are hereby required to execute the same.

27. And be it enacted, that any summons, warrant or order, issued by such special justice within his own district, may, without any further authority, be carried into execution in any part of the Colony, though beyond such district.

28. And be it enacted, that if any person summoned by the special justice as a witness, shall not appear in obedience to such summons, or appearing, shall refuse to be sworn or examined, or to answer any question proposed to him by such special justice, in relation to the matters pending before him, it shall be lawful for such special justice to issue his warrant for the arrest of any such defaulter, and to commit him to close custody, there to remain until he submit to be sworn and examined, and to make such answers as aforesaid; and every such warrant of arrest or commitment shall be in the form or to the effect hereunto annexed, marked (L.) (M.): provided, however, that during the examination of a witness he shall not be compelled to answer any question which may criminate himself.

29. And be it enacted, that if any suit or action be commenced against any special justice in respect of any act, matter or thing by him done by virtue and in pursuance of this Act, he may plead the general issue, and give this Act and the special matter in evidence in any trial to be had thereupon, and if the plaintiff be nonsuited, or discontinue his action, without the consent of the defendant, or a verdict be found against the plaintiff, such plaintiff shall pay treble costs of suit.

30. And be it enacted, that if in any such action or suit against any special justice, he shall at any time before trial of such action or suit, tender to the plaintiff sufficient amends for the wrong or injury, in respect of which the same may be brought, and submit to pay the costs of suit up to that time incurred, and if the plaintiff shall refuse to accept such amends and costs of suit, then upon proof made to the court at the trial of such suit, that such amends have been so tendered, and were sufficient, the court shall award that judgment be given for the plaintiff in the amount of the sum so tendered, subject, nevertheless, to the reduction therefrom of the costs of suit of the defendant.

31. And be it enacted, that no suit or action shall be brought against any special justice in respect of any matter or thing by him done, under or in pursuance of this Act, unless the same shall be commenced within six calendar months after the cause of action accrued, nor unless one month's notice previous to the entry of such suit or action shall be duly served on such special justice.

32. And be it enacted, that no suit or action shall be brought against any policeman, constable, peace-officer or other officer, or against any person or persons acting by, under the order, or in the aid of such policeman, constable, peace-officer or other officer, for any thing done in obedience to any warrant under the hand or seal of any special justice, until demand hath been made or left at the usual place of the abode of such policeman, constable, peace-officer or other officer, by the party or parties intending to bring such action, or by his attorney or agent, in writing, signed by the party demanding the same, of the perusal and copy of such warrant, and that the same hath been refused or neglected, for the space of six days after such demand; and in case after such demand, and compliance therewith, any action shall be brought against any such policeman, constable, peace-officer or other officer, or against any person or persons acting by their or either of their order, and in their or either of their aid as aforesaid, without making the special justice who signed or sealed the said warrant, a defendant to such suit or action, that on producing and proving such warrant at the trial of such action, the jury shall give their verdict for the defendant, notwithstanding any defect of jurisdiction in such special justice.

33. And

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33. And be it enacted, that if such action be brought jointly against such special justice, and also against such policeman, constable, peace-officer or other officer, or against any person or persons acting by his order and in his aid as aforesaid, then on proof of such warrant, the jury shall find for such policeman, constable, peace-officer or other officer, or for such person or persons acting by his order and in his aid, notwithstanding such defect of jurisdiction as aforesaid; and if the verdict shall be given against the special justice, in such case the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall recover his her or their costs against him, to be taxed in such manner by the proper officer so as to include such costs as the plaintiff or plaintiffs are liable to pay to the defendant or defendants for whom such verdict shall be found.

34. And whereas it is necessary to distinguish in reference to each person about to become an apprenticed labourer, to which of the three classes of apprenticed labourers hereinbefore mentioned he or she belongs: And whereas by virtue of or under an Act of the Legislature of this Colony, intituled, "An Act for establishing a Registry of Negro and other Slaves, in the Island of Grenada and its Dependencies," and dated the 27th day of March 1833, a general registry of the slaves within this Colony is directed to take place between the 1st day of January and the 30th day of April 1834, when all and every person and persons resident in this Colony, then being in lawful possession of any slave or slaves within the same, whether as proprietor, mortgagee, trustee, sequestrator, receiver, lessee, attorney, agent, executor, administrator, guardian, committee, or in any other right or character, and whatever his her or their title or interest in any such slave or slaves may be, shall respectively make and deliver, or cause to be made and delivered, unto the registrar of slaves thereunder appointed, a schedule or return of all slaves by him her or them possessed, on the 31st day of December then immediately preceding, with a list of particulars, according to the form thereunto annexed, marked (A.), together with a duplicate thereof; and one of the said returns shall be numbered by the registrar, according to the order of progression in which such said returns shall have been given in, and the same shall be deposited in his office to be registered and recorded in the books thereof, and the duplicate of each and every such return and list as aforesaid shall be in like manner correspondently numbered, and being previously certified and signed by the registrar, shall be delivered back to the person or persons making the said return or returns: And whereas it will be necessary to ascertain what increase and decrease may take place among the slaves in each said schedule between the said 31st day of December last preceding the making of such return, and the 1st day of August 1834, when slavery is to cease; Be it therefore enacted, that between the 1st day of August 1834, and the 30th day of September in the same year, every person to whom the registrar shall have so delivered back the duplicate of each and every such return and list as aforesaid, shall fairly and correctly transcribe such return, only omitting the names and particulars of such of the persons therein named as shall since the original return was given in as aforesaid be then dead, manumitted or transferred, and shall affix to the entry of the name of each prædial attached apprenticed labourer in such transcript the letters P. A., and to the entry of the name of each prædial unattached apprenticed labourer in such transcript the letters P. U., and to the entry of the name of each non-prædial apprenticed labourer in such transcript the letters N. P.; provided that no apprenticed labourer above the age of twelve years shall be included in the class of prædial apprenticed labourers in such transcript, unless during the space of twelve calendar months before the date of the said statute of the 3d and 4th of William the Fourth, he or she had been habitually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce or otherwise, upon lands belonging to his or her employer, being a prædial attached apprenticed labourer as aforesaid, or had been habitually employed in agriculture or in the manufacture of colonial produce or otherwise upon lands not belonging to his or her employer, being a prædial unattached apprenticed labourer as aforesaid.

35. And be it enacted, that between the said 1st day of August and the said 30th day of September 1834, every such transcript, with such letters as aforesaid affixed to the entry of the names therein, of each person who shall have then become an apprenticed labourer shall be delivered by the person possessing the same to the registrar, together with a list of the names of the increase and decrease which shall have taken place of or among such respective persons between the 31st day of December preceding such original return as aforesaid and the said 1st day of August 1834.

36. And be it enacted, that to every such transcript, with such distinguishing letters as aforesaid affixed to the entry of the names of each apprenticed labourer therein, there shall be annexed at the time of the delivery thereof to the registrar as aforesaid an affidavit by the person delivering the same, to the effect that the distinctions therein made comprise only such persons who in their state of slavery had been habitually employed during twelve calendar months next preceding the date of the said statute of the 3d and 4th of William the Fourth, in agriculture or in the manufacture of colonial produce, or otherwise upon lands belonging to their owners or other persons, according as such prædial apprenticed labourers shall be attached or not attached to the soil.

37. And be it enacted, that if in any case the registrar shall see cause to doubt the accuracy of the transcript delivered to him, he is hereby authorized and required to appoint by notice a time and place at which the person so delivering to the registrar such transcript shall attend him, to substantiate the accuracy of such transcript so delivered.

38. And be it enacted, that at the time and place so to be appointed, the person to whom such notice of appointment shall be addressed or given, is hereby required to attend the registrar, and if required shall bring with him any apprenticed labourer respecting whom

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any such doubt may have arisen, together with any other apprenticed labourer in his employ or under his charge; and the said registrar shall then proceed to examine the person delivering such transcript and the apprenticed labourer respecting whom such doubt shall have arisen, and any witnesses that may be adduced respecting the truth of such transcript; and the said registrar is also empowered, if necessary, to adjourn such examination from time to time as he may see fit.

39. And be it enacted, that the said registrar shall, after such examination, either confirm or correct any such transcript delivered to him as aforesaid, according to the evidences adduced and as he may see fit, and shall thereupon certify and give notice to the party delivering such transcript and to the apprenticed labourer respecting whom such doubt shall have arisen respectively of the decision to which he shall have come in the premises.

40. And be it enacted, that if either the party so delivering to the registrar such transcript as aforesaid, or the apprenticed labourer respecting whom such doubt shall have arisen, be dissatisfied with the decision to which the registrar shall have come in the premises, such party so delivering such transcript may on his own behalf, or the apprenticed labourer respecting whom such doubt shall have arisen, or the registrar on his or her behalf, may apply to the chief justice or to any other justice of the Supreme Court of Judicature within this Colony by petition, setting forth the nature of such decision and the objections thereto, and praying for an appeal and reversal by such judge of such decision.

41. And be it enacted, that the judge to whom any such petition may be preferred shall, without unnecessary delay, proceed in a summary way to hear and decide upon the matter thereof, and the decision of such judge in the premises, whether in confirmation or reversal of the decision of the said registrar, shall be final and conclusive upon the parties.

42. And be it enacted, that it shall be in the power of the Supreme Court of Judicature to make and establish general rules of practice and proceeding upon and for regulating the proceedings of every such petition, in the manner that may be least expensive and most conducive to method, punctuality and dispatch.

43. And be it enacted, that when there shall not be any doubt, or when such proceedings respecting any doubt as aforesaid shall have taken place and shall be determined, the registrar shall forthwith proceed to registrar such apprenticed labourers in books for that purpose, and according to the same form as he has hitherto kept books for the registration or return of slaves, and shall affix to the entry of the name of each prædial attached apprenticed labourer in such book the letters P. A., and of each prædial unattached apprenticed labourer the letters P. U., and of each non-prædial apprenticed labourer the letters N. P.; and shall thereupon lodge every such book of registry or returns with the colonial secretary.

44. And be it enacted, that the said books of registry or return of apprenticed labourers, when so corrected and lodged with the colonial secretary, shall be deposited among the public records; and when any question shall arise respecting the class to which any apprenticed labourer belongs, such corrected books of registry or returns, or a certified extract therefrom, shall be taken as binding and conclusive evidence upon such question.

45. And be it enacted, that if any person who ought to deliver to the registrar any such transcript as aforesaid, shall neglect, omit or refuse to do so, or to make the affidavit hereinbefore required to be made, or to attend the registrar when required and summoned by him for that purpose, he shall incur a penalty of not more than 25*l.* of current money of the Colony, nor less than 50*s.* of like money; and in the event of the wilful absence of such person it shall be lawful for the registrar to proceed and decide any such question as though such person had attended.

46. And be it enacted, that upon from and after the said 1st day of August 1834, the person who on the 31st day of July in the same year shall be the registrar of slaves within this Colony shall at the same rate of salary and fees as in the said Act for establishing a registry of negro and other slaves in the Island of Grenada and its dependencies are provided, continue to hold the office of registrar for the purposes of receiving such transcripts as aforesaid, and of entering the same into such books as aforesaid, and for other the purposes hereinbefore required, until the 31st day of January 1835.

47. And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every employer of apprenticed labourers shall provide for and allow to every family of such apprenticed labourers employed by him, consisting of not less than four persons, a good and comfortable house, with one or more cabannes or beds, raised at least one foot from the ground; and shall provide and give to each and every such apprenticed labourer an annual allowance of six yards of cloth or pennistoun, eight yards of oznaburgh, or other linen of equal strength and value, one hat or cap, with needles and thread, and a triennial allowance of one blanket, a weekly allowance of two pounds of salted, dried or pickled fish, or such other provisions as may be equivalent thereto, and one quarter of a pint of salt; and shall provide and give to each and every apprenticed labourer, not supported by the cultivation of his or her provision grounds, a weekly allowance of eight pints of flour or six quarts of meal, grain, pulse or other articles of food equally nutritious, in addition to the weekly allowance of salted fish and salt hereinbefore provided for such apprenticed labourers; and that it shall be lawful for any employer to substitute money for the foregoing allowances of food, or any part thereof,

thereof, at the marketable value of such allowances of food at the time of such substitution : provided always, that nothing herein contained shall prevent any employer from regulating the distribution of the foregoing allowances of clothing and food according to the ages of the respective apprenticed labourers, provided the aggregate amount of such allowances shall not be less in quantity than the rate hereinbefore prescribed ; and every employer of apprenticed labourers neglecting or refusing to provide, furnish and give the allowances of food and clothing hereinbefore immediately specified, upon conviction thereof before any special justice of the peace, shall forfeit and pay the sum of 5*l.*, over and above the value of any such allowances of food and clothing omitted to be provided, furnished and given as aforesaid.

48. And whereas it is necessary that a certain portion of time shall be allowed such labourers for the purpose of cultivating their provision grounds, to be deducted from the 45 hours per week which they are required to labour for their employers ; Be it therefore enacted, that in each and every year there shall be allowed to every labourer fourteen full working days for the purpose of cultivating their provision grounds, over and above the time allotted them by the 51st clause of this Act, and not including Christmas-day and New Year's-day, which shall be considered holidays.

49. And whereas it is necessary that in cases where such apprenticed labourers are supported wholly or in part by the cultivation of their provision grounds, that a certain quantity of land should be allotted them for that purpose : And whereas the most fertile land and that which is best adapted for the growth of provisions, is, in some cases, a considerable distance from their place of abode, but to deprive them of such lands and compel them to work exhausted soils or lands of inferior description, but nearer to their place of abode, would cause great dissatisfaction and loss to such apprenticed labourers ; Be it therefore enacted, that nothing herein contained shall tend to disturb such apprenticed labourers in the enjoyment of mountain provision grounds during the continuance of their apprenticeship, or compel any employer to procure other grounds in lieu thereof ; and if any such employer shall refuse or neglect to allot to his apprenticed labourer sufficient land adapted for the growth of provisions, and at and after the rate of one quarter of an acre for each and every labourer, he shall, on conviction before the special justice, incur and be liable to a fine of not less than 10*l.* nor more than 50*l.* for every neglect or refusal so to do.

50. And be it enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall, by wilful neglect or indolence, during his or her own time, suffer his or her house or provision ground to fall into decay and bad order, it shall and may be lawful for the employer of such apprenticed labourer, with the sanction, in writing, of any special justice, to be obtained upon proof before him of such neglect or indolence, to put the house or provision ground of such apprenticed labourer into proper order for his or her comfort and support, and to deduct an equivalent quantity of labour from his or her own time, not exceeding fifteen hours in any one week.

51. And be it enacted, that no labourer or labourers shall be compelled to perform any agricultural or other labour for the benefit, profit or advantage of his or her employer, from the hour of six o'clock on Saturday morning, until six o'clock on Monday morning, unless sentenced so to do by any special justice or justices, mariners, watchmen, stock-keepers, domestics and attendants on the sick excepted : provided always, that such stock-keepers, domestics or attendants on the sick, shall be allowed so much time as may be equivalent to the time in which they may be so employed as aforesaid, and except also, when called upon to arrest any fire or flood, or to remedy the effect of any fire, flood, hurricane or earthquake, or the failure of any part of the machinery or boiling apparatus of a sugar plantation, or in the necessary attendance on any wash or liquor in distilleries, or accidents to stock ; and in all cases of urgent necessity, it shall be lawful for the employer or any other person or persons acting under him, when such necessity shall occur, to require and compel the immediate and continued service of any or all the apprenticed labourers, during such emergency ; and that the hours of agricultural labour shall be as follows ; from six o'clock in the morning until half-past seven o'clock, (when half an hour shall be allowed the labourers for breakfast) ; from eight until twelve o'clock, (when two full hours shall be allowed for dinner), and from half-past two, (allowing half an hour for each labourer to reach his or her destined place of employment) ; until the hour of six in the evening ; and any labourer not appearing at his or her respective duties at the hours and times hereinbefore limited for labour, or who shall unlawfully absent himself or herself from his or her employment during the hours and times of labour hereinbefore described, shall be deemed wilfully absent, and on conviction before the special justice of the district, be compelled to serve his or her employer double such time of absence, out of the time allotted to him, provided such forfeiture shall not exceed three hours in any one day, or fifteen hours in any one week.

52. And whereas at certain periods of the year it is necessary to employ apprenticed labourers about certain manufacturing processes during the night time ; Be it therefore enacted, that nothing herein contained shall render the employment of labourers in the night time illegal, provided that such apprenticed labourers shall not be required or compelled to labour for more than nine hours in the whole on any one day, the day being for that purpose understood to commence from the hour of twelve at night, and to terminate at the hour of twelve the succeeding night.

53. And be it enacted, that upon any plantation or estate in these Islands, to which such apprenticed labourers shall be attached, there shall be, under a penalty of 50*l.*, a good and sufficient

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sufficient hospital in a proper and healthy situation, to be approved of by the medical attendant of such estate, for the reception and cure of all sick and infirm apprenticed labourers; and the employer or other person for the time being, having the charge of such plantation and apprenticed labourers, is hereby respectively required and directed to keep a hospital book, with the names of the apprenticed labourers admitted, the dates of their admission, and also of their dismissal or death, and in which book shall be inserted by the medical attendant of the said plantation, the nature of their complaints or diseases, prescriptions and treatment; and such employer is hereby required to employ some person duly qualified in the practice of physic and surgery, to attend such apprenticed labourers as occasion may require; provided such medical practitioner can be procured, and shall provide such medicine, food and other necessaries as shall be deemed requisite by such medical practitioner, and as heretofore been customary, under a penalty, not exceeding 5*l.* for every neglect or refusal so to do.

54. And be it enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any apprentice, whose name shall appear in the book aforesaid, to leave the hospital without the permission of the medical attendant or his employer; and that it shall be lawful for the employer to keep such hospital locked up.

55. And be it enacted, that for every hour in which any apprenticed labourer shall absent himself or herself from his or her employer's service without legal cause, such apprenticed labourer being thereof convicted before the special justice of the district, shall be compelled to serve his or her employer two extra hours, provided that such extra hours shall not exceed fifteen in the whole in any one week; and any apprenticed labourer absenting himself or herself without legal cause, from his or her employer's service for more than nine hours in any one week, and being thereof convicted before the special justice of the district, shall be adjudged a deserter; and any apprenticed labourer absenting himself or herself without lawful cause, from his or her employer's service for two days during one week, whether the said two days of such labourer's absence shall be successive days of the week or not, and being thereof convicted before the special justice of the district, shall be adjudged a vagabond; and any apprenticed labourer absenting himself or herself without legal cause from his or her employer's service for five days in any one week, and being thereof convicted before the special justice of the district, shall be adjudged a runaway.

56. And be it enacted, that any apprenticed labourers, who may be adjudged deserters, shall by the said special justice of the district, be confined to hard labour for any time not exceeding one week; that any apprenticed labourers who may be adjudged vagabonds, shall by the said special justice be confined to hard labour for any time not exceeding two weeks, and to any number of stripes, not exceeding fifteen; that any apprenticed labourers who may be adjudged runaways, shall by the said special justice be confined to hard labour for any time not exceeding one month, and to any number of stripes, not exceeding thirty; and any apprenticed labourer absenting himself or herself seven days or upwards from his or her employer's service without a legal cause, shall on conviction thereof before the special justice of the district, be adjudged a notorious runaway, and shall suffer three months' imprisonment and hard labour, and if a male, whipping, not exceeding thirty-nine stripes.

57. And be it enacted, that any apprenticed labourer convicted of performing his or her work indolently, carelessly or negligently, shall, for the first offence, be adjudged by the said special justice of the district, to labour in his or her employer's service for any time not exceeding fifteen hours in the whole in any one week; for the second offence, to solitary confinement, with or without hard labour, for any time not exceeding one week; and for the third, or any other subsequent offence, to solitary confinement, with or without hard labour, for any time not exceeding one fortnight, with whipping, not exceeding twenty stripes.

58. And be it enacted, that any apprenticed labourer who, by the careless use of fire, shall endanger the property of his or her employer, or that of any other person, or who shall wantonly injure the property of his or her employer, or who shall neglect or ill-use the cattle or other live stock of his or her employer, or that of any other person, or who shall by wilful negligence expose the property of his or her employer, or of any other person, to any damage or injury, shall, for every such offence hereinbefore specified, be adjudged, in the discretion of the special justice of the district, either to extra labour in his or her employer's service, for any time not exceeding fifteen hours in the whole in any one week, or to confinement to hard labour for any time not exceeding one month, or to any number of stripes, not exceeding thirty, or to any two or more of such punishments: provided always, that this enactment shall not exempt any such apprenticed labourer from his or her liability to such actions or prosecutions as other persons of free condition may be subject and liable to, in respect of any such acts by him or her done or committed, although no such apprenticed labourer shall be liable to be punished under this Act, and prosecuted for the same offence at law.

59. And be it enacted, that any apprenticed labourer who shall disobey the lawful commands of his or her employer, shall be liable upon conviction thereof before the special justice of the district, to any one or more of the punishments last aforesaid.

60. And be it further enacted, that any three or more apprenticed labourers who shall agree or combine together to make any resistance to the lawful commands of their employer or employers, shall, upon conviction thereof before the special justice of the district, be deemed guilty

guilty of an unlawful conspiracy, and shall be adjudged by such special justice to solitary confinement, with or without hard labour, for any period, not exceeding six months, with whipping, not exceeding thirty-nine stripes.

61. And be it enacted, that any apprenticed labourer who shall be in a state of drunkenness, or who shall be found fighting, or who shall conduct himself or herself in an insolent and insubordinate manner towards his or her employer, or any person in the immediate superintendence of his or her labour, shall for every such offence be liable, on conviction before the special justice of the district, to imprisonment with hard labour for any time not exceeding one week, or to whipping, not exceeding fifteen stripes: provided always, that no female apprenticed labourer shall be subject to be punished by whipping for any offence by her committed, but that in all the cases aforesaid, in which that punishment is authorized, it shall be understood as applying to the cases of male apprenticed labourers only; and that all the offences in respect of which such punishment may be inflicted on any such male apprenticed labourer offending as aforesaid, shall, when committed by female apprenticed labourers, be punished by hard labour or by confinement in the public stocks, and by distinguishing marks or dresses, or by solitary confinement; the stocks to be employed for such purpose of punishing by confinement therein of the female apprenticed labourers, shall be according to one general model, to be sanctioned by the Governor; and no female apprenticed labourer shall, for any offence by her committed, be confined in such public stocks after sunset or before sunrise, or for more than eight hours in the whole for any one day: provided also, that nothing herein contained shall prevent any special justice from sentencing any apprenticed labourer to solitary confinement on the estate to which he is attached or may be working, if he should so deem fit.

62. And be it enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer appointed by his employer or any other person acting under his orders, to watch by night, shall neglect or refuse to proceed to, and to continue in the punctual performance of that duty, according to the orders and directions given him, every such apprenticed labourer so offending, who shall not prove to the satisfaction of the special justice that he was prevented by sickness or other unavoidable cause, from the performance of such duty, shall, on conviction before such special justice, be adjudged to the same punishment as is herein provided for the punishment of indolence.

63. And whereas a practice hath prevailed, of gangs of labourers leaving the estates to which they are attached for the purpose of preferring complaints, and such practice hath a tendency to disturb the peace of the Colony, and affords an evil example to peaceable and well-disposed labourers; Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall not be lawful for any gang of apprenticed labourers to leave the estate to which they are attached, for the purpose of preferring complaints to any person or persons whatsoever, but in all cases where such gang may feel themselves aggrieved, they shall select one or more of their number, not exceeding three, and such person or persons so selected shall apply to his her or their employer for a pass, but in case of refusal, may proceed without molestation or hindrance, to the special justice of the district, and no other person, for the purpose of laying before him any complaint, or making to him any application respecting any matter or thing cognizable by such special justice; and any person or persons who shall by force, menace or intimidation, or any other unlawful means, prevent any apprenticed labourer or apprenticed labourers so selected, from resorting to such special justice for any such purpose as aforesaid, or from returning to his or her place of abode, after having so resorted to any such special justice, shall be deemed and considered guilty of a misdemeanor, and for such misdemeanor shall forfeit the sum of 5*l.*; provided such apprenticed labourer or apprenticed labourers, so selected as aforesaid, shall resort to and return from such special justice with due diligence, and without any unnecessary loss of time; and such special justice on such complaint or application shall make diligent inquiry into the premises, and afford redress on the grievance being proved according to the exigency of the case, and in strict conformity with the provisions of this Act: but if it shall appear to such special justice that such complaint or application is without foundation, such special justice shall adjudge the complainant or complainants, or any other apprenticed labourer or apprenticed labourers that may have been the ringleaders or instigators of such groundless complaints, to work in the service of his her or their employer for any time not exceeding in the whole fifteen extra hours in any one week, or if it shall appear to such special justice that the alleged complaint is frivolous, vexatious or malicious, he shall adjudge such complainants to the same punishment as is hereinbefore awarded to the same for frivolous, vexatious or malicious complaints.

64. And be it enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for the person administering the government of this Colony for the time being, and he is hereby authorized and required by and with the consent of his council, on or before the 1st day of January, in each and every year, to nominate and appoint three experienced and intelligent persons in each district, as inspectors, for the purpose of ascertaining and computing the amount of work to be performed by each labourer or labourers on any plantation or estate; and such inspectors shall, within ten days after they have received notice of such appointment, make oath before the special justice of the district, to the faithful discharge of their duties as inspectors; and in cases where any dispute may arise between the employer and any labourer or labourers as to the quantity of work allotted to or performed by such labourer or labourers, it shall and may be lawful for such inspectors, on the application or complaint of either party, to proceed to the estate on which such complaint is made, and examine the work allotted to or performed by such labourer or labourers; and, if after such examination, it shall appear to such inspectors, or a majority of them, that the work allotted to or performed by such labourer or labourers

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labourers is more than he she or they ought to be compelled in future to perform, it shall be the duty of such inspectors to reduce such allotted work to a reasonable and moderate quantity, as in their experience and judgment they may see fit; but if it shall appear to such inspectors, or a majority of them, that the work allotted to or performed by such labourer or labourers is moderate and reasonable, and no more than the said labourer or labourers ought and might or should be compelled to perform, the said inspectors, or a majority of them, are hereby authorized and required to grant a certificate thereof to the employer of such labourer or labourers, who may produce the same to the special justice of the district, together with the name or names of any labourer or labourers who hath or have refused, or may continue to refuse to perform such work so allotted to them, and adjudged by the said inspectors to be reasonable and moderate; and such special justice is hereby authorized and required to adjudge such punishment to such refractory labourers as is hereinbefore provided for the punishment of indolence.

65. And whereas it is necessary for the maintenance of good order and discipline amongst the apprenticed labourers, and for the temporary security of offenders, that a limited authority should be vested in the employers; Be it therefore enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall be guilty, or suspected of being guilty of any offence set forth in this Act, or of any other offence that would subject such offender to trial in the Supreme Court of Judicature, for felony or misdemeanor, under the laws in force in this Colony, it shall and may be lawful for such employer to secure, or cause to be secured, such offender, in some wholesome place of confinement, on the plantation to which such offender shall be attached, for a period not exceeding twenty-four hours, or until such offender can be brought before any special justice, or other competent authority.

66. And be it enacted, that if any person or persons shall wrongfully, maliciously, or without sufficient cause, confine any apprenticed labourer or apprenticed labourers as aforesaid, such person or persons being convicted thereof before any special justice, shall incur and be liable to a fine of not less than ten nor more than twenty shillings, which fine shall be paid to the party aggrieved.

67. And be it enacted, that all the offences cognizable by the special justice under this Act, shall be inquired of by the magistrates having special commissions, and not by any other justice of the peace: provided always, that any such special justice may, if he shall see occasion, refer any such case for trial to the Supreme Court of Judicature of this Island.

68. And be it enacted, that if the employer of any prædial apprenticed labourer shall by force or fraud protract the weekly services of such apprenticed labourer beyond the period by this Act allowed for that purpose, such employer so offending, upon conviction thereof before the special justice of the district, shall forfeit, for the benefit of such apprenticed labourer, the sum of one shilling in respect of every hour which such apprenticed labourer's weekly service shall have been protracted.

69. And be it enacted, that it shall be the duty of every employer of apprenticed labourers, to intimate to the apprenticed labourers in his or her employment, the commencement and the close of the legal hours of labour, for which purpose a signal shall be given in such manner as shall, in reference to each plantation, have been previously approved of by the special justice of the district, which signal shall always be of such a nature as to be distinctly visible or audible to the several prædial apprenticed labourers in the service of any such employer as aforesaid.

70. And be it enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for any employer and apprenticed labourer mutually to contract together for work to be done either by day or by week, for such wages or consideration as they may agree upon: provided always, that such contracts or engagements shall be sanctioned by a special justice, and that no such agreement shall be for a longer period than one year, and that no task work shall be imposed upon any body of apprenticed labourers, except by consent of a majority thereof.

71. And be it enacted, that upon proof being made, to the satisfaction of the special justice of the district, of the non-payment of the consideration stipulated for in any such contract as aforesaid, whether for task-work or for extra services, it shall be competent to such special justice, and he is hereby authorized to award execution against such employer as aforesaid, for the amount of such consideration; and if the same shall not be paid within one week next after such award, to issue his warrant in the nature of an execution, and levy the same upon the produce, utensils and other chattels upon such plantation, which execution shall be executed by the serjeant of the police of the district, who shall thereunder seize and sell so much of such produce, utensils or other chattels as may be found upon such plantation, and as may be necessary for the payment of such debt, delivering over the surplus, if any, to such employer, which execution shall be in the form hereto annexed, marked (N.)

72. And be it enacted, that any apprenticed labourer who shall violate the terms of any contract as aforesaid, on conviction thereof before any special justice, shall be liable to the same pains and penalties as are provided in respect of the violation by any such apprenticed labourer, of the duties to be by him or her performed in the discharge of the services owing by him or her to such his or her employer under this Act.

73. And be it enacted, that every married woman, being an apprenticed labourer, notwithstanding her coverture, and every child of the age of twelve years and upwards, notwithstanding his or her infancy, shall be competent to enter into such contracts as aforesaid.

74. And

74. And be it enacted, that if any employer of any apprenticed labourer shall whip, beat, imprison or confine in the stocks (save and except as herein provided,) or otherwise maltreat any such apprenticed labourer, or shall, by way of punishment, commit any assault upon his or her person, such employer shall incur a penalty, to be imposed by such special justice as aforesaid, not exceeding five pounds, with imprisonment for any time not exceeding one month, in default of the payment of such fine.

75. And be it enacted, that in any such case as last aforesaid, it shall be competent to any such apprenticed labourer, instead of preferring his or her complaint to the special justice of the district in which he or she resides, to maintain any civil suit or action, as in the case of any other free person, for damages for such assault; and it shall also be competent to such special justice, if he shall see occasion, to abstain from imposing such penalty, and to commit the offender, in default of bail, to take his trial for such offence, before any court having jurisdiction in the premises; and that if any such employer, being the person entitled to the services of such apprenticed labourer, shall be convicted before any court of competent jurisdiction, of any cruelty towards his or her apprenticed labourer, then such apprenticed labourer shall be discharged from his or her apprenticeship, by order of the court before which such conviction shall be had.

76. And be it enacted, that if any three or more apprenticed labourers shall unite together in any riot or tumultuous assemblage, any justice of the peace, who shall be present at the same, shall cause a flag or some other conspicuous signal to be exhibited, as a warning to all persons then present to separate and disperse quietly; and that all persons who, at the expiration of ten minutes from the exhibition of such flag or signal, shall continue present at any such riotous assemblage, shall, on conviction before any justice of the peace, be liable to imprisonment for any time not exceeding twelve months, and to solitary confinement, with or without hard labour for any part of such time.

77. And be it enacted, that no prædial apprenticed labourer shall reside beyond the limits of the plantation on which he or she may be attached, on or after the 1st day of August next, unless by the authority or with the consent of his or her employer.

78. And be it enacted, that every prædial apprenticed labourer found beyond the limits of the estate to which such apprenticed labourer may be attached, excepting on his or her way to and from market, or to or from some place of public worship, or to or from the justice of the district, for the purpose of making any complaint or application, or in the work and duty of the estate, not having with him or her a written pass from his or her employer, shall be liable to be apprehended and detained by any person or persons, and shall, on conviction thereof before the special justice of the district, be adjudged a vagabond, and be punished accordingly: provided that nothing herein contained shall be deemed or construed to abridge or any way interfere with the full and free use and enjoyment by such apprentices of the time allotted to them as their own, under and by virtue of this Act.

79. And be it enacted, that if it shall be made to appear, to the satisfaction of any special justice, that any apprenticed labourers have, without lawful authority, established themselves in any part of the Colony as a distinct community, habitually abandoning and neglecting to perform the duties imposed upon them by this Act, such justice shall cause any such community to be dislodged, and if necessary, shall also cause their habitations to be taken down and removed or destroyed.

80. And be it enacted, that all officers and privates of the Colonial Militia shall be aiding and carrying into effect any directions which may be issued by the Governor at the instance of any special justice, for dislodging any such community of apprenticed labourers as aforesaid, or for any other purpose under this Act that may be deemed requisite by the Governor.

81. And be it enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer, being in good health and able to work, and being the father of any child under the age of 12 years, upon the estate to which any such apprenticed labourer is attached, such child not being an apprenticed labourer, and the father of such child not making adequate provision for the subsistence of such child, it shall be lawful for any special justice to adjudge any such apprenticed labourer to labour during his own time, and to apply the earnings of such labourer towards the support and maintenance of any such child until such apprenticed labourer shall voluntarily and sufficiently provide for the subsistence of such child.

82. And be it enacted, that for effecting the purpose last aforesaid, such special justice as aforesaid may hire out the extra labour of any such father to any person who may be willing to agree for the same, or to labour on any public works or on the public roads on the best terms which can be procured; and that such compulsory labour as aforesaid shall not be continued longer than may be necessary to provide for the maintenance of the child of such apprenticed labourer for one month in advance.

83. And be it enacted, that in case any such child so unprovided for as aforesaid, shall have no father living, then the regulations aforesaid shall apply to the mother of such child if alive and competent by her labour to provide for the maintenance of such child.

84. And be it enacted, that all the penalties provided by this Act in case of indolence, neglect of work or otherwise, in respect of labour performed by the apprenticed labourers in the service of their employers, shall apply to the case of labour undertaken for the maintenance of any such child as aforesaid, by virtue of any such order as aforesaid.

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85. And be it enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall, without lawful authority, enter into possession of any land belonging to His Majesty, or to any other person, it shall be lawful for and the duty of any special justice to dispossess such labourer from such land and from any buildings thereon erected, and to cause the same, with all crops growing thereupon, to be delivered up to the owner of such land; or in case such owner shall not within one month after such seizure appear and prefer his claim to such land, then the special justice shall order the crops, cattle and other goods seized thereupon to be sold, and the proceeds of such sale to be paid over to the public treasurer of this Island in trust for the owner of such lands and goods, and if not claimed within twelve months after the same, shall be applied to the public uses of the Colony.

86. And be it enacted, that the special justice may further adjudge any apprenticed labourer unlawfully taking possession of such lands, to imprisonment with hard labour for any time not exceeding three months, if it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of such special justice that such possession was taken fraudulently, and with knowledge that the party had no lawful claim to such possession.

87. And be it enacted, that no apprenticed labourer shall quit the Colony without a passport from the Governor for the time being, which passport shall not be granted except with the written consent of the employer of such apprenticed labourer; and any apprenticed labourer quitting or attempting to quit the Colony without such passport shall be liable, upon conviction thereof before any special justice, to solitary confinement with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding one month.

88. And be it enacted, that all apprenticed labourers whose ordinary occupation is on the sea, shall be registered as such by their employers at the office of the special justice of the district to which they belong, who shall furnish such apprenticed labourer with a certificate of such registration.

89. And be it enacted, that all persons removing or assisting to remove any apprenticed labourer from the Colony, in any boat, canoe or vessel without a passport from the Governor, shall, upon conviction thereof before any special justice, be liable to a penalty of 100 £, and in default of payment to imprisonment in the common gaol of this Island for any time not exceeding six months, such fine to be paid to the person or persons entitled to the services of such apprenticed labourer so removed or intended to be removed.

90. And be it enacted, that no fee of office shall hereafter be received, demanded or payable upon, for or on account, or in respect of the discharge and release of any apprenticed labourer; and if any special justice shall hereafter demand, accept or receive any fee of office for the same respectively, the special justice so offending shall incur and become liable to the payment of a fine, amounting to not less than 1 £ nor more than 5 £ over and above the amount of the fee so by him received.

91. And be it enacted, that for the prevention of doubts as to the power of the employer of apprenticed labourers to discharge and release apprenticed labourers at their pleasure, it is further enacted, that, subject to the regulations hereinafter made, any person being the employer of any apprenticed labourer may, by his or her last will, or by deed under his or her hand or seal, at his or her pleasure, discharge and release any such apprenticed labourers from his or her apprenticeship, so far as relates to the interest of every such testator or grantor; and that every such discharge shall, as far as relates to the interest of such testator or grantor, as the case may be, but no further or otherwise, be valid and effectual in the law for the discharge or release of such apprenticed labourer: provided nevertheless, that no employer having a partial or temporary interest in any apprenticed labourer may, to the extent of such interest, effect his or her discharge or release gratuitously, unless all other persons having a partial, future or reversionary interest in such apprenticed labourer shall consent to be parties to such discharge or release, or unless such partial, future or reversionary interest shall be purchased in the manner hereinafter provided.

92. And be it enacted, that if any person so discharged from any such apprenticeship by any such voluntary act as aforesaid, shall at that time be of the age of fifty years or upwards, or shall then be labouring under any disease or mental or bodily infirmity as may render him or her incapable of earning his or her subsistence, then and in every such case the person or persons so discharging any such apprenticed labourer as aforesaid, shall continue and be liable to provide for the support and maintenance of such apprenticed labourer during the remaining term of such apprenticeship, as fully as if such apprenticed labourer had not been discharged therefrom.

93. And be it enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall be desirous of purchasing the remaining period of his or her apprenticeship, and his or her employer shall refuse to consent thereto, it shall and may be lawful for such apprenticed labourer to apply to the special justice of the district in which he resides, who, upon such application, shall nominate and appoint one disinterested and experienced person as an appraiser on the part and behalf of such apprenticed labourer, and shall give notice to the employer of such application and appointment, and the employer of such apprenticed labourer shall, within 10 days after receiving such notice as aforesaid, nominate and appoint one other person as an appraiser on his own part and behalf; the appraisers thus respectively nominated and appointed shall make oath before the special justice of the district faithfully to discharge the duties of their office, and shall, without any unnecessary delay, fairly and impartially estimate the value of the services of such apprenticed labourer for the remaining period of his apprenticeship; and for

for this purpose the said special justice shall summon the parties interested to attend the said appraisers at any time or place within his district mentioned in such summons; and the said appraisers having agreed on the sum as the value of the remaining services of such apprenticed labourer, shall grant a certificate thereof to the party applying for the same, and which sum being tendered or paid into the hands of the employer by the apprenticed labourer, or any person on his behalf, shall be taken and considered as a full discharge and release of such apprenticed labourer from his apprenticeship as aforesaid, and from any future bondage or service to his said employer.

94. And be it enacted, that if any difference shall arise between the appraisers so nominated and appointed as aforesaid, as to the value of the services of the apprenticed labourer so applying for his release from apprenticeship, it shall and may be lawful for the said appraisers to nominate and appoint an umpire, and such umpire shall make oath before the special justice faithfully to discharge his duty as umpire, and shall, within 10 days therefrom, give his decision in writing, subscribed by his name, to the party applying for the same, and which decision, when so given, shall be final and conclusive, and the sum mentioned therein shall be considered the value of the services of the apprenticed labourer for his unexpired term of apprenticeship, and when paid to his employer shall be a full discharge of such apprenticed labourer from his apprenticeship as aforesaid.

95. And be it enacted, that it shall be the duty of the special justice to whom any apprenticed labourer may apply for his discharge and release from apprenticeship, before any consideration is tendered or paid for such discharge and release, to inquire and ascertain that the employer of such apprenticed labourer is the person duly authorized by law to grant such discharge and release as aforesaid.

96. And be it enacted, that when there shall be any disputed title or adverse claim to the money to arise from the discharge of any apprenticed labourer, by virtue of the proceedings before mentioned, the same shall be paid into the hands of the public treasurer of the said Island by the special justice, to be invested in the purchase, in his name, of any public funds or securities of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the interest accruing on such money in the public funds so to be purchased as aforesaid, and the dividends payable thereupon, shall be the property of the person or persons who was or were the employer and beneficially interested in the services of such discharged apprenticed labourer, and shall be subject and liable to all such and the same trusts, uses, limitations, conditions, mortgages, claims and demands, of what nature or kind soever, as such apprenticed labourer was held upon.

97. And be it enacted, that when, with the consent of any two or more special justices, any person entitled to the services of any prædial apprenticed labourer attached to the soil shall be desirous of transferring or removing his or her services to any other estate or plantation within this Colony, to such person belonging, under the permission mentioned and contained in that behalf in the 9th section of the said Act of the 3d and 4th of William the Fourth, it shall be lawful for any two or more special justices, and they are hereby required, to give the employer or employers of such prædial attached apprenticed labourers their consent in writing to any such transfer or removal; provided that such transfer or removal will not have the effect of separating any such prædial attached apprenticed labourer from his or her wife or husband, parent or child, or from any person or persons reputed to bear any such relation to him or her, and that such transfer or removal will not probably be injurious to the health or welfare of any such prædial attached apprenticed labourer; and such written consent to any such transfer or removal shall be expressed in the terms or to the effect following, that is to say:—

“*Memorandum.*—That we (the special justices) two of His Majesty’s justices of the peace, duly constituted for the special purpose of giving effect to an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the 3d and 4th years of the reign of His Majesty King William the Fourth, for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Dominions, and for other purposes therein mentioned, having received notice that A. B., who is entitled to the services of certain prædial apprenticed labourers attached to his estate or plantation called \_\_\_\_\_, within this Colony, and whose names are mentioned or contained in the schedule hereunder written, or hereunto annexed, is desirous of transferring or removing such apprenticed labourers and their services to another estate or plantation called \_\_\_\_\_, also to the said A. B. belonging, or in his possession, within this Colony; and we the said justices, having ascertained that such transfer or removal will not have the effect of separating any such prædial apprenticed labourer from his or her wife or husband, parent or child, or from any person or persons reputed to bear any such relation to him or her, and that such transfer or removal will not probably be injurious to the health or welfare of any such prædial apprenticed labourer so attached as aforesaid, do hereby consent, license and permit that the said A. B. do and may transfer and remove all and every the prædial apprenticed labourers attached to his said estate or plantation called \_\_\_\_\_, within this Colony, and whose names are mentioned in the schedule hereunto annexed, or hereunder written, from and off the said estate or plantation called \_\_\_\_\_ to the plantation or estate called \_\_\_\_\_, also to him belonging, or in his possession, within this Colony, and at and upon such last-mentioned estate or plantation to work the said prædial apprenticed labourers and their labour and services to have and enjoy thereat and thereupon, as fully, beneficially and amply as if such prædial apprenticed labourers were attached to the said estate or plantation called \_\_\_\_\_, for and during all or any part of the  
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estate, term or interest of him the said A. B. in or of such prædial apprenticed labourer's services and term of apprenticeship. In witness, &c." Which said consent shall be executed by and under the hands and seals of the said justices respectively, and shall be duly entered in a book by such justices to be for that purpose provided.

98. And whereas it has hitherto been the practice and may hereafter be necessary to employ tradesmen, artificers and other labourers upon estates not belonging to their employers, for the purpose of erecting or repairing buildings, machinery or boiling apparatus; Be it therefore enacted, that nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to prevent the temporary employment of any tradesman, artificer or other labourer upon estates or lands not belonging to their employers, for the purposes aforesaid, or any other lawful purpose, and during the hours of labour hereinbefore described: provided such temporary employment shall not disturb any such apprenticed labourer in the possession and enjoyment of his house and provision grounds upon the estate to which he is attached.

99. And whereas it may happen that children who have not attained the age of six years on the said 1st day of August 1834, or that children who after that day may be born to any female apprenticed labourers may not be properly supported by their parents, and that no other person may be disposed voluntarily to undertake the support of such children; Be it enacted, that if any child who on the said 1st day of August 1834 had not completed his sixth year, or if any child to which any female apprenticed labourer may give birth on or after the said 1st day of August 1834 shall be brought before a special justice, and if it shall appear to the satisfaction of such justice that any such child is unprovided with an adequate maintenance, and that such child has not completed the age of 12 years, it shall be lawful for such justice, and he is hereby required on behalf of any such child, to execute an indenture of apprenticeship, thereby binding such child as an apprenticed labourer to the person entitled to the services of the mother of such child, or who had been last entitled to the services of such mother of such child, if such person shall be willing to accept the same; but in case it shall be made to appear to any such justice that such person aforesaid is unwilling, unable or unfit to enter into such indenture and properly to perform the covenants thereof, then it shall be lawful for such justice, and he is hereby required, to bind any such child to any other person to be by him for that purpose approved of, and who may be willing and able properly to perform such conditions; and the term of such apprenticeship of any such child shall by such indenture be limited and made to continue in force until such child shall have completed his 21st year, and no longer; and every child so apprenticed as aforesaid by the order of any such special justice aforesaid, shall during his apprenticeship be subject to all such and the same rules and regulations respecting the work or labour to be by them done or performed, and respecting the food and other supplies to be to him furnished, as any other such apprenticed labourers as aforesaid: provided always, that the said indenture of apprenticeship shall contain sufficient words of obligation upon the employer to allow reasonable time and opportunity for the education and religious instruction of such child, and shall be recorded by the special justice in his office; the form of which indenture shall be as follows, viz. " This indenture made the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, in the year of our Lord one thousand, &c., between J. P., esq., one of His Majesty's justices of the peace of and for the district of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Island of Grenada (or Carriacou within the Colony of Grenada), by special commission duly constituted and appointed, and by virtue of the powers in that behalf authorizing and requiring me, and of all other powers in me vested, on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_, a child of the age of \_\_\_\_\_ years, or thereabout, of the one part, and A. B. of \_\_\_\_\_, of the other part: Whereas, the said (child) is the infant child of \_\_\_\_\_, a female prædial apprenticed labourer attached to the plantation or estate called \_\_\_\_\_, belonging to or in the possession of the said A. B., and situate, &c., [or, as the case may be], is the infant child of \_\_\_\_\_, a female unattached prædial apprenticed labourer, [or a female non-prædial apprenticed labourer] in the employ of the said A. B., [or, as the case may be, in the employ of C. D., of, &c.]: Now this indenture witnesseth, that in consideration of the covenants hereinafter contained, and on the part and behalf of the said A. B. and those hereafter to claim through or under him, to be performed, kept and fulfilled, and by virtue of such powers as aforesaid, the said S. I., as such special justice as aforesaid, hath placed and bounden, and by these presents doth place and bind the said \_\_\_\_\_, the infant child of the said \_\_\_\_\_, unto and with the said A. B., his heirs, executors and assigns, as a prædial apprenticed labourer, and to be attached to the said plantation or estate called, &c., belonging to the said A. B. as hereinbefore mentioned [or as an unattached prædial apprenticed labourer, or as a non-prædial apprenticed labourer], and as such well and truly and faithfully to serve and obey the said A. B. and those hereafter to claim through or under him, and diligently attend to the business of him the said A. B. and those hereafter to claim through or under him, according to the full force, true intent and meaning of a certain statute passed in and by the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in the 3d and 4th years of the reign of His Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, ' An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves,' and according to the full force and effect, true intent and meaning of and subject to the several rules and regulations respectively mentioned and contained in an Act of the Legislature of this Colony, intituled, ' An Act,' [here set out the title of this Act] and bearing date, &c.; and it is hereby expressly declared by the said S. I., as such special justice as aforesaid, that the term of the said apprenticeship of the said \_\_\_\_\_, the child of the said \_\_\_\_\_, is to be and continue from henceforth until the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, which will be

be in the year one thousand——— &c., when the said —— will attain his age of 21 years and no longer : provided, nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to prevent the said A. B., or those hereafter to claim through or under him, from voluntarily discharging the said —— from his said apprenticeship at any time before the expiration of the said term, in manner and form hereinbefore limited for the said apprenticeship, nor to prevent the said ——, or any person on his behalf, from purchasing his discharge from the said apprenticeship, according to the said statute of the 3d and 4th of William the Fourth, and the said Act of the —— day of —— in the case of other apprenticed labourers : and in consideration of such apprenticeship, and all benefit and advantage incident thereto, and of all and all manner of interest, profit or advantage, claim and demand, to be had, gotten or derived therefrom, and of the services, obedience and duty of the said ——, he, the said A. B., doth hereby for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators, covenant, promise and agree, with and to the said S. I., as such special justice as aforesaid, and his successors in office for the time being, in manner following ; that is to say, that he, the said A. B., his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, or those hereafter to claim through or under him, shall and will during the continuance of the said apprenticeship of the said —— well and truly and punctually find, provide and supply, at the costs and charges of him the said A. B., and of those hereafter to claim through or under him, to and for the said —— as such —— apprenticed labourer, such amount, quantity and quality of food, clothing, lodging, medicines, medical attendance and such other maintenance and allowances as are in and by the said Act of the —— day of —— expressly required and expressed : And also shall and will afford, grant and allow reasonable and sufficient time, and every fit and adequate opportunity for the moral and religious instruction and education of the said —— during the continuance of his said apprenticeship term.

