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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.

PART III.

(2.)

(In continuation of the Papers presented in the Year 1835, Nos. 177 and 278.)

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BRITISH GUIANA,	VIRGIN ISLANDS,	ST. LUCIA,
MAURITIUS,	DOMINICA,	HONDURAS,
ANTIGUA,	ST. VINCENT,	BAHAMAS,
MONTSERRAT,	GRENADA,	BERMUDA, AND
ST. CHRISTOPHER,	TOBAGO,	CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

1836.

PART. III. (2.)

in continuation of Papers

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

30 March 1836.

SCHEDULE.

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P A P E R S

RELATIVE TO THE

A B O L I T I O N O F S L A V E R Y .

Part III.—(2.)

B A R B A D O E S .

— No. 219. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*, K. C. B., to Lord *Glenelg*.

BARBADOES.

Government House, Barbadoes,
21 August 1835.

No. 219.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's circular despatch of the 18th June last, calling for certain returns relative to the special magistrates and apprenticed population of this island, together with copies of instructions given to the special magistrates.

I beg leave to enclose the returns called for by your Lordship, together with copies of the only instructions which have been addressed by me to the special magistrates. Your Lordship is aware that by the Rural Police Act, which was in operation until the month of April last, all control over these gentlemen was vested in a body of commissioners, and even their journals were directed to be sent in to the Governor in Council. Under these circumstances, I considered that I had no power to address any general instructions to them, or furnish them with standing orders for the guidance of their conduct.

Previously, however, to their entering upon their duties, I assembled the magistrates, for the purpose of delivering to them their commissions; and I took that occasion of impressing upon them verbally, how desirable it was that, in awarding punishments, they should resort to confinement, and such other modes as the law allowed, in preference to the use of the cat, which, upon every principle of policy and humanity, ought to be avoided as much as possible. Your Lordship will observe by the return of punishments, that 1,742 male apprentices have received corporal punishment, while the number punished by confinement, fine, &c., is 2,813 males and 3,230 females. Although the mass of punishments which this return presents is sufficiently frightful, yet it is satisfactory to reflect how great an improvement has taken place upon the system which formerly prevailed, more especially as regards the punishment of females. And your Lordship may rest assured that my exertions shall be unceasingly directed to the abolition, as far as may be practicable, under the peculiar circumstances of this population, of a system of coercion, which the approaching change in their civil condition will render it as impossible to continue as a stimulus to labour, as it is revolting to every principle of humane and enlightened government.

I have, &c.

(signed)

Lionel Smith.

Enclosure in No. 219.

(No. 1.)

RETURN of the NAMES of all the SPECIAL or STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES who have been Removed from or Resigned their Office in *Barbadoes*.

Enclosure in
No. 219.

— Nil. —

(signed)

Sir *L. Smith.*

Government House, Barbadoes,
21 August 1835.

*Vide Parliamentary
Paper, 30 March
1836, No. 166,
p. 5.*

No. 1.

No. 2.

No. 3.

No. 4.

BARBADOES.

(No. 2.)

GENERAL ABSTRACT of CRIMES and PUNISHMENTS among the APPRENTICED LABOURERS in *Barbadoes* from 1 Augst 1834 to 31 July 1835, inclusive.

	Number.	
	Males.	Females.
Apprenticed population - - - - -	38,456	44,351

ABSTRACT of CRIMES.

	Number of Cases or Persons.	
	Males.	Females.
Insubordination and insolence - - - - -	856	747
Neglect of work, or absent from employment, &c. - - - - -	2,666	1,848
Trespasses on property, or wilfully damaging or cutting growing crops	326	123
Thefts - - - - -	288	79
Miscellaneous - - - - -	770	654

ABSTRACT of PUNISHMENTS.

	Number of Cases or Persons.	
	Males.	Females.
Corporal - - - - -	1,326	1
Ditto, with hard labour - - - - -	383	—
Ditto, with imprisonment - - - - -	33	—
Confinement, with hard labour - - - - -	1,580	1,619
Ditto, without ditto - - - - -	341	450
Pardoned - - - - -	161	40
Dismissed for want of evidence, or arranged by consent - - - - -	180	176
To make good a certain portion of labour to employer or estate - - - - -	831	1,158
Fined - - - - -	61	3
No award - - - - -	10	4

Total Number of corporal punishments - - - Males 1,742

Female 1

Total otherwise punished - - - Males 2,813

Females 3,230

7,786

(signed) *Lionel Smith*, Governor General.

N.B.—Nineteen gangs in District D. (number not given) sentenced to extra labour for the estate or employer, for idleness or neglect of work.

(No. 3.)

RETURN of the NAMES and NUMBER of APPRENTICED LABOURERS in the Island of *Barbadoes* who have purchased the unexpired term of their Apprenticeship, and the several Sums paid for the same, from 1st August 1834 to 31st July inclusive.

No.	NAMES.	DATE of Discharge.	Sum paid to Owner.	No.	NAMES.	DATE of Discharge.	Sum paid to Owner.
	District (A.)		£. s. d. (Barbadoes Cr)		District (A.)		£. s. d. (Barbadoes Cr)
1	Betsey Hannah - - -	10 Aug. 1834	15 - -	5	Esther - - - - -	1 Sept. 1834	10 - -
2	Thomasine - - - - -	30 - - -	40 - -	6	Rebecca Anne - - -	3 - - -	25 - -
3	Geoffrey - - - - -	- - - - -	5 - -	7	George - - - - -	6 - - -	60 - -
4	Sarah Beck - - - - -	1 Sept. - -	30 - -	8	Philleen - - - - -	- - - - -	20 - -

No.	NAMES.	DATE of Discharge.	Sum paid to Owner.	No.	NAMES.	DATE of Discharge.	Sum paid to Owner.
	District (A.)		£. s. d. (Barbadoes Cr)		District (B.)		£. s. d. (Barbadoes Cr)
9	Judy - - -	6 Sept. 1834	35 - -	81	James Christmas - -	23 Oct. 1834	15 - -
10	William Henry - -	- - -	60 - -	82	Katey Mary - -	10 Nov. - -	35 - -
11	Isabella - - -	- - -	28 - -	83	Dow - - -	- - -	35 - -
12	Anthony Reed - -	11 - - -	45 - -	84	Salley Betsey - -	27 - - -	27 10 -
13	Anna Maria - - -	- - -	25 - -	85	Joseph - - -	- - -	47 10 -
14	Nanny - - -	- - -	- - -	86	Phibby - - -	13 Jan. 1835	35 - -
15	William and - - -	12 - - -	40 - -	87	Louisa - - -	- - -	20 - -
16	Mary - - -	- - -	- - -	88	Mary Jane - - -	19 - - -	43 15 -
17	Sarah Kitty - - -	17 - - -	30 - -	89	Betty - - -	- - -	27 10 -
18	Joe William - - -	- - -	50 - -	90	Belinda James - -	12 Feb. - -	10 - -
19	Gracy - - -	29 - - -	25 - -	91	Bob - - -	27 - - -	10 - -
20	Betsey - - -	- - -	25 - -	92	Lucy Betty - - -	3 Apr. - -	40 - -
21	Polly Anne - - -	- - -	10 - -	93	Kitty Lemon - - -	23 - - -	25 - -
22	Amelia - - -	- - -	20 - -	94	Ketty Ben - - -	5 May - -	45 - -
23	Henry - - -	- - -	10 - -	95	Providence - - -	8 - - -	50 - -
24	Andrew - - -	1 Oct. - -	50 - -	96	Anne - - -	11 - - -	40 - -
25	Maria - - -	- - -	15 - -	97	William Edward - -	16 - - -	30 - -
26	William - - -	7 - - -	50 - -	98	Rebecca - - -	19 - - -	30 - -
27	Mimby Dutchess and } - - -	- - -	- - -	99	Sarah Anne - - -	8 June - -	15 - -
28	Augusta - - -	27 - - -	40 - -	100	Phibbah - - -	2 July - -	46 - -
29	Frances Anne - - -	7 Nov. - -	30 - -	101	Sarah Jones - - -	14 - - -	15 - -
30	Samuel - - -	8 - - -	35 - -	102	Sue - - -	15 - - -	17 10 -
31	Pallas - - -	18 - - -	10 - -		District (C.)		
32	Oronooko - - -	25 - - -	45 - -	103	Mercy - - -	26 Jan. 1835	30 - -
33	George Henry - - -	27 Dec. - -	40 - -	104	Sarah Frances - - -	6 Feb. - -	38 15 -
34	Abel Francis - - -	20 Jan. 1835	36 - -	105	John Edward - - -	10 - - -	32 10 -
35	Kitty Anne - - -	7 Feb. - -	35 - -	106	Kitty S. Williams - -	30 Mar. - -	45 - -
36	Tibby - - -	11 - - -	25 - -	107	Sarah Anne - - -	- - -	28 - -
37	Sukey Anne - - -	28 - - -	35 - -	108	Jeffrey - - -	- - -	100 - -
38	Mary Elizabeth - -	4 Mar. - -	30 - -	109	Lot - - -	24 Apr. - -	30 - -
39	Joe - - -	9 - - -	45 - -	110	Hector - - -	13 May - -	50 - -
40	Mary Thomas - - -	20 - - -	50 - -	111	Sarah - - -	25 - - -	30 - -
41	James Thomas - -	26 - - -	80 - -	112	Betsey Kittey - - -	1 June - -	41 - -
42	Johnny - - -	- - -	15 - -		District (D.)		
43	John Henry - - -	- - -	10 - -	113	Fortune - - -	7 May 1835	20 - -
44	Mary Jane - - -	28 - - -	10 - -	114	Caroline - - -	14 - - -	10 - -
45	Richard - - -	- - -	10 - -	115	Adam Straw - - -	25 - - -	85 - -
46	Audacious - - -	- - -	10 - -	116	Ann Bell - - -	4 June - -	22 10 -
47	Mary Christian - -	1 April - -	35 - -	117	Moses - - -	9 July - -	12 10 -
48	Mary Bella - - -	6 - - -	20 - -		District (E.)		
49	Sally Betsey - - -	29 - - -	20 - -	118	Tom - - -	17 Sep. 1834	40 - -
50	Daniel - - -	16 May - -	25 - -	119	Alexander - - -	28 Oct. - -	15 - -
51	Eliza Frances - -	28 - - -	10 - -	120	Betsey Anna - - -	- - -	26 5 -
52	King William - - -	- - -	10 - -	121	Louisa - - -	- - -	26 5 -
53	Alphonso - - -	- - -	10 - -	122	Becky Mary - - -	- - -	20 10 -
54	Sarah Christian - -	5 June - -	35 - -	123	Caroline - - -	- - -	17 - -
55	Princess - - -	13 - - -	30 - -	124	Cyrus - - -	10 Jan. 1835	40 - -
56	Grace - - -	- - -	6 5 -	125	Susannah - - -	23 Feb. - -	15 - -
57	Dolly - - -	- - -	10 - -	126	Harry Leacock - - -	5 Mar. - -	100 - -
58	Francoise - - -	- - -	20 - -	127	Betsey Anne - - -	23 - - -	25 - -
59	John Edwin - - -	- - -	40 - -	128	Betsey Phillis - - -	25 June - -	25 - -
60	William - - -	16 - - -	5 - -	129	John Thomas - - -	- - -	17 10 -
61	Dolly - - -	- - -	5 - -	130	Sam - - -	- - -	15 - -
62	John Henry - - -	17 - - -	47 10 -	131	Tadgy - - -	31 July - -	10 - -
63	James - - -	18 - - -	40 - -		District (F.)		
64	Sampson - - -	22 - - -	30 - -	132	Amelia - - -	15 Dec. 1834	45 - -
65	Robert Rolleston -	- - -	40 - -	133	Jenny Anne - - -	- - -	43 - -
66	Christian - - -	7 July - -	30 - -	134	Nat - - -	28 Apr. 1835	42 - -
67	Lawrence - - -	- - -	7 10 -		Total Amount - - -	£.	4,073 - -
68	Zeno - - -	15 - - -	65 - -				
69	Molly Anne - - -	29 - - -	10 - -				
70	Princess and - - -	- - -	- - -				
71	Hannah Francis - -	- - -	30 - -				
72	Richard Clarke - -	- - -	70 - -				
73	Mary Hannah - - -	30 - - -	30 - -				
74	Hannah - - -	31 - - -	30 - -				
	District (B.)						
75	John Adam Harding -	14 Aug. 1834	75 - -				
76	Sarey - - -	26 Sep. - -	30 - -				
77	Quamine - - -	23 Oct. - -	135 - -				
78	Queen - - -	- - -	- - -				
79	John and - - -	- - -	50 - -				
80	Maryanne - - -	- - -	- - -				

BARBADOES.

(No. 4.)

Barbadoes, 19 February 1835.

(Circular.)

THE Governor taking into consideration the practice which has obtained of the special magistrates generally absenting themselves from their police stations on Saturdays, by which the apprenticed labourers are prevented taking advantage of their holiday to prefer any complaints they may have, His Excellency is pleased to require and direct, that every special magistrate shall hereafter devote the usual number of hours to the duties of his office on every Saturday, and they are further required to have this regulation notified to all proprietors or employers of apprenticed labourers as well as to the labourers themselves.

In those districts where perfect tranquillity and steady industry exist, there can be no objection to the special magistrates availing themselves of every Wednesday, instead of Saturday, as a day of rest.

Doubts having arisen, whether apprenticed labourers, when prisoners and sentenced to hard labour in the penal gangs, can in that state be tried and punished for any fresh offence, such as refusing to work, or any act of violence or disobedience towards those set over them, the special magistrates are hereby informed, that they are fully authorized to try and punish such offence as the law directs.

By command.

To the Special Magistrates for the
several Districts, Barbadoes.

(signed)

C. H. Darling,
Private Secretary.

(Circular.)

Sir,

Barbadoes, 2 July 1835.

HAVING had under consideration the 6th clause of an Act of this island, intituled, "An Act for the temporary establishment of a Rural Police for this Island," I am extremely anxious that without any further delay measures should be adopted for securing uniformity at the houses of correction belonging to your respective stations, in the classification, maintenance and discipline of the apprenticed labourers under your charge.

A strict conformity with the most approved prison discipline used in the gaols or houses of correction in the mother country, is what I wish to see adopted in practice here; and as the following rules and regulations are principally framed from the provisions of an Act of Parliament, passed in the fourth year of the reign of his present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for consolidating and amending the Laws relating to the building, repairing and regulating of certain Gaols and Houses of Correction in England and Wales," I am desirous that they should be the rules and regulations of your respective stations, unless you can furnish me with some satisfactory objections against their adoption.

First.—The utmost attention shall be paid to cleanliness in all wards and apartments, by frequent scouring, lime washing, &c.

Second.—That male and female prisoners be separated during the working hours by day, and the confinement by night, so as to prevent them from seeing or holding any intercourse with each other, and that the prisoners of each sex shall be, as far as is practicable, classed according to their offences.

Third.—That whenever means are provided by the Legislature for the payment of a matron, the superintendance of female prisoners be exercised exclusively by her, and no male person be allowed to enter the wards appropriated to the use of female prisoners unaccompanied by the matron; and until a matron be employed, no police officer be allowed to enter the wards appropriated to females, unless he be accompanied by another officer, and then only on the duties of his office.

Fourth.—That silence be rigidly enforced amongst the prisoners at all times; that they be not permitted to converse or speak with each other, or with any person, and that no officer be allowed to speak with any of them, except for the purpose of giving orders, which duty is to be done calmly and firmly, without ill language, and in as few words as can be used.

Fifth.—That all persons deport themselves with the strictest regularity in their duties; abstain from swearing, or levity of behaviour, and furnish no bad examples.

Sixth.—That the diet of the prisoners be plain, but well cooked and nutritious; the corn of the country, or roots, with a little salt; and that no other drink than water be allowed to enter the premises.

Seventh.—That when a prison dress is provided by the Legislature, it is to be used as the clothing of the prisoners during work.

Eighth.—That the female prisoners performing the work of cleaning, cooking, &c. for the other prisoners, shall be daily changed, and that the work be done in routine.

Ninth.—All prisoners sentenced by a special justice, being males, to corporal punishment, with imprisonment, or, being females, to imprisonment and hard labour for one fortnight, shall have their hair cut off, and their heads washed, for the better promotion of cleanliness.

Tenth.—That all thefts in the open fields or gardens shall rank under the same class of punishment, whether the value of the property be great or small; and that the second or third thefts by the same person, within the period of the apprenticeship, shall be proportionally punished, according to the practice of courts of criminal jurisdiction.

Lastly.—All courts held by special justices for hearing cases between apprenticed labourers and employer be open to the public, except in any case where secrecy is necessary for the interest of the island.

I have, &c.

(signed)

Lionel Smith.

To the Special Magistrates.

— No. 220. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government House, Barbadoes, 22 August 1835.

BARBADOES.

No. 220.

Vide Parliamentary Paper, No. 278, p. 108, ordered to be printed 10 June 1835.

I HAD the honour to receive your Lordship's letter of 20th of June last, conveying your instructions for the amendment of the Abolition and Police Acts of this island, on the 31st ultimo, which I lost no time in laying before the Council and Assembly.

The two branches of the Legislature very shortly framed an amended Abolition Act, with a suspending clause, on hearing which, before it was presented to me, I had it intimated to one or two influential gentlemen, that the Bill must have positive and immediate effect against all the objections your Lordship or your predecessors had pointed out, or that I could not receive it.

The suspending clause was then removed, and a Bill presented to me, with only slight objections, which were communicated to both branches of the Legislature by a message, a copy of which is enclosed.

I am to explain to your Lordship, that the original Abolition Act was operating so oppressively, by the power it gave owners of apprentices to turn over non-prædials to prædial labour, males and females, for every trifling offence they committed, that I felt I could not be justified in continuing such a law to the indefinite period of reference to your Lordship, by a suspending clause.

I am very happy to say the Council and Assembly subsequently corrected the objections I pointed out to them, and I have now the pleasure of enclosing to your Lordship such a Bill as I hope and believe will be found sufficient to entitle this island to share in the compensation grant.

I have further the honour to enclose to your Lordship amended Police Bills, both for the town and districts, by which they have restored to the executive the powers so unconstitutionally usurped by the Council.

These three Acts having been accompanied by an address from the Honourable House, I have the honour to lay a copy of the same before your Lordship, together with my reply.

I can assure your Lordship that I have not used the powers now given me over the magistrates and police in any vindictive or irritating spirit; I confirmed the magistrates in their situations, and have maintained the police establishments; and though I will never descend to the character of a compromising Governor, I will do all in my power to conciliate and ensure the advantages of the cordial co-operation of the three branches of the legislature, for the happiness and welfare of all those living under this government.

It would give me pleasure, and strengthen my hopes of a better future influence, if your Lordship would have me early acquainted, whether or no the present Acts are satisfactory.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith.*

No. 1.
1 August 1835.

No. 2.

3.
No. 94. Amend-
ment Abolition Act.
No. 95. Rural
Police Act.
No. 96. Town
Police Act.
These Acts are
printed in a sepa-
rate Appendix.
Vide Nos. 94, 95
and 96.

No. 3.
18 August 1835.
No. 4.
21 August 1835.

Enclosure in No. 220.

(No. 1.)

Government House, 1st August 1835.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Council,

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

I HAVE had under consideration the Amended Act for the Abolition of Slavery, which passed both branches of the Legislature on the 29th ultimo.

It is my duty to state to your Honourable Board and House any defects I may find in this Bill, likely to prevent its acceptance by His Majesty.

Clause 3.—The words, "immediately after His Majesty's confirmation of this Act shall be known in this island," at the commencement of the clause, prevent its coming into immediate operation; and the objection against admitting a suspending clause still remains as regards that clause; for if any repugnancy to the Imperial Act should be discovered in this Act, a most useful and necessary provision for giving effect to clauses 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, of the Barbadoes Act for the Abolition of Slavery, would remain inoperative.

These words may have been unintentionally introduced or retained; but whether or not, the Act is inadmissible in its present shape.

I cannot better illustrate my objection to the 3d clause, as now constructed, than by reminding your Honourable Board and House, that the original Act was passed on the 5th April 1834, and (although amended) was not finally decided on in London till June 1835, and the decision not received by me till the 13th July 1835.

166.—II.

Clause 4.

Enclosure in
No. 220.

BARBADOES.

Clause 4.—This clause is a substitute for the 13th and 14th clauses in the Barbadoes Abolition Act, which are repealed by this Act, and the objections stated by Mr. Spring Rice and Lord Glenelg are obviated; but as the Legislature will have the opportunity of revising this Act, it may be worth their consideration whether or not, as the continuous labour ceases to be compulsory, the alternative of paying the watchmen and cattle-keepers for their extra service by adequate wages, as proposed by Lord Glenelg, should not be inserted.

Clause 5.—This clause contains no provision as to how the consent of the special justice to every transfer of a prædial is to be given and recorded. Clause 24 of the original Act is absolutely repealed by this Act, consequently the form of consent therein given, and the provision made for recording it, no longer avails. Provision to this effect is required to be made by the 9th clause of the Act of Parliament.

Clause 6.—The objections against the original Act, as regards food, taken by Mr. Spring Rice on the grounds of inadequacy, are removed by the increased allowance given by this Act; but the allowance of a blanket once in the year, to each apprenticed labourer, is still withheld.

Although I have been compelled to object to a suspending clause, which may be of indefinite duration, I am of opinion it will not be just or practicable, with many persons possessing apprentices, that they should be required to give immediate effect to the clause of this Act regulating the issue of additional food and raiment; I therefore respectfully propose to your Honourable Board and House, that one month should be allowed from my assent for providing and issuing those additional articles, or we shall create a false excitement amongst the apprentices, and bring the magistrates and planters into frequent collision.

Lionel Smith.

(No. 2.)

ADDRESS from the House of Assembly to the Governor-General; dated Barbadoes, 18th August 1835.

To his Excellency Sir Lionel Smith, K. C. B., Governor-General, &c.

The respectful Address of the House of Assembly of Barbadoes.

May it please your Excellency,

The House of Assembly have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a message from your Excellency, dated the 1st instant, on the subject of the Amended Abolition Act, and also the receipt of a message from your Excellency, dated the 5th instant, accompanied by a copy of a despatch from the Right Honourable Colonial Secretary.

The House of Assembly beg to return your Excellency their thanks for these communications, and for having taken so early an opportunity of calling their attention to the important subjects to which they relate.

The words referred to by your Excellency in the 3d clause of the Amended Slavery Abolition Act were only proper whilst that Act had a suspending clause; they were inadvertently retained after the suspending clause had been omitted; but the clause has now been so altered as to bring the several clauses of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, referred to by your Excellency, into immediate operation.

The House of Assembly duly appreciate the motive which induced your Excellency to suggest, as an addition to the 4th clause, the alternative of paying the watchmen and cattle-keepers for their extra service by adequate wages; but they apprehend that any attempt to obtain these extra services, except by contract, would be incompatible with the Act of the British Parliament; and the 80th and five following clauses of the Island Slavery Abolition Act fully regulate all contracts of this description.

To the 5th clause the House of Assembly have added the form of consent which the special justices are to sign on the transfer of a prædial from one estate to another.

The House have also added a blanket once in two years; and, in compliance with your Excellency's recommendation, they have provided that one month should be allowed for supplying the increased allowance of fish; the additional raiment will be issued at the time provided for the issue of clothing.

In the Bill, therefore, which the House have passed, will be found all the amendments which have been called for by Mr. Spring Rice and the present Right Honourable Secretary for the Colonies.

On the subject of Lord Glenelg's despatch of the 20th of June, a copy of which your Excellency has been pleased to lay before the House, they feel themselves called upon to offer a few explanations.

It is satisfactory to the House to know that his Lordship approves of the moderation and calmness with which the Assembly discussed the several questions adverted to in their address to Lord Aberdeen.

In remarking on that part of the address of the Assembly to Lord Aberdeen which relates to the Bridge-Town Police Bill, the present Right Honourable Colonial Secretary has assumed certain propositions, from which the House of Assembly, in justice to themselves, are bound to dissent. These propositions may be reduced to three:

1st. That the distinctions between voters upon the old and on the new qualifications were established by the Bridge-Town Police Bill.

2ndly. That

2ndly. That the House refer to Lord Aberdeen's despatch of the 10th January, as vindicating this enactment.

3dly. That the Assembly have maintained an opinion, that the distinction exists only in the text and theory of the law.

With reference to the first proposition, the House of Assembly have to observe, that the distinctions between voters upon the old and new qualification were not established by the Bridge-Town Police Bill, but by the Act of 1831, which for the first time conferred the elective franchise on the coloured inhabitants. That Act raised the qualification from 10*l.* to 30*l.* currency for town voters, but reserved to the then possessors the right so long as they lived and continued possessed of 10*l.* qualification. The House of Assembly fully coincide with Lord Glenelg as to the impolicy of keeping alive jealousies, by which the whole proprietary body of the island are distracted and enfeebled; your Excellency, however, is well aware that the House of Assembly passed a Bill during the last year for the purpose of abolishing this distinction, and of equalizing the qualification of all voters.

As to the second proposition that the House refer to, Lord Aberdeen's Despatch of the 10th January, as vindicating the enactment creating the distinction, the House of Assembly most respectfully beg to observe that in the reference made by them to that part of Lord Aberdeen's Despatch which relates to the qualification of voters, they had not the slightest intention of adducing it as a vindication of the enactment which creates the distinction between voters; far from vindicating that enactment, the House of Assembly on the 23d of September last passed a Bill for abolishing the distinction and equalizing the qualification. Lord Aberdeen in a very forcible and eloquent manner advocated the propriety of a qualification founded on property, and at the same time seems to discover an apology for the distinction which had been made by the Colonial Legislature.

It is only in that sense that the House of Assembly understood Lord Aberdeen's Despatch, and they only meant to express an opinion that as the distinction was fast fading away, it did not warrant the agitation of which it had been made the ostensible cause; they nevertheless readily admit the impolicy of retaining it. With reference to the third position, that the Assembly have maintained an opinion that the distinction exists only in the text and theory of the law; with due submission to his Lordship, the House of Assembly are unable to discover in their address to Lord Aberdeen any such opinion maintained by them. After going fully into an objection which had been made to the Bridge-Town Police Bill, but for which there is really no just ground, the House of Assembly conclude in the following words; "The objection, therefore, does arise from the provisions of the Bill; it is wholly foreign to its object and spirit, and could any ground for it have been inferred from the text of the law, the actual working of it would have satisfactorily contradicted such an inference." The whole of this passage refers to the Bridge-Town Police Bill, and so far from furnishing the inference in the third proposition, the direct contrary is the case.

If the Right Hon. Colonial Secretary had been led by any inaccuracy of expression, used by the House of Assembly in their address to Lord Aberdeen, into the supposition that they maintained the opinions so attributed to them, it is a fortunate circumstance that his Lordship has given expression to his impressions, as by that means the House have been afforded an opportunity of explaining and setting themselves right with his Lordship on a question of no small importance to this community.

With the amendment required by Lord Aberdeen to the Bridge-Town Police Bill, and enforced by the present Right Hon. Colonial Secretary, the House of Assembly have complied, from a sense of the necessity of maintaining the police of the town, and of the inconvenience to which the inhabitants of the city of Bridge-Town might be exposed should that Bill be disallowed by His Majesty.

When the Bridge-Town Police Bill passed the Legislature of this island, the ancient constitution of the island, by which appointments of Justices of the Peace were to be made by the Governor by and with the advice and consent of the Council, was in full force. The royal instruction by which that part of the constitution was supported, it appears has since been rescinded, and the Legislature has been told that unless these appointments are vested in the Governor alone, unfettered with the consent of the Council, the Act will be disallowed by His Majesty. The House of Assembly cannot see the justice or policy of being called on by an *ex post facto* order to rescind a law, which when passed was in perfect harmony with the ancient constitution of the Colony; they cannot help expressing their regret that His Majesty should have been advised so to innovate on their ancient constitution; but whilst expressing their regret, they beg to assure your Excellency it does not arise from any distrust towards your Excellency, for they feel confident that your Excellency will exercise the powers thus vested in you, in the manner which will best promote the public good and give satisfaction to the country.

The House of Assembly have passed a Bill for continuing the Rural Police Act to the end of the apprenticeship system. As, however, it has been found that an increase of the mounted police and a diminution of the foot would insure an effective Rural Police, the House of Assembly have amended the former Act by increasing the number of horse and diminishing the foot. The expense of this establishment will be increased by this alteration; but the public will be fully compensated for this additional expense by the greater effectiveness of the police.

The House will be ready to make any improvements in this Bill of which it may be susceptible, and which any defect in its making may point out as necessary.

The House of Assembly having thus passed an amended Abolition Bill, in perfect accordance with the views of His Majesty's Colonial Secretary, having vested the appointment of the Bridge-Town magistrates in the Governor alone, and having passed a Rural Police Bill

BARBADOES.

for the term of the apprenticeship system, on the principle of the temporary Act, towards which the Right Hon. Secretary for the Colonies has expressed himself favourable; the House of Assembly trust that the questions relating to these important and exciting subjects are finally settled, and that the Legislature of the island will now have leisure to devote itself to the improvement of the laws and the adoption of such measures as will best promote the happiness and prosperity of all classes of His Majesty's subjects in this ancient and loyal colony.

By Order of the House,

W. Forte, Speaker.

(No. 3.)

MESSAGE from the Governor-general to the Honourable House of Assembly, *Barbadoes*.

Government-House, 21 August 1835.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

I HAVE felt great satisfaction from the honour of your address of the 18th instant, and at having been enabled to give my assent to the amended Emancipation Act and Police Acts, measures which I anxiously and sincerely hope will be deemed to have completely fulfilled the terms on which the Parliamentary grant depended.

I cannot avoid remarking to your Honourable House, that there has been no infraction of the constitution of the island by His Majesty having invested me with the sole power of selecting and appointing magistrates, or by his having subsequently increased the number of the council. These have never been laws of your charter, but founded in the Royal instructions, liable to change at the Royal pleasure, as the policy of circumstances demanded.

I sought only the same constitutional powers that the governors of other colonies possessed.

I will never compromise what I believe to be my duty; but I solemnly avow the most earnest desire to profit in my administration by the advice and experience of my council and the Legislature generally.

When your Honourable House reflects on the extensive and overwhelming nature of my duties in the general government, you must be sensible I would have been gladly spared the weighty charge imposed upon me by the Police Bills, but the government of a peasantry, still under a state of coercion, forbids that the controlling and the interested body should be composed of one and the same class.

I will therefore spare no trouble to render your police respectable in discipline, in watchfulness, firmness and moderation.

For the rest, let me assure your Honourable House, that I shall hail with gratitude and delight your promised labours for the improvement of the laws.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

—No. 221.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *L. Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 13 October 1835.

No. 221.

I HAVE received your Despatch, dated the 22d August, enclosing three Acts passed by you, with the advice and consent of the Council and Assembly of Barbadoes, for amending the Slavery Abolition and Police Acts of that island.

It is almost superfluous to assure you that I have bestowed my instant attention on these laws. Nor is it with any common pleasure that I announce to you that the various enactments comprised in them seem to me to call for no statement or remark beyond the expression of my opinion that they are, in every respect, a satisfactory compliance with the suggestions which, in obedience to His Majesty's commands, I had the honour to convey to you in my Despatch of the 20th June last.

I enclose two orders of His Majesty in Council, by the first of which these Acts are left to their operation; while by the second His Majesty, in exercise of the power vested in him by the 44th section of the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery, is pleased to declare, that adequate and satisfactory provision has been made by law in Barbadoes for giving effect to that statute, by the further and supplementary enactments therein mentioned.

I have discharged a duty, the most grateful to my feelings, in humbly submitting to His Majesty in Council my opinion that those obstacles have at length been effectually removed by which His Majesty has hitherto been prevented from acknowledging the right of the former owners of the emancipated slaves in Barbadoes to participate in the Compensation Fund. In withholding my advice in favour of such a measure until the present time, I had to perform an ungracious and

and painful office. I have been led, however, in my consideration on this subject, to a retrospect of the communications which have passed respecting it between successive Secretaries of State and the Colonial Assembly of Barbadoes. On perusing the various addresses from that body, it was impossible not to be deeply and favourably impressed by the tone in which, under circumstances of the most trying nature, the discussion had on their part invariably been conducted. They have not only adhered inflexibly to the calm and courteous style befitting all public intercourse between the different branches of the Legislature, without yielding to feelings which might have rendered some departure from it natural and venial; but, with a candour, which I acknowledge with respect and gratitude, they have rendered full justice to the arguments and the motives of the Ministers of the Crown, even when those Ministers were compelled to oppose their wishes and controvert their opinions. In thus divesting a great political debate of all asperity, the Assembly of Barbadoes have consulted at once their own dignity and the character of those with whom they have had to negotiate. They have drawn from His Majesty the expression of his gracious approbation. They have afforded a most valuable example, and prepared the way for discussing, in the spirit of entire respect and confidence, those ulterior measures which, as appears by their address of the 13th of August, they contemplate for "the improvement of the law and the promotion of the happiness and prosperity of all classes of His Majesty's subjects in that ancient and loyal colony."

I have to congratulate you on the successful and amicable close of a debate in which you have borne so considerable a share, and have been called to the discharge of duties so responsible and invidious. It is with much pleasure that I remark the cordiality of the tone of your communications to the Assembly, copies of which are transmitted with your present Despatch, and especially the assurance contained in that Despatch respecting the spirit in which you have used, and still propose to employ, the powers entrusted to you by the Legislature. Your confirmation of the magistrates who were originally appointed by the Council, not only without your concurrence, but in direct opposition to your avowed opinion and wishes, was peculiarly judicious under the circumstances of the case. In the present most important epoch of the history of the British West Indies, an urgent demand is made on all classes of society, for the sacrifice, to the public good, of many feelings, which, though blameless or even becoming in ordinary times, could not now be indulged, without endangering the success of that momentous experiment in which Great Britain and her Colonies are engaged; an experiment on the result of which the future destiny and happiness of many millions of the natives of Africa, or their descendants inhabiting the Continent and Islands of America may, in no light measure, depend. Nothing can be more acceptable to His Majesty, nor more befitting your own station as the head of the local government, than that in all cases, as in the present instance, you should be foremost in giving an example of this wise and necessary self-control.

You will communicate to the Council and Assembly of Barbadoes copies of this Despatch.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 222. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *L. Smith* to Lord *Glenelg.*

My Lord, Government House, Barbadoes, 15 September 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, in pursuance of your Circular Despatch of the 12th of July last, tables A. and B. for the past month, showing the state of crime and punishment among the apprenticed population in the several districts of this island, and the general result as regards the island at large.

I find that the journal which has been hitherto kept by the magistrates is so nearly in accordance with the form of slave protector's return formerly used in the Crown Colonies, as to render it unnecessary to make any alteration in it; but I have desired that instead of quarterly, it shall be transmitted to me every month.

These records, commencing from the 1st of August 1834, are now in my possession; and I can assure your Lordship, that I have not failed to examine them most carefully, with a view to that vigilant superintendence of the proceedings of the magistrates which your Lordship is so anxious to establish.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith.*

No. 222.

(A.) No. 1.
6.

(B.) No. 2.
Vide Returns,
Table (B.) p. 23.

BARBADOES.

— No. 223. —

No. 223.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *L. Smith*.

Downing-street, 31 December 1835.

Sir,

Vide Returns,
Table (B.) p. 23.

I HAVE received your Despatches of the 15th September and the 22d October, transmitting the Returns of punishments inflicted by the special magistrates on the apprenticed labourers in Barbadoes, in the months of August and September. I fully appreciate the care with which you have examined these and similar Returns, with a view to that superintendence of the proceedings of the special magistrates which, without implying any distrust of their rectitude or judgment, is essential to the due administration of the existing system. I am happy to observe a decrease in the number of punishments in the last Return, as compared with that for the month of August; and I trust that, by a continuance of a judicious though firm exercise of the powers entrusted to them, the special magistrates will essentially contribute to the establishment, on a permanent footing, of those relations between the employers and the labourers which will essentially promote the future welfare and prosperity of all classes in the colony.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 224. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *L. Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government-House, Barbadoes, 8 December 1835.

No. 224.

ON referring your Lordship to the Amended Abolition Act of this island, which came into operation on the 19th August last, by my assent, and has subsequently received His Majesty's most gracious approval, your Lordship will recollect the addition to the apprentices' food and raiment, which was ordered from your office, and provided for in the Bill.

