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## SLAVERY ABOLITION ACT.

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ORDER IN COUNCIL, declaring that adequate and satisfactory Provision hath been made by Law in the British Settlements at *Honduras*, for giving effect to the Act of Parliament for the ABOLITION of SLAVERY.

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AT the Court at St. James's, the 12th day of August 1835,  
Present, The KING's MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY in Council.

**W**HEREAS by a certain Act of Parliament, 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," 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 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 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 labourer, 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 to 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 for 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 dispatch, 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 in 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, Ordinance, 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,

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tion, provision, rule or order shall be, and is thereby declared to be, absolutely null and void and of no effect :

And whereas it is by the said Act further enacted, that all laws made by His Majesty for the government of His Majesty's subjects in Honduras 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: and whereas, in pursuance of the said Act, His Majesty did, on the 5th day of June 1834, by the advice of His Privy Council, make a certain Order in Council for carrying the said Act into effect within the Island of Trinidad: and whereas by a certain other Order of His Majesty in Council, also dated on the 5th day of June 1834, after reciting that it was expedient that the regulations for the government of apprenticed labourers should, throughout His Majesty's possessions to which the said Act applies, as nearly as might be, and having regard to the variety of local circumstances in such several possessions, be of one uniform tenour; and that the state and circumstances of society in the said settlement of Honduras were, in many respects, peculiar, and differed essentially from the state and circumstances of society as existing in the said Island of Trinidad, and other His Majesty's colonies in the West Indies; and that, by reason of the variety and minuteness of such distinctions, it was necessary that provision should be made for the adaptation of the said Order in Council to the case of Honduras by some local authority, it was, in pursuance of the said recited Act of Parliament, and for carrying the same into effect within the said settlements of Honduras, ordered by His Majesty, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, that the said Order in Council for the said Island of Trinidad should, save as thereinafter mentioned, extend to, and be in force within, His Majesty's said settlement at Honduras, upon, from, and after the 1st day of August 1834: provided nevertheless, and it was further ordered, that it should be lawful for the Superintendent for the time being of the said settlements, by any proclamation or proclamations to be by him from time to time for that purpose issued, to suspend any part or parts of the said Order which he should consider inapplicable to the state and circumstances of society in the said settlements, and by any such proclamation or proclamations, to adapt the said Order in Council, or any part or parts thereof, to the state and circumstances of society in the said settlements: and it was thereby provided, that no such proclamation should in any respect be repugnant to, or inconsistent with, anything in the said Act of Parliament contained: and it was further ordered, that the said Superintendent should transmit to His Majesty, or to one of His Principal Secretaries of State, copies of any such proclamations, for His Majesty's approbation or disallowance; and it was thereby also provided, that no such proclamation should, by the terms thereof, be made to operate and take effect, or to be binding upon His Majesty's subjects, within the said settlements, until the same should first have been approved by His Majesty, save only in cases in which it should appear to the said Superintendent, for the time being, that the delay incident to obtaining His Majesty's approbation of any such proclamation would subject His Majesty's subjects in the said settlements to serious inconvenience, in which cases any such proclamation might, by the terms thereof, be made to operate and take effect and to be binding upon His Majesty's subjects aforesaid, either from the day of the date thereof or from any such other time as should be therein for the purpose appointed, until His Majesty's pleasure should be known:

And whereas the said Superintendent of the British settlements at Honduras, in pursuance of the powers in him in that behalf vested by the last recited Order in Council, hath made and established certain regulations for adapting to the state and circumstances of those settlements, the provisions of the Order made by His Majesty in Council for giving effect to the said Act for the abolition of slavery within the Colony of Trinidad:

And whereas His Majesty, having this day taken into consideration the regulations so made as aforesaid by the said Superintendent, hath been pleased to approve thereof: now it is hereby ordered by His Majesty that the said regulations shall be, and the same are hereby confirmed and allowed:

And whereas it is by the said Act of Parliament, amongst other things, enacted, that no part of the sum of 20,000,000*l.* sterling shall be applied or be applicable to the purposes in the said Act mentioned, for the benefit of any person then entitled to the services of any slave in any of the colonies in the said Act mentioned, unless an Order shall have been first made by His Majesty, with the advice of His Privy Council,

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Council, declaring that adequate and satisfactory provision hath been made by law in such colony, for giving effect to the said Act, by such further and supplementary enactments as aforesaid, nor unless a copy of such Order in Council, duly certified by one of the Clerks in Ordinary of His Majesty's Privy Council, shall, by the Lord President of the Council, have been transmitted to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or to the Lord High Treasurer for the time being : now, therefore, in further pursuance and exercise of the powers in His Majesty in Council, by the said recited Act in that behalf vested, His Majesty, with the advice of His Privy Council, doth declare, and it is hereby declared, that adequate and satisfactory provision hath been made by law in the said settlements at Honduras, for giving effect to the said recited Act of Parliament, by such further and supplementary enactments as therein are mentioned :

And the Lord President of the Council, and the Right Honourable the Lord Glenelg, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, are to give the necessary directions herein as to them may respectively appertain.

*C. C. Greville.*

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(HONDURAS.)

ORDER in COUNCIL, dated 12 August 1835,  
issued under the SLAVERY ABOLITION ACT.

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

24 August 1835.