“ In Witness, &c.”

100. And be it enacted, that upon and along with every gift, demise, lease, grant, bargain, sale, contract, deed, conveyance or will, whereby any plantation or estate shall pass and be transferred or made over from any person or persons entitled to the same, unto any other person or persons, and to which said plantation or estate any prædial apprenticed labourers shall or may be at that time attached, all and every the apprenticeship of such prædial apprenticed labourers respectively attached thereto, and also all and all manner of interest, profit or advantage, claim and demand whatsoever, and the services and duty of such prædial apprenticed labourers respectively so attached thereto, shall, unless otherwise in and by any such demise, lease, grant, bargain, sale, contract, deed, conveyance or will expressed or reserved, and also either with or without any words to be for that purpose therein contained, but by force and virtue of this present Act, pass and be transferred or made over as herein aforesaid, for and during all the then residue and remainder of the apprenticeship of such prædial apprenticed labourers so respectively attached to such plantation or estate.

101. And be it enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for any person for the time being entitled to the services of any attached or unattached prædial apprenticed labourers or non-prædial apprenticed labourers, to pass or transfer any apprenticeship, and all benefit and advantage incident to any apprenticeship of such apprenticed labourer, and all and all manner of interest, profit, advantage, claim and demand whatsoever, and the services and duty which he may have of, in and to such apprenticed labourers, by last will and testament in writing, to be executed and delivered by the testator in the presence of and attested by two or more credible witnesses, and duly proved and registered or recorded as other wills ; or by a deed or instrument in writing, in the form or to the effect following ; that is to say, “ To all to whom these presents shall come, A. B. [the grantor] of, &c., and C. D. [the grantee] of, &c., send greeting : It is hereby mutually agreed and declared between and by the said A. B. and the said C. D., as follows ; that is to say, that in consideration of [state the consideration] the said A. B. being the employer, and as such entitled to the services of the several apprenticed labourers named in the schedule hereunder written or hereunto annexed, hath granted, released, assigned and set over, and by these presents doth grant, release, assign and set over unto the said C. D., his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns [or unto the said C. D., his executors, administrators and assigns, as the case may require] all the apprenticeship of the several and respective apprenticed labourers named in the schedule hereunder written or hereunto annexed, and all benefit and advantage incident thereto, and all and all manner of interest, profit and advantage, claim and demand whatsoever of him, the said A. B., and his heirs [or of him, the said A. B., his executors or administrators, as the case may require] of in or to the same apprenticeship of the said apprenticed labourers respectively ; and the services and duty of them, the said apprenticed labourers, respectively, during the residue and remainder [or for and during the space of —— now next ensuing of the residue and remainder] which is yet to come, and unexpired of their respective apprenticeship, to have and to hold the same apprenticeship of the said several and respective apprenticed labourers and other the premises hereinbefore mentioned, unto the said C. D., his heirs and assigns [or unto the said C. D., his executors, administrators and assigns] from henceforth, for and during all the residue and remainder [or, as the case may be and require] for and during the space of —— now next ensuing, of the residue and remainder which is yet to come and unexpired of their respective apprenticeship, [if the transfer be by way of hiring out, add as follows] subject to the payment by the said C. D., his heirs or assigns, or his executors, administrators or assigns,

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assigns, unto the said A. B., his heirs or assigns, or his executors, administrators or assigns, of the sum of \_\_\_\_\_, of current money of this Colony, for each and every year, or month, half year, &c., of the said apprenticeship of the said apprenticed labourers, [add any covenants that may be requisite.] In witness, &c." And which said deed shall be executed by the respective parties thereto, in the presence of and attested by one or more credible witness or witnesses, and duly proved upon the oath of any one witness before any special justice, and recorded in his office: provided that no such apprenticed labourer shall by virtue of any will or testament, conveyance or contract, be subject or liable to be separated from his or her wife or husband, parent or child, or from any person or persons reputed to bear any such relation to him or her.

102. And be it enacted, that whenever any person seised or possessed of, or entitled to any plantation or estate to which any prædial apprenticed labourers may be attached, shall die intestate, as to any such plantation or estate, and as to the apprenticeship and services of the said prædial apprenticed labourers attached thereto, then the person or persons who shall succeed to or become seised or possessed of or entitled to such plantation or estate, shall also thereupon become and be entitled to the services of the prædial apprenticed labourers attached thereto, and that whenever any person entitled to the services of any prædial apprenticed labourers not attached to any plantation or estate, and whenever any person entitled to the services of any non-prædial apprenticed labourers shall die intestate, as to the services of such prædial apprenticed labourers not attached, and as to the services of such non-prædial apprenticed labourers, then, and in each of such two last-mentioned cases, the person or persons who shall happen to be heir or heirs-at-law of the person so dying intestate, shall by descent succeed and become entitled to the services of all such prædial apprenticed labourers not attached, and non-prædial apprenticed labourers.

103. And be it enacted, that no apprenticed labourer shall, during the term or continuance of his apprenticeship, be competent or compelled, except in cases of emergency hereinafter mentioned, to serve in the militia forces of this Colony, or to hold any office, civil or military, in this Colony: provided, however, that in all cases of invasion, rebellion or any public danger, it shall be lawful for such apprenticed labourers as may be approved by the Governor, to take up arms and to serve in the militia aforesaid, or in their assistance, during the time of any such invasion, rebellion or public danger; and provided further, that nothing herein contained shall extend or to be construed to extend to prevent any apprenticed labourers from holding any office in any corporation or body politic, or in any church or ecclesiastical society, nor to prevent any prædial apprenticed labourer from holding and exercising upon the estate to which he may be attached, or in cases of emergency, upon any other estate within the same district, the office and duties of constable or policeman, at all times when nominated by his employer, and duly sanctioned and confirmed by the Supreme Court of Judicature.

104. And be it enacted, that during the continuance of the apprenticeship of any apprenticed labourer he shall not be liable to imprisonment, but shall be exempt from being imprisoned, arrested or held to bail, for any contract or debt by him incurred or made.

105. And be it enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any person or persons entitled to the services of any apprenticed labourers, to compel or oblige such apprenticed labourers to work or labour upon Sundays, except in works of necessity, or in domestic services, or in the watching and protection of property, or in tending of cattle or stock, nor shall any other apprenticed labourers be hindered or prevented from attending any where on Sundays for religious worship at their respective free-will and pleasure.

106. And be it enacted, that if any apprenticed labourer shall, during the continuance of his apprenticeship, wilfully absent himself from the service of his employer, and be thereof convicted before the special justice, such apprenticed labourer shall, at any time after the period of his apprenticeship, be compelled to serve his employer for so long a time as his employer shall have been so deprived of his services, unless he shall make satisfaction to his employer for the loss he shall have sustained by such deprivation of his services, and so from time to time as often as any such apprenticed labourer shall be so convicted of wilfully absenting himself, whereby his employer shall be deprived of his services before his term of apprenticeship shall be expired; and in case any such apprenticed labourer shall refuse to serve as hereby required, or to make such satisfaction to his employer, such employer may complain to the special justice of the district wherein he shall then reside, who shall issue a warrant, under his hand and seal, for apprehending any such apprenticed labourer; and such justice, upon hearing the complaint, shall determine what satisfaction shall be made to such employer by such apprenticed labourer, and in case such apprenticed labourer shall not give security to make such satisfaction according to such determination, it shall be lawful for such justice to commit such apprenticed labourer to the common gaol of the Island, for any term, not exceeding twelve months, with hard labour, or, until he shall make satisfaction as aforesaid.

107. And be it enacted, that nothing in this Act contained doth or shall extend to exempt any apprenticed labourer from, but that every apprenticed labourer shall be subject to the operation of any law or police regulation, which is or shall be in force in this Colony, for the prevention or punishment of any offence, such law or police regulation being in force against and applicable to all other persons of free condition.

108. And be it enacted, that for the purposes of this present Act, the word employer shall be deemed to comprehend, and be a sufficient legal description of the person having the

the chief superintendence for the time being of the labour of any apprenticed labourers, whether such person having the superintendence for the time being as aforesaid, shall be the master, agent, attorney, manager, overseer or director of such apprenticed labourers.

109. And be it enacted, that nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to abridge the labour hitherto performed by mariners, tradesmen, domestics, and other non-prædial apprenticed labourers.

110. And be it enacted, that wherever words are used in this Act importing the singular number, or the masculine gender only, it shall be understood to include several matters as well as one matter, and several persons as well as one person, and females as well as males, unless it be otherwise specially provided, or there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction.

111. And be it enacted, that within the meaning, and for the purposes of this Act, every person who for the time being shall be in the lawful administration of the government of this Colony shall be taken to be the Governor thereof.

112. And be it enacted, that within the meaning, and for the purposes of this Act, all islands and territories dependent upon this Island of Grenada, and within any part of the Government thereof, shall respectively be taken to be parts of this Colony.

113. And be it enacted, that if any person or persons whosoever shall wilfully swear falsely, touching any of the matters or things required by this Act, every such person or persons shall and may be prosecuted by indictment in the Supreme Court of Judicature of this Colony, and upon conviction, shall be deemed guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury, and shall suffer all the pains and penalties directed by any laws in force in the Colony, to be inflicted upon persons found guilty or convicted of the crime of wilful and corrupt perjury.

114. And be it enacted, that in default of payment of any fine imposed upon any employer by this Act, the same shall be recovered and levied on the goods and chattels of the defaulter by warrant of distress, under the hand and seal of the special justice of the district in which such fine may be incurred, and when not otherwise directed, shall be paid into the public treasury for the use of the Colony.

115. And be it enacted, that in all Act or Acts now in force in this Colony, wherein the services of persons hitherto denominated slaves are rendered available to public uses, such services shall, and the same are hereby declared to apply to, and shall and may be required to be performed by such persons when they shall have become apprenticed labourers.

116. And be it enacted, that a certain statute made in the 52d year of his late Majesty King George the Third, intituled, "An Act to repeal certain Acts, and amend other Acts, relating to religious Worship and Assemblies, and Persons teaching or preaching therein," shall be and is hereby declared to be in force in this Island: provided, nevertheless, that any two or more special justices shall have, exercise and enjoy all and every the jurisdiction, powers and authorities whatsoever, which by force and virtue of the said Act are within the realm of England, had exercised and enjoyed by the several justices of the peace, and by the general and quarter sessions therein mentioned.

117. And be it enacted, that this Act may be altered or varied, amended or explained by any other Act or Acts to be passed this session.

#### SCHEDULE (A.)

Grenada, } To all constables, policemen of the district of which I the undersigned have  
To wit. } special jurisdiction, and to other officers of the peace for the Island of Grenada,  
whom these presents may concern.

Forasmuch as A. B. of \_\_\_\_\_ in the said Island of Grenada, hath this day made information and complaint upon oath before me, S. J., esquire, one of His Majesty's justices of the peace, appointed by special commission in the premises, that C. D., late of \_\_\_\_\_

did [here state concisely the substance of the offence charged upon the party]. These are therefore to command you in His Majesty's name forthwith to apprehend and bring before me the body of the said C. D., to answer unto the said complaint, and to be further dealt with according to law. Herein fail you not. Given under my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_

day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of our Lord one thousand eight \_\_\_\_\_

hundred and \_\_\_\_\_

S. J., Special Justice.

#### SCHEDULE (B.)

Grenada, } To all constables, policemen of the district of which I the undersigned have  
To wit. } special jurisdiction, and to other officers of the peace for the Island of Grenada,  
whom these presents may concern.

Forasmuch as A. B. of \_\_\_\_\_ in the said Island of Grenada, hath this day made information and complaint upon oath before me, S. J., esquire, one of His Majesty's justices of the peace, appointed by special commission in the premises, that C. D., late of \_\_\_\_\_

did [here state concisely the substance of the offence charged upon the party]. These are therefore to command you in His Majesty's name forthwith to summon \_\_\_\_\_



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the said C. D. to appear before me at \_\_\_\_\_ in the said district and island, on  
 the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ next, [or instant] at the hour of \_\_\_\_\_  
 in the \_\_\_\_\_ noon of the same day, to answer unto the said complaint; and further to do and  
 receive what to law doth appertain. And be you then and there to certify what you shall  
 have done in execution hereof. Herein fail you not. Given under my hand and seal the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of our Lord one thousand  
 eight hundred and \_\_\_\_\_

S. J., Special Justice.

## SCHEDULE (C.)

Grenada, } To all constables, policemen of the district of which I the undersigned have  
 To wit. } special jurisdiction, and to other officers of the peace for the Island of  
 Grenada, whom these presents may concern.

Whereas information hath been made before me, S. J., esquire, one of His Majesty's justices  
 of the peace, appointed by special commission in the premises, that [here state the charge or  
 offence] and that G. H. of \_\_\_\_\_, is a material or necessary witness to be examined  
 concerning the same. These are therefore to require you to summon the said G. H. to  
 appear before me, at \_\_\_\_\_, in the said Island, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
 at the hour of \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock in the \_\_\_\_\_ noon of the same day, to testify the truth  
 according to the best of his knowledge, concerning the premises, and be you then there  
 to certify what you shall have done in the execution hereof. Herein fail you not. Given under  
 my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, one thousand eight hundred and \_\_\_\_\_

S. J., Special Justice.

## SCHEDULE (D.)

Grenada, } To G. H., a constable, and to the keeper of the public cage [or gaol] at  
 To wit. } \_\_\_\_\_ or his deputy.

Whereas C. D., of, &c., is now brought before me, S. J., esquire, one of His Majesty's  
 justices of the peace, appointed by special commission in the premises, and charged upon  
 the oath of A. B., [state the charge] against the peace of our Lord the King, and against  
 the form of the statute in such case made and provided. These are therefore in His Majesty's  
 name to command you, the said constable, to convey the said C. D. to the said keeper; and  
 you, the said keeper, are hereby required to receive and safely keep him, the said C. D., in  
 your said cage [or gaol] until \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ next, when you are  
 hereby required to bring him, the said C. D., again before me to be re-examined and further  
 dealt with according to law; and for so doing this shall be your sufficient warrant. Given  
 under my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ one thousand eight hundred  
 and \_\_\_\_\_

S. J., Special Justice.

## SCHEDULE (E.)

Grenada, } C. D., of, &c. acknowledges himself to be indebted to our Sovereign Lord the  
 To wit. } King, in the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ pounds; and E. F., of, &c., acknowledges him-  
 self to be indebted to our Sovereign Lord the King in the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ pounds, upon  
 condition that the said C. D. do personally appear before me, S. J., esquire, one of His  
 Majesty's justices of the peace, appointed by special commission in the premises, on  
 the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ next, at \_\_\_\_\_, then and there to be re-  
 examined, and further dealt with upon a charge now before me, upon the oath of A. B., of,  
 &c., [state the charge] against the peace of our Sovereign Lord the King, and against the  
 form of the statute in such case made and provided; and upon condition that he, the said  
 C. D., do not depart without my leave, then this recognizance to be void, or else to remain  
 in full force. Taken and acknowledged the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, in the year of  
 our Lord one thousand eight hundred and \_\_\_\_\_

S. J., Special Justice.

## SCHEDULE (F.)

Grenada, } BE it remembered, That on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year  
 To wit. } of our Lord one thousand, &c., at \_\_\_\_\_, in the Island of Grenada,  
 before me, S. J., esquire, one of His Majesty's justices of the peace, duly constituted and ap-  
 pointed by special commission in the premises, C. D., of, &c., was duly convicted for that,  
 [here state the offence] against the peace of our Lord the King, and against the form of  
 the statute in such case made and provided; and I do declare and adjudge, that he, the  
 said C. D., [if the defendant be the employer, say] hath forfeited for his said offence the  
 sum of \_\_\_\_\_, to be distributed as the law directs; [or if the defendant be the  
 apprenticed labourer, say] that the said C. D., for his said offence, is a deserter [a vagabond,  
 as the case may be] and that he the said C. D. be therefore committed to the cage [or  
 gaol] of \_\_\_\_\_, there to be kept to hard labour for the space of \_\_\_\_\_;  
 [or, that the said C. D., for his said offence, do serve the said A. B. 15 extra hours] or  
 otherwise, according to the nature of the offence.

S. J., Special Justice.

SCHEDULE (G.)

## SCHEDULE (G.)

Grenada, } BE it remembered, That on the                    day of                    , in the year of  
To wit. } of our Lord one thousand, &c., at                    , in the Island of Grenada,  
before me, S. J., esquire, one of His Majesty's justices of the peace, duly constituted and  
appointed by special commission, in the premises, C. D., of, &c., was duly convicted for  
that, [here state the offence] against the peace of our Lord the King, and against the form  
of the statute in such case made and provided; and I do declare and adjudge that the said  
A. B. is not guilty of the offence aforesaid, in manner and form as the said C. D. for him-  
self above hath alleged; whereupon it is considered by me, the said special justice here, that  
the said A. B., of the offence aforesaid, be discharged, and go thereof without day                    ;  
and I do declare and adjudge that the said C. D. did not adduce sufficient proof in support  
of his said complaint, or that the said C. D. is guilty of having preferred a frivolous, or  
vexatious, or malicious, &c., complaint against him, the said A. B., in manner and form as  
is above alleged; and I do further declare and adjudge, that for having preferred against  
the said A. B. such frivolous, or vexatious or malicious complaint, [as may be] the said  
C. D. do work in his employer's service for the space of                    days, [or if the employer]  
the said C. D. is fined in the sum of                    to the use of the said A. B.

S. J., Special Justice.

## SCHEDULE (H.)

THE same as last precedent, merely leaving out in the adjudication the words "frivolous or  
vexatious."

## SCHEDULE (I.)

Grenada, } To G. H., constable, and to the Keeper of His Majesty's gaol in and for the  
To wit. } Island of Grenada.

Whereas C. D., of, &c., is now brought before me, S. J., esquire, one of His Majesty's  
justices of the peace, duly constituted and appointed by special commission in the premises,  
and charged on the oath of A. B., of, &c., for that [here state the offence.] These are there-  
fore, in His Majesty's name, to command you, the said constable, to convey the said C. D.  
to the said keeper, and you the said keeper are hereby required to receive and safely keep  
the said C. D. in your gaol, until he shall be thence discharged by due course of law; and  
for so doing this shall be your sufficient warrant. Given under my hand and seal this  
day of                    , in the year of our Lord one thousand, &c.

S. J., Special Justice.

## SCHEDULE (K.)

Grenada, } To any of the Constables of the district over which I, the undersigned special  
To wit. } justice of the peace have judicial cognizance, under the Act in such case made  
and provided.

Whereas C. D., of, &c., was, on the                    day of                    now last past, duly  
convicted before me, S. J., esquire, one of His Majesty's justices of the peace, duly constituted  
and appointed by special commission in the premises, [state conviction] contrary to the form  
of the statute in such case made and provided, and I then and there declared and adjudged,  
that [state the adjudication]: And whereas the said sum of                    still remains wholly  
unpaid; these are therefore to command you to levy the said sum of                    by distress of  
the goods and chattels of the said C. D., and if within six days next after such distress the  
same shall not be redeemed by payment of the said sum, together with the reasonable  
charges of taking the said distress, then that you sell the goods by you distrained, and that  
out of the money which shall be paid to you, or which shall arise by such sale, you pay the  
said sum of                    to the said A. B., returning the overplus, if any, to the said C. D.  
upon demand, the reasonable charges of taking, keeping and selling the said distress being  
first deducted; and that you certify unto me what you shall do by virtue of this warrant.  
Given under my hand and seal the                    day of                    , one thousand, &c.

S. J., Special Justice.

## SCHEDULE (L.)

Grenada, } To all Constables of the district over which the undersigned hath special cog-  
To wit. } nizance, in the premises under the Act in such case made and provided.

These are in His Majesty's name to command you and every of you, upon sight hereof, to  
take and bring before me the body of T. W., of whom you shall have notice, to answer all such  
matters and things as on His Majesty's behalf are on oath objected against him by A. B.,  
for that he being a material witness to prove a certain misdemeanor, [or as the case may be]  
lately committed, and having been duly summoned to give evidence touching the same,  
hath neglected to appear in pursuance of the said summons, against the peace of our Lord  
the King, and against the form of the Act in such case made and provided; hereof fail you  
not at your peril. Given under my hand and seal, this                    day of                    one  
thousand eight hundred and                   

S. J., Special Justice.

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## SCHEDULE (M.)

Grenada, } To A. B., constable, and to the keeper of the public gaol in and for the Island  
To wit. } of Grenada, or his deputy, or to the keeper of the cage in and for the parish  
of

These are to command you, the said constable, to take and convey T. W. to the said keeper; and you, the said keeper, are hereby required to receive into your custody the body of the said T. W. herewith sent you, brought before me, S. J., esquire, one of His Majesty's justices of the peace, duly constituted and appointed by special commission in the premises, for that he hath absolutely and wilfully refused, and still doth so refuse, to give evidence and be examined touching a certain complaint made upon oath before me by C. D. against E. F., or to give sufficient reason for his refusal, in wilful and open violation and delay of justice; the said T. W. therefore safely keep in your said custody until he shall submit to be examined touching the said misdemeanor, or until he shall be discharged by due course of law, and for so doing this shall be your sufficient warrant. Given under my hand and seal this                    day of                    one thousand, &c.

S. J., Special Justice.

## SCHEDULE (N.)

Grenada, } To any of the Constables of the district over which I the undersigned special  
To wit. } justice of the peace have judicial cognizance, under the Act in such case  
made and provided.

Whereas [recite the contract and recite the foregoing award] And whereas the said C. D. did not within the space of one week from the time of his being served with the said award, pay or cause to be paid unto the said A. B. the said sum of                    and the same yet remains unpaid: These are therefore to command you to levy the said sum of                    by distress of the goods and chattels of the said C. D., and if within six days next after such distress the same shall not be redeemed by payment of the said sum, together with the reasonable charges of taking the said distress, then that you sell the goods by you distrained, and that out of the money which shall be paid to you, or which shall arise by such sale, you pay the said sum of                    to the said A. B., returning the overplus, if any, to the said C. D. upon demand, the reasonable charges of taking, keeping and selling the said distress being first deducted; and that you certify unto me what you shall do by virtue of this warrant. Given under my hand and seal the                    day of                    one thousand, &c.

S. J., Special Justice.

## —No. 48.—

No. 48.

Grenada.

AN ACT to alter and amend an Act, intituled, "An Act for carrying into effect the provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the 3d and 4th years of the reign of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies," and to make further provision for the purposes in the said Act mentioned.—(Passed 1st August 1834.)

## Preamble.

Island of Grenada to be divided into three grand divisions instead of six, and each grand division subdivided into three judicial districts.

WHEREAS it is necessary to alter and amend the Act passed on the 7th day of March last, for carrying into effect the provisions of the Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the 3d and 4th years of the reign of His present Majesty, for the Abolition of Slavery, and to make further provision for the purposes in the said Act mentioned; Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governor, the Council and Assembly of these Islands, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority of the same, That the Island of Grenada and its dependencies be divided into three grand divisions or districts, instead of six districts as in the said Act is provided, and that each of the said grand divisions or districts be subdivided into three judicial districts, in manner hereinafter mentioned.

Boundaries of grand divisions to be affixed by Governor, and altered by him from time to time as may be expedient.

2. And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the boundaries of the said grand divisions or districts, and of the said judicial districts shall be fixed and appointed by the Governor in Council, and shall and may be varied and altered by the said Governor in Council, from time to time as may be found expedient.

Lawful for Governor to appoint special justices with same powers as those appointed by Act of Parliament.

3. And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for the Governor, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, to issue under the public seal of this Colony, one or more special commission or commissions to any person or persons constituting him or them a justice or justices of the peace for any of the said judicial districts, with the same powers and authorities as shall be contained in the commissions to be from time to time issued, under and by virtue of the 14th clause of the said recited Act of the Imperial Parliament, to the persons nominated by His Majesty to be justices for carrying into execution the laws for the abolition of slavery.

One stipendiary magistrate to preside over each grand division, and three or more special justices appointed to each judicial

4. And be it enacted, that a stipendiary justice shall preside over each of the said grand divisions, and that in each judicial district there shall be three or more special justices commissioned as aforesaid, and that within each grand division there shall be established a police,

police, consisting of one stipendiary justice, and nine or more special justices, and one serjeant, three corporals and eighteen privates, to be at the disposal of the justices of the said division, and to act under such rules and regulations as may from time to time be made by the special justices at their petty sessions hereinafter mentioned: provided always, that nothing herein contained shall prevent the said justices at their petty sessions from appointing one or more privates of police for the purposes of this Act, from amongst the apprenticed labourers upon any plantation within their division, by and with the consent of the employer of such apprentices, over and above the number of privates attached to each police establishment, with the same powers and authorities as such privates of police.

5. And be it enacted, that on the Saturday in every week, or oftener, if necessary, there shall be held a petty sessions within each of the said grand divisions or districts, consisting of the stipendiary justice for such division, and two or more of the special justices within the same, for the purpose of hearing and determining all cases which may be brought before them; at which petty sessions the stipendiary justice, if not prevented by sickness or other unavoidable cause, shall preside.

6. And be it enacted, that wheresoever the words special justice of each district, or special justice of any district, occur in the said recited Act of these Islands, the same shall be deemed to import and mean any stipendiary or special justice, who shall be appointed to carry the provisions of the said Act into execution; and wheresoever the word district occurs by itself in the said recited Act of these Islands, the same shall be deemed to import each grand division so to be fixed and appointed as aforesaid, and that the powers, duties and authorities, in and by the said Act of these Islands, vested in and imposed on the special justice of each or any district in the same Act mentioned, shall be and the same are hereby vested in and declared obligatory on all and every the special justices and justice so to be appointed as aforesaid.

7. And be it enacted, that all and every the powers, authorities and duties in and by the said recited Act of these Islands, vested in or imposed on any one special justice may be performed and executed by any two or more of such special justices.

8. And be it enacted, that the first clause of the said recited Act of these Islands shall be and the same is hereby repealed.

9. And be it enacted, that within the meaning and for the purposes of this Act, every person who for the time being shall be in the lawful administration of the government of this Colony shall be taken to be the Governor thereof.

district. In each grand division to be established, a police force of one stipendiary justice, nine or more special justices, one serjeant, three corporals, and eighteen privates, to act under justices of district.

Petty sessions to be held in each grand division at least once every week, to hear and determine cases, to consist of one stipendiary magistrate and two special justices, and at which stipendiary magistrate to preside.

Import and application of certain words defined.

Powers vested in one special justice may be performed by any two or more of them.

First clause of before recited Act repealed.

Person in administration of government of Colony for time being considered Governor thereof.

—No. 49.—

Grenada.

No. 49.

AN ACT to amend an Act, intituled, "An Act for carrying into effect the provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the 3d and 4th years of the reign of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies," and to make further provision for the purposes in the said Act mentioned.—(Passed 29th December 1834.)

WHEREAS it is necessary to amend the Act passed on the 11th day of March last, intituled, "An Act for carrying into effect the provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the 3d and 4th years of the reign of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies," and to make further provision for the purposes in the said Act mentioned; Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, the Council and Assembly of these Islands, and it is hereby enacted by authority of the same, That the 47th, 48th, 64th, 65th, 66th, 70th, 78th and 98th clauses of an Act passed upon the 11th day of March last, intituled, "An Act for carrying into effect the provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the 3d and 4th years of the reign of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies," shall be and the same are hereby declared to be all and severally repealed.

2. And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every employer of apprenticed labourers attached to or worked upon any plantation or estate, or his attorney, agent or representative, shall allow to each and every such apprenticed labourer a sufficient portion of land adapted to the growth of provisions for his support and maintenance; and between the 1st day of January and the 31st day of December in each and every year, shall allow to each and every such apprenticed labourer 26 full working days over and above the time allotted by the 51st clause of the said Act passed upon the 11th day of March last, for the purpose of cultivating the same, at the discretion of the employer of such apprenticed labourer, or his agent or representative, and as to him may be deemed most advantageous and beneficial to such apprenticed labourers; provided that in all cases where it shall be found inconvenient for such employer of apprenticed labourers, to allow such portion of land for the purpose aforesaid, he shall, by some other ways and means, make ample provision for such apprenticed labourers in lieu thereof; and that every employer of such apprenticed labourers shall provide for and allow to every family, consisting of four or more apprenticed labourers, a good

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and comfortable house, with one or more cabannes or beds, raised at least one foot from the ground, and shall provide and give to each and every such apprenticed labourer a sufficient allowance weekly of salt and salt fish, or of such other food as their ages and state of health may require, and shall provide and give to each and every such apprenticed labourer sufficient clothing and blankets, suitable to their respective sexes, ages and conditions; and that every employer of apprenticed labourers not attached to nor worked upon any plantation or estate, shall provide for and furnish such apprenticed labourers with comfortable lodgings, sufficient food and decent clothing; and if any employer of apprenticed labourers shall neglect or refuse to comply with the provisions hereinbefore specified, every person so offending shall, on conviction before any stipendiary or special justice, forfeit and pay the sum of 10*l.* for every neglect or refusal: provided also, that every apprenticed labourer as aforesaid, shall be allowed Christmas and New Year's days as holidays.

3. And be it enacted, that on complaint from any apprenticed labourer or labourers, or upon the information or complaint of any other person or persons, or the fact coming to the knowledge of any stipendiary or special justice in any other manner, that the provisions hereinbefore contained for the maintenance and support of such apprenticed labourer or labourers, according to the true intent and meaning of this Act, have not been complied with, it shall and may be lawful to and for such stipendiary or special justice, and he is hereby required to proceed to the plantation, estate or place whereon such apprenticed labourer or labourers is or are resident or attached, or to cause and command such apprenticed labourer or labourers, or such other person or persons as such stipendiary or special justice may deem necessary to be examined in the premises, to appear before him, and such stipendiary or special justice shall and may inquire into such complaint, and if necessary, shall and may inspect the grounds, clothing and lodging of such apprenticed labourer or labourers, and shall and may examine into their general treatment, and for the more effectual discovery of the truth, it shall and may be lawful for such stipendiary or special justice on such inquiry to administer to such person or persons the following oath, viz.:

“ I, A. B., will true answer make to all such questions as shall be put to me touching the clothing, feeding, maintenance and general treatment of the apprenticed labourers, upon or belonging to the estate of or to  
 So help me God.”

And if any person shall refuse to be sworn, or when sworn, shall refuse to answer such questions as shall be put to him relative to such complaint or inquiry, he shall forfeit the sum or 50*l.*; and if it shall appear on such complaint or inquiry to the said stipendiary or special justice, that any offence hath been committed against the provisions hereinbefore contained for the maintenance and support of such apprenticed labourers, then and in such case he is hereby authorized and strictly required to afford redress to such apprenticed labourer or labourers without delay, in manner and to the extent hereinafter specified; that is to say, to each apprenticed labourer attached to and worked upon any plantation or estate, one quarter of an acre of land, or a weekly allowance in money of 4*s.* 6*d.* currency, in lieu thereof, a weekly allowance of one quarter of a pint of salt, and two pounds of salt fish, or such other provisions as may be equivalent thereto, an annual allowance of clothing as follows: one pennistone or cloth jacket, and three yards of cloth or pennistone, or six yards of cloth or pennistone, eight yards of osnaburghs or other linen of equal strength or value, one hat, with needles and thread, and a triennial allowance of one blanket; and to each apprenticed labourer not attached to, nor worked upon any plantation or estate, a weekly allowance in money, or provisions equivalent thereto, to the value of 6*s.* currency, and an annual allowance of two suits of clothing; and such stipendiary or special justice is hereby authorized and empowered to issue an order under his hand, requiring such employer of apprenticed labourers to provide, furnish and give the allowances hereinbefore immediately specified, or so much and such parts thereof as to the said stipendiary or special justice in his discretion may seem meet; and such employer, for every neglect or refusal to comply with and obey such order, shall forfeit and pay the sum of 100*l.* current money of the said Island.

4. And be it enacted, that in case the portion of land allotted to any apprenticed labourer by his employer shall be situated at a distance exceeding three miles beyond the dwelling of such apprenticed labourer, and such apprenticed labourer shall complain of the hardship or inconvenience thereof to any stipendiary or special justice, he shall thereupon make such order as shall be just, so that a sufficient quantity of land at a reasonable distance, or ample provision in lieu thereof, be allowed to such apprenticed labourer.

5. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for any employer of any apprenticed labourer to substitute money for the allowances of food hereinbefore provided, or any part thereof, at the marketable value of such allowances of food at the time of such substitution.

6. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for any stipendiary or special justice to call for and inspect the hospital book, required to be kept by the 53d clause of the said Act passed on the 11th day of March last, at any time he may think fit, and if any person, who ought to produce such hospital book, shall neglect, omit or refuse to do so when required, he shall incur a penalty of 5*l.* for every such neglect, omission or refusal.

7. And be it enacted, that it shall not be lawful to detain in any hospital any apprenticed labourer who may have obtained from the medical attendant permission to depart therefrom.

8. And

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8. And be it enacted, that the words "legal and lawful" mentioned and contained in the 55th clause of the said Act passed on the 11th day of March last, shall be read and considered as the word "reasonable," which is hereby substituted in lieu thereof.

9. And be it enacted, that so much of the 58th clause of the said Act passed on the 11th day of March last, as imposes any penalty or punishment upon any apprenticed labourer for endangering, or injuring, or exposing to damage or injury any property not belonging to his employer, or for neglecting or ill-using any cattle or other live stock not belonging to his employer, shall be and the same is hereby repealed.

10. And be it enacted, that nothing in the said Act passed on the 11th day of March last, shall prevent or be construed to prevent any apprenticed labourer from preferring or resorting to prefer any complaint to the Governor, respecting any grievance, matter or thing not cognizable by any stipendiary or special justice, or from complaining or resorting to complain to the Governor against the decision of any stipendiary or special justice: provided always, that it shall not be lawful for any gang of apprenticed labourers, or any larger number thereof than the number allowed by the 63d clause of the said Act passed on the 11th day of March last, to leave the estate to which they are attached, for the purpose of preferring any such complaint, and all the provisions of the said 63d clause relating to, and regulating the resort and returns of apprenticed labourers to and from a special justice, for the purpose of making any complaint, and the penalty thereby imposed for obstructing any apprenticed labourer therein, shall be and the same are hereby declared to extend to cases where any apprenticed labourers shall be desirous of complaining to the Governor.

11. And be it enacted, that all contracts between any employer and apprenticed labourers for any taskwork or extra service, for any period exceeding five days, shall be entered by the employer or his agent in a book, to be kept for that purpose, upon the plantation to which such apprenticed labourer is attached, and upon complaint made to any stipendiary or special justice by any apprenticed labourer who shall have entered into the same, such stipendiary or special justice shall be and he is hereby authorized to inquire whether the terms of any such contract were distinctly understood by such apprenticed labourer, and whether he entered into it freely and voluntarily, and whether the same is reasonable and just, and such stipendiary or special justice shall make such adjudication in the matter as the justice of the case may require.

12. And be it enacted, that so much of the 76th clause of the said Act passed on the 11th day of March last, as authorizes any justice of the peace to adjudge, decide or determine, on of or concerning any offence within the same clause, shall be and the same is hereby repealed and the authority to adjudge, decide and determine on of and concerning such offence, is hereby vested in any two or more special justices.

13. And be it enacted, that every prædial apprenticed labourer found during the hours of work appointed by law, beyond the limits of the estate to which such apprenticed labourer may be attached, and not having with him a written pass for the purpose from his employer, or from some special justice, shall be liable to be apprehended and brought before a special justice, and unless such labourer shall explain the cause of his absence, or make sufficient excuse for the same to the satisfaction of such special justice, such labourer shall be adjudged a vagabond, and punished accordingly.

14. And be it enacted, that when any apprenticed labourer shall be desirous of purchasing the remaining period of his apprenticeship, and his employer shall, after due notice, neglect or refuse to appoint an appraiser, to estimate the value of the services of such apprenticed labourer for the remaining period of his apprenticeship, pursuant to the provisions of the 93d clause of the said Act, passed on the 11th day of March last, it shall be lawful for the special justice to nominate both the appraisers, who shall act in the matter of such appraisal in the manner pointed out by the said clause of the said Act; and in order to provide for the discharge of apprenticed labourers desiring to obtain the same by purchase, in cases where the employers of such apprenticed labourers may be unable to contract for such discharge, it is hereby enacted, that if the employer of any apprenticed labourer, or any person having any interest in any such apprenticed labourer, shall by reason of any mortgage or settlement, or lease or charge upon or interest in such apprenticed labourer, being vested in any other person or persons, be unable to execute a valid and effectual discharge of such apprenticed labourer, or if the employer, or any other person having a charge upon or interest in any such apprenticed labourer shall be a minor or a married woman, or idiot or lunatic, or if the real employer of any such apprenticed labourer shall be absent from Grenada, and shall be unrepresented therein, or shall not be known, or if any suit or action shall be depending in any court of justice in the said Island wherein the right to the service of such apprenticed labourer shall or may be in controversy, then and in each and every of the cases aforesaid, the chief justice of the said Island, on application to him for that purpose made by any special justice, shall issue a summons under his hand and seal, requiring the employer of such apprenticed labourer to appear before him at some convenient time and place, to be in such summons for that purpose appointed, and notice shall be published in the public Gazette of the said Island of the time and place appointed for the purpose aforesaid; and in such notice all persons having or claiming to have any title or interest to or in the services of the apprenticed labourer proposed to be discharged, either in their own right or as the agents, guardians, attorneys, trustees or representatives of any other person, shall be required to attend and prefer such claims.

15. And be it enacted, that at the time appointed for any such meeting as aforesaid, the chief justice of the said Island, in the presence of the said special justice, and also in the presence

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presence of the employer of the apprenticed labourer proposed to be discharged, or upon proof being made to him upon oath of the due service and publication of such notice as aforesaid, then, if necessary, in the absence of such employer shall proceed to hear in a summary way what may be alleged by the said special justice, and by the employer or other person claiming any interest in the services of the apprenticed labourer proposed to be discharged, and attending in pursuance of any such notice; and in case it shall be made to appear to the said chief justice that a valid and effectual discharge of such apprenticed labourer cannot legally be effected by private contract, or that the employer of such apprenticed labourer, or any person having any charge upon or interest in the services of such apprenticed labourer, is a minor, or a married woman, or idiot, or lunatic, or that the employer of such apprenticed labourer, or any person having any charge upon or interest in the services of such apprenticed labourer is absent from the said Island, and is unrepresented therein, or is unknown, or cannot be found, or that any action is depending in any court of justice in the said Island wherein the right to the services of such apprenticed labourer is in controversy, then and in every such case the said chief justice shall require the special justice and the employer of such apprenticed labourer, if attending in pursuance of such notice, each to nominate an appraiser of the value of his or her services for the remainder of such apprenticeship, and the said chief justice shall himself nominate an umpire between such appraisers; but if such employer, being duly summoned as aforesaid, shall fail to attend, or attending shall refuse or omit to nominate an appraiser, then the said chief justice shall not only nominate such umpire as aforesaid, but shall also nominate an appraiser on behalf of such employer.

16. And be it enacted, that the appraisers so to be nominated as aforesaid, shall be duly sworn by and before the said chief justice to make a fair and impartial appraisal of the value of the services of the apprenticed labourer so proposed to be discharged; and within seven days next after such their appointment, such appraisers shall make a joint valuation of the said services, and shall certify such their valuation to the said chief justice under their hands and seals, and in case such joint certificate shall not be so made and delivered to the said chief justice within the said term of seven days, then the said umpire, being duly sworn in manner aforesaid, shall, within the next succeeding seven days, certify his valuation to the said chief justice; and the valuation to be made in manner aforesaid, either by the said joint appraisers or in their default by the said umpire, shall be binding and conclusive, and shall be filed or enrolled among the proceedings of the Supreme Court of Judicature.

17. Provided nevertheless, and be it enacted, that if it shall be made to appear to the said chief justice within one calendar month next after such valuation shall have been made, that in the making thereof the said appraisers or umpire, or any of them, acted fraudulently or unjustly, or under the influence of any improper motive, or under any mistake as to the nature of their or his duty, or under any misapprehension of any material matter of fact, then, but not otherwise, it shall be lawful for the said chief justice to set aside the said valuation and to declare the same to be void, and to direct another valuation to be made in manner aforesaid, for which purpose new appraisers and a new umpire shall in manner aforesaid be appointed and sworn, and shall proceed to make a second valuation, which being certified to the said chief justice in manner aforesaid, shall be to all intents and purposes binding and conclusive; provided that such second or any subsequent valuation may in like manner be set aside by any such chief justice on the grounds aforesaid, until a valuation is made not open to any such objection: provided also, that if the amount of any such valuation shall not be paid in manner hereinafter mentioned within three calendar months next after the filing or enrolment thereof, such filing or enrolment shall be cancelled.

18. And be it enacted, that upon or within three calendar months next after the filing or enrolment in the said Supreme Court of Judicature of any such valuation as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for any special justice as aforesaid out of any monies to be supplied to him for that purpose by the apprenticed labourer proposed to be discharged, to pay to the public treasurer of the said Island the appraised value of the services of such apprenticed labourer, taking a receipt in writing from such treasurer for every such payment; and the said chief justice shall, upon application to him for that purpose made by the said special justice, make an order for the filing or enrolment in the said Supreme Court of Judicature of such receipt, and the said chief justice shall by such order further proceed to declare and adjudge that the apprenticed labourer, by or on behalf of whom such money hath been paid, is discharged, and such apprenticed labourer shall thereupon be and be deemed, taken and reputed to be discharged to all intents and purposes from such apprenticeship.

19. And be it enacted, that the money to arise from the discharge of any apprenticed labourer by virtue of the proceedings before mentioned, shall remain in the hands of the public treasurer of the said Island, and shall bear interest at and after the rate of 5% per cent. per annum; and His Majesty's Colonial Revenue in the said Island shall be and is hereby declared to be pledged and responsible for the due payment of such principal money and interest; or shall, in the discretion of such public treasurer, be invested in the purchase, in his name, of any public funds or securities of Great Britain and Ireland; and the Chief Justice of the said Island shall and he is hereby authorized upon application to him for that purpose made, to direct that the money in the hands of the said public treasurer, and the interest accruing on such money, or the public funds of Great Britain and Ireland so to be purchased as aforesaid, and the dividends payable thereupon, shall be the property

property of the person or persons who was or were entitled to the services of such discharged apprenticed labourers, and shall be subject and liable to all such and the same uses, trusts, limitations, conditions, mortgages, claims and demands of what nature or kind soever, as such services were subject unto at such time of the discharge of such apprenticed labourer; and the said public treasurer shall hold the said money and the interest accruing therefrom, or the said public funds and dividends, subject to such order as such chief justice of the said Island may, upon a summary application of any person interested therein, and upon notice to all other persons interested therein, or their agents, see fit to make, and such principal money and interest shall by such public treasurer be paid and disposed of in pursuance of and in obedience to any such order.

20. And be it enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for the chief justice of the said Island to make and prescribe, and from time to time to revoke and alter as occasion may require, all such rules and orders as may be necessary for the regular and proper exercise of the jurisdiction hereby in him vested, and for regulating the proceedings of all persons who may be parties to or interested in any question so depending before him.

21. And be it enacted, that in case of the death, suspension or absence from the said Island of the said chief justice thereof, or in case of his having any right or interest in or to the services of any apprenticed labourer desirous to purchase the remaining period of his apprenticeship, all and every the powers, duties and authorities hereby vested in and directed to be performed by the said chief justice, shall in every such case devolve upon and be exercised by the senior assistant justice of the said Supreme Court of Judicature; provided that he, the said senior assistant justice, shall not have any right, title or interest in or to the services of the apprenticed labourer or labourers desiring to purchase his, her or their remaining period of apprenticeship, either of himself or as agent or attorney of any party having such right, title or interest, or then and in such case of his being so interested, the same duties and authorities shall devolve upon the next senior assistant justice not having any right, title or interest as aforesaid in the services of such apprenticed labourer.

22. And be it enacted, that so much of the 103d clause of the said Act, passed upon the 11th day of March last, as authorizes the employer of apprenticed labourers to nominate such apprenticed labourers to or for the office of constables or policemen, shall be and the same is hereby repealed: And it is hereby enacted, that it shall be lawful for any special justice to appoint constables on any plantation from amongst the most respectable apprenticed labourers, which constables shall have (with reference to other apprenticed labourers) the same powers as ordinary constables, and shall and they are hereby authorized and empowered to take into custody any apprenticed labourer who shall have committed any offence against the provisions of the said Act passed on the 11th day of March last, or of this Act, and who it is presumed will attempt to escape.

23. And be it enacted, that no apprenticed labourer shall be compelled or compellable to yield any extra service or compensation of any description to his employer after the expiration of seven years next after the termination of the apprenticeship of such labourer.

24. And be it enacted, that no apprenticed labourer shall during his own time be liable to perform any service required by the 115th clause of the said Act passed upon the 11th day of March last.

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## TOBAGO.

— No. 50. —

Tobago.

AN ACT to carry into effect the provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves."—(Passed 2 May 1834.)

WHEREAS by an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves," passed on or about the 28th day of August now last past, it is amongst other things enacted, that all persons who, on the 1st day of August, in the present year 1834, shall have been registered as slaves in any such Colony, and shall be actually within any such Colony, and shall appear on the register to be six years old and upwards, shall, by force and virtue of the said Act, and without the previous execution of any indenture of apprenticeship or other deed or instrument for that purpose, become and be apprenticed labourers: And whereas by the said Act it is declared to be necessary that certain rules and regulations should be established for giving effect to the provisions of the said Act: And whereas it is desirable that such rules and regulations as are necessary for giving effect to the provisions of the said Act, as far as they relate to the internal concerns



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Subject to obligations imposed hereby, all slaves in this Island emancipated from 1st August next, from which time slavery shall be abolished in this Island.

All slaves brought into the United Kingdom, with consent of possessors, free after passing of this Act.

Apprenticeship of prædial labourers not to continue beyond 1st August 1840.

Of non-prædial labourers not beyond 1st August 1838.

Before apprenticeship is expired, labourer may be discharged by voluntary act of employer.

In case of voluntary discharge of aged or infirm apprentice, employer to continue liable for support.

Apprentice may purchase discharge against the will of his employer on an appraisement.

If person entitled to services unwilling or refuse to execute discharge or be incapable of doing so ;

Justices of Court of Common Pleas on application to them made,

of this Colony, should be enacted by the Legislature thereof: We therefore, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, his Excellency Major-General Henry Charles Darling, Lieutenant-Governor in and over the Island of Tobago and its dependencies, the Council and General Assembly of the same, do humbly pray Your most Excellent Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the said Lieutenant-Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the said Council and General Assembly in Session assembled, and by the authority of the same, that, subject to the obligations imposed by this Act, all persons who on the 1st day of August next ensuing shall be holden in slavery within this Colony, shall upon and from and after the said 1st day of August next ensuing, become and be, to all intents and purposes, free and discharged of and from all manner of slavery, and shall be absolutely and for ever manumitted; and that the children thereafter to be born to any such persons, and the offspring of such children shall, in like manner, be free from their birth; and that from and after the said 1st day of August next ensuing, slavery shall be and is hereby utterly and for ever abolished and declared unlawful in this Colony: Provided also, and be it further enacted, that all slaves who may at any time previous to the passing of this Act have been brought with the consent of their possessors, and all apprenticed labourers who may hereafter, with the like consent, be brought into any part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, shall, from and after the passing of this Act, be absolutely and entirely free to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

2. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that no person who by force and virtue of the said recited Act of the Imperial Parliament shall become a prædial apprenticed labourer, whether attached or not attached to the soil, shall continue in such apprenticeship beyond the 1st day of August 1840, and that during such his or her apprenticeship no such prædial apprenticed labourer, whether attached or not attached to the soil, shall be bound or liable by virtue of such apprenticeship (except in such cases as are hereinafter excepted) to perform any labour in the service of his or her employer or employers for more than 45 hours in the whole in any one week.

3. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that no person who by virtue of the said Act shall become a non-prædial apprenticed labourer, shall continue in such apprenticeship beyond the 1st day of August 1838.

4. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if, before the term of any such apprenticeship shall have expired, the person or persons entitled, for and during the remainder of any such term, to the services of such apprenticed labourer, shall be desirous to discharge him or her from such apprenticeship, it shall be lawful for such person or persons so to do, by any deed or instrument to be by him, her or them for that purpose made and executed, which deed or instrument shall be duly executed in the presence of two or more credible witnesses, and recorded in the register's office of the said Island: Provided nevertheless, that no employer having a partial or temporary interest in any apprenticed labourer, may, to the extent of such interest, effect his or her discharge or release gratuitously, unless all other persons having a partial, future or reversionary interest in such apprenticed labourer, shall consent to be parties to such discharge or release, or unless such partial, future or reversionary interest shall be purchased in the manner and according to the rules and regulations hereinafter established for the purchase, by any apprenticed labourer, of his or her discharge, against the will of his or her employer: And provided also, that if any person so discharged from any such apprenticeship by any voluntary act as aforesaid, shall be at that time of the age of 50 years or upwards, or shall be then labouring under any such disease or mental or bodily infirmity, as may render him or her incapable of earning his or her subsistence, then and in every such case the person or persons so discharging any such apprenticed labourer as aforesaid, shall continue and be liable to provide for the support and maintenance of such apprenticed labourer during the remaining term of such original apprenticeship, as fully as if such apprenticed labourer had not been discharged therefrom.

5. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful for any such apprenticed labourer to purchase his or her discharge from such apprenticeship, even without the consent, or in opposition, if necessary, to the will of the person or persons entitled to his or her services, upon payment to such person or persons of the value of such services, to be appraised in manner hereafter mentioned; and if the person or persons entitled to or having an interest in the service of any such apprenticed labourer, shall, upon due application made to him or them for that purpose, and tender of payment of the value of such services, be unwilling or refuse to execute such discharge as aforesaid, or shall, by reason of any mortgage or settlement, or lease, or charge upon, or interest in such service, being vested in any other person or persons, be unable to execute a valid and effectual discharge, or if the person entitled as aforesaid shall be a minor, or a married woman, or idiot, or lunatic, or shall be absent from the Island, or shall not be known, or if any suit or action shall be depending in any court of justice in this Island, wherein the right to the services of such apprenticed labourer shall or may be in controversy, or if the person or persons entitled to the service of any such apprenticed labourer shall demand as the price of such discharge a greater sum of money than may appear to the special justice of the district in which such apprenticed labourer may reside, to be the fair and just value thereof, then and in each and every of the cases aforesaid, the chief or senior assistant justice of the Court of Common Pleas of the said Island, on application to him made for that purpose

purpose by such special justice, shall issue a summons, under his hand and seal, requiring the person or persons entitled to such service, or their agents or representatives, to appear before the justices of the said court in chambers, at such time as shall be in such summons appointed; and the justices of the said court, or so many of them as shall be resident in the said Island, and able to attend, shall, in the presence of such special justice and the person or persons entitled to such service, or upon proof being made to them of the due service of such summons, then, if necessary, in the absence of such person or persons, shall proceed to hear, in a summary way, what may be alleged by such of the said parties as may attend; and in case the person or persons entitled to such service shall refuse to execute such discharge at a price approved of by the said court, or in case it shall be made to appear to the said court that a valid discharge cannot be effected by private contract, or that the person entitled to or having an interest in such services is a minor, or a married woman, or idiot, or lunatic, or is absent from the Colony, or is unknown, or cannot be found, or that any action is depending in any court of justice of this Island, wherein the right to the services, of such apprenticed labourer is in controversy, then and in every such case the said court shall order and direct such special justice and the person or persons entitled to such service, if attending in pursuance of such notice, each to nominate an appraiser of the value of the service of such apprenticed labourer, and the court shall nominate an umpire between such appraisers; but if such special justice, or the person or persons entitled to such service, being duly summoned as aforesaid, shall fail to attend, or attending, shall refuse or omit to nominate an appraiser, then the said chief justice or senior assistant justice shall not only nominate such umpire as aforesaid, but shall also nominate an appraiser on behalf of such special justice, or of such person or persons entitled to such service as aforesaid.

to summon parties to appear at chambers, and to proceed to hear in a summary way what may be alleged;

and to order special justice and person entitled to service of apprentice each to nominate an appraiser.

Court to nominate umpire.

6. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the appraisers so to be nominated as aforesaid, shall be duly sworn before the said court to make a fair and impartial appraisal of the services of such apprenticed labourer so proposed to be discharged, and within ten days next after such their appointment, such appraisers shall make a joint valuation thereof, and shall certify such their valuation to the said court, under their hands and seals; and in case such joint certificate shall not be so made and delivered within the term aforesaid, then the said umpire, being duly sworn in manner aforesaid, shall, within ten days next thereafter, certify his valuation to the said court, and the valuation to be made in manner aforesaid, either by the said joint appraisers, or, in their default, by the said umpire, shall be binding and conclusive upon the said respective parties; and the said court shall thereupon order and direct such special justice to make and execute a discharge of such apprenticed labourer, in manner before directed, upon payment, nevertheless, by the said apprenticed labourer of such appraised value of his services, and such discharge shall be duly recorded in the register's office of the said Island.

Appraisers to be sworn and to make valuation within ten days, and to certify to court.

If no certificate made within that time, umpire to be sworn, and to certify valuation.

Valuation to be binding and conclusive.

Court thereupon to order special justice to execute discharge.

7. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the appraised value of the services of such apprenticed labourer, by virtue of the proceedings before mentioned, shall be paid into the hands of the public treasurer of the said Island, and shall be the property of the person or persons entitled to the services of such apprenticed labourer, subject, nevertheless, to all such and the same uses, trusts, limitations, conditions, mortgages, claims and demands of what nature or kind soever, as such apprenticed labourer himself would have been held upon, under or subject unto, had this Act not been passed; and the said treasurer shall hold the said money, subject to such order as the said court may, upon a summary application of any person interested therein, and upon notice to all other persons interested therein, or their agents, see fit to make; and such money shall, by the said treasurer, be paid and disposed of in pursuance of and in obedience to any such order.

Approved value to be paid into the hands of the public treasurer.

8. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful for the said court to make and prescribe, and from time to time to revoke and alter, as occasion may require, such rules and orders as may be necessary for the regular and proper exercise of the jurisdiction in them hereby vested, and for regulating the proceedings of all persons who may be parties to or interested in any question so depending before them; and the said court shall also establish a moderate and reasonable docket of fees and expenses to be paid and incurred in making such appraisements as aforesaid, which shall in no case exceed in the whole the sum of 5*l.*; and any appraiser or other person who shall demand or receive for any services by him or her rendered in or about any such appraisement, any greater or other fee, sum of money, advantage or emolument whatsoever than such as shall be authorized by such docket, shall incur a penalty of not less than 10*l.*, nor more than 30*l.*, in addition to the amount of any such unlawful fee, sum of money, advantage or emolument so received; which fine shall be received by warrant under the hand and seal of the chief or senior assistant justice of the said court, directed to the provost marshal, or his lawful deputy, in the nature of an execution issuing out of the Court of Common Pleas, upon judgment obtained therein.

Court to make rules for regulating proceedings on appraisement;

and establish docket of fees.

Appraiser demanding or receiving greater or other fee than authorized, to incur a penalty.

9. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any such appraisement as aforesaid shall have been rendered necessary by any difference of opinion between such apprenticed labourer and the person or persons entitled to his services, respecting the price to be paid for his discharge, the expense of such appraisement shall be borne by the apprentice, and be added to the amount of the valuation, if the services of such apprentice shall be appraised at a sum exceeding or equal to the price demanded by the person or persons entitled thereto; but if the appraised value of such service shall be less

If services of apprentice appraised at a sum exceeding or equal to sum demanded, apprentice to pay expense of appraisement.

If less, then by person entitled to service. If appraisement rendered necessary by any other cause than difference of opinion as to price, expense to be equally divided.

Recital of Allowances now given to slaves.

Same to be continued to apprenticed labourers during time of apprenticeship.

Portion of land to prædial apprentices to be increased.

Apprentices of the age of twelve years and upwards to have half an acre of land, and not more than three miles distance from place of residence;

under that age, quarter of an acre.

Between 1 July and 1 December in each year, to be entitled to 14 full working days for cultivation thereof.

Where persons shall not have sufficient land, or shall prefer maintaining their apprentices, what allowances to be given.

All provisions supplied to be sound and fit for consumption, and delivered on corresponding day in each week.

Not lawful to dispossess apprentice of land until crops are gathered.

Apprentice may be compelled to cultivate his grounds.

than the price previously demanded by the person or persons entitled thereto, then the expense of such appraisement shall be wholly borne and defrayed by such person or persons; and in case any such appraisement shall have been rendered necessary by any other cause than a difference of opinion as to the price to be paid for the value of such service, the expense of the appraisement shall be equally divided between such apprenticed labourer and the person or persons entitled to his services.

10. And whereas by the laws now in force in this Island, every owner, renter or possessor of slaves, belonging to or worked upon any plantation or estate, is required to provide for and allow to every family of slaves a good and comfortable house, and to provide and give to each and every such slave, according to their age, sex and condition, over and above the portion of land now by law prescribed, a weekly allowance of two pounds of salt fish, or such other provisions as may be equivalent thereto, or such other food as their ages and state of health may require, and to provide and give to each and every such slave an annual allowance of clothing, as follows; viz. six yards of cloth or pennistone, six yards of osnaburgh or other linen of equal strength or value, one hat, and a triennial allowance of one blanket; and to each slave not attached to or worked upon any plantation or estate, a weekly allowance in money or provisions equivalent to the value of two shillings sterling, and an annual allowance of one suit of clothing: And whereas it is desirable that the said respective allowances should be continued to the persons hereafter to become apprenticed labourers; Be it therefore, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that during the continuance of such apprenticeship as aforesaid, the person or persons for the time being entitled to the services of every such apprenticed labourer shall be, and is and are hereby required to supply him or her with the respective allowances of food, clothing and lodging, to the amount and of the kinds before enumerated and set forth, according to the respective age, sex and condition of such apprenticed labourer.

11. And whereas it is desirable to increase the portion of land now by law allowed to slaves in this Island, and hereafter to be allotted to apprenticed labourers; Be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that every person in this Island entitled to the service of any prædial apprenticed labourer, or his or her attorney, agent or representative, shall be and they are hereby bound and required, from and after the first day of August now next ensuing, to set apart for every such prædial apprenticed labourer, being of the age of twelve years and upwards, half an acre of land, properly adapted for the growth of provisions, and not more than three miles distant from the place of residence of such labourer; and in respect of every prædial apprenticed labourer under the said age, every such person, or his or her attorney, agent or representative, shall be and they are hereby bound and required to set apart for the father or reputed father or mother of every such infant labourer, one quarter of an acre of like ground, or if such infant labourer shall have no parent in the service of the said employer, then such quarter of an acre shall be set apart for some other apprenticed labourer, who shall be charged with the cultivation of the same for the benefit of such infant, and for the proper cultivation of such ground; and for the raising and securing the crops grown thereon, every apprenticed labourer shall, between the first day of July and the first day of December in each and every year during the term of such apprenticeship, be entitled to fourteen full working days from and out of the five-and-forty weekly working hours hereinbefore mentioned.

12. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that in all cases where the person or persons entitled to the services of such prædial apprenticed labourers shall not have sufficient land adapted for the growth of provisions, or shall prefer maintaining his, her or their said apprentices by an allowance of provisions, he, she or they shall, in lieu of the allowance of land and time aforesaid, supply to each such apprenticed labourer above the age of ten years, a weekly allowance of seven quarts of corn-meal, or five quarts of rice or flour, or twenty pounds of yams, or twenty-five pounds of sweet potatoes, or thirty pounds of full-grown plantains; and every prædial apprenticed labourer below the age of ten years shall be supplied with one-half of the before-mentioned allowance in each week, which allowance shall be delivered to the mother or guardian of every such infant apprentice.

13. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all provisions to be supplied to such apprenticed labourers, shall be sound and fit for consumption, and of good average merchantable quality; and the said weekly allowance as aforesaid shall in no case be delivered on Sunday, but shall always be delivered on the corresponding day in each successive week, unless such delivery shall be delayed by accident or other unavoidable cause.

14. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall not be lawful for any person whosoever to dispossess any such apprenticed labourer of any land to be cultivated by him or her, until such apprenticed labourer shall have had full time and opportunity for reaping and gathering in all crops by him or her planted and growing upon such ground; and the said crops, when growing upon any such ground, and when severed therefrom, shall be and are hereby declared to be the sole and absolute property of such apprenticed labourer for and in respect of whom such ground shall have been appropriated and set apart.

15. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that every apprenticed labourer, in respect of whom any ground shall be so appropriated and set apart, shall and may, by all lawful ways and means, but subject to the rules herein contained respecting the labour of such apprenticed labourers, be compelled by the person or persons entitled to, or in the

the superintendence of his or her labour, to cultivate such grounds, and any such apprenticed labourer neglecting or refusing so to do, shall be liable to the said pains and penalties as are hereinafter provided in respect of the violation by any such labourer of the duties to be by him performed in the discharge of the services owing by him by law to such his employers.

16. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any apprenticed labourer shall by wilful neglect or indolence during his or her own time, suffer his or her house or provision-grounds to fall into decay and bad order, it shall and may be lawful for the employer of such apprenticed labourer, with the sanction in writing of any special justice to be obtained upon proof before him of such neglect or indolence, to put the house or provision-ground of such apprenticed labourer into proper order for his or her comfort or support, and to deduct an equivalent quantity of labour from his or her own time, not exceeding fifteen hours in any one week.

17. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any person or persons entitled to the services of, or in superintendence of the labour of such apprenticed labourer, shall wilfully neglect or refuse to supply such apprenticed labourers with such allowance of food, clothing, lodging, and such other maintenance and allowances as hereinbefore is required, or shall not set apart for every such apprenticed labourer, who is to be maintained by the cultivation of ground, such land, of such quantity and quality, and so situated as hereinbefore is required, or shall dispossess any such apprenticed labourer of any land so allotted to, and by him or her cultivated, before such apprenticed labourer shall have had full time and opportunity for reaping and gathering in all crops by him or her planted and growing upon such ground, or shall neglect or omit to allow to any such apprenticed labourer, for and in respect of whom any ground shall be so appropriated, such portion of time in each year as aforesaid for the cultivation thereof, every person so offending shall, for each and every such offence, incur a penalty of forty shillings of lawful money of Great Britain, for every apprenticed labourer not by him or them so provided as aforesaid; and every such neglect or refusal, dispossession or eviction, shall be deemed a misdemeanor; and in case either of the special justices, on complaint made to him or them, shall deem such complaint well founded, they or either of them shall direct the law officer of the Crown to prosecute the offender for such offence in the Court of King's Bench of this Island; and the judges of the said court may order such part of the penalty recovered, as they may think fit, to be paid to and for the use of the apprentice or apprentices complaining.

18. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that on complaint of any apprenticed labourer, or upon the information or complaint of any other person or persons, that the provisions of this Act for the maintenance and support of such apprenticed labourer, have not been complied with, it shall and may be lawful to and for the special justice of the district in which such apprenticed labourer may reside, to cause and command such apprenticed labourer, or such other person or persons as such special justice may deem necessary, to be examined in the premises, to be and appear before him; and such special justice shall and may inquire into such complaint, and if necessary shall and may inspect the grounds, clothing and lodging of such apprenticed labourer, and if it shall appear on such complaint or inquiry that the provisions hereinbefore contained for the maintenance and support of such apprenticed labourer have not been complied with, then and in such case such special justice is hereby authorized and strictly required to afford redress to such apprenticed labourer without delay, and is hereby authorized and empowered to issue an order under his hand, requiring the person or persons entitled for the time being to the services of any such apprenticed labourer, to provide, furnish and give the allowances required, and hereinbefore specified, or so much and such parts thereof as to such justice in his discretion may seem meet; and every such person and persons refusing to comply with and obey such order, shall forfeit and pay a sum equivalent to twice the value of the purchase of the allowance so by him, her or them neglected or refused to be made to such apprenticed labourer for or in respect of whom such justice's order shall issue, or equivalent to twice the amount of the loss sustained by such apprenticed labourer, by every such act, omission or neglect as aforesaid.

19. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that upon every plantation or estate in this Island, to which apprenticed labourers are attached, there shall be a good and sufficient hospital, of proper size and dimensions, according to the number of apprenticed labourers on such plantation or estate, in a proper and healthy situation, for the reception and cure of all apprenticed labourers who shall complain of sickness, or meet with any accident or injury, or who shall or may, from any infirmity or other cause, require to be received therein; and the employer, manager or attorney, or person for the time being having the charge of such plantation and apprenticed labourers, are hereby respectively required and directed to keep a hospital-book, with the names of the apprenticed labourers so admitted, the dates of their admission, and also of their dismissal or death; and in which book shall be inserted, by the medical attendant of the said plantation, the nature of their complaints or diseases, prescriptions and treatment.

20. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any apprenticed labourer shall absent himself or herself from his or her employer's service without reasonable cause, for the space of one hour, or any lesser period of time, he or she shall be compelled to serve double the time he or she shall so absent himself or herself from his or her employer's service: Provided always, that such extra time shall not exceed fifteen hours in the whole in any one week.

TOBAGO.

Appendix (B.)

Apprentice allowing his house or provision-grounds to fall into decay or bad order, how to be remedied.

Neglect or refusal to supply allowances, &c. how punishable.

Penalty, how to be applied.

Special Justice, how to proceed on complaint of neglect or refusal to make proper allowances, &c. to apprentices.

Power of inspection.

To make order on person entitled to services of apprentice.

Penalty for non-compliance with order.

Upon every estate a proper hospital to be established.

Hospital-book to be kept, and medical attendant to enter nature of complaint, prescription and treatment.

Apprentice absenting himself for one hour, without reasonable cause, compelled to serve two. Not to exceed 15 in the whole in any one week.

If more than seven hours and a half, to be punished by imprisonment, &c. not exceeding four days, or stripes not exceeding ten.

If more than two days, by imprisonment, &c. not exceeding one week, or stripes not exceeding 20.

If more than six days, by imprisonment, &c. not exceeding a fortnight, or stripes not exceeding 30.

Apprenticed labourer convicted of performing work indolently, carelessly or negligently, how punishable.

Apprenticed labourer in a state of drunkenness, found fighting, or conducting himself or herself in an insolent or insubordinate manner, how punishable.

Any labourer who by negligent or careless use of fire shall endanger property of employer, or wilfully ill use cattle, &c. or by negligence expose property of employer to damage, how punishable.

Not to exempt labourer from liability to such actions or prosecutions as persons of free condition would be subject and liable to. Provided that apprenticed labourer not to be liable, both under this Act and under such general law.

Apprentice convicted of contumaciously disobeying lawful commands of employer, &c. how punishable.

Apprentice appointed to watch by night wilfully neglecting or refusing to appear, or to continue on performance of such duty, how punishable.

Apprentice sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour may be condemned to work on public roads, &c.

21. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any apprenticed labourer shall absent himself or herself from his or her employer's service, without the consent of his or her employer, for more than seven hours and a half in any one week, he or she shall, upon conviction thereof before the special justice of the district in which such apprenticed labourer shall reside, be punished by sentence of imprisonment with hard labour, or solitary confinement for any time not exceeding four days, or to any number of stripes not exceeding ten, as such special justice in his discretion shall think the offence deserves; and any apprenticed labourer who shall in like manner absent himself or herself for more than two days in any one week, shall in like manner be punished by sentence of imprisonment with hard labour, or solitary confinement for any time not exceeding one week, or to any number of stripes not exceeding twenty, as such special justice shall in his discretion think the offence deserves; and any apprenticed labourer who shall in like manner absent himself or herself for more than six days in any one week, shall be punished by sentence of imprisonment with hard labour, or solitary confinement for any time not exceeding a fortnight, or to any number of stripes not exceeding thirty, as such special justice shall in like manner think the offence deserving.

22. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any apprenticed labourer who shall be convicted before any such special justice as aforesaid of performing his or her work indolently, carelessly or negligently, shall for the first offence be adjudged to labour in his or her employer's service for any time not exceeding fifteen hours in the whole in any one week; for the second offence, to confinement with hard labour for any time not exceeding one week; and for the third or any subsequent offence, to confinement with hard labour for any time not exceeding fourteen days, with or without whipping not exceeding twenty stripes.

23. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any apprenticed labourer who shall be in a state of drunkenness, or who shall be found fighting, or who shall conduct himself or herself in an insolent or insubordinate manner towards his or her employer, or any person in the immediate superintendence of his or her labour, shall for every such offence be liable, upon conviction by such special justice as aforesaid, to imprisonment with hard labour for any time not exceeding one week, or to whipping not exceeding fifteen stripes.

24. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any labourer who by the negligent or careless use of fire shall endanger the property of his or her employer, entrusted to his or her care, or shall wilfully ill use the cattle or other live stock of his or her employer, or who shall by negligence expose his or her employer's property to any damage or injury, and be convicted thereof before any such special justice as aforesaid, shall for each and every such offence be adjudged by such special justice of the peace either to extra labour in his or her employer's service for any time not exceeding fifteen hours in the whole in any one week, or to confinement to hard labour for any time not exceeding one month, or to any number of stripes not exceeding thirty, or to any two or more of such punishments as any such special justice of the peace as aforesaid shall in his discretion think the nature of the offence may appear to require: Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall exempt any such labourer from his or her liability to any such actions or prosecutions as other persons of free condition would be subject and liable to in respect of any such acts by him or her done, committed or omitted; and provided also, that no such apprenticed labourer shall be liable to be so sued or prosecuted both under this Act and under such general laws as aforesaid.

25. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any apprenticed labourer who shall be convicted before any such special justice of having contumaciously disobeyed the lawful commands of his or her employer, or the person in the immediate superintendence of his or her labour, shall, be liable to any one or more of the punishments in the preceding clause mentioned.

26. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any apprenticed labourer appointed to watch by night by his employer, or by the person in charge of the plantation or estate to which such apprenticed labourer shall be attached, shall neglect or refuse to appear at such time and place as shall be appointed by his employer, or by the person in charge of the plantation or estate to which such apprenticed labourer shall be attached, for the performance of his said duty, or shall neglect or refuse to proceed and continue according to his directions and orders, in the regular and punctual performance of the said duty, every such apprenticed labourer so offending, who shall not prove to the satisfaction of the special justice of the district, that he was prevented by illness, or such other unavoidable accident as shall, in the judgment of the said special justice, be a sufficient excuse, shall, for every such offence, upon conviction before the said special justice, be sentenced to work for the benefit of his or her employer for three extra hours for each offence.

27. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that whenever any apprenticed labourer shall be by such special justice condemned or adjudged to imprisonment with hard labour, it shall and may be lawful for such special justice to order and direct, if he shall so think proper, that the hard labour which such apprenticed labourer so condemned and adjudged shall be liable to perform, shall be in effectually mending and repairing, widening and cleaning of the public roads, highways and streets of and within the district to which they are

are required to labour or to which they belong; and for the purposes aforesaid, such apprenticed labourer shall be formed into a penal gang, to work at such times and in such manner as such special justice shall direct and appoint.

and be formed into a penal gang.

28. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that no female apprenticed labourer within this Island shall be punished or corrected for any offence by her committed, by the flogging, whipping, scourging or beating her person; but that in all cases aforesaid, where the punishment of whipping is by this Act authorized, the same shall be understood as applying to the cases of males only, and that all the offences in respect of which such punishment may be inflicted on any male offender, shall, when committed by females, be punished by confinement to hard labour or by solitary confinement, to the extent as is hereinbefore provided for.

No female to be punished by whipping.

Offences committed by females, punishable by confinement to hard labour or by solitary confinement.

29. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that whenever by the sentence of any such special justice of the peace as aforesaid, it shall become necessary to punish any male apprenticed labourer by whipping, for any offence committed by him against the provisions of this Act, such punishment shall be inflicted on such offender with the like instrument and in like manner as is now used and practised in His Majesty's army.

Males punished by whipping, with the same instrument, and in like manner as in His Majesty's army.

30. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any person or persons in this Island entitled to or having an interest in the services of any apprenticed labourer, or any person in the immediate superintendence of his or her labour, shall, upon any pretence whatever, take upon himself or herself to inflict or cause or knowingly suffer to be inflicted on any such apprenticed labourer, any punishment by the whipping, beating, imprisonment or confinement of his or her person, or any other punishment or correction whatever, or if any such person or persons shall wantonly or cruelly cut, wound, maim or mutilate, or keep in confinement any apprenticed labourer, he, she or they shall be liable to be prosecuted for each and every such offence as aforesaid, by indictment at any court of King's Bench to be holden for this Island, and upon conviction shall be punished by fine or imprisonment, or both, at the discretion of the court before whom such offender shall be tried and convicted.

Any person inflicting any punishment on apprenticed labourer, how punishable.

31. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, that no prædial apprenticed labourer shall be compelled or bound to engage in or perform any agricultural or manufacturing labour in the said Island before the hour of six in the morning, or after the hour of six in the evening, but that, save as is hereinafter provided, all prædial apprenticed labourers shall be, and they are hereby declared to be entitled to an entire cessation and intermission of every description of work and labour from the hour of six on each evening until the hour of six in the next succeeding morning.

Hours of labour for prædial labourers.

32. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, that all prædial apprenticed labourers employed in any agricultural or manufacturing labour within the said Island shall be allowed and entitled to an entire intermission and cessation of work and labour from the hour of seven till the hour of eight in the morning, and from the hour of twelve till the hour of two in the afternoon of each and every day throughout the year, provided that the hours of intermission and cessation of labour in the case of prædial apprentices employed in any manufacturing labour may be allowed at any other period of the day, if an interval of not less than three nor more than six hours intervene between such remissions, and if the same be respectively of such duration as aforesaid.

Hours of cessation from labour.

33. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, that it shall be the duty of every such employer or person in the superintendence of the labour of any such apprenticed labourers in this Island, to intimate to the labourers in his employment the commencement and close of the hours of labour hereby established, for which purpose a signal shall be given; and such signal shall be of such a nature as to be distinctly visible or audible to the several prædial apprenticed labourers in the service of or under the superintendence of any such person or persons.

Employer to intimate by signal commencement and close of hours of labour.

34. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that no apprenticed labourer within this Island shall be compelled or compellable to labour for the benefit, profit or advantage of his or her employer, or person in the superintendence of his or her labour, or of any person or persons whatsoever, on any Sunday throughout the year, except in work of necessity, or in domestic services, or in the protection of property, or in tending of cattle; nor shall any apprenticed labourer, except as aforesaid, be liable to be hindered or prevented from attending any where on Sundays for religious worship at his or her free will or pleasure, but shall be at full liberty so to do, without any let, denial or interruption whatsoever: provided always, that no description of agricultural labour shall be deemed a work of necessity within the meaning or for the purposes of this Act, unless such labour be undertaken to prevent or remedy the effects of any fire, flood, hurricane or tempest, or other such like casualty.

No labourer compelled to work on a Sunday, except in certain cases.

35. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if the employer or person in the immediate superintendence of the labour of any prædial apprenticed labourer, shall, by force or fraud, protract the weekly services of such labourer beyond the period by this Act allowed for that purpose, he, she or they shall, upon conviction thereof before such special justice of the peace, forfeit and pay a fine of one shilling for every hour such service shall be protracted; which said fine shall be paid to such apprenticed labourer to and for his use and benefit.

Persons protracting, by force or fraud, weekly services, how punishable.

No labourer compelled to undertake task work without his own consent.

36. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that no apprenticed labourer within this Island shall be bound to undertake any task work, except with his or her own free assent to the same, save as hereinafter is excepted.

How agreement for task work to be entered into.

37. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that whenever any agreement shall be entered into between any employer of, or person in the superintendence of the labour of any apprenticed labourer, and any prædial apprenticed labourer, for the performance of any specific work as a task, and in lieu of the prescribed daily labour, or for the performance of any labour by such apprentice in extra hours, such contract shall be reduced into writing by such employer or other person, in the presence of one or more credible witness or witnesses, and entered in a book to be kept for that purpose on the plantation in which such extra labour is to be performed, and which book shall be produced and shown to the special justice of the district, whenever he may give notice to the party in whose possession it may be to produce the same.

No contract to continue in force beyond 14 days, unless with consent of Special Justice.

38. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that no contract between any such employer or other person and the prædial apprenticed labourer, for the performance by him or her of any such specific or task work, or for the performance of any labour in extra hours, shall endure or continue in force or be binding upon the parties entering into the same, or either of them, after the expiration of fourteen days from the making thereof, unless such contract shall have been made and entered into by such parties in the presence and with the approbation of such special justice of the peace, or unless having been entered into in his absence, the same shall be confirmed and approved of by him before the expiration of such fourteen days, and every such approbation of any such contract shall by such special justice be attested under his hand in the book so to be kept as aforesaid: provided always, that it shall be the duty of such special justice, before approving of any such contract, to ascertain that the terms thereof are distinctly understood by the apprenticed labourer entering into the same, and that the same had been entered into with his or her free will and consent.

Special Justice approving of contract, to ascertain terms understood by labourer.

In contracts beyond 14 days, terms to be distinctly expressed and set forth.

39. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that in every such contract for task work, or for extra service extending beyond the period of fourteen days, the nature and amount of the extra labour to be performed, and the amount of the consideration to be given for the same, and the time and manner of paying such consideration, shall be distinctly expressed and set forth: provided always, that no contract for such extra service as aforesaid shall continue in force for more than one year from the day of the date thereof.

No contract to continue in force beyond one year.

If majority of prædial labourers enter into contract for extra labour, special justice may compel the minority to join in the same.

40. And whereas it may be necessary in certain cases to provide for the acquiescence of the minority of the prædial apprenticed labourers attached to any plantation or estate, in the distribution and apportionment amongst the whole body of such labourers, of any task work or extra labour which the majority of such labourers shall be willing and desirous collectively to undertake; Be it therefore, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that whenever the majority of the prædial apprenticed labourers attached to any plantation or estate in this Island shall, with the approbation of such special justice as aforesaid, have entered into any contract with their employer, or person in superintendence of their labour, for the performance of any extra labour or task work, it shall and may be lawful for the said special justice, if required so to do, to order and direct the minority of the said apprenticed labourers to join in and perform such extra labour or task work; and if any such apprenticed labourer shall neglect or refuse to obey such order as aforesaid, he, she or they shall, upon conviction before the said special justice, be liable to the same pains and penalties as are before provided in respect of the violation by any such labourer of the duties to be by him or her performed in the discharge of the services owing by him or her by law to such his or her employer.

Upon proof of non-payment by employer of hire, special justice to order the same to be paid within a certain period, and if not paid to issue his warrant to levy the same.

41. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that upon proof being made to the satisfaction of such special justice of the non-payment by such employer or other person of the consideration stipulated for in any such contract as aforesaid, whether for task work or for extra services, it shall and may be competent for such special justice thereupon to order and direct the same to be paid within a certain period to be by him named for that purpose; and if the same shall not be paid at the time so named, then it shall and may be lawful for the said special justice to issue a warrant for levying the same, under his hand and seal, in the nature of an execution issuing out of the court of Common Pleas of the said Island, and directed to the provost-marshal or his lawful deputy, who is hereby authorized and required to execute the same at any time of the year, and shall take and receive the same fees thereon as on executions issuing out of the said court.

Apprentice violating terms of contract for task work, how punishable.

42. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any apprenticed labourer who shall violate the terms of such contract as aforesaid for task work or for extra service, shall be liable to the same pains and penalties as are before provided in respect of the violation by any such labourer of the duties to be by him or her performed in the discharge of the services owing by him or her by law to his or her employer.

Married woman and infant competent to enter into contracts.

43. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that every married woman, notwithstanding her coverture, and every child of the age of twelve years and upwards, notwithstanding his or her infancy, shall be competent to enter into such contracts as aforesaid for task work or for extra service.

44. And

44. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that this Island shall for the purposes of this Act, be divided into two or more districts, the respective extents and limits whereof shall be fixed by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief of the said Island, by and with the advice of His Majesty's Privy Council of the same, and the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief of the said Island shall appoint to each of the said districts one of the special justices to be constituted under and by virtue of the said recited Act of the Imperial Parliament, which said special justice shall reside within the district to which he shall be appointed, unless when prevented by sickness or other reasonable cause, to be allowed of by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief of the said Island.

Island to be divided in two or more districts, and one Special Justice to be appointed to each district.

45. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that such special justices shall and they are hereby required to attend and sit at their usual residences, or at some other convenient place within their said district, to be for that purpose named and appointed, at least twice in each and every week throughout the year or oftener if need be, in order to hear, investigate and determine all cases, causes and complaints that may be preferred to them; and such special justices shall cause all necessary parties to attend before them by virtue of such process, and shall proceed to hear, investigate and determine in a summary manner all such causes and complaints, according to such and the like modes of proceeding as are adopted for the investigation of criminal matters by His Majesty's justices of the peace in England.

Special justice required to sit twice in each week, to hear complaints.

46. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that every such special justice shall keep a journal of all cases, causes and complaints brought before him, in which he shall respectively enter the date of the complaint, the name of the complainant, the substance of the complaint, the names of the witnesses adduced on either side, the substance of the evidence, the decision of the case, whether the decision has been carried into effect, and any general remarks which he may think desirable, which said journal shall be kept in one uniform manner to be prescribed for that purpose by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief of the said Island.

Special Justice to keep a journal of all cases, &c. brought before him.

47. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that such special justices shall respectively, at the expiration of each and every quarter, transmit to the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief of the said Island, a duplicate of the said journal for the preceding quarter, with an affidavit thereto annexed to the effect that it has been faithfully kept, and that, with the exception of unintentional errors, it contains a true account of all the proceedings in which he the deponent has been engaged, as such special justice, during the quarter to which it refers; and the said Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief shall not be at liberty to pay or draw for the salary of the said justice for such quarter until the said duplicate shall have been actually received by him, verified as aforesaid.

Special Justice, at the expiration of every quarter to transmit a duplicate of his journal to Government, with an affidavit that the same has been regularly kept.

48. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that each of the said special justices shall once a month, or oftener if required and need be, on certain days to be by him named for that purpose, of which public notice shall be given in the Gazette of the said Island, repair to each estate or plantation situate within his district, cultivated by apprenticed labourers, then and there to take cognizance of all complaints that may be made or brought before him, and shall proceed in the investigation thereof in such and the like manner as if such complaint had been heard and determined at the residence of such special justice in manner before provided.

Each of the Special Justices to visit estate in his district once a month, or oftener if need be, to investigate complaints.

49. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that every person who shall by force or violence, menace or intimidation, or by any other unlawful means oppose or obstruct any such special justice from entering upon any plantation or estate in the said Island for the purposes aforesaid, or shall by force or menace or other unlawful means oppose or prevent any apprenticed labourer from resorting to or holding communication with any such special justice, for every such offence shall be and be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof before the court of King's Bench of the said Island shall suffer such punishment as the court in their discretion shall think the nature of the offence deserves.

Persons opposing Special Justices from entering upon estates, or preventing apprentice from resorting to Special Justice to make complaint, how punishable.

50. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that whenever any special justice shall pass sentence of confinement upon any apprenticed labourer, he may, if he shall see fit, direct that such confinement shall take place upon the plantation to which such apprenticed labourer shall belong or be then working upon.

Special Justice sentencing apprentice to be confined, may order same to take place upon estate.

51. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the special justices to be appointed for this Island, (and no other magistrate or justice of the peace) shall have, exercise and enjoy a sole and exclusive jurisdiction over, and shall solely and exclusively take cognizance of all offences committed, or alleged to have been committed by any apprenticed labourer, or by his or her employer in such their relation to each other, or of the breach, violation or neglect of any of the obligations owed by them to each other, or of any question, matter or thing incident to or arising out of the relations subsisting between such apprenticed labourers, and the persons respectively entitled to their services: provided that nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to abrogate or take away the powers by law vested in the supreme courts of record, or to the superior courts of civil and criminal justice in this Island.

Special Justice to exercise exclusive jurisdiction between apprentices and their employers.

Jurisdiction of Supreme Courts preserved.



Apprentice or employer preferring frivolous and vexatious complaints, how punishable.

52. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any apprenticed labourer shall prefer a complaint against his or her employer, which shall by such special justice be decided to be frivolous and vexatious, such apprenticed labourer so complaining shall be adjudged by such special justice to work in the service of his or her employer for any time not exceeding in the whole fifteen extra hours in any one week, and if the employer of any apprenticed labourer shall prefer a frivolous complaint against his apprentice, he, she or they shall be adjudged by such special justice to pay a fine not exceeding thirty shillings sterling for the benefit of the party aggrieved.

Apprentice or employer preferring malicious complaint, how punishable.

53. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any apprentice shall prefer a malicious complaint against his or her employer, it shall and may be competent for such special justice, at the instance of the party charged, to adjudge the complainant to imprisonment with hard labour on the tread-mill for any time not exceeding one month; and if any employer shall prefer a malicious complaint against his or her apprentice, he, she or they shall be adjudged to pay a fine not exceeding five pounds for the benefit of the party charged, which judgment shall be a bar to any suit, action or prosecution against such complainant for calumny, defamation or otherwise in respect of such his complaint.

Not lawful for gangs to leave estates to prefer complaints; and when aggrieved, to select some of their number, not exceeding one in twenty, to do so on behalf of the rest.

54. And whereas a practice hath prevailed of gangs of slaves leaving the estates to which they are attached for the purpose of preferring complaints, and such practice hath a tendency to disturb the peace of the Colony, and affords an evil example to the peaceable and well-disposed slaves; Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall not be lawful for any gang of apprenticed labourers to leave the estate to which they are attached for the purpose of preferring any complaints to any person or persons whatsoever; but in all cases where such gang may feel themselves aggrieved, they shall select some of their number, not exceeding one in every twenty, and such person or persons so selected shall apply to his, her or their employer for a pass, but in case of refusal may proceed without it, or any molestation or hindrance, to the special justice of the district, and no other person, for the purpose of laying before him any complaint, or making to him any application respecting any matter or thing cognizable by such special justice; and any person or persons who shall by force, menace or intimidation, or any other unlawful means prevent any apprenticed labourer or apprenticed labourers so selected from resorting to such special justice for any such purpose as aforesaid, or from returning to his or her place of abode after having so resorted to any such special justice, shall be deemed and considered guilty of a misdemeanor; provided such apprenticed labourer or apprenticed labourers so selected as aforesaid shall resort to and return from such special justice with due diligence and without any unnecessary loss of time; and such special justice on such complaint or application shall make diligent inquiry into the premises, and afford redress on the grievance being proved, according to the exigency of the case, and in strict conformity with the provisions of this Act; but if it shall appear to such special justice that such complaint or application is without foundation, such special justice shall adjudge the complainant or complainants, or any other apprenticed labourer or labourers that may have been the ringleaders or instigators of such groundless complaints, to work in the service of his, her or their employer, for any time not exceeding in the whole fifteen extra hours in any one week; or if it shall appear to such special justice that the alleged complaint is frivolous, vexatious or malicious, he shall adjudge such complainants or apprenticed labourers to imprisonment with hard labour for any time not exceeding one month.

Any person preventing persons so selected from resorting to Special Justice, guilty of a misdemeanor.

Apprentices to resort to and return from Special Justice with due diligence.

If complaint without foundation, ringleaders or instigators, how punishable.

Each Special Justice authorized to appoint six constables for his district.

55. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that each of the said special justices shall be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to nominate and appoint six fit and able-bodied men to act as a police force for the district to which they may be respectively appointed; which said men shall be sworn in as constables, and shall have all such powers and authorities as any constable duly appointed now has or hereafter may have by virtue of any law or statute now made or hereafter to be made, and shall carry into effect and execution all such orders and directions as they may from time to time receive from the special justice of the district to which they may be attached, for preventing and repressing all crimes and offences committed by any apprenticed labourers, and for enforcing obedience to the rules and regulations hereby established, and shall obey all such lawful commands as they may from time to time receive from the special justice of the district to which they may be attached for conducting themselves in the execution of their office.

Their duties.

Special Justices to frame rules and regulations for the government, &c. of such constables.

56. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the said special justices shall from time to time, subject to the approbation of the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Commander-in-Chief of the said Island, frame such orders and regulations as they shall deem expedient, relative to the general government of the men to be appointed under this Act; the places of their residence, the description of their arms, accoutrements and other necessaries to be furnished them, and all such other orders and regulations relative to the said police force, as the said justices shall from time to time deem expedient for preventing neglect or abuse; and either of the said justices may at any time suspend or dismiss from his employment any man belonging to the said police force whom he shall think remiss or negligent in the discharge of his duty, or otherwise unfit for the same; such suspension or dismissal nevertheless to be subject to the confirmation or disallowance of the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief of the said Island; and when any man shall be so dismissed or cease to belong to the said police force, all powers vested in him by virtue of this Act as a constable, shall immediately cease and determine.

57. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all summonses warrants, commitments or other orders, to be issued by any such special justice of the peace, in the execution of his duty as aforesaid, shall be executed by one or other of the police constables of his district: provided always, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent such special justice from addressing the same, as occasion may require, to any other constable or constables of the said Island, jointly with or instead of such police constables, as to him may seem requisite.

All summonses, warrants, &c. to be executed by police constables.

Not to prevent Special Justice from addressing the same to any other constable.

58. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any summons, warrants or orders issued by any such special justice within his district, may without any further authority be carried into execution in any part of this Island, though beyond the district of the special justice issuing the same.

Summonses, &c. to be carried into execution in any part of the Island.

59. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that no fee of office shall hereafter be levied, demanded or payable within the said Colony, upon, for, or on account, or in respect of the discharge and release of any apprenticed labourer; and if any special justice shall hereafter demand, accept or receive any fee of office for the same respectively, the special justice so offending shall incur and become liable to the payment of a fine, amounting to not less than one pound nor more than five pounds, over and above the amount of the fee so by him received.

No fee demandable for release or discharge of apprentice labourer; special justice demanding same, liable to a penalty.

60. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, that on every plantation the said special justices shall and may appoint one or more of the apprenticed labourers thereon, with the consent of the master or manager, to be constables, who shall be empowered to maintain peace and order on such plantation, under the directions of the proprietor or manager thereof, and to secure and place in confinement any apprenticed labourer who shall commit any offence on such plantation, or any apprenticed labourer not employed on such plantation, who may be found lurking thereon without the knowledge or permission of the proprietor or manager thereof; such apprentice, confined as aforesaid, not to be kept in custody longer than shall be necessary to procure the attendance of the special justice: provided always, that if the attendance of a special justice cannot be procured within twenty-four hours, it shall and may be lawful for the proprietor or manager aforesaid to order the release of such apprentice so confined as aforesaid after the expiration of twenty-four hours: provided nevertheless, that in the event of such apprentice being discharged as aforesaid, the proprietor or manager shall, and he is hereby required to prefer the complaint on which such apprentice was confined before the special justice when he shall next come upon the estate; and provided that nothing shall be construed to give to any such constable any power or authority over any of His Majesty's subjects except such apprenticed labourers.

Special Justice may appoint one or more apprenticed labourers on each plantation to act as constables, to keep order and to place in confinement any labourer committing any offence.

Apprenticed labourer not to be confined beyond 24 hours, if Special Justice cannot attend within that time.

If discharged, complaint to be preferred when Special Justice next comes on estate. Such constables not to have authority, except over apprenticed labourers.

61. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all actions and prosecutions to be commenced against any special justice in respect of any act, matter or thing by him done in pursuance of this Act, shall be commenced within six calendar months after the fact committed, and not otherwise, and notice in writing of such action, and of the cause thereof, shall be given to the defendant one calendar month at least before the commencement of the action; and in any such action the defendant may plead the general issue, and give this Act and the special matter in evidence at any trial to be had thereupon; and no plaintiff shall recover in any such action, if tender of sufficient amends shall have been made before such action brought by or on behalf of the defendant; and if a verdict shall pass for the defendant, or the plaintiff shall become nonsuit, or discontinue any such action after issue joined, or if upon demurrer or otherwise, judgment shall be given against the plaintiff, the defendant shall recover his full costs, as between attorney and client, and have the like remedy for the same as any defendant hath by law in other cases; and though a verdict shall be given for the plaintiff in any such action, such plaintiff shall not have costs against the defendant, unless the judge before whom the trial shall be, shall certify his approbation of the action, and of the verdict obtained thereupon.

All actions against Special Justice to be commenced within six months, and notice given in writing one month before commencing same.

Tender of amends.

Costs.

Judge certifying.

62. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any three or more apprenticed labourers shall unite together in any riot or tumultuous assemblage, any justice of the peace who shall be present at the same, shall give due notice to the parties there present to separate and disperse; and all parties who at the expiration of ten minutes from the said warning shall continue present at any such riotous assemblage, shall on conviction thereof before the court of King's Bench of the said Island, be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for any time not exceeding twelve months.

Any three or more apprenticed labourers committing riot, how punishable.

63. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any three or more apprenticed labourers who shall agree together to make any resistance to the lawful commands of their employers, or the person in the immediate superintendence of their labour, shall be deemed guilty of an unlawful conspiracy; and every such offender who may be convicted thereof by the court of King's Bench of the said Island, shall be adjudged to confinement with hard labour for any period not exceeding six months, with or without whipping, not exceeding thirty-nine stripes; and any three or more labourers who shall be engaged in a combined and open resistance to the lawful commands of their employer, or the person in the immediate superintendence of their labour, shall on conviction thereof before the said court as aforesaid, be adjudged to the punishment last aforesaid, or any one of them, as such court shall think the nature of the offence deserves.

Apprenticed labourers agreeing to make resistance or engaged in a combined and open resistance to lawful commands of employer, how punishable.

No apprentice to reside beyond limits of estate, without written consent of employer.

64. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that no apprenticed labourer shall from and after the said first of August now next ensuing, reside beyond the limits of the plantation or estate in which he may be then resident, unless with the authority or consent in writing of his or her employer, or the person in the immediate superintendence of his or her labour.

Apprentice found beyond limits of estate, without a written pass (except on way to or from market or church), how punishable.

65. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that every apprenticed labourer who shall or may be found beyond the limits of the plantation or estate to which he or she may respectively belong without a written pass from his or her employer, or the person in the immediate superintendence of his or her labour (except such apprenticed labourer may be on his or her way to or from market, or to or from some place of public worship), shall be liable to be apprehended and detained, and shall on conviction thereof before the special justice of the district to which he or she may belong, be adjudged to confinement with or without hard labour for any time not exceeding one week, and if a male to any number of stripes, not exceeding ten.

Person giving any document to enable an apprentice to absent himself from employer's services, how punishable.

66. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any person or persons shall grant or give any document to enable any apprenticed labourer to absent himself or herself from his or her employer's service, he or she shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be tried by the court of King's Bench of the said Island, and on conviction shall suffer such punishment, by fine or imprisonment, or both, as the court in their discretion shall think proper to inflict.

Any apprentice harbouring another, knowing him to be a runaway, or assisting so to do, how to be punished.

67. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any apprenticed labourer harbouring, receiving or concealing any other apprenticed labourer who shall have run away from his or her employer's service, knowing him or her to be a runaway, or otherwise shall assist or abet such apprenticed labourer wilfully absenting himself or herself from his or her employer's service, he, she or they shall, on conviction thereof before the special justice of the district in which he, she or they may reside, be liable to be punished by hard labour, not exceeding thirty days, or any number of stripes not exceeding thirty, or both, as the nature of the case may require.

Any person enticing an apprentice, knowing him to be runaway, how dealt with.

68. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any person other than an apprenticed labourer, shall entice away any apprenticed labourer from his or her employer's service, or shall harbour, receive or conceal any such apprenticed labourer, knowing him or her to have run away from his or her employer's service, such person shall be liable to pay to the person entitled to the services of such apprentice at and after the rate of three shillings for each and every day such apprentice shall have been so harboured, with full costs of suit to be recovered by action of debt in any court of record in the said Island.

No apprentice to quit the Island without passport from Governor.

69. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that no apprenticed labourer shall quit the said Island without a passport from the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Commander-in-Chief of the said Island, which passport shall not be granted, except the written consent of the employer of such apprenticed labourer shall be first produced to the said Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief of the said Island: provided always, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent any non-prædial apprenticed labourer, registered as a mariner at the office of the special justice of the district he belongs to, and who shall be cleared out as such at the Custom House, from quitting the said Island, in pursuance of such his usual occupation or employment.

Not to prevent apprentice, registered as a mariner, from quitting the Island.

Any apprentice, other than mariner, quitting or attempting to quit, without passport, how punishable.

70. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any apprenticed labourer other than a mariner, who shall quit or attempt to quit this Colony without such passport first obtained, shall be liable to be prosecuted for each and every such offence in the court of King's Bench to be holden for this Island, and upon conviction shall be punished by imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any time not exceeding three months, as the court in their discretion shall think the nature of the offence deserves.