Aware how these allowances would operate with certain classes of poor proprietors, while the more independent would be likely to take away from the prædial labourers many advantages they before possessed, if the law of food was immediately insisted on, it became necessary to prescribe a time for fish being provided, and the House of Assembly adopted my recommendation to that effect in the Amended Act.

I am sorry, however, to inform your Lordship, that the Colony was in a considerable state of excitement for some time, by the delusion practised upon the apprenticed population, and the intemperance of many planters.

We have in this island two classes of low whites, descended from families imported from England, as apprentices previous to the general introduction of slave labour, and they are by far the most degenerate, worthless race of any in the island.

One of these classes were not unfrequently masters of slaves from one to perhaps a dozen, and their own livelihood totally depended on such slaves' labour, or on that labour being hired out.

Another class had no slaves or other property, but equally despising field labour or any other industrious pursuits, they have for many years lived upon the charity of the blacks, now apprenticed labourers.

They have exercised, throughout the late change in the negro condition, the influence which the unhappy distinction of colour gives to mislead and deceive those in whose benefits they expected to share; and, accordingly, when the law for additional food and raiment came out, the apprentices were universally urged to demand it in kind, and not to accept any compromise or commutation, and were taught to believe that more had been ordered for them from home, but withheld here.

In large estates, where the apprentices had for years enjoyed allotments of land, and even cultivated sugar on their own account, they insisted on the additional pound of fish, and the proprietors then warned them they should take away the land, which they only possessed by indulgence on good behaviour; violent and vindictive feelings arose on both sides; the apprentices were sullen and insubordinate, and some planters destroyed their stock, and it is hardly to be believed, at a distance, how much mischief was effected by the low whites over the ignorant apprentices.

Such

Such was the infatuated suspicion which existed for some days, that a whole gang declared before one of the special magistrates, that if they did not insist on having the fish, they would be liable to go back to slavery, and the Governor would order them all down to St. Ann's Barracks to be flogged by the soldiers. This they credited against me, who they well knew had encountered every odium and insult from the whites in establishing their right to be treated like human beings.

The enclosed Documents will show your Lordship the public measures I adopted to allay these unpleasant feelings; all has subsided. The principal planters begin to feel the policy of a conciliatory course, and the small owners commute allowances either by time or money payment; the price of labour and retail price of fish constituting the grounds on which such commutations are founded.

I will here mention to your Lordship, that though we have had in this island the most severe slave code of any I know, they have not generally wanted sufficient food, and I would advocate, even to a greater extent, giving them time to work for wages instead of provisions in kind, because it prepares them to meet a state of freedom when they must totally depend on industrious habits for their own support.

I am most happy to inform your Lordship, that the planters already most willingly pay for labour on those days which are the apprentices' own, and I feel sure they will never want labour for their cultivation, where they have treated the apprentices with common justice.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith.*

Enclosure in No. 224.

To the SPECIAL MAGISTRATES.

Sir,

Government-House, 23rd September 1835.

IT has been represented to me that many apprenticed labourers entertain some doubts as to the effect of the new law providing for an additional allowance of fish and clothing to them, and whether they are not entitled to demand these increased allowances from proprietors, and retain possession of the lots of land allowed them heretofore by indulgence. This doubt may be very easily removed. You will be very careful to explain to the apprenticed labourers that, by the laws, they are entitled to demand the full allowance of fish and clothing, but they are not entitled by right to retain the possession of land of their owners, heretofore given to them merely as an indulgence, consequently it is within the power of the owners to withdraw, as stated in clause 71 of the Abolition Act, this indulgence, allowing the apprentices reasonable time to reap their crops.

It will be your duty to advise the apprenticed labourers to act in every case as may appear best for their permanent interest; and to do all in your power to preserve a good understanding between them and their masters.

It is with great pain I hear that some ill-disposed persons have circulated reports, that unless the apprenticed labourers take up the full allowances from their masters, they will not be entitled to absolute freedom at the expiration of the apprenticeship. This conduct is highly culpable; and I will most readily reward any person who will give such information against these miscreants as may lead to their being brought to punishment; and you are requested to explain to the apprentices the folly of giving credit to this wicked falsehood.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith.*

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

THE Governor-General, in reference to his Circulars to the special magistrates, dated the 23rd instant, is now pleased to publish, for the guidance of the magistrates, the following table of commutation for fish in those cases where the Act authorizes commutation instead of its being issued in kind.

Two pounds of fish per week, or one quintal per annum.	If commuted by time 17 days a year, or one day in every three weeks; if commuted by money, 25s. per annum.
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The Governor-General has been grieved to hear of the obstinacy of the apprentices in still believing that they will be liable to future injury, if they do not demand the fish, at every sacrifice; and he has been equally sorry to hear of the impatience and want of temper with which some masters have treated their apprentices, while labouring under a state of ignorance, more to be pitied than resented.

It is for their own benefit that the Governor-General entreats them to a course of more circumspection and forbearance.

BARBADOES.

The special magistrates are earnestly requested to use the most active exertions to explain to the apprentices their interests as well as their rights, and to protect them from any harsh proceedings on the part of their masters.

By command,

Government-House,
30th September 1835.

(signed) *C. H. Darling*, Private Secretary.

— No. 225. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *L. Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 20 January 1836.

No. 225.

I HAVE received your Despatch, dated the 8th of December, enclosing a Circular Letter, addressed by you to the special magistrates of Barbadoes, on the 23d of September, and a Government Notice, dated on the 30th of that month.

I approve the methods which you adopted to allay the excitement of the apprenticed labourers on the subject of the non-delivery of provisions, and I sincerely rejoice that your endeavours to restore general tranquillity were attended with such entire success.

The inference suggested by such occurrences as that which you have described to me, is, that before the expiration of the apprenticeship, no practicable effort to promote the moral and intellectual improvement of the negro population should be omitted. If they were victims of so gross an illusion as to suppose that they were liable to be remitted to slavery if they did not actually receive in kind their prescribed allowances of salt-fish; and if there were persons in the island capable of propagating such an error in order to promote their own selfish or unworthy purposes, it is obvious that not an hour should be lost in the dissemination amongst the apprenticed labourers of such knowledge as may fortify them against artifices of this kind, when the period shall have arrived at which the existing restraints of the law will cease. Much of my own time and thoughts have been devoted to this subject, and I trust that the zeal and piety of the different religious societies in this kingdom, co-operating with the efforts of Parliament and of the ministers of the Crown, will enable you ere long to witness the very general diffusion of Christian education throughout the island.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 226. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *L. Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government-House, Barbadoes, 8 December 1835.

No. 226.

HAVING found a great diversity of practice in the administration of the law between apprentices and employers in this island, by the special magistrates, I found it necessary to compile some general instructions to prevent those frequent misunderstandings which created discontent and confusion in the estates.

I have now the honour to enclose your Lordship a copy of those instructions, and a copy of the scale of work to which they refer.

I would assure your Lordship that I took no small pains to ensure justice to master and apprentice by this authenticated scale, now above a month in operation, and against which I have not received a single complaint from either party. I attach no immediate importance to it beyond becoming a useful guide to magistrates in the settlement of disputes, but in its future effects it will enable all parties to enter upon cultivation by task-work; and I satisfied myself, through the information of several very old black overseers, that there is no job of work in the scale but what the individuals or gang classed can easily accomplish by two o'clock in the day. I thus anxiously anticipate it will become the rule of voluntary labour hereafter.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

14 October and
2 November 1835

Enclosure in No. 226.

The SPECIAL JUSTICES of the PEACE, *Barbadoes*.

Gentlemen,

Government House, Barbadoes, 14th October 1835.

NOTWITHSTANDING the various enactments for the government of the apprenticed labourers, and for regulating the duties of their employers, contained in the local Acts, and that you and the community at large have had the experience of a year for guidance in carrying out the measure of emancipation, recent events show that much misapprehension exists in reference to the reciprocal duties which have been created or fixed. With yourselves, doubts continually spring up on the interpretation of the law. Amongst the proprietors, some make unreasonable demands, and some are led to commit many imprudent acts, whilst, amongst the apprenticed labourers, ignorance combined with depravity, prompts them to catch at every pretext for eluding their duties, and for misbehaving themselves. Thus we make but slow progress towards the establishment of a right understanding between the parties interested, of the reciprocal duties of employer and apprenticed labourer.

Enclosure in
No. 226.

This state of our society is the cause of deep anxiety to me, desirous as I am to promote the welfare of this colony, and to see tranquillity and cheerful industry prevail throughout the government entrusted to my administration. It is our common duty to reflect, that the apprenticeship system has been established as an intermediate state between slavery and freedom, from which both the employer and the apprenticed labourer are expected to derive much useful knowledge, and to learn to accommodate themselves to the altered condition of the latter.

I sincerely desire to see established a good understanding between all parties interested in the successful working of the Abolition Act; and I wish to convey to you, to employers, and to the labourers, my ideas of the duties and interests of all, as plainly as possible. For these reasons, and with the view of affording you some assistance in the execution of the duties of your office, I now address to you the following remarks. I rely on you to contribute, by an exact and vigilant discharge of your duties, to the same good object; and I hope you will lose no opportunity of allaying any apparent irritation which may be shown by employers, and of affording your friendly advice to the labourer in all cases in which he may seek it.

1. The law has prescribed a certain portion of clothing for the apprenticed labourer. It would be a short-sighted policy to attempt to withhold a single article; it not only forms part of the pay of the labourer in his present condition, but the desire for decent clothing should be encouraged; a want is created, which cannot, after the habit is established, be neglected; a spur to industry and an advance to civilization are the results. This provision must be punctually complied with.

2. For feeding the labourers the law lays down two modes, viz. by a ration of provisions, or by an allotment of land, with a certain portion of time. It is clearly to the interest of the proprietors to adopt the latter, and I conclude that all planters who are interested in the future welfare of this island, and who look forward beyond the period of the six year apprenticeship, will not hesitate to use their earnest endeavours to attach them to the soil, and render them less desirous of roaming to other estates, when the apprenticeship is at an end, in search of employment or imaginary better treatment; thus also contributing to the advancement of their moral improvement. It will, however, be your duty to see that the allotment of the land, when made, is of good cultivatable quality, adapted for the growth of provisions for the apprenticed labourer; and, to facilitate this arrangement, I have annexed (see Appendix A.) tables of commutation for the whole, or a part of the allowance.

3. The next point which it is of importance to fix, is the quantum of labour which the labourer shall perform, and the planter receive: this must ever be a great subject of contention, and the settlement of it is therefore much to be desired. Although the quantum necessary must occasionally fluctuate, depending as it does on the state of the weather, and the nature of the soil, I think the attempt may be made satisfactorily to adjust the matter; and with this view a scale is now in preparation by three planters of skill and integrity, (which scale will be published when completed) and which will, at least, be a basis whereon to form your judgment. This subject becomes of the utmost importance, as, from many existing circumstances, and particularly the desire the labourers will feel to work by task, when the system of apportioning land allotments becomes prevalent, it is likely to be the generally established mode of working; and I recommend you to promote it as much as possible, when you are satisfied that it can be adopted with justice to the apprenticed labourer.

4. It will be proper that you should explain to the apprenticed labourers, that they can claim nothing but what the law has given them; that the law has given them a great deal in comparison with labourers in other parts of the world; it has given them ample food, raiment, and a wholesome lodging, with every Saturday at their own disposal; but that for all besides, they are dependant on their employer's favour and kindness.

5. Proprietors and employers should remember, that they also have much depending on the exercise of good feeling and Christian conduct towards their dependants; that without it the system cannot work; that many actions of ill-nature, which, singly committed, may be within the pale of the law, but when attended with cruelty and harshness in the manner of performing them, may constitute misdemeanours, and as such, if represented to me, will be prosecuted. I need hardly remind them, that the force of good laws must be weakened, when evasions or subterfuges successfully elude them.

BARBADOES.

6. I refer you to the rules and regulations established for your guidance by the law, and to those forwarded to you already from time to time by myself; and I recommend you to have them always hung up in your offices, and punctually observed.

7. On the questions of jurisdiction arising out of differences between apprenticed labourers and their employers, where the lands of an estate are in several parishes, I have advised with my Council, and have settled that the jurisdiction shall be with the justice of the district in which the dwelling-house stands: and in case the house shall stand in two or more parishes, it shall be optional to the party complaining to make his or her complaint to the justice of either district.

8. The next point to which I wish to draw your attention, is the condition of tradesmen attached to estates: as doubts have been expressed, whether persons of this class are to be considered as prædials and continue in their servitude till August 1840; and whether they can be compelled to perform field labour, at the bidding of their employers. With reference to the first doubt suggested, I have to instruct you that it appears to me to be very clear, by the constructions put upon clause the 4th of the British Act for the Abolition of Slavery, and which clause now forms part of the Island code for the same purpose, that tradesmen attached to estates are included in the prædial class; and consequently that the period of their servitude continues to August 1840. The remaining doubt in reference to this class, has already been, as I hoped, disposed of by the opinion of the Attorney-general, published by my order in August 1834, and by which you will be pleased to govern yourselves: it must however be evident to the employer, that in the exercise of his discretion as to employment, he ought to use his authority so as not to occasion to the prædial apprentice any additional hardship in his service; and that if the employment of a prædial has been for 12 calendar months before the 28th August 1833, such as to accustom him to one species of work, that is, a trade only, without his ever having been called upon to perform, within that period, any labour in agriculture, he must be considered as having no authority to call upon him to serve in a new capacity; and you will take care that in no case the change in employment is made as a measure of punishment. In all cases where former occupation is the question, you will fix upon the employer the duty of proving the employment.

9. An opinion has been held that a master cannot employ a prædial in a duty properly non-prædial, such as calling on a field man to tend horses, or a prædial woman to tend poultry, or to wash clothes during the 45 hours prescribed for work. My decision on this point is, that tending horses or poultry is properly farm or prædial labour; but the conversion of a common labourer to a washerwoman, or butler, or coachman, or to an employment to which he or she was never bred, and which requires skill, demands the consent of the prædial; and in that case, if given, he or she shall be deemed to be a non-prædial and be registered by you as such, and have the benefit of early emancipation.

10. It appears to me that an opinion also prevails, that a complainant cannot be a witness in his own complaint. I feel it incumbent on me to state, for your information, that the evidence of all such parties ought to be received; though it rests with you to decide what weight you will give to such description of evidence. In some cases, it must be the only kind produced, and then you must be guided in your estimate of it, by a reference to the character and habits of the party complaining.

11. An opinion has also been held, that a special justice should not attend to a complaint from an employer against an apprenticed labour, for an offence committed on a Saturday, or during other hours than the 45 hours prescribed for labour; under the idea, that the apprenticed labourers are during those times free. You will, however, understand that such a position is wholly untenable; that the hours between labour are the hours appointed for their repose; and that the special justices are bound to attend to all complaints arising between them and their employers.

12. I have appended to this letter, for your information and guidance, an opinion of the Attorney-General on two points, which I have been led to believe have been much canvassed before you, and no uniform decision come to, namely, first, whether a prædial apprenticed labourer is bound to work at the bidding of his employer upon land, either rented or purchased subsequently to the 1st August 1834: and secondly, whether such labourer is bound to assist in reaping the canes, or manufacturing the sugar, for a neighbouring planter, having no means of his own of taking off his crop; and the doubts on these points will, I trust, cease. (See Appendix B.)

13. I find that my official communications to you through the public papers do not receive from you the prompt attention necessary to give them, as intended, immediate effect. You must be aware of the labour and difficulty of corresponding with you so readily as I could wish, in writing; and I therefore adopt the public newspapers of the Colony, as the readiest channel of communication; especially, as both yourselves and the public have, by this mode, the opportunity of ascertaining my opinion and instructions on points in which all are alike interested; and I therefore notify, that all communications addressed to you by me, and purporting to be signed by me or my private Secretary, and published in the public papers, are to be considered by you as official communications, and are to be acted upon by you as such accordingly.

I have, &c.

Lionel Smith.

Appendix A.

BARBADOES.

PROVISION BY LAW.	COMMUTATION.
30lbs. of roots per week, or 10 pints of corn to all above 10 years of age; to all under 10 years, half that quantity.	To all above 16 years of age, half an acre of land fit for raising provisions; to all under 16 years of age a quarter of an acre, to commence first week in April.
<i>Fish.</i>	
2 lbs. per week, or one quintal a year.	For 3 months, 6s. 3d. For 1 year, 1 l. 5s. Time for one year, 17 days.* In time, 10 days.*
<i>Clothing.</i>	
1 jacket and penistone. 2 shirts or shifts. 2 petticoats or 2 pair of trowsers. 1 cap or handkerchief. 6 skeins of thread.	In money, for each full grown man or woman, 2 dollars 8 bits; for a second size man or woman, 2 dollars; from 16 to 10 years of age, 17½ bits; from 10 years downwards, 15 bits.
1 blanket once in two years.	In money, 1 dollar.

Appendix B.

Sir,

Barbadoes, 13 October 1835.

AGREEABLY to your directions, I have had under consideration two questions proposed by your Excellency, namely, whether a prædial apprenticed labourer is bound to work at the bidding of his employer, upon land either rented or purchased subsequently to the 1st August 1834; and whether such labourer is bound to assist in reaping the canes or manufacturing the sugar of a neighbouring planter, having no means of his own of taking off his crop.

In reference to the first question, I am of opinion, that the proprietor has no authority to command the performance of any such labour from his apprenticed labourers, and when it is required it must be the subject of a voluntary contract between the parties.

In answer to the second question, I beg to state to your Excellency, that the obligation of the prædial labourer to perform the description of work stated, must altogether depend upon what has been done in such cases by the estates previous to the 1st August 1834. The fifth clause of the amended act for the Abolition of Slavery subjects the prædial apprentice to perform labour in the service of his employer only upon, or in or about the works and business of the estate to which he was attached, or on which he was employed, on or previously to the period abovementioned.

I understand it has been customary with many proprietors, either for profit or from feeling of kindness, to assist their neighbours, by affording them the assistance stated, and that this custom has prevailed on many estates at and previous to that period. It would therefore be a great hardship to interrupt this system, and I am not disposed to think that any such interruption was contemplated by the law.

I am therefore of opinion that, if anterior to the 1st August 1834, it was customary to employ the labourers of an estate in rendering these services, they become a part of the business of the estate, and that the labourers are bound to give their services for such purposes at the bidding of their masters.

I have, &c.

H. E. Sharpe.

His Excellency the Governor-General.

To the SPECIAL JUSTICES of the PEACE.

Gentlemen,

Government-House, Barbadoes, 2 November 1835.

WITH reference to my published letter to you on the 14th ultimo, on the various topics connected with the administration of the laws for the government of apprenticed labourers, I have now the honour to subjoin the scale of labour therein referred to.

2. You will be furnished with printed copies of this scale; and I have to desire that it may be instantly hung up in your respective offices for public information. You will also have the goodness to distribute copies to the several estates in your district, with a request to the proprietors or managers that they may be placed in some situation in the buildings of the estate where they may be easily referred to by the apprenticed labourers.

3. As

* *N. B.* This is computed at the present daily price of labour, for a healthy adult, viz. a quarter of a dollar; and is of course subject to proportionate alteration in the case of young, infirm, or pregnant; or in the event of labour rising above or falling below that standard.

BARBADOES.

3. As there are few or no estates where there are not some among the negro population who can read, I am in hopes that this measure may prevent many complaints arising from misunderstanding or ignorance being brought before you.

I am, &c.

Lionel Smith.

A SCALE of WORK to be performed by effective Apprenticed Labourers in the Island of *Barbadoes*, drawn up by the undersigned, appointed a Committee for that purpose by his Excellency the Governor-General, and subsequently approved by His Majesty's Council.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK.	Quantity of Work to be Performed by one or more Apprenticed Labourers in one Day, or nine Hours.
1. Digging cane holes; land lined four feet square, but only 20 inches square dug out, and 10 inches deep, in flat land which has been under the common cultivation of the estate, not hard untilled pasturage.	One hundred and fifty in stiffest soils, two hundred as an average for each labourer, but, under favourable circumstances, two hundred and fifty in light soil.
2. Ditto, in land lined four feet square on the cliff and other seasonable parts of the country, three feet by two and a half, dug out, and six inches deep.	In stiffest soils one hundred and fifty as an average for each labourer, and two hundred under favourable circumstances.
3. Ditto, in second crop land, where the stumps have be previously taken out.	Four hundred as an average for each labourer on medium soil, and three hundred on stiffest soil.
4. Digging plant holes.	In medium soil one thousand as an average for each labourer.
5. Digging holes for potatoes and preparing the land to plant slips.	If holed and cross holed, two hundred each labourer; if old hole be partially cleaned out, and small chops made in the bank, one thousand each.
6. Digging up cane stumps.	Seven hundred and fifty to each labourer when roots are dry; five hundred when green.
7. Digging up Guinea corn stumps.	Two thousand to each labourer.
8. Digging Indian or Guinea corn holes on the squares of cane holes.	One acre to each labourer.
9. Digging Indian or Guinea corn holes in second crop land, when the cane stumps have not been dug up.	Two thousand to each labourer.
10. Digging yam holes on the squares of a field holed for canes.	Four hundred to each labourer, if 12 inches square, or five hundred if ordinary size.
11. Digging yam holes in second crop land, where the cane stumps have not been dug up.	Three hundred and sixty to each labourer, if 12 inches square.
12. Digging Guinea corn holes for planting seed in land not under high cultivation.	Three labourers per acre to hole in one day.
13. Number of labourers to prepare an acre of land for planting Guinea corn suckers, being a little deeper than the former.	Five.
14. Number of labourers to draw suckers and plant an acre in one day.	Eight.
15. Number of labourers to plant an acre of land in seed corn.	One, but when the land is holed very close, three labourers to two acres.
16. Number of labourers to shape an acre in four feet squares, and to dig corn holes on each square.	Nine.
17. Number of labourers to weed an acre of land for Guinea corn, not under high cultivation previously to its being holed.	Five per acre, where the land is not very grassy; but in some cases where the land has been allowed to get very foul, nine days to the acre.
18. Number of cane holes that can be weeded and cleaned out to a proper depth for planting in land which had been previously holed and kept in good order.	Eight hundred to each labourer.
19. Number of cane plants which can be cut and brought out of the field by one labourer per day.	Two thousand five hundred.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK.	Quantity of Work to be performed by one or more Apprenticed Labourers in one Day, or Nine Hours.
20. Number of holes of canes which can be planted with drills by one labourer per day, one plant in each hole of four feet square.	Half an acre to each labourer, the same person taking the plants from the side of the fields.
21. Number of holes of canes which can be planted with hoes by a labourer per day, two plants in each hole of four feet square.	An equal quantity as above, less labour being required to plant with hoes than with drills.
22. Number of labourers to weed an acre of young canes or potatoes in one day, land not being very grassy.	Three.
23. Number of labourers to hill-up or bed yam holes and draw the rotten trash in the holes.	Six per acre.
24. Number of labourers who can cover an acre of young canes with trash, where the trash has been placed conveniently around the field.	Four; giving a bundle to four holes.
25. Number of labourers to tie and stock up trash from an acre of canes which have made about two hogsheads sugar per acre, the stocks being placed at convenient distances.	Six.
26. Number of cart loads of mould which can be dug and thrown into carts to contain 60 baskets each, by a labourer per day.	Six, if carts can be drawn up close to the mould pit.
27. Number of labourers to mould a pen 40 feet square, six inches thick, the mould being close to the pen.	Six,
28. Number of baskets of manure to be carried out by one labourer per day, at a convenient distance from the heap which has been previously turned.	Two hundred and thirty.
29. Number of cart-loads of manure which can be sent out by one cart in a day, at a distance of half a mile, and what number of persons are sufficient to load it.	Fifteen loads, and three persons to load it.
30. Number of labourers required to take up and distribute manure to an acre of land, one basket to each hole of four feet square, the manure being dropped at a convenient distance.	Ten.
31. Number of loads of bushes which can be cut and carried out to carts at 50 yards' distance, by a labourer, per day, the load to weigh 600 pounds.	One from gullies, one and a half if on level land.
32. Number of pounds of potatoes which can be dug or grubbed per day by a labourer, the return of potatoes being good and regular.	One thousand.
33. Number of bushels of Guinea corn which can be weighed, threshed and winnowed by a labourer per day.	Eight.
34. Number of bushels of Indian corn which can be weighed, threshed and winnowed by a labourer per day.	Twelve.
35. Number of bushels of Indian corn which can be husked in a day by a labourer.	Fifteen.
36. Number of bushels of Guinea corn which can be reaped and brought out of the field by a labourer per day.	Ten.
37. Number of bushels of Indian corn which can be reaped by a labourer per day, half husked.	Twelve.
38. Number of labourers which can cut canes and load carts to make four hogsheads of sugar per day, supposing the canes to make two hogsheads per acre.	Twenty-four in parts of the country where the cane juice is rich, and thirty where it is rank and green.
39. Number of labourers employed with carts to attend the mill with canes, and to bring fuel to make four hogsheads.	Four to bring canes, if the distance be not more than half a mile, and one to bring fuel for the racking copper, being one to each cart; three yoke of cattle to each cart, on good roads.

BARBADOES.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK.	Quantity of Work to be Performed by one or more Apprenticed Labourers in One Day, or Nine Hours.
40. Number of labourers required about the works to make a day's work of four hogsheads of sugar.	Thirty-three, employed as follows: seven to carry canes where there is no gangway; five to carry away the trash; one to keep the mill-bed clean; two boatswains, but if under four hogsheads made, one will be sufficient; one to pack trash; eight boilers; four stokers; five fuel-tenders, for a double furnace, when the fuel is not very distant from the copper holes; or a proportionate number where young people are employed: Total, 33.

*William Sharp.
Thomas G. King.
Thomas Marshall.*

— No. 227. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *Lionel Smith*, dated Downing-street, 22 January 1836.

Sir,

No. 227.

I HAVE received your despatch, dated the 8th of December, inclosing a copy of circular instructions, which you addressed to the special magistrates of Barbadoes on the 14th of October and the 2d of November last, for their guidance in the execution of the duties of their office.

I have read those instructions with much interest. They are characterized by perspicuity of language (a very important object on all occasions of this kind), and, as far as I can judge, by foresight and sound discretion. The remarks contained in the paragraph No. 1, on the necessity of exact attention to the rules for the delivery of clothing, and on the moral effect to be anticipated from their observance, have my entire assent. I am the more impressed by them because they so strongly corroborate the opinions expressed by my predecessors, in the protracted discussion now so happily closed between this department and yourself on the one hand, and the Colonial Assembly on the other.

Your circular letters unavoidably embrace a field of inquiry so extensive, and comprise general principles of so wide a range, that if it were necessary for me to express a positive opinion upon every part of them, I might, perhaps, be compelled to pause; but I do not conceive this necessity is really imposed upon me. It is sufficient to say that I have not detected any error of law, or any departure from good policy in any part of these instructions. If any such mistake should hereafter be brought to light, you will, I am confident, promptly supply the requisite correction.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 228. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government-house, 30 December 1835.

No. 228.
These Acts are
printed in a sepa-
rate Appendix.

No. 100.

No. 101.

No. 102.

No. 103.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for His Majesty's gracious allowance, the transcripts of the following Acts, which have been passed by the Legislature of this island, and are respectively intituled

“ An Act to amend an Act, intituled An Act for the Abolition of Slavery, &c.

“ An Act for the better regulating the Common Goal of this Island.

“ An Act the better to regulate the Sale of Goods, Wares and Merchandizes, by Itinerant Vendors, &c.

“ An Act for the establishment of Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Rural Police.”

All which Acts have been considered by the Attorney-general, who has not reported any objections against them.

— No. 229. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*, dated Downing-street, 6th April 1836.

The Act for regulating the Sale of Goods, &c. by itinerant vendors, confines the business of a hawker and pedlar, or petty chapman, to free persons; that is, to those who are not apprenticed labourers. The Attorney-general objects to this exclusion of the apprentices from this calling, as at variance with the great principle of Negro equality now established by the Slavery Abolition Act. My opinion on this subject is as follows.

No. 229.

Printed in the Appendix, No. 102.

First.—The use of the word “free” to characterize one class of society, in contradistinction to the rest, is one of those errors in style which should be studiously avoided, as tending to give countenance to a much more important error in principle.

Secondly.—I conceive that the trade of an itinerant vendor of goods is interdicted to the apprenticed labourers by the nature of their condition in society, unless when the employer of a non-prædial apprentice may be willing that he should assume it. In such a case I do not perceive why the law should raise an obstacle. But I presume that no such case has occurred, or is to be anticipated.

Thirdly.—The term “petty chapman” being included in the enumeration of employments forbidden to apprenticed labourers is objectionable, because it does not bear of necessity, and was clearly not intended to bear a sense corresponding with that of the word “pedlar.” A man may be a petty chapman without ever quitting his shop or stall; and I know of no good reason why such an employment should be forbidden to an apprenticed labourer.

Concurring in opinion with the Attorney-general of Barbadoes that it is highly important to maintain unimpaired the principle which forbids any discrimination between the apprenticed labourers and other members of society, not properly involved in, or necessarily deducible from, the relation in which they stand to their employers, I have to desire that you will invite the local Legislature to amend this Act in the particulars which I have noticed, and until the result of that recommendation shall be known, His Majesty’s decision respecting it will be suspended.

TABLE (B.)

RETURN of the Number and Effect of the Returns of PUNISHMENTS received by the Governor of Barbadoes, from the SPECIAL MAGISTRATES, from 1st August 1835 to 31st May 1836.

Colony.	Date.	Total Number of Apprentices throughout the Island.	Total Number of Punishments inflicted under the Authority of Special Magistrates throughout the same.	Proportion per Cent. of Punishments to Apprentices.	Total Number of Males punished.		Total Number of Females punished.	The Average Number of Stripes inflicted in cases of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum Number of Stripes inflicted in any one case of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum of Severity in any one case of Punishment by Confinement.	The Maximum of Severity in any other mode of Punishment.
					By Whipping.	Otherwise than by Whipping.					
BARBADOES.	Aug. 1835	68,760	922	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	94	420	408	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	30	-- 2 months' imprisonment with hard labour.	-- 1 month's imprisonment, with hard labour, and 20 stripes.
	Sept. -	68,760	767	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ nearly	83	345	339	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	25	2 months -	-- 2 months' imprisonment and 20 stripes.
	Oct. -	68,760	971	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ nearly	147	449	375	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ nearly	39	3 months -	-- 6 months and 39 stripes, for an unlawful combination, trespass, &c.
	Nov. -	68,760	848	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ nearly	106	363	379	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	30	3 months -	-- 1 month and 20 stripes.
	Dec. -	68,767	1,399	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	112	621	666	17	30	42 days -	-- 30 stripes and 3 weeks' confinement, with hard labour.
	Jan. 1836	68,792	1,312	2 nearly	78	587	647	14	25	6 weeks -	-- 6 weeks on the tread-mill.
	Feb. -	68,724	1,052	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	42	499	511	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	25	42 days -	-- 2 months on the tread-mill.
	Mar. -	68,792	1,238	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	534	683	15	25	-- 62 days, with hard labour and tread-mill.	-- 7 days' extra labour.
	April -	68,777	977	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	30	461	486	13 about	25	-- 1 month, with work on the tread-mill.	-- 21 days on the tread-mill and 15 stripes.
	May -	68,930	778	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	11	372	395	18	30	-- 60 days' imprisonment, and hard labour on tread-mill.	-- 1 month on tread-mill.

BRITISH GUIANA.

— No. 230. —

BRITISH
GUIANA.

No. 230.

EXTRACTS of a DESPATCH from Sir *J. Carmichael Smyth*, Bart., K. C. B., to
Lord *Glenelg*, dated Camp House, Demerara, 20th June 1835.

“It is gratifying to contrast the present state of the proceedings complained of with the half-yearly reports of the slave protector, when the lash was in the hands of the managers and proprietors. On the estate of ‘*La Penitence*,’ belonging to Mr. *Albuoy*, out of 315 slaves, 148 appear to have been flogged in six months; and on the estate of ‘*La Repentir*,’ rented by the same gentleman, out of 120 slaves, 74 were flogged in the same half-year. We have thus 222 floggings inflicted in six months by the manager of 444 slaves; a calculation which afforded one flogging per annum for every slave on those estates. It is clear, that if the slaves deserved this dreadful amount of punishment, they must have been a very bad and worthless set. If they did not merit such treatment, the system under which they were managed cannot be deemed otherwise than to have been most cruel and oppressive. In consequence of a representation having been made to me of the negligence and insubordination prevailing upon this estate, I went out there myself on the 15th February, accompanied by the stipendiary magistrate, *George Ross*, Esq. The complaint of the labourers was, that the period of the seven and a half hours of labour (which they were to afford to the estate) was so divided by the manager, as, purposely, to leave them no time to themselves. They were sulky and sour in consequence of this treatment, and did very little work in comparison to what they could have done had they met with different treatment, and been consequently in better humour. I endeavoured to prevail upon the proprietor and upon the manager to alter this system. In the third paragraph of my despatch, so far back as on the 18th September 1834, I had already drawn the attention of His Majesty’s Government to the subject of the division of the hours of labour of the apprentices, and suggested what appeared to me a plain and simple remedy. If this part of the code for the government of the apprenticed labourer has been allowed to remain in a doubtful or in an objectionable state, it is not owing to any neglect on my part. The hours of labour upon the estate of ‘*La Penitence*’ were not altered as I recommended. The dissatisfaction of the negroes became greater, and their work was, in consequence, more and more neglected. The proprietor, Mr. *Albuoy*, called upon the sheriff for the town police, and a number of armed men were most incautiously ordered out to the estate by Mr. *Bagot*, the sheriff. Their very appearance created alarm and confusion, and the negroes hid themselves in the sugar canes. Four unfortunate labourers were, however, caught and flogged severely by order of a court assembled on the estate on the spur of the moment. It was then proposed to call out the militia to dislodge the frightened and unarmed labourers (females as well as males), and a requisition was prepared and signed accordingly. As soon as I was made acquainted with these rash and injudicious proceedings, I ordered the armed police to be withdrawn, and the militia not to turn out. I visited the estate myself, and in a few days after I placed it under the charge and superintendence of a most active and energetic, but at the same time humane and good-tempered special magistrate, *George Killock*, Esq. This gentleman quickly restored order by his firm and impartial conduct. The labourers perform their work on the estate with good humour and alacrity; they are not harassed by having their time divided, but the quantum of labour expected from them being measured,

measured, they perform it at their own convenience. In general they leave the field before three o'clock in the afternoon. There is at this moment not an estate better cultivated, or on which the labourers behave themselves better, throughout the whole of British Guiana, than the estate of 'La Penitence,' an estate on which, previous to the abolition of slavery, 148 slaves were flogged in six months out of 315. Punishment is now all but unknown on the estate!!!"

* * * * *

"My anxiety to place my conduct in the administration of this government in its proper point of view, and to show the happy effects which have attended my measures, induce me to refer with pleasure and with confidence to the contented, tranquil, and flourishing state of this province. The steam engines on every estate and all over the colony are at work from morning to dark; and where the labourers are kindly treated and paid reasonably, much later. The river is full of ships. There never was more bustle and activity on the wharfs than at present. Along the coast are to be seen daily hundreds of schooners, sloops, droghers and punts, conveying the sugar, coffee and other produce from the estates, for the purpose of being shipped for Europe. It is impossible to witness a more cheerful or a more animating scene than may every day be beheld from the top of the light-house, or any other high building in the neighbourhood of George-town. Let it be remembered that all the colonial craft to which I have alluded are exclusively manned by apprenticed labourers. Let it be kept in view that not more than one, two, three or four white men are to be found on the estates (according to their size) and in charge of the steam-engines I have described as so constantly at work. A stranger might very well ask, how is all this accomplished? What is the strength of the armed police by means of which all this order and regularity is maintained? We have 24 policemen in George-town, and six at New Amsterdam; these men are the only hired policemen in the province, and their services are confined to the town, being watchmen by night as well as policemen by day. Can any other part of His Majesty's dominions be quoted as being more tranquil, more orderly or more industrious? The apprenticed labourers themselves furnish constables (when required) in the country districts, and they do this duty without pay or emolument of any kind. The constables are unarmed and are merely provided with a constable's staff. The policemen have swords, but it is my intention in a short time to exchange these weapons for some other insignia of office, so as to take away every appearance of coercion. I wish the law to triumph and its behests to be obeyed, from an innate conviction of their propriety, and with as little support as may be from physical force. The negro never complains if he is once convinced that he is dealt with according to law.

