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APPRENTICED NEGROES.

RETURN to an ADDRESS of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 1 June 1835;—for,

COPIES of any INSTRUCTIONS given relative to COMPENSATION claimed for
NEGROES who had not been registered as SLAVES.

Colonial Department, }
Downing-street, 2 Sept. 1835. }

G. GREY.

Office of Commissioners of Compensation,
No. 25, Great George-street, Westminster,
15 July 1835.

Sir,

WE have the honour to transmit to you extract of a Letter addressed by the Commissioners of Compensation to the Assistant Commissioners at Jamaica, dated 4th November 1833, immediately after the formation of this Board, the result of which will be seen in our letter to Mr. Hay, of 20th January last, copy of which is inclosed. This letter also contains the opinions we have expressed, at the desire of the Colonial Department, on the subject of the Compensation for Slaves belonging to the Maroons; which two letters comprise all the instructions which have taken place relating to the subject to which they allude.

We beg to add that the slaves belonging to the Maroons are included in several returns of classified valuation; but the claims for compensation in respect of them have not yet reached this office; they may, however, be presumed to be among the large number of claims of which we are still in expectation from Jamaica.

Sir George Grey, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.
Colonial Office.

We have, &c.
(signed) *James Lewis.*
Hastings Etwin.

EXTRACT of LETTER to the Assistant Commissioners at Jamaica, dated
4 Nov. 1833.

THE Islands of Caymanas being dependencies of the Colony of Jamaica, and it being by the 66th clause of the Act declared that such dependencies shall be taken to be parts of the Colony for the purposes of the Act; and as the Act passed by the Legislature of Jamaica for the registration of slaves does not include the Caymanas, and no Return of slaves has ever been made therefrom, it will be necessary that the Auxiliary Commissioners of Jamaica should obtain a Return of the number of slaves belonging to or settled in those Islands, and ascertain with all possible precision what was the value or price of slaves therein within the eight years ending on the 31st December 1830; and for this purpose it will be proper to appoint some fit person to be an agent to proceed, under the authority of the Auxiliary Commissioners, from Jamaica to the Caymanas who, after due and accurate inquiry within those Islands, should report on oath the number of slaves and the price as before mentioned, and the Auxiliary Commissioners will transmit such report to the Commissioners in London.

COPY of a LETTER from the Commissioners of Compensation to *R. W. Hay*, Esq., dated Office of Commissioners of Compensation, 25, Great George-street, Westminster, 20 Jan. 1835.

Sir,

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst., transmitting by the direction of the Earl of Aberdeen a copy of a despatch from the Marquis 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 an 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 Nov. 1833, to the Assistant Commissioners of Jamaica, upon the first head of inquiry for making the inter-colonial apportionment for 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 Dec. 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 Nov. 1833, as supplementary to the registration of the slaves in Jamaica. A very complete Return has accordingly been made, (2 April 1834) 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 as an appendage to Jamaica, and entitled to share in the Compensation Fund, awarding to the interests of the respective owners in those Islands.

With respect to the claims 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 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 them a forfeiture of the 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) *Janes Lewis.*
Hastings Etwin.
Henry Fred. Stephenson.

APPRENTICED NEGROES.

COPIES of any INSTRUCTIONS given relative to
COMPENSATION claimed for NEGROES who had
not been registered as SLAVES.

(*Mr. Fowell Burton.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
3 September 1835.