All persons removing, or assisting to remove apprentice without passport, how punishable.

71. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all persons removing or assisting to remove any apprenticed labourer, other than a mariner, from this Island in any boat or vessel, without a passport first obtained from the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief of the said Island, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, on conviction thereof before the said court of King's Bench of the said Island, forfeit and pay a fine not exceeding fifty pounds, or shall be imprisoned for any time not exceeding three months: provided always, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent any person aggrieved from proceeding against such offender in a civil action for damages sustained.

Not to prevent any person aggrieved from proceeding against offender in a civil action.

Apprentices convicted of establishing themselves as a distinct community, abandoning and neglecting their duty, how punishable.

72. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any apprenticed labourers who shall or may be convicted before the court of King's Bench of the said Island, of having established themselves in any part of the said Island as a distinct community without lawful authority, habitually abandoning and neglecting to perform the duties imposed upon them by law, shall, upon conviction before the said court, be sentenced to imprisonment, with hard labour upon the tread-mill, for any time not exceeding six months; and if a male, to be punished by any number of stripes not exceeding thirty-nine; and it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief to cause such community to be dislodged, and if necessary to cause their habitations to be taken down and removed.

73. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any apprenticed labourer who shall absent himself or herself from his or her employer's service without leave for the space of seven days or upwards, shall, on conviction thereof before such special justice, be adjudged a runaway, and shall be sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour, or to solitary confinement, for a period not exceeding three months; and if a male, shall be liable to be punished by whipping, not exceeding thirty-nine stripes.

Apprentice absenting himself for seven days or upwards without leave, adjudged a runaway, how punishable.

74. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any apprenticed labourer shall, during the continuance of the term of his or her apprenticeship, wilfully absent himself or herself from the service of his or her employer, and be thereof convicted before any such special justice, and by which wilful absence the employer of such apprenticed labourer shall be deprived of such apprenticed labourer's services before his or her time of apprenticeship shall be expired, such apprenticed labourer shall, at any time or times thereafter, whenever he or she shall be found, be compelled to serve his or her employer for so long a time as his or her employer shall have been so as aforesaid deprived of his or her services, or to make satisfaction to his or her employer for the loss sustained by such deprivation of his or her services (except so far as such apprenticed labourer shall have made satisfaction for such absence, either out of such extra hours, as hereinbefore provided for, or otherwise); and in case any such apprenticed labourer shall refuse to serve as hereby required, or to make such satisfaction to his or her employer, such employer may complain upon oath to the special justice of the district wherein such employer shall then reside, and such special justice shall issue a warrant under his hand and seal for apprehending any such apprenticed labourer; and such special justice, upon hearing the complaint, may determine what satisfaction shall be made to such employer by his or her apprentice, and such apprentice shall, during the extension of the term of his or her apprenticeship as aforesaid, be subject to all such and the same rules and regulations respecting the work and labour to be by him or her done or performed, and respecting the food and other supplies to be to him or her furnished, as any other apprentice is subject and liable to by virtue of this Act.

Apprentice wilfully absenting himself from service of employer, to make satisfaction after expiration of apprenticeship term.

75. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any apprenticed labourer shall, without lawful authority, enter into and take possession of any land in this Island belonging to His Majesty or to any other person or persons, it shall and may be lawful for any special justice, and he is hereby required to dispossess such labourer from such land and from any buildings thereon erected, and to cause the same, with all crops growing thereupon, to be delivered up to the owner or owners of such land, or in case such owner shall not, within six months after such seizure, appear and prefer his claim to such land, then the said special justice shall order the crops, cattle and other goods seized thereupon to be sold, and the proceeds of such sales to be paid over to the public treasurer of the Colony for the public uses thereof: provided always, that no apprenticed labourer shall be dispossessed of any such land during the remainder of the term of his apprenticeship when he shall have been two years in the undisturbed possession thereof.

Apprentice entering into land without lawful authority to be dispossessed by Special Justice.

Not to be dispossessed when he has been two years in undisturbed possession.

76. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any apprenticed labourer taking possession of any such land shall on conviction thereof before any such special justice of the peace as aforesaid, if it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of such special justice, that such possession was taken fraudulently and with knowledge that the party had no lawful claim to the possession thereof, be liable to be sentenced to imprisonment with or without hard labour for any period not exceeding one month.

Apprentice taking possession of such land, how punishable.

77. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall not be lawful for any apprenticed labourer to keep, use or have in his or her possession any gunpowder, guns, swords, pistols or fire-arms of any description whatsoever, or any other offensive weapons, unless with the knowledge and consent of his or her employer or person in the superintendence of his or her labour; and every apprentice so offending shall, on conviction thereof before any special justice, be punished by confinement to hard labour for any time not exceeding one month, or to any number of stripes not exceeding thirty-nine, as such special justice shall order and direct; and it shall and may be lawful for the employer of or person in the superintendence of the labour of any apprenticed labourer to seize and retain any gunpowder, guns, swords, pistols or fire-arms of any description whatsoever, or any other offensive weapon unlawfully in the possession of any apprenticed labourer.

Not lawful for apprentice to have possession of gunpowder, guns, &c.

78. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all apprentices whose ordinary occupation is on the sea, or as fishermen or mariners, shall be registered as such at the office of one or other of the said special justices, and any apprenticed labourer engaging in such occupation, without being first so registered and obtaining a certificate of such registration, shall on conviction before either of the said special justices, be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for any time not exceeding three months.

All apprentices employed as fishermen or mariners to be registered as such, and how punishable if not registered.

79. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that nothing in this Act contained doth or shall extend to exempt any apprenticed labourer from, but that every apprenticed labourer shall be subject to the operation of any law or police regulation which is or shall be in force in this Colony for the prevention or punishment of any offence, such law or police regulation being in force against and applicable to all other persons of free condition.

Nothing in this Act contained to exempt apprentices from operation of any law or police regulation in force against persons of free condition.

Apprentices to hold and enjoy property of any description.

Not to authorize keeping horses, mules, cattle, sheep, hogs or goats on employer's property without consent.

Right to the services of apprenticed labourers, how to be transferred.

Labourer not to be separated from wife, &c.

How consent of Special Justice to be executed and attested for transferring service of apprentice from one estate to another.

Children below the age of six years on 1st August or from after that time may be bound out by Special Justice as apprentices to person entitled to service of mother.

Apprentice to be under age of 12 years at date of indenture.

Form of indenture of apprenticeship.

80. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be competent for any apprenticed labourer in this Island, notwithstanding such his or her apprenticeship, to purchase, acquire, possess, hold, enjoy, alienate, devise and bequeath property of any amount, or of any description, and to bring, maintain, prosecute and defend any action in any court of justice for and in respect of any such property, and to cultivate any land of which he or she may be the proprietor, with or for the growth of any description of produce; any law, usage or custom to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding: provided always, that nothing herein contained shall be construed or deemed to authorize any trespass, or to allow any prædial apprenticed labourer to turn loose or keep, in his employer's property, any horses, mares, mules, asses, cattle, sheep, hogs or goats, without the consent of his said employer being first had and obtained.

81. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the right or interest of any employer or employers to and in the services of any such apprenticed labourers as aforesaid, shall pass and be transferable by bargain and sale, contract, deed, conveyance, will, descent, in such and the like manner as the right and title of, in and to any slave or slaves in this Island would have passed or been transferable had this Act not been passed: provided that no such apprenticed labourer shall by virtue of any such bargain and sale, deed, contract, conveyance, will or descent, be subject or liable to be separated from his or her wife or husband, parent or child, or from any person or persons reputed to bear any such relation to him or her.

82. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that whenever it shall become necessary to obtain the consent of such special justice or justices of the peace as aforesaid for transferring the services of any prædial apprentice from one estate or plantation in the said Island to another plantation or estate, as is required by the provisions of the said recited Act of the Imperial Parliament, such consent shall be in such form as such special justice or justices shall think necessary for the purpose aforesaid, and shall be executed and attested by him or them in the presence of one or more credible witness or witnesses, and the same shall be entered by such special justice or justices in a book to be kept by him or them for that purpose, and the original or a certified copy of such consent shall be delivered to the person or persons seeking for and obtaining such consent.

83. And whereas it may happen that children who have not attained the age of six years on the said first day of August now next ensuing, or that children who after that day may be born to any female apprenticed labourer, may not be properly supported by their parents, and that no other person may be disposed voluntarily to undertake the support of such children, and it is necessary that provision should be made for the maintenance of such children in any such contingency; Be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any children who on the said first day of August now next ensuing hath not completed his or her sixth year, or if any child to which any female apprenticed labourer may give birth on or after the said first day of August now next ensuing shall be brought before any special justice as aforesaid, and if it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of any such special justice that any such child is unprovided with an adequate maintenance, and that such child hath not completed his or her age of twelve years, it shall and may be lawful for such justice, and he is hereby required on behalf of such child to execute an indenture of apprenticeship, thereby binding such child as an apprenticed labourer to the person or persons entitled to the services of the mother of such child, or who had been last entitled to the services of such mother, if such person or persons shall be willing to take such child as an apprentice; but in case or it shall be made to appear to such justice that the person or persons aforesaid is or are unwilling to enter into such indenture, or is or are unable or unfit so to do, and properly to perform the condition thereof, then it shall be lawful for such justice, and he is hereby required by such indenture to bind any such child to any other person or persons to be by him for that purpose approved, and who may be willing and able properly to perform such condition; and such indenture shall be respectively executed by such special justice, and the person or persons to whom any such child is about to be apprenticed, in the presence of two or more credible witnesses, and recorded in the office of such special justice, and shall be in the following form; that is to say,

" This Indenture made the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of our Lord 18 \_\_\_\_\_ between *A. B.* esquire, one of His Majesty's justices of the peace of and for the district in the Island of Tobago, by special commission duly constituted and appointed, and by virtue of the powers in that behalf authorizing and requiring me, and of all other powers in me vested, on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ a child, of the age of \_\_\_\_\_ years or thereabouts, of the one part; and *C. D.* of, &c. of the other part; Whereas the said (child) is the infant child of \_\_\_\_\_ a female prædial apprenticed labourer, attached to the plantation or estate called [name of estate] belonging to or in the possession of the said *C. D.* and situated, &c. [or, as the case may be], is the infant child of \_\_\_\_\_ a female unattached prædial apprenticed labourer, or a female non-prædial apprenticed labourer, in the employ of the said *C. D.* [or, as the case may be, in the employ of *E. F.* of, &c.]: Now this indenture witnesseth, that in consideration of the covenants hereinafter contained, and on the part and behalf of the said *C. D.* and those hereafter to claim through or under him, to be performed, kept and fulfilled, and by virtue of such power as aforesaid, the said *A. B.*, as such special justice as aforesaid, hath placed and bounden, and by these presents doth place and bind the said \_\_\_\_\_ the infant child of the said \_\_\_\_\_ unto and with the said *C. D.* his heirs and assigns, as a prædial apprenticed labourer, and to be attached to the said plantation or estate, called, &c., belonging to the said *C. D.*, as hereinbefore mentioned [or as an unattached prædial

prædial apprenticed labourer, or as a non-prædial apprenticed labourer] and as such well and truly and faithfully to serve and obey the said *C. D.*, and those hereafter to claim through or under him, and diligently attend to the business of him, the said *C. D.*, and those hereafter to claim through or under him, according to the full force, true intent and meaning of a certain statute passed in and by the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in the third and fourth years of the reign of His Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, 'An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves,' and according to the full force and effect, true intent and meaning of, and subject to the several rules and regulations respectively mentioned and contained in an Act of the legislature of this Colony, intituled, 'An Act,' [here set out the title of this Act] and bearing date, &c.; and it is hereby expressly declared by the said *A. B.* as such special justice as aforesaid, that the term of the said apprenticeship of the said the child of the said is to be and continue from henceforth until the day of which will be in the year one thousand, &c. when the said will attain his age of years, and no longer: provided nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to prevent the said *C. D.*, or those hereafter to claim through or under him, from voluntarily discharging the said from his said apprenticeship at any time before the expiration of the said term, in manner and form hereinbefore limited for the said apprenticeship, nor to prevent the said or any person on his behalf from purchasing his discharge from the said apprenticeship, according to the said statute of the third and fourth of William the Fourth, and the said Act of the day of in the case of other apprenticed labourers; and in consideration of such apprenticeship, and all benefit and advantage incident thereto, and of all and all manner of interest, profit or advantage, claim and demand to be had, gotten or derived therefrom, and of the services, obedience and duty of the said he the said *C. D.* doth hereby for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators, covenant, promise and agree with and to the said *A. B.*, as such special justice as aforesaid and his successors in office for the time being, in manner following; that is to say, that the said *C. D.* his heirs and assigns, or those hereafter to claim through or under him, shall and will during the continuance of the said apprenticeship of the said well and truly and punctually find, provide and supply, at the costs and charges of him the said *C. D.*, and of those hereafter to claim through or under him, to and for the said as such apprenticed labourer, such amount, quantity and quality of food, clothing, lodging, medicines, medical attendance and such other maintenance and allowances as are in and by the said Act of the day of expressly required and expressed; and also shall and will afford, grant and allow reasonable and sufficient time, and every fit and adequate opportunity for the moral and religious instruction and education of the said during the continuance of the said apprenticeship term. In witness," &c.

TOBAGO.  
Appendix (B.)  
Colonial Laws.  
No. 50.

84. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that no apprenticed labourer during such the time of his apprenticeship as aforesaid, shall be qualified to serve in the militia of this Island, or be compelled or competent to hold any office civil or military in this Island, in the service of His Majesty, his heirs and successors, or possess or enjoy any political franchise within the said Island, nor shall any apprenticed labourer be liable to be arrested or taken in execution or detained in prison, or in any other confinement upon any process issuing out of any court of law of this Island in any civil action against any such apprenticed labourer, or in any civil proceeding depending in any such court to which any apprenticed labourer may be a party, any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding: provided always, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to exempt any apprenticed labourer from serving in any civil or military capacity when called upon so to do by orders of the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief of the said Island in the event of invasion, rebellion, or any public disturbance, or to serve as a constable on the estate to which he or they may be attached when appointed so to do by the said special justice, according to the provisions in the 60th clause of this Act.

Apprenticed labourer, during term of apprenticeship, not qualified to serve in militia, &c. or liable to be arrested or taken in execution on civil process.

85. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that for the purposes of this present Act the word employer shall be deemed to comprehend, and be a sufficient legal description of the person having the chief superintendence for the time being of the labour of any apprenticed labourers, whether such person having the superintendence for the time being as aforesaid, shall be the master, agent, attorney, manager, overseer or director of such apprenticed labourer.

Not to exempt him from serving in case of invasion, rebellion, or public disturbance, or as constable on the estate to which he is attached.

Word Employer defined.

86. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that whenever this Act hath used words importing the singular number or the masculine gender only, it shall be understood to include several matters as well as one matter, and several persons as well as one person, and females as well as males, unless it be otherwise specially provided, or there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction.

Rule of interpretation when word importing singular number or masculine gender used.

87. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that within the meaning and for the purposes of this Act, every person who for the time being shall be in the lawful administration of the government of this Colony shall be taken to be the Governor thereof.

Word Governor defined.

Persons swearing falsely,  
how punishable.

88. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any person or persons shall wilfully swear falsely touching any of the matters or things required by this Act, or if any person shall procure any other person or persons to make such false oath, then and in those cases such person or persons shall be liable to the pains and penalties to which persons are subject for the offence of wilful and corrupt perjury, or subornation of perjury, by the common or statute law of England.

Fines imposed by this  
Act, how recovered and  
levied.

89. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that in default of payment of any fine imposed upon any employer by this Act, the same shall be recovered and levied on the goods and chattels of the defaulter by warrant of distress under the hand and seal of the special justice of the district in which such fine may be incurred, and when not otherwise directed shall be paid into the public treasury for the uses of the Colony.

Act not to come into  
operation till His Ma-  
jesty's pleasure is known.

90. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that this Act or any thing herein contained shall not come into operation, or be of any force or effect until His Majesty's pleasure therein shall be duly signified and proclaimed in this Colony.

— No. 51. —

No. 51.

Tobago.

AN ACT to amend an Act, intituled, "An Act to carry into effect the Provisions of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, 'An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves,'" and to repeal certain Clauses of an Act, commonly called "the Slave Act," passed on or about the 15th day of August 1829; and to substitute other Clauses in this Act in lieu thereof.—(Passed 29 May 1834.)

Preamble.

WHEREAS by an Act of the Legislature of this Island, intituled, "An Act to carry into effect the Provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, 'An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves,'" passed on or about the 2d day of May now last past, it was by the 90th clause thereof enacted, that the effect and operation of the said Act should be suspended until His Majesty should declare and make known his royal pleasure and assent thereto: And whereas his Excellency Major-General Sir Lionel Smith, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the said Island, has been pleased to observe, that the provisions in the said Bill are so closely in accordance with the Act of the British Legislature, that there appeared scarcely any object in retaining the said clause, and has therefore suggested to the Legislature the advantage of expunging the same, so as to allow the Act to come into operation on the 1st day of August next, even if His Majesty's confirmation should not be by that time received: And whereas the Legislature of this Island are desirous of complying with the suggestion of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief: And whereas it is expedient that the power of inflicting punishment of slaves should be wholly transferred to the magistracy of the said Island; We therefore, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, his Excellency Major-General Henry Charles Darling, Lieutenant-Governor in and over the Island of Tobago and its dependencies, the Council and General Assembly of the same, do humbly pray your most Excellent Majesty, that it may be enacted, and be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the said 90th clause of the above-recited Act shall be and the same is hereby repealed, and that in lieu thereof the said recited Act shall commence and have operation and effect from and after the 1st day of August in the present year, any thing therein contained to the contrary hereof in anywise notwithstanding.

90th clause of the Abolition Act repealed, and the same to come into operation on the 1st August.

250 copies of Abolition Act to be printed.

2. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that 250 copies of the said recited Act shall be printed at the public expense, for the use of the Legislature, the courts of law, and for distribution to the public.

20th and 21st clauses of Slave Act repealed.

After 1st of June, no owner, &c. to punish any slave for any offence.

3. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the 20th and 21st clauses of the before-recited Act, commonly called "the Slave Act," shall be and they are hereby totally abrogated and annulled; and from and after the 1st day of June now next ensuing, it shall not be lawful for any owner, renter, possessor or employer, or person or persons in charge of any slave or slaves in this Island, to punish any such slave or slaves for any offence by him or her committed, by the whipping, beating or imprisonment of his or her person, or by any other personal or other correction or punishment whatever, under the penalty of 5*l.* for each and every offence; which said penalty shall be recovered on the oath of one or more credible witnesses before any two justices of the peace of the said Island, who shall be and are hereby authorized to issue a warrant, under their hands and seals, for levying the same, which fine shall be paid into the public treasury for the public uses of the Colony; any thing in any law, usage or custom in this Colony to the contrary hereof notwithstanding.

Penalty of 5*l.* to be recovered before any two justices of the peace.

Slaves guilty of indolence, neglect or improper performance of work, &c. to be punished by two next nearest justices of the peace.

4. And whereas it is necessary that regulations should be provided for the maintenance of good order and discipline among such slave or slaves, and for the prevention and punishment of indolence or the neglect or improper performance of work by any such slave or slaves, and for the prevention and punishment of insolence and insubordination on the part of such slave

slave or slaves towards their owners, masters or employers; Be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that from and after the 1st day of June now next ensuing, that whenever any slave or slaves shall be guilty of any or either of the aforesaid offences, he or they shall be carried before two of the next nearest justices assigned to keep the peace in the said Island, who shall proceed to hear and determine the same in a summary manner on oath, and shall, on conviction thereof, award and sentence such slave or slaves to such punishment, by whipping, imprisonment and hard labour, as they shall think the nature of the case deserves: provided always, that such punishment shall not exceed thirty days' imprisonment, with or without hard labour, or thirty-nine stripes: provided always, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent any person or persons from keeping in confinement any slave or slaves who may have committed any of the offences hereinbefore enumerated, until his or her case can be adjudicated by such justices aforesaid.

TOBAGO.

Appendix (B.)

Such punishment not to exceed 30 days' imprisonment with or without hard labour, or 39 stripes.

Not to prevent keeping slaves in confinement until his case can be adjudicated.

— No. 52. —

Tobago.

No. 52.

“AN ACT to establish certain Ruls and Regulations for the Classification of those Persons hereafter to become Apprenticed Labourers, and for ascertaining to which Class they shall respectively belong.”—(Passed 15 July 1834).

WHEREAS by an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, “An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves,” passed on or about the 28th day of August now last past, it is amongst other things enacted, that all persons who should by force and virtue of the said recited Act become apprenticed labourers, should, for the purposes therein mentioned, be divided into three distinct classes, and that such division should be carried into effect in such manner and form, and subject to such rules and regulations, as should for that purpose be established under such authority, and in and by such acts of assembly, ordinances, or orders in Council, as thereafter mentioned: And whereas it is desirable that the necessary rules and regulations for the classification of the said apprenticed labourers should be established by the legislature of this Colony;

Preamble.

We therefore, Your Majesty's most dutiful loyal subjects, his Excellency Major-General Henry Charles Darling, Lieutenant-Governor in and over the Island of Tobago and its dependencies, the Council and General Assembly of the same, do humbly pray Your most Excellent Majesty, that it may be enacted, And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the said Lieutenant-Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the said Council and General Assembly of the same, in Session assembled, and by the authority of the same, That all persons who by force and virtue of the said recited Act, or of any Acts of the Legislature of this Island, shall, on the 1st day of August now ensuing, cease to be slaves, and be freed and discharged of and from the obligations of slavery, shall be called and styled apprenticed labourers, and shall be divided into three distinct classes: the first of such class to consist of prædial apprenticed labourers attached to the soil, and comprising all persons who in their state of slavery are now employed or worked upon any plantation or plantations in this Colony belonging to persons entitled to their services; the second of such classes to consist of prædial apprenticed labourers not attached to the soil, and comprising all persons who, in their state of slavery, are employed or worked in agricultural labour upon any plantation or land in this Colony not belonging to persons entitled to their services; and the third of such classes to consist of non-prædial apprenticed labourers, and comprising all apprenticed labourers not included within either of the two preceding classes: Provided always, that no person of the age of twelve years and upwards shall be included in either of the said two classes of prædial apprenticed labourers, unless such person shall for twelve calendar months at least next before the passing of the said recited Act have been habitually employed or worked upon any such plantation or lands as aforesaid: And provided always, that no person or persons who shall become freed and discharged of and from the obligations of slavery by force and virtue of the third clause of the said recited Act of the Imperial Parliament, or by the first clause of the Act of the Legislature of this Island, intituled, “An Act to carry into effect the provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, ‘An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves,’” shall be so styled apprenticed labourers, or be included in either of the said three clauses.

All persons ceasing to be slaves on the 1st August to be styled apprenticed labourers, and to be divided into three distinct classes. First class to be called prædial attached.

Second class to be called prædial unattached.

Third class to be called non-prædial.

No apprenticed labourer of the age of 12 years and upwards to be included in either of the two first classes, unless employed on plantation or land 12 months prior to the passing of the said Act.

No person being released from slavery by the third clause of the Imperial Act, or by the first clause of the Act of the Legislature, to be called apprenticed labourers.

2. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that on the first day of August now next ensuing, or within thirty days thereafter, every person entitled to the services of any apprenticed labourer in this Island, or in the event of his being absent from this Island, then the acting attorney, manager, or other representative of such person or persons, shall respectively make out and deliver on oath to the person now officiating as registrar of slaves for this Island, a schedule or list in writing, subscribed by him, her or them, containing a true and correct list of the names of all apprenticed labourers in his or her service or employ, being of the age of six years or upwards; and shall specify in such schedule or list the ordinary occupation or employment of such apprenticed labourers, and shall distinguish, in reference to each of such apprenticed labourer therein mentioned, to which of the

All persons entitled to the services of any apprenticed labourer on the 1st August 1834, or within 30 days after, to make a return on oath to the person officiating as registrar of slaves of the number he, she or they may possess.

said



## TOBAGO.

Blank forms to be provided at the public expense.

Person making return to deliver the same to the registrar.

Oath.

Registrar doubting the accuracy of any return made to him, to give notice to party making such return, and to summon the same before him.

Persons summoned to bring with them apprenticed labourer, respecting whom any doubt may have arisen, to be examined on oath.

Examination to be adjourned, if necessary.

Persons dissatisfied with decision of registrar to apply by petition to the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

Said Governor or Lieutenant-Governor, with advice of his Council, to make order thereon.

Corrected list or schedule to be entered by the registrar in books kept for that purpose.

Doubts arising as to which class an apprenticed labourer may belong, to be settled by reference to registrar's books. Evidence of the same to be conclusive.

Persons neglecting to deliver such schedule, or wilfully omitting the name of any apprenticed labourer, or refusing to appear before the registrar, when summoned, to be liable to a penalty of 5*l.*

said foregoing classes he, she or they respectively belong; and public notice shall be given by the said registrar, in such manner as to him shall seem most effectual, of the time and place of giving in the said return; and for the better ascertaining the proper form of such schedule or list as is hereby required to be made, so that no person may pretend ignorance thereof, forms of such schedule or list are contained in the schedule to this Act annexed, marked (A.) and (B.), to which all persons are required, as far as shall be found practicable, to conform; and printed blank copies of the said forms shall accordingly be provided at the public expense by the said registrar, and delivered, gratis, to all persons applying for the same.

3. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that every person making and subscribing such schedule or list, shall personally deliver the same to the registrar, and shall at the same time take the following oath, which the said registrar is hereby empowered to administer; (to wit)

" I, *A. B.*, do solemnly swear, that the contents of the schedule or list now by me delivered are true, and that the same contains, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a true and correct account of the usual occupation and employment of each of the apprenticed labourers therein mentioned and set forth. So help me God."

4. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if the said registrar shall see cause to doubt the correctness of the said schedule or list, he shall give notice thereof in writing to the party or parties making and delivering such schedule or list, and require him, her or them to appear before him the said registrar at his office in Scarborough, and at such time as he may thereby appoint, to substantiate the accuracy of such schedule or list; and the person or persons to which such notice shall be addressed and given, shall at the time and place therein named attend before the said registrar, and if required shall bring with him any apprenticed labourer respecting whom such doubt as aforesaid may have arisen; and the said registrar shall then proceed to examine on oath if necessary (which oath he the said registrar is hereby empowered to administer), the person and persons making and delivering such schedule or list, and the apprenticed labourer respecting whom such doubt as aforesaid has arisen; and any witness and witnesses who may be adduced by either party respecting the truth of such schedule or list, and shall, if necessary, adjourn such examination from time to time and place to place as he shall think fit; and the said registrar, after due examination, shall either confirm or correct any such schedule or list as he may see fit, giving notice thereof in writing to the parties making and delivering such schedule or list, and to the apprenticed labourer respectively, regarding whom such doubt has arisen of such his decision thereon.

5. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if either the party or parties making and delivering such schedule or lists, or the apprenticed labourer or apprenticed labourers to whom it may refer, shall be dissatisfied with the decision of the said registrar, such party or parties shall and may on his, her or their behalf, and any other person or persons shall and may on behalf of such apprenticed labourer or apprenticed labourers apply by petition to the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief of the said Island, setting forth the nature of such decision of the said registrar, and objection or objections thereto, and praying relief in the premises; and the said Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief in Council, by and with the advice of his Council, shall thereupon proceed in a summary manner to examine the matter of such petition, and, with the advice of his Council, to make such order thereupon as shall seem just and proper; which order shall be final and conclusive upon the parties.

6. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that as soon as any such schedule or list shall have been duly made and received by the registrar, or as soon as the same shall have been duly corrected as aforesaid, the same shall be by the said registrar, his clerks or assistants, entered and copied in a fair, distinct and legible manner, in a book or set of books to be by the said registrar provided and kept for that purpose.

7. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that whenever any question shall arise respecting the class to which such apprenticed labourer belongs, the certificate of such registrar, by him subscribed, and the copies and extracts from the said books of the registration of such apprenticed labourer shall be received and taken as conclusive evidence of the matter so certified, and the said registrar shall be entitled to demand and receive for every such certified copy or extract the sum of 1*s.* 6*d.* sterling, if the said copy or extract shall not exceed or relate to above the number of 20 apprenticed labourers additional, and every person or persons shall have free access to the said office to examine the said schedules or lists, and the book or books of registry in the said office, on paying the registrar 4*s.* sterling for every search.

8. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any person or persons shall wilfully neglect and refuse to make and deliver such schedule or list required by this Act, or in making any such schedule or list, shall wilfully neglect and omit to return in such schedule or list the name of any apprenticed labourer or labourers, which by this Act they are required to return, or if any person or persons shall wilfully neglect or refuse to attend the said registrar to substantiate any such schedule or list, when summoned by him for that purpose, he, she or they shall forfeit for every such apprenticed labourer, so wilfully neglected or omitted as aforesaid, and for every such wilful neglect to attend as aforesaid, the sum of 5*l.* of lawful money of Great Britain, to be applied to the public

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uses of the Colony, which said penalty shall be levied by warrant under the hand and seal of the said registrar, directed to the provost marshal of the said Island, or his lawful deputy, in the nature of an execution issuing out of the court of Common Pleas of the said Island, who is hereby required to execute the same at any time of the year; and it shall and may be lawful for the said registrar, in the event of the wilful absence of any such person or persons, after having been duly summoned as aforesaid, to proceed and decide any such question that may arise respecting the correctness of any such schedule or list so to be made and delivered, as though the party or parties had attended before him.

Same to be levied by warrant to be directed to provost marshal.

Registrar to decide any question when parties summoned do not appear.

9. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any person entitled to the services of any apprenticed labourer within this Colony shall have omitted to make his, her or their return within the time hereinbefore for that purpose limited; and if such person entitled to the services of any apprenticed labourer shall, within six months next after the expiration of the period aforesaid, apply to the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief of the said Island in Council, and make it appear to his satisfaction that such omission was not wilful, but arose from accident or some unavoidable impediment from the neglect of some person or persons, other than the true and absolute owner, planter or possessor of the said slave or slaves, and shall then produce his, her or their schedule or list, and make oath before the said Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief in Council, of the correctness of the same, it shall and may be lawful for the said Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief in Council, to make an order in writing, by him subscribed, and addressed to the said registrar, commanding him to receive and register any such schedule or list, as if the same had been delivered in due time, which order the said registrar is hereby required to obey.

Persons omitting to make return within the time limited, to apply to Governor or Lieutenant-Governor in Council within six months after the time limited.

Governor or Lieutenant-Governor in Council to allow persons to make return as of due date, and registrar to receive the same.

10. And whereas upon the said 1st day of August now next ensuing, when slavery is to cease in this Island, the office of registrar of slaves will cease to exist, unless continued for a certain time for the purposes of this Act; Be it therefore, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that upon, from and after the said 1st day of August now next ensuing, the person who, on the 31st day of July, shall be the registrar of slaves within this Colony, shall, at the like rate of salary he now enjoys, continue to hold the office of registrar, for the purposes of receiving such transcripts as aforesaid, and of entering the same into such books as aforesaid, and for other the purposes hereinbefore required, until the 1st day of August, which will be in the year 1835, and no longer.

Person acting as registrar of slaves, on 31st July 1834, to continue for the space of one year from that date.

11. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any person or persons taking any oath required by this Act shall swear falsely, or if any person shall procure any other person or persons to make such false oath, then and in those cases such person or persons shall be liable to the pains and penalties to which persons are subject for the offence of wilful and corrupt perjury, or subornation of perjury, by the common or statute law of England.

Persons swearing falsely, how punishable.

12. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that from and after the 1st day of August in the present year 1834, the Act, intituled, "An Act to establish a Public Registry of all Slaves in the Colony of Tobago," and passed on or about the 8th day of February 1817; and also an Act, intituled, "An Act to amend an Act, intituled, 'An Act to establish a Public Registry of all Slaves in the Colony of Tobago,'" and passed on or about the 4th August 1818, shall be and the same are hereby respectively repealed, abrogated and annulled.

Act for the registering of slaves, passed in 1817, and amended Act, passed in 1818, repealed.

13. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that this Act shall commence and come into operation on the first day of August now next ensuing.

Act to come into operation 1st August 1834.

14. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that 250 copies of this Act be printed at the public expense, for the use of the Legislature and the public.

250 copies to be printed for the use of the public.

SCHEDULE (A.)

Tobago, 1st August 1834.

THE RETURN of *A. B.* for the Plantation of *C. D.*, in the parish of Saint \_\_\_\_\_, for the total number of all Apprenticed Labourers of the age of six years and upwards, usually worked or employed thereon or attached thereto.

NAMES.		Employment.	Prædial Attached.	REMARKS.
Males.	Females.			

Sworn before me, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of August 1834, }  
 to be a true and distinct account, according to the } (signed) *A. B.*  
 Act in such case made and provided. }  
 (signed) *H. Y.*, Registrar.

TOBAGO.

SCHEDULE (B.)

Tobago, 1st August 1834.

Appendix (B.)  
Colonial Laws.  
No. 52.

THE RETURN of *A. B.*, of the town of, or of the parish of *C. D.*, of the total number of all prædial unattached Labourers, or non-prædial Labourers, of the age of six years and upwards [as the case may be] to whose services he, she or they may be entitled [as the same may be.]

NAMES.		Employment.	Prædial attached.	Non-Prædial.	REMARKS.
Males.	Females.				

Sworn to before me, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of August 1834,  
to be a true and distinct account, according to the Act }  
in such case made and provided. (signed) *A. B.*  
(signed) *H. Y.*, Registrar.

No. 53.

Tobago.

— No. 53. —

AN ACT to authorize the temporary appointment of Special Magistrates, for the purpose of giving effect to the Provisions of an Act of the Legislature of this Island, intituled, "An Act to carry into effect the Provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, 'An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves.'"—(Passed 29 July 1834.)

Preamble.

WHEREAS by an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves," it is amongst other things enacted, that it should and might be lawful to His Majesty to issue, or to authorize the Governor of any such Colony, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, to issue under the public seal of any such Colony, one or more special commission or commissions to any one or more person or persons, constituting him or them a justice or justices of the peace for the whole of any such Colony, or for any parish, precinct, quarter or other district within the same, for the special purpose of giving effect to that present Act, and to any laws which might, in manner thereafter mentioned, be made for giving more complete effect to the same: And whereas by the forty-fourth clause of an Act of the Legislature of this Island, intituled, "An Act to carry into effect the Provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled, 'An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves,'" it is enacted, that this Island should, for the purposes of that Act, be divided into two or more districts, the respective extents and limits whereof should be fixed by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief of the said Island, by and with the advice of His Majesty's Privy Council of the same; and the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief of the said Island should appoint to each of the said districts one of the special justices, to be constituted under and by virtue of the said recited Act of the Imperial Parliament, which said justice should reside within the district to which he should be appointed, unless when prevented by sickness or other reasonable cause, to be allowed of by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief of the said Island: And whereas his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of this Island has not yet received any notification of the appointment of any special magistrates for this Island, nor has his Excellency been authorized to issue a special commission to any person or persons in this Island, for the special purpose of giving effect to the said recited Acts: And whereas it is absolutely expedient and necessary, as well to secure the peace and tranquillity of the Island as to give full and ample effect to the provisions of the said recited Acts, that some persons in the said Island should be temporarily appointed to perform the duties attached to the situation of special magistrate:

And whereas doubts have arisen whether his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor can legally make any such appointments, and in order to remove such doubts, we, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, his Excellency Major-General Henry Charles Darling, Lieutenant-Governor in and over the Island of Tobago and its dependencies, the Council and General Assembly of the same, do humbly pray your most Excellent Majesty that it may be enacted; And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the said Lieutenant-Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the said Council and General Assembly, in Session assembled, and by the authority of the same, that from and immediately after the passing of this Act, it shall and may be lawful for his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of this Island,

That it may be lawful for his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to issue, under the public seal, one or more com-

Island, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, to issue under the public seal of this Island, one or more special commission or commissions to any one or more person or persons in the said Island, constituting him or them, until the arrival of the persons nominated or to be nominated special justices as aforesaid, a justice or justices of the peace for the whole of the said Island, or for any parish, precinct, quarter or other district within the said Island, for the special purpose of giving effect to the provisions of the before-mentioned Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and of the Legislature of this Island, and to any laws which may hereafter be passed for giving more complete effect to the said Acts respectively.

2. And be it, and it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that every person to or in favour of whom any such commission may be issued, shall, by force and virtue thereof, and without any other qualification, be competent to act as a justice of the peace within the limits prescribed by such his commission, for such special purpose as aforesaid, and shall have, exercise and enjoy the same powers, privileges and authorities as he or they could or might have exercised and enjoyed had he or they been appointed under the immediate authority of His Majesty, under and by virtue of the said Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and of the Legislature of this Island; any thing in the said Acts, or either of them, to the contrary hereof in anywise notwithstanding.

3. And be it, and it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the said commission or commissions, so to be issued as aforesaid, shall endure and continue during the pleasure of His Majesty, and no longer.

mission or commissions to any one or more person or persons in this Island, to act as special magistrates until the arrival of the person or persons appointed by His Majesty.

Every person to whom such commission may be issued, to act as a justice, shall have, exercise and enjoy the same powers and authorities as he or they could or might under the immediate authority of His Majesty.

Commission so issued to continue during the pleasure of His Majesty.

## TRINIDAD.

TRINIDAD.

Trinidad.

—No. 54.—

No. 54.

AN ORDINANCE, enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor of Trinidad, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government thereof, for the purpose of carrying into effect the division of Apprenticed Labourers into classes, as prescribed and required by an Act of the Imperial Parliament, passed on the 28th of August 1833, for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies.

(L. s.) G. F. HILL.

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the 3d and 4th years of His Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves," it was among other things enacted, that from and after the 1st day of August 1834, all persons who in conformity with the laws then in force in His Majesty's Colonies respectively, should on or before the 1st day August 1834 have been duly registered as slaves in any such Colony, and who on the said 1st day of August 1834 should be actually within any such Colony, and who should by such registries appear to be on the said 1st day of August 1834 of the full age of six years or upwards, should by force and virtue of the said Act, become and be apprenticed labourers, and that all such apprenticed labourers should be divided into three classes, the first of such classes consisting of prædial apprenticed labourers attached to the soil, and comprising all persons who, in their state of slavery, were usually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce, or otherwise upon lands belonging to their owners; the second of such classes consisting of prædial apprenticed labourers not attached to the soil, and comprising all persons who, in their state of slavery, were usually employed in agriculture, or in the manufacture of colonial produce, or otherwise upon lands not belonging to their owners; and the third of such classes consisting of non-prædial apprenticed labourers, and comprising all apprenticed labourers not included within either of the two preceding classes; and that such division should be carried into effect in such manner and form, and subject to such rules and regulations, as should by any Ordinance or Order in Council for that purpose be established and made.

3 & 4 Will. IV. cap. 72.

1. Be it therefore, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by his Excellency the Right honourable Sir George Fitzgerald Hill, baronet, colonel of the Londonderry regiment of militia, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the said Island and its dependencies, by and with the advice and consent of the Council of Government thereof, and by the authority of the same, that for the purposes aforesaid every person who shall at any time between the 1st and the 31st day of January 1834, be resident in the said Island, and who shall be in possession of any plantation slave or slaves within the said Island or its dependencies, whether as proprietor, mortgagee, trustee or receiver, manager or attorney, whatever their title trust or interest therein may be, or who then shall own or possess any slave or slaves whatsoever within the said Island or its dependencies, whatever his or her tenure of or title to the same may be, shall respectively make and deliver upon oath to the registrar of slaves of the said Island, at his office in the town of Port of Spain, true and correct lists or returns in writing and in duplicate in the form hereto annexed, marked (A.), subscribed by him, her or them, containing the registered names of each and every slave in his, her or their possession, or under his, her or their control, management or direction, at the time of delivering such list or return; and such person or persons shall distinguish in such lists or returns to which of the before-described classes each slave when an apprenticed labourer will belong, and for this purpose shall place against and opposite to the name of each prædial attached slave

Every owner of slaves shall, between the 1st and 31st January 1834, deliver upon oath to the registrar of slaves a return in duplicate, in the form annexed, of all slaves in his possession, distinguishing in such return to which class each slave, when an apprenticed labourer, will belong, and shall place opposite to the name of each prædial attached slave, P. A.; of each prædial unattached, P. U.; and of each non-prædial slave, N. P.

## TRINIDAD.

slave the letters P. A., of each prædial unattached slave the letters P. U., and of each non-prædial slave the letters N. P.

Every person making such return to take the following oath:

2. And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that every person making or subscribing such returns or lists shall personally deliver the same either to the said registrar or to some other person that shall by him be appointed and deputed to receive such lists or returns, and shall at the same time take the following oath, which the said registrar, or any person to be by him appointed and deputed as aforesaid, is hereby empowered and required to administer; (that is to say)

Form of oath.

" I, A. B. [name the deponent] do solemnly swear, that the list or return now by me delivered contains, as I verily believe, a just, true and full account of the names and numbers of all the slaves now attached or belonging to or worked upon the plantation therein named [or belonging to the owner or owners therein named,] and I do further swear that the slaves therein named are now alive, and that the letters set opposite and against the respective names of the said slaves denote the class to which each individual belongs, and that the distinctions therein made of all slaves above the age of twelve years correspond with the occupations usually pursued for twelve months next preceding the 28th day of August 1833 by each slave therein named, and that the said list or return is made by me according to the best of my knowledge and belief truly and without fraud, deceit or evasion. So help me God."

And any person who shall be convicted of swearing falsely shall incur and suffer such punishment as by the laws in force in this Colony may be inflicted on any person guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury.

Registrar to compare returns, and if in any case he shall see cause to doubt the accuracy of the return, to appoint a time and place at which the owner shall attend him to substantiate the accuracy of such return.

3. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the said registrar, on the receipt of such lists or returns, shall proceed to correct the same, and shall carefully compare such lists or returns with the former registries of the slaves named therein; and in case the registrar shall see cause to doubt the accuracy of any such return or list, he shall and he is hereby authorized to appoint a time and place, and to require the owner or owners or other party or parties making any such return or list to attend before him to substantiate the accuracy of such return or list; and at the time and place so to be appointed, the person to whom such notice as aforesaid shall be given and addressed, shall attend before the said registrar, and, if required, shall produce any slave respecting whom any such doubt may have arisen, and thereupon the said registrar shall proceed without delay to examine on oath the person making such list or return, and the slave respecting whom any doubt has arisen, and any witnesses who may be adduced on either side, respecting the truth of such return or list; and the said registrar may adjourn such examination from time to time; and the said registrar shall and he is hereby authorized to confirm or to correct such return or list as to him shall seem fit, giving notice thereof to the party making such return, and to the slaves, respectively, of such his decision.

Registrar to examine the owner and the slave and witnesses, and to confirm or correct such return, giving notice to the owner and the slave of such his decision.

Either party, if dissatisfied with the registrar's decision, may apply to Judge of Court of First Instance by petition, and the Judge shall hear and determine.

4. And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that in case the party making such return, or the slave or slaves to whom it may refer, shall be dissatisfied with the decision of the registrar, such party may on his own behalf, and the registrar may on the behalf of such slave, apply to the chief, or any other judge of the Court of First Instance of Civil Jurisdiction in such Colony, by petition, setting forth the nature of such decision and the objections thereto, and the judge to whom any such petition may be preferred shall proceed in a summary way to hear and to decide upon the same, and his decision shall be final and conclusive.

Judges of the Court of First Instance to make all necessary rules.

5. And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the judges of the said court of First Instance of Civil Jurisdiction shall, and they are hereby authorized to make and establish all necessary rules for regulating the proceedings upon every such petition as aforesaid, in the manner which may be most conducive to method, punctuality and despatch.

When return confirmed or corrected, registrar to affix in the book of registry, to the name of each prædial attached, the letters P. A.; of each prædial unattached, the letters P. U.; and of each non-prædial, N. P.

6. And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that when and so soon as any return or list shall be confirmed or corrected by virtue of the proceedings aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the registrar of slaves to affix or to cause to be affixed in the books of slave registry, to the entry of the name of each slave duly returned for registration in the year 1834, the initials or letters corresponding to the class to which each slave shall by such list or return appear to belong; that is to say, there shall be affixed to the entry of the name of each prædial attached slave, the letters P. A.; of each prædial unattached slave, the letters P. U.; and of each non-prædial slave, the letters N. P.

When entries made in books of registry, registrar to subscribe lists with his name, to retain one of such lists to be deposited among the Records of the Court of First Instance, and to return the other to the Person making such lists.

7. And it is hereby further enacted, that so soon as such entries as aforesaid shall have been duly made in the said books of registry, and shall have been duly compared by and corrected with the said lists, the registrar shall and he is hereby required to subscribe such lists with his name, and to retain one of such lists to be deposited among the records of the Court of First Instance of Civil Jurisdiction, and the other list shall be given and returned to any person or persons making such lists or returns.

When registry corrected, registrar to verify the correctness thereof before the Governor.

8. And it is hereby further enacted, that when the slave registry shall have been so corrected as aforesaid, the registrar shall verify upon oath before the Governor for the time being that he has duly and accurately compared the several lists and returns made into his office, under the provisions of this Ordinance, with the books of registry in his office, and that the said

## SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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said books of registry contain a true and faithful record of all those matters and things required by this Ordinance to be done and performed, according to the best of his knowledge and belief.

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9. And it is hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that on or before the 31st day of July 1834, the slave registry so corrected as aforesaid shall be deposited amongst the records of the Court of First Instance of Civil Jurisdiction, and in case at any time any question shall arise respecting the class to which any apprenticed labourer belongs, such corrected registry, or an extract thereof, duly certified by the escribano or registrar of the said court, who is hereby authorized to make and grant the same, shall be taken as conclusive evidence of the class to which such apprenticed labourer belongs; and the escribano or registrar shall be entitled to demand and have the following fees; that is to say, for each and every certificate so granted by him as aforesaid, which shall contain any number of names from one to ten inclusive, the sum of 4 s. 4 d. sterling, and 2½ d. sterling for every additional name above ten.

On or before 31st July, 1834, registry to be deposited among the Records of the Court of First Instance, and when any question shall arise respecting the class to which any apprenticed labourer belongs, such registry shall be taken as conclusive evidence of the fact.

10. And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any person who shall neglect or omit to make and deliver the list or return before mentioned, or to take and subscribe the oath hereinbefore set forth, or to attend the registrar, whether as party or witness, when summoned by him for any of the purposes herein mentioned, shall incur a penalty of not more than 10 l., nor less than 20 s.; and in the event of the wilful absence of any party, it shall be lawful for the registrar to proceed and to decide any such question as though such party had attended before him,

Any person neglecting or omitting to make the return or to attend registrar when summoned, shall incur a penalty of not more than 10 l. nor less than 20 s. and in the event of wilful absence of any party, registrar to proceed and decide.

11. And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all fines or penalties which shall be incurred under this Ordinance shall be sued for and recovered in the Court of Complaints of this Island, and that the whole amount of such penalties shall accrue to and be for the use of His Majesty.

All fines and penalties under this Ordinance to be recovered in Court of Complaints, and to be for the use of His Majesty.

Passed in Council this 24th day of December 1833.

Philip D. Souper, Colonial Secretary.

(A.)

Trinidad.  
List of Slaves of [estate, in the district of as the  
case may be] in the possession of manager or attorney.] as [proprietor,

## LIST OF FAMILIES.

NAMES.	SURNAMES.	DESCRIPTION.
<i>Family of Manning:</i>		
John, - - -	Manning, - -	P. U.
William, - - -	Manning, - -	P. A.
Peggy, - - -	Manning, - -	N. P.
<i>Family of Upton</i>		
Jack, - - -	Upton, - - -	P. A.
Alick, - - -	Upton, - - -	P. U.
Zabet, - - -	Upton, - - -	N. P.
<i>General List of Male Slaves:</i>		
Tony, - - -	Williams, - -	P. A.
Thomas, - - -	Jones, - - -	P. U.
Henry, - - -	Long, - - -	N. P.
<i>General List of Female Slaves:</i>		
Madlain, - - -	Harper, - - -	N. P.
Jeanne, - - -	Hanky, - - -	P. U.
Diana, - - -	Sampson, - - -	P. U.

Insert in this column, opposite the name of every prædial attached slave, the letters P. A.; of every prædial unattached, P. U.; and of each non-prædial slave, the letters N. P.

—No. 55.—

No. 55.

Copy of ORDER in COUNCIL, dated 5th June 1834, for giving effect in the Island of Trinidad to the Statute 3d & 4th William the Fourth, c. 73., for the Abolition of Slavery.

At the Court at St. James's, the 5th day of June 1834:

Present, The King's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

Trinidad.