"I might here allude to the additional chapels and to the various schools which have been constructed under my patronage and encouragement, and towards which I have largely contributed. It is to the diffusion of religious and moral instruction, to the information to be communicated, and not to the terror to be inspired, that we are to look for the permanent peace, happiness and prosperity of this magnificent province of the British Empire."

— No. 231. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *James Carmichael Smyth*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 1 July 1835.

No. 231.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 24th ultimo, for amending so much of the British Guiana Ordinance of the 8th March 1834, for the Government and Regulation of Apprenticed Labourers, and of the Order in Council of the 5th June 1834, for amending the same, as provides that the colony shall be divided into 12 districts, and that the special justices shall be appointed in the proportion of not less than three for each of these districts.

Printed in the
Appendix, No. 104.

166.—II.

His

BRITISH
GUIANA.

His Majesty has been advised to pass this order with a view to your being enabled legally to carry into effect the instructions contained in my circular despatch of the 15th ultimo, for revoking all special commissions which may have been granted to individuals who may have an interest in apprenticed labour.

I have, &c.,
(signed) *Glenelg.*

To Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart, K.C.B.
&c. &c. &c.

— No. 232. —

No. 232.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *James Carmichael Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 22 July 1835.

WITH reference to the eighth paragraph of my despatch of the 6th instant, I have now the honour to lay before your Lordship the reports from my 15 stipendiary justices of the peace for the month of June; as also the reports from the high sheriff for the same period. I trust that your Lordship will approve of the questions I propose to the justices, and of the form I have adopted for the purpose of bringing the whole of the reports into one point of view. If it meets with your Lordship's approbation, I intend to do myself the honour of transmitting similar documents monthly.

I have, &c.,
(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth.*

To the Right Hon. the Lord *Glenelg*.

A.

B.

EPITOME of the MONTHLY REPORTS from the FIFTEEN STIPENDIARY SPECIAL JUSTICES in *British Guiana*, for the Month of *June 1835*.

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.)
	EASTERN DIVISION. Captain <i>B. Bond</i> , R.N.	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland</i> , Esq.	
1. Are the labourers in your district civil, contented and cheerful?	Not generally. I have visited the hospitals on the following estates; viz. 'Spring-hall,' 'Belmont,' 'Good Hope,' 'Helena,' 'Verdriegen,' 'La bonne Mere,' 'Strathauen,' 'Melville,' 'Cane Grove.' The patients in all are allowed whatever the doctors order.	Yes, in general. I have visited fourteen estates during the month (names noted in the Report), and I also inspected the hospitals, and ascertained that the patients were well and kindly treated.	Yes. Visited eleven estates during the month (names given); conversed with the apprentices; they appear happy and contented.
2. Have they performed their work during the last month with alacrity and good will?	The work is performed, but generally not with good will.	The work has been performed throughout, but as many cases of evading the performance of labour, upon various frivolous pretences, have been brought under my notice, I am of opinion that the work has not been done with good will.	Yes.
3. Has the work on any estate been unwillingly or not readily performed? If yes, have the goodness to name the estate, the proprietor, or his attorney, and the manager, in order that an inquiry may be forthwith instituted into the causes which may have led to such conduct.	The work has been performed on all the estates in the district.	The unwillingness to labour has appeared openly upon plantation 'La bonne Mere,' G. C. Bell and J. Jackson, attornies; R. M. Sutherland, manager; — 'Spring Hall,' J. Jones, attorney; R. Trotman, manager; — 'Clonbrook,' Messrs. Rogers, proprietors; William Shand, manager. 'La bonne Mere' and 'Spring Hall' are now under the charge of Captain Bond, R.N.	None.
4. Is task-work generally resorted to within your district? or do the labourers prefer working the 7½ hours per day, as fixed by law?	As many labourers perform task-work as take the seven and a half hours daily work.	Task-work is invariably resorted to, but as it is not compulsory, (except on plantation 'Grove,' where a contract has been entered into,) the apprenticed labourers sometimes prefer to work the seven and a half hours.	Task-work is generally resorted to in this district.
5. What are the working hours most generally in use in your district? Are there any estates in your district on which the labourers are compelled to lay-by for two or three hours in the middle of the day, and then to complete their seven and a half in the afternoon, (by which division of their labour they have little or no time to themselves)? — if yes, have the goodness to name the estates, proprietors or attornies, and the managers.	The general working hours begin at seven, A.M., working the seven and a half hours off, or coming in at eleven, A.M., just as they please.	When task-work is not chosen by the apprenticed labourers, the hours are from seven to eleven, A.M., and one to half-past four, P.M. This is the case upon every estate except the 'Hope,' the 'Grove,' 'Farm' and 'Fellowship.' Upon the two last-named estates the weekly labour is performed in five days, and upon the 'Grove' an agreement has been entered into to perform task-work.	The labourers commence work at seven o'clock, and go on until they finish, sometimes twelve, one, two, three o'clock, according to the weather. On no estate are they compelled to lay-by in the middle of the day.

(continued on page 28.)

June 1835.]		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>W. J. Brittain, Esq.</i>		RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R.N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	<i>Captain J. A. Allen.</i>
Answers to Question 1.	With a few exceptions of bad subjects, who are repeatedly returned to this office for correction, and who certainly do not amount to one-twentieth of the apprenticed labourers of this town; the remainder may be safely presumed to be civil, contented and cheerful.	Yes, generally; some few exceptions amongst the idle and indolent. During this month I have visited and inspected the hospitals on the estates of 'Houston,' 'Ruimveld,' and 'La Penitence,' and conversed with some few labourers on the subject of their condition. Next month I hope to be able to say more.	For the most part they are. 12 estates visited during the month (names given). On these estates, with two exceptions, the answers returned by the labourers whom I spoke with were favourable.	Ten estates were visited, and their hospitals inspected by me last month (names are given in the Report). One apprentice labourer only made any complaint during these visits.
Answers to Question 2.	With the above exceptions, they have.	Yes, generally. Some few delinquents amongst the idle.	With a few exceptions, I have observed no very striking symptoms of a contrary spirit prevailing amongst the apprenticed labourers in this district.	Yes, with a few exceptions.
Answers to Question 3.	No estate in this division of the district. At the end of May, Mr. A. A. Frank, the manager of plantation 'Vlisengen,' did away with the agreement under which the labourers had worked so well since the 1st August. He withdrew the payment for Saturday's work, and reduced the hours of labour to seven and a half hours, requiring further that whatever grass he might want should be cut by them within those hours, thus depriving them of any opportunity of earning anything for themselves by extra labour. He has since been dismissed.	Generally, no. Some few females have been negligent on the estates of 'Ruimveld' and 'La Penitence.'	On plantation 'Little Diamond' the symptoms of unwillingness to do their work have continued to manifest themselves.	The work was not readily or willingly performed during the first half of last month on plantation 'Malgrè Tout,' C. P. Milne, proprietor; John Green, manager. And for a few days on plantation 'Vive La Force,' Thomas Blake, proprietor; H. Van Bram, manager.
Answers to Question 4.	The apprenticed labourers in this town consisting almost entirely of either domestics or tradesmen, the former render their services at whatever hours they may be required, and the latter labour as non-prædials for nine hours per diem.	They work the seven and a half hours per day as fixed by law.	Task-work is for the most part resorted to, but the labourers dislike written agreements.	Task-work is generally resorted to. The labourers would prefer working the seven and a half hours, if permitted to do so, without an interval of rest.
Answers to Question 5.	So far as this question relates to the Town Division it is answered in the reply to the previous question.	From seven, A.M. until half past two, P.M. None lay-by in the middle of the day.	The working hours are generally from seven to half-past two at plantations 'Profit' and 'Garden of Eden.' Intervals are observed in the middle of the day, that is to say, a bell is rung for the labourers to return home, but in many cases I believe they prefer to remain in the field all day.	The working hours most generally in use are from seven to eleven, and from one to half-past four o'clock; or from seven to eleven, and from twelve to half-past three, where task-work is not resorted to.

<p>DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlet, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Kellock, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (H.) <i>Thomas Coleman, Esq.</i></p>
<p>The conduct of the apprenticed labourers has been most satisfactory during the last month.</p>	<p>Yes ; I have visited 44 estates and inspected the hospitals, being the whole of the estates in the district.</p> <p>hospitals of 13. The sick, which are not numerous, seem well attended to, and the hospitals are in general very commodious ; but I do not think sufficient attention is paid to cleanliness, to which however there are some exceptions. I have also conversed with some of the labourers on the estates.</p>	<p>Taken collectively, they are so, although no doubt there are discontented individuals among them. I have visited 15 estates, and inspected the</p>	<p>Generally they are, but many idle apprentices are not. I have visited 12 estates and inspected the hospitals during the month.</p>
<p>On the estates generally, and I have had but few complaints.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Generally speaking, they have ; but there have been more complaints of neglect than usual, which I think is in some measure to be attributed to the severity of the weather, for which, however, managers in general have made some allowances.</p>	<p>They have generally, but there have been many complaints of idleness.</p>
<p>The complaints during the last month have been mostly against the apprenticed labourers of plantation 'Anna Catherina.' Mr. Manget, attorney ; Mr. Griffith, manager.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>The work has not been unwillingly, or not readily, performed (generally speaking) on any estate in this district.</p>	<p>Yes, partially, on almost all the estates, particularly 'La Belle Alliance.' Attorney, the Hon. Charles Bean ; manager, F. G. Bayley.</p>
<p>Task-work ; and I have noticed the effective gang of plantation 'Hague' (on which I reside) finish the work of 30 roods, at drilling two feet wide, one shovel deep, (as marked in the scale of task-work) and return to the negro houses, some before 12, and all before half-past one o'clock.</p>	<p>Task-work in general, and preferred by the labourers.</p>	<p>Task-work is generally resorted to, and preferred by the labourers.</p>	<p>Task-work is generally resorted to in this district.</p>
<p>The bell rings at seven, and the labourers generally remain until their task is finished.</p>	<p>From about seven to one, two, three, four, five and six, according to the bargain made. Upon no estate are the labourers compelled to lay-by at mid-day ; they work as they choose.</p>	<p>The labourers generally go to work at half-past six or seven in the morning, and finish at their option, usually from twelve to two, according to the weather. There is no estate in this district on which they are compelled to lay-by during the middle of the day</p>	<p>Generally from seven, A.M. to two, P.M. There are no estates in this district to which the latter part of this question can apply.</p>

(continued on page 30.)

June 1835.] DISTRICT (L.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Macleod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>M. A. Stewart, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
Answers to Question 1. Generally, yes.	I consider they are, generally. I visited nine estates during the month, and no complaints were preferred.	On most of the estates they are civil; but I cannot take it upon myself to say that they are either contented or cheerful.	Yes. I have visited four estates during the month; the almost impassable state of the roads prevented me doing more, and I have no road to the two estates above creek 68. I have on every occasion, when opportunity offered, explained to the negroes that I was always ready to hear their complaints. As none have come to me, I presume they are satisfied.
Answers to Question 2. Generally, they have.	In most instances.	No, they have not.	Yes, with a few exceptions.
Answers to Question 3. No, except by a few idlers.	On plantation 'Friends,' James Forsyth, proprietor; John Forsyth, manager.	Generally, throughout the district, the work has not been so willingly or readily performed.	No.
Answers to Question 4. Task-work is adopted, and preferred by the labourers generally.	The task system is adopted. In no instance do the labourers give preference to working 7½ hours per day, as fixed by law. The Saturday is given on several estates in this district.	Task-work in general; the labourers prefer it.	Task-work, as before explained, is generally resorted to.
Answers to Question 5. From 7, A.M. till their tasks are finished; and it is left to themselves whether they rest or not during the middle of the day.	From half-past six in the morning till the day's labour is performed.	Task-work being generally performed on the estates in this district, the labourers may rest whenever they please, or may finish off their tasks without resting.	The same as in my preceding reports.

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>Capt. Baring Bond, R. N.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	
6. Do the labourers on any estate in your district perform extra labour for hire? If yes, name the estates—the rate of wages for extra work—and state how and when the payments are made—and if extra work is not performed for wages, state if reasonable wages have been offered, with weekly payment. If reasonable wages and prompt payment have been offered and rejected, state to what cause you attribute the refusal on the part of the labourers.	Yes, several; 'Spring Hall.' For extra labour in the boiling house 1 <i>f.</i> 10. each labourer; head boilermen one dollar for every 15 hogsheads sugar.	The apprenticed labourers employed in the manufacture of sugar invariably perform extra labour for hire, earning six bits (2 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i>) to two guilders (about 3 <i>s.</i>) a week, which is paid on demand. The field labourers do not work beyond the time appointed by law; no offer to so employ them was made.	On all the estates the apprentice labourers perform extra labour for hire in the manufacture of sugar. Two stivers (under 2 <i>d.</i>) per hour. On the plantations, five stivers (about 4½ <i>d.</i>) for every 10 lbs. of cotton picked over 40 lbs. Payments monthly.
7. Have there been any instances of insubordination, or any attempt to resist authority, by force, in your district? If there have been any, name the estates on which such occurrences have taken place.	None.	One instance on plantation 'Woodlands.' No attempt has been made to resist authority by force.	None.
8. In the event of any disposition having been manifested by any of the labourers to neglect their work, or to behave rudely to those in authority over them, has such misconduct been so general as to induce you to attribute it to any combination or conspiracy?—or is it only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that you have had complaints made?	A few idle fellows on 'La bonne Mere.'	The disposition to neglect their work has been so general on plantation 'La bonne Mere,' 'Spring Hall' and 'Clonbrook,' that I have attributed it to combination.	It is only with respect to a few idle apprentices that complaints are made. On every estate I find there are two or three bad characters, and the complaints are confined to them.
9. Has the attendance of the prædial labourers at church, and of their children at school, been regular and to the full accommodation afforded them under the local circumstances of your district?	Yes; generally at the Methodist chapel at the Ferry, and the Presbyterian church at Mahaica.	The attendance of the labourers at church has not been equal to the accommodation; that of their children at school has been to the full of the very limited means of instruction open to them.	The attendance of the prædial labourers at church has been very good; and their children at school.
10. Have you, individually as a magistrate, and has the court over which you preside, been under the necessity of ordering punishment by whipping during the preceding month?—and, if an answer in the affirmative, state the number of delinquents so punished, and the extent of punishment awarded in each case.	8 individually. 2 by the court. <hr/> 10 <hr/>	Individually and by the court, 16.	1 individually. 4 by the court. <hr/> 5 <hr/>
11. Has any manager, overseer, or other person in authority over the prædial labourers been fined or otherwise punished by the court over which you preside during the preceding month, for misconduct towards any labourer or labourers? Have there been any instances of the labourers having been detained at work beyond the legal hours?—and, in such case, has the 1 <i>s.</i> sterling per hour for each individual labourer been levied?	None.	The manager of plantation 'Grove' has been fined 5 <i>l.</i> for maltreating an apprentice labourer.	None.

(continued on page 32)

June 1835.]		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN.	RIVER.	UPPER RIVER.	Capt. J. A. Allen.	
W. J. Brittain, Esq.	Capt. Delafons, R. N.	George Ross, Esq.		
Answers to Question 6.	Not applicable to this division of the district.	No; excepting what is usually paid at the period of boiling sugar.	Extra work for hire continues to be occasionally performed on the estates mentioned in my former reports, at the rate of 1½ to 2 bits (about 9d.) per day. Payment prompt.	Those labourers who are employed about the buildings perform extra labour for hire on 16 sugar estates; some few estates pay for cutting canes, and a very few for extra labour in the field at other times. Engineers and head-people about buildings are paid from two to four guilders per week (from 3s. to 6s.), others from 4½d. to 9d. per day. Paid weekly by tickets or "goods" afterwards exchanged for paper money when of sufficient amount.
Answers to Question 7.	No combined insubordination has come to my knowledge, nor anything like an attempt to resist authority by force in this town.	None.	None. except the disposition to work indolently (see 3d Query), and the disobedience of orders of a few people attached to a wood-cutting establishment in the 'Cassiaquia Creek,' added to that of some pregnant women not working as required. There has been no attempt to resist authority by force.	There have been no instances of insubordination,
Answers to Question 8.	No appearance of combination to resist or evade their work on the part of the apprenticed labourers has come to my knowledge; all the instances of misconduct recorded in this office during the month are isolated.	The instances are few, and solely to be attributed to the idle and disorderly.	On plantation 'Little Diamond, the whole gang, with few exceptions, has adopted the same line of conduct, and seems to act in concert. demanded, from the state of the grass in a particular field, by a disagreement as to how the labour of 7½ hours was to be performed, that fertile source of so many complaints throughout the colony. In those instances it wore the appearance of combination, in other complaints were against idlers.	The misconduct of the labourers mentioned in No. 3, was very general for a short period; caused, in my opinion, by a desire of being paid for the quantity of work
Answers to Question 9.	Not practicable to ascertain with precision the regular attendance at church. The places of public worship are well attended, particularly the dissenting ones. Eighty-five infants attend the free school, principally children of apprenticed labourers. At a free school, master, Mr. Brandon, 100 children of apprenticed labourers attend. Mr. Ketley, the minister of the Church Missionary Establishment, has of late considerably increased his school, the number attending it is very considerable.	Yes.	The attendance at church and school is good, but the new chapel is not yet finished.	The attendance of the labourers at church and of their children at school has varied very little since last report. The attendance at church has been nearly equal to the accommodation, but not that of the school.
Answers to Question 10.	Individually and by the court, 25.	Individually - - 27 By the court - - 4 <hr/> 31	Individually - - 7 By the court - - 6	9 individually. 24 by the court.
Answers to Question 11.	None.	None.	None.	No person has been fined or convicted during the month of June.

<p>DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlet, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Kellock, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (H.) <i>Thomas Coleman, Esq.</i></p>
<p>Only about the buildings. Engineers, boiler and firemen, who are paid weekly in silver. Average rate, two stivers per hour.</p>	<p>Upon every estate in this district the people about the buildings are paid, and upon many the whole gang, and upon others only the cane-cutters are paid. The wages are from 1 bitt to 2½ guilders, according to age, &c. &c.</p>	<p>Extra labour for hire is still performed, though not so much as it had been; the weather may be assigned as a cause. The rate of wages is from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. 2 d. per day, according to the nature of the employment, and they are paid monthly.</p>	<p>Yes, on almost all the estates at the rate of from one to two guilders per day's work; generally paid weekly.</p>
<p>None.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>There have been no instances of insubordination, except individual cases of little importance; nor any attempt whatever to resist authority by force.</p>	<p>There have been some instances of insubordination; but no attempt to resist authority by force.</p>
<p>It is generally the same idle and disorderly apprentices constantly complained of; many of whom have been five and six times before the court.</p>	<p>It is only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that complaints have been made.</p>	<p>Except on plantation 'Aurora,' only with respect to the latter, but on that estate a continuation to neglect their work existed in the beginning of the month; it was, however, solely confined to the female labourers, and now seems entirely subdued.</p>	<p>No; only with respect to a great many idle and disorderly apprentices that I have had complaints made.</p>
<p>Yes.</p>	<p>The attendance at church and at school is on the increase. The church accommodation in this district is not sufficient; numbers cannot obtain admittance to the churches.</p>	<p>As usual, and to the full extent.</p>	<p>Yes, when the weather permitted.</p>
<p>Individually - - 4 By the court - - 17</p>	<p>Individually - - 3 By the court - - 13</p>	<p>Individually - - 9 By the court - - 10</p>	<p>Individually and by the court, 25.</p>
<p>None.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No instances of either have occurred during the past month.</p>	<p>No, none.</p>

(continued on page 34.)

June 1835.] DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Macleod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>M. J. Stewart, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
Answers to Question 6. Only on the sugar estates, such as boilermen and firemen, the rate of wages varies; payments generally made in cash when required; offers of hire are not general.	On all sugar estates the persons employed about the buildings. On most coffee estates during the past month 50 men have been employed at trench work on each Saturday, on the plantation 'Philadelphia,' and received two guilders on finishing the day's task or labour.	Yes; the labourers hire themselves on Saturdays, either to the estates to which they belong, or to some of the neighbouring estates, for reasonable wages and prompt payment.	The same as in my last report.
Answers to Question 7. Yes; the field labourers of plantation 'Cotton Tree' behaved in an insubordinate manner, and resisted lawful authority in not going to their work on Saturday the 13th instant, and again on Saturday the 20th.	None.	No.	None, during the last month.
Answers to Question 8. Only with regard to the latter, except in the combination of the 'Cotton Tree' gang.	On plantation 'Friends,' a combination was inferred from all doing the same quantity of work.	There is (and has been for some time past) a combination amongst the apprenticed labourers, to reduce the rate of labour as much as possible.	It is only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that I have had complaints made during the last month.
Answers to Question 9. Yes.	It has to the full extent.	(Not replied to.)	5,000 guilders has been subscribed by the proprietors and residents of the district, for the purchase of land, on which to erect a church, and a residence for a clergyman.
Answers to Question 10. Individually - - 3 By the court - - 9	Individually and by the court, 12.	Individually - - 1 By the court - - 13	Individually - - 2 By the court - - 1
Answers to Question 11. No.	None.	No.	No.

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>Capt. B. Bond, R.N.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	
12. Have any complaints been preferred to you during the last month, from any apprenticed labourers, respecting their clothing, food, treatment, or upon any subject? In the event of any complaints having been made to you, have you carefully investigated into the matters and caused justice to be rendered to the parties as far as it was in your power? State the number and the nature of the complaints, which may have been preferred to you in general terms.	One against H. Chapman, plantation 'Grove,' for kicking a lad; referred to a district court, which fined him 5 <i>l.</i>	Two complaints for maltreatment; one proved, and the employer fined. The other was not proved.	None.
13. Have any of the free children upon any of the estates in your district been bound apprentices during the last month? If yes, name the estates upon which such occurrences have taken place, and state if the transactions were with the free consent and approbation of the parents of the children.	None.	None.	None.
14. How are the children fed and taken care of on the estates in your district? Are they fed from the stores of the estates gratuitously, and is an additional quantity of salt fish and plantains issued for them? or are they fed out of the allowance due to their parents? When their mothers are at work in the field, is a woman specially appointed to take care of their young children, and exempted from all other duty? Are the children when unwell allowed the advantage of the medical assistance and hospital treatment of the estate in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery?	On most estates the doctor is allowed, and everything the same as the rest. At 'La bonne Mere,' fed by their mothers; the latter having refused their being provided for by the estates.	The children of plantation 'Grove' are not fed gratuitously; medical assistance is not allowed them by the estate. On every other estate the children receive the same treatment as when in a state of slavery.	The children are generally fed from the stores of the estates gratuitously. When their mothers are at work in the field, two women are appointed to take care of them, and are exempted from all other duty. The children, when unwell, are allowed the advantage of medical attendance.
15. On how many estates in your district are schools established? Name the estates, proprietors and managers of estates having schools.	None. There is a Methodist school at Mahaica Ferry, which the children of the neighbouring estates attend.	The only schools in the district are as follows: one at Mahaica, in charge of the Wesleyan missionary, and a Sunday school at plantation 'Nabuclis.'	No increase of schools since my former report.
16. Are there any remarks or observations which you may wish to convey to the lieutenant-governor, connected with the peace, tranquillity and happiness of the district under your superintendance? If yes, state the same.	There is a general feeling to evade work, by pleading sickness, whenever they can do so with impunity. The females are very insolent, and appear to care little for the punishment of extra labour. (signed) <i>J. B. Bond, S J. P.,</i> Chairman.	None. (signed) <i>K. Heyland,</i> Chairman.	The district is tranquil; peace and happiness prevails. (signed) <i>A. M. Lyons,</i> Chairman.

(continued on page 36.)

June 1835.]		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>W. J. Brittain, Esq.</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R. N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	Captain <i>J. A. Allen.</i>	
Answers to Question 12. None.	None.	One complaint has been preferred, for excluding a husband from his wife while she was in the lying-in house. One for refusal of allowance, which has been disproved. One from a pregnant woman, otherwise in good health, claiming to be exempted entirely from field-work.	Eight complaints have been preferred during the month they have been inquired into and redressed as far as was practicable.	
Answers to Question 13. No free children of apprenticed labourers of this town have been bound apprentices during this month.	None.	None.	None.	
Answers to Question 14. The magistrate has no means of answering this question, as far as it affects the free children of apprenticed labourers in this town generally, as far as his limited means of information go; he has generally found that opulent employers support these children, while poorer employers throw the burden of supporting them on their mothers.	Fed from the stores of the estates gratuitously, and women specially appointed to take care of the young children, who, when unwell, are freely admitted into the hospital.	On plantation 'Prosperity,' the children are still without any extra allowance; and the 'Little Diamond' has, within the last three weeks, been added to the list of exceptions under this head. Medical attendance and nurses continue to be provided everywhere.	The children are fed by additional allowance of s fish and plantains issued the mothers. A woman usually appointed to take care of them while their mothers are in the field; and they are reported to receive the benefit of medical attendance when sick.	
Answers to Q. 15. Not applicable to this division of the district.	'Houstoun' and 'Romi.'	There are schools at plantation 'Perseverance' and at 'Peter's Hall,' as mentioned on former occasions.	Seven schools are established, or instruction given.	
Answers to Question 16. Recommends the establishment of some cheap mode for the recovery of small debts. (signed) <i>W. J. Brittain,</i> Acting Chairman.	The females on the estates of 'Ruimveld' and 'La Penitence,' I think, may be said to be getting more orderly; yet their proximity to the town may be supposed in a great degree to influence their idleness. (signed) <i>Thomas Delafons.</i>	Recommends better circulation of air in the places of confinement, and a more proper ventilation of hospitals, &c. &c. (signed) <i>George Ross.</i>	The treatment of the sick and management of the hospitals, demands examination. The occasional visits of a medical gentleman (unconnected with estates) accompanied by the chairman of the district would be desirable. (signed) <i>J. A. Allen,</i> Chairman.	

<p>DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlet, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Kellock, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (H.) <i>Thomas Coleman, Esq.</i></p>
<p>A complaint was made by an apprenticed labourer of plantation 'Best,' that she was sick, and her manager refused to admit her into the sick-house. I inquired into her complaint on the estate, and in the presence of the medical attendant: it appeared her complaint was untrue.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No complaints of this nature have been preferred.</p>	<p>No, none.</p>
<p>None.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>None have been so bound.</p>	<p>No, none.</p>
<p>On plantations 'Hague,' 'Grenveld,' and 'Met-en-Meerzog,' no food or doctor; 'Anna Catharina,' 'Vrees-en-Hoop,' 'William' and 'Best,' no food, but doctor. On the other estates no change has taken place. All the estates allow nurses while the mothers are at work in the field.</p>	<p>The children are fed and clothed, and treated in every respect as formerly upon every estate in this district, with the exception of 'Vertrower' and 'Bellefield,' owned by Mr. Bowell, and 'Success,' owned by Mr. Jones, all three estates upon the island of Leguan.</p>	<p>The children are fed and taken care of in every respect precisely in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery.</p>	<p>The same as before, and no complaints.</p>
<p>Six schools in the district.</p>	<p>'Waterloo,' of which Mr. M. Rae is attorney, and 'Marquillo,' owned by Mr. Noble, have schools between them. There are two other schools in the district.</p>	<p>On three.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Encloses a letter from a medical attendant on the coast, relating to the necessary medical attendance. Reports the death of a child. Proceeding of an inquest now before the high sheriff,</p> <p>(signed) <i>Spry Bartlet,</i> Chairman.</p>	<p>The poorer classes in the country are completely debarred from obtaining justice in cases of trespass on their property, and compelling payment of money due. How can a poor man enter an action in the court of Georgetown.</p> <p>(signed) <i>George Kellock,</i> Chairman.</p>	<p>Although complaints have been more frequent than during the preceding month, yet, on the whole, the apprenticed labourers of this district may be considered as behaving well, and taken collectively as working assiduously. The district continues perfectly tranquil.</p> <p>(signed) <i>George Ball,</i> Chairman.</p>	<p>None.</p> <p>(signed) <i>Thos. Coleman,</i> Sen. S. J.</p>

(continued on page 38.)

June 1835.] DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Macleod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>M. A. Stewart, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
Answers to Question 12. None.	None.	Four complaints were preferred to me during the last month by apprenticed labourers, but on a careful investigation I found that they were frivolous and vexatious.	No.
Answers to Question 13. No.	Not one.	No.	No.
Answers to Question 14. Generally the same as previous to the 1st of August.	The children are fed and taken care of in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery.	On most of the estates of the district the children under six years of age have a gratuitous allowance of food, also of medical assistance and hospital treatment.	The same as in my preceding reports.
Answers to Q. 15. Schools are almost general on the estates among the labourers themselves, and on several there are teachers engaged, besides the schools at the places of worship.	On two, and a Sunday school on one.	On six estates, the same as are named in my report for April.	The same as in my preceding reports.
Answers to Question 15. Remarks and proceedings with respect to the labourers on plantation 'Cotton Tree,' who neglected to work on two Saturdays. Forgiveness was offered on condition of the lost time being made good to the estate. (signed) <i>George Rose,</i> Chairman.	On the 26th instant, a district session was held in the Cauje district, when there were only three cases for trial. On the 30th instant another session was held, when only seven persons were convicted; three were run-aways. (signed) <i>John Macleod,</i> Chairman.	Nil. (signed) <i>M. A. Stewart,</i> Chairman.	The labourers have lately shown a disposition to abandon the irregularities which formerly bound persons of different sexes as man and wife, and to contract regular marriages; &c. &c. &c. (signed) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir,</i> Chairman.

Extracted from the original Reports by

H. W. Ridley,
Captain, 86th Regiment, Private Secretary.

REPORTS of the High Sheriff, *Georgetown.*

Weekly Police Returns.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING 6th JUNE 1835.	Description of Force.		
	Officer.	1st Class.	2d Class.
How Employed :			
Superintending the establishment - - - - -	1	—	
On Duty by Day :			
* { Attending high-sheriffs' office from 10 to 3 - - - - -		3	
{ Attending the magistrates' office, ditto - - - - -		2	
Patrolling the town - - - - -		2	3
Attending the gaol and treadmill - - - - -			4
On Duty by Night :			
Patrolling the town - - - - -		3	10
On guard at gaol - - - - -		1	4
Off Duty :			
Disposable for extra duty when called for.			
Sick - - - - -			4
Absent with leave.			
Under suspension for misconduct - - - - -			2
TOTAL - - - - -	1	11	27

Remarks.—Edward Hopkins, 2d Class, suspended; A. Hickey, ditto.

* These men are employed before and after office hours, in serving summonses for parties and witnesses for the following day, or in executing warrants, &c.

NOMINAL RETURN of PRISONERS arrested and brought before the High Sheriff during the Week.

NAME.	Trade or Calling.	Date of Arrest.	By whom Arrested.	By whom Charged.	Charge.	How disposed of.
Polly -	A. L.	1835 : June 1	-- Constable Dist. (B.)	-- Constable Dist. (B.)	-- having stolen property in their possession.	-- committed for trial.
Peggy -	A. L.	—	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -	ditto.
Quaco -	A. L.	—	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -	dismissed.
T. Curray	discharged soldier.	—	Police -	Police -	- - found lying drunk in the street.	- - reprimand- ed, and dis- missed.

Geo. Bagot, H. S.

BRITISH
GUIANA.

— No. 233. —

No. 233.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Sir *James Carmichael Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 9th August 1835.

I BEG leave respectfully to lay before your Lordship a copy of the *Royal Gazette* of this colony of yesterday, wherein your Lordship will observe the mode I have adopted for the removal from the list of special justices of all gentlemen interested in apprentice labour. The two circulars which I have addressed to the stipendiary justices will, I trust, also meet with your approbation.

Your Lordship, of course, may expect numerous memorials and representations from the inhabitants of this colony, complaining of the difficulty of enforcing the performance of a due quantity of work by the apprenticed labourer, in consequence of the diminished number of special justices, and expressing dissatisfaction at the want of confidence thus publicly manifested towards the proprietors of estates in British Guiana, and which, it will be stated, cannot but have a bad effect upon the mind of the labourer. I feel it my duty, however, to state to your Lordship, that I am not, in the slightest degree, apprehensive that either the peace of the country or the quantity of produce will be effected by the reduction of the number of special justices; with so small a number as fifteen special justices we could not have preserved order and subordination amongst so numerous and so extended a population upon their first release from slavery. But the system of apprenticeship being now understood, and working as well as could be wished, every difficulty thrown in the way of obtaining that by coercion which may be procured by kindness and for payment, is a great step gained towards the future success of free labour.

As all coercive measures will cease in 1840, the less they are now resorted to the better. The delay which will attend the applications to a special justice will make the planter or manager pause before he prefers a trivial complaint; and he will necessarily be obliged to treat his labourers and their families with kindness, and to consult their feelings, if he wishes his estate to be well cultivated. Without the slightest reference to the question of whether the special justices interested in apprentice labour, may or may not have acted impartially, I am quite satisfied that the reduction of the number of special justices, and the consequent difficulty which will attend taking the labourer before a special justice for every trifling complaint, are points of no small advantage towards the present and the future prosperity of this colony.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

Enclosure in No. 233.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

THE Lieutenant-Governor has directed that the following Despatch, dated 1st July, which his Excellency has had the honour to receive from the Right Hon. the Lord *Glenelg*, as also the Order of His Majesty in Council, dated 24th June, alluded to in the said Despatch, should be forthwith published in the *Royal Gazette* of this Colony for the information and guidance of all concerned.

By order of his Excellency,

H. E. F. Young, Gov. Sec.

Guiana Public Buildings, Government
Secretary's Office, 8th August 1835.

PROCLAMATION by His Excellency Major-General Sir *James Carmichael Smyth*, Baronet, Companion of the Most Honourable the Military Order of the Bath, Knight Commander of the Royal Order of Hanover, Knight of the Austrian Imperial Order of Maria Theresa, Knight of the Russian Imperial Order of St. Waldimir, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of *British Guiana*, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c.

British Guiana, (L. S.) *J. C. Smyth*.

WHEREAS I have received His Majesty's instructions, communicated to me in the following circular despatch from the Right Honourable the Lord *Glenelg*, dated 15th June 1835, directing me to revoke (within the shortest time which will admit of the arrangements necessary to be made for transferring their duties,) all commissions of special justices of

the

Enclosure in
No. 233.

For Dispatch, wide
page 25.
For Order in Council,
wide App. No. 103.

For Lord *Glenelg*'s
Circular Despatch,
wide Parliamentary
Paper, No. 278,
Session 1835, p. 8.

the peace which may have been granted to colonists; and whereas it has been determined by His Majesty's Government that the number of special magistrates to be allowed in each colony should be in the same proportion that the number of apprenticed labourers in Jamaica bears to 56 (the number of special magistrates judged necessary for Jamaica); and whereas the number of apprenticed labourers in Jamaica is computed to be about four times the number of those residing in British Guiana, and that consequently one-fourth of 56 or fourteen special magistrates may be expected to be the permanent establishment for this colony; and whereas fifteen special stipendiary magistrates have already arrived and been sworn into office; and consequently there is no reason for delaying the execution of the orders I have received in the expectation of the arrival of additional stipendiary magistrates; I do hereby in obedience to the orders as aforesaid, and by virtue of the authority vested in me by His Majesty, revoke, withdraw, and annul all commissions issued as special magistrates in the colony of British Guiana to any and to all persons whosoever, save only those issued to the following gentlemen, who have been appointed in obedience to the orders received from the Right Honourable Secretary of State for the time being, viz.

<i>District.</i>	<i>Names of Special Magistrates.</i>	<i>District.</i>	<i>Names of Special Magistrates.</i>
(A) -	{ Captain Baring Bond, R. N. K. Heyland, Esq.	(F) -	George Kellock, Esq.
(B) -	A. M. Lyons, Esq.	(G) -	George Ball, Esq.
(C) -	{ W. J. Brittain, Esq. (Acting.) Captain Delafons, R. N. George Ross, Esq.	(H) -	Captain Thomas Coleman.
(D) -	Captain J. A. Allen.	(I) -	George Ross Esq., (Acting.)
(E) -	Spry Bartlet, Esq.	(K) -	John Macleod, Esq.
		(L) -	M. D. Stewart, Esq.
		(M) -	J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.

Given under my hand and seal of office, at the Guiana Public Buildings in Georgetown, this 8th day of August 1835, and in the sixth year of His Majesty's reign.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

By His Excellency's command,
H. E. F. Young, Gov. Sec.

(CIRCULAR NO. 1.)

Sir,

Camp-house, Demerara, 8th August 1835.

You will observe by the Proclamation of this day, that the whole of the colonial gentlemen, are (by His Majesty's orders) withdrawn from the situation of special justices of the peace in this colony. The circular letter of the 15th June from the Right Honourable the Lord Glenelg, published also in the Gazette, will make you fully acquainted with the motives which have induced His Majesty's Government to adopt this measure.

2. In consequence of the loss of so many active and valuable assistants, your duties will unquestionably become more numerous and more harassing. These difficulties will, however, I feel confident, be met on your part, with increased energy and activity. Your visits on the estates in your district will require to be more frequent; and in case of any misunderstanding on any estate, between the manager and labourers, your immediate presence will be desirable. I need not recommend to you the most calm and temperate investigation of all complaints, and the application of the mildest and most lenient modes of punishment the law will allow. I advise you, above all things, to abstain from the use of the degrading lash, excepting in the case of a hardened and obstinate offender, upon whom all milder punishments have been found ineffectual. Keep, ever in your mind, that you have now to deal with free men who are to be encouraged in the performance of labour by kindness, and by wages for all extra-work; not driven and stimulated by the fear of punishment. Never resort to strong measures but in cases of unavoidable necessity; and after the fullest investigation into every grievance (whether real or imaginary) which may be supposed to have influenced the conduct of the labourer. Upon your temper, your judgment, and the activity with which you may discharge your duty, much of the future prosperity of this important province depends.

I have, &c,

J. Carmichael Smyth.

To each of His Majesty's Special Justices of the Peace in British Guiana.

(CIRCULAR NO. 2.)

Sir,

Camp-house, 8th August 1835.

SEVERAL representations have been made to me as to the extent of labour which may be required in the field from female apprenticed labourers when in a state of pregnancy, I beg to refer you to the 92d and 94th sections of His Majesty's Order in Council of the 2d November 1831, by which you will find that no slave under fourteen years of age or above sixty, and no female slave known to be in a state of pregnancy, can be compelled to perform any agricultural work or labour for more than six hours in any one day. You will also find that no slave under the fourteen or above the age of sixty, and no female slave known

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to be in a state of pregnancy can be ever employed in any agricultural or manufacturing labour in the night time. I have to add that although the Order in Council (as quoted) alludes to the labourers when in a state of slavery, yet that it is the opinion of His Majesty's law officers that in all those colonies in which, either the said Order in Council was in force, or local acts containing similar enactments in favour of the slaves existed, such beneficial regulations in neither the one case nor the other, can be deemed to be abrogated by the Act of the Imperial Legislature abolishing slavery, the apprenticed labourer is not to be worse off in these particulars than the slave.

You will be pleased, consequently, to govern yourself accordingly.

2d. There are still a few estates in British Guiana in which (according to the last monthly reports from the special justices of the peace) medicine and medical attendance are withheld from the children under six years of age: it is desirable that you should be made aware that six guilders per annum is the usual sum given to the medical practitioners employed upon the estates for medicines and medical attendance per head for each person on the estate. Upon these premises you must endeavour to make some amicable arrangement between the managers of those estates on which such a short sighted and penurious policy is adopted and the parents of the children. Let the parents of each child be advised to afford such a reasonable addition of labour to the estate as may in your judgment amount to the value of six guilders per annum, to meet the expense of medicine and of medical attendance. If any child should perish for want of medical advice and treatment, the attorney, manager, or labourer (as the case may be), who may by his or their refusal to enter into some such reasonable arrangement, have contributed towards the death of the infant, will incur a most serious responsibility.

I have, &c.

J. Carmichael Smyth.

To each of His Majesty's Special Justices of the Peace in British Guiana.

— No. 234. —

No. 234.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *James Carmichael Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demarara, 11th August 1835.

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 22nd July I have the honour to lay before your Lordship a precis of the reports from my fifteen stipendiary justices for the month of July.

I have &c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth.*

EPITOME of the MONTHLY REPORTS from the FIFTEEN STIPENDIARY SPECIAL JUSTICES in *British Guiana*, for the Month of *July 1835*.

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>Captain B. Bond, R. N.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	
1. Are the labourers in your district civil, contented and cheerful?	Not generally so. I have visited the hospitals on eleven estates, in all of which the patients are allowed whatever is ordered by the doctors, and appear contented and comfortable.	Generally. I have visited nine estates (names given), and have also inspected the hospitals; the patients are properly attended to.	Visited seventeen estates (names given). The labourers are generally civil, contented and cheerful.
2. Have they performed their work during the last month with alacrity and good will?	They have performed their work, but not with alacrity and good will, generally speaking.	A reasonable proportion of labour has in general been performed; but a disposition to evade the performance of labour shows itself too frequently to allow of my reporting that it is done with alacrity and good will.	On some estates they have not performed their work with alacrity and good will.
3. Has the work on any estate been unwillingly or not readily performed? If yes—have the goodness to name the estate, the proprietor, or his attorney, and the manager, in order that an inquiry may be forthwith instituted into the causes which may have led to such conduct.	The work has been performed on all the estates in this district.	The disposition referred to in my answer to the last Query (No. 2.) has been glaring upon plantation 'Ann's Grove,' Hugh Rogers and B. Hopkinson, attorneys, and E. H. Watson, manager. There have been forty-five convictions of indolence upon this estate during the last month.	On plantation 'Enterprise,' attorney, Mr. Grant, manager, Mr. Lynch; on plantation 'Annandale,' attorney, Mr. Spencer, manager, Mr. Healy; 'Triumph,' Mr. Hopkinson, attorney; Mr. Clarke, manager; 'Kitty,' Mr. Manget; manager, Mr. Durdie; 'Thomas,' attorney, Mr. Batts; manager, Mr. Minrock. On those estates the work has not been readily performed, but during the last ten days no complaints, except from the 'Thomas;' the rest going on very well.
4. Is task-work generally resorted to within your district? or do the labourers prefer working the seven and a half hours per day, as fixed by law?	Sometimes task-work, but generally prefer working the seven and a half hours per day.	A contract for the performance of task-work has been entered into on plantation 'Grove;' it is also resorted to upon the other estates; the apprenticed labourers, however, occasionally choose to work the seven and a half hours.	Task-work is generally resorted to in this district.
5. What are the working hours most generally in use in your district? Are there any estates in your district on which the labourers are compelled to lay by for two or three hours in the middle of the day, and then to complete their seven and a half hours in the afternoon, (by which division of their labour they have little or no time to themselves)—if yes, have the goodness to name the estates, proprietors or attorneys, and the managers.	The working hours begin at seven A.M., working the seven and a half hours off, or coming in at eleven o'clock A.M., just as they please themselves.	The hours of labour in most general use (where task work is not chosen) are from seven to eleven A.M., and from one to half-past four P.M. This is the case on every estate except the 'Hope' and the 'Grove;' upon the latter estate task-work is performed.	Commence work at seven A.M. and go on until they finish. On no estate are they compelled to lay by for two or three hours in the middle of the day.

(continued at page 44.)

July 1835.]		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN.	RIVER.	UPPER RIVER.	Captain Allen.	
<i>W. J. Brittain, Esq. (Acting.)</i>	<i>Captain Delafons, R. N.</i>	<i>George Ross, Esq.</i>		
<i>Answers to Question 1.</i>	The labourers in this town are generally civil, contented and cheerful. No reason to entertain a different opinion has come to my knowledge.	Yes, generally; but there are some exceptions. I have visited all the hospitals of the various plantations under my magisterial control, and, as far as I can see, the people on the estates are generally happy.	For the most part they are. I have visited nine estates and the hospitals (names given), and have conversed with the labourers; they and their employers seem on the whole to live on friendly terms with each other.	Yes, generally so. Seventeen estates (names given) were visited, and the hospitals inspected, by me last month, when no complaints were preferred either by the employers, managers or the apprentices.
<i>Answers to Question 2.</i>	The proportion of those against whom complaints have been brought during the month is very small. The remainder, against whom no complaint has been made, must be presumed to have worked well.	With the exceptions of some few at 'Houstoun,' and others again at 'Ruimveld.'	They have performed their work with as much alacrity and good will as might reasonably be expected from people in their condition.	Yes, with very few exceptions.
<i>Answers to Question 3.</i>	No estate is now comprised within the town division of this district.	Generally, no. The complaints against the females on plantation 'Ruimveld' are very few this month compared with the month of June.	There is still some soreness of feeling between the 'Little Diamond' people and their employers, but they have been working rather better for the last fortnight. At plantation 'Garden of Eden,' also, a spirit of discontent still continues to exist. At plantation 'Golden Grove,' they have taken some foolish notions into their heads about their hours within the last week, but they have no reasonable cause of complaint.	The work has not been performed with readiness by the labourers on plantation 'Chantilly,' A. Stevens, proprietor; C. H. Jones, manager.
<i>Answers to Question 4.</i>	No work is, to my knowledge, done by the tradesmen in this town. The greater number of apprentice labourers are domestics, who are bound to render their services when required.	They work the seven and a half hours by day, as fixed by law.	Task-work is for the most part resorted to.	Labour by task-work, without any written contract, is in almost every case resorted to.
<i>Answers to Question 5.</i>	I have received no complaint from any apprentice labourer of his hours of labour being so vexatiously broken.	The working hours are from seven A. M. until half-past two P. M.; neither of the estates lay by in the middle of the day.	From seven to half-past two. No where are the people in the field compelled to break off in the middle of the day, but on most sugar estates the young creoles about the buildings and the mechanics lay by for a couple of hours.	Work commences at seven o'clock A. M., which generally goes on without intermission until the task is finished. There is no estate at present where the labourers are compelled to lay by two or three hours during the middle of the day.

<p>DISTRICT (E) <i>Spry Bartlet, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (H.) <i>Captain Coleman.</i></p>
<p>I have visited the hospitals on eight estates (names given). Some of the hospitals not being in that state of cleanliness I deemed necessary. I have called the attention of the managers to the subject; in other respects the hospitals are well found, and the labourers appear contented and civil.</p>	<p>Yes. I have visited the hospitals of twenty-two estates upon 'Leguan', eighteen estates upon 'Waakenham', and three estates upon 'Hog Island', being all of the estates in the district, except 'Marionville' (Waakenham), where I was refused admittance.</p>	<p>They appear generally so. I have visited the hospitals and conversed with the labourers on sixteen estates. The sick, who, except where the measles prevail, are not numerous, seem well taken care of; but the hospitals, although in general very commodious, are not, in my opinion, kept sufficiently clean, to which, however, there are some exceptions.</p>	<p>I have conversed with the apprenticed labourers belonging to most of the estates, and they appear generally civil, contented and cheerful. The names of eight estates given where the hospitals have been visited.</p>
<p>With the exception of plantation 'Anna Catherina', the apprenticed male labourers have done their work on most of the estates to the satisfaction of their managers.</p>	<p>The work has been as well performed as at any former period.</p>	<p>They have, with some few exceptions.</p>	<p>They have, generally; but there are always some idle apprentices, and particularly females.</p>
<p>On plantation 'Anna Catherina,' Mr. N. M. Manget, attorney; Mr. James Griffiths, manager; but I have every reason to hope they will return to their duty satisfactorily.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>I have not heard of any estate on which the work has been unwillingly or not readily performed, except, partially, at plantation 'Aurora' (Mr. Halket, attorney, R Johnson, manager), with respect to the female labourers only, who, however, do not appear to have had the smallest cause for the dissatisfaction which seemed to prevail among them, and which has now, I trust, terminated.</p>	<p>Generally, it has not; but there are some idle people on almost all the estates, who give a great deal of trouble, though few that are incorrigible.</p>
<p>Task-work generally throughout the district.</p>	<p>Task-work is general, and preferred by the labourers.</p>	<p>Task-work is generally resorted to, and preferred.</p>	<p>Task-work is generally resorted to in this district.</p>
<p>The bell rings on most of the estates at seven, A. M., and the labourers usually remain until their work is finished.</p>	<p>Upon no estate are the labourers compelled to lay-by in the middle of the day. The hours of labour are from about seven o'clock to one, two, three, four and five, according to circumstances and the bargain made.</p>	<p>From half past six or seven o'clock until from twelve to two in the afternoon, when their task is usually completed. They are not compelled to lay-by in the day on any estate in the district.</p>	<p>Generally from seven, A. M. to two, P. M. There are no estates in this district to which the latter part of this question applies.</p>

(continued on p. 46.)

July 1835.] DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq. (Acting.)</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Macleod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>M. A. Stewart, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
Answers to Question 1. Generally they are. During the month I have visited eleven estates (names given), and inspected the hospitals upon each.	Yes, generally. I have visited six estates (names given), and had no complaints.	During the month I have visited ten estates (names given), and inspected the hospitals; I found the labourers civil, and tolerably contented and cheerful.	I have visited all the estates, except the two beyond creek 68, during the month. The labourers are generally civil, contented and cheerful.
Answers to Question 2. Generally, they have.	Except on one estate.	On several estates they have not.	Yes, with few exceptions.
Answers to Question 3. No.	The early part of the month the work was not readily performed on plantation 'Gladstone Hall'.	In the upper section of this district the work has not been so willingly or readily performed.	No.
Answers to Question 4. Yes, generally; it is preferred by the labourers.	The labourers on some estates get the Saturday. Task-work is generally resorted to.	Task-work in general. The labourers prefer it.	A specified portion of work, such as can easily be performed in seven hours and a half, or in nine hours where the labourers only work five days in the week, is usually allotted to each labourer.
Answers to Question 5. From seven, A. M. till their tasks are finished, which varies from one to half-past two. None are compelled to lay-by; some prefer it.	From half-past six till the day's labour is finished.	The labourers in this district generally perform task-work; they finish it off without resting.	Work is generally commenced about seven o'clock and the labourers return when they have completed their portions of specified work.

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>Captain B. Bond, R. N.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	
6. Do the labourers on any estate in your district perform extra labour for hire? If yes, name the estates, the rate of wages for extra work, and state how and when the payments are made; and if extra work is not performed for wages, state if reasonable wages have been offered, with weekly payment. If reasonable wages and prompt payment have been offered and rejected, state to what cause you attribute the refusal on the part of the labourers.	Yes. Plantation, 'Spring Hall,' extra labour; <i>f.</i> 1. 10. or half a dollar to each labourer in the boiling-house; the head boilerman one dollar for every fifteen hogsheads of sugar. 'Plantation 'Helena,' four guilders per week; 'La bonne Mere,' two guilders, &c. &c. &c.	The labourers employed in the manufacture of sugar invariably perform extra labour for hire, earning from about six bits to two guilders per week, paid on demand. No offer has been made to employ the field labourers during their own time.	The labourers perform extra labour for hire in the manufacture of sugar, picking cotton; two stivers per hour on the sugar estates, and five stivers for every ten pounds of cotton picked. Payments are generally made monthly, but weekly when change can be procured.
7. Have there been any instances of insubordination, or any attempt to resist authority by force, in your district? If there have been any, name the estates on which such occurrences have taken place.	None.	A complaint of insubordination was preferred from 'Anne's Grove' against three labourers, one of whom resisted a constable, the others behaved in a violent manner, and abused the constable.	None.
8. In the event of any disposition having been manifested by any of the labourers to neglect their work, or to behave rudely to those in authority over them, has such misconduct been so general as to induce you to attribute it to any combination or conspiracy; or is it only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that you have had complaints made?	Thirty-one of the cane-cutters on plantation 'Spring Hall' combined not to do their work, only cutting eight and ten punt loads per day, when, by the tariff, they should have cut fifteen punts. Held a court on that estate, in presence of Messrs. Bonyen and Booker, and myself; punished them with fourteen days extra labour each: they are now working well.	The neglect of work on plantation 'Anne's Grove' has been so general, that I have attributed it to combination. As the complaint preferred was for indolence, I punished accused for that offence, which, I trust, will obviate the necessity of bringing the offenders before a district court.	Excepting on the before-mentioned estates, the complaints are only with respect to a few idle apprentices.
9. Has the attendance of the prædial labourers at church, and of their children at school, been regular and to the full accommodation afforded them under the local circumstances of your district?	Yes; generally at the Methodist Chapel at the Ferry, and the Presbyterian Church at Mahaica. been equal to the accommodation afforded. That of their children at the Wesleyan Missionary at Mahaica, has been to the full of the limited accommodation afforded.	There is neither church nor school within this section of the district; the attendance of the labourers at the churches and chapels in the vicinity has not the accommodation afforded. That of their children at the Wesleyan Missionary at Mahaica, has been to the full of the limited accommodation afforded.	The Rev. Mr. Clinkett being much indisposed and confined to the house, two Sundays there was no service: the attendance is always good of the apprentices at church, and their children at school.
10. Have you, individually as a magistrate, and has the court over which you preside, been under the necessity of ordering punishment by whipping during the preceding month?—and, if answered in the affirmative, state the number of delinquents so punished, and the extent of punishment awarded in each case.	Individually - - 14 By the court - - 6	Individually - - none. By the court - - 8.	Individually - - 2 By a court - - 12
11. Has any manager, overseer, or other person in authority over the prædial labourers been fined or otherwise punished by the court over which you preside during the preceding month, for misconduct towards any labourer or labourers? Have there been any instances of the labourers having been detained at work beyond the legal hours?—and, in such case, has the shilling sterling per hour for each individual labourer been levied?	None.	None.	I have fined a manager 1 <i>l.</i> sterling, and an overseer 5 <i>l.</i> sterling for beating apprenticed labourers. No instances of labourers being detained at work beyond the legal hours.

(continued on page 48.)

July 1835.]		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN.	RIVER.	UPPER RIVER.	DISTRICT (D.)	
<i>W. J. Brittain, Esq. (Acting.)</i>	Captain <i>Delafons, R, N.</i>	<i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	Captain <i>Allen.</i>	
<i>Answers to Question 6.</i> Not applicable to this division of the district.	None, but in the sugar houses.	Rarely, except about the buildings on all sugar estates, and occasionally on such estates as require additional drains to be dug. The payment is in general prompt, 1½ bits to 2 bits for the afternoon.	Extra labour for hire is performed about the buildings on sixteen estates (names given). The rate of wages and mode of payment has not varied since last month's report.	
<i>Answers to Question 7.</i> Nothing like combined resistance, nor any attempt to resist authority by force, on the part of any apprenticed labourer in this town has come to my knowledge.	None.	There has been no attempt to resist authority by force. A few individual instances of insubordination, but not such as to merit being specially noticed, have occurred, except the conduct of one man, who was tried and punished by the district sessions.	There has been no attempt on the part of the apprenticed labourers to resist authority	
<i>Answers to Question 8.</i> Answered to the preceding question.	Where such occurrences have taken place, to be attributed to the idle and disorderly.	At plantation 'Little Diamond' and 'Garden of Eden,' I attribute the disposition on the part of the labourers to neglect their work to a general want of cordiality between the apprenticed labourer and the employer.	The reports made this month have mostly had reference to a few disorderly apprentices.	
<i>Answers to Question 9.</i> It is not possible to answer this question with the same precision in this town as in the country, where they are all collected on estates. The churches here are however well attended by apprenticed labourers, especially those belonging to dissenters.	Yes.	The attendance at church and school is regular; but there is a want of more schools. at the same place, when the attendance of the labourers was nearly equal to the accommodation.	The attendance of the children at St. Mark's school has diminished this month. Divine service was only performed once during the month	
<i>Answers to Question 10.</i> The number of persons punished by whipping during the past month by the chairman of this division of the district, and by the court over which he presides, has been twenty-eight.	Individually - - 13 By a court - - 18	Individually - 8 By a court - - none.	Individually - - 5 By a court - - 7	
<i>Answers to Question 11.</i> No individual in this town was charged during the past month with misconduct towards their apprenticed labourers.	None.	None.	No manager fined during the month. One complaint was made by some labourers of being detained beyond the legal hours, but it was thought too immaterial to prosecute.	

<p>DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlet, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (H.) <i>Captain Coleman.</i></p>
<p>Only about the buildings, such as boilermen, firemen, &c. They are paid in silver weekly, when it can be procured. Rate of wages for extra labour about 2 stivers per hour.</p>	<p>Upon every estate extra labour is performed for hire. Upon some the whole gang is paid; upon others only those about the buildings. The wages are from 1 bit to 2 and 2 ½ guilders per week. From the difficulty of procuring change, weekly payments are seldom or ever made, but generally every month or two. Upon some estates in this island, of which Capt. Warren is attorney, it is now going on six months since the labourers received their pay.</p>	<p>Extra labour for hire is very generally performed, and more so during the past month than the two preceding. The rate of wages is from 1 guilder to 1 ½ guilder per day, according to the work they are employed at, and they are usually paid monthly.</p>	<p>Yes, on almost all the estates, at the rate of from 6 bits to 6 guilders per week, which is paid weekly, unless otherwise agreed upon by the parties.</p>
<p>None of any consequence.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No instance of either has taken place, unless a few unimportant individual cases.</p>	<p>There have been a few instances of insubordination in this district, but they have been confined to individuals, and no attempt to resist authority by force.</p>
<p>It is generally the same idle labourers who are brought before the district court, and special justices individually.</p>	<p>It is only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that complaints have been made.</p> <p>this estate. Severe measures have been adopted with the ringleaders; and I think the combination may now be considered as quite subdued.</p>	<p>With respect to the latter only, except at plantation 'Aurora,' where (as before stated) a spirit of combination again manifested itself about the middle of the month, confined, however, exclusively to the females, the males being, on the contrary, remarkably well behaved on this estate.</p>	<p>No; only with respect to some idle and disorderly apprentices that I have had complaints made.</p>
<p>Yes.</p>	<p>The churches in this district are not sufficient for the population. Every Sunday numbers of labourers cannot procure accommodation. There is a great want of schools; but what are established are well attended.</p>	<p>As regular as usual, and to the full extent.</p>	<p>Yes, when the weather permitted.</p>
<p>Individually - - 8 By a court - - 14</p>	<p>Individually, none. By a court, none.</p>	<p>Number whipped in this district, 21.</p>	<p>Number whipped in this district, 16.</p>
<p>John Heraut, part proprietor of plantation 'Zeeberg,' now residing at plantation 'Hydromie,' was charged by George, an apprenticed labourer, with an assault; but having failed to appear before the district court, his recognizance, to the amount of 10 l. sterling, was ordered to be forfeited.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No instance of either has occurred.</p>	<p>No, none.</p>

(continued on page 50.)

July 1835.] DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq. (Acting.)</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Macleod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>M. A. Stewart, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
<p>Answers to Question 6.</p> <p>Not generally; occasionally on the sugar estates they do. Wages vary; paid weekly, or when asked for.</p>	<p>On all sugar estates the persons employed about the buildings work for hire.</p>	<p>Yes. The labourers are hired on Saturdays, either on the estates to which they belong, or on some of the neighbouring estates, for reasonable wages, and prompt payment.</p>	<p>At 'Skeldon' the labourers work nine hours per day, and are paid half a bit each day for their extra labour. On all sugar estates the men employed about the buildings are paid for extra labour; they receive 1½ bit. The payments are made weekly.</p>
<p>Answers to Question 7.</p> <p>No.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>Answers to Question 8.</p> <p>Only with respect to a few idle and disorderly that I have had complaints made.</p>	<p>On plantation 'Goldstone Hall,' there appeared to be a combination, from the circumstance of all the apprenticed labourers doing the same quantity of work.</p>	<p>There is a combination (chiefly amongst the female apprentices, particularly in the upper section of the district), to attempt to reduce the rate of labour as much as possible, by doing as little as possible.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Answers to Question 9.</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>It has.</p>	<p>Not replied to.</p>	<p>No church or public school.</p>
<p>Answers to Question 10.</p> <p>Individually - - 1 By a court - - none.</p>	<p>Individually - none. By a court - - 8</p>	<p>Individually - - 2 By the court - - 10</p>	<p>Individually - - none. By a court - - 7</p>
<p>Answers to Question 11.</p> <p>No.</p>	<p>Not.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION <i>Captain Baring Bond, R.N.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	
12. Have any complaints been preferred to you during the last month, from any apprenticed labourers, respecting their clothing, food, treatment, or upon any subject? In the event of any complaints having been made to you, have you carefully investigated into the matters, and caused justice to be rendered to the parties as far as it was in your power? State the number and the nature of the complaints which may have been preferred to you in general terms.	None.	The labourers of plantation 'Grove' complained that their houses were not good. The manager was waiting for more favourable weather to repair them. I visited them after some heavy rain, and two or three houses were much out of repair.	No complaints, except three for ill treatment, and complaining of the Court's decisions, and my own convictions.
13. Have any of the free children upon any of the estates in your district been bound apprentices during the last month? If yes, name the estates upon which such occurrences have taken place, and state if the transactions were with the free consent and approbation of the parents of the children.	None.	None.	None.
14. How are the children fed and taken care of on the estates in your district? Are they fed from the stores of the estates gratuitously, and is an additional quantity of salt fish and plantains issued for them? or are they fed out of the allowance due to their parents? When their mothers are at work in the field, is a woman specially appointed to take care of their young children, and exempted from all other duty? Are the children when unwell allowed the advantage of the medical assistance and hospital treatment of the estate in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery?	On most of the estates in my district they are provided for by the estates as formerly, and allowed the doctor and everything else the same as the rest of the labourers. At 'La bonne Mere' the children are fed by the mothers, the latter having refused their being fed by the estate.	The children are allowed plantains and salt fish. Medical assistance & hospital treatment gratuitously throughout my portion of the district, except upon plantation 'Dochfour' and 'Lowlands,' where the greater proportion of the labourers are allowed provision grounds and the Saturday to cultivate them; a nurse is always found for the young children when their mothers are at work.	The free children are fed on the estates in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery. Women appointed to take care of the children, and allowed the advantage of the medical assistance and hospital treatment of the estate.
15. On how many estates in your district are schools established? Name the estates, proprietors, and managers of estates having schools.	None; there is a Methodist school at Mahaica, which the children on the neighbouring estates attend.	On no estate.	There has been no increase of schools since my former report.
16. Are there any remarks or observations which you may wish to convey to the Lieutenant-Governor, connected with the peace, tranquillity, and happiness of the district under your superintendance? If yes, state the same.	There is a general feeling to evade work, pleading the merest scratch as an excuse for not working; the females are in general very insolent, and seem to care but little for the punishment of extra labour. (signed) <i>Thos. B. Bond,</i> S. J. P. and Chairman Up. Sec.	I, in my last report, inadvertently omitted to state that the young children of plantation 'Dochfour' & 'Lowlands' were not fed by the estate, owing to provision grounds having been allowed to the labourers, and time given to cultivate them, agreeable to the ordinance. (signed) <i>K. Heyland,</i> Chairman, Lower Section.	The first part of the month the labourers on the estates I have enumerated were certainly very unwilling to perform their work, but are at present going on well. (signed) <i>A. M. Lyons,</i> Chairman.

(continued on page 52.)

July 1835.]		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D).
TOWN.	RIVER.	UPPER RIVER.	Captain <i>Allen</i> .	
<i>W. J. Brittain</i> , Esq. (Acting.)	Captain <i>Delafons</i> , R. N.	<i>George Ross</i> , Esq.		
Answers to Question 12.	None have been preferred.	None have been made.	There have been two complaints respecting want of house room, to both of which I have attended.	Nineteen complaints of various sorts have been made during the month, which have, with the exception of two yet to be disposed of, been inquired into, and justice done where due, as far as was practicable.
Answers to Question 13.	No free children of apprenticed labourers have, to my knowledge, been bound apprentices in this town during the last month.	None.	None.	No free children have hitherto been bound apprentices.
Answers to Question 14.	The magistrate in this town has no means of correctly answering this question. As far as he has been able to hear, most employers in easy circumstances support the free children of their apprentice labourers, while poorer employers throw the burden on the parents of their children.	The children are fed from the stores of the estates gratuitously, and women are specially appointed to take care of the young children. The children when unwell are admitted freely into the hospitals.	With the exception of plantation 'Prosperity,' & 'Little Diamond,' the children have all an extra allowance of provisions. On plantation 'Garden of Eden,' the allowance is permitted by the attorney, but withheld at the option of the manager. On the score of medical attendance and nurses, there are no exceptions.	The children are usually fed by an allowance of salt fish and plantains issued to the mothers. A person is generally appointed to take care of them when the mothers are in the field, and they are reported to receive medical attendance in every instance, as when in a state of slavery.
Answers to Question 15.	As there are no estates in this district (division of it), this question does not strictly apply to it. The schools in this town, at which the children of apprenticed labourers attend, were enumerated in last report.	'Houstoun' and 'Rome.'	At 'Peter's Hall' and 'Perseverance' there are schools.	Schools are established on seven estates.
Answers to Question 16.	Strongly recommends the erection of more places of solitary imprisonment, as a substitute for the lash. (signed) <i>W. J. Brittain</i> , S. J. P. for the Town Division.	With respect to the improved behaviour of the females on plantation 'Ruimveld,' I wish to draw attention to one fact: in June, sixty two complaints were made against those women; I had a great deal of trouble with them; in July there are only eight complaints against them, of whom five were the second time brought before me and one was the third time. (signed) <i>Thos. Delafons</i> .	Owing to the rude state of the weights and scales on many estates, mistakes are apt to take place, and suspicions to arise in the minds of the apprenticed labourers with regard to their allowance. (signed) <i>George Ross</i> , Chairman, Upper Division.	None. (signed) <i>J. A. Allen</i> , Chairman.

<p>DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlet, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (H.) <i>Captain Coleman.</i></p>
<p>None but the above.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>Two such complaints have been preferred: one against an employer for detaining the complainant at work beyond the legal hours; the other against a manager for unlawful confinement. Both were carefully investigated, and proved to have been unfounded.</p>	<p>Yes; one by an apprentice labourer against an overseer for an assault, which, after carefully investigating, I have referred to next district court.</p>
<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None have been so bound.</p>	<p>No, none.</p>
<p>On plantations 'Hague,' 'Gravenveld,' 'Vreesen Hoop,' and 'Met en Meerjog,' no food or doctor is allowed to the children under six years. On plantations 'Anna Catharina,' 'William and Best,' no food, but doctor and nurses. On the other estates no change has taken place since the commencement of the apprenticeship.</p>	<p>The children are fed and taken care of exactly as formerly upon every estate in this district, except upon 'Vertrawen' and 'Bellefield,' owned by Mr. Bowel, and 'Lucuss,' owned by Mr. Jones, all upon Leguan.</p>	<p>The children are fed and taken care of in every respect precisely in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery.</p>	<p>The same as before, and no complaints.</p>
<p>On one estate school twice a day. On five estates school twice a week.</p>	<p>'Enterprize' and 'Endeavour,' of which Mr. A. M'Rae is owner and attorney, have a school between them, and also 'Waterloo' and 'Marguillo,' of which Mr. Noble is owner and attorney; all upon Leguan. There are no schools upon estates in Wakenhaam or Hog Island. There is a Sunday-school at Wakenhaam and likewise at Leguan.</p>	<p>On four, (names given, &c.)</p>	<p>None at present, but a gentleman has arrived to conduct a school on plantation 'Anna Regina.' — Stewart, Esq. attorney, M. R. Marley, manager.</p>
<p>None. (signed) <i>Spry Bartlet, S. J.P.</i> Chairman.</p>	<p>Recommends the payment of wages weekly. (signed) <i>Geo. Killock, S. J.P.</i> Chairman.</p>	<p>The labourers in general continue to behave well and to work assiduously, and the district is perfectly tranquil. (signed) <i>Geo. Ball,</i> Chairman.</p>	<p>The apprentice labourers are certainly improving, and since the establishment of stores in this district, affording them opportunity to purchase every article they want at a fair price, they are better dressed and appear more happy, and are more industrious. (signed) <i>Thos. Coleman,</i> Chairman.</p>

(continued on page 54.)

July 1835.] DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq. (Acting.)</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Macleod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>M. A. Stewart, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
<p>Answers to Question 12.</p> <p>No.</p>	<p>Only one. It was proved that 44 guilders had been given complainant in lieu of allowance of clothing.</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>plaint. I have since learned that these men have provision-grounds, with seed, and 52 days instead of 40 for the cultivation of their grounds, &c.</p>	<p>A complaint was preferred to me by some labourers attached to 'Kilcoy,' of not receiving their allowance of food. It appeared that Mr. Fraser had been disappointed of plantains for which he had sent, and that the complainants refused to receive corn or corn meal. I told them they had no ground of complaint.</p>
<p>Answers to Question 13.</p> <p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>Answers to Question 14.</p> <p>Generally the same as before the 1st of August.</p>	<p>The children are taken care of in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery.</p>	<p>On most of the estates the children under six years of age are treated in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery.</p>	<p>On four estates the children are fed out of the allowance due to their parents; on the others they are fed gratuitously from the stores of the estates. On all women are specially appointed to take care of the children, and they have the advantage of medical assistance and hospital treatment.</p>
<p>Answers to Question 15.</p> <p>There are schools on almost all the estates among the labourers themselves, and on several there are teachers engaged, besides the schools at the places of worship.</p>	<p>On two estates; and on one a Sunday-school (names, &c. given).</p>	<p>On six estates (names, &c. given).</p>	<p>On two estates (names, &c. given).</p>
<p>Answers to Question 16.</p> <p>No.</p> <p>(signed) <i>Geo. Rose.</i></p>	<p>The people on 'Goldstone Hall' are now doing the work required of them, and I have no doubt will continue to do so.</p> <p>(signed) <i>J. Macleod,</i> Chairman.</p>	<p>Nil.</p> <p>(signed) <i>M. A. Stewart,</i> Chairman.</p>	<p>None.</p> <p>(signed) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir,</i> Chairman.</p>

(True extracts from the Monthly Reports.)

H. W. Ridley, Private Secretary.

— No. 235. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *James Carmichael Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Camp House Demerara, 26 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's circular of the 12th July. The special justices in this colony have, ever since the abolition of slavery, been provided with books for keeping the records of their proceedings, and which books, with the substitution of the words "Apprenticed Labourers" instead of the word "Slaves," are exact counterparts of the forms prescribed for the slave protector. These books have been transmitted quarterly to the Government Secretary, and of course can always be referred to. I shall, however, now call for them monthly, in obedience to your Lordship's orders. The summary monthly returns, under letter (A.), now called for from the special justices, will be forthwith transmitted to those gentlemen; and the summary monthly return under letter (B.), as required from the officer in charge of the Government, will be punctually forwarded. Excepting I am instructed to the contrary by your Lordship, I shall continue to transmit the precis of the answers from the justices to the sixteen questions submitted to them monthly, as formerly. Your Lordship will thus be in possession of the most detailed statements with respect to the apprenticed labourers in this colony.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

BRITISH
GUIANA.

No. 235.

Vide Paper, No. 278, ordered to be printed 10 June 1835, page 9.

— No. 236. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *James Carmichael Smyth*, to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 19 Sept. 1835.

IN conformity with your Lordship's circular despatch, dated 18th June 1835, requiring the undermentioned Returns to be laid before the House of Commons, I have now the honour to transmit—

Return of the names of all special or stipendiary magistrates, who have been removed from or resigned their office, specifying the reasons for the same, so far as the same can be communicated.

Return of the number and nature of the punishments inflicted on the apprenticed labourers in each colony, by the special or stipendiary magistrates, specifying the offences for which they were inflicted, separating males from females.

Return of the names and number of apprenticed labourers who have purchased the unexpired term of their apprenticeship, and the several sums paid for the same.

Copies of instructions given to the special or stipendiary magistrates, as to the extent and performance of their duties.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

No. 236.

Vide Parliamentary Paper, No. 166, ordered to be printed 30 March 1836, No. 166-I, page 5.

No. 1.

No. 2.

No. 3.

Vide Parliamentary Paper, No. 278-I, ordered to be printed 10 June 1835, page 149.

Enclosure in No. 236.

(No. 1.)

RETURN of the Names of all Special or Stipendiary Magistrates, who have been removed from or resigned their Offices, specifying the Reasons for the same, from 1st August 1830 to 31st July 1835, agreeably to Circular Despatch of 18th June 1835.

Enclosure in No. 236.