WHEREAS by a certain Act of Parliament passed in the third and fourth year of His Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies;

## TRINIDAD.

## Appendix (B.)

Order in Council.  
No. 55.

Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves," it is amongst other things recited, that it is necessary that various rules and regulations should be framed and established for ascertaining, with reference to each apprenticed labourer within the said Colonies respectively, whether he or she belongs to the class of attached prædial apprenticed labourers, or to the class of unattached apprenticed labourers, or to the class of non-prædial apprenticed labourers, and for determining the manner and form in which and the solemnities with which the voluntary discharge of any apprenticed labourer from such his or her apprenticeship may be effected, and for prescribing the form and manner in which and the solemnities with which the purchase by any such apprenticed labourer or his or her discharge from such apprenticeship without, or in opposition, if necessary, to, the consent of the person or persons entitled to his or her services, shall be effected, and how the necessary appraisement of the future value of such services shall be made, and how and to whom the amount of such appraisement shall in each case be paid and applied, and in what manner and form and by whom the discharge from any such apprenticeship shall thereupon be given, executed and recorded: And that it is also necessary for the preservation of peace throughout the said Colonies, that proper regulations should be framed and established for the maintenance of order and good discipline amongst the said apprenticed labourers, and for ensuring the punctual discharge of the services due by them to their respective employers, and for the prevention and punishment of indolence, or the neglect or improper performance of work by any such apprenticed labourer, and for enforcing the due performance by any such apprenticed labourer of any contract into which he or she may voluntarily enter for any hired service during the time in which he or she may not be bound to labour for his or her employer, and for the prevention and punishment of insolence and insubordination on the part of any such apprenticed labourers towards their employers, and for the prevention or punishment of vagrancy or of any conduct on the part of any such apprenticed labourers injuring or tending to the injury of the property of any such employer, and for the suppression and punishment of any riot or combined resistance of the laws on the part of any such apprenticed labourers, and for preventing the escape of any such apprenticed labourers, during their term of apprenticeship, from the Colonies to which they may respectively belong: And that it will also be necessary for the protection of such apprenticed labourers as aforesaid that various regulations should be framed and established in the said respective Colonies for securing punctuality and method in the supply to them of such food, clothing, lodging, medicines, medical attendance and such other maintenance and allowances as they are by the said Act declared entitled to receive, and for regulating the amount and quality of all such articles in cases where the laws at present existing in any such Colony may not in the case of slaves have made any regulation or any adequate regulation for that purpose: And that it is also necessary that proper rules should be established for the prevention and punishment of any frauds which might be practised, or of any omissions or neglects which might occur, respecting the quantity or the quality of the supplies so to be furnished, or respecting the periods for the delivery of the same: And that it is necessary, in those cases in which the food of any such prædial apprenticed labourers as aforesaid may either wholly or in part be raised by themselves by the cultivation of ground to be set apart and allotted for that purpose, that proper regulations should be made and established as to the extent of such grounds, and as to the distance at which such grounds may be so allotted from the ordinary place of abode of such prædial apprenticed labourers, and respecting the deductions to be made from the cultivation of such grounds from the annual time during which such prædial apprenticed labourers are hereinbefore declared liable to labour: And that it may also be necessary, by such regulations as aforesaid, to secure to the said prædial apprenticed labourers the enjoyment for their own benefit of that portion of their time during which they are not hereby required to labour in the service of their respective employers, and for securing exactness in the computation of the time during which such prædial apprenticed labourers are hereby required to labour in the service of such their respective employers; and that it is also necessary that provision should be made for preventing the imposition of task-work on any such apprenticed labourer without his or her free consent to undertake the same; but that it may be necessary by such regulations in certain cases to require and provide for the acquiescence of the minority of the prædial apprenticed labourers attached to any plantation or estate in the distribution and apportionment amongst the whole body of such labourers of any task-work which the majority of such body shall be willing and desirous collectively to undertake: And that it is also necessary that regulations should be made respecting any voluntary contracts into which any apprenticed labourers may enter with their respective employers or with any other person for hired service for any future period, and for limiting the greatest period of time to which such voluntary contract may extend, and for enforcing the punctual and effectual performance of such voluntary contracts on the part both of such apprenticed labourers and of the person or persons engaging for their employment and hire: And that it is also necessary that regulations should be made for the prevention or punishment of any cruelty, injustice or other wrong or injury which may be done to or inflicted upon any such apprenticed labourers by the persons entitled to their services: And that it is also necessary that proper regulations should be made respecting the manner and form in which such indentures of apprenticeship as aforesaid shall be made on behalf of such children as aforesaid; and respecting the registry and preservation of all such indentures: And that it is also necessary that provision should be made for ensuring promptitude and despatch, and for preventing all unnecessary expense, in the discharge by the justices of the peace holding such special commissions as in the said Act mentioned of the jurisdiction and authorities thereby

thereby committed to them, and for enabling such justices to decide in a summary way such questions as may be brought before them in that capacity, and for the division of the said respective Colonies into districts for the purposes of such jurisdiction, and for the frequent and punctual visitation by such justices of the peace of the apprenticed labourers within such their respective districts: And that it is also necessary that regulations should be made for indemnifying and protecting such justices of the peace in the upright execution and discharge of their duties: And that such regulations as aforesaid could not without great inconvenience be made except by the respective Governors, Councils and Assemblies, or other local legislatures of the said respective Colonies, or by His Majesty, with the advice of His Privy Council, in reference to those Colonies to which the legislative authority of His Majesty in Council extends; it is therefore enacted and declared in and by the said Act, that nothing therein contained extends or shall be construed to extend to prevent the enactment by the respective Governors, Councils and Assemblies, or by such other local legislatures as aforesaid, or by His Majesty, with the advice of His Privy Council, of any such Acts of General Assembly, or Ordinances, or Orders in Council as may be requisite for making and establishing such several rules and regulations as aforesaid, or any of them, or for carrying the same or any of them into full and complete effect: Provided nevertheless, and it is thereby enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any such Governor, Council and Assembly, or for any such local legislature, or for His Majesty in Council, by any such Acts of Assembly, Ordinances or Orders in Council as aforesaid, to make or establish any enactment, regulation, provision, rule or order which shall be in anywise repugnant or contradictory to the said recited Act or any part thereof, but that every such enactment, regulation, provision, rule or order shall be and is thereby declared to be absolutely null and void and of no effect.

Now, therefore, in pursuance of the said recited Act of Parliament, and for carrying the same into effect within the Island of Trinidad, it is hereby ordered by His Majesty, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, that the several rules and regulations contained in the twelve chapters hereunto subjoined and annexed, and which twelve chapters are and shall be taken to be part of this present order, shall extend to and be in force within the Island of Trinidad and the dependencies thereof, upon, from and after the 1st day of August in this present year 1834.

And the Right Hon. Thomas Spring Rice, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, is to give the necessary directions accordingly.

(signed) C. C. Greville.

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*CAP. I.—On the Judicial and Ministerial Agency to be employed.*

1. The Colony of Trinidad shall be divided into not less than five judicial districts.
2. The Lieutenant-Governor shall by proclamation define, and, as occasion may require, shall alter the limits of such districts.
3. One special justice, at least, shall be appointed to each of the before-mentioned districts.
4. In each district shall be set apart one or more tract or tracts of land, which, with the buildings to be erected thereon, shall be called the Police Settlement or Police Settlements of the District.
5. Every such police settlement shall be established in the vicinity of as large a body as may be of the population of the district.
6. It shall be lawful for the special justice or special justices of each district to license in such district places of safe custody and correction, situate at convenient distances from each other.
7. The Lieutenant-Governor shall appropriate for the formation of the police settlements any waste lands of the Crown which may be situate conveniently for that purpose; and in districts where such Crown lands cannot be found, shall, by exchange or purchase, procure the lands wanting for the purpose.
8. At the first formation of any such police settlement, the members thereof, assisted by such hired labourers as may be indispensable, shall be employed in the erection of temporary buildings for their own occupation; such buildings to be hereafter superseded by more permanent buildings, to be erected by the means subsequently mentioned.
9. At each police settlement shall be erected a house of correction.
10. Until permanent police settlements shall be formed and the buildings requisite for that purpose erected, it shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, to procure and provide, by hire or otherwise, suitable buildings to be occupied temporarily as police settlements.
11. At each police settlement shall also be established a penal gang, to be composed of such persons as shall be condemned to imprisonment with hard labour.
12. Every such police settlement, place of safe custody and correction, shall be placed under the general charge of the special justices of the district, and under the immediate superintendence of a special justice of the district, to be selected by the Lieutenant-Governor for that purpose, and who shall be called a superintending special justice, and shall reside thereat or in the immediate vicinity thereof.
13. Each police settlement shall consist of no less than one serjeant and five privates, all being able-bodied men, between the ages of 20 and 50 years.
14. The serjeant and privates of each police settlement shall be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor, and shall be liable to be removed by him for bad conduct or inefficiency.



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15. The serjeants and privates shall be liable to be suspended from office by the superintending special justice or justices of the district, subject to the Lieutenant-Governor's confirmation or disallowance of such suspension.

16. In addition to the police force stationed at each police settlement, the superintending special justice shall appoint and swear in such persons in their respective districts, as they shall think fit, to act as constables. Nothing herein contained shall prevent an apprenticed labourer from being appointed, sworn in, and acting as a constable.

17. The superintending special justices shall, once in each quarter, respectively make to the Lieutenant-Governor a report of the effective strength and condition of the police force at each settlement; and of the state of the buildings and provision grounds there, and of the state and conduct of the prisoners confined therein.

18. The Lieutenant-Governor shall from time to time, by and with the advice of the Legislative Council, frame and publish all necessary rules for the internal discipline of the said police settlements, and of the said places of safe custody and correction; for the clothing, arming, supporting and remunerating the serjeants and privates of the said police; for remunerating the said constables; for securing the due performance, by the said police and constables, of their respective duties; for the employment of the penal gang and also of the serjeants and privates of the said police when not engaged in police duties; for the support of the prisoners in the said houses of correction and places of safe custody; for a due separation of prisoners of different sexes; for the classification of prisoners; for their religious instruction; for the maintenance of cleanliness, order and sobriety amongst them; and for the prevention and prompt punishment of any neglect or violation of such rules. And all rules so framed and published shall be transmitted for His Majesty's approbation, and shall, until disallowed or altered, remain in full force.

19. It shall be the duty of the serjeant and the privates to carry into execution such orders as they shall receive from the special justice for the prevention or repressing of crimes, and for enforcing obedience to the law, and for inflicting such punishments as are hereby authorized.

CAP. II.—*On the procedure to be observed by the Special Magistrates in the exercise of their Jurisdiction.*

1. Every superintending special justice shall reside within the district to which he is appointed, unless when prevented by sickness or other reasonable cause, to be allowed by the Lieutenant-Governor.

2. Every such superintending special justice shall one day in each week or oftener if need be, at the place of his residence, hold a session for the hearing and deciding upon such cases as may be brought before him.

3. Every plantation in each district upon which ten or more apprenticed labourers shall be employed shall be visited by a superintending or other special justice once in each fortnight, or oftener if need be, who shall there take cognizance of such cases as may be brought before him, whether such cases shall relate to apprenticed labourers employed on that plantation or to any other apprenticed labourers.

4. Every such special justice shall keep a journal of all the cases brought before him, in which he shall enter, 1st, the date of the complaint; 2d, the name of the complainant; 3d, the substance of the complaint; 4th, the names of the witnesses adduced on either side; 5th, the substance of the evidence; 6th, his decision on the case; 7th, whether the decision has been carried into effect; 8th, any general remarks which he may think desirable.

5. All such journals shall be kept in one uniform manner, to be prescribed for that purpose by the Lieutenant-Governor.

6. At the end of each quarter the special justice shall transmit to the Lieutenant-Governor a duplicate of his journal for the preceding quarter, with an affidavit thereto annexed, to the effect that it has been faithfully kept, and that, with the exception of unintentional errors, it contains a true account of all the proceedings in which the deponent has been engaged as such special justice, during the quarter to which it refers.

7. On receiving any complaint, it shall be the duty of the special justice to reduce it to writing, and to cause it to be read by, or to read it over to, the complainant, by whom it shall then be subscribed.

8. If the complaint shall appear to the justice immaterial, and not to deserve further inquiry, he may at once dismiss the complaint; but if he shall think inquiry necessary, he shall call upon the complainant to make oath that the complaint is true.

9. Upon taking any complaint, to the truth of which such oath shall have been so made, the special justice shall either issue his warrant for the arrest of the party charged, or shall issue, if necessary, a summons for his attendance, as the case may require. The warrant of arrest shall be in the form annexed marked (A.), and the summons in the form annexed marked (B.)

10. The warrant of arrest shall be issued in all cases which impute to the party charged a capital or a transportable offence; in all cases where there is reason to apprehend that the party charged would endeavour to escape; and in all cases where there is reason to apprehend danger to the public peace from delay. In all other cases the justice is to proceed in the first instance by summons, if necessary.

11. In cases in which it may be necessary to adduce witnesses in support of or in answer to any such complaint, the justice shall issue a summons, if necessary, to every such witness, in the annexed form, marked (C.)

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12. At the time and place appointed by any such warrant or summons for proceeding upon any such complaint, the justice shall, in the presence of all parties, or of such of them as being summoned shall attend in pursuance of such summons, first read over the written complaint, and then take down in writing the answer of the party charged, and then proceed to examine on oath the party complaining, and the witnesses, taking down in writing the deposition of each witness, which shall be read over to and signed by him.

13. The justice may from time to time adjourn any such proceeding for further inquiry, and if necessary commit the party charged to custody pending such adjournment, or take bail for his appearance. Every such commitment or bail shall be in the annexed forms, marked (D.) and (E.)

14. At the close of such proceedings, the justice shall pronounce his decision thereupon, which decision he shall reduce into writing, and subscribe with his hand.

15. By any such decision the justice shall, as law and reason may seem to him to require, either dismiss the complaint, or sanction any lawful compromise between the parties which he may think just, or convict the party charged, or commit him to prison to take his trial for the imputed offence.

16. If the complaint shall be dismissed, the justice shall, in such his written decision, state whether it was so dismissed as being unproved, or as being frivolous and vexatious, or as being malicious.

17. If any such complaint shall be so dismissed as frivolous and vexatious, the justice may adjudge the complainant, if a labourer, to work in the service of his employer, for any time not exceeding in the whole 15 extra hours in any one week, or to any number of stripes not exceeding 15; or if the complainant be the employer, the justice may adjudge each employer to the payment of a penalty for the use of the labourer, of not less than 10s. sterling, and not greater than 5*l.* sterling.

18. If any such complaint shall be so dismissed as malicious, it shall be competent to the justice, at the instance of the party charged, to adjudge the complainant, if an apprenticed labourer, to imprisonment with hard labour, for any time not exceeding one month, or to any number of stripes not exceeding 30; or, if the employer of any such labourer, to a fine not less than 40*s.* sterling, and not greater than 10*l.* sterling, for the benefit of the party charged; which judgment shall be a bar to any suit, action or prosecution against such complainant for calumny, defamation or otherwise, in respect of such his complaint.

19. If the justice shall, by such his decision, convict the party charged, or shall convict the complainant of preferring a frivolous and vexatious, or a malicious complaint, such conviction shall be severally drawn up according to the forms annexed, marked (F.) (G.)

20. If such magistrate shall commit the party charged to take his trial for the imputed offence, such commitment shall be drawn up in the form annexed, marked (H.)

21. Upon any such conviction as aforesaid by such special justice, he shall forthwith issue a warrant for the execution thereof.

22. All summonses, warrants, commitments and other orders, so to be issued by any such justice as aforesaid, shall be executed by the police officers of his district; such justice being nevertheless authorized, as occasion may require, to address the same to any other person or persons jointly with or instead of such officers of police, as to him may seem requisite.

23. Any summons, warrant or order, issued by any such special justice within his own district, may, without any further authority, be carried into execution in any part of the Colony, though beyond such district.

24. If any person summoned by any such justice as a witness, shall not appear in obedience to such summons, or appearing shall refuse to be sworn or examined, or to answer any question proposed to him by such justice in relation to the matters depending before him, it shall be lawful for such justice to issue his warrant for the arrest of any such defaulter, or to commit him to close custody, there to remain until he shall submit to be so sworn and examined, and to make such answers as aforesaid. Every such warrant of arrest or commitment shall be in the forms annexed, marked (I.) and (K.)

25. If it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the Lieutenant-Governor and Legislative Council that the forms of proceeding hereinbefore prescribed are needlessly burdensome upon the justices of the several districts within the Colony, or of any one or more of such districts; or that they impede or interfere with the prompt and effective execution of the law, the Lieutenant-Governor, with advice and consent of the Legislative Council, shall be entitled to suspend any part of the preceding rules relating to such procedure, or to adapt the same to the circumstances of the case, so as more effectually to promote the punctual, orderly and effective execution of the law; and for that purpose to frame and publish rules and ordinances, which shall be transmitted for His Majesty's confirmation, and which, until disallowed, shall be in full force.

26. It shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor to assign to such one or more of the special justices as he shall select for that purpose, the following duties; namely, to examine into the quarterly journals hereby directed to be transmitted by the special justices to the Lieutenant-Governor; to visit the judicial districts throughout the whole or any part of the Colony, and to inspect the police settlements and places of safe custody and correction belonging to such districts; and to examine into the state of the police force, and of the prisoners in the houses of correction and places of safe custody, and of the penal gangs in such districts, and generally to ascertain how far the rules hereby established, or to be established, under the provisions herein contained, are duly observed, and to report to the Lieutenant-Governor, at such times and in such manner as the Lieutenant-Governor shall direct, upon the several matters aforesaid.

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27. If any suit or action shall be commenced against any special justice, in respect of any act, matter or thing by him done by virtue and in pursuance thereof; and if the court shall give judgment for the defendant, the plaintiff shall, by such judgment, be condemned to pay treble costs of suit.

28. If in any such suit or action such justice shall, at any time before final judgment, tender to the plaintiff sufficient amends for the wrong or injury in respect of which the same may be brought, and submit to pay the costs of suit up to that time incurred; and if the plaintiff shall refuse to accept such amends and costs of suit, then upon proof made to the court at the trial of such suit, that such amends have been so tendered and were sufficient, judgment shall be given for the plaintiff in the amount of the sum so tendered, subject nevertheless to the reduction therefrom of the costs of suit of the defendant.

29. No suit or action shall be brought against any such justice in respect of any matter or thing by him done under or in pursuance hereof, unless the same shall be commenced within six months after the cause of action occurred.

*CAP. III.—On the Division of Apprenticed Labourers into their respective Classes.*

1. By a day to be appointed for that purpose, the registrar of slaves shall deliver to every owner of slaves, a list of the slaves appearing in the registry to belong to him; for which a fee of 2 s. only shall be charged.

2. By a time to be fixed for the purpose, every such owner of slaves shall return such list to the registrar, distinguishing in reference to each slave therein mentioned to which of the three classes he belongs.

3. To every such return shall be annexed an affidavit to the effect that the distinctions therein made correspond with the occupations usually pursued for 12 months next preceding the date of the Act by each of the slaves to whom such returns may refer.

4. If in any case the registrar shall see cause to doubt the accuracy of the return, he shall appoint a time and place at which the owner shall attend him to substantiate the accuracy of such return.

5. At the time and place so to be appointed the person to whom such notice shall be addressed shall attend such registrar, and if required shall bring with him any slave respecting whom any such doubt may have arisen.

6. The registrar shall then proceed to examine the person making such return, and the slave respecting whom such doubt has arisen, and any witnesses who may be adduced respecting the truth of such return; and may, if necessary, adjourn such examination from time to time.

7. The registrar shall then either confirm or correct any such return, as he may see fit, giving notice to the party making such return and to the slaves respectively, of such his decision.

8. If either the party making such return, or the slave to whom it may refer, shall be dissatisfied with the decision of the registrar, such party may on his own behalf, and the registrar may on the behalf of such slave, apply to the chief or to any other judge of the superior court in such Colony, by petition, setting forth the nature of such decision and the objections thereto.

9. The judge to whom any such petition may be preferred shall proceed in a summary way to hear and to decide upon the same, and his decision shall be final and conclusive.

10. The judges of the said court shall make all necessary rules for regulating the proceedings upon every such petition, in the manner which may be most conducive to method, punctuality and despatch.

11. When such proceedings as aforesaid shall have taken place, there shall be affixed to the entry of the name of each prædial attached slave in the registry the letters P. A.; of each prædial unattached slave the letters P. U.; and of each non-prædial slave the letters N. P.

12. During the continuance of the apprenticeship, the slave registry, so corrected as aforesaid, shall be deposited amongst the records of the superior courts of the Colony; and when any question shall arise respecting the class to which any apprenticed labourer belongs, such corrected registry, or a certified extract thereof, shall be taken as conclusive evidence of the fact.

13. Any person neglecting or omitting to make the return or the affidavit before mentioned, or to attend the registrar when summoned by him for that purpose, shall incur a penalty of not more than 10*l.* nor less than 20*s.*; and in the event of the wilful absence of any such person, it shall be lawful for the registrar to proceed and to decide any such question as though such party had attended.

*CAP. IV.—On the Maintenance of the Apprenticed Labourers.*

1. It shall be the duty of every employer of prædial apprenticed labourers, within the third week of the month of September of each year, to deliver or cause to be delivered to the special justice of the district in which such prædial apprenticed labourers are resident, a written declaration in the form annexed, marked (L.), specifying whether it is the intention of such employer, during the current year, to maintain his prædial apprenticed labourers by the cultivation of ground, to be to them appropriated for that purpose, or by an allowance of provisions.

2. That every employer who shall, by such declaration as aforesaid, propose to maintain his prædial apprenticed labourers by an allowance of provisions, shall be and is hereby bound and

and required to supply to such prædial apprenticed labourers such amount of provisions, and of such kind, as by the clause next hereinafter contained are directed to be supplied to non-prædial apprenticed labourers above the age of 10 years.

3. Every employer shall be and is hereby bound and required to maintain his non-prædial apprenticed labourers, and also his prædial apprenticed labourers, until such written declaration shall have been so made and delivered by him as aforesaid, by an allowance of provisions, and to supply such provisions to the amount and of the kinds following; that is to say, each and every apprenticed labourer, above the age of 10 years, shall receive in each week not less than six pints of wheaten or rye-flour or rice, or nine pints of corn-meal or farine of manioc, or seven pounds of biscuit, or 50 full-grown plantains, or 21 pounds of yams or sweet cassada, or sweet potatoes, or eddoes, or tanners, and three pounds and a half of good salted cod fish, commonly called salt fish; and to all apprenticed labourers under the age of 10 years one-half of the above allowance.

4. All provisions so to be supplied to the apprenticed labourers in the Colony of Trinidad, shall be sound and fit for consumption, and of good average merchantable quality.

5. The apprenticed labourers to whom such provisions shall be supplied, shall also be provided by and at the expense of their employers, with the means of preserving the same from week to week, and of properly preparing the same for human food.

6. Every employer of prædial apprenticed labourers, who shall by such declaration as aforesaid propose to maintain such prædial apprenticed labourers by the appropriation of ground, to be by them cultivated for that purpose, shall be and is hereby bound and required to set apart for every prædial apprenticed labourer so to be maintained half an acre of land, properly adapted for the growth of provisions, and not more than two miles distant from the place of residence of such prædial apprenticed labourer.

7. Every such employer shall be and is hereby bound and required to supply every prædial apprenticed labourer, for whom any such ground shall be so appropriated, with such seeds and with such implements of husbandry as may be necessary for the cultivation of such ground, on the first entering of such prædial apprenticed labourer in the occupation thereof.

8. It shall not be lawful for any person whomsoever to dispossess any prædial apprenticed labourer of any land so cultivated by him or her, until such labourer shall have had full time and opportunity for reaping and gathering in all crops by him or her planted and growing upon such ground.

9. The crops, when growing upon any such ground and when severed therefrom, shall and are hereby declared to be the sole and absolute property of the prædial apprenticed labourer, for and in respect of whom such ground shall have been appropriated and set apart.

10. Every prædial apprenticed labourer for or in respect of whom any ground shall be so appropriated and set apart for his support, shall, out of the annual time during which such prædial apprenticed labourer is by the said recited Act required to labour, after the rate of 45 hours per week, as aforesaid, be allowed such number of hours, not being fewer than four hours and a half per week, and not being more than seven hours and a half per week, as the Lieutenant-Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, shall, by rules to be framed for that purpose, determine; which rules shall be duly transmitted for His Majesty's approbation, and until disallowed or altered shall remain in full force.

11. If any employer of prædial apprenticed labourers within the said Colony of Trinidad shall neglect or omit to sign and deliver, in manner and within the time hereinbefore mentioned, such written declaration as aforesaid, he or she shall incur a penalty of 2 *l.* for such omission or neglect in respect of the first week in which the same shall occur, with additional penalties of 4 *l.* in the second week, 6 *l.* in the third week, and so on in arithmetical progression in respect of each additional week during which such neglect shall be continued; and if any employer or manager of apprenticed labourers shall not supply to such apprenticed labourers provisions of such amount and quality, and at such times as he is hereinbefore required to supply the same, or shall not provide such apprenticed labourers with the means of preserving such provisions from week to week, or with the means of properly preparing the same for human food, every employer shall incur and become liable to a penalty equal to twice the value of the provisions which ought so to have been supplied, or for the preservation and preparation of which such means as aforesaid ought to have been provided, which last-mentioned penalties shall accrue to and be for the benefit of the apprenticed labourers injured by any such omission or neglect; and if any such employer of prædial labourers shall not set apart for every prædial apprenticed labourer who is maintained by the cultivation of ground such land of such quality and quantity and so situate as hereinbefore is required, or shall neglect or omit to supply any such prædial apprenticed labourer with such seeds and implements of husbandry as aforesaid, or shall dispossess any such prædial apprenticed labourer of any land by him or her cultivated, until such prædial apprenticed labourer shall have had full time and opportunity for reaping and gathering in all crops by him or her planted and growing upon such ground, every person so offending shall incur and become liable to a penalty equal to twice the amount of the loss sustained by every such prædial apprenticed labourer by every such act, omission or neglect, which penalty shall go and be applied to and for the use and benefit of the prædial apprenticed labourer so injured; and if any such employer of prædial apprenticed labourers shall neglect or omit to allow to any prædial apprenticed labourer, for or in respect of whom any ground shall be so appropriated, such number of hours as aforesaid in each week for the cultivation thereof, every person so offending shall for each and every such offence incur a distinct and separate penalty of 10 *s.*, which shall go and be applied to and for the benefit of the prædial apprenticed labourers injured thereby, the number of such penalties being equal to the number of prædial apprenticed labourers affected by such offence, multiplied by the number of the days on which such offences may have been repeated.

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12. It is and shall be the duty of every employer of apprenticed labourers within the said Colony once, that is to say, either in the month of January or in the month of June in each year, and he or she is hereby required to deliver to every such apprenticed labourer, for his or her use, either in the month of January or in the month of June in each and every year, the following articles, (that is to say) :—

To every male apprentice labourer above the age of five years :

One felt hat, one Scotch bonnet, one cloth wrapper or jacket, two red flannel or oznaburgh or check shirts, two pairs of cloth, oznaburgh, or duck or sheeting trowsers, and one knife.

To each and every female apprenticed labourer above the age of five years :

One felt hat, one cloth wrapper, two neck-kerchiefs, two linen or cotton shifts, two dowlas or oznaburgh petticoats and one pair of scissors. Also, to every apprenticed labourer one tin pan or pannekin annually, one blanket every two years, and one iron pot every three years, or oftener if necessary.

13. All the articles so to be supplied to such apprenticed labourers aforesaid, shall be of good average merchantable quality.

14. If any employer of apprenticed labourers in the said Colony shall neglect or omit, within the time or times hereinbefore for that purpose limited, to supply and deliver to and for the use of any apprenticed labourer under his or her management, such articles of clothing and household furniture as are hereinbefore referred to, the person so offending shall incur and become liable to a fine equal to twice the value of the article or articles so withholden, which penalty shall go and be applied to and for the use and benefit of the apprenticed labourer injured by such neglect.

15. Every employer of apprenticed labourers within the said Colony shall be, and is hereby required to supply each and every apprenticed labourer under his or her management with a wooden or iron bedstead, or with boards so arranged as to enable every such apprenticed labourer to sleep during the night at an elevation of one foot, at the least, above the ground ; and every employer who shall neglect or omit so to supply any such apprenticed labourer with such bedstead, or such means of sleeping above the ground as aforesaid, shall, for every such neglect or omission, incur and become liable to a fine 5s., in respect of each and every apprenticed labourer, which fine shall be again incurred from week to week as long as such neglect or omission shall continue.

16. Every person in the said Colony being the employer of 40 apprenticed labourers or upwards, shall and is hereby required to engage a medical practitioner to visit such apprenticed labourers in such his medical capacity once at the least in each fourteen days ; and it shall be the duty of such medical practitioner, and he is hereby authorized and required to keep a journal of the health of such body of apprenticed labourers, so placed under his medical superintendance, in which journal he shall, once in each fourteen days, record what is the general state of health of such body of apprenticed labourers, and shall also enter the name of each apprenticed labourer then labouring under sickness, distinguishing such apprenticed labourers as are thereby disqualified for the ordinary amount of labour, and prescribing such medicines or articles of diet as may in his judgment be necessary for the restoration of the sick ; and it shall be the duty of every such medical practitioner once in each fortnight to deliver a copy of the entries so made by him in his journal to the employer of such apprenticed labourers, which employer shall be and is hereby required to supply such apprenticed labourers with such medicines or nourishments, and to allow to such apprenticed labourers such relaxations of labour as may by such medical practitioner be so recommended and prescribed ; and in reference to every apprenticed labourer for whom any such nourishment may be provided, the rules hereinbefore contained respecting the food of apprenticed labourers shall be and are hereby suspended ; and every such medical practitioner shall and is hereby required, in obedience to any requisition to him for that purpose made in writing by any such superintending special justice, to produce to such justice his journal ; and in case of any acute or dangerous disease of any apprenticed labourer, the employer of such apprenticed labourer shall and is hereby required to employ, at his own costs and charges, a medical practitioner for the care and medical treatment of such apprenticed labourer.

17. If any such employer of apprenticed labourers as aforesaid in the said Colony, or if any such medical practitioner as aforesaid shall refuse, neglect or omit to do or perform any matter or thing which such employer or medical practitioner is hereby required to do and perform in and about the engagement of such practitioner, or in or about the keeping such journal as aforesaid, or in or about the medical treatment, nourishment or temporary relaxation of labour of any apprenticed labourer, or in or about the production, when thereunto required, of any such journal as aforesaid, the person so offending shall, for and in respect of every such offence, incur and become liable to a fine of not less than 2*l.* or more than 20*l.*

18. Every apprenticed labourer who, on account of any disease, the medical practitioner shall deem it necessary to confine to the hospital, or to any apartment thereof for the purpose of cure, shall be bound, and if necessary may be compelled to submit to such hospital regulations as shall be sanctioned by a superintending special justice of the district in which such apprenticed labourer shall be resident.

*CAP. V.—On the Duties to be performed by the Apprenticed Labourers, and the Penalties for their non-performance.*

1. As regards the apportionment of the 45 hours per week, during which prædial apprenticed labourers are required by law to work for their employers, it shall be lawful for the  
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Lieutenant-Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, to make such regulations in respect thereof, as may appear to them best adapted to promote the interests both of the apprenticed labourers and their employers, and to frame and publish rules and ordinances for that purpose, which shall be duly transmitted for His Majesty's approbation, and which until disallowed or altered, shall remain in full force.

2. Subject to the provision lastly hereinbefore contained, and subject also to the deduction of the time hereinbefore directed to be allowed to prædial apprenticed labourers for the cultivation of their provision grounds, every prædial apprenticed labourer shall be bound and obliged to work and labour for seven hours and a half in each and every day in the year (Sundays and holidays hitherto allowed by law to the labouring population excepted) in the service and for the benefit of his employer.

3. For every hour in which any labourer shall absent himself from his employer's service without reasonable cause, he shall be compelled to serve two extra hours, and so in proportion for every portion of time greater or less than an hour, provided that such extra hours shall not exceed fifteen in the whole in any one week.

4. Any apprenticed labourer absenting himself without reasonable cause for more than seven and a half hours in any one week, shall be adjudged a deserter.

5. Any apprenticed labourer absenting himself without reasonable cause for two days during one week, shall be adjudged a vagabond.

6. Any apprenticed labourer absenting himself without reasonable cause for more than six days in any one week, shall be adjudged a runaway.

7. The reasonableness of the cause of absence shall in each case be decided by the special justice.

8. Apprenticed labourers adjudged deserters shall be confined to hard labour for any time not exceeding one week; those adjudged vagabonds, to hard labour for any time not exceeding two weeks, and to any number of stripes not exceeding fifteen; those adjudged runaways, to hard labour for any time not exceeding one month, and to any number of stripes not exceeding thirty.

9. Any apprenticed labourer convicted of performing his work indolently, carelessly, or negligently, shall for the first offence be adjudged to labour in his employer's service for any time not exceeding fifteen hours in the whole in any one week; or in case such labourer be a non-prædial labourer, to whipping not exceeding fifteen stripes; for the second offence, if within two calendar months, to confinement with hard labour for any time not exceeding one week; for the third or any subsequent offence, if within two calendar months of the first offence, to confinement with hard labour for any time not exceeding one fortnight, with whipping not exceeding twenty stripes.

10. Any labourer who by the careless use of fire shall wilfully endanger the property of his employer or any other person, or who shall wantonly injure the property of his employer intrusted to his care, or who shall ill use the cattle or other live stock of his employer, or who shall by wilful negligence expose his employer's property to any damage or injury, shall for such offence be adjudged, in the discretion of the justice, either to extra labour in his employer's service for any time not exceeding fifteen hours in the whole in any one week, or to confinement to hard labour for any time not exceeding one month, or to any number of stripes not exceeding thirty lashes, or to any two of such punishments: Provided that this enactment shall not exempt any such labourer from his or her liability to such actions or prosecutions as other persons of free condition may be subject and liable to, in respect of any such acts by him or her done or omitted, although no such labourer shall be liable to be so sued or prosecuted, both under this order and under such general law as aforesaid.

11. Any apprenticed labourer who shall contumaciously disobey the lawful commands of his employer shall be liable to any one or any two of the punishments last aforesaid.

12. Any three or more apprenticed labourers who shall agree together to make any resistance to the lawful commands of their employers shall be deemed guilty of an unlawful conspiracy, and shall be adjudged to confinement to hard labour for any period not exceeding six months, with whipping not exceeding thirty-nine stripes.

13. Any three or more labourers who shall be engaged in a combined and open resistance to the lawful commands of their employer, shall, on conviction, be adjudged to the punishments last aforesaid, or any one of them.

14. Any apprenticed labourer who shall be in a state of drunkenness, or who shall be found fighting, or who shall conduct himself in an insolent and insubordinate manner towards his employer or any person in the immediate superintendence of his labour, shall, for every such offence, be liable on conviction to imprisonment with hard labour for any time not exceeding one week, or to whipping, not exceeding fifteen stripes.

15. Provided always, that no woman shall be subject to be punished by whipping for any offence by her committed; but that in all cases aforesaid in which that punishment is authorized, it shall be understood as applying to the case of males only, and that all the offences in respect of which such punishment may be inflicted on any such male offender, shall, when committed by females, be punished by confinement in the stocks. The stocks to be employed for that purpose shall all be according to one general model, to be sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor, and no female shall for any offence by her committed be confined in the stocks after sunset or before sunrise, or for more than eight hours in the whole for any one day, or for more than two days consecutively, or for more than six days on the whole for any one offence.

16. All the offences aforesaid shall be inquired of by the magistrates having special commissions, and not by any other justice of the peace. But any such special magistrate may, if he shall see occasion, refer any such case for trial to the superior court of the Colony.

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1. If the employer of any prædial apprenticed labourer shall, by force or fraud, protract the weekly services of such labourer beyond the period by law allowed for that purpose, he shall forfeit, for the benefit of such labourer, the sum of 1s. in respect of every hour which such service shall be protracted.

2. It shall be the duty of every such employer to intimate to the labourers in his employment, the commencement and the close of the legal hours of labour; for which purpose, a signal shall be given in such manner as shall, in reference to each plantation, have been previously approved by the special justice of the district.

3. No apprenticed labourer shall be bound to undertake any task-work, except with his own free assent to the same, save as hereinafter is excepted.

4. Every contract between the employer and the prædial apprenticed labourer, for the performance of any specific work as a task, and in lieu of the prescribed daily labour, or for the performance of any labour in extra hours, shall, by such employer, be reduced into writing and entered in a book to be kept for that purpose on the plantation; which book it shall be the duty of the special justice to inspect, as often as he shall in manner aforesaid repair to the several plantations within his district.

5. No contract between the employer and the prædial apprenticed labourer, for the performance of any such specific or task work, or for the performance of any labour in extra hours, shall endure or continue in force, or be binding upon the parties entering into the same, or either of them, after the expiration of 14 days from the making thereof, unless the same shall have been made and entered into by such parties in the presence and with the approbation of such special justice of the peace, or unless, having been entered into in his absence, the same shall be confirmed and approved by him before the expiration of such 14 days. And every such approbation of any such contract shall, by such special justice, be attested under his hand in the book so to be kept as aforesaid.

6. It shall be the duty of the special justice, before approving any such contract, to ascertain that the terms thereof are distinctly understood by the apprenticed labourers entering into the same; and that such labourers have entered into such contract freely and voluntarily, and that the same is not unreasonable or unjust.

7. In every such contract for task-work, or for extra service extending beyond the period of one fortnight, the nature and amount of the extra labour to be performed, and the amount of the consideration to be given for the same, and the time and manner of paying such consideration, shall be distinctly expressed.

8. No contract for such extra service as aforesaid shall continue in force for more than one year from the day of the date thereof.

9. Upon proof being made, to the satisfaction of such special justice, of the non-payment of the consideration stipulated for in any such contract as aforesaid, whether for task-work or for extra services, it shall be competent to such justice and he is hereby authorized to award execution against such employer for the amount of such consideration; and if the same shall not be paid within one week next after such award, to issue an attachment against the produce, utensils and other chattels upon such plantation, which execution and award shall be respectively in the forms annexed, marked (M.) and (N.)

10. Such execution and attachment as aforesaid shall be executed by the serjeant of the police of the district, who shall thereunder seize and sell so much of the produce, utensils and other chattels as may be found upon such plantation as may be necessary for the payment of such debt, delivering over the surplus, if any, to such employer.

11. Any apprenticed labourer violating the terms of such contract as aforesaid, for task-work or for extra service, shall be liable to the same pains and penalties as are before provided in respect of the violation by any such labourer of the duties to be by him performed in the discharge of the services owing by him by law to such his employer, unless specific penalties are named in the contract.

12. Every married woman, notwithstanding her coverture, and every child of the age of 12 years and upwards, notwithstanding his infancy, shall be competent to enter into such contracts as aforesaid for task-work or for extra service.

13. If any employer of any apprenticed labourer, or any person who, as manager or otherwise, exercises the authority of the employer over any apprenticed labourer, shall whip, beat, imprison, confine in the stocks, or otherwise maltreat any such apprenticed labourer, or shall by way of punishment commit any assault upon his person, such employer, or other person, shall incur a penalty, to be imposed by such special justice as aforesaid, not exceeding 5 l., with imprisonment for any time not exceeding one month, in default of the payment of such fine.

14. In any such case as last aforesaid, it shall be competent to any such apprenticed labourer, instead of preferring his complaint to such special justice, to maintain any civil suit or action, as in the case of any other free person, for damages for such assault; and it shall also be competent to such special justice, if he shall see occasion, to abstain from imposing such penalty, and to commit the offender to take his trial for such offence before any court having jurisdiction in the premises. If any such employer, or other person, shall be convicted before any court of competent jurisdiction of any cruelty towards his apprenticed labourer, or if any such employer, or other person, shall be twice convicted of inflicting any corporal punishment, or of making any assault upon the person of any such labourer, then the labourer may be discharged from his apprenticeship by order of the court before which such conviction shall be had.

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CAP. VII.—*On Offences which may be committed by the Apprenticed Labourers against the State, and the Punishment of such Offences.*

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1. If any three or more apprenticed labourers shall unite together in any riot or tumultuous assemblage, any justice of the peace who shall be present at the same shall cause a flag or some other conspicuous signal to be exhibited as a warning to all persons there present to separate and disperse quietly.

2. All persons who, at the expiration of 10 minutes from the exhibition of such flag or signal, shall continue present at any such riotous assemblage, shall, on conviction, be liable to imprisonment, with hard labour, for any time not exceeding 12 months.

3. No prædial attached apprentice labourer shall reside beyond the limits of the plantation on which he may be resident on the 1st of August next, unless either by the authority of his employer or with the consent in writing of the special justice of such district.

4. Every labourer found in any place more than five miles distant from his residence, except in his way to or from some place of public worship, and not having with him a written pass for that purpose from his employer, or from the special justice of the district, shall be liable to be apprehended and detained and brought before a special justice; and unless such labourer shall make it appear to the satisfaction of such special justice that he or she, when so found, was employed upon his or her lawful occasions, such labourer shall, on conviction, be adjudged a vagabond and punished accordingly.

5. If it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of any special justice that any apprenticed labourers have, without lawful authority, established themselves in any part of the Colony as a distinct community, habitually abandoning and neglecting to perform the duties imposed upon them by law, such justice of the peace shall cause any such community to be dislodged, and, if necessary, shall also cause their habitations to be taken down and removed.

6. Any labourer convicted of having been a member of any such community shall be liable to imprisonment, with hard labour, for any term not exceeding six months, and, if a male, to whipping by any number of stripes not exceeding 39.

7. If any labourer shall, without lawful authority, enter into possession of any land belonging to His Majesty, or to any other person, it shall be lawful for any special justice to dispossess such labourer from such land, and from any buildings thereon erected, and to cause the same, with all crops growing thereupon, to be delivered up to the owner of such land; or in case such owner shall not, within one month after such seizure, appear and prefer his claim to such land, then the special justice shall order the crops, cattle and other goods seized thereupon to be sold, and the proceeds of such sales to be paid over to the public treasurer of the Colony.

8. The summary process aforesaid shall not be taken in any case where any such apprenticed labourer may have been for two years in the undisturbed possession of any such land.

9. The special justice may further adjudge any apprenticed labourer, unlawfully taking possession of such land, to imprisonment, with hard labour, for any time not exceeding three months, if it should be made to appear to his satisfaction that such possession was taken fraudulently and with knowledge that the party had no lawful claim to such possession.

10. No apprenticed labourer shall quit the Colony except with a passport from the Lieutenant-Governor, which passport shall not be granted except with the written consent of the employer.

11. Any labourer quitting or attempting to quit the Colony without such passport shall be liable to imprisonment, with hard labour, for any term not exceeding six months.

12. All persons whose ordinary occupation is on the sea, or on any navigable stream, as fishermen or mariners, shall be registered as such at the office of the special justice of the district; and any apprenticed labourer engaging in such occupation, without being first so registered, shall be liable to imprisonment, with hard labour, for any time not exceeding three months.

13. All vessels and boats not registered under the Navigation Acts shall be registered at the office of the special justice of the district, with whom shall be entered the description of the vessel or boat, the name of the owner, and the place at which the same is usually moored.

14. No person shall keep a vessel or boat so registered, except by a license from the Lieutenant-Governor.

15. All licensed owners of such boats or vessels shall be bound to moor them, when not actually afloat, at the place or places mentioned in such license.

16. All unlicensed vessels and boats shall be liable to seizure and confiscation; and all other vessels and boats moored at any place not mentioned in the license shall be liable to detention until the owner thereof shall have paid a fine of not less than 20 s. nor more than 5 l.

17. All persons removing or assisting to remove any apprenticed labourer from the Colony in any boat or vessel, without a passport from the Lieutenant-Governor, shall be liable to a penalty of 50 l., or to imprisonment for any time not exceeding one month.

CAP. VIII.—*On the Dissolution of the Apprenticeship by Contract or Appraisement.*

1. Subject to the regulations hereinafter made, any person, being the employer of any apprenticed labourer in the said Island of Trinidad, may, by his or her last will, or by deed under his or her hand or seal, at his or her pleasure, discharge any such apprenticed labourer, so far as relates to the interest of every such testator or grantor, and that every such discharge shall,



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shall, as far as relates to the interest of the testator or grantor, as the case may be, but no further, or otherwise, be valid and effectual in the law for the perpetual discharge of any such apprenticed labourer: Provided nevertheless, that no person having a partial or temporary interest in any apprenticed labourer, may, to the extent of such interest, effect his or her discharge, gratuitously, unless all other persons having a partial, future or reversionary interest in such apprenticed labourer, shall consent or be parties to such discharge, or unless such partial, future or reversionary interests shall be purchased in the manner hereinafter provided.

2. And, in order to prevent the fraudulent discharge of apprenticed labourers incompetent from age or disease to earn their own living, it is further ordered, that in case any such deed of discharge shall be executed gratuitously and without any valuable consideration passing to the employer or other person effecting the same, the apprenticed labourer so to be discharged shall, previously to the actual execution of any such deed, appear before the special justice for the district in which the apprenticed labourer is resident; and if it shall appear to the said special justice that such apprenticed labourer is under the age of 14 years, or above the age of 50 years, or is labouring under any habitual disease or infirmity of mind or body, the employer or person effecting such discharge shall, under his or her hand and seal, execute and deliver to the said special justice a bond to His Majesty in the penal sum of 50 £, with a condition thereunder written for the defeazance thereof, if such apprenticed labourer shall be properly fed, clothed and maintained until the time when the term of apprenticeship would have expired if such discharge had not been made; and no such gratuitous discharge shall be valid and effectual in the law until such bond as aforesaid shall be duly executed.

3. Provided nevertheless, that no such bond as aforesaid shall be required in the case of any discharge by will; but if at the time of the death of the testator, the apprenticed labourer so discharged shall be under the age of 14 years, or above the age of 50 years, or labouring under any such disease or infirmity as aforesaid, the estate of every such testator shall be liable to, and chargeable with, the maintenance of such apprenticed labourer, as fully as if the said testator had in his or her lifetime executed such bond as aforesaid.

4. And, to prevent ignorant apprenticed labourers effecting the purchase of their discharge from persons unable to make any valid title to the same, it is further ordered and declared, that it is and shall be lawful for any person, being the employer of any apprenticed labourer in the said Colony, to contract with such apprenticed labourer, through the agency of any such special justice as aforesaid, acting for and on behalf of such apprenticed labourer, but not otherwise, for the discharge of the said apprenticed labourer, at a price to be agreed upon between the said employer and the said special justice respectively; and in case of any such contract, it shall be the duty of the said special justice, on behalf of the said apprenticed labourer, to satisfy himself that the person proposing to effect the said discharge has good right and title in the law, and is competent to effect the same; and it shall also be the duty of the said special justice, without fee or reward, to prepare, in every such case, the proper deed of discharge, which shall in all cases be executed in the presence of and attested by the said special justice, or some proper person to be especially appointed by him to be such witness thereto; and every such deed being so executed shall, by such special justice, be enrolled in the Supreme Court of Civil Justice in and for the said Colony of Trinidad, within one calendar month next after the date and execution thereof; and in case any such deed shall not be so enrolled by the said special justice, within the said period of one calendar month, the said special justice shall incur and be liable to the payment of a fine of not less than 10 £, nor more than 50 £.

5. And to provide for the discharge of apprenticed labourers desiring to obtain the same by purchase, in cases where the employers of such apprenticed labourers may be unwilling or unable to contract for such discharge, it is hereby further ordered, that if the employer of any apprenticed labourer in the said Colony of Trinidad, or any person having any interest in any such apprenticed labourer, shall be unwilling to effect his or her discharge, or shall, by reason of any mortgage or settlement, or lease or charge upon or interest in such apprenticed labourer being vested in any other person or persons, be unable to execute a valid and effectual discharge of such apprenticed labourer; or if the employer, or any other person having a charge upon or interest in any such apprenticed labourer shall be a minor, or a married woman, or idiot or lunatic; or if the real employer of any such apprenticed labourer shall be absent from the said Colony, or shall not be known; or if any suit or action shall be depending in any court of justice in the said Colony, wherein the right to the service of such apprenticed labourer shall or may be in controversy; or if the employer of any such apprenticed labourer shall demand, as the price of his or her discharge, a greater sum of money than may appear to the said special justice to be the fair and just value thereof; then, and in each and every of the cases aforesaid, the chief civil judge of the said Colony, on application to him for that purpose made by the said special justice, shall issue a summons under his hand and seal, requiring the employer of such apprenticed labourer to appear before him at some convenient time and place to be in such summons for that purpose appointed, and notice shall be published by the said special justice in the public Gazette of the said Colony, of the time and place appointed for the purpose aforesaid; and in such notice, all persons having or claiming to have any title or interest to or in the services of the apprenticed labourer proposed to be discharged, either in their own right, or as the agents, guardians, attorneys, trustees or representatives of any other person, shall be required to attend and prefer such claims.