— Nil. —

(signed) *H. E. F. Young*,
Government Secretary.

(No. 2.)

ABSTRACT RETURN of the Number of Punishments inflicted on the Apprenticed Labourers, separating Males from Females, from 1st August 1834 to 31st July 1835, agreeably to Circular Despatch of 18 June 1835.

Number of Corporal Punishments.	Number of Punishments other than Corporal.	Total Punishments.	Males.	Females.
2,177	5,975	8,152	3,805	4,129

(Correctly extracted from the Returns.)

(signed) *H. E. F. Young*,
Government Secretary.

BRITISH
GUIANA.

(No. 3.)

ABSTRACT RETURN of the Number of Apprenticed Labourers who have purchased the unexpired Term of their Apprenticeship, showing the Amount paid for the same, from 1st August 1834 to 31st July, 1835, agreeably to Circular Despatch of 18th June 1835.

Number.	Sum paid.
71 apprentices	Fls. 56,873. 10.

(Correctly extracted from the Returns.)

(signed) *H. E. F. Young,*
Government Secretary.

— No. 237. —

EXTRACTS of a DESPATCH from Sir *James Carmichael Smyth*, Bart. to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Camp House, Demerara, 26 September 1835.

No. 237.

“ I HAVE great pleasure in being able to report to your Lordship, that throughout the whole of this colony the most perfect tranquillity, happiness and industry prevail. I do not mean to say that I have not still a few managers and planters, who are as averse and hostile as ever to the great changes in the condition of the labourers, and who, being deprived of all personal power of coercion over the negro, take every opportunity of irritating his feelings by depriving him of some of those comforts which have not been secured by the ordinance. The negro is, however, now better informed and instructed; and he will not suffer himself to be goaded into any act of insubordination. He knows that if he complains, his complaints will be carefully investigated, and his injuries redressed, so far as the law may allow. It is also to be observed that the number of the planters and managers of whose conduct I have to express my disapprobation is diminishing fast; they can be named and counted. Self-interest, founded upon the impossibility of carrying on the cultivation of the estates otherwise than by treating the labourers with good humour and kindness, cannot but have the effect, in time, of compelling the most obstinate to alter their mode of conduct, and to adopt measures calculated to acquire the confidence and good will of the apprenticed labourer, before he has it in his power to remove to some other estate, where he will receive better treatment.

“ I have great pleasure in reporting to your Lordship that about 700 Portuguese labourers (a number of them with their families) have been lately imported from Madeira. With one solitary exception, I have received the most favourable accounts of the industry and good conduct of these people. I understand greater numbers may be expected. I am in hopes that these Madeira labourers will prove a very valuable acquisition to this colony in every point of view.”

-- No. 238. —

No. 238.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Sir *J. C. Smyth*, Bart. to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Camp House, Demerara, 4 October 1835.

A
B.

“ I BEG to lay before your Lordship the epitome of the monthly reports for August from the 15 special justices in British Guiana. In the despatch of the 26th August last which I had the honour to address to your Lordship, I stated that these documents (which I have called for from the special justices, &c., from the commencement of the new system) would be periodically transmitted to the Colonial Office, excepting they were countermanded. In addition to the two documents already alluded to, I beg to submit a comparative summary of the punishments for the last three months, by which your Lordship will be enabled to trace correctly their rapid decrease. I have very little doubt but that the returns for September will show a still greater diminution.”

EPITOME of the MONTHLY REPORTS from the FIFTEEN STIPENDIARY SPECIAL JUSTICES in *British Guiana*, for the Month of *August 1835*.

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>Captain Baring Bond, R.N.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	
1. Are the labourers in your district civil, contented and cheerful?	Not generally so. I have visited the hospitals on nine estates (names given). The patients on all are allowed what the doctors order, and appear contented with their treatment.	Very generally. I have visited fifteen estates (names given).	Visited twenty-two estates during the month (names given).
2. Have they performed their work during the last month with alacrity and good-will?	They have performed their work, but not with good-will, generally speaking.	Yes, in general.	Yes.
3. Has the work on any estate been unwillingly or not readily performed? If yes, have the goodness to name the estate, the proprietor, or his attorney, and the manager, in order that an inquiry may be forthwith instituted into the causes which may have led to such conduct.	The work has been performed on all the estates in this district, but have had much trouble with the apprentices on 'La bonne Mere.' I have frequently spoken to the head people myself to behave better, but with no effect, I am sorry to say.	The work has not been willingly performed on plantation 'Clonbrook,' Messrs. Rogers, proprietors; William Shand, manager. 'Lowlands,' J. G. Reed, proprietor; J. Hine, manager.	None.
4. Is task-work generally resorted to within your district? or do the labourers prefer working the seven hours and a half per day, as fixed by law?	Generally speaking, they prefer working their seven hours and a half. As many perform task-work as take the seven hours and a half.	Task-work is generally chosen by the apprenticed labourers; but as no contract has been entered into, except upon plantation 'Grove,' they sometimes prefer to labour the seven hours and a half.	Task-work is generally resorted to in this district.
5. What are the working hours most generally in use in your district? Are there any estates in your district on which the labourers are compelled to lay-by for two or three hours in the middle of the day, and then to complete their seven hours and a half in the afternoon, (by which division of their labour they have little or no time to themselves)?—if yes, have the goodness to name the estates, proprietors or attorneys, and the managers.	The general working hours begin at seven, A.M., or working the seven hours and a half off, and coming in just as they please themselves.	The working hours most generally in use (when task-work is not chosen by the labourers) are from seven to eleven o'clock, A.M., and from one to half-past four, P.M.; this is the case on seven plantations (names given).	The labourers commence work at seven o'clock in the morning, and leave the field when they finish; on no estate are they obliged to lay-by during the day.

(continued on page 58.)

August 1835.]		DISTRICT (C.)			DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>W. J. Brittain, Esq. (Acting.)</i>		RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R. N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	<i>Captain Allen.</i>	
Answers to Question 1.	The labourers in this town may safely be asserted to be, in general, civil, contented and cheerful.	Generally; some few exceptions. I have visited all the hospitals, and as far as I can ascertain, they are as above.	For the most part they are. I have visited during the month the hospitals of fifteen estates (names given). The hospital at plantation 'Profit' is by no means commodious. I told the manager, six or eight weeks ago, that a new one would have to be built, or the old one repaired. The labourers on all the estates, except those indicated in answer No. 3, seem to be contented.	Yes, in most cases. I inspected during the month the hospitals on sixteen estates (names given), which were in general good, and no complaints. I also visited seventeen estates (names given). No complaints were made on any plantations, 'La Parfaite' and 'Harmonie' excepted, where they appeared mutual between employer and employed.	
Answers to Question 2.	By an observation of the very great diminution in the number of convictions and punishments this month, when compared with preceding months, we may reasonably conclude that the apprenticed labourers are performing their work with increased alacrity and good-will.	Generally, but some few exceptions.	As much as can naturally be expected from people situated as the apprenticed labourers are.	Yes, in nearly every instance.	
Answers to Question 3.	No estate is now comprised within the town division of this district.	Generally, no. But some females who are idle and negligent have been several times brought before me for not performing their duty.	On plantation 'Little Diamond,' and 'Garden of Eden,' the same bad feeling continues to exist between the employers and employed, and consequently the work done there is considerably less than on the contiguous estates. Some disposition to throw up their task-work has manifested itself at plantation 'Profit,' but on that estate, I must observe, a higher scale of work than that adopted throughout the greater part of the district has been exacted.	The work is reported not to have been readily performed, towards the latter end of the month, by a few people on plantation 'La Parfaite' and 'Harmonie,' Mr. S. Felin, proprietor; J. Parke, manager; and for one day on 'La Grange.' These cases are shortly to be investigated.	
Answers to Question 4.	This question does not apply to this town.	They work the seven hours and a half per day, as fixed by law.	Task-work is for the most part resorted to.	Task-work is generally resorted to. The labourers would in most instances prefer working seven hours and a half, if allowed to do so without an interval of rest.	
Answers to Question 5.	Domestics in this town render their services when required, and tradesmen, porters and others, being almost all non-prædials, work for nine hours. I have heard of no instance of vexatious distribution of the hours of labour on the part of employers.	From seven, A.M. until half past two, P.M. There are no estates where they are obliged to lay-by in the middle of the day. There are many females who do not go to work with the gangs generally, but they go to work later, and are consequently later in completing their seven hours and a half, or work; but this is their own act, not being compelled to do so.	From seven to half-past two. Mr. Vanderpant, manager of plantation 'Friendship,' has, with such of the gang as will not do his task, begun again to try the experiment of observing intervals in the middle of the day; and Mr. Dunkin, manager of plantation 'Profit,' Mr. Macqueen, administrator, has followed his example.	The working hours are usually from seven to half-past two, unless where a specified task is prescribed or accepted, in which cases the labour begins about seven and ends at from one to four o'clock, according to local circumstances. There is no estate at present in the district where the labourers are compelled to lay-by two or three hours.	

<p>DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlet, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (H.) <i>Captain Coleman.</i></p>
<p>During the month I have visited the hospitals on eight estates, and the labourers appear contented, civil and cheerful.</p>	<p>They are. I have visited the hospitals of nineteen estates on Wakenaam, twenty-two estates on Leguan, and three estates on Hog Island, being the whole of the hospitals in this district.</p>	<p>They are very generally so. I have visited and inspected the hospitals on fifteen estates (names given).</p>	<p>Yes, except on three or four estates. I have visited sixteen estates, and the hospitals of each, during the month (names given).</p>
<p>Generally throughout the district, with the exception of the female labourers on plantation 'Anna Catherina.'</p>	<p>As well as at any former period.</p>	<p>With the exceptions to be hereafter stated.</p>	<p>Yes, except on three or four estates.</p>
<p>The female labourers on plantation 'Anna Catherina,' have, as will appear by my monthly reports, for some time neglected their work; six of whom I have committed to the colony gaol. A few days since I called the head men together, and questioned them; but it did not appear that they can complain with respect to the treatment they receive. Attorney, Mr. N. M. Manget; manager, Mr. Griffiths.</p>	<p>In the beginning of August there was a little excitement on one or two estates on Leguan, but it disappeared in a few days, and every thing is going on as formerly. About the end of July the gang on 'Arthurville,' on Wakenaam, slacked in their work, but they also are coming round.</p>	<p>At plantation 'Hoff Van Amick,' the female labourers have shown a disposition to work unwillingly, and some of them have been punished for combination; on plantation 'Aurora' also the females have continued to be occasionally troublesome; and yet on neither of these estates can I discover that the labourers have the smallest reason for dissatisfaction. On both the men behave remarkably well.</p>	<p>Yes; plantations 'Land of Plenty,' John Austin, esq., proprietor; Robert Ridley manager;—'Walton Hall,' John Lane, esq., attorney; B. V. Hodgson, manager;—'Exmouth,' John Lane, esq., attorney; William Hall, manager.</p>
<p>Generally task-work in this district.</p>	<p>Task-work is general, and preferred by the labourers.</p>	<p>Task-work is generally resorted to, and performed.</p>	<p>Task-work is generally resorted to in this district.</p>
<p>The bell rings on most estates at seven, and the labourers usually remain till their work is finished.</p>	<p>The working hours are from six, seven and eight to twelve, one, two, three, four, five and six, according to circumstances and the bargain made. Upon no estate are the labourers compelled to lay-by in the middle of the day. Whenever they finish their work they leave the field.</p>	<p>Begin generally at half-past six or seven, A.M., and usually finish at from twelve to two o'clock; in bad weather they are sometimes longer in the field. They are not compelled to lay-by in the middle of the day on any estate in this district.</p>	<p>Generally from seven, A.M. to two, P.M. There are no estates in this district to which the latter part of this question applies.</p>

(continued on page 60.)

August 1835.] DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq. (Acting.)</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>J. Macleod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>M. A. Stewart, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
<i>Answers to Question 1.</i> Generally they are, more so than usual, with the exception at present of some of Mr. Blair's apprentices, about whom an inquiry is going on. During the month I have been on every estate in the district, and on some two or more times, and in most of the hospitals.	Generally. I have visited nine estates (names given); no complaints were made.	During the month I have visited thirteen estates (names given), and inspected the hospitals of each. I found the labourers civil, and tolerably contented.	I have visited all the estates, except the two beyond Creek, 68, during the last month. The labourers are generally civil, contented and cheerful.
<i>Answers to Question 2.</i> Generally they have, and the same remarks above are applicable here.	In most instances.	In general they have.	Yes, with few exceptions.
<i>Answers to Question 3.</i> There have been no complaints of this nature.	On plantation 'Highburg,' Davison, Barclay & Co.; John Alves.	Nil.	No.
<i>Answers to Q. 4.</i> Yes; it is generally preferred by the labourers.	It is.	Task-work in general; the labourers prefer it.	A specified portion of work, such as can easily be performed in seven and a half hours, or in nine hours where the labourers work only five days in the week, is usually allotted to each labourer.
<i>Answers to Question 5.</i> From seven, A.M. to half-past two, and generally optional with the labourers whether they rest during the task or not.	From seven, A.M. till the day's labour is finished.	As the labourers in general perform task-work, they finish it off, as it suits themselves.	Work is generally commenced about seven o'clock, and the labourers return when they have completed their portions of specified work.

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>Captain Baring Bond, R.N.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	
6. Do the labourers on any estate in your district perform extra labour for hire? If yes, name the estates, the rate of wages for extra work, and state how and when the payments are made; and if extra work is not performed for wages, state if reasonable wages have been offered, with weekly payment. If reasonable wages and prompt payment have been offered and rejected, state to what cause you attribute the refusal on the part of the labourers.	Yes; 'Spring Hall,' extra labour in the boiling-house, six bits each labourer, the head boiler-man one dollar for every fifteen hogsheads. 'Helena,' four guilders per week all round. 'La bonne Mère,' two guilders each. 'Strathaven,' ditto; engineers three guilders.	The labourers employed in the manufacture of sugar invariably perform extra labour for hire, earning from six bits to two guilders a week, which is paid upon demand. The labourers of plantation 'Bee Hive' have refused to perform extra field labour, as they say the offer of six bits for nine hours' extra labour is not enough. No other offer has been made to employ them.	In the manufacture of sugar and picking cotton they work for hire; two stivers per hour on the sugar estates, and five stivers for every ten pounds of cotton over forty pounds.
7. Have there been any instances of insubordination, or any attempt to resist authority, by force, in your district? If there have been any, name the estates on which such occurrences have taken place.	None.	None.	None.
8. In the event of any disposition having been manifested by any of the labourers to neglect their work, or to behave rudely to those in authority over them, has such misconduct been so general as to induce you to attribute it to any combination or conspiracy? or is it only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that you have had complaints made?	Twenty-nine men and ten women at 'La bonne Mère' for conspiring not to do a fair proportion of work in cutting canes; on that estate they should have cut nineteen and a half punt loads of canes instead of eleven, which was all they did; the carriage was only eighteen roods from the field to the trench; the latter end of last week they cut sixteen punt loads of canes per day.	The disposition manifested on plantations 'Clonbrook' and 'Lowlands' by the apprenticed labourers to neglect their work has been so general, that I have attributed it to combination.	It is against the idle only complaints are made; and they are, I am sorry to say, in many instances very rude to those in authority over them, both black and whites.
9. Has the attendance of the prædial labourers at church, and of their children at school, been regular and to the full accommodation afforded them under the local circumstances of your district?	Yes, generally; at the Methodist chapel at Mahaica, and the Presbyterian church at same place.	The attendance of the labourers at church has not been equal to the accommodation afforded them; that of their children has been equal to the very limited opportunities offered to them.	The attendance of the prædial labourers at church is very good, and their children constant at Sunday school.
10. Have you, individually as a magistrate, and has the court over which you preside, been under the necessity of ordering punishment by whipping during the preceding month? and, if answered in the affirmative, state the number of delinquents so punished, and the extent of punishment awarded in each case.	Individually - - 4 By a court - none.	Individually - - 2 By a court - - 2 <hr/> 4	Individually - none. By a court - - 2
11. Has any manager, overseer, or other person in authority over the prædial labourers been fined or otherwise punished by the court over which you preside during the preceding month, for misconduct towards any labourer or labourers? Have there been any instances of the labourers having been detained at work beyond the legal hours? and, in such case, has the shilling sterling per hour for each individual labourer been levied?	None.	None.	None.

(continued on p. 62.)

August 1835.]		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN.	RIVER.	UPPER RIVER.	DISTRICT (D.)	
<i>W. J. Brittain, Esq. (Acting.)</i>	Captain <i>Delafons, R. N.</i>	<i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	Captain <i>Allen.</i>	
Answers to Question 6. Not applicable to this division of the district.	None.	Such of the apprenticed labourers as are not engaged on their own provision grounds are in general quite willing to work in the after part of the day for hire, at, say two bits for the afternoon, but there is rather an indisposition on their part to do this extra work under the eye of their ordinary overseers.	The report relative to extra labour, wages, &c. is precisely similar to that of last month.	
Answers to Q. 7. No attempt at combined resistance has occurred in this town since the commencement of the system of apprenticeship, and the probability of any such occurrence daily diminishes.	None.	None.	There have been no instances of insubordination of an important character. There has been no attempt to resist authority by force.	
Answers to Question 8. All complaints that have come before me during the last month are against individual apprentices for idle and disorderly conduct.	Where such occurrences have taken place, to be attributed to the idle and disorderly.	There has been no regular combination or conspiracy. The foolish ideas about their hours, which were epidemic on two or three estates during the first half of the month, but which are now pretty well eradicated, I attribute to a sort of monomania.	The insubordination above alluded to had reference only to a few idle or disorderly apprentices.	
Answers to Question 9. I have before said that there are few prædial labourers in this town. The attendance of the apprenticed labourers, domestics and tradesmen in this town at church, and of their children at school, appears to be to the full extent of the accommodation afforded, and the time and opportunities allowed to them by their employers.	Yes.	The attendance at church has been regular, but there is a want of additional schools.	The attendance of the prædial labourers at the church of St. Mark last month was fully equal to the local accommodation; the attendance of their children at the school there has much increased.	
Answers to Question 10. Individually - - 7 By a court - none.	Individually - - 4 By a court - none.	Individually - - 1 By a court - none.	None individually or by a court.	
Answers to Question 11. Three penalties were inflicted during the month: 1st, 10 <i>l.</i> was levied on the owner of a craft, on board of which a runaway apprenticed labourer was employed; 2d, fourteen days' imprisonment was adjudged to the person in charge of said craft, not being able to pay the fine awarded; 3d, an employer was adjudged to pay a fine of 15 <i>l.</i> sterling for assaulting and beating an apprenticed labourer.	None.	I have fined one headman for maltreatment of, an apprenticed labourer.	No person in authority over the prædial labourers has been punished during the month. There have been no instances of the labourers having been detained beyond the legal hours.	

<p>DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlet, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (H.) <i>Captain Coleman.</i></p>
<p>Only about the buildings, such as boilermen, firemen and engineers. They are generally paid weekly in silver. Rate for extra labour, about two stivers per hour.</p>	<p>Upon every estate the labourers do extra work for hire. Upon some the whole gang are paid, on others only those about the buildings. The general rate of wages is from one bit to two and three guilders per week.</p>	<p>Extra labour for hire is very general, but on some few estates the females, or a portion of them, decline performing it. There are one or two estates on which the employers have no occasion for extra work, and the labourers thereon are occasionally employed at extra hours for hire on the neighbouring estates who require them. The rate of wages is from 1 guilder to 1½ per day, according to the work they are employed at, and they are usually paid monthly.</p>	<p>Yes, on almost all the estates at the rate of from one to six guilders per week; paid weekly when change can be procured.</p>
<p>None of any consequence.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>There have been some instances of both, but not of an important character.</p>	<p>There have been some instances of insubordination, but no attempt to resist authority by force.</p>
<p>A few idle and disorderly persons are to be found on most estates, and it is such persons who are generally complained of.</p>	<p>It is only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that complaints have been made.</p>	<p>With respect to the latter only, except on the estates already mentioned, where combinations certainly existed, but not to any serious extent.</p>	<p>There has been some disposition towards conspiracy, and many complaints have been made against idle and disorderly apprentices. The females have borne the greater proportion.</p>
<p>It is now several weeks since divine service was performed at plantation 'Edinburgh.' The Rev. William Harman performed divine service last Sunday, in the Coffee Logie at plantation 'La Hague,' to a very large congregation. The chapel and school at Mr. Scott's is well attended.</p>	<p>The attendance at church and school has been to the full accommodation afforded. The churches in this district cannot contain one half of the population who would wish to have accommodation.</p>	<p>As usual, and to the full extent.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Individually - - 6 By a court - - 7</p>	<p>Individually - - 3 By a court - - 8</p>	<p>Individually - - 26 By a court - none.</p>	<p>Individually - - 9 By a court - none.</p>
<p>None.</p>	<p>One overseer has been fined by me thirty guilders for striking a labourer. None.</p>	<p>A manager has been fined for assaulting an apprenticed labourer by striking him. The offence was by no means of an aggravated nature. There have been no instances of the latter.</p>	<p>No, none.</p>

(continued on page 64.)

August 1835.] DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq., (Acting.)</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>J. Macleod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>M. A. Stewart, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
<p><i>Answers to Question 6.</i></p> <p>Not generally. On the sugar estates, the boilermen and firemen do occasionally. Wages vary; paid weekly, or when asked for. A small metallic coinage is much wanted, and would probably be an inducement to perform extra labour; offers are not general however.</p>	<p>On sugar estates, all persons employed about the buildings.</p>	<p>Yes. The labourers are hired either on the estates to which they belong, or on the neighbouring estates, for reasonable wages, with prompt payment.</p>	<p>At 'Skeldon' and 'Mary's Hope,' the labourers work nine hours per day, and are paid half a bit each day for their extra labour. On all the sugar estates the men employed in the boiling-house are paid for extra labour at 1½ bits. Payments made weekly.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Q. 7.</i></p> <p>No.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 8.</i></p> <p>I have only had one complaint during the last month, of the latter case.</p>	<p>Not.</p>	<p>(Nil.)</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 9.</i></p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>It has.</p>	<p>(Nil.)</p>	<p>There are only two schools; but the attendance of the prædial labourers at church has been as regular and full as, under present circumstances, could be expected.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 10.</i></p> <p>Individually - - 1 By a court - - none.</p>	<p>Individually - none. By the court - - 3</p>	<p>Individually - none. By a court - - 2</p>	<p>Individually - - 3 By a court - - 3</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 11.</i></p> <p>No.</p>	<p>Not.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>Captain Baring Bond, R. N.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	
12. Have any complaints been preferred to you during the last month, from any apprenticed labourers, respecting their clothing, food, treatment, or upon any subject? In the event of any complaints having been made to you, have you carefully investigated into the matters, and caused justice to be rendered to the parties as far as it was in your power? State the number and the nature of the complaints which may have been preferred to you in general terms.	Plasey, of the 'Good Hope,' against the manager, for not admitting her into the sick-house, when skulking under the pretence of sickness, it being proved a malicious complaint, it was punished as such. Also Cupid, of 'La bonne Mere,' complains of being sent to extra work according to the sentence awarded by me for combining against lawful labour. He is the leader of the combination, and a very bad character.	None.	There have been a few trifling complaints about those being sick, which I have carefully investigated, but found in every instance they were not sick, but wishing to avoid work.
13. Have any of the free children upon any of the estates in your district been bound apprentices during the last month? If yes, name the estates upon which such occurrences have taken place, and state if the transactions were with the free consent and approbation of the parents of the children.	None.	None.	None.
14. How are the children fed and taken care of on the estates in your district? Are they fed from the stores of the estates gratuitously, and is an additional quantity of salt fish and plantains issued for them? or are they fed out of the allowance due to their parents? When their mothers are at work in the field, is a woman specially appointed to take care of their young children, and exempted from all other duty? Are the children when unwell allowed the advantage of the medical assistance and hospital treatment of the estate in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery?	On most of the estates in this district by the estates; allowed the doctor and everything else the same as the rest. On 'La bonne Mere,' the free children are not yet fed by the estate, but the attorney, G. C. Bell, esq. promises them this indulgence as soon as their parents behaved better.	The children throughout my portion of the district are fed, and medical treatment is provided gratuitously; a nurse is also found to take care of the young children while their parents are at labour.	The children are fed and taken care of in the same way, and have the same medical attendance as when in a state of slavery. With the exception of plantation 'Enterprize' they have not medical attendance, in other respects the same. I hope to arrange this in a few days.
15. On how many estates in your district are schools established? Name the estates, proprietors, and managers of estates having schools.	None. There is a school (in the district) at Mahaica Ferry, which the children of the neighbouring estates attend.	None.	There has been no decrease or increase of schools since my last report.
16. Are there any remarks or observations which you may wish to convey to the Lieutenant-Governor, connected with the peace, tranquillity, and happiness of the district under your superintendance? If yes, state the same.	There is a general feeling to evade labour by pleading sickness for the slightest scratch, whenever they can with impunity. The females are in general very insolent, and appear to care but little for the punishment of extra labour; solitary confinement seems to have a better effect on these people. (signed) <i>T. Baring Bond,</i> S. J. P.	With respect to my answer to the 9th Query, I beg to add that there is neither a church nor a school within my immediate portion of the district. At Mahaicony, visited alternately by Capt. Bond and me, there is Divine service once in three weeks by the Presbyterian clergyman, and weekly by the Wesleyan missionaries. (signed) <i>K. Heyland,</i> S. J. P.	I am in hopes the district will continue going on well. Your Excellency will perceive that I have not inflicted one corporal punishment this month, although I have had the whole charge of the district for the last three weeks. (signed) <i>A. M. Lyons,</i> S. J. P.

(continued on page 66.)

August 1835.]		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN.	RIVER.	UPPER RIVER.	Captain Allen.	
<i>W. J. Brittain, Esq. (Acting).</i>	Captain <i>Delafons, R. N.</i>	<i>George Ross, Esq.</i>		
<p><i>Answers to Question 12.</i></p> <p>* No proposal of this nature, either on the part of the parents of such children or their masters, has ever been made to me since I first presided as a stipendiary magistrate in this district, now upwards of six months.</p> <p>* <i>This answer has been entered to No. 12, instead of No. 13 Query, incorrectly,</i> <i>H. Sidley.</i></p>	<p>A man named George, plantation 'La Penitence,' complained of not having received a check shirt with his clothing. I inquired into the case; the man was wrong in not seeing he had all his things at the time; he went with them into the yard where the apprenticed labourers were playing, and discovered his loss. Mr. Edghill, manager, declares he received it, but he promised to give another shirt to the man. 31 Aug. 1835.</p>	<p>There has been one complaint from a father and mother against the manager, for refusing to let their infant child remain in the nursery during working hours. One from a woman, with rheumatic limbs, against the same individual, for maltreatment, and obliging her to work in the rain. The former is investigated, and the latter is under investigation.</p>	<p>Several complaints have been made, which have all been inquired into and redressed, when substantiated, as far as was practicable.</p>	
<p><i>Answers to Question 13.</i></p> <p>* The magistrate in this town has no means of answering this question with any degree of precision.</p> <p>* <i>This is the reply to No. 14 and not No. 13 Query; entered so by mistake.</i> <i>H. D. W. Sidley.</i></p>	None.	None.	<p>No free children have been bound apprentices last month.</p>	
<p><i>Answers to Question 14.</i></p> <p>* There have been two complaints this month from apprenticed labourers; one on account of not having been supplied with clothing and medical attendance; the other, the one referred to in No. 11 reply, for assault and battery. Justice (in both cases) has been rendered to the parties.</p> <p>* <i>This is the reply to No. 12 Query, incorrectly entered here.</i> <i>H. D. W. Sidley.</i></p>	<p>The children are all fed gratuitously from the stores of the estate. Women are specially appointed to take care of the young children, and when unwell they are freely admitted into the hospitals, and there taken care of.</p>	<p>Except on plantation 'Little Diamond,' 'Garden of Eden,' 'Prosperity,' and individual instances on plantation 'Friendship,' the children have an extra allowance served them. On every estate medical attendance is afforded to the children.</p>	<p>The children are usually fed by an addition of salt fish and plantains issued to the mothers, unless when very young, when it is customary to give the mothers a little sugar, barley or rice. When their mothers are at work in the field, a woman is appointed to take care of them, who is exempt from other duty. The children are reported to receive the same medical treatment as when in a state of slavery.</p>	
<p><i>Answers to Question 15.</i></p> <p>The schools in this town, which are free to the children of apprenticed labourers, were enumerated in the last month's report. There are no estates in this division of the district.</p>	'Rome' and 'Houston.'	At 'Peter's Hall' and 'Perseverance' there are schools.	<p>Schools are established on seven estates (names given).</p>	
<p><i>Answers to Question 16.</i></p> <p>It is my intention to request your Excellency's attention to the mode of conducting compulsory manumission in this colony; but as the space afforded for this answer is far too limited, I shall take leave to hand it your Excellency in another form.</p> <p>(signed) <i>W. J. Brittain,</i> <i>S. J. P.</i></p>	<p>I was in hopes to have given a more favourable account of the females on plantation 'Ruimveld' and 'La Penitence,' yet the delinquents are all old offenders, the generality of whom are continually brought before me, whilst the others of the gangs behave orderly and well.</p> <p>(signed) <i>Thos. Delafons,</i> <i>S. J. P.</i></p>	<p>It would be desirable, where the managers evidently show an unconciliatory spirit towards the labourers, and where the proprietors or attorneys have already been apprised of the fact from the highest authority, the trying of apprenticed labourers, attached to such plantations, for the offences of indolence and negligence, should be deferred until the removal of this manager.</p> <p>(signed) <i>George Ross,</i> <i>S.</i></p>	<p>Nil.</p> <p>(signed) <i>J. A. Allen,</i> <i>S. J. P.</i></p>	

DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlet, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Kellock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>Captain Coleman.</i>
None.	None.	A complaint was made by a female apprenticed labourer against a manager for compelling her to work when sick, but it proved to be wholly unfounded.	Yes; one by an apprenticed labourer against his employer for an assault; fined 3 <i>l.</i> sterling by the inferior court of criminal justice.
None.	None.	None have been so bound.	No, none.
On plantation 'Hague,' 'Groenveld,' and 'Met-en-Meerzog,' no food or doctor; 'Anna Catharina,' 'Vrees-en-Hoop,' 'William and Best,' no food; doctor and nurse allowed; on the other estates in this district no change has taken place. I have endeavoured, on plantation 'Hague and Groenveld,' to persuade the parents of the unapprenticed children to work extra hours to the amount of six days in the year, for medical attendance, but, as yet, unsuccessful.	Upon all the estates in this district the children are treated as formerly, except upon 'Vertrouwen' and 'Bellefield,' owned by Mr. Bovell, where nothing whatever is done for them. Upon 'Success,' since the 1st August, the doctor has attended them.	The children are fed and taken care of in every respect precisely as when they were in a state of slavery.	The same as before, and no complaints.
Schools on six estates, names given.	Three schools in the district.	Schools on four estates; several others are on the eve of being established.	On one estate.
Nil. (signed) <i>Spry Bartlet,</i> S. J. P.	It would be a great improvement if some regulations could be made respecting the houses of the negroes. The system of huddling males and females together, as is done in general, has a very demoralizing effect on their characters. (signed) <i>Geo. Kellock,</i> S. J. P.	The apprenticed labourers taken collectively, continue to behave well, and to work assiduously. The necessity of punishment by whipping, which still exists, is to be regretted, but is caused, in a great measure, by the want of an established penal gang, or of proper places for solitary confinement. (signed) <i>George Ball,</i> S. J. P.	It would promote the happiness of the apprenticed labourer, and enlarge their confidence in me, were I empowered to recover small debts; and I should be better enabled to watch over their interests, and preserve the peace of the district, were I allowed a clerk and an extra horse. (signed) <i>T. Coleman,</i> S. J. P.

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August 1835.] DISTRICT (L.) <i>George Rose, Esq. (Acting.)</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>J. M'Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>M. A. Stewart, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
Answers to Question 12. No.	One respecting clothing proved to be false.	No.	No.
Answers to Question 13. No.	None.	No.	No.
Answers to Question 14. Generally the same as before the 1st August 1834.	Children treated in the same manner as before.	On most of the estates in this district the children are treated in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery.	On three estates the children are fed out of the allowance due to their parents; on the others they are fed gratuitously from the stores of the estates. On all, women are specially appointed to take care of the children, and they have the advantage of medical assistance and hospital treatment.
Answers to Question 15. There are schools on almost all the estates among the labourers themselves, and on several there are teachers engaged, among them the 'Golden Fleece' lately established.	Three schools in the district (names of estates given).	On six estates (names given).	On two estates (names given).
Answers to Question 16. Nil. (signed) <i>Geo. Rose,</i> S. J. P.	Nil. (signed) <i>J. M'Leod,</i> S. J. P.	Nil. (signed) <i>M. A. Stewart,</i> S. J. P.	Nil. (signed) <i>J. O. L. Muir,</i> S. J. P.

(True extracts from the August Monthly Reports.)

H. D. W. Ridley, Private Secretary.

(B.)

SUMMARY of CORPORAL PUNISHMENTS inflicted by Order of the STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES, and by Order of the COURTS over which they presided, during the Months of June, July and August 1835.

District.	Names of Magistrates.	JUNE.		JULY.		AUGUST.	
		By the Stipendiary.	By the Court.	By the Stipendiary.	By the Court.	By the Stipendiary.	By the Court.
A.	Captain Bond, R. N. -	8	2	14	6	4	none.
	K. Heyland, Esq. -	16	none	none	8	2	2
B.	A. M. Lyons, Esq. -	1	4	2	12	none	2
	George Ross, Esq. -	7	6	8	none	1	none.
C.	Captain Delafons, R. N. -	27	4	13	18	4	none.
	W. J. Brittain, Esq. -	none	25	none	28	7	none.
D.	Captain Allen -	9	24	5	7	none	none.
E.	Spry Bartlett, Esq. -	4	17	8	14	6	7
F.	George Killock, Esq. -	3	13	none	none	3	8
G.	George Ball, Esq. -	9	10	none	21	26	none.
H.	Captain Coleman -	25	none	none	16	9	none.
I.	George Rose, Esq. -	3	9	1	none	1	none.
K.	John M'Leod, Esq. -	12	none	none	8	3	none.
L.	M. A. Stewart, Esq. -	1	13	2	10	none	2
M.	J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq. -	2	1	none	7	3	2
TOTAL - -		225		208		93	

— No. 239. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *James Carmichael Smyth*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 26 November 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 4th ult., enclosing an abstract of the monthly report for August from the special magistrates, &c.

No. 239.

The contents of these reports, and of the comparative summary which you have likewise transmitted, of the punishments inflicted for the last three months, have afforded me much satisfaction.

The latter document appears to me to exhibit the strongest evidence of improvement in the condition and conduct of the apprentices. I anxiously hope that the result of subsequent Returns from the magistracy will prove equally satisfactory, and that your favourable anticipations in regard to the continued diminution of punishment will be realized.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 240. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *James Carmichael Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 12th October 1835.

IT would appear from the enclosed opinion of Mr. Gloster, the Attorney-general, that in the ordinance for the government of the apprenticed labourers in this Colony, it has been omitted to grant authority to the special justices to visit the hospitals on the estates, excepting some complaint may have been preferred which requires their presence for investigation. I respectfully submit the propriety of remedying this omission without delay, by an Order of His Majesty in Council

No. 240.

BRITISH
GUIANA.

being issued, granting authority to the special justices to visit the hospitals and all houses or buildings occupied, whether in whole or in part, by apprenticed labourers, as often as they may think proper; and at any hours between sunrise and sunset that may suit their convenience. I also beg to suggest that clergymen, catechists and teachers of religion (without distinction of persuasion) may have the same facilities afforded them for communicating instruction to the healthy, and consolation to the sick apprenticed labourers in this colony.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth.*

COPY.

HAD a complaint been preferred before Mr. Killock involving any question of want of hospitals accommodation (which the employer is bound to provide), I am of opinion that Mr. Killock would have had jurisdiction in such a case, and would have had a right of entry to investigate the complainst, but I do not think that "*ex mere mortu*," Mr. K. can enter upon the plantations and demand admittance as a matter of right into the hospitals. The Attorney-general craves leave to refer his Excellency to the 6, 7 & 8 sections of the Ordinance (No. 43) for the government of apprenticed labourers.

(signed) *Henry Gloster, Attorney-general.*

3rd August 1835.

— No. 241. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *James Carmichael Smyth*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 30 Dec. 1835.

No. 241.

I HAVE received your Despatch dated the 12th October last, requesting that an Order may be made by His Majesty in Council to enable the special magistrates, clergymen and others, to visit hospitals on the various plantations of British Guiana. I accordingly transmit to you an Order which was made for that purpose by His Majesty in Council on the 31st instant.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 242. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Sir *James Carmichael Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Camp-House, Demerara, 28 Oct. 1835.

No. 242.

I BEG to lay before your Lordship the epitome of the Report from the special justices of this Colony for the month of September last. Your Lordship will observe with pleasure the gradual but rapid diminution of punishments. In the month of June last there were 255; in July 208; in August 93; in Sept. 79. In the present month I have every reason to hope and expect that the decrease will be still more considerable, and that ultimately it will be only necessary to resort to the whip as a degrading mode of punishment for the repression of thefts. The certainty the labourers now have that their complaints will be looked into and (if well-grounded) be redressed, has extinguished that sulky feeling which formerly led them (under the impression of being debarred from all means of obtaining justice) to neglect their work, and by so doing to render themselves liable to punishment. There is a cheerfulness and a confident and contented carriage amongst the labourers and their families, which cannot escape the most superficial observer.

EPITOME of the MONTHLY REPORTS from the FIFTEEN STIPENDIARY SPECIAL JUSTICES in *British Guiana*, for the Month of *September 1835*.

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>Captain Baring Bond, R. N.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	
1. Are the labourers in your district civil, contented and cheerful?	Not generally so.	Generally. I have visited nine estates in the district during the month, (names given).	I have visited 27 estates during the month, (names given).
2. Have they performed their work during the last month with alacrity and good will?	Not generally so. I have visited the hospitals on 14 estates (names given), on all which the patients appear contented, and have all that is required for their health and comfort.	In general. The disposition to neglect their labour upon slight and frivolous pretences occasionally evinces itself.	The labourers have performed their work well, with the exception of two estates.
3. Has the work on any estate been unwillingly or not readily performed? If yes—have the goodness to name the estate, the proprietor, or his attorney, and the manager, in order that an inquiry may be forthwith instituted into the causes which may have led to such conduct?	The work has been performed but reluctantly, generally speaking.	The labour has not been readily performed upon plantation 'Clonbrook,' Messrs. Rogers, proprietors; William Shand, manager.	The work on plantation 'Lusignan' and plantation 'Success,' has not been readily performed; the former C. Spencer, Esq., attorney; manager, T. C. Laud. — Stewart, Esq., attorney; manager, R. Mackenzie, the latter.
4. Is task-work generally resorted to within your district? or do the labourers prefer working the 7½ hours per day, as fixed by law?	Generally speaking, they prefer working seven and a half hours; as many perform task-work as take the seven and a half hours.	Task-work is almost invariably chosen by the apprenticed labourers. They sometimes prefer, however, to labour the seven and a half hours. The apprenticed labourers on Plantation 'Grove' have entered into a contract to perform task-work.	Task-work is generally resorted to in this district. On a few estates the labourers prefer working the seven and a half hours.
5. What are the working hours most generally in use in your district? Are there any estates in your district on which the labourers are compelled to lay by for two or three hours in the middle of the day, and then to complete their seven hours and a half in the afternoon, (by which division of their labour they have little or no time to themselves)—if yes, have the goodness to name the estates, proprietors or attorneys, and the managers,	The hours are, beginning at seven, A.M., working the seven and a half hours off, or coming in at 11, A.M.; just as they please themselves.	The hours of labour in most general use (when task-work is not resorted to) is from seven to eleven o'clock, A.M., and from one o'clock to half-past four, P.M.; this is the case upon five estates, (names given).	The labourers commence work at seven o'clock in the morning, and go on until they finish. On no estate were they compelled to lay by in the middle of the day.

(Continued on page 72.)

September 1835.]		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN.	RIVER.	UPPER RIVER.	Captain <i>Allen</i> .	
<i>W. J. Brittain, Esq., (acting.)</i>	Captain <i>Delafons, R.N.</i>	<i>George Ross, Esq.</i>		
Answers to Question 1.	They are so, and the number of complaints both by them and against them are diminishing considerably.	Yes, generally; with some few exceptions. I have visited five estates in the district (names given) during the month.	In general they are. I have visited the hospitals on seven estates, (names given). The apprenticed labourers, so far as I can ascertain, are in general contented.	Yes, very generally. I inspected the hospitals of twelve estates (names given) during the month. I also visited ten estates and one wood-cutting establishment, (names given), on very few of which were any complaints made by employers or employed, and the apprentices in most places seemed contented and happy.
Answers to Question 2.	From the remark made to the former question, I think it may be presumed that they are doing their work with increased alacrity and good will.	Generally; with some exceptions at 'Honston', which by promptness and firmness I have stopped.	With as much alacrity and good will as might reasonably be expected from people circumstanced as they are.	Yes; in a very few instances excepted.
Answers to Question 3.	This question does not apply to the town.	Generally, no. At 'Honston,' on the 8th September, I had forty-four females brought before me for neglecting duty. I directed those that did not perform a due proportion of work to be locked up at night; the next day eight ran away; went and complained to his Excellency, and on the 12th September I had the same gang nearly, of forty females, brought before me for doing still less work than before September 8th. I selected three of the ring-leaders, sent them to the tread mill, and directed the rest to be locked up for ten nights. Two days after the entire gang performed (and still continue) ninety roods every day; they were released directly, but only three of the original deserters have as yet returned.	On plantation 'Little Diamond,' 'Friendship,' and 'Garden of Eden,' the work has been unwillingly performed.	The work has not been readily performed by part of the gang during the month on plantation 'La Grange,' Mr. Vifhins, attorney; D. Webster, manager. There has latterly, however, been a disposition to improvement on this estate.
Answers to Question 4.	The greater number of labourers in this town are domestics, who work during any hours when required. Tradesmen, porters and the like, work for nine hours. This is often the case with them, and also with domestics, although they are registered prædial unattached, of which circumstance they first become acquainted when it comes out in evidence taken in this office, on complaints, or when threatened to be turned into the field.	'They work seven and a half hours per day, as fixed by law.	Task-work is for the most part resorted to.	The performance of a certain quantity of work, as a task, is generally resorted to; but without any actual contract to that effect.
Answers to Question 5.	Tradesmen in this town generally rest from eleven till one o'clock, and this is with their own wish and consent.	From seven, A.M. to half-past two, P.M., generally. There are upon the several estates several women who do not go with the gang to work, but go later; consequently, are later in the field than others. But this is their own act, not being obliged to do so, and is considered an accommodation to themselves.	The working-hours most generally in use are from seven to half-past two.	Working-hours from seven till eleven, and one to half-past four; or from seven to twelve, and one to half-past three, in cases where no specific work is accepted or required. Task-work, the labourer begins about seven, and ends from one to four, according to circumstances; the apprentices in the latter case resting for short intervals when they individually think proper. On no estate are they compelled to lay by two hours in the middle of the day.

DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>Captain Coleman.</i>
I have visited the hospitals on three estates (names given) and the labourers appear well found in every respect. They are contented, civil and cheerful.	They are. I have visited the hospitals upon 22 plantations on Leguan, 19 plantations on Waakenhaam, and 3 plantations on Hog Island, composing the whole of the estates in this district.	They are very generally so. I have visited 13 estates and the hospitals thereon. 'Hoff Van Aurich' is the only estate in this district upon which the hospital is insufficient. At present, however, they have but few sick; and I am informed that a new hospital is to be erected.	Yes; except on three or four estates. I have visited 10 estates (names given) and the hospitals thereon.
Generally throughout the district. If an exception could be made, it would be to plantation 'Waller's Delight;' but the number of labourers on the estate does not exceed 60. Mr. Joseph Beete, manager.	Perfectly so.	With the exceptions hereafter stated.	Yes; except on three or four estates.
None of any consequence.	No.	On plantation 'Spring Garden,' Mr. Benjamin, proprietor; A. C. Trotz, manager; and 'Hibernia,' Mr. Holmes, attorney; E. M. William, manager, the work was unwillingly performed by a certain number of the labourers for a short time in the beginning of the month; but the cause having been investigated, and the defaulters punished, the work is now well performed.	Yes; plantation 'Richmond,' Charles Bean, Esq. proprietor; John Prunnon, manager. Plantation 'Walton Hall,' John Lane, Esq. attorney; B. V. Hodgson, manager. Plantation 'Better Success,' Messrs. Chandler and Evans, attorneys; Philip Hughes, manager.
Task-work.	Task-work is general, and preferred by the labourers.	Task-work is very generally resorted to, and preferred.	Task-work is generally resorted to in this district.
The bell rings on most of the estates at 7 A. M., and the labourers usually remain until their task is finished.	Upon no estate are the labourers compelled to lay by in the middle of the day. They work as they like. The hours are from six and seven to one, two, three, four, five and six, according to circumstances and the bargain made	Labourers go to work at half-past six or seven, and finished at their option. There is no estate in this district upon which they are compelled to lay by during the middle of the day.	Generally from 7 A. M. to 2 P. M. There are no estates in this district to which the latter part of this question applies.

continued on page 74.

September 1835.] DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Mac Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.)	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
<p><i>Answers to Question 1.</i></p> <p>Generally they are. During the month I have visited every estate in the district; on some two or more times, and most of the hospitals.</p>	<p>Yes, generally. Visited five estates (names given.)</p>	<p><i>Mem.</i>—The death of Mr. Stewart, Special Justice of this district, accounts for no Report having been received.</p>	<p>I have visited all the estates during the month; the labourers are generally civil, contented and cheerful.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 2.</i></p> <p>Yes, generally; excepting on Mr. Blair's estate, where an inquiry has been going on during the month.</p>	<p>In most instances.</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>Yes, with few exceptions.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 3.</i></p> <p>No; except the above-mentioned estate, which I attribute to the excitement caused by the inquiry.</p>	<p>On plantation 'Friends,' Wm. Forsyth, proprietor; J. Forsyth, manager.</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 4.</i></p> <p>Yes; it is generally preferred by the labourers.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>A specified portion of work is usually allotted to each labourer.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 5.</i></p> <p>From 7 A. M. to half-past 2, and generally optional whether they rest or not during their task-work.</p>	<p>From 7 A. M. till the day's labour is finished.</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>Work is generally commenced about seven, and the labourers return when they have performed their portion of specified work.</p>

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lynns, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>Captain Baring Bond, R. N.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	
6. Do the labourers on any estate in your district perform extra labour for hire? If yes, name the estates, the rate of wages for extra work, and state how and when the payments are made, and if extra work is not performed for wages, state if reasonable wages have been offered, with weekly payment. If reasonable wages and prompt payment have been offered and rejected, state to what cause you attribute the refusal on the part of the labourers.	Yes, several, according to last report.	The apprenticed labourers employed in the manufacture of sugar, invariably perform extra labour for hire, earning from six bits to two guilders per week, which is paid either upon demand, or at periods understood and approved of by the apprenticed labourers. No offer has been made to employ field-labourers beyond the seven and a half hours.	In the manufacture of sugar the labourers work for hire, at the rate of two stivers per hour. Payments monthly.
7. Have there been any instances of insubordination, or any attempt to resist authority, by force, in your district? If there have been any, name the estates on which such occurrences have taken place.	None.	None.	On plantation 'Success,' four apprenticed labourers ran away from the constables, and would not return when I ordered them.
8. In the event of any disposition having been manifested by any of the labourers to neglect their work, or to behave rudely to those in authority over them, has such misconduct been so general as to induce you to attribute it to any combination or conspiracy?—or is it only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that you have had complaints made?	None.	Complaints have been made only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices.	I certainly think, from the conduct of the apprenticed labourers on plantation 'Lusignan,' that they have combined not to perform their work. The other complaints are with respect to the idle and disorderly, and what must naturally happen in so large a population.
9. Has the attendance of the prædial labourers at church, and of their children at school, been regular and to the full accommodation afforded them under the local circumstances of your district?	As per last report; an annual meeting of the Wesleyan Missionary Branch Society was held on the 30th ultimo, at half-past six, P.M., at the Mahaica chapel.	The attendance of the labourers at church has not been equal to the accommodation afforded at the Mahaica church; that of their children at school has been fully equal to the only means of instruction open to them, at the Wesleyan mission-house at Mahaica.	The attendance of the labourers at church has been very good, and children at the Sunday school.
10. Have you, individually as a magistrate, been under the necessity of ordering punishment by whipping during the preceding month?—and, if answered in the affirmative, state the number of delinquents so punished, and the extent of punishment awarded in each case.	Two; one, 25 stripes; one, of 15.	One, 12 stripes.	Ten; eight, 25 stripes each; two, 20 stripes each.
11. Has any manager, overseer, or other person in authority over the prædial labourers been fined or otherwise punished by the court over which you preside during the preceding month, for misconduct towards any labourer or labourers? Have there been any instances of the labourers having been detained at work beyond the legal hours?—and, in such case, has the 1 s. sterling per hour for each individual labourer been levied?	None.	None.	One manager fined 1 l. sterling, for striking an apprenticed labourer. Fine paid.

Continued on page 76.

September 1835.]		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN.	RIVER.	UPPER RIVER.	Captain <i>Allen</i> .	
<i>W. J. Brittain, Esq., (acting.)</i>	Captain <i>Delafons, R. N.</i>	<i>George Ross, Esq.</i>		
Answers to Question 6.	None.	Extra work for hire is generally, throughout this district, performed about the buildings; but there is no estate on which there is a regular demand, on the part of the employers, for extra field work. Plenty of labourers are to be had, at the rate of two bits a head for the afternoon, wherever the manager and overseers are people of a reasonable character.	Extra work for hire is performed on 16 sugar estates (names given) about the buildings; some from two to four guilders weekly, and others from one to two bits per day, or one to three guilders per week. On 17 coffee estates, at the present time (during crop) the labourers perform extra work for hire, at one bit per basket picked, &c. Payments variable, generally made when the sum due amounts to a joe, or half a joe, &c.	
Answers to Question 7.	None.	At plantation 'Friendship,' the manager has shewn some symptoms of insubordination.	There have been three individual instances of insubordination on different estates, but none meriting particular notice. Not any attempt to resist authority by force, has occurred.	
Answers to Question 8.	Where such occurrences have taken place, I attribute it to the idle and disorderly; particularly at Honston this month; those sent to the tread-mill, and those at present absent, are and have been very idle, and I deem them the instigators of the late affairs. At present the gang work well.	There has been no regular combination or conspiracy.	The instances above alluded to had no reference to the gang. They were the acts of three disorderly apprentices.	
Answers to Question 9.	Yes.	The attendance at church and school has been regular, but I think there is room for improvement in the system of education.	The attendance of the labourers at St. Mark's church (where divine service was only performed once during the month) was equal to the accommodation. The attendance of their children at school has diminished during the same period.	
Answers to Question 10.	Three: one, 10 stripes*; one, 15 stripes; one, 24 stripes*. * Two most notorious characters; the fifth time each has been before me.	Two; 15 stripes each.	None.	
Answers to Question 11.	None.	The manager of plantation 'Friendship,' has been fined for not supplying their allowance to 25 apprenticed labourers, and having refused to pay a fine of 10 <i>l.</i> , to which I adjudged him, for illegally confining an apprenticed labourer in the stocks, I committed him to gaol for three weeks.	One manager has been fined for having withheld from an apprentice the allowance of provisions directed by law. Some employers and others have compromised assaults (after being complained of) without their being brought to trial. There have been no instances of the labourers having been detained at work beyond the legal hours.	

<p>DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (H.) <i>Captain Coleman.</i></p>
<p>Only about the buildings; such as engineers, firemen, boilermen, &c.; they are paid weekly in silver. Average rate for extra labour about two stivers per hour.</p>	<p>Upon every estate the labourers perform extra work for hire: upon some the whole gang is paid; upon others, only the people about the buildings. The wages are from one bit to three guilders per week.</p>	<p>Extra labour for hire is very generally resorted to: the wages are from a guilder to a guilder and a half a day, according to the work they are employed at, and they are usually paid monthly.</p>	<p>Yes, on almost all the estates, at the rate of from three to six guilders per week; paid weekly when change can be procured, or monthly.</p>
<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None, except individual cases of small importance.</p>	<p>There have been some instances of insubordination, but no attempt to resist authority by force.</p>
<p>Only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices.</p>	<p>It is only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that complaints have been made.</p> <p>arising from a silly notion, on one estate, that provided they remained in the field during the hours prescribed by law, the quantity or the quality of the work performed was immaterial: on the other, where Saturday is allowed, that they are not bound to work for more than 7½ hours the other five days. Mild measures were tried without effect; I was compelled to resort to severity, and the work is now well performed on both estates.</p>	<p>With respect to the latter only, except on the two estates already mentioned, where a combination, but not extending to the whole, existed in the beginning of the month,</p>	<p>There have been some instances of conspiracy, and many complaints against idle and disorderly apprentices.</p>
<p>Mr. Scott's church is well attended, also the school. The Rev. W. Harman has for the last month performed divine service at plantation 'La Hogue,' and to a large congregation.</p>	<p>The schools are well attended, and the churches are always filled. There is not sufficient accommodation in the churches for the labourers in the district. There is no church on Hog Island.</p>	<p>As regular as usual, and to the full extent.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Seven { one, 25 stripes. four, 20 ditto each. two, 15 ditto each.</p>	<p>Two, 25 stripes each.</p>	<p>21 { two, 30 stripes each. one, 25 - four, 20 - each. five, 15 - each. one, 15 & 20. three, 12 stripes each. five, 10 - each.</p>	<p>18 { one, 12 stripes. two, 15 - each. three, 20 - each. eleven, 25 - each. one, 30 - each.</p>
<p>Yes, two have been fined 3<i>l.</i> each; 1<i>l.</i> has been paid to complainant, the remaining 5<i>l.</i> has been paid to the Colonial Receiver-general.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Three persons in authority over the prædial labourers have been punished for misconduct towards them; two of whom have been fined, and the other, having refused to pay the penalty, has been committed to the colony gaol for one month. There has been no instance of the latter, but a complaint to that effect was preferred; proved unfounded.</p>	<p>No.</p>

continued on page 78.

September 1835.] DISTRICT (I.) George Rose, Esq.	DISTRICT (K.) John Mac Leod, Esq.	DISTRICT (L.)	DISTRICT (M.) J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.
Answers to Question 6. Occasionally on the sugar estates. The boilermen and firemen perform extra labour for hire; the wages vary; paid weekly, or when asked for.	All persons employed about the buildings, on sugar estates, receiving about three guilders per week.	Mem.—The death of Mr. Stewart, special justice of this district, accounts for no report having been received.	A considerable quantity of estate labour for hire has been performed at plantation 'Skeldon;' not much elsewhere. The rate of wages has varied according to the nature of the work.
Answers to Question 7. No.	No.	—	No.
Answers to Question 8. Only of a few of the idle and disorderly I have had any complaint made.	Not.	—	No.
Answers to Question 9. Yes.	It has.	—	The attendance at church has been as regular as under present circumstances could be expected.
Answers to Question 10. One, 15 stripes.	Two { one, 25 stripes. one, 30 -	—	Two { One, 20 stripes. One, 15 -
Answers to Question 11. No.	No complaint.	—	No.

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>Captain Baring Bond, R. N.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	
12. Have any complaints been preferred to you during the last month, from any apprenticed labourers, respecting their clothing, food, treatment, or upon any subject? In the event of any complaints having been made to you, have you carefully investigated into the matters and caused justice to be rendered to the parties as far as it was in your power? State the number and the nature of the complaints, which may have been preferred to you in general terms.	Several reports through the high sheriff, which I have inquired into, and reported thereon.	Complaints have been made by the apprenticed labourers of plantation 'Cove' respecting the issue of clothing and their houses. A document was shown to me by the manager, by which it appeared that the clothing transmitted had not been sufficient for the people, but that steps had been taken to make up the deficiency forthwith; I have allowed 14 days for this purpose. The manager also stated troolies and lumber had already been sent for, which he expected immediately. I allowed a month for this purpose; the people expressed themselves satisfied with the arrangement.	I had 10 complaints from the apprenticed labourers, respecting being turned out of the hospitals, but I have carefully investigated the matter, and have always found them reported fit for duty in the hospital journal signed by the medical attendant of the estate.
13. Have any of the free children upon any of the estates in your district been bound apprentices during the last month? If yes, name the estates upon which such occurrences have taken place, and state if the transactions were with the free consent and approbation of the parents of the children.	None.	None.	None.
14. How are the children fed and taken care of on the estates in your district? Are they fed from the stores of the estates gratuitously, and is an additional quantity of salt fish and plantains, issued for them? or are they fed out of the allowance due to their parents? When their mothers are at work in the field, is a woman especially appointed to take care of their young children, and exempted from all other duty? Are the children when unwell allowed the advantage of the medical assistance and hospital treatment of the estate in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery?	On most estates in my district, the free children are treated as heretofore when in a state of bondage.	The young children receive the same treatment as when in a state of slavery, with the exception of those of plantation 'Cove' who are not allowed fish, and those of plantation 'Dochfour' and 'Clonbrook,' whose parents have been allowed provision grounds and 40 days in the year for cultivating them.	The children are fed and taken care of; allowed women to take care of them when their mothers are at work in the field, and the advantage of medical assistance and hospital treatment of the estate, in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery.
15. On how many estates in your district are schools established? Name the estates, proprietors and managers of estates having schools.	None; there is a Methodist school at Mahaica Ferry, which the children of the neighbouring estates attend.	None.	There has been no increase or decrease of schools since my former report.
16. Are there any remarks or observations which you may wish to convey to the Lieutenant-Governor, connected with the peace, tranquillity and happiness of the district under your superintendance? If yes, state the same.	A general feeling to evade work on any pretence whatever amongst the female apprentices in particular. In many cases they prefer being locked up at once, and on the whole are more refractory than the men. (signed) <i>T. B. Bond,</i> <i>S. J. P.</i>	(signed) <i>K. Heyland,</i> <i>S. J. P.</i>	I am happy to inform your Excellency, that the attorney of plantation 'Enterprize' allows the medical attendant assistance to the free children without any remuneration on the part of the apprenticed labourer, so that on every estate in this district the free children are attended by a medical man. The district is quiet and tranquil. (signed) <i>A. M. Lyons,</i> <i>S. J. P.</i>

(continued on page 80.)

September 1835.]		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D).
TOWN.	RIVER.	UPPER RIVER.	Captain J. A. Allen.	
<i>W. J. Brittain, Esq. (acting.)</i>	Captain <i>Delafons, R. N.</i>	<i>George Ross, Esq.</i>		
<i>Answers to Question 12.</i> One for an assault, but which was not proved. Cases of this nature always receive peculiar attention and are narrowly investigated.	Harman, apprenticed labourer, complained that his master had not given him his clothes. I inquired into it, and discovered every article had been given to him as stated in the regulation, about six weeks previous. This complaint was dismissed upon Harman's promising to make up the lost labour of three days.	One has been preferred by a labourer against a manager for assault. One by a labourer, bred a mechanic, against a manager for maltreatment and sending him to do field work. Two from old women against their managers for harsh usage. One from the mother of an infant against a manager for maltreatment of herself and child. One from a labourer against a manager for illegally confining him in the stocks. Some of these complaints have been already investigated, and they are still in progress.	Twenty complaints have been preferred. All have been inquired into, settled or redressed, as far as was prudent or practicable.	
<i>Answers to Question 13.</i> None.	None.	None.	None.	
<i>Answers to Question 14.</i> Most opulent employers feed the free infant children. Many of the poorer class throw this burden on the mothers.	The children are fed from the stores of the estates gratuitously, and women are specially appointed to take care of the young children. Children when unwell are admitted freely into the hospitals, and taken very great care of.	The children have everywhere medical attendance and nurses, except in one individual instance. They have also for the most part extra allowance of fish and plantains; the only exceptions are at plantations 'Prosperity,' 'Little Diamond,' 'Friendship' and 'Garden of Eden.'	The children are mostly fed by an allowance of salt fish and plantains issued to the mothers. When very young, it is usual to give a little rice, barley or sugar in lieu. A woman is appointed to take care of them when their mothers are at work, who is exempted from other duty, if their number be considerable. They are reported to receive the advantage of medical treatment.	
<i>Answers to Q. 15.</i> Not applicable to this town. Many and increasing opportunities are however offered to apprenticed labourers to have their children instructed, both on Sundays and week days, in this town.	'Rome and Honston.'	There are two schools, one at plantation 'Perseverance' the other the parish school at 'Peter's Hall.'	Schools are established, or instruction given on several estates (names given.)	
<i>Answers to Question 16.</i>	The females on the estates of 'Reumveld' and 'La Penitence' are becoming orderly, although they on the former estate do not perform their portion of work, but as complaints are not made I cannot notice it. On 'La Penitence,' they appear to work very fairly, and I hope on 'Honston' the next month's report may be more satisfactory.	Nil.	The welfare of the apprentices, in a religious as well as a moral point of view, might be promoted by a resident clergyman in the parish of St. Mark and that of St. Swithen. At St. Mark's, divine service has been performed four times in three months.	
(signed) <i>W. J. Brittain,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>Thos. Delafons,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>George Ross,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>J. A. Allen,</i> S. J. P.	

DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>Captain Coleman.</i>
None, except the above.	No.	Six complaints of this kind have been preferred; five for unlawful imprisonment, and one against a superintendent (or driver) for an assault. They were all carefully investigated. Three were proved, and the parties punished as before stated. The other three were without foundation. There was also a complaint against an employer, for not providing due medical attendance, in a case of sickness, which likewise turned out to be wholly unfounded.	No.
None.	No.	None have been thus bound.	No.
On plantations 'Hague,' 'Groenveldt,' and 'Met en Meerzorg,' no food or doctor. On 'Anna Catherina,' 'Vrees en Hoop' and 'William and Best,' doctor allowed, but no food. No change has taken place on the other estates since the commencement of the apprenticeship. All the estates allow nurses when the mothers are at work.	Upon the whole of the estates the children are treated as formerly, with the exception of 'Success,' where nothing is done for them, and upon 'Vertrower' and 'Bellefield,' where they get no allowance, though the doctor attends to them. Mr. Jones is proprietor of Success, and Mr. Bonnall of Vertrower and Bellefield.	The children are treated and taken care of in every respect in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery.	The same as before, and no complaints.
On six estates, (names, &c. given.) Waterloo and Mayville, Mr. Noble attorney and proprietor; and one between 'Enterprise,' Mr. M ^r Rae attorney and proprietor.	There is a school on Meerzorg, of which Mr. Bishop is attorney, and one between Waterloo and Mayville, Mr. Noble attorney and proprietor; and one between 'Enterprise,' Mr. M ^r Rae attorney and proprietor.	On four, (names, &c. given.) There are several others on the point of being established.	On one plantation, 'Anna Regina.' — Stewart, esq., attorney; Robert Mackay, manager.
Nil. (signed) <i>Spry Bartlett,</i> S. J. P.	Labourers frequently speak to me about their houses; but, according to the present law, a magistrate can hardly interfere. It is certainly an anomaly to think that the master is compelled to find his labourer with a bed, and yet not compelled to make his house habitable. (signed) <i>Geo. Killock,</i> S. J. P.	The labourers, particularly since the middle of the month, have worked assiduously, and the district continues in a state of the most perfect tranquillity. (signed) <i>George Ball,</i> S. J. P.	It would promote the happiness of the apprenticed labourers, and increase their confidence in me, if I were empowered to recover small debts. (signed) <i>Thomas Co'eman,</i> S. J. P.

(continued on page 82.)

September 1835.] DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Mac Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.)	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
<p><i>Answers to Question 12.</i></p> <p>One man, John Brittain, complained of being locked up in the hospital of plantation 'Balthayock,' by his manager: on carefully investigating into the matter, I found it to be a malicious complaint.</p>	<p>One complaint, found to be false.</p>	<p><i>Mem.</i>—The death of Mr. Stewart, special justice of this district, accounts for no Report having been received.</p>	<p>Two complaints have been preferred; both frivolous and vexatious.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 13.</i></p> <p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 14.</i></p> <p>Generally the same as before the 1st of August.</p>	<p>Children taken care of in the same manner as when in a state of slavery.</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>On three estates the children are fed out of the allowance due to their parents. On the others they are fed gratuitously from the stores of the estates. On all, women are specially appointed to take care of the children, and they have the advantage of medical assistance and hospital treatment.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Q. 15.</i></p> <p>On almost all the estates there are schools among the labourers themselves, and on several there are teachers engaged, and those at the places of public worship.</p>	<p>On three estates, (names, &c. given).</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>None. The schools which were at Skeldon and Eliza and Mary have been given up.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 16.</i></p> <p>Nil.</p> <p>(signed) <i>George Rose,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>Having been engaged all last month on plantation 'Blairmourt,' I have not visited many estates in the district; merely those near town.</p> <p>(signed) <i>J. Macleod,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>Nil.</p> <p>(signed) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir</i> S. J. P.</p>

(True extracts from the Reports of the Special Justices.)

H. W. Ridley, Private Secretary.

— No. 243. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *James Carmichael Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Camp-House, Demerara, 11 November 1835.

I TAKE the liberty, with every respect, to lay before your Lordship, and, as I trust for your approbation, a copy of a confidential circular letter, which I have deemed it necessary to address to the special justices of this colony, in which their attention is called to several points of considerable importance to the welfare of the apprenticed labourer, and as regards the furtherance of that reciprocal good understanding between the planter and the labourer, so essentially necessary for the permanent interests and happiness of both parties. I am happy to be able to state that the commencement and progress of a much better feeling than hitherto has existed is distinctly visible.

No. 243.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

CIRCULAR AND CONFIDENTIAL.

Sir,

Guiana Public Buildings, 9 November 1835.

IN all cases in which the infliction of corporal punishment may be unavoidable, and a special justice may be under the absolute necessity of directing the same, the punishment must take place in the presence and under the superintendence of the justice by whose authority it is awarded. Upon all such occasions the special justice will pay particular attention to the description and nature of the instrument made use of; and which must, in every particular, correspond with the sealed pattern deposited with the several sheriffs and in the gaols. In some recent cases which have come before me, it has appeared that the offenders have been sent, after having been condemned by a special justice, to the estates to which they were severally attached, to be punished on those estates, under the superintendence of the managers.

Such proceedings are irregular. The mode prescribed in the first of this paragraph is to be scrupulously attended to in future. The lash is, however, (as repeatedly enjoined,) *only* to be resorted to in the case of hardened offenders, with whom every milder species of punishment has been found to be of no avail.

2. I have further to draw the attention of the special justices to the power they possess, under the 13th section of the 5th chapter of the Ordinance No. 43, of fining to the extent of 20 *l.*, and of imprisoning to the extent of one month, in default of the payment of such fine, any employer of an apprenticed labourer who shall whip, beat, imprison, confine in the stocks or otherwise maltreat any such apprenticed labourer. As doubts have been expressed by legal gentlemen whether, under this enactment, the manager can be legally proceeded against, it will be advisable that the question should for the present not be agitated, and the more so as, under the 3d section of the 2d chapter, the manager is clearly liable to a fine of 5 *l.* when convicted of any violation of the Ordinance. I am therefore desirous that in all cases in which a special justice may have to fine a manager or overseer, such fine should be inflicted under the 3d section of the 2d chapter of the Ordinance No. 43.

It will be safer to refer cases which may require a heavier punishment than 5 *l.* to the supreme court, and which can always be done by transmitting the particulars, supported by the necessary affidavits, to the Attorney-general.

I shall take the earliest opportunity of endeavouring to get the law amended; but, until that is done, the safest plan will be to adopt the course I have recommended.

3. The next point to which I wish to draw the attention of the special justices, is to the occasional difference of opinion between the managers and the apprenticed labourers as to the quantity of work to be performed by the latter. I beg to refer the special justices to the 6th article of their printed instructions of the 1st August 1834, and to the second paragraph of the third head of the Report of the 29th May 1834, marked B., attached to their instructions. The special justices will perceive, by reference to the 6th article of their Instructions, that they are the sole and legitimate judges as to the diligence or idleness of the labourer, and that the scale of labour proposed by the committee of planters, to whom it was referred to compile one, is to be considered as a desirable document in aid of the experience and observation of the special justice; and not as a code of rules never to be departed from.

The special justices will further bear in mind that, as stated in the paragraph of the Report already quoted, the scale of work submitted by the planters was considered by them as applicable to effective labourers. The special justices, in all disputes about the quantity of work exacted from the apprenticed labourers, are required to keep the principles I have explained in view, and to frame their decisions accordingly.

4. There are a few estates, and I am happy to be able to say that there are only a few, on which attempts are still made to harass the labourers, and to prevent their deriving any benefit

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benefit from that portion of the day which now legally belongs to them, by either calling upon them to work morning and evening and to lay by in the middle of the day, or else by unnecessarily dividing the whole of them into spells, and compelling the spells to relieve each other at short stated periods.

The remedy to these and all similar abuses is very simple, and is in the hands of the special justice. The law enjoins the performance of seven and a half hours of labour per day by every prædial labourer; but is silent as to the time when the work is to commence, or when to finish. The plain and straightforward meaning and intent of the law is, however, that the apprentice labourer is to have a certain proportion of each day at his own disposal, for his own benefit. All measures tending to deprive him of this advantage are hostile to the spirit and to the purport of the law, and must be resisted by the special justices. The special justice can have nothing to do with the enforcement of the labour at hours which ought to be at the disposal of the labourer. The labourers must afford seven and a half hours of labour, or such an equitable extent of task-work as may be agreed upon between them and the manager, daily to the estate. The special justice is not, however, to suffer the hours of labour to be selected at the caprice of the employer or person acting for him, so as wantonly and unnecessarily to harass the labourer. In these particulars the special justice will exercise his own judgment, taking care, on the one side, that the estate derives the legal advantage of the seven and a half hours of daily labour the labourer is bound to afford; and, on the other, protecting the labourer from all and every restraint or compulsion beyond the performance of the work enjoined by law.

I am, &c.

To each Justice of the Peace
in British Guiana.

(signed)

J. Carmichael Smyth.

— No. 244. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *James Carmichael Smyth*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 12 January 1836.

No. 244.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 11th of November last, enclosing instructions, dated the 9th of that month, and marked "circular and confidential," which you had addressed to the various special justices of British Guiana.

I have read those instructions with the attention due to the importance of the subject, and I do not perceive in them any injudicious or objectionable regulation. So far as it is possible for me to judge, at this distance from the colony, I regard them as very well calculated to promote the great object you had in view; that is, to secure a firm, just and impartial administration of the law for the government of apprenticed labourers.

I have, &c.

(signed)

Glenelg.

— No. 245. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *James Carmichael Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Camp-house, Demerara, 11 Nov. 1835.

No. 245.

(A.)

I VENTURE to express my hope that the accompanying Circular to the three sheriffs of this colony, bringing, as it does, the transactions of the courts of inferior criminal jurisdiction more immediately under the cognizance of the Governor; and affording facilities for the extension of the King's Royal Prerogative of mercy, in cases in which it may be advisable that the clemency of the Crown should be manifested, will meet with your Lordship's approbation. I have in fact only applied an acknowledged principle (already acted upon with respect to the King's supreme criminal court in this province), to His Majesty's inferior criminal court; and in which latter courts an occasional perusal of their proceedings, and when advisable, a remission of their sentences, cannot but be productive of general good.

(B)

2. In the district courts held for the trial of apprenticed labourers, I had already acted upon the principle that the King could remit, either in part or in totality, the sentences of any of his criminal courts; and although my irregular interference (as it was called), created an angry excitement amongst the planters, yet I persevered, and framed my directions to the special justices, who presided in these courts,

accordingly

accordingly. As these district courts are now done away with by His Majesty's Order in Council of _____ and the power they possessed has been transferred to the stipendiary special justices, I only allude to the circumstance to show that I have constantly acted upon the principle I have referred to, and with the happiest success.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth.*

CIRCULAR to the Three Sheriffs.

Government Secretary's Office, Guiana Public Buildings,
14th October 1835.