6. At the time appointed for any such meeting as aforesaid, the chief civil judge of the said Colony, in the presence of the said special justice, and also in the presence of the employer

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employer of the apprenticed labourer proposed to be discharged, or upon proof being made to him upon oath of the due service and publication of such notice as aforesaid, then, if necessary, in the absence of such employer, shall proceed to hear in a summary way what may be alleged by the said special justice, and by the employer, or other persons claiming any interest in the services of the apprenticed labourer proposed to be discharged, and attending in pursuance of any such notice; and in case the said parties, or any of them, shall refuse to effect such discharge at a price approved by the said special justice, or in case it shall be made to appear to the said chief civil judge that a valid and effectual discharge of such apprenticed labourer cannot legally be effected by private contract, or that the employer of such apprenticed labourer, or any person having any charge upon or interest in the services of such apprenticed labourer, is a minor, or a married woman, or idiot or lunatic, or that the employer of such apprenticed labourer, or any person having any charge upon or interest in the services of such apprenticed labourer, is absent from the said Colony, or is unknown, or cannot be found, or that any action is depending in any court of justice in such Colony wherein the right to the services of such apprenticed labourer is in controversy, then, and in every such case, the said chief civil judge shall require the special justice and the employer of such apprenticed labourer, if attending in pursuance of such notice, each to nominate an appraiser of the value of his or her services for the remainder of such apprenticeship, and the said judge shall himself nominate an umpire between such appraisers; but if such employer being duly summoned as aforesaid, shall fail to attend, or attending shall refuse or omit to nominate an appraiser, then the said judge shall not only nominate such umpire as aforesaid, but shall also nominate an appraiser on behalf of such employer.

7. The appraisers so to be nominated as aforesaid, shall be duly sworn by and before the said chief civil judge, to make a fair and impartial appraisement of the value of the services of the apprenticed labourer so proposed to be discharged, and within seven days next after such their appointment, such appraisers shall make a joint valuation of the said services, and shall certify such their valuation to the said chief civil judge under their hands and seals; and in case such joint certificate shall not be so made and delivered to the said judge within the said term of seven days, then the said umpire, being duly sworn in manner aforesaid, shall within the next succeeding seven days certify his valuation to the said judge; and the valuation to be made in manner aforesaid, either by the said joint appraisers, or in their default by the said umpire, shall be binding and conclusive, and shall be entered and enrolled among the records of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice in and for the said Colony.

8. Provided nevertheless, that if it shall be made to appear to the said judge, within one calendar month next after such valuation shall have been made, that in the making thereof the said appraisers or umpire, or any of them, acted fraudulently or unjustly, or under the influence of any improper motive, or under any mistake as to the nature of their or his duty, or under any misapprehension of any material matter of fact, then, but not otherwise, it shall be lawful for the said judge to set aside the said valuation, and to declare the same to be void, and to direct another valuation to be made in manner aforesaid, for which purpose new appraisers and a new umpire shall in manner aforesaid be appointed and sworn, and shall proceed to make a second valuation, which being certified to the said judge in manner aforesaid, shall be to all intents and purposes binding and conclusive: Provided that such second or any subsequent valuation may in like manner be set aside by any such judge on the grounds aforesaid, until a valuation is made not open to any such objection.

9. Provided also, that if the amount of any such valuation shall not be paid in manner hereinafter mentioned, within three calendar months next after the enrolment thereof, such enrolment shall be cancelled.

10. Upon or within three calendar months next after the enrolment in the Supreme Court of Justice of the said Colony of any such valuation as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for any special justice as aforesaid of such Colony, out of any monies to be supplied to him for that purpose, by the apprenticed labourer proposed to be discharged, to pay to the treasurer of the said Colony, the appraised value of the services of such apprenticed labourer, taking a receipt in writing from such treasurer for every such payment; and the chief civil judge of the said Colony shall, upon application to him for that purpose made by the said special justice, make an order for the enrolment in the said Supreme Court of Justice of such receipt, and the said chief judge shall by such order further proceed to declare and adjudge, that the apprenticed labourer, by or on behalf of whom such money hath been paid, is discharged; and such apprenticed labourer shall thereupon be, and be deemed, taken and reputed to be discharged to all intents and purposes from such apprenticeship.

11. The money to arise from the discharge of any apprenticed labourer by virtue of the proceedings before mentioned shall remain in the hands of the public treasurer of the said Colony, and shall bear interest at and after the rate of 5*l.* per cent. per annum, and His Majesty's revenue in the said Colony shall, and is hereby declared to be pledged and responsible for the due payment of such principal money and interest; or shall in the discretion of such treasurer be invested in the purchase, in his name, of any public funds or securities of Great Britain and Ireland; and the chief civil judge of the said Colony shall, and he is hereby authorized, upon application to him for that purpose made, to direct that the money in the hands of the said treasurer, and the interest accruing on such money, or the public funds of Great Britain and Ireland so to be purchased as aforesaid, and the dividends payable thereupon, shall be the property of the person or persons who was or were entitled to the services of such discharged apprenticed labourers, and shall be subject and liable to all such and the same uses, trusts, limitations, conditions, mortgages, claims and demands of what nature or kind soever, as such services were subject unto at such time

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time of the discharge of such apprenticed labourer. And the said treasurer shall hold the said money, and the interest accruing thereupon, or the said public funds and dividends, subject to such order as such chief judge of the said Colony may, upon a summary application of any person interested therein, and upon notice to all other persons interested therein, or their agents, see fit to make; and such principal money and interest shall by such treasurer be paid and disposed of in pursuance of and in obedience to any such order.

12. It shall and may be lawful for the chief civil judge of the said Colony to make and prescribe, and from time to time to revoke and alter, as occasion may require, all such rules and orders as may be necessary for the regular and proper exercise of the jurisdiction hereby in him vested, and for regulating the proceedings of all persons who may be parties to or interested in any question so depending before him.

**CAP. IX.—On the Removal of Prædial Apprenticed Labourers from one Plantation to another.**

In every case in which, according to the provisions of the said Act of Parliament, the consent of the justice of the peace shall be necessary for the transfer of any apprenticed labourer from one plantation to another, every such transfer shall be given and attested in the form annexed marked with the letter (O.), and shall within one month after the date thereof be recorded in a book to be kept for that purpose by the special justice of the district to which such apprenticed labourer shall belong.

**CAP. X.—On the Apprenticeship of Children.**

Every indenture of apprenticeship to be made and entered into by any such special justice as aforesaid, in pursuance of the said Act of Parliament, on behalf of any children of any apprenticed labourers, shall be in the form annexed, marked with the letter (P.), and shall be kept and recorded in the office of the special justice for the district to which such apprenticed child may belong.

**CAP. XI.—On the Alienation by Sale, Inheritance or Will, of the Services of Apprenticed Labourers.**

The right or interest of any employer or employers to and in the services of any such apprenticed labourers as aforesaid, shall, upon the death of any such employer, pass to and become vested in such and the same person or persons as, if the said Act had not been passed, would by will or descent, as the case may be, have been entitled to such apprenticed labourer, as his, her or their slave, and such right or interest shall pass and be transferable, *inter vivos*, in such manner and form, and under and by virtue of such deeds, instruments and conveyances as slaves have hitherto been transferable, and have passed in the said Island.

Provided always, that no such apprenticed labourer shall be publicly or privately exhibited, or be liable or compelled to attend in person at the time or place of any sale or transfer of his or her services.

**CAP. XII.—On the Relation in which the Apprenticed Labourers will stand towards the State.**

No apprenticed labourer shall, during the continuance of his or her apprenticeship, be liable or competent to serve His Majesty in any civil office or in any military capacity within the said Colony, or to enjoy or exercise any political franchise therein.

Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall exempt any such apprenticed labourer from the obligation of rendering to His Majesty any service, civil or military, which, in case or in the prospect of any invasion, rebellion, or any great public exigency, may by His Majesty, or by the Lieutenant-Governor for the time being of the said Colony, or by any other lawful authority, be imposed upon him.

Provided also, that nothing herein contained extends or shall be construed to disqualify any such apprenticed labourer from undertaking and discharging any office or employment in the service of any corporate or ecclesiastical body, or of any person or persons, in cases where such employments or offices may not be connected with the discharge of any military or political duties.

**FORMS referred to in the foregoing ORDER IN COUNCIL.**

**(A.)—WARRANT.**

Trinidad, } To \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ district, and all other officers of police  
 To wit. } in the Colony of Trinidad.  
 Forasmuch as \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the district aforesaid,  
 apprenticed labourer, hath this day been charged before me \_\_\_\_\_ one of  
 His Majesty's special justices of the peace for the Colony aforesaid, on the oath of a credible  
 witness,

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witness, for that he the said \_\_\_\_\_ on, &c. \_\_\_\_\_ at, &c.  
 did, &c. These are therefore to command you in His Majesty's nam  
 forthwith to apprehend and bring before me, or some other of His Majesty's special justices  
 of the peace in and for the said district, the body of the said \_\_\_\_\_ to answer  
 unto the said charge, and to be further dealt with according to law. Herein fail you not.  
 Given under my hand and seal, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year  
 of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_

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## (B.)—SUMMONS.

To \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Colony of Trinidad.  
 Whereas a complaint, on oath, hath been preferred to me by  
 of \_\_\_\_\_ that you, the said \_\_\_\_\_  
 did, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of our Lord  
 [here state the complaint in general terms.] Now I, \_\_\_\_\_ one  
 of His Majesty's special justices of the peace in and for the said Colony, do hereby summon  
 and require you the said \_\_\_\_\_ to attend before me, at  
 in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the said Colony, at the  
 hour of \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
 in this present year, 18 \_\_\_\_\_ then and there to answer the matters of  
 said complaint.  
 Given under my hand and seal, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the  
 year of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_

## (C.)—SUMMONS.

To \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Colony of Trinidad.  
 These are to require you to attend and be personally present at the hour of \_\_\_\_\_  
 in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_  
 at \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ then and there to be  
 examined before me as a witness, touching and concerning the matters of a certain complaint  
 depending before me on the behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ against \_\_\_\_\_  
 Given under my hand and seal, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the  
 year of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_

## (D.)—RECOGNIZANCE.

Trinidad, } A. B., of \_\_\_\_\_ in said Colony, acknowledges himself to be indebted  
 To wit. } to our Sovereign Lord the King, his heirs and successors, in the sum of \_\_\_\_\_  
 pounds.  
 C. D., of \_\_\_\_\_ in said Colony, acknowledges himself to be indebted to our  
 Sovereign Lord the King, his heirs and successors, in the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ pounds.  
 E. F., of \_\_\_\_\_ in said Colony, acknowledges himself to be indebted to our Sovereign  
 Lord the King, his heirs and successors, in the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ pounds, upon condition  
 that the said A. B. do personally appear before me, or any one of His Majesty's special  
 justices of the peace, in and for the Colony of Trinidad, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
 at \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ aforesaid, there to answer the complaint of \_\_\_\_\_  
 and do not depart without leave; then this recognizance to be void, or else to remain in  
 full force.  
 Taken and acknowledged the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 183 \_\_\_\_\_ before  
 me,  
 One of His Majesty's Special Justices of the Peace for the Colony of Trinidad,

## (E.)—COMMITMENT.

Trinidad, } To \_\_\_\_\_ serjeant of police, and all other police officers whom this may  
 To wit. } concern.  
 Whereas \_\_\_\_\_ was this day brought and charged before me, one of His Majesty's  
 special justices of the peace in and for the Colony of Trinidad, on the complaint of \_\_\_\_\_  
 with, &c., \_\_\_\_\_ And whereas having thought proper to adjourn  
 the hearing of such complaint for further inquiry, the said \_\_\_\_\_ hath  
 although by me required, and does \_\_\_\_\_ to find sureties for his personal appearance  
 before me, or some other special justice of the peace, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
 at \_\_\_\_\_ to answer the premises. These are, therefore, in His Majesty's name, to  
 command you, the said serjeant of police, and all other officers of police, safely to convey the  
 said \_\_\_\_\_ and to deliver him to the keeper of \_\_\_\_\_ requiring you, the said keeper,  
 to receive and safely to keep the said \_\_\_\_\_ until he shall find sureties, or otherwise be  
 discharged by due course of law.  
 Given under my hand and seal, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of our  
 Lord \_\_\_\_\_

TRINIDAD.

(F.)—CONVICTION by one Special Justice of the Peace.

Appendix (B.)

Order in Council.  
No. 55.

Trinidad, } In the                      day of  
To wit. } Be it remembered, that on the                      of                      in the year of  
our Lord                      at                      in the Colony of Trinidad,                      is convicted  
before me,                      one of His Majesty's special justices of the peace for said Colony,  
for that he, the said                      did, &c.,                      And I, the said special justice,  
adjudge the said                      for his said                      offence to  
Given under my hand and seal the day and year first above mentioned.

(G.)—CONVICTION.

Trinidad, } In the                      of                      in the year of  
To wit. } Be it remembered, that on the                      day of                      in the year of  
our Lord                      at                      in the Colony of Trinidad, is convicted before  
us                      of His Majesty's special justices of the peace in and for the Colony of  
Trinidad, in sessions assembled,                      for that he, the said                      did  
and we, the said special justices adjudge the said                      for  
his said offence, to  
Given under our respective hands and seals the day and year first above mentioned.

(H.)—COMMITMENT.

Whereas                      was this day brought before me, the under-signed special justice  
of the peace in and for the Colony of Trinidad, on a complaint that he, the said  
did, &c.,                      And I, the said justice of the peace, having inquired into the cir-  
cumstances of the case, and having deemed it to be of such a nature as ought to be tried  
before a Supreme Court of Criminal Justice, do hereby commit the said                      to  
there to be detained until discharged by due course of law. These are  
therefore in His Majesty's name, to command you                      constable, and all other  
officers of police, safely to convey the said                      to the keeper of                      re-  
quiring you, the said keeper, to receive and safely to keep the said                      until he be  
discharged by due course of law.  
Given under my hand and seal, this                      day of                      in the year

(I.)—WARRANT.

Whereas on the                      day of                      I did issue to                      of  
in the Colony of Trinidad, my summons, requiring                      to attend before  
me at                      in the                      of                      in the said Colony, at the hour of  
in the                      of the                      day of                      in this present  
year of                      then and there to give evidence touching and concerning the matters  
of a certain complaint preferred to me by                      against                      And  
whereas the service of the summons on the said                      hath been made to appear to  
me on the oath of one credible witness, and yet the said                      hath refused or  
neglected to appear at the time and place so appointed: Now you are hereby authorized and  
required to arrest the person of the said                      and                      to bring before me  
at the hour of                      in the                      of the                      day of  
at                      in the                      of                      in the said Colony; and for so  
doing this shall be your warrant.  
Given under my hand and seal, this                      day of                      in the year  
of our Lord.

To

(K.)—COMMITMENT.

To                      constable  
Whereas                      having                      before me as a witness upon a  
certain complaint depending before me, on behalf of                      against  
on this                      day of                      183  
at                      in the                      of                      in the Colony of  
Trinidad, without lawful cause, hath refused to answer the questions (copy of which questions  
is hereunder written) then and there proposed to                      touching the subject of  
such hearing and inquiry: Now I do hereby authorize and require you to detain the said  
in                      in the                      of                      there to  
remain until                      shall submit to                      touching the subject of such  
hearing and inquiry, and for so doing this shall be your warrant.  
Given under my hand and seal, at                      this                      day of  
in the year of our Lord

SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

(L.)—FORM OF DECLARATION.

Form of the Declaration to be delivered by every Employer, specifying his intentions respecting the mode of maintaining his Apprenticed Labourers.

I, A. B., in the Colony of Trinidad, do hereby declare my intention to be to maintain the apprenticed labourers employed by me, whose names are hereinafter enumerated, in the manner stated, with reference to each of such apprenticed labourers, in the note or memorandum set opposite to the name of each in such memorandum.

TRINIDAD. Appendix (B.) Order in Council. No. 55.

- L. } By the cultivation of the ground to be by them appropriated for that purpose.
M. }
N. }
O. }
P. }
Q. }
R. } By an allowance of provisions.
S. }
T. }
U. }
V. }
W. } Partly by an allowance of provisions, and partly by the cultivation of ground to be to them appropriated for that purpose.
X. }
Y. }
Z. }

(M.)—AWARD OR SENTENCE.

Trinidad, } Whereas proof having been made to the satisfaction of the district sessions of
To wit. } special justices, held on the day of at
plantation in district No. in the Colony of Trinidad, that
hath not paid to the sum of being the amount stipulated
to be paid by to for work and labour done and performed,
according to a contract bearing date the day of it is hereby
awarded that the said do pay to the said the said
sum of free of all deductions whatsoever, within days after
the date of this award; on pain, in default thereof, of a levy being made upon the property
of the said
Thus done and awarded at in the parish of in the
Colony aforesaid, this day of 183

(N.)—WARRANT OF EXECUTION.

Trinidad, } Whereas at the district sessions of special justices, held on the
To wit. } day of at in district No.
in the Colony of Trinidad, it was awarded that of should
pay to the sum of free of all deductions whatsoever,
within days after the date of that award, on pain, in default thereof, of a levy
being made upon the property of the said And whereas the
said hath not paid the said sum of to the
said although the time allowed for the payment thereof hath
expired: These are therefore to command you to levy the said sum of by
distress and sale of the goods and chattels or other property of the said and
it is hereby ordered and directed, the goods and chattels so to be distrained to be sold and
disposed of within days after such levy, unless the said sum of
for which such distress shall be made, together with the reasonable charges of taking and
keeping such distress, shall be sooner paid. And you are hereby also commanded to certify
unto what you shall have done by virtue of this warrant.
Given under hand and seal, at the day of in
the year of our Lord

(O.)—ACT OF TRANSFER.

Trinidad, } Be it known that we of His Majesty's special justices of the peace in
To wit. } and for the Colony of Trinidad, having ascertained that the transfer of the here-
inafter mentioned prædial apprenticed labourers at present attached to plantation
in the parish of in the Colony aforesaid, belonging to from said plantation
to plantation in the parish of in the said Colony, also belonging to
will not have the effect of separating any of the said attached prædial apprenticed labourers from
his or her wife or husband, parent or children, or from any person or persons reputed to bear any
such relation to him or her, and that such transfer will not probably be injurious to the health
or welfare of said attached prædial apprenticed labourers; do hereby consent that the said
who is entitled to the services of said prædial apprenticed labourers, do
transfer

TRINIDAD. transfer to said plantation the services of attached  
 prædial apprenticed labourers. This act of transfer to be recorded in the Colonial Registrar's  
 Appendix (B.) office within one month from the date hereof.  
 Order in Council. Given under our respective hands and seals, at in the parish of  
 No. 55. in the Colony aforesaid, this day of 183

## (P.)—INDENTURE OF APPRENTICESHIP.

This Indenture made the day of in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty between A. B., one of His Majesty's special justices of the peace in and for said Colony, for and on the behalf of C. D., an infant, aged years, of the quarter of in the said Colony, of the one part; and E. F., of in said Colony, of the other part: Whereas E. F. [the employer] hath agreed with the said A. B. [the special justice] to take the said C. D. [the apprentice] as his apprentice for the term of years, to be taught and instructed in the trade or business of in consideration and subject to the terms and conditions herein-after contained: Now this Indenture witnesseth, that in pursuance of the said agreement, and in virtue of the ordinance in this case made and provided, he, the said E. F., [the employer] doth hereby for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators, covenant, promise and agree with and to the said A. B. [the special justice] in the manner following; that is to say, that he, the said E. F., [the employer] shall and will, during the term of years, according to the best of his skill and knowledge, teach and instruct, or cause to be taught and instructed, the said C. D. [the apprentice] in the trade or business of and all and every the matters and things whatsoever incident or relating thereto; and also shall and will, during the said term, find and provide the said C. D. [the apprentice] with suitable and sufficient diet, clothing, lodging and medical attendance, in a like and equal manner with the rest of apprenticed labourers in this Colony, and according to the said ordinance in such case made and provided, and to all other ordinances or laws which may hereafter be made touching or concerning the clothing, feeding, lodging and medical attendance of apprenticed labourers in this Colony; and shall also allow to the said C. D. such reasonable time and opportunity for education and religious instruction as shall be appointed or assigned by a special justice of the peace of the district in which the said C. D. shall reside. And in consideration of the covenants and agreements hereinbefore contained on the part of the said E. F., [the employer] he, the said A. B., [the special justice] hath placed and bounden, and by these presents doth place and bind, the said C. D. [the apprentice] as a apprenticed labourer, unto and with the said E. F. [the employer] for the said term or period of years, to be computed from the date of these presents; and doth hereby, for and on the behalf of the said C. D. [the apprentice] to and with the said E. F. [the employer] covenant, promise and declare, that he, the said C. D., [the apprentice] shall and will, during all and every part of the said term of years, truly and faithfully serve the said E. F. [the employer] as a apprenticed labourer in the said trade and business of , and diligently attend to the business and concerns thereof, according to the rules, regulations and laws now or hereafter to be in force of and concerning apprenticed labourers in this Colony.

In witness whereof, I, the said , special justice as aforesaid, for and on behalf of the said C. D., have hereunto set my hand and seal, and the said E. F. hath also set his hand and seal in my presence, at in the Colony aforesaid, the day and year first above written.

(signed) C. C. G.

## SAINT LUCIA.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 56.

—No. 56.—

St. Lucia.

COPY of ORDER in COUNCIL, dated 5th June 1834, for giving effect in the Island of *St. Lucia* to the Statute 3d & 4th Will. IV. c. 73. for the Abolition of Slavery.

At the Court of St. James's, the 5th day of June 1834:

Present, The King's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by a certain Act of Parliament passed in the third and fourth year of His Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves," it is amongst other things recited, that it is necessary that various rules and regulations should be framed and established for ascertaining, with reference to each apprenticed labourer within the said Colonies respectively, whether he or she belongs to the class of attached prædial apprenticed labourers, or to the class of unattached apprenticed labourers, or to the class of non-prædial apprenticed labourers, and for determining the manner and form in which and the solemnities with which the voluntary

tary discharge of any apprenticed labourer from such his or her apprenticeship may be effected, and for prescribing the form and manner in which and the solemnities with which the purchase by any such apprenticed labourer or his or her discharge from such apprenticeship without, or in opposition, if necessary, to, the consent of the person or persons entitled to his or her services, shall be effected, and how the necessary appraisement of the future value of such services shall be made; and how and to whom the amount of such appraisement shall in each case be paid and applied, and in what manner and form and by whom the discharge from any such apprenticeship shall thereupon be given, executed and recorded; and that it is also necessary for the preservation of peace throughout the said Colonies, that proper regulations should be framed and established for the maintenance of order and good discipline amongst the said apprenticed labourers, and for ensuring the punctual discharge of the services due by them to their respective employers, and for the prevention and punishment of indolence, or the neglect or improper performance of work by any such apprenticed labourer, and for enforcing the due performance by any such apprenticed labourer of any contract into which he or she may voluntarily enter for any hired service during the time in which he or she may not be bound to labour for his or her employer, and for the prevention and punishment of insolence and insubordination on the part of any such apprenticed labourers towards their employers, and for the prevention or punishment of vagrancy or of any conduct on the part of any such apprenticed labourers injuring or tending to the injury of the property of any such employer, and for the suppression and punishment of any riot or combined resistance of the laws on the part of any such apprenticed labourers, and for preventing the escape of any such apprenticed labourers, during their term of apprenticeship, from the Colonies to which they may respectively belong: And that it will also be necessary for the protection of such apprenticed labourers as aforesaid that various regulations should be framed and established in the said respective Colonies for securing punctuality and method in the supply to them of such food, clothing, lodging, medicines, medical attendance, and such other maintenance and allowances as they are by the said Act declared entitled to receive, and for regulating the amount and quality of all such articles in cases where the laws at present existing in any such Colony may not in the case of slaves have made any regulation or any adequate regulation for that purpose: And that it is also necessary that proper rules should be established for the prevention and punishment of any frauds which might be practised, or of any omissions or neglects which might occur, respecting the quantity or the quality of the supplies so to be furnished, or respecting the periods for the delivery of the same: And that it is necessary, in those cases in which the food of any such prædial apprenticed labourers as aforesaid may either wholly or in part be raised by themselves by the cultivation of ground to be set apart and allotted for that purpose, that proper regulations should be made and established as to the extent of such grounds, and as to the distance at which such grounds may be so allotted from the ordinary place of abode of such prædial apprenticed labourers, and respecting the deductions to be made from the cultivation of such grounds from the annual time during which such prædial apprenticed labourers are hereinbefore declared liable to labour: And that it may also be necessary, by such regulations as aforesaid, to secure to the said prædial apprenticed labourers the enjoyment for their own benefit of that portion of their time during which they are not hereby required to labour in the service of their respective employers, and for securing exactness in the computation of the time during which such prædial apprenticed labourers are hereby required to labour in the service of such their respective employers: And that it is also necessary that provision should be made for preventing the imposition of task-work on any such apprenticed labourer without his or her free consent to undertake the same; but that it may be necessary by such regulations in certain cases to require and provide for the acquiescence of the minority of the prædial apprenticed labourers attached to any plantation or estate in the distribution and apportionment amongst the whole body of such labourers of any task-work, which the majority of such body shall be willing and desirous collectively to undertake: And that it is also necessary that regulations should be made respecting any voluntary contracts into which any apprenticed labourers may enter with their respective employers or with any other person for hired service for any future period, and for limiting the greatest period of time to which such voluntary contract may extend, and for enforcing the punctual and effectual performance of such voluntary contracts on the part both of such apprenticed labourers and of the person or persons engaging for their employment and hire: And that it is also necessary that regulations should be made for the prevention or punishment of any cruelty, injustice or other wrong or injury which may be done to or inflicted upon any such apprenticed labourers by the persons entitled to their services: And that it is also necessary that proper regulations should be made respecting the manner and form in which such indentures of apprenticeship as aforesaid shall be made on behalf of such children as aforesaid, and respecting the registering and preservation of all such indentures: And that it is also necessary that provision should be made for ensuring promptitude and despatch, and for preventing all unnecessary expense, in the discharge by the justices of the peace holding such special commissions as in the said Act mentioned of the jurisdiction and authorities thereby committed to them, and for enabling such justices to decide in a summary way such questions as may be brought before them in that capacity, and for the division of the said respective Colonies into districts for the purposes of such jurisdiction, and for the frequent and punctual visitation by such justices of the peace of the apprenticed labourers within such their respective districts: And that it is also necessary that regulations should be made for indemnifying and protecting such justices of the peace in the upright execution and discharge of their duties; and that such regulations as aforesaid could not without great inconvenience be made except by the respective Governors, Councils and Assemblies, or other local legislatures of the said respective Colonies, or by His Majesty, with the advice of his Privy Council,

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Appendix (B.)

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Council, in reference to those Colonies to which the legislative authority of His Majesty in Council extends; it is therefore enacted and declared in and by the said Act, that nothing therein contained extends or shall be construed to extend to prevent the enactment by the respective Governors, Councils and Assemblies, or by such other local legislatures as aforesaid, or by His Majesty, with the advice of his Privy Council, of any such Acts of General Assembly, or Ordinances, or Orders in Council as may be requisite for making and establishing such several rules and regulations as aforesaid, or any of them, or for carrying the same or any of them into full and complete effect: provided nevertheless, and it is thereby enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any such Governor, Council and Assembly, or for any such local legislature, or for His Majesty in Council, by any such Acts of Assembly, Ordinances, or Orders in Council as aforesaid, to make or establish any enactment, regulation, provision, rule or order which shall be in anywise repugnant or contradictory to the said recited Act or any part thereof, but that every such enactment, regulation, provision, rule or order shall be and is thereby declared to be absolutely null and void and of no effect.

Now, therefore, in pursuance of the said recited Act of Parliament, and for carrying the same into effect within the Island of St. Lucia, it is hereby ordered by His Majesty, by and with the advice of his Privy Council, That the several rules and regulations contained in the twelve chapters hereunto subjoined and annexed, and which twelve chapters are and shall be taken to be part of this present Order, shall extend to and be in force within the Island of St. Lucia and the dependencies thereof, upon, from and after the 1st day of August in this present year 1834.

And the Right honourable Thomas Spring Rice, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, is to give the necessary directions accordingly.

(signed) C. C. Greville.

*CAP. I.—On the Judicial and Ministerial Agency to be employed.*

1. The Colony of St. Lucia shall be divided into not less than two judicial districts.
2. The Lieutenant-Governor shall by proclamation define, and, as occasion may require, shall alter the limits of such districts.
3. One special justice, at least, shall be appointed to each of the before-mentioned districts.
4. In each district shall be set apart one or more tract or tracts of land, which, with the buildings to be erected thereon, shall be called the Police settlement or Police settlements of the district.
5. Every such police settlement shall be established in the vicinity of as large a body as may be of the population of the district.
6. It shall be lawful for the special justice or special justices of each district to license in such district places of safe custody and correction, situate at convenient distances from each other.
7. The Lieutenant-Governor shall appropriate for the formation of the police settlements any waste lands of the Crown which may be situate conveniently for that purpose; and in districts where such Crown lands cannot be found, shall, by exchange or purchase, procure the lands wanting for the purpose.
8. At the first formation of any such police settlement, the members thereof, assisted by such hired labourers as may be indispensable, shall be employed in the erection of temporary buildings for their own occupation; such buildings to be hereafter superseded by more permanent buildings, to be erected by the means subsequently mentioned.
9. At each police settlement shall be erected a house of correction.
10. Until permanent police settlements shall be formed and the buildings requisite for that purpose erected, it shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, to procure and provide, by hire or otherwise, suitable buildings, to be occupied temporarily as police settlements.
11. At each police settlement shall also be established a penal gang, to be composed of such persons as shall be condemned to imprisonment with hard labour.
12. Every such police settlement, place of safe custody and correction, shall be placed under the general charge of the special justices of the district, and under the immediate superintendence of a special justice of the district, to be selected by the Lieutenant-Governor for that purpose, and who shall be called a superintending special justice, and shall reside thereat, or in the immediate vicinity thereof.
13. Each police settlement shall consist of no less than one serjeant and five privates, all being able-bodied men, between the ages of 20 and 50 years.
14. The serjeant and privates of each police settlement shall be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor, and shall be liable to be removed by him for bad conduct or inefficiency.
15. The serjeants and privates shall be liable to be suspended from office by the superintending special justice or justices of the district, subject to the Lieutenant-Governor's confirmation or disallowance of such suspension.
16. In addition to the police force stationed at each police settlement, the superintending special justice shall appoint and swear in such persons in their respective districts, as they shall think fit, to act as constables. Nothing herein contained shall prevent an apprenticed labourer from being appointed, sworn in, and acting as a constable.
17. The superintending special justices shall, once in each quarter, respectively make to the Lieutenant-Governor a report of the effective strength and condition of the police force at each settlement; and of the state of the buildings and provision grounds there, and of the state and conduct of the prisoners confined therein.

18. The Lieutenant-Governor shall, from time to time, by and with the advice of the Legislative Council, frame and publish all necessary rules for the internal discipline of the said police settlements, and of the said places of safe custody and correction; for the clothing, arming, supporting and remunerating the serjeants and privates of the said police; for remunerating the said constables; for securing the due performance, by the said police and constables, of their respective duties; for the employment of the penal gang, and also of the serjeants and privates of the said police, when not engaged in police duties; for the support of the prisoners in the said houses of correction and places of safe custody; for a due separation of prisoners of different sexes; for the classification of prisoners; for their religious instruction; for the maintenance of cleanliness, order and sobriety amongst them; and for the prevention and prompt punishment of any neglect or violation of such rules. And all rules so framed and published shall be transmitted for His Majesty's approbation, and shall, until disallowed or altered, remain in full force.

19. It shall be the duty of the serjeant and the privates to carry into execution such orders as they shall receive from the special justice, for the prevention or repressing of crimes, and for enforcing obedience to the law, and for inflicting such punishments as are hereby authorized.

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*CAP. II.—On the Procedure to be observed by the Special Magistrates, in the exercise of their Jurisdiction.*

1. Every superintending special justice shall reside within the district to which he is appointed, unless when prevented by sickness or other reasonable cause, to be allowed by the Lieutenant-Governor.

2. Every such superintending special justice shall, one day in each week, or oftener if need be, at the place of his residence, hold a session for the hearing and deciding upon such cases as may be brought before him.

3. Every plantation in each district upon which 10 or more apprenticed labourers shall be employed, shall be visited by a superintending or other special justice once in each fortnight, or oftener if need be, who shall there take cognizance of such cases as may be brought before him, whether such cases shall relate to apprenticed labourers employed on that plantation, or to any other apprenticed labourers.

4. Every such special justice shall keep a journal of all the cases brought before him, in which he shall enter, 1st, the date of the complaint; 2dly, the name of the complainant; 3d, the substance of the complaint; 4th, the names of the witnesses adduced on either side; 5th, the substance of the evidence; 6th, his decision on the case; 7th, whether the decision has been carried into effect; 8th, any general remarks which he may think desirable.

5. All such journals shall be kept in one uniform manner, to be prescribed for that purpose by the Lieutenant-Governor.

6. At the end of each quarter the special justice shall transmit to the Lieutenant-Governor a duplicate of his journal for the preceding quarter, with an affidavit thereto annexed, to the effect that it has been faithfully kept, and that, with the exception of unintentional errors, it contains a true account of all the proceedings in which the deponent has been engaged as such special justice, during the quarter to which it refers.

7. On receiving any complaint, it shall be the duty of the special justice to reduce it to writing, and to cause it to be read by, or to read it over to the complainant, by whom it shall then be subscribed.

8. If the complaint shall appear to the justice immaterial, and not to deserve further inquiry, he may at once dismiss the complaint; but if he shall think inquiry necessary, he shall call upon the complainant to make oath that the complaint is true.

9. Upon taking any complaint, to the truth of which such oath shall have been so made, the special justice shall either issue his warrant for the arrest of the party charged, or shall issue, if necessary, a summons for his attendance, as the case may require. The warrant of arrest shall be in the form annexed, marked (A.), and the summons in the form annexed, marked (B.)

10. The warrant of arrest shall be issued in all cases which impute to the party charged a capital or a transportable offence; in all cases where there is reason to apprehend that the party charged would endeavour to escape; and in all cases where there is reason to apprehend danger to the public peace from delay. In all other cases the justice is to proceed in the first instance by summons, if necessary.

11. In cases in which it may be necessary to adduce witnesses in support of, or in answer to any such complaint, the justice shall issue a summons, if necessary, to every such witness, in the annexed form, marked (C.)

12. At the time and place appointed by any such warrant or summons for proceeding upon any such complaint, the justice shall, in the presence of all parties, or of such of them as being summoned shall attend in pursuance of such summons, first read over the written complaint, and then take down in writing the answer of the party charged, and then proceed to examine on oath the party complaining, and the witnesses, taking down in writing the deposition of each witness, which shall be read over to and signed by him.

13. The justice may, from time to time, adjourn any such proceeding for further inquiry, and if necessary commit the party charged to custody pending such adjournment, or take bail for his appearance. Every such commitment or bail shall be in the annexed forms, marked (D.) and (E.)

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14. At the close of such proceedings, the justice shall pronounce his decision thereupon, which decision he shall reduce into writing, and subscribe with his hand.

15. By any such decision the justice shall, as law and reason may seem to him to require, either dismiss the complaint, or sanction any lawful compromise between the parties which he may think just, or convict the party charged, or commit him to prison to take his trial for the imputed offence.

16. If the complaint shall be dismissed, the justice shall, in such his written decision, state whether it was so dismissed as being unproved, or as being frivolous and vexatious, or as being malicious.

17. If any such complaint shall be so dismissed as frivolous and vexatious, the justice may adjudge the complainant, if a labourer, to work in the service of his employer, for any time not exceeding in the whole fifteen extra hours in any one week, or to any number of stripes not exceeding fifteen; or if the complainant be the employer, the justice may adjudge each employer to the payment of a penalty for the use of the labourer, of not less than 10s. sterling, and not greater than 5*l.* sterling.

18. If any such complaint shall be so dismissed as malicious, it shall be competent to the justice, at the instance of the party charged, to adjudge the complainant, if an apprenticed labourer, to imprisonment with hard labour, for any time not exceeding one month, or to any number of stripes not exceeding 30; or, if the employer of any such labourer, to a fine not less than 40s. sterling, and not greater than 10*l.* sterling, for the benefit of the party charged, which judgment shall be a bar to any suit, action or prosecution against such complainant for calumny, defamation or otherwise, in respect of such his complaint.

19. If the justice shall, by such his decision, convict the party charged, or shall convict the complainant of preferring a frivolous and vexatious, or a malicious complaint, such conviction shall be severally drawn up according to the forms annexed, marked (F.) (G.)

20. If such magistrate shall commit the party charged to take his trial for the imputed offence, such commitment shall be drawn up in the form annexed, marked (H.)

21. Upon any such conviction as aforesaid, by such special justice, he shall forthwith issue a warrant for the execution thereof.

22. All summonses, warrants, commitments and other orders, so to be issued by any such justice as aforesaid, shall be executed by the police officers of his district, such justice being nevertheless authorized, as occasion may require, to address the same to any other person or persons jointly with, or instead of, such officers of police as to him may seem requisite.

23. Any summons, warrant or order issued by any such special justice within his own district, may, without any further authority, be carried into execution in any part of the Colony, though beyond such district.

24. If any person, summoned by any such justice as a witness, shall not appear in obedience to such summons, or appearing, shall refuse to be sworn or examined, or to answer any question proposed to him by such justice, in relation to the matters depending before him, it shall be lawful for such justice to issue his warrant for the arrest of any such defaulter, or to commit him to close custody, there to remain until he shall submit to be so sworn and examined, and to make such answers as aforesaid. Every such warrant of arrest, or commitment, shall be in the forms annexed, marked (I.) and (K.)

25. If it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the Lieutenant-Governor and Legislative Council, that the forms of proceeding hereinbefore prescribed are needlessly burdensome upon the justices of the several districts within the Colony, or of any one or more of such districts; or that they impede or interfere with the prompt and effective execution of the law, the Lieutenant-Governor, with advice and consent of the Legislative Council, shall be entitled to suspend any part of the preceding rules relating to such procedure, or to adapt the same to the circumstances of the case, so as more effectually to promote the punctual, orderly and effective execution of the law; and for that purpose to frame and publish rules and ordinances, which shall be transmitted for His Majesty's confirmation, and which, until disallowed, shall be in full force.

26. It shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor to assign to such one or more of the special justices as he shall select for that purpose, the following duties; (namely) to examine into the quarterly journals hereby directed to be transmitted by the special justices to the Lieutenant-Governor; to visit the judicial districts throughout the whole or any part of the Colony, and to inspect the police settlements and places of safe custody and correction belonging to such districts; and to examine into the state of the police force, and of the prisoners in the houses of correction and places of safe custody, and of the penal gangs in such districts, and generally to ascertain how far the rules hereby established, or to be established, under the provisions herein contained, are duly observed, and to report to the Lieutenant-Governor, at such times and in such manner as the Lieutenant-Governor shall direct, upon the several matters aforesaid.

27. If any suit or action shall be commenced against any special justice, in respect of any act, matter or thing by him done by virtue and in pursuance thereof; and if the court shall give judgment for the defendant, the plaintiff shall, by such judgment, be condemned to pay treble costs of suit.

28. If in any such suit or action such justice shall, at any time before final judgment, tender to the plaintiff sufficient amends for the wrong or injury in respect of which the same may be brought, and submit to pay the costs of suit up to that time incurred; and if the plaintiff shall refuse to accept such amends and costs of suit, then upon proof made to the court at the trial of such suit, that such amends have been so tendered and were sufficient, judgment shall be given for the plaintiff in the amount of the sum so tendered, subject nevertheless to the reduction therefrom of the costs of suit of the defendant.

29. No suit or action shall be brought against any such justice in respect of any matter or thing by him done under or in pursuance hereof, unless the same shall be commenced within six months after the cause of action occurred.

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**CAP. III.—On the Division of Apprenticed Labourers into their respective Classes.**

1. By a day to be appointed for that purpose, the registrar of slaves shall deliver to every owner of slaves, a list of the slaves appearing in the registry to belong to him; for which a fee of two shillings only shall be charged.

2. By a time to be fixed for the purpose, every such owner of slaves shall return such list to the registrar, distinguishing in reference to each slave therein mentioned to which of the three classes he belongs.

3. To every such return shall be annexed an affidavit to the effect that the distinctions therein made correspond with the occupations usually pursued for twelve months next preceding the date of the Act by each of the slaves to whom such returns may refer.

4. If in any case the registrar shall see cause to doubt the accuracy of the return, he shall appoint a time and place at which the owner shall attend him to substantiate the accuracy of such return.

5. At the time and place so to be appointed the person to whom such notice shall be addressed shall attend such registrar, and if required shall bring with him any slave respecting whom any such doubt may have arisen.

6. The registrar shall then proceed to examine the person making such return, and the slave respecting whom such doubt has arisen, and any witnesses who may be adduced respecting the truth of such return; and may if necessary adjourn such examination from time to time.

7. The registrar shall then either confirm or correct any such return as he may see fit, giving notice to the party making such return, and to the slaves respectively, of such his decision.

8. If either the party making such return, or the slave to whom it may refer, shall be dissatisfied with the decision of the registrar, such party may on his own behalf, and the registrar may on the behalf of such slave, apply to the chief or to any other judge of the superior court in such Colony by petition, setting forth the nature of such decision and the objections thereto.

9. The judge to whom any such petition may be preferred shall proceed in a summary way to hear and to decide upon the same, and his decision shall be final and conclusive.

10. The judges of the said court shall make all necessary rules for regulating the proceedings upon every such petition in the manner which may be most conducive to method, punctuality and despatch.

11. When such proceedings as aforesaid shall have taken place, there shall be affixed to the entry of the name of each prædial attached slave in the registry the letters P. A.; of each prædial unattached slave the letters P. U.; and of each non-prædial slave the letters N. P.

12. During the continuance of the apprenticeship the slave registry so corrected as aforesaid shall be deposited amongst the records of the superior courts of the Colony; and when any question shall arise respecting the class to which any apprenticed labourer belongs, such corrected registry, or a certified extract thereof, shall be taken as conclusive evidence of the fact.

13. Any person neglecting or omitting to make the return or the affidavit before-mentioned, or to attend the registrar when summoned by him for that purpose, shall incur a penalty of not more than 10 *l.* nor less than 20 *s.*; and in the event of the wilful absence of any such person, it shall be lawful for the registrar to proceed and to decide any such question as though such party had attended.

**CAP. IV.—On the Maintenance of the Apprenticed Labourers.**

1. It shall be the duty of every employer of prædial apprenticed labourers, within the third week of the month of September of each year, to deliver, or cause to be delivered to the special justice of the district in which such prædial apprenticed labourers are resident, a written declaration in the form annexed, marked (L.), specifying whether it is the intention of such employer, during the current year, to maintain his prædial apprenticed labourers by the cultivation of ground, to be to them appropriated for that purpose, or by an allowance of provisions.

2. That every employer who shall, by such declaration as aforesaid, propose to maintain his prædial apprenticed labourers by an allowance of provisions, shall be and is hereby bound and required to supply to such prædial apprenticed labourers such amount of provisions, and of such kind, as by the clause next hereinafter contained are directed to be supplied to non-prædial apprenticed labourers above the age of ten years.

3. Every employer shall be, and is hereby bound and required to maintain his non-prædial apprenticed labourers, and also his prædial apprenticed labourers, until such written declaration shall have been so made and delivered by him as aforesaid, by an allowance of provisions, and to supply such provisions to the amount and of the kinds following; that is to say, each and every apprenticed labourer, above the age of ten years, shall receive in each week not less than seven herrings or shads, or other salted provisions equal thereto, together with

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21 pints of wheat-flour, or of the flour or meal of Guinea, or Indian corn, or 56 full-grown plantains, or 56 pounds of cocoas or yams; or, in lieu of the allowances hereinbefore mentioned, the allowances following; namely, four pots of manioc-flour or farine, and two pounds and one half-pound of salt-fish, or fresh, or salt meat, in every week, and to all apprenticed labourers under the age of 10 years, one half of the above allowances.

4. All provisions so to be supplied to the apprenticed labourers in the Colony of St. Lucia, shall be sound and fit for consumption, and of good average merchantable quality.

5. The apprenticed labourers to whom such provisions shall be supplied, shall also be provided by and at the expense of their employers, with the means of preserving the same from week to week, and of properly preparing the same for human food.

6. Every employer of prædial apprenticed labourers, who shall by such declaration as aforesaid propose to maintain such prædial apprenticed labourers by the appropriation of ground, to be by them cultivated for that purpose, shall be and is hereby bound and required to set apart for every prædial apprenticed labourer so to be maintained half an acre of land, properly adapted for the growth of provisions, and not more than two miles distant from the place of residence of such prædial apprenticed labourer.

7. Every such employer shall be and is hereby bound and required to supply every prædial apprenticed labourer, for whom any such ground shall be so appropriated, with such seeds and with such implements of husbandry as may be necessary for the cultivation of such ground, on the first entering of such prædial apprenticed labourer in the occupation thereof.

8. It shall not be lawful for any person whomsoever to dispossess any prædial apprenticed labourer of any land so cultivated by him or her, until such labourer shall have had full time and opportunity for reaping and gathering in all crops by him or her planted and growing upon such ground.

9. The crops, when growing upon any such ground and when severed therefrom, shall and are hereby declared to be the sole and absolute property of the prædial apprenticed labourer, for and in respect of whom such ground shall have been appropriated and set apart.

10. Every prædial apprenticed labourer for or in respect of whom any ground shall be so appropriated and set apart for his support shall, out of the annual time during which such prædial apprenticed labourer is by the said recited Act required to labour, after the rate of 45 hours per week as aforesaid, be allowed such number of hours, not being fewer than four hours and a half per week, and not being more than seven hours and a half per week, as the Lieutenant-Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, shall, by rules to be framed for that purpose, determine; which rules shall be duly transmitted for His Majesty's approbation, and until disallowed or altered shall remain in full force.

11. If any employer of prædial apprenticed labourers within the said Colony of St. Lucia shall neglect or omit to sign and deliver, in manner and within the time hereinbefore mentioned such written declaration as aforesaid, he or she shall incur a penalty of 2*l.* for such omission or neglect, in respect of the first week in which the same shall occur, with additional penalties of 4*l.* in the second week, 6*l.* in the third week, and so on in arithmetical progression, in respect of each additional week during which such neglect shall be continued; and if any employer or manager of apprenticed labourers shall not supply to such apprenticed labourers provisions of such amount and quality, and at such times as he is hereinbefore required to supply the same, or shall not provide such apprenticed labourers with the means of preserving such provisions from week to week, or with the means of properly preparing the same for human food, every employer shall incur and become liable to a penalty equal to twice the value of the provisions which ought so to have been supplied, or for the preservation and preparation of which such means as aforesaid ought to have been provided, which last-mentioned penalties shall accrue to, and be for the benefit of the apprenticed labourers injured by any such omission or neglect; and if any such employer of prædial labourers shall not set apart for every prædial apprenticed labourer who is maintained by the cultivation of ground, such land of such quality and quantity, and so situate as hereinbefore is required, or shall neglect or omit to supply any such prædial apprenticed labourer with such seeds and implements of husbandry as aforesaid, or shall dispossess any such prædial apprenticed labourer of any land by him or her cultivated, until such prædial apprenticed labourer shall have had full time and opportunity for reaping and gathering in all crops by him or her planted, and growing upon such ground, every person so offending shall incur and become liable to a penalty equal to twice the amount of the loss sustained by every such prædial apprenticed labourer by every such act, omission or neglect, which penalty shall go and be applied to and for the use and benefit of the prædial apprenticed labourer so injured; and if any such employer of prædial apprenticed labourers shall neglect or omit to allow to any prædial apprenticed labourer for or in respect of whom any ground shall be so appropriated, such number of hours as aforesaid in each week for the cultivation thereof, every person so offending shall for each and every such offence incur a distinct and separate penalty of 10*s.*, which shall go and be applied to and for the benefit of the prædial apprenticed labourers injured thereby, the number of such penalties being equal to the number of prædial apprenticed labourers affected by such offence, multiplied by the number of the days on which such offences may have been repeated.