Sir,

At the conclusion of each session of an inferior criminal court, His Excellency requests that a return may be transmitted to him of the names and stations in life of the several prisoners who may have been tried, the particulars of the crime or offence of which each may have been accused, and (if convicted) the nature and extent of the punishment awarded. The return to be duly signed by your Honor. His Excellency authorizes your Honor, in all cases where corporal punishment may have been sentenced, to suspend the execution of the same, and to report forthwith to the Lieutenant-Governor, whenever it may appear to you that there are grounds for the extension of the King's pardon.

I have, &c.

To his Honor George Bagot,
High Sheriff.

(signed) *H. E. F. Young,*
Government Secretary.

Governor's Apartments, Guiana Public Buildings,
9th September 1835.

Sir,

By virtue of the power and authority vested in me as His Majesty's representative in this province, I do hereby authorize you, or such special justice of the peace as shall in your absence preside at any district court within your district, to suspend (whenever it may appear to you or to such special justice to be advisable) the execution of any sentence awarded by the said court of special justices; reporting to me without delay, and transmitting at full length, the reasons by which you, or he, may have been induced to recommend the offender as a fit object for the exercise of His Majesty's unquestionable prerogative of the power of pardoning.

I have, &c.

To the Chairman of the District Sessions
of the Judicial District (A).

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth.*

— No. 246. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 11 January 1836.

I HAVE received your despatch, dated the 11th of November last, enclosing the copy of a circular letter, addressed by you to the three sheriffs of British Guiana, calling upon them to make periodical reports of all criminal cases upon which they should be called to adjudicate; and to bring under your special notice every such case in which there may be an apparent ground for the exercise of the royal prerogative of mercy.

No. 246.

I do not find in the terms of these instructions anything to which I could object. On the contrary, they appear to me to be correct in principle, and to afford the prospect of material advantage in the dispatch of this branch of the public service. If I do not express a decided and unqualified approbation of the measure, it is merely because I am not aware of the particular circumstances under which these orders may have been promulgated, and because I cannot but remember, that a proceeding of this nature may derive much of its significancy from the occasion, whatever it may have been, which gave it birth.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

BRITISH
GUIANA.

— No. 247. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *James Carmichael Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Camp-house, Demerara, 11 Nov. 1835.

No. 247.
Ordinance, No. 64,
printed in the
Appendix, No. 106.

I BEG to lay before your Lordship, in the hopes that His Majesty will be graciously pleased to signify his royal approbation thereof, an Ordinance (No. 64), for the more speedy recovery of debts not exceeding the sum of 5 *l.* sterling. An Ordinance to the above effect has been long wanted, and His Majesty's approbation of the same will be a great boon to the poorer classes of the community of this province.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

— No. 248. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 30 January 1836.

No. 248.

I HAVE received your Despatch, dated 11 November 1835, enclosing an Ordinance passed by yourself, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy of British Guiana, entitled "An Ordinance for the more speedy recovery of debts not exceeding the sum of 5 *l.* sterling."

His Majesty has been graciously pleased to confirm and allow this Ordinance.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 249. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *James Carmichael Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Camp-house, Demerara, 12 Nov. 1835.

No. 249.

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 22d July, I have the honour to lay before your Lordship a precis of the reports from my 15 stipendiary justices for the month of October.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

EPITOME of the MONTHLY REPORTS from the FIFTEEN STIPENDIARY SPECIAL JUSTICES in *British Guiana*, for the Month of *October 1835*.

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>C. J. Strutt, Esq.</i>	
1. Are the labourers in your district civil, contented, and cheerful?	Not in general. I have visited 17 estates.	They are so with the exception of a portion of them on the 'Cove and John.'	Visited twenty-nine estates (names given) during the month.
2. Have they performed their work during the last month with alacrity and good will?	The work has not been generally done with good will.	With the above exception, they have.	They have performed their work with alacrity and good will, on all the estates, with the exception of four.
3. Has the work on any estate been unwillingly or not readily performed? If yes—have the goodness to name the estate, the proprietor, or his attorney, and the manager, in order that an enquiry may be forthwith instituted into the causes which may have led to such conduct.	It has not been readily performed on plantations 'Spring Hall,' John Jones, attorney; Robert Trotman, manager;—'Helena,' Geo. Rainey, attorney; W. Frazer, manager;—'La bonne Mere,' G. C. Bell, attorney; K. M. Sutherland, manager;—'Good Hope,' John Douglas, attorney; Peter Innes, manager;—'Broom Hall,' W. Booker, attorney and manager.	The work has not been willingly performed by the gang employed on the 'Cove and John' in tying and relieving trash. The cane cutters were troublesome at first, but a few slight punishments, and a few severe reprimands, have had the desired effect, and they are now doing better. Mr. Hopkinson, proprietor; and Mr. Black, manager.	On plantations 'Enterprise,' 'Lusignam,' 'Vryherd's Lust,' and 'Kitty,' the work has not been readily performed. The first, — Grant, esq. attorney; E. Lynch, manager;—the second, — Spencer, esq. manager and J. C. Lund;—the third is under sequestration, George Rainy, esq. and A. Simpson, esq. manager;—D. Ross, the fourth, N. M. Manger, esq. proprietor; J. Durdier, manager.
4. Is task-work generally resorted to within your district? or do the labourers prefer working the 7½ hours per day, as fixed by law?	Task-work is in general voluntarily resorted to by the apprenticed labourers; who, however, occasionally prefer the 7½ hours.	Not generally. The labourers prefer working the 7½ hours on the estates in my district, with the exception of those on 'Chapman's Grove,' where they are doing task-work.	Task-work is generally resorted to in this district.
5. What are the working hours most generally in use in your district? Are there any estates in your district on which the labourers are compelled to lay by for two or three hours in the middle of the day, and then to complete their seven hours and a half in the afternoon, (by which division of their labour they have little or no time to themselves)—if yes, have the goodness to name the estates, proprietors or attorneys, and the managers.	When task-work is not resorted to, the hours of labour in most general use are from seven to eleven, and one to half-past four p. m., this is the case on six estates; and from seven to eleven, and half-past one to five o'clock, this is the case on five estates. On plantation 'Fellowsh' and 'Farm,' the forty-five hours per week is performed in five days and nine hours per day; as also by the labourers employed in Messrs. Rogers' boat-building establishment.	The hours in use are from seven to eleven, and from one to half-past four. The names of the estates are 'Doch-four,' 'Cove and John,' 'Ann's Grove,' 'Beehive.' At Greenfield they work the 7½ hours off, without resting in the day, and the same is the case at the 'Hope,' and at 'Chapman's Grove.'	From six o'clock to one and two. On no estate are the labourers compelled to lay by for two or three hours in the middle of the day. There has been one instance of the apprentice preferring a division of labour, but this only for a week or ten days. They then resumed their labour as usual.

(continued on page 88.)

October 1835.		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN.	RIVER.	UPPER RIVER.	Captain J. A. Allen.	
W. J. Brittain, Esq. (acting.)	Captain Delafons, R.N.	George Ross, Esq.		
Answers to Question 1.	I refer with pleasure to the continued decrease, both in corporal chastisements and the number of convictions, as appears by the answer to Question 10, as a proof of the increasing good conduct of the apprenticed labourers in this town. To this question, therefore, I can answer in the affirmative.	Yes, generally, with some exceptions. Five estates (names given) have been visited this month.	In general they are. I have visited ten estates and the hospitals on them during the month. Except on the plantations indicated in No. 3, the apprenticed labourers with whom I have conversed appear to be contented.	Yes, with few exceptions. I visited twenty-four estates (names given) during the month, on none of which were any complaints made by the apprenticed labourers, plantation 'Maria's Lodge' excepted.
Answers to Question 2.	On the ground above stated, I can say that they have.	Generally they have—some exceptions.	With as much alacrity and good will as might reasonably be expected from people circumstanced as they are.	Yes, in most instances.
Answers to Question 3.	Not applicable to this town.	No, generally. There are idle apprentices, who have been repeatedly brought before me for transgressions and not performing their duty, as will be seen by my monthly reports of punishments.	On plantations 'Little Drummond,' 'Friendship' and 'Garden of Eden,' the work has been unwillingly performed. I hope to be able to erase plantation 'Friendship' from the list of discontented estates in my next Report; but to counterbalance that, some symptoms of dissatisfaction begin to manifest themselves on plantation 'Profit,' H. Dunkin, manager; Arch. Macqueen, administrator.	The work has not been readily performed for part of the month on plantation 'Maria's Lodge,' Messrs. Lane & Paul, attorneys; T. Johnson, manager; 'Clantilly,' A. Stevenson, proprietor; C. H. Jones, manager.
Answers to Question 4.	Few in this town work by task. Most of them are domestics, tradesmen, porters, &c. and work for nine hours.	They work the 7½ hours per day, as fixed by law.	Task-work is for the most part resorted to.	Task-work in almost every instance, is resorted to. The labourers would generally prefer working 7½ hours, if permitted to do so, without resting.
Answers to Question 5.	I have not heard of any vexatious divisions of the hours of labour in this town.	From seven a.m. until half-past 2 p.m. There are some few exceptions to the above in females who repair to the field later, consequently remain later.	Generally from seven to half-past two. On plantation 'Profit' the manager has again insisted on breaking off the gang in the middle of the day.	Labour usually commences at seven, and continues until a certain given quantity of work has been completed, with or without resting. Where no proper understanding exists between employer and employed on this subject, the hours which I have laid down for labour are from seven to eleven o'clock, and from twelve to half-past three; being seven and a-half hours.

DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlet, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>Captain Coleman.</i>
I have during the month visited the hospitals on five estates, names given. The apprenticed labourers appear contented, cheerful and civil.	Perfectly so. I have visited the hospitals of 22 estates on Leguan, 19 on Waakenham, and three on Hag Island, comprising the whole of the estates in this district.	They are very generally so. I have visited 11 estates, names given, and the hospitals thereon. The sick are not numerous, and appear to be well taken care of.	Yes, generally. I visited 14 estates (names given) and the hospitals thereon during the month.
With very few exceptions, the labourers have performed their work with alacrity and goodwill.	Yes.	They have on every estate in this district.	Yes, generally.
If an exception could be made, I must name plantation 'Nouvelle Flandres;' but this is with respect only to the men employed hauling the punts. A remedy will be found by purchasing oxen. Mr. Lane, attorney. Mr. Murray, manager.	No.	The work has not been unwillingly performed, on any estate in this district.	Yes, on plantation 'Caledonia;' the Hon. George Rainey, attorney; John M'Pherson, manager.
Generally throughout the district.	Task-work is general, and preferred by the labourers.	Task-work is generally resorted to and preferred.	Task-work is generally resorted to in this district.
The bell rings on most estates at seven, and the labourers usually remain until their task is finished.	The working hours are from about six to twelve, one, two, three, four, five and six, according to circumstances and the bargain made. Upon no estates are the labourers compelled to lay by in the middle of the day.	They go to work at half-past six or seven, and finish at their option. They are not compelled to lay by in the middle of the day on any estate in this district.	Generally from 7 A. M. to 2 P. M. There are no estates in this district to which the latter part of this question applies.

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October 1835.] DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq. (acting).</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Macleod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Ryck de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
Answers to Question 1. { Generally they are; during the month I have been on every estate in the district; on some two, three and four times, and in most of the hospitals.	I consider they are at present. I have visited every estate in the district. No complaints were made.	During the month I have visited 13 estates and their hospitals (names, &c. given), and have found the labourers civil, tolerably contented and cheerful.	I have visited all the estates, except 'Eliza and Mary' and 'Skeldon,' during the month. The labourers in general are civil, contented and cheerful.
Answers to Question 2. { Yes, generally.	Generally.	In general they have.	Yes, with few exceptions.
Answers to Question 3. { No, except by a few.	Plantation 'Lonsdale,' Wm. Henry and P. N. Mac-kay. Plantation 'New Forest,' Richardson and Grimmond; Grimmond, manager. Plantation 'Friends,' William Forsyth; James Forsyth, manager. The women on plantation 'Highbury;' J. Alves; J. Junor, manager.	Generally it has not; in the best gangs they are idle and indifferent characters, as may be seen from the proceedings during the month; such of course excepted.	No.
Answers to Question 4. { Yes, it is generally preferred by the labourers.	It is. On no estate have the labourers to work the 7½ hours. On several estates the Saturday in each week is given.	Task-work is most generally preferred by the apprenticed labourers; they work it diligently, and in so doing are early at home, some at one, some at two o'clock.	A specified portion of work is usually allotted to each labourer.
Answers to Question 5. { From 7 A. M. to half-past two, and in many instances as early as half-past twelve or one o'clock, and generally optional whether they rest or not during their task.	From 7 A. M. till the day's labour is performed.	As the labourers in general prefer task-work, they finish it as it suits themselves; they are not controuled in that. The bell is rung or shell blown at the usual time, however, to mark the time.	Work is generally commenced about seven o'clock, and the labourers return when they have completed their portions of specified work.

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>C. J. Strutt, Esq.</i>	
6. Do the labourers on any estate in your district perform extra labour for hire? If yes, name the estates, the rate of wages for extra work, and state how and when the payments are made, and if extra work is not performed for wages, state if reasonable wages have been offered, with weekly payment. If reasonable wages and prompt payment have been offered and rejected, state to what cause you attribute the refusal on the part of the labourers.	The labourers employed in the manufacture of sugar invariably perform extra labour for hire, earning from six bits to two guilders per week, and occasionally a dollar; the payments are made on demand. No offer has been made to the field-labourers to induce them to perform extra labour.	On the 'Bee-hive Estate,' the labourers are performing extra work for hire; the rate of wages is two guilders per week, which will be paid to them monthly. The labourers employed in the building houses on all the estates in my district, receive an allowance in money, varying from two to four guilders per week.	In the manufacture of sugar, picking coffee and cotton, they perform extra labour for hire; the sugar plantations pay two stivers per hour; picking coffee ten stivers for one basket, over the two they expected to give their employer. The payments are weekly and monthly: the great difficulty in procuring small money obliges the proprietor or manager to pay sometimes monthly.
7. Have there been any instances of insubordination, or any attempt to resist authority, by force, in your district? If there have been any, name the estates on which such occurrences have taken place.	In one instance on plantation, 'Spring-hall,' the apprenticed labourer guilty of this offence set the authority of the constables at defiance.	None.	On plantation 'Kitty,' 31st October inst. about twenty-five women, apprenticed labourers, conducted themselves in a most unruly manner, in attempting to rescue four men convicted by me of conspiring not to perform their work, and sentenced to be punished by whipping.
8. In the event of any disposition having been manifested by any of the labourers to neglect their work, or to behave rudely to those in authority over them, has such misconduct been so general as to induce you to attribute it to any combination or conspiracy?—or is it only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that you have had complaints made?	The neglect of work has been so general on plantations 'Spring-hall,' 'Helena,' 'Good Hope,' and 'Broom-hall,' that I have been compelled to attribute it combination.	I should say certainly, that there must be a combination among a portion of the labourers on 'Cove and John.' I cannot discover the motive for such combination at present. It is, however, very evident that they could do a proper portion of work if they were so disposed. I have hitherto avoided resorting to severe corporal punishment. An example or two will, I think, have the desired effect.	On plantation 'Kitty,' the women have attempted to set all authority at defiance; the whole have combined together not to perform their work.
9. Has the attendance of the prædial labourers at church, and of the children at school, been regular, and to the full accommodation afforded them under the local circumstances of your district.	The attendance of the labourers at church has not been equal to the accommodation afforded them. That of their children at school has been to the full of the very limited opportunities open to them.	There are neither chapels or schools unfortunately in my portion of the district; many, however, go to the church at 'Euart,' as well as to that at Mahaica.	The attendance of the labourers at church this month has not been so good. I attribute this to many of them going to Mr. Ketley's chapel (only three estates from the church) that has been erected about three weeks; the attendance of the children at school has been the same as usual.
10. Have you, individually, as a magistrate, and has the court over which you preside, been under the necessity of ordering punishment by whipping during the preceding month?—and, if answered in the affirmative, state the number of delinquents so punished, and the extent of punishment awarded in each case.	Eight: one, 12 stripes; two, 15 each; one, 20; one, 21; three, 25 each.	Six: one, 15 stripes; five, 10 each.	Seven: two, 25 stripes each; three, 20 each: two, 30 each.
11. Has any manager, overseer, or other person in authority over the prædial labourers, been fined or otherwise punished by the court over which you preside during the preceding month, for misconduct towards any labourer or labourers? Have there been any instances of the labourers having been detained at work beyond the legal hours?—and, in such case, has the shilling per hour for each individual labourer been levied?	The manager of plantation 'Spring-hall,' was fined 30s. for preferring a frivolous complaint.	None.	None.

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October 1835.]		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN.	RIVER.	U P P E R R I V E R.	Captain <i>Allen</i> .	
<i>W. J. Brittain, Esq., (acting,)</i>	Captain <i>Delafons, R. N.</i>	<i>George Ross, Esq.</i>		
Answers to Question 6.	Not applicable to this division of the district.	None, but in the manufacture of sugar.	Extra work for hire is generally performed about the boiling-houses, at the rate of one and a half to two bits a day; payment prompt. In the field extra work for hire is rarely performed.	The statement respecting extra work, wages and mode of payment, has not varied in any particular since the report of last month, where the whole was fully detailed.
Answers to Question 7.	No instance of combined or violent resistance to authority has come to my knowledge.	None.	At plantation 'Little Diamond,' some of the gang behaved riotously on the 29th October, instant, and resisted the authority of the constables.	There has been an instance of insubordination in not staying the legal number of hours in the field, and disobeying signals, by part of the gang of plantation 'Maria's Lodge,' but no attempt to resist authority by force.
Answers to Question 8.	All the complaints during the month have been against individuals for absence from, or neglecting their work, and these are diminishing in number, and general extent and delinquency.	Where such conduct is visible, I attribute it to the idle and disorderly.— <i>Vide</i> reply, No. 3.	There has been no regular combination or conspiracy.	I attributed the above misconduct to a combination on the part of the labourers, to induce the manager to allow their working the seven and a half hours, without any interval of rest. There were, however, some well grounded complaints against the manager, which originally led to this irregularity.
Answers to Question 9.	The means for affording education and attendance at divine service are extending in this town, and the attendance of apprenticed labourers on both appears to increase in the same proportion.	Yes.	The attendance at church and school has been regular, but there is room for improvement in the system of education.	The attendance of the parodial labourers at St. Mark's church, and of their children at school there, has not varied since last month. Neither has been equal to the local accommodation.
Answers to Question 10.	One, 20 stripes. The total number of convictions during the month was 20.	I have purposely avoided inflicting the lash; yet I fear there are two or three idle and unruly apprentices that richly merit it.—None.	I have not.	Three: one, 25 stripes; two, 15 stripes.
Answers to Question 11.	None.	None.	The manager of plantation 'Friendship' has been fined by me, for illegally confining in the stocks, and also for assaulting some of the apprenticed labourers attached to that estate.	One employer has been fined 3 <i>l.</i> this month, for an assault upon his apprentice. There has been no complaint from any labourer of having been detained beyond the legal hours.

<p>DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (H.) <i>Captain Coleman.</i></p>
<p>Only about the buildings, such as boilermen, engineers, firemen, &c.; they are generally paid weekly in silver, at two stivers per hour.</p>	<p>Upon every estate the labourers perform extra labour for hire. Upon some estates the whole gang is paid; on others only those about the buildings. The wages are from one bit to three guilders per week. The payments are made at the end of one, two, three, four and five months.</p>	<p>Extra labour for hire is now very generally performed. The rate of wages is generally from one guilder to 1½ per diem, according to the nature of the work. They are generally paid monthly; but on some estates the labourers prefer being paid quarterly.</p>	<p>Yes, on almost all the estates, at the rate of from three to six guilders per week, paid weekly, except when change cannot be procured.</p>
<p>None of any consequence.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>Nothing of this kind of the least importance has occurred.</p>	<p>There have been some instances of insubordination; but no attempt to resist authority by force.</p>
<p>It is generally the same idle and disorderly people against whom complaints are made.</p>	<p>It is only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that complaints are made.</p>	<p>Solely with regard to the latter.</p>	<p>There have been many complaints made against idle and disorderly apprentices; but such misconduct has not been so general as to induce me to attribute it to any combination or conspiracy.</p>
<p>The Rev. (name omitted) has of late frequently attended at plantation 'Hague,' and performed Divine Service to a large congregation. Mr. Scott's church and school are well attended.</p>	<p>The churches and schools are always well attended. The churches in this district do not afford accommodation for one-half of the population of the district. There is a great want of schools.</p>	<p>As regular as usual, and to the full extent.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Nine. { One - 12 stripes. Ditto 15 ditto. Six - 20 ditto each. One - 30 stripes.</p>	<p>One - - - 39 stripes.</p>	<p>Eight { One - 25 stripes. Four - 20 ditto each. Two - 15 ditto. One - 12 stripes.</p>	<p>Eight { Four 15 stripes each. Three 20 ditto. One 30 ditto.</p>
<p>King, a constable, compromised an assault by paying to complainant 20 dollars.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>One person (an employer) has been fined for striking an apprenticed labourer in his service.</p>	<p>Yes; the Manager of plantation 'Caledonia' was allowed to compromise for an assault on an apprenticed labourer by payment to him of 44 guilders; and an overseer of plantation 'Anna Regina' was allowed the same on payment to the apprenticed labourer of three guilders.</p>

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October 1835. DISTRICT (L.) <i>George Rose, Esq. (acting.)</i>	DISTRICT (K). <i>John M'Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Ryck de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
<p><i>Answers to Question 6.</i></p> <p>Offers to hire for extra labour are not general; occasionally on the sugar estates boilermen and firemen perform it, and at present some of the cotton estates have hired labourers to prepare the last crop. Paid weekly, or when asked for.</p>	<p>On all estates the persons employed about the buildings; average rate of wages two bits. On plantation 'New Forest' the women cut canes for hire, receiving six bits for two 7-foot cords. On plantation 'Lochaber' and 'Sandvoat' many of the males did trench-work, and earned at the rate of six bits per day. Also on plantation 'Philadelphia' seven, and 'Adelphe' on same terms.</p>	<p>Yes; the labourers are hired either to the properties they belong to, or to other neighbouring estates, for reasonable wages and prompt payment.</p>	<p>Very little extra labour for hire is performed, except occasionally at 'Skeldon.' The rate of wages varies according to the kind of work required; payments are made weekly. Reasonable wages, with weekly payments, have been offered for field labour and rejected. I attribute the refusal to a disinclination on the part of the labourers to do extra labour for hire, unless they get high wages, &c.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 7.</i></p> <p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 8.</i></p> <p>Only of a few idle and disorderly that I have had complaints made.</p>	<p>Yes, on plantation 'Lonsdale,' and amongst the young men on plantation 'New Forest.'</p>	<p>As far as my experience goes (being only one month in the district) such combination and conspiracy exist generally only amongst a few idle and disorderly apprenticed labourers; and such, after a fair trial, are set to right in the pale of Ordinance No. 43.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 9.</i></p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>It has.</p>	<p>I have heard nothing to the contrary. The Rev. J. Ross is gone to Europe for the benefit of his health, and occasionally Divine Service is now performed by a minister, though every Sunday Mr. Henery, the catechist, reads to the congregation.</p>	<p>The attendance at Divine Service, for the church is not yet finished, has been as regular and full as under present circumstances could have been expected.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 10.</i></p> <p>One - - 25 stripes.</p>	<p>Fourteen { One - 39 stripes. Four - 30 ditto each. Ditto 20 ditto. Five - 15 ditto.</p>	<p>Seven { Two 25 stripes each. Five 39 ditto.</p>	<p>Four { Two 20 stripes each. Two 12 ditto.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 11.</i></p> <p>No.</p>	<p>No complaint preferred.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>C. H. Strutt, Esq.</i>	
12. Have any complaints been preferred to you during the last month, from any apprenticed labourers, respecting their clothing, food, treatment, or upon any subject? In the event of any complaints having been made to you, have you carefully investigated into the matters and caused justice to be rendered to the parties as far as it was in your power? State the number and the nature of the complaints, which may have been preferred to you in general terms.	Yes, respecting the hours of labour; also respecting the quantity of labour required from them when they choose task-work, and respecting the sentences of a special justice of the peace.	I have had complaints respecting the destruction of some pigs belonging to a labourer at 'Anne's Grove;' I think I shall not be able to do anything in the matter, as the pigs were trespassing at the time. In consequence of the absence of some of the parties I cannot investigate the case until next week. I will however take care that justice shall be done to the injured party.	There have been some complaints relative to work, and also saying they are sick when reported by the medical attendant of the estates fit for work. On one estate the labourers complained of not having the three pounds of fish. I found that the right quantity had been divided between them, but ordered it to be weighed separately.
13. Have any of the free-children upon any of the estates in your district been bound apprentices during the last month? If yes, name the estates upon which such occurrences have taken place, and state if the transactions were with the free consent and approbation of the parents of the children.	None.	There have been none.	None.
14. How are the children fed and taken care of on the estates in your district? Are they fed from the stores of the estates gratuitously, and is an additional quantity of salt fish and plantains issued for them? or are they fed out of the allowance due to their parents? When their mothers are at work in the field, is a woman specially appointed to take care of their young children, and exempted from all other duty? Are the children when unwell allowed the advantage of the medical assistance and hospital treatment of the estate in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery?	The children are invariably provided for, as when in a state of slavery, with the exception of those of plantation 'Woodlands,' who do not receive an allowance of fish. Medical assistance and hospital treatment are furnished gratuitously. A nurse is always found to take care of them when their parents are at labour.	The children are fed gratuitously. There are women appointed to take care of the young children. They are allowed medical assistance, the same as when in a state of slavery.	The children are fed and taken care of in the same manner as when in a state of slavery. Women are specially appointed to take care of the children when their mothers are at work in the field. On all the estates they have the same medical treatment as formerly.
15. On how many estates in your district are schools established? Name the estates, proprietors, and managers of estates having schools.	None. There is but one in the district, kept at the Wesleyan Mission-house, Mahaica.	Unfortunately, there are none in my portion of the district.	No increase or decrease in the schools since my former report.
16. Are there any remarks or observations which you may wish to convey to the Lieutenant-Governor, connected with the peace, tranquillity, and happiness of the district under your superintendance? If yes, state the same.	None.	Nil.	The district is very quiet, with the exception of plantation 'Kitty.' There has been a decrease in the corporal punishments, and also 47 convictions less than last month.

(continued on page 96.)

(signed) *K. Heyland,*
S. J. P.

(signed) *C. H. Strutt,*
S. J. P.

(signed) *A. M. Lyons,*
S. J. P.

October 1835.		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN.	RIVER.	UPPER RIVER.	Captain Allen.	
<i>W. J. Brittain, Esq. (acting).</i>	Captain <i>Delafons, R.N.</i>	<i>George Ross, Esq.</i>		
Answers to Question 12. { None	None decided by me, but one has been handed over to His Majesty's Attorney-general, being a complaint against an apprenticed labourer on plantation 'Ruimveld' for defrauding three young women of nine joes, left by their father in the keeping of this man.	Five complaints have been made for confining in the stocks, and three for beating or assaulting. I have investigated the cases, and done justice to the parties as far as was in my power.	Fourteen, all of which were substantiated, have been redressed, or are in progress of being so.	
Answers to Q. 13. { None.	None.	None.	No free children have been bound apprentices last month.	
Answers to Question 14. { As far as my limited means of information on this subject go, I have generally found that opulent employers support these free children, while poorer employers throw the burden of their support wholly on the mothers.	Fed from the stores of the estates gratuitously, and women are specially appointed to take care of the young children, and when they are unwell are freely admitted into the hospital.	Except on plantations 'Little Diamond,' 'Friendship,' 'Garden of Eden,' and 'Prosperity,' the children have an extra allowance of provisions. There are no exceptions on the score of medical attendance and the providing of nurses, except one solitary instance on plantation 'Friendship.'	Children are usually fed by an allowance of fish and plantains, unless when very young, in which case the mothers receive a little barley, rice, or sugar in lieu. A nurse is appointed for the young children, and they are reported to receive medical attentions as when in a state of slavery.	
Answers to Question 15. { This question does not apply to the Town.	Rome and Honston.	There are two schools, one on plantation 'Perseverance,' and the parish school at Peter's Hall.	Schools are established & instruction given on several estates. (Names &c. given.)	
Answers to Question 16. { (signed) <i>W. J. Brittain,</i> S. J. P.	I wish to draw his Excellency's attention to the improvement amongst the females, viz. that out of 50 complaints brought before me this month, 11 are the first time, three of whom were either pardoned at the request of the accuser or admonished by myself. (signed) <i>Thos. Delafons,</i> S. J. P.	Recommends a constabulary force, which would be more satisfactory to the apprenticed labourers. (signed) <i>George Ross,</i> S. J. P.	It is desirable that strict regulations be established by law for the care, diet and general treatment of the apprenticed labourers when sick, and that all hospitals be placed on one uniform footing with regard to internal regulations and superintendence. (signed) <i>J. A. Allen,</i> S. J. P.	

DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>Captain Coleman.</i>
None.	No.	No complaints have been made, except that before stated.	Yes, two, as stated in the answer to the last question; and one of A. L. Mina, of plantation 'Mainstay,' against the manager, for keeping her in solitary confinement without legal authority: undetermined, one of the principal witnesses being absent. Mina states she has no complaint to make against the manager, and never authorized her sister to make any.
None.	No.	None have been thus bound.	No, none.
On plantations 'Hague,' 'Groenveld' and 'Met en Muzog,' no fund or doctor allowed to the unapprenticed children. 'Anna Catherina,' 'William,' 'Vrees en Hoop' and 'Best,' no food, but doctor allowed. All the estates allow nurses.	The children are treated as formerly, except upon 'Success,' (of which Mr. Jones is proprietor), where they have no allowance of food, but provided with medical attendance; and upon 'Bellefield' and 'Vertrower,' (owned by Mr. Bovel), where they have neither an allowance of food nor medical attendance found to them.	All the children are fed and taken care of in every respect in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery.	The same as before, and no complaints.
On six estates.	There is a school on 'Meerzog,' Wakenhaam, of which Mr. Bishop is attorney. Plantations 'Endeavour' and 'Enterprise,' of which Mr. M'Rae is proprietor and attorney, and 'Waterloo' and 'Macquille,' of which Mr. Noble is proprietor and attorney, have two schools between them.	At present on four only, (names, &c. given); but several others are in progress.	On one only, plantation 'Anna Regina,' — Stewart, Esq., attorney, and Robert Mackay, manager.
Nil.	If the labourers on the different estates could be paid weekly, it would have the effect of teaching them the value of money and of labour, of which they do not appear to have a proper idea at present.	The apprenticed labourers in this district have behaved extremely well, and worked with much assiduity during the month.	None, but what have been before submitted.
(signed) <i>Spry Bartlett,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>Geo. Killock,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>Geo. Ball,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>Thos. Coleman,</i> S. J. P.

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October 1835.] DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq. (acting.)</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Macleod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Ryck de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. M. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
Answers to Question 12. No.	No complaints.	None of the least importance, and found, after a careful investigation, to be frivolous.	A complaint was preferred by an apprenticed labourer against the head overseer at plantation 'Alness,' for striking him. The case is fully reported in my record of complaints herewith transmitted. As is also a complaint against Mr. Cort, proprietor of plantation 'Hampshire,' respecting clothing and food.
Answers to Q. 13. No.	None.	No.	No.
Answers to Question 14. Generally the same as before the 1st of August 1834.	The children are taken care of, and receive the same treatment as when in a state of slavery.	On most of the estates in this district the children under six years of age have a gratuitous allowance of food and of medical attendance.	On three estates the children are fed out of the allowance due to their parents; on the others they are fed gratuitously from the stores of the estates. On all, women are specially appointed to take care of the children, and they have the advantage of medical assistance and hospital treatment.
Answers to Question 15. On most of the estates there are schools among the labourers themselves; on several there are teachers engaged, and those at the places of worship.	On four estates, (names, &c. given).	On six estates, which are enumerated.	None.
Answers to Question 16. Nil. (signed) <i>George Rose,</i> S. J. P.	I am happy to state that the labourers on plantation 'Lonsdale' are now performing their work to the satisfaction of their employers. A decided improvement has taken place on plantations 'Friends' and 'New Forest.' (signed) <i>John Macleod,</i> S. J. P.	None at present. (signed) <i>A. Van Ryck de Groot,</i> S. J. P.	Nil. (signed) <i>J. O. M. Lockhart Muir,</i> S. J. P.

(True extracts from the monthly reports of the special justices.)

H. W. Ridley, Private Secretary.

— No. 250. —

GUIANA.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *J. C. Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 250.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 13th November 1835.

IN the Despatch of the 9th August, which I had the honour to address to your Lordship, I presumed to point out several of the immediate, as well as the prospective advantages which this colony might be expected to derive from the operation of His Majesty's Order in Council of the 24th June 1835, confining the cognizance of all matters between the apprenticed labourers and their employers to the special justices ordered here from Europe. I am happy to be able to assert that (as yet) my anticipations have been completely realized; the good conduct, industry and subordination of the labourers throughout the whole of this province cannot be exceeded by the same number of people in any part of the world. On every estate on which the labourers have been complained of, it has invariably appeared (upon investigation) that the attornies or managers had either shot their pigs, grubbed up their provision grounds, insisted upon the daily labour being performed at such intervals, so as to allow the labourer no benefit from his change, or, by the commission of some injudicious act of a similar tendency, deprived themselves of all claim upon the confidence of the apprenticed labourer, and created an angry and discontented feeling. Happily, however, there are now but few attornies or managers who are not convinced of the error of this system; and the happiness and cheerfulness prevalent throughout the colony, together with the quantity of sugar and other produce manufactured and daily exported, are irrefragable proofs of the prosperity of this province, and of the complete superiority and triumph of mild measures over the harsh, degrading and revolting conduct (formerly) judged indispensable.

I had the honour to lay before you with my Despatch, 11th November, a copy of a confidential circular, which I deemed it proper to address to the stipendiary magistrates on the 9th inst. Your Lordship will perceive that I have availed myself of the earliest opportunity of the additional authority and influence which (in consequence of the removal of the colonial special justices) have devolved upon me, to redress one or two of those grievances which the apprenticed labourers were liable to suffer, and of which they occasionally complained. The regulations I have prescribed relative to the mode of carrying sentences into execution, as also the explanations afforded to the special justice, upon the two important points of the quantity of labour and the hours at which the same is to be performed, will, I trust, remove a good deal of occasional heart-burning and disputes. I have now respectfully to draw your Lordship's attention to several additional errors or omissions in our law, but which, without your Lordship's interference and support, cannot, I am afraid, be so speedily and so effectually rectified as could be wished.

The first point to which I have to request your Lordship's attention is the wording of the 13th section of the 5th chapter of the Ordinance (No. 43) for the government of the apprenticed labourers in this colony. In that section it is enacted, that if any employer shall whip, beat, imprison, confine in the stocks, &c. any labourer, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding 20 *l.*, or, in default of payment, to an imprisonment not exceeding one month. As in a subsequent enactment in the same Ordinance, viz. the 2d section of the 12th chapter, the word "employer" is defined to mean the person who would be entitled to the possession of the apprenticed labourer (were such apprenticed labourer still in a state of slavery), it follows, if this definition is held to be legal, no attorney or manager would be liable to the penalties of the enactment I have alluded to; and that the enactment itself must consequently be considered as illusive and fallacious, insomuch as there are but few persons resident in this colony answering to the definition of the word employer as detailed in the Ordinance. I take the liberty of requesting that this error may be remedied by an Order of His Majesty in Council. Under letter (A.) I have enclosed two short paragraphs, which I humbly conceive would effectually remove all difficulties upon this head.