12. It is and shall be the duty of every employer of apprenticed labourers within the said Colony once, that is to say, either in the month of January or in the month of June in each year, and he or she is hereby required to deliver to every such apprenticed labourer for his or her use either in the month of January, or in the month of June in each and every year, the following articles, that is to say:—

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To every male apprenticed labourer of the age of 15 years and upwards,—

One hat of chip, straw or felt, or other more durable material, or one Kilmarnock cap; one cloth jacket, or blue baize or penisten frock, or seaman's shirt; two cotton or linen check-shirts; two pairs of osnaburgh trowsers; and one blanket.

To every female apprenticed labourer of the age of 13 years and upwards,—

One chip or straw hat, or two checked cotton handkerchiefs; one blue baize or penisten frock or wrapper; two cotton or linen check shifts; two osnaburgh petticoats; one blanket; and one pair of scissars.

To every male apprenticed labourer under the age of fifteen years,—

One hat or cap as aforesaid; one cloth jacket, or blue baize or penisten frock, or seaman's shirt; one checked linen or cotton shirt; and one pair of osnaburgh trowsers.

And to every female under the age of thirteen years,—

One chip or straw hat, or two checked cotton handkerchiefs; one blue baize or penisten frock or wrapper; one check shift, and one osnaburgh petticoat.

13. All the articles so to be supplied to such apprenticed labourers as aforesaid, shall be of good average merchantable quality.

14. If any employer of apprenticed labourers in the said Colony shall neglect or omit, within the time or times hereinbefore for that purpose limited, to supply and deliver to and for the use of any apprenticed labourer under his or her management, such articles of clothing and household furniture as are hereinbefore referred to, the person so offending shall incur and become liable to a fine equal to twice the value of the article or articles so withholden, which penalty shall go and be applied to and for the use and benefit of the apprenticed labourer injured by such neglect.

15. Every employer of apprenticed labourers within the said Colony shall be and is hereby required to supply each and every apprenticed labourer under his or her management with a wooden or iron bedstead, or with boards so arranged as to enable every such apprenticed labourer to sleep during the night at an elevation of one foot, at the least, above the ground; and every employer who shall neglect or omit so to supply any such apprenticed labourer with such bedstead, or such means of sleeping above the ground as aforesaid, shall for every such neglect or omission incur and become liable to a fine of 5s. in respect of each and every apprenticed labourer, which fine shall be again incurred from week to week as long as such neglect or omission shall continue.

16. Every person in the said Colony being the employer of 40 apprenticed labourers or upwards, shall and is hereby required to engage a medical practitioner to visit such apprenticed labourers in such his medical capacity once at the least in each 14 days; and it shall be the duty of such medical practitioner, and he is hereby authorized and required, to keep a journal of the health of such body of apprenticed labourers, so placed under his medical superintendence, in which journal he shall, once in each 14 days, record what is the general state of health of such body of apprenticed labourers, and shall also enter the name of each apprenticed labourer then labouring under sickness, distinguishing such apprenticed labourers as are thereby disqualified for the ordinary amount of labour, and prescribing such medicines or articles of diet as may in his judgment be necessary for the restoration of the sick; and it shall be the duty of every such medical practitioner once in each fortnight to deliver a copy of the entries so made by him in his journal to the employer of such apprenticed labourers, which employer shall be and is hereby required to supply such apprenticed labourers with such medicines or nourishments, and to allow to such apprenticed labourers such relaxations of labour as may by such medical practitioner be so recommended and prescribed; and in reference to every apprenticed labourer for whom any such nourishment may be provided, the rules hereinbefore contained respecting the food of apprenticed labourers shall be and are hereby suspended; and every such medical practitioner shall and is hereby required, in obedience to any requisition to him for that purpose made in writing by any such superintending special justice, to produce to such justice his journal; and in case of any acute or dangerous disease of any apprenticed labourer, the employer of such apprenticed labourer shall and is hereby required to employ at his own costs and charges, a medical practitioner for the care and medical treatment of such apprenticed labourer.

17. If any such employer of apprenticed labourers as aforesaid in the said Colony, or if any such medical practitioner as aforesaid shall refuse, neglect or omit to do or perform any matter or thing which such employer or medical practitioner is hereby required to do and perform in and about the engagement of such practitioner, or in or about the keeping such journal as aforesaid, or in or about the medical treatment, nourishment or temporary relaxation of labour of any apprenticed labourer, or in or about the production, when thereunto required, of any such journal as aforesaid, the person so offending shall, for and in respect of every such offence, incur and become liable to a fine of not less than 2*l.* or more than 20*l.*

18. Every apprenticed labourer who, on account of any disease, the medical practitioner shall deem it necessary to confine to the hospital, or to any apartment thereof for the purpose of cure, shall be bound, and if necessary may be compelled to submit to such hospital regulations as shall be sanctioned by a superintending special justice of the district in which such apprenticed labourer shall be resident.

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CAP. V.—*On the Duties to be performed by the Apprenticed Labourers, and the Penalties for their non-performance.*

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1. As regards the apportionment of the 45 hours per week, during which prædial apprenticed labourers are required by law to work for their employers, it shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, to make such regulations in respect thereof, as may appear to them best adapted to promote the interests both of the apprenticed labourers and their employers, and to frame and publish rules and ordinances for that purpose, which shall be duly transmitted for His Majesty's approbation, and which until disallowed or altered, shall remain in full force.

2. Subject to the provision lastly hereinbefore contained, and subject also to the deduction of the time hereinbefore directed to be allowed to prædial apprenticed labourers for the cultivation of their provision-grounds, every prædial apprenticed labourer shall be bound and obliged to work and labour for seven hours and a half in each and every day in the year (Sundays and holidays hitherto allowed by law to the labouring population excepted) in the service and for the benefit of his employer.

3. For every hour in which any labourer shall absent himself from his employer's service without reasonable cause, he shall be compelled to serve two extra hours, and so in proportion for every portion of time greater or less than an hour, provided that such extra hours shall not exceed 15 in the whole in any one week.

4. Any apprenticed labourer absenting himself without reasonable cause for more than seven and a half hours in any one week, shall be adjudged a deserter.

5. Any apprenticed labourer absenting himself without reasonable cause for two days during one week, shall be adjudged a vagabond.

6. Any apprenticed labourer absenting himself without reasonable cause for more than six days in any one week, shall be adjudged a runaway.

7. The reasonableness of the cause of absence shall, in each case, be decided by the special justice.

8. Apprenticed labourers adjudged deserters shall be confined to hard labour for any time not exceeding one week; those adjudged vagabonds, to hard labour for any time not exceeding two weeks, and to any number of stripes not exceeding fifteen; those adjudged runaways, to hard labour for any time not exceeding one month, and to any number of stripes not exceeding 30.

9. Any apprenticed labourer convicted of performing his work indolently, carelessly, or negligently, shall, for the first offence, be adjudged to labour in his employer's service for any time not exceeding fifteen hours in the whole in any one week; or in case such labourer be a non-prædial labourer, to whipping not exceeding 15 stripes; for the second offence, if within two calendar months, to confinement with hard labour for any time not exceeding one week; for the third, or any subsequent offence, if within two calendar months of the first offence, to confinement with hard labour for any time not exceeding one fortnight, with whipping not exceeding 20 stripes.

10. Any labourer who by the careless use of fire shall wilfully endanger the property of his employer or any other person, or who shall wantonly injure the property of his employer intrusted to his care, or who shall ill use the cattle or other live stock of his employer, or who shall by wilful negligence expose his employer's property to any damage or injury, shall for such offence be adjudged, in the discretion of the justice, either to extra labour in his employer's service for any time not exceeding fifteen hours in the whole in any one week, or to confinement to hard labour for any time not exceeding one month, or to any number of stripes not exceeding 30 lashes, or to any two of such punishments: provided that this enactment shall not exempt any such labourer from his or her liability to such actions or prosecutions as other persons of free condition may be subject and liable to, in respect of any such acts by him or her done or omitted, although no such labourer shall be liable to be so sued or prosecuted, both under this order and under such general law as aforesaid.

11. Any apprenticed labourer who shall contumaciously disobey the lawful commands of his employer shall be liable to any one or any two of the punishments last aforesaid.

12. Any three or more apprenticed labourers who shall agree together to make any resistance to the lawful commands of their employers shall be deemed guilty of an unlawful conspiracy, and shall be adjudged to confinement to hard labour for any period not exceeding six months, with whipping not exceeding 39 stripes.

13. Any three or more labourers who shall be engaged in a combined and open resistance to the lawful commands of their employer, shall, on conviction, be adjudged to the punishments last aforesaid, or any one of them.

14. Any apprenticed labourer who shall be in a state of drunkenness, or who shall be found fighting, or who shall conduct himself in an insolent and insubordinate manner towards his employer or any person in the immediate superintendence of his labour, shall, for every such offence, be liable on conviction to imprisonment with hard labour for any time not exceeding one week, or to whipping not exceeding 15 stripes.

15. Provided always, that no woman shall be subject to be punished by whipping for any offence by her committed; but that in all cases aforesaid in which that punishment is authorized, it shall be understood as applying to the case of males only, and that all the offences in respect of which such punishment may be inflicted on any such male offender, shall, when committed by females, be punished by confinement in the stocks. The stocks to be employed for that purpose shall all be according to one general model, to be sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor; and no female shall for any offence by her committed be confined in the stocks after sunset

sunset or before sunrise, or for more than eight hours in the whole for any one day, or for more than two days consecutively, or for more than six days on the whole for any one offence.

16. All the offences aforesaid shall be inquired of by the magistrates having special commissions, and not by any other justice of the peace. But any such special magistrate may, if he shall see occasion, refer any such case for trial to the superior court of the Colony.

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**CAP. VI.—On the Duties to be performed by the Employers towards their Apprenticed Labourers; and the Penalties for their non-performance.**

1. If the employer of any prædial apprenticed labourer shall, by force or fraud, protract the weekly services of such labourer beyond the period by law allowed for that purpose, he shall forfeit, for the benefit of such labourer, the sum of one shilling in respect of every hour which such service shall be protracted.

2. It shall be the duty of every such employer to intimate to the labourers in his employment, the commencement and the close of the legal hours of labour; for which purpose, a signal shall be given in such manner as shall, in reference to each plantation, have been previously approved by the special justice of the district.

3. No apprenticed labourer shall be bound to undertake any task-work, except with his own free assent to the same, save as hereinafter is excepted.

4. Every contract between the employer and the prædial apprenticed labourer, for the performance of any specific work as a task, and in lieu of the prescribed daily labour, or for the performance of any labour in extra hours, shall, by such employer, be reduced into writing, and entered in a book to be kept for that purpose on the plantation; which book it shall be the duty of the special justice to inspect, as often as he shall in manner aforesaid repair to the several plantations within his district.

5. No contract between the employer and the prædial apprenticed labourer, for the performance of any such specific or task-work, or for the performance of any labour in extra hours, shall endure or continue in force, or be binding upon the parties entering into the same, or either of them, after the expiration of 14 days from the making thereof, unless the same shall have been made and entered into by such parties, in the presence and with the approbation of such special justice of the peace, or unless, having been entered into in his absence, the same shall be confirmed and approved by him, before the expiration of such 14 days. And every such approbation of any such contract shall, by such special justice, be attested under his hand in the book so to be kept as aforesaid.

6. It shall be the duty of the special justice, before approving any such contract, to ascertain that the terms thereof are distinctly understood by the apprenticed labourers entering into the same; and that such labourers have entered into such contract freely and voluntarily, and that the same is not unreasonable or unjust.

7. In every such contract for task-work, or for extra service extending beyond the period of one fortnight, the nature and amount of the extra labour to be performed, and the amount of the consideration to be given for the same, and the time and manner of paying such consideration, shall be distinctly expressed.

8. No contract for such extra service as aforesaid shall continue in force for more than one year from the day of the date thereof.

9. Upon proof being made, to the satisfaction of such special justice, of the non-payment of the consideration stipulated for in any such contract as aforesaid, whether for task-work or for extra services, it shall be competent to such justice, and he is hereby authorized to award execution against such employer for the amount of such consideration; and if the same shall not be paid within one week next after such award, to issue an attachment against the produce, utensils and other chattels upon such plantation, which execution and award shall be respectively in the forms annexed, marked (M.) and (N.)

10. Such execution and attachment as aforesaid shall be executed by the serjeant of the police of the district, who shall thereunder seize and sell so much of the produce, utensils and other chattels as may be found upon such plantation, as may be necessary for the payment of such debt, delivering over the surplus, if any, to such employer.

11. Any apprenticed labourer violating the terms of such contract as aforesaid, for task-work or for extra service, shall be liable to the same pains and penalties as are before provided in respect of the violation, by any such labourer, of the duties to be by him performed in the discharge of the services owing by him by law to such his employer, unless specific penalties are named in the contract.

12. Every married woman, notwithstanding her coverture, and every child of the age of 12 years and upwards, notwithstanding his infancy, shall be competent to enter into such contracts as aforesaid for task-work or for extra service.

13. If any employer of any apprenticed labourer, or any person who, as manager or otherwise, exercises the authority of the employer over any apprenticed labourer, shall whip, beat, imprison, confine in the stocks, or otherwise maltreat any such apprenticed labourer, or shall, by way of punishment, commit any assault upon his person, such employer or other person shall incur a penalty, to be imposed by such special justice as aforesaid, not exceeding 5*l.*, with imprisonment for any time not exceeding one month, in default of the payment of such fine.

14. In any such case as last aforesaid, it shall be competent to any such apprenticed labourer, instead of preferring his complaint to such special justice, to maintain any civil suit or action, as in the case of any other free person, for damages for such assault; and it shall



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shall also be competent to such special justice, if he shall see occasion, to abstain from imposing such penalty, and to commit the offender to take his trial for such offence, before any court having jurisdiction in the premises. If any such employer or other person shall be convicted before any court of competent jurisdiction, of any cruelty towards his apprenticed labourer, or if any such employer or other person shall be twice convicted of inflicting any corporal punishment, or of making any assault upon the person of any such labourer, then the labourer may be discharged from his apprenticeship, by order of the court before which such conviction shall be had.

*CAP. VII.—On Offences which may be committed by the Apprenticed Labourers against the State, and the Punishment of such Offences.*

1. If any three or more apprenticed labourers shall unite together in any riot or tumultuous assemblage, any justice of the peace, who shall be present at the same, shall cause a flag, or some other conspicuous signal, to be exhibited as a warning to all persons there present to separate and disperse quietly.

2. All persons who, at the expiration of 10 minutes from the exhibition of such flag or signal, shall continue present at any such riotous assemblage, shall, on conviction, be liable to imprisonment, with hard labour, for any time not exceeding 12 months.

3. No prædial attached apprenticed labourer shall reside beyond the limits of the plantation on which he may be resident on the 1st of August next, unless either by the authority of his employer, or with the consent in writing of the special justice of such district.

4. Every labourer found in any place more than five miles distant from his residence, except in his way to or from some place of public worship, and not having with him a written pass for that purpose from his employer, or from the special justice of the district, shall be liable to be apprehended and detained, and brought before a special justice; and unless such labourer shall make it appear, to the satisfaction of such special justice, that he or she, when so found, was employed upon his or her lawful occasions, such labourer shall, on conviction, be adjudged a vagabond, and punished accordingly.

5. If it shall be made to appear, to the satisfaction of any special justice, that any apprenticed labourers have, without lawful authority, established themselves in any part of the Colony as a distinct community, habitually abandoning and neglecting to perform the duties imposed upon them by law, such justice of the peace shall cause any such community to be dislodged, and, if necessary, shall also cause their habitations to be taken down and removed.

6. Any labourer convicted of having been a member of any such community, shall be liable to imprisonment, with hard labour, for any term not exceeding six months, and, if a male, to whipping, by any number of stripes not exceeding 39.

7. If any labourer shall, without lawful authority, enter into possession of any land belonging to His Majesty, or to any other person, it shall be lawful for any special justice to dispossess such labourer from such land, and from any buildings thereon erected, and to cause the same, with all crops growing thereupon, to be delivered up to the owner of such land; or in case such owner shall not, within one month after such seizure, appear and prefer his claim to such land, then the special justice shall order the crops, cattle and other goods seized thereupon to be sold, and the proceeds of such sales to be paid over to the public treasurer of the Colony.

8. The summary process aforesaid shall not be taken in any case where any such apprenticed labourer may have been for two years in the undisturbed possession of any such land.

9. The special justice may further adjudge any apprenticed labourer, unlawfully taking possession of such land, to imprisonment, with hard labour, for any time not exceeding three months, if it should be made to appear, to his satisfaction, that such possession was taken fraudulently, and with knowledge that the party had no lawful claim to such possession.

10. No apprenticed labourer shall quit the Colony except with a passport from the Lieutenant-Governor, which passport shall not be granted except with the written consent of the employer.

11. Any labourer quitting or attempting to quit the Colony without such passport, shall be liable to imprisonment, with hard labour, for any term not exceeding six months.

12. All persons whose ordinary occupation is on the sea, or on any navigable stream as fishermen or mariners, shall be registered as such at the office of the special justice of the district; and any apprenticed labourer engaging in such occupation, without being first so registered, shall be liable to imprisonment, with hard labour, for any time not exceeding three months.

13. All vessels and boats not registered under the Navigation Acts, shall be registered at the office of the special justice of the district, with whom shall be entered the description of the vessel or boat, the name of the owner, and the place at which the same is usually moored.

14. No person shall keep a vessel or boat so registered, except by a license from the Lieutenant-Governor.

15. All licensed owners of such boats or vessels shall be bound to moor them, when not actually afloat, at the place or places mentioned in such license.

16. All unlicensed vessels and boats shall be liable to seizure and confiscation; and all other vessels and boats moored at any place not mentioned in the license, shall be liable to detention

detention until the owner thereof shall have paid a fine of not less than 20*s.*, nor more than 5*l.*

17. All persons removing, or assisting to remove any apprenticed labourer from the Colony, in any boat or vessel, without a passport from the Lieutenant-Governor, shall be liable to a penalty of 50*L.*, or to imprisonment for any time not exceeding one month.

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*CAP. VIII.—On the Dissolution of the Apprenticeship by Contract or Appraisement.*

1. Subject to the regulations hereinafter made, any person, being the employer of any apprenticed labourer in the said Island of St. Lucia, may, by his or her last will, or by deed under his or her hand or seal, at his or her pleasure, discharge any such apprenticed labourer, so far as relates to the interest of every such testator or grantor, and that every such discharge shall, as far as relates to the interest of the testator or grantor, as the case may be, but no further, or otherwise be valid and effectual in the law, for the perpetual discharge of any such apprenticed labourer: provided nevertheless, that no person, having a partial or temporary interest in any apprenticed labourer, may, to the extent of such interest, effect his or her discharge gratuitously, unless all other persons, having a partial, future or reversionary interest in such apprenticed labourer, shall consent or be parties to such discharge, or unless such partial, future or reversionary interests shall be purchased in the manner hereinafter provided.

2. And, in order to prevent the fraudulent discharge of apprenticed labourers, incompetent from age or disease to earn their own living, it is further ordered, that in case any such deed of discharge shall be executed gratuitously, and without any valuable consideration passing to the employer or other person effecting the same, the apprenticed labourer so to be discharged shall, previously to the actual execution of any such deed, appear before the special justice for the district in which the apprenticed labourer is resident; and if it shall appear to the said special justice that such apprenticed labourer is under the age of 14 years, or above the age of 50 years, or is labouring under any habitual disease or infirmity of mind or body, the employer or person effecting such discharge shall, under his or her hand and seal, execute and deliver to the said special justice a bond to His Majesty, in the penal sum of 50*L.*, with a condition thereunder written for the defeazance thereof, if such apprenticed labourer shall be properly fed, clothed and maintained until the time when the term of apprenticeship would have expired, if such discharge had not been made; and no such gratuitous discharge shall be valid and effectual in the law, until such bond as aforesaid shall be duly executed.

3. Provided nevertheless, that no such bond as aforesaid shall be required in the case of any discharge by will; but if at the time of the death of the testator, the apprenticed labourer so discharged shall be under the age of 14 years, or above the age of 50 years, or labouring under any such disease or infirmity as aforesaid, the estate of every such testator shall be liable to, and chargeable with, the maintenance of such apprenticed labourer, as fully as if the said testator had, in his or her life-time, executed such bond as aforesaid.

4. And, to prevent ignorant apprenticed labourers effecting the purchase of their discharge from persons unable to make any valid title to the same, it is further ordered and declared, that it is and shall be lawful for any person, being the employer of any apprenticed labourer in the said Colony, to contract with such apprenticed labourer, through the agency of any such special justice as aforesaid, acting for and on behalf of such apprenticed labourer, but not otherwise, for the discharge of the said apprenticed labourer; at a price to be agreed upon between the said employer and the said special justice respectively; and in case of any such contract, it shall be the duty of the said special justice, on behalf of the said apprenticed labourer, to satisfy himself that the person proposing to effect the said discharge has good right and title in the law, and is competent to effect the same; and it shall also be the duty of the said special justice, without fee or reward, to prepare, in every such case, the proper deed of discharge, which shall in all cases be executed in the presence of and attested by the said special justice, or some proper person to be especially appointed by him to be such witness thereto; and every such deed being so executed shall, by such special justice, be enrolled in the supreme court of civil justice in and for the said Colony of St. Lucia, within one calendar month next after the date and execution thereof; and in case any such deed shall not be so enrolled by the said special justice, within the said period of one calendar month, the said special justice shall incur and be liable to the payment of a fine of not less than 10*L.*, nor more than 50*L.*

5. And to provide for the discharge of apprenticed labourers desiring to obtain the same by purchase, in cases where the employers of such apprenticed labourers may be unwilling or unable to contract for such discharge, it is hereby further ordered, that if the employer of any apprenticed labourer in the said Colony of St. Lucia, or any person having any interest in any such apprenticed labourer, shall be unwilling to effect his or her discharge, or shall, by reason of any mortgage or settlement, or lease or charge upon, or interest in such apprenticed labourer being vested in any other person or persons, be unable to execute a valid and effectual discharge of such apprenticed labourer; or if the employer, or any other person having a charge upon, or interest in, any such apprenticed labourer, shall be a minor, or a married woman, or idiot, or lunatic; or if the real employer of any such apprenticed labourer shall be absent from the said Colony, or shall not be known; or if any suit or action shall be depending in any court of justice in the said Colony, wherein the right to the service of such apprenticed labourer shall or may be in controversy; or if the employer of any such

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apprenticed labourer shall demand, as the price of his or her discharge, a greater sum of money than may appear to the said special justice to be the fair and just value thereof; then and in each and every of the cases aforesaid, the chief civil judge of the said Colony, on application to him for that purpose made by the said special justice, shall issue a summons under his hand and seal, requiring the employer of such apprenticed labourer to appear before him at some convenient time and place to be in such summons for that purpose appointed, and notice shall be published by the said special justice in the public Gazette of the said Colony, of the time and place appointed for the purpose aforesaid; and in such notice, all persons having or claiming to have any title or interest to or in the services of the apprenticed labourer proposed to be discharged, either in their own right, or as the agents, guardians, attornies, trustees, or representatives of any other person, shall be required to attend and prefer such claims.

6. At the time appointed for any such meeting as aforesaid, the chief civil judge of the said Colony, in the presence of the said special justice, and also in the presence of the employer of the apprenticed labourer proposed to be discharged, or upon proof being made to him upon oath of the due service and publication of such notice as aforesaid; then, if necessary, in the absence of such employer, shall proceed to hear in a summary way what may be alleged by the said special justice, and by the employer, or other persons claiming any interest in the services of the apprenticed labourer proposed to be discharged, and attending in pursuance of any such notice; and in case the said parties, or any of them, shall refuse to effect such discharge at a price approved by the said special justice, or in case it shall be made to appear to the said chief civil judge that a valid and effectual discharge of such apprenticed labourer cannot legally be effected by private contract, or that the employer of such apprenticed labourer, or any person having any charge upon or interest in the services of such apprenticed labourer, is a minor, or a married woman, or idiot, or lunatic, or that the employer of such apprenticed labourer, or any person having any charge upon, or interest in, the services of such apprenticed labourer, is absent from the said Colony, or is unknown, or cannot be found, or that any action is depending in any court of justice in such Colony wherein the right to the services of such apprenticed labourer is in controversy, then, and in every such case, the said chief civil judge shall require the special justice and the employer of such apprenticed labourer, if attending in pursuance of such notice, each to nominate an appraiser of the value of his or her services for the remainder of such apprenticeship, and the said judge shall himself nominate an umpire between such appraisers; but if such employer being duly summoned as aforesaid, shall fail to attend, or attending shall refuse or omit to nominate an appraiser, then the said judge shall not only nominate such umpire as aforesaid, but shall also nominate an appraiser on behalf of such employer.

7. The appraisers so to be nominated as aforesaid, shall be duly sworn by and before the said chief civil judge, to make a fair and impartial appraisement of the value of the services of the apprenticed labourer so proposed to be discharged, and within seven days next after such their appointment, such appraisers shall make a joint valuation of the said services, and shall certify such their valuation to the said chief civil judge under their hand and seals; and in case such joint certificate shall not be so made and delivered to the said judge within the said term of seven days, then the said umpire, being duly sworn in manner aforesaid, shall within the next succeeding seven days certify his valuation to the said judge; and the valuation to be made in manner aforesaid, either by the said joint appraisers, or in their default by the said umpire, shall be binding and conclusive, and shall be entered and enrolled among the records of the supreme court of civil justice in and for the said Colony.

8. Provided nevertheless, that if it shall be made to appear to the said judge, within one calendar month next after such valuation shall have been made, that in the making thereof the said appraisers or umpire, or any of them, acted fraudulently or unjustly, or under the influence of any improper motive, or under any mistake as to the nature of their or his duty, or under any misapprehension of any material matter of fact, then, but not otherwise, it shall be lawful for the said judge to set aside the said valuation, and to declare the same to be void, and to direct another valuation to be made in manner aforesaid, for which purpose new appraisers and a new umpire shall in manner aforesaid be appointed and sworn, and shall proceed to make a second valuation, which being certified to the said judge in manner aforesaid, shall be to all intents and purposes binding and conclusive: provided that such second or any subsequent valuation may in like manner be set aside by any such judge on the grounds aforesaid, until a valuation is made not open to any such objection.

9. Provided also, that if the amount of any such valuation shall not be paid in manner hereinafter mentioned, within three calendar months next after the enrolment thereof, such enrolment shall be cancelled.

10. Upon or within three calendar months next after the enrolment in the supreme court of justice of the said Colony of any such valuation as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for any special justice as aforesaid of such Colony out of any monies to be supplied to him for that purpose, by the apprenticed labourer proposed to be discharged, to pay to the treasurer of the said Colony, the appraised value of the services of such apprenticed labourer, taking a receipt in writing from such treasurer for every such payment; and the chief civil judge of the said Colony shall, upon application to him for that purpose made by the said special justice, make an order for the enrolment in the said supreme court of justice of such receipt, and the said chief judge shall by such order further proceed to declare and adjudge, that the apprenticed labourer, by or on behalf of whom such money hath been paid, is discharged; and such apprenticed labourer shall thereupon be, and be deemed, taken and reputed to be discharged to all intents and purposes from such apprenticeship.

11. The

11. The money to arise from the discharge of any apprenticed labourer by virtue of the proceedings before mentioned shall remain in the hands of the public treasurer of the said Colony, and shall bear interest at and after the rate of 5 l. per cent. per annum, and His Majesty's revenue in the said Colony shall, and is hereby declared to be pledged and responsible for the due payment of such principal money and interest; or shall in the discretion of such treasurer be invested in the purchase, in his name, of any public funds or securities of Great Britain and Ireland; and the chief civil judge of the said Colony shall, and he is hereby authorized, upon application to him for that purpose made, to direct that the money in the hands of the said treasurer, and the interest accruing on such money, or the public funds of Great Britain and Ireland so to be purchased as aforesaid, and the dividends payable thereupon, shall be the property of the person or persons who was or were entitled to the services of such discharged apprenticed labourers, and shall be subject and liable to all such and the same uses, trusts, limitations, conditions, mortgages, claims and demands of what nature or kind soever, as such services were subject unto at such time of the discharge of such apprenticed labourer. And the said treasurer shall hold the said money, and the interest accruing thereupon, or the said public funds and dividends, subject to such order as such chief judge of the said Colony may, upon a summary application of any person interested therein, and upon notice to all other persons interested therein, or their agents, see fit to make; and such principal money and interest shall by such treasurer be paid and disposed of in pursuance of, and in obedience to, any such order.

12. It shall and may be lawful for the chief civil judge of the said Colony to make and prescribe, and from time to time to revoke and alter, as occasion may require, all such rules and orders as may be necessary for the regular and proper exercise of the jurisdiction hereby in him vested, and for regulating the proceedings of all persons who may be parties to or interested in any question so depending before him.

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**CAP. IX.—On the Removal of prædial Apprenticed Labourers from one Plantation to another.**

In every case in which, according to the provisions of the said Act of Parliament, the consent of the justice of the peace shall be necessary for the transfer of any apprenticed labourer from one plantation to another, every such transfer shall be given and attested in the form annexed marked with the letter (O.) and shall within one month after the date thereof be recorded in a book, to be kept for that purpose by the special justice of the district to which such apprenticed labourer shall belong.

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**CAP. X.—On the Apprenticeship of Children.**

Every indenture of apprenticeship to be made and entered into by any such special justice as aforesaid, in pursuance of the said Act of Parliament, on behalf of any children of any apprenticed labourers, shall be in the form annexed, marked with the letter (P.), and shall be kept and recorded in the office of the special justice for the district to which such apprenticed child may belong.

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**CAP. XI.—On the Alienation by Sale, Inheritance or Will, of the Services of Apprenticed Labourers.**

The right or interest of any employer or employers to and in the services of any such apprenticed labourers as aforesaid, shall, upon the death of any such employer, pass to and become vested in such and the same person or persons as, if the said Act had not been passed, would by will or descent, as the case may be, have been entitled to such apprenticed labourer, as his, her or their slave; and such right or interest shall pass and be transferrable, *inter vivos*, in such manner and form, and under and by virtue of such deeds, instruments and conveyances as slaves have hitherto been transferrable, and have passed in the said Island.

Provided always, that no such apprenticed labourer shall be publicly or privately exhibited, or be liable or compelled to attend in person at the time or place of any sale or transfer of his or her services.

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**CAP. XII.—On the Relation in which the Apprenticed Labourers will stand towards the State.**

No apprenticed labourer shall, during the continuance of his or her apprenticeship, be liable or competent to serve His Majesty in any civil office, or in any military capacity, within the said Colony, or to enjoy or exercise any political franchise therein.

Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall exempt any such apprenticed labourer from the obligation of rendering to His Majesty any service, civil or military, which, in case or in the prospect of any invasion, rebellion or any great public exigency, may, by His Majesty, or by the Lieutenant-Governor for the time being of the said Colony, or by any other lawful authority, be imposed upon him.

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Provided also, that nothing herein contained extends, or shall be construed to disqualify any such apprenticed labourer from undertaking and discharging any office or employment in the service of any corporate or ecclesiastical body, or of any person or persons, in cases where such employments or offices may not be connected with the discharge of any military or political duties.

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FORMS referred to in the foregoing ORDER in COUNCIL.

## (A.)—WARRANT.

St. Lucia, } To \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ district, and all other officers of police in the  
To wit. } Colony of St. Lucia.  
Forasmuch as \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the district aforesaid, apprenticed labourer,  
hath this day been charged before me, \_\_\_\_\_ one of His Majesty's special justices of  
the peace for the Colony aforesaid, on the oath of a credible witness, for that he the said  
on, &c. \_\_\_\_\_ at, &c. \_\_\_\_\_ did, &c. \_\_\_\_\_ These  
are, therefore, to command you, in His Majesty's name, forthwith to apprehend and bring  
before me, or some other of His Majesty's special justices of the peace in and for the said  
district, the body of the said \_\_\_\_\_ to answer unto the said charge, and to be further  
dealt with according to law. Herein fail you not.  
Given under my hand and seal the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of  
our Lord \_\_\_\_\_

## (B.)—SUMMONS.

To \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Colony of St. Lucia.  
Whereas a complaint, on oath, hath been preferred to me by \_\_\_\_\_ of  
that you, the said \_\_\_\_\_ did, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of our Lord [here state the complaint in general terms.] Now  
I, \_\_\_\_\_ one of His Majesty's special justices of the peace in and for the  
said Colony, do hereby summon and require you, the said \_\_\_\_\_ to attend  
before me, at \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the said Colony, at  
the hour of \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in this present  
year, 18 \_\_\_\_\_ then and there to answer the matters of said complaint.  
Given under my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of our  
Lord \_\_\_\_\_

## (C.)—SUMMONS.

To \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Colony of St. Lucia.  
These are to require you to attend and be personally present at the hour of \_\_\_\_\_ in the  
of the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ in the  
of \_\_\_\_\_ then and there to be examined before me as a witness,  
touching and concerning the matters of a certain complaint depending before me, on the  
behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ against \_\_\_\_\_  
Given under my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of our  
Lord \_\_\_\_\_

## (D.)—RECOGNIZANCE.

St. Lucia, } A. B. of \_\_\_\_\_ in said Colony, acknowledges himself to be indebted  
To wit. } to our Sovereign Lord the King, His heirs and successors, in the sum of \_\_\_\_\_  
pounds.  
C. D. of \_\_\_\_\_ in said Colony, acknowledges himself to be indebted to our  
Sovereign Lord the King, His heirs and successors, in the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ pounds.  
E. F. of \_\_\_\_\_ in said Colony, acknowledges himself to be indebted to our Sovereign  
Lord the King, His heirs and successors, in the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ pounds; upon con-  
dition that the said A. B. do personally appear before me, or any one of His Majesty's  
special justices of the peace in and for the Colony of St. Lucia, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
at \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ aforesaid, there to answer the complaint  
of \_\_\_\_\_ and do not depart without leave; then this recognizance to be void, or  
else to remain in full force.  
Taken and acknowledged the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 183  
before me, \_\_\_\_\_  
One of His Majesty's special justices of the peace for the  
Colony of St. Lucia.

## (E.)—COMMITMENT.

St. Lucia, } To \_\_\_\_\_ serjeant of police, and all other police officers whom this may  
To wit. } concern.  
Whereas \_\_\_\_\_ was this day brought and charged before me, one of His Majesty's  
special justices of the peace in and for the Colony of St. Lucia, on the complaint of  
with, &c. And whereas, having thought proper to adjourn the hearing of  
such



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(K.)—COMMITMENT.

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To  
Whereas  
complaint depending before me, on behalf of  
this  
of  
the questions (copy of which questions is hereunder written) then and there proposed  
to  
rize and require you to detain the said  
of  
the subject of such hearing and inquiry, and for so doing this shall be your warrant.  
Given under my hand and seal, at  
of

having  
183 at  
in the Colony of St. Lucia, without lawful cause, hath refused to answer  
touching the subject of such hearing and inquiry: Now, I do hereby autho-  
in  
in the  
shall submit to  
touching

Constable  
before me as a witness upon a certain  
against  
on  
in the  
day

(L.)—FORM OF DECLARATION.

Form of the Declaration to be delivered by every Employer, specifying his intentions respecting the mode of maintaining his Apprenticed Labourers.

I, A. B.,  
of  
intention to be to maintain the apprenticed labourers employed by me, whose names are herein-  
after enumerated, in the manner stated, with reference to each of such apprenticed labourers,  
in the note or memorandum set opposite to the name of each in such memorandum.

in the town [*parish or district*]  
in the Colony of St. Lucia, do hereby declare my

- L. } By the cultivation of the ground to be by
- M. } them appropriated for that purpose.
- N. }
- O. }
- P. }
- Q. }
- R. } By an allowance of provisions.
- S. }
- T. }
- U. }
- V. } Partly by an allowance of provisions, and
- W. } partly by the cultivation of ground to be to them
- X. } appropriated for that purpose.
- Y. }
- Z. }

(M.)—AWARD OR SENTENCE.

St. Lucia, } Whereas proof having been made to the satisfaction of the district sessions of  
To wit. } special justices, held on the day of at plantation in  
district No. in the Colony of St. Lucia, that hath not paid to the  
sum of being the amount stipulated to be paid by to  
for work and labour done and performed, according to a contract bearing date the day  
of it is hereby awarded, That the said do pay to the said the  
said sum of free of all deductions whatsoever, within days after the date  
of this award, on pain, in default thereof, of a levy being made upon the property of the  
said  
Thus done and awarded at in the parish of in the Colony afore-  
said, this day of 183

(N.)—WARRANT OF EXECUTION.

St. Lucia, } Whereas at the district sessions of special justices, held on the day  
To wit. } of at in district No. in the Colony of St. Lucia,  
it was awarded that of should pay to the sum of  
free of all deductions whatsoever, within days after the date of that award, on pain  
in default thereof, of a levy being made upon the property of the said  
And whereas the said hath not paid the said sum of to the  
said although the time allowed for the payment thereof hath expired: These  
are, therefore, to command you to levy the said sum of by distress and sale of the  
goods and chattels or other property of the said and it is hereby  
ordered and directed, the goods and chattels so to be distrained to be sold and disposed of  
within days after such levy, unless the said sum of for which such  
distress shall be made, together with the reasonable charges of taking and keeping such dis-  
tress, shall be sooner paid. And you are hereby also commanded to certify unto  
what you shall have done by virtue of this warrant.  
Given under hand and seal, at the day of  
in the year of our Lord

(O.)—Act

## (O.)—ACT OF TRANSFER.

St. Lucia, } Be it known that we \_\_\_\_\_ of His Majesty's special justices of the peace in  
 To wit. } and for the Colony of St. Lucia, having ascertained that the transfer of the herein-  
 after mentioned prædial apprenticed labourers, at present attached to plantation  
 in the parish of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Colony aforesaid, belonging to \_\_\_\_\_ from said  
 plantation to plantation \_\_\_\_\_ in the parish of \_\_\_\_\_ in the said Colony,  
 also belonging to \_\_\_\_\_ will not have the effect of separating any of the said attached  
 prædial apprenticed labourers from his or her wife or husband, parent or children, or from  
 any person or persons reputed to bear any such relation to him or her, and that such transfer  
 will not probably be injurious to the health or welfare of said attached prædial apprenticed  
 labourers; do hereby consent that the said \_\_\_\_\_ who is entitled to the services of  
 said prædial apprenticed labourers, do transfer to said plantation \_\_\_\_\_ the services  
 of \_\_\_\_\_ attached prædial apprenticed labourers. This act of transfer to be recorded  
 in the Colonial Registrar's Office within one month from the date hereof.  
 Given under our respective hands and seals, at \_\_\_\_\_ in the parish of \_\_\_\_\_  
 in the Colony aforesaid, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 183 \_\_\_\_\_

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## (P.)—INDENTURE OF APPRENTICESHIP.

This Indenture, made the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of our Lord 183 \_\_\_\_\_  
 between A. B., one of His Majesty's special justices of the peace in and for said Colony, for  
 and on the behalf of C. D., an infant, aged \_\_\_\_\_ years, of the quarter of \_\_\_\_\_ in  
 the said Colony, of the one part; and E. F. of \_\_\_\_\_ in said Colony of the other part:  
 Whereas E. F., [the employer] hath agreed with the said A. B. [the special justice] to take  
 the said C. D. [the apprentice] as his apprentice for the term of \_\_\_\_\_ years, to be taught  
 and instructed in the trade or business of \_\_\_\_\_ in consideration and subject to the terms  
 and conditions hereinafter contained: Now this Indenture witnesseth, that in pursuance of  
 the said agreement, and in virtue of the ordinance in this case made and provided, he the  
 said E. F. [the employer] doth hereby for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators,  
 covenant, promise and agree with and to the said A. B. [the special justice] in the manner  
 following; that is to say, That he the said E. F. [the employer] shall and will, during the  
 term of \_\_\_\_\_ years, according to the best of his skill and knowledge, teach and instruct,  
 or cause to be taught and instructed, the said C. D. [the apprentice] in the trade or business  
 of \_\_\_\_\_ and all and every the matters and things whatsoever incident or relating thereto;  
 and also shall and will, during the said term, find and provide the said C. D. [the apprentice]  
 with suitable and sufficient diet, clothing, lodging and medical attendance, in a like and  
 equal manner with the rest of apprenticed labourers in this Colony, and according to the said  
 ordinance in such case made and provided, and to all other ordinances or laws which may  
 hereafter be made touching or concerning the clothing, feeding, lodging and medical atten-  
 dance of apprenticed labourers in this Colony, and shall also allow to the said C. D. such  
 reasonable time and opportunity for education and religious instruction as shall be appointed  
 or assigned by a special justice of the peace of the district in which the said C. D. shall reside:  
 And in consideration of the covenants and agreements hereinbefore contained on the part of  
 the said E. F. [the employer] he the said A. B. [the special justice] hath placed and bounden,  
 and by these presents doth place and bind, the said C. D. [the apprentice] as a  
 apprenticed labourer, unto and with the said E. F. [the employer] for the said term or period  
 of \_\_\_\_\_ years, to be computed from the date of these presents; and doth hereby,  
 for and on the behalf of the said C. D. [the apprentice] to and with the said E. F. [the em-  
 ployer] covenant, promise and declare, that he the said C. D. [the apprentice] shall and will,  
 during all and every part of the said term of \_\_\_\_\_ years, truly and faithfully serve the said  
 E. F. [the employer] as a \_\_\_\_\_ apprenticed labourer in the said trade and business  
 of \_\_\_\_\_ and diligently attend to the business and concerns thereof, according to the rules,  
 regulations and laws now or hereafter to be in-force of and concerning apprenticed labourers  
 in this Colony.

In witness whereof, I the said \_\_\_\_\_ special justice as aforesaid, for and on behalf  
 of the said C. D., have hereunto set my hand and seal, and the said E. F. hath also set his  
 hand and seal in my presence at \_\_\_\_\_ in the Colony aforesaid, the day and year  
 first above written,

(signed) C. C. G.

—No. 57.—

St. Lucia.

By his Excellency Sir *Dudley St. Leger Hill*, Knight, Lieutenant-Governor, &c.

DUDLEY HILL, Lieutenant-Governor.

No. 57.

A PROCLAMATION dividing the Island of *St. Lucia* into three Judicial Districts, and  
 defining the Limits of the said Districts.

WHEREAS by an Order of The King's most Excellent Majesty in his Privy Council, bearing  
 date the 5th day of June 1834, certain rules and regulations have been framed and esta-  
 blished for carrying into full and complete effect within this Island of *St. Lucia*, an Act of the  
 British Parliament, passed in the third and fourth years of His Majesty's reign, intituled, "An  
 Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry  
 of \_\_\_\_\_



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of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the persons hitherto entitled to the service of such Slaves:" And whereas by the said Order in Council, it is amongst other things ordered and directed, that for the purposes of the jurisdiction and authorities committed to the justices of the peace, holding special commissions as in the aforesaid Act mentioned, the Colony of St. Lucia shall be divided into not less than two judicial districts, and that the Lieutenant-Governor of this said Island shall by proclamation define, and as occasion may require, shall alter the limits of such judicial districts.

Now, therefore, I, Colonel Sir Dudley St. Leger Hill, knight, lieutenant-governor, and commander-in-chief in the Island of St. Lucia and its dependencies, and vice-admiral of the same, in pursuance and in exercise of the powers and authority in me so vested by the said recited Order in Council, do hereby proclaim, order and declare, That this Island of St. Lucia shall for the purposes aforesaid in the said Act mentioned, and in the said Royal Order in Council more fully set forth, be divided into three judicial districts, to be respectively called the First Judicial District, the Second Judicial District, and the Third Judicial District of St. Lucia.

And I do by this my proclamation define, fix and establish the limits of the said three judicial districts of St. Lucia in manner following; viz.

The first judicial district shall comprehend and include the respective quarters of Castries, Gros-Ilet, Dauphin and Anse la Raye; the second judicial district shall comprehend and include the respective quarters of Soufrière, Choiseul and Laborie; and the third judicial district shall comprehend and include the respective quarters of Vieux Fort, Micoud, Praslen and D'Enery.

And I do hereby direct, order and declare, that this my present proclamation shall take effect and be in full force and effect, throughout the said Island of St. Lucia and the dependencies thereof, upon from and after the 1st day of August in the present year 1834.

Given under my hand and the seal of the said Island, this 1st day of August in the 5th year of His Majesty's reign, and in the year of our Lord 1834.

By His Excellency's Command,  
(for the Acting Colonial Secretary)

*H. E. F. Young.*

—No. 58.—

No. 58.

St. Lucia.

AN ORDINANCE enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor and the Legislative Council of *St. Lucia*, for fixing and determining the number of Hours per week which shall be allotted to Prædial Apprenticed Labourers for the cultivation of their Provision Grounds, and also for regulating the apportionment of the 45 Hours per week during which Prædial Apprenticed Labourers are required by law to work for the benefit of their Employers. —(Passed 1st August 1834.)

DUDLEY HILL, Lieutenant-Governor.

WHEREAS by an Order of The King's most Excellent Majesty in Council passed on the 5th day of June 1834, for carrying into full and complete effect within the Island of St Lucia, an Act of the British Parliament made in the 3d & 4th year of His Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves," it is amongst other things ordered and directed, that it shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor of St. Lucia with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council of government thereof, by rules to be framed and published, to determine the number of hours per week, not being fewer than four hours and a half per week, and not being more than seven hours and a half per week, which shall be allotted to every prædial apprenticed labourer for the cultivation of any provision ground which shall have been appropriated and set apart for his support, out of the annual time during which such prædial apprenticed labourer is by the said recited Act required to labour, after the rate of 45 hours per week.

And whereas by the said recited order, it is ordered and directed, that it shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor, with the advice and consent of the said Legislative Council, to make such regulations as may appear to them best adapted to promote the interests both of the said prædial apprenticed labourers and their employers, as regards the apportionment of the 45 hours per week, during which prædial apprenticed labourers are required by law to work for their employers, and to frame and publish rules and ordinances for that purpose: provided always, that such rules and ordinances shall be duly transmitted for His Majesty's approbation, and until disallowed or altered shall remain in full force.

Now, therefore, be it and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by His Excellency Sir Dudley St. Leger Hill, knight companion of the most honourable Order of the Bath, &c. &c., lieutenant-governor and commander-in-chief of the Island of St. Lucia and its dependencies, and vice-admiral thereof, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council of government, in execution of the powers and authority in him and them vested by His Majesty in that behalf;

1. That every prædial apprenticed labourer, for and in respect of whom any ground shall be appropriated and set apart for his support, shall, out of the annual time during which such prædial apprenticed labourer is by the said recited Act required to labour after the rate of 45 hours per week, be allowed five hours per week for the cultivation of such ground.

2. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful for any person being an employer of any able-bodied prædial apprenticed labourer, to require

require and exact from such able-bodied prædial apprenticed labourer, and such apprenticed labourer is hereby bound and obliged to work and labour in the name and for the benefit of his employer, any number of hours, not exceeding 12 hours in any one day when employed in manufacturing labour, and any number of hours, not exceeding nine hours in any one day when employed in agricultural labour; and provided also, that no apprenticed labourer who shall be required to work and labour both in agricultural and manufacturing labour in one and the same day, shall be required to work in the whole day more than 10 hours: and provided always, that the whole number of hours to be exacted from any prædial apprenticed labourer for whom ground shall be set apart, shall not exceed 40 hours, and for all others shall not exceed 45 hours per week: and provided nevertheless, that all the rules and regulations provided by the said recited Order of His Majesty in Council of the 5th June 1834, and in the first clause of this Order, be duly complied with; and further that the day for manufacturing labour shall be held to include 24 hours, and the day for agricultural labour to commence at sunrise, and terminate at sunset.

3. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that this ordinance shall take effect and be in force in this Island of St. Lucia and the dependencies thereof, upon, from and after the day of the passing thereof.

Given under my hand and the seal of the said Island, this 1st day of August in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign, and in the year of our Lord 1834.

By His Excellency's Command  
(for the Acting Colonial Secretary)

*H. E. F. Young.*

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—No. 59.—

St. Lucia.

PROCLAMATION by his Excellency Sir *Dudley St. Leger Hill*, Knight,  
Lieutenant-Governor, &c. &c.

No. 59.

DUDLEY HILL, Lieutenant-Governor.

WHEREAS various false reports respecting the state of the population in distant parts of the Island are prevalent, and amongst other mischievous rumours, there is now current one to the effect that the militia of the quarter of Micoud had been under the necessity of using fire-arms against His Majesty's free subjects, the apprentices of the said quarter; and having every reason to believe the same to be unfounded,—

I have thought fit to issue this my Proclamation for the purpose of reassuring the public mind, and of making generally known, that the recent visits which I have paid to the respective districts of the Colony have fully satisfied me of the loyalty of the labouring population, and have inspired me with the fullest confidence, that their legal services will henceforth continue to be performed with diligence, and the public tranquillity maintained as it hitherto has been, wholly undisturbed. And upon pain of being subjected to the severest penalty the law may award, I do hereby caution all parties against spreading reports, calculated to mislead and disturb the public mind at this critical period.

Given under my hand and the seal of the said Island, this 16th day of August in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign, and in the year of our Lord 1834.

By his Excellency's Command.

*H. E. F. Young,*  
Actg Col. Secy.

—No. 60.—

St. Lucia.

AN ORDINANCE enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor and Legislative Council of *St. Lucia*, for providing for the acquiescence of the Minority of the Prædial Apprenticed Labourers in the apportionment of Task-Work; and also providing for the Compensation compellable from Apprenticed Labourers absenting themselves from the service of their Employers.—(Passed 18th August 1834.)

No. 60.

DUDLEY HILL, Lieutenant-Governor.

WHEREAS by a certain Act of Parliament passed in the 3d & 4th year of the reign of His most Excellent Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves;" it is amongst other things enacted, that it may be necessary, by regulations in certain cases, to require and provide for the acquiescence of the minority of the prædial apprenticed labourers attached to any plantation or estate in the distribution and apportionment amongst the whole body of such labourers, of any task-work which the majority of such body shall be willing and desirous collectively to undertake.

And it is also by the said recited Act provided, that any Ordinance, to be framed under and by virtue of the said Act, may contain provisions for compelling any apprenticed labourer who shall, during his or her apprenticeship, wilfully absent himself or herself from the

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service of his or her employer, either to serve his or her employer after the expiration of his or her apprenticeship, for so long a time as he or she shall have so absented himself or herself from such service, or to make satisfaction to his or her employer for the loss sustained by such absence (except in so far as he or she shall have made satisfaction for such absence, either out of such extra hours as aforesaid, or otherwise), but nevertheless so that such extra service or compensation shall not be compellable after the expiration of seven years next after the termination of the apprenticeship of such apprentice.

And whereas by an Order of His said most Excellent Majesty, in his Privy Council, bearing date the 5th June 1834, certain rules and regulations have been framed and established for carrying into full and complete effect, in this said Island, the above recited Act of Parliament, but no provision has been made for the purpose of securing the acquiescence of the minority of apprenticed labourers as aforesaid: And whereas it is expedient that such provision be made, and that rules and regulations be forthwith framed and established for that purpose.

Now therefore, in pursuance of the said recited Act of Parliament, it is hereby enacted and ordained, by his Excellency Sir Dudley St. Leger Hill, &c. &c. lieutenant-governor and commander-in-chief of the Island of St. Lucia and the dependencies thereof, vice-admiral of the same, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council of Government, in exercise of the powers and authority in him and them vested by His Majesty in that behalf;

1. That in every contract which may be entered into between any employer, and the able-bodied prædial apprenticed labourers attached to any plantation or estate for the performance of any specific work as a task, and in lieu of the prescribed daily labour, or for the performance of any labour in extra hours, and where in aid of such contract the majority, consisting of not less than two-thirds of the whole number of such apprenticed labourers shall be willing and desirous collectively to undertake such specific task-work, it shall and may be lawful for any such employer to distribute and apportion among the whole body of such able-bodied prædial apprenticed labourers attached to such plantation, such specific or task-work, and such contract shall be held as in force and equally binding upon the minority of such able-bodied apprenticed labourers, as if such minority had been parties to and had formerly acquiesced in the said contract, and such minority shall be bound and obliged and compellable, under and by virtue of such contract, to work and labour for the benefit of their employer in such specific or task-work as aforesaid.

Provided always, that for the violation of the terms of such contract for any specific or task-work, all the fines to which any employer shall and may be liable shall be duly enforced against such employer, and that all the same pains and penalties be equally enforced against any such apprenticed labourer to which he or she shall and may be liable for and in respect of the violation by him or her of the duties owing by him or her by law to such employer, and which pains and penalties are by the said recited Royal Order declared to be applicable to any breach of such contract, unless specific penalties be named in the said contract: and provided always, that all the rules and regulations respecting the form, conditions and mode of execution of such contract be duly observed as are in and by the said Royal Order in Council for that purpose made and provided.

2. And be it, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any apprenticed labourer who shall during his or her apprenticeship wilfully absent himself or herself from the service of his or her employer, shall be compelled either to serve his or her employer after the expiration of his or her apprenticeship, for so long a time as he or she may have so absented himself or herself from such service, or to make satisfaction to his or her employer for the loss sustained by such absence (except so far as he or she shall have made satisfaction for such absence, either out of such extra hours, not exceeding fifteen extra hours in the whole in any one week): provided always, that such extra service or compensation shall not be compellable after the expiration of seven years next after the termination of the apprenticeship of such apprentice: provided always, and be it enacted, that all the same pains and penalties to which any such apprenticed labourer shall and may be liable for neglect or violation of duty during the period of his or her apprenticeship are declared to be, and are hereby made applicable to, and shall and may be duly enforced against such apprenticed labourer during the continuance of such additional labour or prolonged apprenticeship: provided always, that the time or times during which such apprenticed labourer shall have so absented himself or herself from the service of his or her employer, shall be established by conviction before any special justice of the peace within the limits of his judicial district, whose conviction of any such apprenticed labourer shall be a sufficient warrant and authority to such employer to compel the performance of such additional labour, or to authorize such prolonged apprenticeship as by the said Act is provided.

3. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force within this Island of St. Lucia, and the dependencies thereof, from and after the day of the date of the promulgation thereof.

Given under my hand and the seal of the said Island, this eighteenth day of August, in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign, and in the year of our Lord 1834.

By his Excellency's Command,

*H. E. F. Young,*  
Actg Col. Secy.

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AN ORDINANCE enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor and Legislative Council of *St. Lucia*, for abolishing the office of Commissary-Commandant, and in lieu thereof establishing the office of Justice of the Peace, and defining and regulating the Duties to be performed by the said Officer within the Island of *St. Lucia*.—(Passed 23d October 1834.)

DUDLEY HILL, Lieutenant-Governor.

WHEREAS, in consequence of the new state and relations of society in this Island, it is expedient to abolish the office of commissary-commandant within this Island, and to establish the office of "justice of the peace" in lieu thereof, and to define and regulate the duties to be performed by justices of the peace: Now therefore be it, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by his Excellency Sir Dudley St. Leger Hill, knight companion of the most honourable Military Order of the Bath, knight of the Portuguese Order of the Tower and Sword, colonel in the British Army and in that of Portugal, lieutenant-governor and commander-in-chief in and over the Island of *St. Lucia*, and the dependencies thereof, and vice-admiral of the same, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council of Government, in exercise of the powers and authority in him and them vested by His Majesty in that behalf;

1. That an Ordinance, bearing date the 26th day of July 1825, intituled, "An Ordinance, making more effectual provision for the discharge of the office of Commissary-Commandant;" and that another Ordinance, bearing date the 6th day of March 1832, intituled, "An Ordinance, regulating the Jurisdiction of Commissaries-Commandant or Justices of the Peace in civil and criminal Matters," shall be, and the same are repealed, saving and excepting in so far as the said recited ordinances may have repealed any prior ordinances or regulations.

2. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that upon, from and after the passing of this present ordinance, the office, title and designation of commissary-commandant and lieutenant commissary-commandant, in civil and criminal matters, in the respective quarters of the said Island, shall be and the same are hereby abolished; and it shall and may be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor or officer administering the government of this Island for the time being, by any special commission, or by general commission of the peace, issued under his hand and the public seal of the said Island, to nominate, appoint and assign, or to include in the said general commission of the peace, any good, fit and proper person or persons, constituting him or them a justice or justices of the peace for the whole of this Colony, or for any parish, quarter or other district of the same, to perform all the several duties attached and appertaining to the office of a justice of the peace, in manner hereinafter mentioned: provided always, that no person or persons, so nominated, appointed and assigned as a justice of the peace, shall be entitled to enter upon the duties of his or their said office of justice of the peace, unless he or they shall have first taken the usual oaths appointed to be taken by persons in office: provided always, that no advocate or procureur of the Royal Court, or other legal practitioner in this Island, shall be bound and obliged, whilst so practising, to accept of and serve the said office of a justice of the peace.

3. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any person or persons shall refuse or neglect to enter upon, or to take upon himself or themselves, or to perform the duties of the said office of a justice or justices of the peace for the whole of the said Island, or for any parish, quarter or district of the same, such person or persons shall, upon conviction thereof, forfeit and pay the sum of 50*l.* sterling; provided always, that no person shall be compellable to serve the office of a justice of the peace, for a longer period than one year from the date of his nomination, if he shall give to his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, three months' written notice of such his intention to decline further service: provided always, that no person shall be compellable to serve again the said office of a justice of the peace within one year after the date of his resignation.

4. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the justices of the peace for the whole of the said Island, or for any parish, quarter or district thereof, shall have, possess and exercise jurisdiction, power and authority in all civil matters not exceeding the amount of 160 livres, and not prohibited by the Royal Order in Council, of 20th June 1831; that all proceedings in civil matters shall be simple and summary, and without appeal: and it shall and may be lawful for any one or more justice or justices of the peace, upon the application of any individual feeling himself aggrieved, to receive the demand, along with the particulars thereof in writing, and to issue, or cause to be issued, a written notice or citation, containing the particulars of the demand, and to direct and authorize any constable, officer of police or other person by him duly authorized to serve the same on the parties, either personally or at their usual or last known place of abode, with a summons to appear before the said justice or justices of the peace, within not less than 24 hours after due notice of the same, upon a certain day to be named in the citation; and every constable, officer of police or other person duly authorized to that effect, serving the notice or citation, shall return the original notice and citation to the justice of the peace issuing the same, and shall make oath of the due service thereof; and all witnesses and others shall be cited, summoned and warned to attend before any justice or justices of the peace, in the same way and manner as that ordered to be practised and observed for the citing and summoning the parties themselves; and any witness refusing, neglecting or omitting to attend, without any

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lawful and reasonable excuse when duly warned to that effect, on oath also made to that effect, or attending, shall refuse to give his or her evidence, such witness may, for such refusal, be committed to the nearest gaol until he or she shall submit to be sworn or affirm, or to give such his or her evidence: provided always, that if the witness to be cited be an apprenticed labourer, the summons or citation shall be served on the employer of any such apprenticed labourer; and such employer, neglecting or refusing to permit such apprenticed labourer to attend, shall be liable to and incur all the same penalties set forth in this present clause.

5. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that upon the defendant not appearing personally or by some person on his behalf, when duly cited, the justice or justices of the peace may proceed to hear the case *ex parte*, and to award and pronounce judgment; and in the event of the defendant appearing, the justice of the peace may proceed to hear the parties respectively, and if necessary, to examine the witnesses upon oath, and to pronounce judgment accordingly, and thereafter to issue a warrant under his hand to levy on the goods and chattels of the party condemned, which warrant may be executed throughout the whole extent of the Colony; and any constable, officer of police, or other person duly authorized, may in virtue thereof proceed to levy upon the goods and chattels of the party so condemned, other than the wearing apparel, not exceeding one hundred livres, and implements of trade of the defendant, any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding, sufficient wherewith to pay and satisfy the amount of the judgment, together with the costs; and the said goods and chattels so levied upon may be immediately appraised and valued by any two persons approved of by the justice or justices of the peace; and the goods so levied upon may be given over to the creditor at the appraised value, he, the creditor, paying all fees and expenses, or the said goods and chattels may be sold in the most public street or place, public notice thereof being given forty-eight hours previously, and the proceeds thereof, after paying the fees and expenses, shall be applied in satisfaction of the demand, and the surplus, if any, shall be delivered to the person levied upon: provided always, that if a return be made to the satisfaction of the justice or justices, that no goods and chattels whereon to make sufficient levy can be found, the said justice or justices of the peace may, by warrant under his or their hand and seal, authorize the arrest of the defendant, and direct him to be carried to the nearest gaol, there to be detained at the rate of one entire day's incarceration for every sum of five livres and under, of the amount awarded by the judgment, and no longer: provided always, that such imprisonment shall not be held to extinguish the debt, but the said debt may be recovered at any future period, should any goods or chattels whereon to levy be found: and provided also, that no person shall be liable to be imprisoned a second time for the same debt: provided always, that it shall and may be lawful for the keeper of any gaol in the said Island to discharge out of his custody any such defendant if the incarcerating creditor shall not, within six hours after committal, deposit the sum of two livres per diem, in order to meet and to cover the expenses of such maintenance, and to defray all gaol fees.

6. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any justice or justices of the peace in and for the whole of the said Island, or of any parish, quarter or district thereof, shall have, possess and exercise jurisdiction and authority to preserve and to cause to be preserved the King's peace, to suppress all riots and affrays, to disperse all disorderly and tumultuous assemblages, and for that purpose to call in the aid and assistance of all His Majesty's liege subjects present, who, if able, shall be bound to obey all lawful commands, and to appoint special constables, who neglecting or refusing to serve as such, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding one hundred livres for each and every offence, to be recovered by distress and levy as is hereinbefore provided; and in case of extreme necessity, it shall and may be lawful for any two or more justices of the peace to require, through the nearest commanding officer of any detachment of militia, the services and assistance of the militia or military force in the Island: provided that one justice of the peace be always present with such force, and issuing any necessary orders, commands and instructions through the commanding officer only.

7. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be the duty of the justices of the peace to do and perform all the duties directed and prescribed heretofore to be performed by commissaries-commandant under and by virtue of any ordinance or ordinances, to take cognizance of all petty misdemeanors, petty assaults and other breaches of the peace which he may in his discretion consider not sufficiently grave to be sent before the judge of police.

8. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that in all matters of police it shall and may be lawful for any justice or justices of the peace, either on his or their own view, or on the evidence of one or more credible witnesses, or on the voluntary confession of the party accused, to adjudge such offender to imprisonment in the common gaol of the parish or quarter for a term not exceeding 14 days, with or without hard labour, or a fine not exceeding 160 livres, or whipping not exceeding 25 stripes, or any two or more of such kind of punishment together.

9. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any one or more justices of the peace, within their respective parishes or quarters, shall appropriate and set apart one day at the least in each and every week for the holding of a court in the towns of Castries, Soufrière and Vieux-Fort, for the hearing and trial of such matters and things as may be brought before the said court for judgment and decision.

10. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any person or persons shall presume to obstruct, prevent or in any way disturb, molest or ill-treat any justice or justices of the peace, or any person or persons employed by him or them in the execution of their duties pursuant

pursuant to this ordinance, the person or persons so offending shall severally forfeit and pay for every such offence, on conviction before any justice of the peace, other than the justice of the peace so molested and ill-treated, a sum not exceeding 160 livres, to be levied in default of payment by warrant of distress under the hand and seal of the justice of the peace convicting, upon the goods and chattels of such offender or offenders, and in default of such satisfaction, such offender or offenders shall and may be imprisoned for any time not exceeding 14 days : provided always, that it shall and may be lawful for any justice of the peace to commit to gaol any person guilty of an open contempt to such justice in the actual execution of his office, for any time not exceeding 14 days, there to remain, unless such offender shall sooner make his submission to the satisfaction of such justice of the peace.

11. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that no suit or action shall be brought against any justice of the peace in respect of any act, matter or thing by him done under and in pursuance of this present ordinance, unless the same shall be commenced within six calendar months after the cause of action occurred ; and if any suit or action shall be commenced against any such justice of the peace for any act, matter or thing done by virtue or in pursuance of this ordinance, and such justice of the peace shall at any time before trial tender to the plaintiff sufficient amends for any wrong or injury in respect of which the same may be brought, and submit to pay the costs of suit, then upon proof made to the court at the time of such suit that such amends have been so tendered and were sufficient, judgment shall be given to the plaintiff for the amount of the sum so tendered, and subject to the deduction therefrom of the costs of the defendant.

12. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all fines recovered under and pursuant to the present ordinance, shall go to and be applied to the uses of this Colony.

13. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that no greater fees shall be taken or demanded for any matter or thing to be done under and by virtue of this ordinance, save those mentioned in the *Tariff* hereunto annexed.

14. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that this present ordinance shall take effect and be in force within the said Island and the dependencies thereof from and after the day of the promulgation hereof.

Given under my hand and the seal of the said Island, this 23d day of October, in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign, and in the year of our Lord 1834.

By His Excellency's Command,

*H. E. Fox Young,*  
Acting Colonial Secretary.

#### TARIFF.

Fee for serving Notice to party and witnesses, in town, one livre ; in country, one livre, and one livre per mile.

Fee for levying on goods, five livres if in town ; five livres if in country, and one livre per mile.

Fee for appraising, two livres each appraiser.

Fee for selling, one livre in every Spanish dollar.

#### — No. 62. —

St. Lucia.

COPY of an ORDINANCE by the Lieutenant-Governor and Legislative Council of *St. Lucia*, enacting and ordaining certain Rules and Regulations respecting the Rural Police Establishments, and respecting Houses of Correction and Penal Gangs within the Island of *St. Lucia*.—(Passed 1st December 1834.)

No. 62.

WHEREAS by a certain order of His most Excellent Majesty King William the Fourth, in his Privy Council, bearing date the 5th day of June 1834, for carrying into full effect within this said Island of *St. Lucia* an Act of the Imperial Parliament, passed in the 3d and 4th years of the reign of His said Majesty, intituled, " An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies ; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves," the Lieutenant-Governor of *St. Lucia* is by the said recited order directed and authorized, by and with the advice of the Legislative Council of the said Island, from time to time to frame and publish all necessary rules for the internal discipline of the police establishment, and of places of safe custody and correction in the said Island ; for the clothing, arming, supporting and remunerating the serjeants and privates of the said police ; for remunerating constables ; for securing the due performance by the said police and constables of their respective duties ; for the employment of the penal gangs, and also of the serjeants and privates of the said police when not engaged in police duties ; for the support of the prisoners in the said houses of correction and places of safe custody ; for a due separation of prisoners of different sexes ; for the classification of prisoners ; for their religious instruction ; for the maintenance of cleanliness, order and sobriety amongst them ; and for the prevention and prompt punishment of any neglect or violation of such rules.

Now, therefore, in pursuance and in virtue of the said recited Royal Order in Council ; Be it, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by his Excellency Sir Dudley St. Leger Hill, K. C. B. &c. &c. &c., lieutenant-governor and commander-in-chief in and over the Island of *St. Lucia* and

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and its dependencies, and vice-admiral of the same, &c., by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, in exercise of the powers and authority in him and them vested by His Majesty in that behalf;

Governor authorized to appoint a number of persons to compose a rural police.

1. That the Lieutenant-Governor or officer administering the government of this said Island is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint during pleasure a certain number of persons to compose and act as the rural police of this Island, and during the period of the service and good conduct of such persons as police officers they shall receive the following pay; that is to say, each serjeant in the police shall receive the sum of ten livres, current money of this Island, per day, to be paid to him in equal monthly instalments by the colonial treasurer in this Island, through the stipendiary special justice of the district to which the said police officer is attached; and each private of the police shall receive the sum of five livres like current money per day, to be paid to him in equal monthly instalments in manner aforesaid.

Privates may be promoted for good conduct.

2. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that as vacancies occur among the serjeants at the police establishments it shall and may be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor or officer administering the government to promote privates for good conduct to such vacancies from time to time.

Oath to be administered to each serjeant and private of police.

3. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the serjeants and privates of police so to be appointed under and by virtue of this ordinance, shall each and every of them, previously to his entering upon the execution of the duties of his office, take an oath before the stipendiary special justice of the peace of the district where the police settlement is, of which such serjeant or private shall be a member; which oath any such stipendiary special justice of the peace of such district is hereby authorized to administer; the tenor of which to be as follows:—

“ I, A. B., do solemnly and sincerely swear, that I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord the King as a police officer for the judicial district of this Island, according to the best of my skill, ability and knowledge. So help me God.”

The privates, on enrolment, to be numbered by the serjeant; each to be provided with a uniform.

4. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the several privates appointed to the respective police establishments shall immediately on their enrolment be respectively numbered by the serjeant of such establishment, and each shall be provided with the following dress or uniform; that is to say, a blue cloth jacket with skirts so made as to button close up to the chin, with a standing collar; on each side of each collar shall be worked in scarlet cloth the letter or number, distinguishing the police settlement or judicial district to which such private belongs; one pair of duck trowsers, one black hat and two pairs of strong shoes; that each serjeant shall be provided with a blue cloth jacket with standing collar, on each side of which shall be worked in scarlet cloth the letter or number distinguishing the police settlement or judicial district to which such serjeant belongs, and with three stripes or chevrons in scarlet cloth on the left arm; and that in all other respects the serjeants shall be dressed as the privates are hereby directed to be; which said uniforms are to be worn by the said police officers at all times when on actual duty; and the said uniforms and other articles shall be annually furnished to them at the public expense, under the direction of the Lieutenant-Governor or officer administering the government of this said Island.

Governor authorized to arm and accoutre the police.

5. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the Lieutenant-Governor or officer administering the government is hereby authorized and empowered to arm and accoutre the said police officers in such manner as shall be deemed expedient for the due performance of their duties, which said arms and accoutrements shall be provided at the public expense, and shall be kept and preserved at all times in complete order, and be deposited in some convenient place to be appropriated to that purpose at each police settlement.

The police to carry into prompt execution the orders of the special justices.

6. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be the duty of each and every serjeant and private of each police settlement, to carry into prompt execution all such lawful orders and commands as they shall respectively from time to time receive from any special justice or justices of the district under the Order in Council of 5th June 1834, or from any other magistrate as hereinafter mentioned, for the prevention or repressing of crimes and enforcing obedience to the laws.

The rural police to act as conservators of the peace.

7. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the serjeants and privates of the rural police shall act as conservators of the peace for the respective judicial districts to which they belong; and they shall have, exercise and enjoy within their respective districts, all the powers, authorities and immunities which are incident to the office of a constable or other officer of the general police of this Island, and which are by the general law of the said Island vested in and given to constables or officers of police in general; and all such powers, authorities and immunities are hereby declared to be fully and absolutely vested in and given to such serjeants and privates of the rural police, so long only as such serjeants and privates of the rural police shall remain and be employed in such capacity, and no longer.

Justices of the peace can impose a penalty upon police officers for disobedience, &c.

8. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that in all cases in which any officer of police shall be guilty of any disobedience of any lawful commands, or infringement of any bye-laws or regulations for the government of the police establishments, or other impropriety of conduct or breach of duty as such police officer, it shall and may be lawful for any two special justices of the peace of the judicial district to which such police officer belongs, and before whom any such police officer shall be convicted of any such offence, to impose a penalty on him of not more than 14 days' pay and not less than two days' pay; and in case the

the said fine shall not be paid immediately or within such time as the special justices shall direct before whom the conviction took place, such special justices of the peace are hereby authorized and directed to deduct the amount of such fine, and detain the same from the pay and salary due and owing to such police officer.

9. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the serjeant at each police settlement shall muster the privates twice a day for morning and evening parade, and each serjeant shall keep an orderly book or books in which he shall faithfully and accurately enter and transcribe a daily written report as to the effective strength, condition and conduct of the privates and of prisoners under his charge and superintendence, specifying the names of all offenders, nature of offence and punishment with the name of the committing special justice; and the orderly book or books shall be open for inspection to any special justice of the peace or other person duly authorized, visiting and inspecting the police settlement.

10. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that in the event of any insubordinate, refractory or mutinous behaviour among the privates at any police settlement, it shall and may be lawful for the serjeant to place the offending party under arrest, and detain the offender until a communication can be made to and an answer received from the nearest special justice of the peace for the district.

11. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that in all cases of emergency, it shall and may be lawful for any special justice of the peace to summon or cause to be summoned, either by signal or otherwise, to his assistance, any number of police officers from any other police settlement, and the person having charge of such other police settlement not himself being a special justice, shall furnish the said assistance.

12. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful for any police officer in uniform, upon reasonable cause being shown to him to enter upon any plantations and estates within the district, and to search for absentees, and every employer or person having the charge of any apprenticed labourer shall, as soon as possible after he or she shall have obtained the knowledge that any one or more of such apprenticed labourers has or have absented himself, herself or themselves without the permission or sanction of such employer or person having such charge as aforesaid, make such report thereof to any special justice of the peace for the district, who shall thereupon direct and authorize any police officer of his district, in order that measures may be forthwith adopted for the apprehension of such absentee or absentees; it being hereby declared that the fee for the capture of such runaway shall be at the rate of ten livres per head if in the country and five livres per head if in town, and no more, to be paid by the employer of such absentee: provided always, that if any person or persons shall presume to obstruct or in any way molest, disturb or ill-treat any officer of the police or any constable in the execution of their duties pursuant to this ordinance, the person or persons so offending shall severally forfeit and pay for every such offence, on conviction before any special justice of the peace, a sum not exceeding 500 livres, to be levied by warrant of distress under the hand and seal of the special justice of the peace so convicting, upon the goods and chattels of such offender or offenders; and in default of payment or recovery of the fine by distress as aforesaid, such offender or offenders shall and may be imprisoned for any time not exceeding 30 days.

13. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that in case of martial law being proclaimed in this said Island, the said police officers, in each judicial district, shall be, and come under the immediate command of the Lieutenant-Governor, or other person in military command for the time being, and they shall be employed in such service as the Lieutenant-Governor, or other person in military command shall direct, in the same way and manner as the militia of the said Island, and be subject to the same rules and regulations, pains and penalties which may be in force at the time in regard to the said militia.

14. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that when the privates at each police settlement are not engaged in actual duty, it shall and may be lawful to compel each and every private to work and labour, not exceeding six hours per day, Sundays and holidays excepted, in the erecting and repairing the buildings and other places at each settlement, and also to work and labour in cultivating any ground which may have been purchased, appropriated and set apart for the special use of the members of the police settlement as provision grounds.

15. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all apprenticed labourers who shall have been condemned to imprisonment in any house of correction, with hard labour, in the penal gang at each police settlement, shall be placed under the immediate superintendence of the serjeant of police; and such apprenticed labourers shall and may be compelled to work and labour during a space not exceeding 10 hours in each and every lawful day, in erecting, repairing or in whitewashing every three months, and in cleansing daily, the buildings and houses of correction at each police settlement, or in working upon or repairing the roads and highways, or other public works in the district, or in cultivating any such ground so appropriated and set apart as aforesaid for the use of the police settlement.

16. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that each apprenticed labourer of the age of 10 years and upwards, so confined as aforesaid, shall, during the period of such his or her detention, be furnished, at the public expense, with an allowance of good, wholesome, average, merchantable food, according to the usual gaol allowance: provided always, that

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Police to be mustered twice a day; each serjeant to keep an orderly book, in which is to be entered daily a report, &c. &c.

The serjeant, in case of insubordinate conduct among the privates, can place the offending party under arrest, &c. &c.

In cases of emergency, any special justice of the peace can summon to his assistance any number of police officers from any other police settlement.

Any police officer, upon reasonable cause being shown, can enter upon any plantation within the district, and search for absentees, &c.

In case of martial law being proclaimed, the police placed under the immediate command of the Governor or other person in military command.

Privates of the police when not on actual duty, to be employed in repairing the buildings, &c.

Apprenticed labourers condemned to imprisonment, may be compelled to work and labour in whitewashing, cleansing the buildings, &c.

Apprenticed labourers, when confined, to be furnished with good wholesome food at the public expense.



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that every such apprenticed labourer shall, during his or her detention in such house of correction, and labouring under any acute or dangerous disease, be entitled to such and the same medical attendance, and the use of such medicines or nourishment, as he or she may be entitled to claim from his or her employer, under section 16, c. 4, of the Royal Order in Council of 5th June 1834.

Persons furnishing spirituous liquors to apprenticed labourers under confinement, subject to a fine or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour.

17. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any person or persons shall attempt or endeavour to convey, furnish or supply spirituous liquors to any apprenticed labourers so confined and detained, without the express sanction and authority in writing, from any special justice of the peace for the district, to convey, furnish or supply spirituous liquors, such person or persons so offending shall, for every such offence, on conviction before any justice of the peace for the district, forfeit and pay a fine which shall not be less than 10 livres, nor exceed 100 livres current money, to be recovered by warrant of distress, in manner aforesaid, or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding eight days.

Male apprenticed labourers to be kept apart from females.

18. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all male apprenticed labourers so condemned and detained as aforesaid, shall be kept separate and apart from all female apprenticed labourers also so condemned and detained, and all communication and intercourse between the sexes shall be rigorously interdicted.

Classification of condemned apprenticed labourers.

19. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that condemned apprenticed labourers shall be classified as follows; that is to say, apprenticed labourers convicted of indolence, carelessness or negligence in performing their work, shall form the first class.

Apprenticed labourers convicted of absence from work, and running away from the service of their employers, shall form the second class.

Apprenticed labourers convicted of drunkenness and disobedience of lawful commands, shall form the third class.

And apprenticed labourers convicted of unlawful combination, or of conspiracy and open resistance to the lawful commands of their employer, shall form the fourth class.

Punishment of apprenticed labourers for misconduct.

20. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any apprenticed labourers, so detained as aforesaid at any house of correction, who shall be convicted of committing any uncleanness, or behaving in any riotous, insubordinate or disorderly manner, or who shall be found, or proved to have been in a state of intoxication, or who shall wilfully injure or destroy any tools or implements, or any other thing whatsoever, or who shall effect, or attempt to effect his, her or their escape from such houses of correction, shall be liable, on conviction, to suffer such punishment as a special justice of the peace may legally award.

The penal gang to be mustered every evening, and prayers read to them.

21. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be the duty of the serjeant, or other person in charge of each police settlement, to make a muster of the penal gang every evening, and to read or recite, or cause to be read and recited, in an audible voice, in presence of the assembled condemned apprenticed labourers, the usual evening prayers.

Apprenticed labourers condemned to the penal gang, to wear a distinguishing mark or marks.

22. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all apprenticed labourers, so condemned to the penal gang at such houses of correction as aforesaid, shall, whilst so employed in any work, wear such distinguishing mark or marks thereon as the Lieutenant-Governor may be pleased to appoint; and any person harbouring or concealing any prisoner of the penal gang, who may have effected his or her escape therefrom, or taking off or assisting any of the penal gang to take off or to conceal his or her mark, shall, on conviction for every such offence before any special justice, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding 40 livres, current money of this said Island, or to suffer imprisonment, with hard labour, at any public gaol of the Island, for a period not exceeding 48 hours.

Apprenticed labourers sworn in as constables, when called upon to assist in the pursuit or apprehension of runaways, to receive a remuneration.

23. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that when any apprenticed labourer, appointed and sworn in as a constable, shall be called upon and required to assist in the pursuit or apprehension of, or shall himself arrest any runaways or other disorderly apprenticed labourers, such constable shall receive the whole, or a proportionate part of the remuneration, at the same rate of capture-money as the police officers themselves would receive for every person so apprehended and committed to safe custody.

Rural Police empowered to arrest persons of suspicious character, or who are vagrants.

24. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for any police officer to stop and detain any person or persons of a suspicious character or who are vagrants, and without ostensible business in the quarter or district, or without any visible means of subsistence, or refusing to give a good account of himself or herself, or if known to be an idle and disorderly person, and shall convey such person or persons, without any unnecessary delay, before the nearest justice of the peace for the said island, or for any quarter of the same, to be dealt with by him according to law.

No suit or action can be brought against any police officer or constable after the expiration of six months.

25. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that no suit or action shall be brought against any police officer or constable in respect of any act, matter or thing by him done and performed in the exercise of his office, under and in pursuance of this present Ordinance, unless the same shall be commenced within six calendar months after the cause of action occurred, and until 14 days' notice thereof in writing shall have during these six months been given to such police officer or constable; and if any such suit or action shall be commenced against any such police officer or constable within the said period of six months, and with the written notice aforesaid, and if such police officer shall at any time before trial tender to the plaintiff sufficient amends for any wrong or injury in respect of which the

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same may be brought, and submit to pay the costs of suit, then upon proof made to the court at the time of such suit or action, that such amends have been so tendered and were sufficient, judgment shall be given to the plaintiff to the amount so tendered, subject however to the deduction therefrom of the costs of the defendant.

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26. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all fines recovered under and by virtue of the present Ordinance, shall go and be applied to the public uses of this Colony. Appropriation of fines.

27. And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that this present Ordinance shall take effect and be in force within the said Island of St. Lucia, and the dependencies thereof, from and after the day of the promulgation hereof.

## — No. 63. —

St. Lucia.

COPY of an ORDINANCE, "For amending and explaining part of the 12th Clause of an Ordinance respecting the Duties of the Rural Police, in apprehending Absentee Apprenticed Labourers, in the Island of *St. Lucia*."—(Passed 15th June 1835.)

No. 63.

WHEREAS by an Ordinance bearing date the 1st day of December 1834, intituled, "An Ordinance, by the Lieutenant-Governor and Legislative Council of St. Lucia, enacting and ordaining certain Rules and Regulations respecting the Rural Police Establishments, and respecting Houses of Correction and Penal Gangs within the Island of St. Lucia," it is by the 12th clause thereof enacted and ordained, that it shall and may be lawful for any police officer in uniform, upon reasonable cause being shown to him, to enter upon any plantations or estates within the district, and to search for absentees; and any employer or person having the charge of any apprenticed labourer shall, as soon as possible after he or she shall have obtained the knowledge that any one or more of such apprenticed labourers has or have absented himself, herself or themselves without the permission or sanction of such employer or person having such charge as aforesaid, make such report thereof to any special justice of the peace for the district, in order that measures may be forthwith adopted for the apprehension of such absentee or absentees: And whereas it is necessary to amend and explain that part of the said twelfth clause of the said recited Ordinance as respects absentees; Now therefore be it, and it is hereby enacted, by his Excellency Sir Dudley St. Leger Hill, knight, lieutenant-governor and commander-in-chief in and over this said Island of St. Lucia and its dependencies, and vice-admiral thereof, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council of Government, in exercise of the powers and authority in him and them vested by His Majesty in that behalf, that no apprenticed labourer shall be deemed and taken to be an absentee in terms of the said recited Ordinance, unless such apprenticed labourer shall be a deserter, or a vagabond, or a runaway, or be found in any place more than five miles distant from his, her or their residence, excepting in his, her or their way to or from some place of public worship, or to or from any public market, and not having with him, her or them a written pass, for that or any other purpose, from his, her or their employer, or from the special justice of the district, in terms of the Royal Order in Council of 5th June 1834.

And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force within this Island and the dependencies thereof, from and after the day of the promulgation thereof.

## HONDURAS.

HONDURAS.

## — No. 64. —

COPY of an ORDER in COUNCIL, for establishing a Registry of Slaves in the Settlement of *Honduras*.

No. 64.

At the Court at Brighton, the 24th day of January 1834 :

Present, The King's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by a certain Act of Parliament made and passed in the 3d and 4th year of His Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves, and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the services of such Slaves;" after reciting, that in the settlements in the occupation of His Majesty and of His Majesty's subjects in Honduras, no law is in force for the registration of slaves; and that doubts might be entertained respecting the authority of His Majesty, with the advice of his Privy Council, to make laws binding on His Majesty's subjects therein, it is declared and enacted, that it is and shall be lawful for His Majesty, by any order or orders to be by him for that purpose made, with the advice of his Privy Council,

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Council, to establish a registry of slaves for the purposes of this Act, within the said settlement; and that all laws made by His Majesty for the government of his said subjects, shall, for the purposes of the said Act, be as valid and effectual as any laws made by His Majesty in Council for the government of any Colonies subject to the legislative authority of His Majesty in Council are or can be: Now, therefore, in pursuance and exercise of the powers by the said Act in His Majesty vested, or thereby declared to belong to him, and in exercise and in virtue of all other powers vested in His Majesty by His royal prerogative, His Majesty, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, doth order, and it is hereby ordered, that there shall be established within His Majesty's settlements at Honduras, a public registry for the registration and enrolment of the names and descriptions of all negroes, mulattoes and mustees, who now are held in a state of slavery within the said settlements.

And it is hereby further ordered, that within the term of one month from and after the arrival of this present order at Honduras, and the receipt thereof by the superintendent of His Majesty's subjects there, for the time being, the same shall be publicly notified to the inhabitants of the said settlements, in such manner as to the said superintendent shall seem most fit and effectual; and the said superintendent shall forthwith proceed to appoint some fit and proper person then resident there, to the office of registrar of slaves for the said settlements; which person, before he enters on the execution of his said office, shall take the following oath before the said superintendent:

"I, A. B., do solemnly promise and swear, that I will not willingly or knowingly make, or permit or suffer to be made, any false or fraudulent entry, erasure or obliteration in the registry of slaves to be committed to my charge; but if any such false or fraudulent act shall become known to me, will immediately give notice thereof to the superintendent of His Majesty's subjects at Honduras, for the time being, and will in all respects faithfully and uprightly perform the duties of the office of registrar of slaves for these settlements.

"So help me God."

And the said person so appointed to the said office of registrar of slaves shall also, before he enters on the execution of his said office, become bound by bond or recognizance to His Majesty, his heirs and successors, with two sufficient sureties, to be approved by the said superintendent, himself in the penal sum of 1,000*l.*, and his sureties each in the sum of 200*l.* sterling money, with condition for the faithful performance by him the said registrar of all the duties of his said office; and in case of the death, absence or incapacity of the said registrar, or any avoidance of the said office, a new registrar shall be in like manner from time to time appointed by His Majesty, his heirs or successors, or by the superintendent for the time being, (until the royal pleasure, in respect of such appointment shall be signified), who shall take the same oath, and enter into like securities, before he enters on the execution of the said office.

And it is hereby further ordered, that the said superintendent shall also forthwith proceed to provide a proper and convenient office within or near the town of Belize, for the sole purpose of the registry hereby established, wherein the books and papers belonging thereto may be at all times safely kept.

And it is hereby further ordered, that the said registrar shall forthwith provide a large blank paper book, strongly and durably bound, for the purpose of the registry and enrolment hereinafter directed, to be intitled, "Registry of Slaves;" in which said book shall be entered and registered, in manner hereinafter directed, the names and descriptions of all slaves within or belonging to the said settlement.

And it is hereby further ordered, that within one calendar month from and after the public notification of this order in Honduras, as aforesaid, every person who shall be then resident in the said settlements, and who shall then own or be in possession of any slave or slaves whatsoever, within the said settlements, whether as proprietor, mortgagee, trustee or receiver, manager or attorney, or otherwise howsoever, whatever his tenure of or title to the same may be, shall respectively make and deliver, upon oath, to the registrar so to be appointed, such schedules, lists and particulars in writing, subscribed by him, her or them, to be called his or her original Return of Slaves, as are hereinafter mentioned; that is to say, every such person shall so make and return a schedule or list, in writing, containing, in the first place, the name and description of the present owner or owners of such slave or slaves, as well as of the person or persons then in possession of the same and making such return, and the right or character in which he, she or they then hold possession of and claim title to such slave or slaves, namely, whether as proprietor, lessee, mortgagee, sequestrator, guardian, committee, trustee, receiver, executor, administrator, attorney, manager or otherwise; and if such slave or slaves shall have been purchased or acquired within seven years prior to such return, then the name or names of the seller or former owner thereof; and after such descriptions as aforesaid of the owner or owners of such slaves respectively in the said schedule, the parties making the said returns shall proceed to name, describe and enumerate distinctly thereon the several negro, mulatto or other slaves then belonging to the same owner or owners, by distinct lists, in manner following; that is to say, in the first place, such schedule shall contain a list of all slaves who have husbands or wives, either by actual marriage or constant cohabitation, or who have parents or children, brothers or sisters among the slaves of the same owner or owners; which list shall be intitled, "The List of Families and Slaves of C. D. the Owner of Slaves;" in which list shall be inserted the name of the owner; and the said list shall be divided into as many sections as there are different families to be inserted therein; and each section shall be intitled, "The Family of A. B.," inserting the name of the superior relation, or where there are only brothers or other relatives of the same

same degree, the name of the elder individual of such relations; and each of the said schedules shall also contain two other lists, in one of which shall be inserted the names of such male slaves, and in the other of such female slaves, as have no wives or husbands, parents or children, brothers or sisters, among the slaves of the same owner or owners; which lists shall be respectively intituled, "General List of Male Slaves," and "General List of Female Slaves," belonging to *C. D.*

And all the slaves belonging to the same owner or owners shall be named and described in the said schedule respectively, in the particular lists or sections to which they respectively belong, in the manner and form following; that is to say,

The schedule or paper containing each of the said lists shall be divided into five perpendicular columns, of convenient breadths respectively intituled, at the heads thereof, "Names, Surnames, Colours, Employment and Age;" and the more clearly to distinguish the description of each particular slave, as many horizontal lines, with convenient spaces between them, shall be drawn across the said perpendicular lines or columns as are equal in number to the number of slaves to be inserted in each list.

And in the first of the said columns shall be inserted the name of baptism of each slave, if he or she shall have been baptized; and if not, the name by which he or she has been usually called and known. In the second of the said columns shall be inserted the surname or second name of the slave, if he or she has ever been called or known by any surname or second name; and if not, then in cases of family slaves included in the said lists of families, the name of the superior relation or elder individual; and in the cases of slaves who are included in the said general lists of males and females, such name as the owner or party making the return shall think fit to insert therein as the surname by which the slave and his or her lawful issue, or her natural issue, and their descendants respectively shall thereafter always be called. In the third of the said columns shall be inserted "Negro," "Mulatto" or "Mustee," as the case may be, of such designation of intermediate shades of colour within the limited degrees of slavery, if any, as are in use within the said settlements. In the fourth of the said columns shall be inserted the particular trade, occupation or ordinary employment of the slave, specifying in the cases of mechanics, artizans or handicrafts-men, the particular art or business in which he or she is usually employed; in the cases of family slaves, the particular domestic service or department in which he or she is usually employed. And in the fifth of the said columns shall be inserted the age of the slave, according to the best of the knowledge and belief of the owner or other party making the return.

And for the better ascertaining of the proper form of such returns of slaves as are hereby required to be made, so that no person may pretend ignorance thereof, such superintendent is hereby authorized and required to prepare, in such manner as to him shall seem most fit and effectual, a form or example of the returns hereby required to be made; and a printed copy thereof, with blanks to be filled up, according to the rules aforesaid, shall accordingly be provided by the registrar, to be appointed as aforesaid, and delivered by him to all persons applying for the same, at a price not exceeding three-pence for each printed copy.

And it is further hereby ordered, that every person making and subscribing any and every such schedule or return, shall personally deliver the same, either to the said registrar or to some other person that shall be by him appointed and deputed to receive such returns or schedules in the proper district of the said settlements in which the party making the same shall reside; and such party shall at the same time take the following oath, which the said registrar, and every person to be by him appointed and deputed as aforesaid, is hereby empowered and required to administer; that is to say,

"I, *A. B.* [name the deponent], do solemnly swear, that the schedule or return now by me delivered to be registered, contains, as I verily believe, a just, true and full return, account and description of all slaves now belonging to the owner or owners therein named, and being within these settlements, and that the said return is made by me according to the best of my knowledge and belief, truly and without fraud, deceit or evasion.

"So help me God."

And it is further hereby ordered, that within one calendar month, to be computed from the time hereinbefore appointed for the making and delivery of the said returns or schedules, every return or schedule that shall have been duly made and delivered to the said registrar, or any of his said deputies, shall by him, his clerks or assistants be entered and copied in a fair, distinct and legible manner, in the book to be by the said registrar appointed for the registry and enrolment of slaves, as aforesaid, under the name or names of the owners mentioned in the returns, which name or names shall be written in a large hand, at the top of every double page or folio containing such return: that every double page or folio of the said book, that is to say, the whole breadth of the book when open, from the left to the right-hand, shall be divided by perpendicular lines into five different columns of such breadth, and by horizontal lines into spaces of such dimensions as will most conveniently contain the various particulars hereinbefore directed to be returned in the said schedules or lists of slaves, leaving at the top of each folio a space for the name of the particular owner whose slaves are registered therein, which name shall be always therein written in large and distinct letters; and at the top of the first of the said five columns shall be written, "Names;" of the second, "Surnames;" of the third, "Colour;" of the fourth, "Employment;" and of the fifth, "Age;" and under each of the said titles in the said five columns shall be entered, according to the different schedules or lists returned, the particulars respectively contained in the same; and at the end of the registry of each original return shall be summed up and written in words at length, the whole number of slaves returned and registered as belonging to the owner or owners mentioned in such returns; that the pages of the said book shall

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be distinctly numbered at the top of each double page or folio, from the beginning to the end of each book respectively, before any entry shall be made therein; and at the bottom of each page containing any registry of slaves, as well as at the end of the registry of each original return, the registrar shall subscribe his name at length, in testimony of the fidelity and accuracies of the entries therein contained.

And it is hereby further ordered, that no erasure shall on any pretence, or for any cause whatever, be at any time permitted to be made in the said books of registry; but if any clerical error shall occur in the insertion of any name or other particular in any schedule or return contained, or otherwise in the making up and keeping the said books of registry, a line of red ink shall be drawn through the word or words improperly inserted, so as to leave the original word or words legible; and the correction thereof, or any word or words which may have been erroneously omitted, shall either be interlined or written in the margin of such list or entry, and always, when practicable, by the same hand as the rest of the same list or entry; and the registrar shall, either under such word or words written in the margin, or under a mark of reference there made to any such interlineations, subscribe his name at length; but after the registry of original returns of slaves shall have been completed and certified upon oath as hereinafter directed, no interlineation, insertion or other correction of the registry of any such original returns, shall on any account be made or permitted, except as is hereinafter expressly provided.

And it is hereby further ordered, that an office copy, certified as such by the said registrar, of the registry of slaves belonging to any particular owner or owners, shall, at the request and charge of the owner or owners, or party or parties who made the return, be made and delivered to him, her or them by the said registrar, and for which there shall be charged no more than at the rate of 1 *d.* sterling for every slave therein named; and all persons shall have free liberty at all seasonable hours to inspect the said register books in the presence of the registrar or his assistants, for the purpose of ascertaining that the returns and lists by them, or on their behalf delivered, have been actually registered in manner aforesaid.

And it is hereby further ordered, that when and so soon as all the original returns or schedules, which shall have been delivered to the said registrar pursuant to this order, shall have been fairly entered and registered as aforesaid, which shall be done and completed within the term of two calendar months from and after the first public notification of this order in Honduras as aforesaid, the registrar shall give notice thereof forthwith to the superintendent for the time being, and such superintendent shall thereupon publicly notify to the inhabitants of Honduras, in such manner as he shall deem most fit and effectual, that the registry of slaves is ready to be verified before him, and is and will continue open at the proper office for the inspection of all persons who have made returns of slaves for insertion therein, for the term of one calendar month from the date of such notification, to the intent that they may be satisfied of the accuracy of the said registry; and that if any owners or possessors of slaves within or belonging to the said settlements have, from any accident or unavoidable impediment, hitherto omitted to return proper schedules or lists of their slaves into the said registry, as by this order required, they must immediately apply to the said superintendent, who, upon satisfactory proof that such omission has not been wilful, has power to make an order for the admission and registration of their returns or schedules by the registrar; but that if this remedy is not taken, so as to obtain such registration within the said term of one month, the omission cannot afterwards be supplied.

And it is hereby further ordered, that if, during the said last-mentioned term of one month, any owner or possessor, owners or possessors of a slave or slaves, shall apply to the said superintendent, and make it appear to his satisfaction that the non-delivery of his, her or their return or returns of slaves to the said registrar within the term formerly prescribed, has arisen from accident or some unavoidable impediment, and not from wilful neglect or delay, and shall then produce such his, her or their return or returns, and make oath before the said superintendent that no slave therein named has been imported or brought into the said settlements within six calendar months preceding, it shall and may be lawful for the said superintendent, if he shall think fit, to make an order in writing, by him subscribed, and addressed to the said registrar, commanding him to receive and register any such return or returns, as if the same had been delivered in due time; which order the registrar is hereby required to obey, so as any such new or further return may be registered in the said books in manner aforesaid, before the end of the said term of one calendar month last before mentioned.

And it is further ordered, that, at the end of the said last-mentioned term of one month, the said registrar shall proceed finally to close and authenticate the said registration of all the slaves in the said settlement, in manner following; (to wit) in the said book the said registrar shall write with his own hand, in large legible characters, immediately after the last entry of the said returns or lists of slaves, either on the same folio or double page, or on the back of the last leaf containing the same, "Here ends the original registry of the slaves of Honduras;" and the said registrar shall thereto subscribe his name, and below the said signature shall be written, in like characters, by the said registrar, the following affidavit:

"Before *A. B.* [inserting the name and title of the superintendent for the time being] personally appears *C. D.* [naming himself], the registrar of slaves in Honduras, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists, makes oath and says, that he the said *C. D.* has twice carefully examined and compared all the preceding entries in this book with all the different returns of slaves delivered to him, or, to his knowledge or belief, to any deputy, clerk or assistant by him appointed; first, by examining the said entries, while his clerk or assistant read the original returns respectively entered therein; and afterwards by examining the said returns,