The next error in the Ordinance (No. 43) to which I have to solicit your Lordship's attention is the omission of any rules for the guidance of the appraisers who (under the 6th section of the 7th chapter of the said Ordinance) are to value the remaining services of any apprenticed labourer who may be desirous of purchasing his immediate emancipation. The appraisers, for want of some such guide to refer to, have hitherto valued the services of the apprenticed labourers at so high a rate as to cause serious inconvenience and discontent amongst such

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of the labouring class as have been able to save a little money, and effectually to deter many from purchasing their freedom who, at a more moderate price, would gladly have availed themselves of this method of procuring immediate emancipation. It appears to me (I beg respectfully to state) that there are sufficient data to form a just and equitable scale, by which apprenticed labourers in possession of moderate means might be enabled to purchase their freedom. The Central Commissioners of Compensation have calculated the average value of a slave in British Guiana, on the 1st August 1834, at 114*l.* 11*s.* 5½*d.* The share of the compensation allotted to British Guiana affords, however, only 51*l.* 17*s.* 7½*d.* per head. If the slave proprietor had received 114*l.* 11*s.* 5½*d.*, and the slave had been immediately taken from him, he would have had no cause of complaint, as he (in such a case) would have received the full value of the property of which he was deprived. He receives, however, 51*l.* 17*s.* 7½*d.*, and he is to have the services of the labourer for six years. It appears to me, consequently, that the difference between the sum at which his slave was valued and the amount actually to be paid him represents the pecuniary value of the services he is to receive for the six years of the apprenticeship. This sum is, of course, liable to a diminution in proportion to the length of the period of the apprenticeship which may have passed away at the time when the apprenticed labourer wishes to purchase his freedom. There would, of course, be two scales required, one for prædial and one for non-prædial labourers, as one year's service from an apprentice of the latter description is worth one year and a half of service from one of the former. I do not think there would be any practical difficulty in constructing the scales I have proposed; and if, without too strictly limiting the appraisers, they were furnished, by the authority of an Order in Council, with a maximum and minimum to assist their judgments, such a measure would not only be a great boon to the apprenticed labourers, but it would be a wise and politic measure. The greater the number of apprenticed labourers who may gradually obtain their freedom before the 1st August 1840, the less will be the extent of the political shock which, when that period arrives, must more or less be expected.

In my Despatch of the 12th of October, I have already submitted to your Lordship the propriety of the habitations of the labourers, as also all hospitals in which they are taken care of, being at all reasonable hours open to the special justice, as also to the minister and licensed catechist of any sect of the Christian religion whom the labourer may wish to see and converse with. On this subject I have nothing further to add. Several of the special justices have suggested to me the propriety of an enactment by which it may be made compulsory on the proprietors, or, in his absence, his attorney, to keep the houses and buildings allotted for the use of the labourers in good and sufficient repair; and if the labourers of the estate are employed for the purpose, the work to be done during the seven hours and a half of labour due to the estate, and not out of the labourers' own time. In the justice of this suggestion I quite agree.

The last, but certainly not the least important measure which I feel it my duty respectfully to propose to your Lordship, is one connected with the Ordinance (No. 42.) The Ordinance (No. 42) passed in this colony on the 8th of February 1834, and approved of by His Majesty on the 6th of June 1834, relates to the classification and registration of slaves hereafter to become apprenticed labourers. This Ordinance directs the classification returns to be prepared and sent in to the registrar on or before the 1st of May; allows the month of May for the presentation of complaints and remonstrances as to erroneous classifications, and leaves June and July as the period during which the judges of the supreme court were to hear and decide summarily upon all such matters. The seventh section of the said Ordinance declares, that every decision of such court respectively shall be final and conclusive; and the eighth section enacts, that "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." That returns prepared in such a hurried manner should contain many accidental errors, it is easily to be imagined. It is moreover to be borne in mind, that the words "prædial attached, prædial unattached and non-prædial" were perfectly unintelligible to the mass of the labouring population, and indeed in very many instances were not clearly comprehended by the managers and attorneys. Under these circumstances, I do not wish in the slightest degree to disturb these registration and classification lists, as far as the pecuniary interests of the parties concerned may be involved, or the compensation question be affected. The words "prædial and non-prædial" are, however, now better understood by the labourers,

labourers, and it appears to me that it would be at variance with the Act for the Abolition of Slavery to compel a labourer (who can show by indisputable proofs that he ought to have been classed as a non-prædial) to continue in the class of prædial because his employer has erroneously so returned him (whether fraudulently or accidentally), and to afford two additional years of gratuitous labour more than the law has prescribed. The remedy which has occurred to me as best applicable, and which I conceive it my duty respectfully to submit to your Lordship, is for His Majesty in Council to declare, that so long as the system of apprenticed labour continues, so long the judges of the supreme court may and are to receive all and any complaints, whether from apprenticed labourers, or parties acting for them; or the special justices relative to any alleged erroneous classification of such labourers; and that the said judges be authorized and required to hear and decide in a summary way in all such matters with method, punctuality and despatch. I humbly conceive that some such arrangement is absolutely necessary to ensure to every one the possession of that exact situation to which the law for the Abolition of Slavery entitles him. With reference to the foregoing remarks, I take the liberty of laying before your Lordship the particulars of two cases out of the many which have been made known to me.

I have, &c.

J. Carmichael Smyth.

B.

Enclosure (A.) in No. 250.

WHEREAS by the 2d section of the 12th chapter of an Ordinance, entitled, "An Ordinance for the government and regulation of apprenticed Labourers," bearing date the 8th day of March 1834, and published, with His Majesty's approbation, on the 22d day of July following, it was among other things enacted, "That whenever the word 'employer' should have been made use of, or should be found in the said Ordinance, the same should mean the person who would be entitled to the possession of any apprenticed labourer, were such apprenticed labourer still in a state of slavery: And whereas doubts may arise whether a person acting for and on behalf of an employer is intended to come within the intent and meaning of the said term 'employer:' And whereas it is expedient to remove such doubts; be it therefore, and it is hereby enacted, that from and after the publication hereof, whenever the word 'employer' shall have been made use of, or shall be found in the same Ordinance (save and except in the 14th section of the 5th chapter of the said Ordinance), the same shall mean the person who would be entitled to the possession of any apprenticed labourer, were such apprenticed labourer still in a state of slavery, or the person who shall be acting for and on behalf of such employer, or who shall have the charge of, or who shall be in the superintendence of such apprenticed labourer or labourers."

Enclosure (A.) in
No. 250.

(signed)

J. Carmichael Smyth.

Enclosure (B.) in No. 250.

Office of the Special Justice of Peace, George Town,
Demerara, 22 October 1835.

Enclosure (B.) in
No. 250.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to submit the enclosed case and two documents, requesting you would be pleased to submit them to his Excellency, for the purpose of obtaining the opinion of the Attorney-general thereon for my guidance and direction as a magistrate in similar cases.

I have, &c.

(signed)

W. J. Brittain, s. j. p.

H. E. F. Young, Esq., Government Secretary.

CASE respectfully submitted for the opinion of the Attorney-general.

NUMEROUS cases having been submitted to me by apprenticed labourers, complaining of their employers having ordered them to do prædial work, to which many of them had never in their lives been subjected, and others not for many years (long antecedent to the year previous to the passing of the Act of the British Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery), I felt it to be my duty to make inquiry into the grounds of their complaints, and have found them, on the admission of their employers, to be substantially correct, inasmuch as they (the employers) do not attempt to contradict the statements of their apprenticed labourers, resting their own assumed right now to employ them in field labour on the fact of their having in 1834 registered them as prædials, either attached or unattached.

This appears clearly to have been, in most cases, done without even the knowledge, much less the free consent, of the apprenticed labourers themselves; I need not, therefore, in these cases enter into the argument how far such assent on the part of apprenticed labourers would have rendered such regulations valid.

This question therefore becomes now contracted to this point: is the registration of 1834

GUIANA.

so absolutely final and conclusive as to admit of no relief, to tolerate no inquiry in favour of the apprenticed labourers, who tender proof that they have been most seriously injured by it.

The Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery, in the 4th section, says, "That no person of the age of 12 years and upwards shall, by or by virtue of any Act of Assembly, Ordinance or order in Council, be included in either of the two classes of prædial apprenticed labourers, unless such person shall for 12 calendar months *at the least* next before the passing of that Act have been *habitually* employed in agriculture or in the manufacture of colonial produce."

Now a large proportion of these apprenticed labourers have never been for one day in their lives employed either in agriculture or in the manufacture of colonial produce, or in any way that can be construed into any thing analogous to such employment; of the remainder, numbers have not been for many years previous to the passing of the aforesaid Act so employed.

How, then, if an Act of the Imperial Parliament be paramount to any other authority in the British Empire, can apprenticed labourers so circumstanced have been legally registered prædial, of either class, and how can such a registration be now considered finally conclusive against their just rights?

Is a colonial registration of greater power than an Act of Assembly in the chartered colonies; than an Ordinance of our Court of Policy, or an Order of His Majesty in Council? Yet none of these, the Act declares, shall include an apprenticed labourer in either of the two classes of prædials, unless under the circumstances there laid down. Are we not then necessitated to conclude that a registration, even if sanctioned by one or more of these higher authorities, would be as inoperative as waste paper when opposed to a Parliamentary enactment?

I have presumed to offer these few remarks on this subject, where my immediate object is to take, not to offer council, from a personal knowledge of the extent to which this hardship and apparent injustice extends in this colony, and also from a conviction of the very general prevalence of a contrary opinion in this community.

I take leave to lay over two cases out of many now in my hands, left with me by apprenticed labourers, imploring my assistance to relieve them from what they feel to be a severe hardship, and consider a great injustice: the one is, that of a family registered prædial unattached; the other, of an individual registered prædial attached; both of them, in their own opinions, and I freely admit in mine, entitled to be registered non-prædial, and consequently to obtain unqualified emancipation two years sooner than they will be as now classed, besides being in the mean time engaged in the work of which they have been always, or at least for many years, accustomed, in place of being employed in labour to which they feel themselves unequal. In both these cases, as indeed in most of this nature, it will be noticed that the employers who have so classed their apprenticed labourers are not ignorant individuals who have inadvertently misplaced them, but, on the contrary, persons characteristically shrewd and vigilantly watchful in maintaining all their own rights. My own observation indeed warrants the remark, that the fairest registrations are to be found amongst those with whom the advantage of adding two years more to the services of their apprenticed labourers might be expected to offer the greatest temptation. These men who have so registered their apprenticed labourers, contrary to the provision in the Act, now take advantage of their own misdeed, and assert, that because they have so injured their apprenticed labourers by such registration, that Act is to be pleaded as finally conclusive against any claim for redress, by relief or otherwise, on the part of the injured apprenticed labourer.

The opinion of the Attorney-general is respectfully requested, how a special justice should act towards the numerous applicants who request his advice and assistance to obtain relief from what they consider to be incorrect registrations, whereby they have been consigned to two years' additional service as apprenticed labourers, and may be compelled to labour in a way they have never been before accustomed to; a mode of employment which must be in the highest degree irksome even to the young and able, and cruelly oppressive to the aged and infirm. Should such special justice refuse all such applications, and reject all proof in their support, even the admission of the owners of the services of such complaining apprenticed labourers, that their classification in the registration of 1834 is opposed to the provision in the 4th section of the Abolition Act, alleging for such rejection the enactment in the 8th section of the Ordinance of the Court of Policy of 8th February 1834, No. 42, where it is said, that such registry shall be taken as conclusive evidence of the fact; or is he to consider such part of the Ordinance of our Court of Policy inoperative in so far as it is opposed to the provision in the 4th section of the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery; and in this latter case what course is he to pursue, with a view of assisting the apprenticed labourer in obtaining the redress to which he conceives himself entitled?

22 October 1835.

(signed) W. J. Brittain.

Demerara, 29th September 1835.

Mary, apprenticed labourer of plantation John and Cove, on the East coast, declares that she was born on that estate, above 50 years ago; that for about the last 30 years she has never worked in the field or in the manufacture of colonial produce; she has been always employed as a domestic in the manager's house, and waiting on the owner of the estate when he came to it; within the last month she had a misunderstanding with her master, and he has ordered her to go into the field; this she has refused to do, asserting that

that she is now quite unequal to such labour, nor does she conceive that she could be compelled to do it even if she were younger; she is now desirous, by the assistance of friends, to purchase the remainder of her apprenticeship, and therefore requests to be informed whether they are to be appraised for four or for six years from the 1st of August 1834, and whether, in the event of her not being able to buy the remaining term of her apprenticeship, the circumstance of her master having in 1834 registered her as a prædial attached, without consulting or even informing her on the subject, is to be finally conclusive against her, and to consign her, for the remainder of six years, to field labour, which has not been required from her for upwards of 30 years past, and to which, as she has before said, she would now be totally unequal.

29th September 1835.

John Mackay, sworn, says, I was manager of plantation John and Cove for two years and 11 months, up to the 18th of August last; during all that time I knew the apprenticed labourer Mary, attached to that estate; while I was there she was hardly required to do any more work than to attend to her master when he came on the estate, and to keep the keys of his own private residence, and superintend it when he was absent, for which purpose she always had a woman and a boy when she required their assistance; Mr. B. J. Hopkinson, when I first went on the estate, told me she was head domestic, and did nothing but look after the other domestics.

Before me,
(signed)

W. J. Brittain, s. j. p.

(signed) *John M'Kay.*

I declare, that Mr. B. J. Hopkinson, on the 1st instant, declared to me, that his apprenticed labourer Mary, attached to his plantation John and Cove, having disobeyed his orders, he was determined to send her into the field, which, as being his registered prædial attached labourer, he conceived he had an undoubted right to do.

(signed) *W. J. Brittain, s. j. p.*

Demerara, 19th September 1835.

CASE of *Wilhelmina* and her Family.

THIS day Wilhelmina, apprenticed labourer to Mrs. John Croal, came before me and declared, she is one of a family of six brothers and sisters, all in the employ of her mistress; her eldest brother is employed as a domestic on the Arabian coast; the younger brother is living in the house with his mistress in the same capacity; her elder sister Princess is also living in the house with her as a domestic (Wilhelmina is now about 18 years of age); her other two sisters were under six years of age on the 1st of August 1834, and consequently entitled to freedom; they, however, continue to serve Mrs. Croal the same as they did when her slaves; it is her (Wilhelmina's) wish, and that of the rest of her family, that these young children should attend some school, where they might learn to read and write and receive general moral instruction; their mother, however, died last year, and their mistress refuses to allow them in any way to interfere in the management of their younger sisters; none of her family ever worked in the fields, or were employed in the manufacture of colonial produce; they were always used to domestic service; her mistress has lately quarrelled with her on account of her not having collected the whole amount of goods which she was employed to sell for her, and now threatened to send her to the Pomeroun, there to cut and carry troolies, shingles and the like field work in the bush; she does not know how she has been registered, or whether she ever was registered at all; she respectfully, however, requests to be informed by the magistrate whether her mistress can now legally oblige her to labour in the bush or field.

22d September 1835.

Three days after this deposition had been made, Mrs. Croal brought the same Wilhelmina before the magistrate, on a charge which was not substantiated. Wilhelmina then, in her defence, repeated several particulars similar to her deposition on the 19th, and particularly her mistress's threat to send her to Pomeroun to cut and carry troolies in the bush. The magistrate then, turning to the mistress, who did not deny this charge of her apprenticed labourer, said, "You surely must be aware that you cannot legally employ a domestic in field work, or in what is probably still more severe, prædial labour, in cutting and carrying troolies, shingles, firewood or timber in the bush?" Mrs. Croal replied, that she believed Wilhelmina was registered a prædial unattached apprenticed labourer.

The magistrate deeming it to be now his duty to take evidence upon this subject, put Mrs. Croal upon her oath, who declared as follows:—

Mrs. John Croal, sworn, says, my apprenticed labourer, Wilhelmina, has belonged to me since she was a little girl, and has never worked in the field or at any other country work; she has always worked with me, or been hired out by me as a house servant or in selling goods. I believe that she has been registered by Mr. Croal as a prædial unattached apprenticed labourer.

(signed) *W. J. Brittain, s. j. p.*

GUIANA.

—No. 251.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *J. C. Smyth*.

No. 251.

Sir,

Downing-street, 22d January 1836.

I HAVE received your Despatch, dated the 13th November last.

I have read with peculiar satisfaction the highly favourable report which you have conveyed to me in that Despatch, of the progress in British Guiana of the system established there under the Act for the Abolition of Slavery. The general good conduct of the apprenticed labourers, the growing confidence of the attorney and managers in the efficacy of the new laws, the prevailing cheerfulness of all classes in their relation to each other, and the increasing productiveness of the colony, are results which no man can contemplate without the most sincere pleasure.

You have suggested four different amendments in the law for the government of the apprenticed labourers, to which I will advert in the order in which they are noticed by yourself.

First. I agree with you, that on collating the 1st clause of chap. 5, with the 2d clause of chap. 12, of the Ordinance of the 8th March 1834, there appears not merely an ambiguity, but a serious error, which it is necessary to correct. I hope shortly to transmit to you an Order of the King in Council for that purpose.

Secondly. The rule which you propose to lay down for the guidance of appraisers does not appear to me free from very serious objections. You assume as a principle, that Parliament intended to provide for the owner of a slave a complete compensation, to be made up partly from the money which the commissioners might award, and partly from the value of the service to be rendered during the apprenticeship. But the average value of a slave in Guiana being ascertained to be 114*l.* 4*s.* 5½*d.*, and the average compensation for each slave being 51*l.* 17*s.* 7½*d.*, the difference between these sums is said to represent the value, on the 1st of August 1834, of the future service of the apprentice. From this calculation you would deduce a maximum and a minimum, between which all appointments should be graduated. I doubt whether, in fixing the maximum and minimum of appraisements, we shall derive much assistance from the calculations to which you refer. The sum of 114*l.* 4*s.* 5½*d.* was a general average for the whole colony. The elements which entered into the composition of it were of endless variety. The most valuable and the most worthless slaves were estimated at prices ranging far above and far below that central point. The problem for the solution of the appraisers is, what is the fair value of the service of some one given apprentice? and in determining that question, very little aid indeed could be derived from knowing what is the value of such services upon a general average of nearly 100,000 cases. A precise acquaintance with the elements will of course be an infallible guide to the general result; but from the result itself, no arithmetical skill could evolve with any approach to certainty the elements of which it was composed.

Thirdly. You suggest the necessity of providing for a due visitation and inspection of hospitals and negro houses by medical men and religious teachers. On this subject you will ere now have received my Despatch of the 30th of December last, enclosing His Majesty's Order in Council of the 21st of that month.

Fourthly. The question whether the classification, which has already been made of the apprenticed labourers, is final and conclusive, so as to forbid the redress of any errors which may have been since discovered, presents some difficulties of a legal and some of a practical nature. In point of law, it must be ascertained whether the Act of Parliament does really, as Mr. Brittain, the special justice, conceives, require that mistakes of this kind should be always remediable; and that is an inquiry which I shall propose to the law officers of the Crown. The practical difficulty may be thus stated: If an apprentice, erroneously classed as a prædial, has, under that mistake, been required for the last 18 months to work only 45 hours weekly, instead of rendering an indefinite amount of service, what adjustment can be made of the mutual rights and obligations of the employer and the apprentice upon the discovery and the correction of the error? There will be an arrear of an unperformed service, for which I know not how satisfaction is to be made to the employer, if the apprenticeship is thus to cease on the 1st of

August

August 1838. This practical difficulty, however, will not arise, if the law officers of the Crown should dissent from the opinion of the special justice. For the present, therefore, I pursue the discussion of it no farther.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

GUIANA.

—No. 252.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *J. C. Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg.*

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 28th Nov. 1835.

WITH reference to the circular of the 12th of October, which I had the honour to receive from your Lordship by the last mail, I beg to lay before your Lordship a copy of a Government Notice which I issued forthwith upon the subject, and from the perusal of which your Lordship will perceive with pleasure, that no new law is fortunately required in British Guiana to repress usurious transactions of the nature and to the extent to which your Lordship's circular alludes. Several rumours have reached me of persons in a rank and situation in life, which ought to have raised them above even the suspicion of being deemed capable of profiting by the ignorance, poverty and distress of those of a humbler walk, having dealt largely in the purchase of compensation claims. As, however, nothing official has as yet been laid before me, I await the expiration of the fortnight allotted to the Attorney-general for the reception of all representations on the subject, and the receipt of that officer's statement, to enable me to make a full report to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Carm^t Smyth.*

No. 252.

vide Parliamentary Paper, No. 166, page 5, present Session.

Enclosure in No. 252.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

HIS Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, with reference to the circular letter of the 12th October, which he has had the honour to receive from the Right honourable the Secretary of State, and which was published in the Royal Gazette of the 24th inst., having caused inquiry to be made as to whether any transactions of the usurious nature alluded to in the said circular have taken place in British Guiana, has to express his deep regret at finding that extensive purchases have been made in this province, of the claims of individuals entitled to participate in the Compensation Fund, and that, availing themselves of the ignorance and unfounded alarm of the smaller and poorer proprietors, the purchasers have, in many instances, bought up such claims at a most enormous discount. His Excellency being anxious to prevent all persons who may have engaged in transactions of this nature from being rewarded by profits so exorbitantly disproportionate to the rates usually received upon advances of money, has conceived it his duty to cause His Majesty's Attorney-general to be consulted upon the occasion; and he is happy in being able to announce, that in the opinion of that officer, all such contracts of sale are liable to be rescinded and annulled in the courts of justice in this colony, under the existing laws, unless the purchasers pay the full value of such claims. His Excellency is also desirous that all individuals who may have entered into agreements of sale at grossly inadequate rates, and who have not yet executed letters of attorney, may be apprized, that they have still in their power the means to enforce a fair and equitable value for their respective claims upon the Compensation Fund. His Excellency has instructed the Attorney-general to afford his advice and assistance gratuitously, during the next 14 days, to all persons who have made sales of their claims upon the Compensation Fund, and who may consider themselves aggrieved by the conditions thereof.

By his Excellency's command,

(signed) *H. E. F. Young, Gov. Secy.*

Guiana, Public Buildings, George Town,
26th March 1835.

Enclosure in
No. 252.

—No. 253.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *J. C. Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg.*

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 12th Dec. 1835.

YOUR Lordship will be gratified to know, that during the last month (November) the Custom-house returns show, that from this river 8,211 hogsheads of sugar have been exported; whereas, upon an average of the three last years of slavery, during the same month, not more than 5,610 hogsheads passed through the Custom-house. This colony never was in a more prosperous and flourishing condition, and I believe, with very few exceptions, the dissatisfaction of the planters at the late change is fast wearing away.

166.—II.

The

No. 253.

GUIANA.

The reports from the special justices for the last month show a very considerable decrease of punishment, the total number of cases for which whipping was adjudged being only 49. I look forward with confidence to a still further diminution, and even to an ultimate disuse of the lash in this colony altogether, excepting by sentence of the criminal courts for the repression of theft. Every successive month since the Abolition of Slavery, the number of individuals so punished has gradually and of late so rapidly diminished, as to entitle me to be very sanguine in my expectations that the period is not far distant when this mode of punishment will be all but extinguished. I need hardly add, that with the good conduct and the industry of the apprenticed labourers throughout the whole of this province, I am not only perfectly satisfied, but that it exceeds the expectations of their best friends.

In proof of the rapid advance of a moral feeling amongst the apprenticed labourers, and of their anxiety to raise themselves in the scale of civilization, I take the liberty of laying before your Lordship an extract from last Saturday's Gazette, containing an advertisement of not less than 79 marriages. The number advertised each Saturday varies of course; but the general average is about 90. In a couple of years the system of concubinage will be extinct. The late Ordinance, permitting marriage to be solemnized indiscriminately by all ministers of the Christian religion, has produced the happiest effects, and was a very great boon to the apprenticed labourers.

The anxiety of the apprenticed labourers for instruction, both for themselves and their children, and the punctuality with which they attend divine service, are incontestable proofs that they have no desire to retreat to the bush. They are anxious to advance in the scale of civilization; and if this ambition is but duly encouraged and protected, if they are kindly and justly dealt with by their employers, there can hardly exist a doubt but that they will be as industrious when perfectly at liberty as they now show themselves as apprenticed labourers, with reference to their desire for instruction, and their regular attendance at divine service. I speak from my own personal observation, as I periodically visit the different churches and chapels, as well as the parish and other schools, and distribute medals amongst the most attentive and best behaved of the scholars of both sexes. I was much gratified last Sunday at witnessing, in the parish church of St. Luke's, about eighty of the oldest of the apprenticed labourers receive the Sacrament with a degree of decency and of apparent devotion which could not have been surpassed by the most civilized congregation in any part of Europe. The poor people each gave their two, three or four bits to the poor, and subsequently subscribed, according to the extent of their means, towards the construction of a chapel of ease, which, for the convenience of those who cannot conveniently come to the parish church, it is proposed to build at a distant part of the parish. Your Lordship will, I feel confident, agree with me in opinion, that people who can thus conduct themselves in their present humble state are not likely to leave their churches, their chapels, their ministers, and their means of instruction, and to retreat to the woods and wilds of the interior, provided they are but kindly treated and their homes rendered not unhappy. It is much to be wished that the proprietors and holders of mortgages upon estates in this colony (who reside in Europe) would see their own interests in the true point of view, and by removing such attorneys and managers as oppose the measures of Government, evince their determination to co-operate sincerely in promoting the future peace and prosperity of British Guiana. One or two such examples, or even the public and avowed intention of so acting, would put an end to all bad feeling, and there would hardly be a complaint either from or against an apprenticed labourer throughout this extensive and flourishing province.

Upon referring to my despatch book, I find that there are two regulations which I have established since I have been in this colony, and which I have omitted to report. The first enforces decency of dress amongst the apprenticed labourers, and the second prohibits any apprenticed labourer from being conducted through the streets on his way for trial with his arms pinioned or his wrists in handcuffs; both these regulations, being calculated to cause the apprenticed labourer to learn to respect himself, and to raise him in his own and in the estimation of others, will, I have little doubt, be approved of by your Lordship.

To enable your Lordship to judge of the tranquillity of this province, of the general absence of crime, and of the consequent little occasion for severe vagrant and police ordinances, I beg to report, that at the last supreme criminal court held

held in George Town, there were but five prisoners for trial, all of whom were acquitted; at the last criminal court at Berbice only three, and of whom only one was found guilty; at the last inferior criminal court at George Town, thirty-six cases of assault and petty thefts were inquired into; at the last inferior Criminal Court at Essequibo there were similar cases for the consideration of the court; and at the last inferior criminal court held at Berbice there was not a single prisoner, nor a single case of any sort for investigation. I do not apprehend that there are many parts of Europe of the same extent and with as numerous a population in which so few criminal cases occur; let it also be kept in mind the trifling nature of the greater part of the cases adjudicated upon.

I am not aware that I have any application to make, or any suggestion respectfully to offer to your Lordship as to any measure which may, in my opinion, be advisable to adopt, with a view to the advancement of the growing prosperity of this province. The affairs of this colony cannot be going on better. Whatever may be the proportion of assistance to be given to British Guiana in aid of the moral and religious instruction of the labouring population, your Lordship will, no doubt, cause to be remitted here with as little delay as possible. I have also to express my hope, that the Colonial General Agent will be instructed to transmit the colonial silver currency, to the amount of 5,000*l.*, to Berbice with as little delay as possible, the bills having been already purchased and sent to him for that purpose. The above are the only matters to which I am anxious at present to draw your Lordship's attention.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Carm^l Smyth.*

—No. 254.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *J. C. Smyth.*

No. 254.

Sir,

Downing-street, 29th January 1836.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 12th ult., containing your report on the state of the colony for the previous month.

In the answer which you will receive by this opportunity to your Despatch of the 13th November, I have expressed to you the great gratification which I have experienced at the report therein made of the good conduct of the apprentices, and of the good feeling which prevailed amongst all classes in the colony.

The report which you have now transmitted has afforded me additional satisfaction; and I am duly sensible of the pains which you have taken to place me in possession of facts which afford such strong evidence of the prosperous condition of the colony, and of the progressive moral improvement of the apprenticed labourers.

It is impossible to dwell on this state of things, and to enter into the details of the means by which it is produced, without doing justice to the zealous and enlightened philanthropy which leads you to lay the colony, and especially the negro population, under a deep debt of gratitude for your assiduous attention to the wants and interest of all classes.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

—No. 255.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *J. C. Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg.*

No. 255.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 13th December 1835.

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 22d July, I have the honour to lay before your Lordship an epitome of the reports from my fifteen stipendiary justices for the month of November.

Your Lordship will observe, that 49 apprenticed labourers only were punished by whipping during the month of November, and that the average number of stripes to each were 23; in three cases only did the magistrate deem it necessary to go to the extent of his power, by inflicting 39 stripes, showing, I am happy to say, a rapid approach to the triumph of mild over harsh measures.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Carm^l Smyth.*

Enclosure in No. 255.

EPITOME of the MONTHLY REPORTS from the FIFTEEN STIPENDIARY

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>C. H. Strutt, Esq.</i>	
1. ARE the labourers in your district civil, contented and cheerful?	Generally. I have visited eighteen estates during the month (names given.)	They are.	I have visited thirty-two estates (names given) during the month.
2. Have they performed their work during the last month with alacrity and goodwill?	In general.	Generally speaking, they have.	The labourers, generally speaking, have performed their work with alacrity and goodwill.
3. Has the work on any estate been unwillingly or not readily performed? If yes, have the goodness to name the estate, the proprietor, or his attorney, and the manager, in order that an inquiry may be forthwith instituted into the causes which may have led to such conduct.	The work has not been readily performed on plantations 'Good Hope,' J. Douglass, Q, Q.; Patrick Ennis, manager; and 'Broom Hall,' William Booker, attorney and manager; and 'Spring Hall,' Mr. Jones, attorney, Robert Trotman, manager.	In the early part of the month, the work was not willingly or readily performed by a portion of the apprenticed labourers on plantation 'Cove and John;' a few punishments, accompanied with good advice, I am happy to say, had the desired effect, and they are all now working well.	On plantations 'Kitty' and 'Enterprise,' the work has not been readily performed. Proprietor of 'Kitty,' N. M. Manager, Esq.; manager, J. Dardier, attorney, plantation 'Enterprise,' Mr. Grant; manager, E. Lynch. I am happy to add, they are going on well at the 'Kitty' the last fortnight.
4. Is task-work generally resorted to within your district? or do the labourers prefer working the seven hours and a half per day, as fixed by law?	Task-work is generally resorted to. The labourers, however, occasionally prefer to labour the seven hours and a half.	On most of the estates in my district, the labourers prefer task-work; 'Cove and John,' 'Anne's Grove' and 'Clonbrock' are the only exceptions.	Task-work is generally resorted to in the district.
5. What are the working hours most generally in use in your district? Are there any estates in your district on which the labourers are compelled to lay by for two or three hours in the middle of the day, and then to complete their seven hours and a half in the afternoon (by which division of their labour they have little or no time to themselves)? If yes, have the goodness to name the estates, proprietors or attorneys, and the managers.	The hours of labour in most general use (when task-work is not chosen by the labourers) are from seven to eleven, and one to half-past four, or from seven to half-past two o'clock. On plantation 'Carlton Hall,' 'Fellowship Farm,' and 'Park Front,' the weekly labour of forty-five hours is performed in five days.	The working hours now in use in my district are from seven o'clock A. M., until half-past two P. M., with the exception of three estates (above named), on which the labourers work from seven to eleven, and from one o'clock to half-past four. With regard to the first remark, I have to add, that the labourers are allowed to leave the field before half-past two, provided they have done the quantity of work required of them.	The labourers commence work about seven o'clock, and go on until they finish; on no estate are they compelled to lay by in the middle of the day.

Enclosure in No. 255.

SPECIAL JUSTICES in *British Guiana*, for the Mouth of November 1835.

DISTRICT (C.)			DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>W. J. Brittain, Esq.</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R. N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	<i>Captain Allen.</i>
They are.	Yes, generally. I have visited six estates (names given) during the month.	In general they are. I have visited ten estates during the month. With the exception of plantation 'Little Diamond,' 'Garden of Eden' and 'Profit,' the apprenticed labourers appeared to be contented.	Yes, in most instances. I have visited during the month twenty three estates (names given.) The apprenticed labourers on all seemed generally contented and happy; those on plantation 'Maria's Lodge' excepted.
The proportion of convictions this month and the preceding, viz. 20 and 24 out of a population of near 7,000, warrants this conclusion.	Yes, generally.	With as much alacrity and good-will as might reasonably be expected, from people circumstanced as they are.	The majority have done so, in all cases except one.
Not applicable to the town division of the district.	Generally, no.	On plantation 'Little Diamond' and 'Garden of Eden,' the work is still unwillingly performed. On plantation 'Friendship and Profit,' where dissatisfaction prevailed and the work was unwillingly performed at the period of my last report, the labourers are now working cheerfully, since the appointment of better disposed managers.	The work has not readily been performed by the gang of 'Maria's Lodge.' Loire & Paul, attorneys; G. Johnson, manager; and by part of the gang on plantation 'Malgrè-tout,' C. F. Milne, proprietor; no manager.
The greater number of apprenticed labourers in this town are domestics, who of course cannot work by task. Few of the tradesmen do so, but work for nine hours, and this in many cases where the tradesmen and even domestics are registered as prædials, and will be required to labour as apprenticed labourers until August 1840, unless some measure of legal relief be in the meantime afforded to them.	They work the seven hours and a half per day, as fixed by law.	Task-work is for the most part resorted to.	Task-work is generally resorted to.
I have received no complaints from any apprenticed labourer on this head.	The general working hours are from seven A. M. until half-past two P. M. They are not compelled to lay by on any of the estates during the day. There are many females who do not go to work with the gang, but go later, consequently are later in completing their seven hours and a half of labour, but this is their own act, not being obliged to do so.	The working hours most generally in use are from seven to half-past two, and the system of breaking off the labourers in the middle of the day is for the present abandoned.	Where the labourers will not accept a certain quantity of work as a task, the hours I have laid down for labour are from seven to eleven A. M., and from twelve to half-past three P. M., seven hours and a half. There are no estates in the district on which two hours' rest are compulsory in the middle of the day.

(continued on page 110.)

November 1835.] DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>Captain Coleman.</i>
<i>Answers to Question 1.</i> I have visited the hospitals on five estates (names given), and the labourers generally appear contented.	Yes; I have visited the hospitals of 22 estates on Leguan, three plantations on Hog's Island, and 19 plantations on Wakenaam, being the whole of the plantations in this district.	They are; and are daily becoming more so. I have visited 19 estates during the month (names given) and inspected the hospitals thereon.	Yes, generally. I have visited 15 estates (names given) during the month.
<i>Answers to Question 2.</i> My attention during the last week was called to the conduct of some of the female apprenticed labourers on plantation "Best," but I was yesterday informed their conduct was improved.	Yes.	They have, on every estate in this district.	Yes, generally.
<i>Answers to Question 3.</i> Only the above, Mr. John Beete, proprietor and manager.	No.	The work has not been unwillingly performed on any estate in this district.	Yes, on plantation 'Affiance,' John Fetherston, attorney and manager.
<i>Answers to Question 4.</i> Generally throughout the district, by the male labourers; the female labourers on plantation 'Best' seemed disposed to work according to the signals.	Task-work is general, and preferred by the labourers.	Task-work is generally resorted to, and preferred.	Task-work is generally resorted to in this district.
<i>Answers to Question</i> The bell on most estates in this district rings at seven, and the labourers usually remain until their work is finished.	From about 7 to 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, according to circumstances and the bargain made. Upon no estate are the labourers obliged to lay by in the middle of the day; as soon as they have finished their task they can leave the field.	The labourers usually go to their work at half-past six or seven, and finish at their option. There is no estate in this district upon which they are compelled to lay by in the middle of the day.	Generally from seven A. M. to two P. M. There are no estates in this district to which the latter part of this question applies.

DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John M'Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Ryck de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
Generally they are. During the last month I have been on every estate in the district, on some two or three times; and in most of the hospitals.	Yes, generally.	During the month I visited 13 estates (names given), and the hospitals thereon; I found the apprenticed labourers civil and tolerably contented and cheerful.	I have visited all the estates except 'Eliza and Mary' and 'Skeldon.' In general the labourers are so.
Generally, they have.	In most instances.	In general, they have.	Yes, with few exceptions.
No, except by a few.	On plantation 'Highbury,' Messrs. Davidson, Barclay & Co.; John Alves, attorney.	Generally, it has. In the best gangs there are idlers and indifferent characters, such excepted as may be seen from the proceedings of last month.	No.
Yes, it is generally preferred by the labourers.	It is.	Task-work is most generally preferred by the labourers; they work it diligently to get the sooner home; some have finished their task at one o'clock, some at two o'clock, and so proportionably to their activity.	A specified portion of work is usually allotted to each labourer.
From seven A.M. to half-past two, and often as early as half-past twelve. Optional with themselves generally whether they rest or not during their task.	From seven till the day's labour is finished.	As the labourers prefer the task-work generally, they finish it as it suits themselves, and are not controlled in that; the bell is rung or shell blown merely to mark the time.	Work is generally commenced about seven o'clock, and the labourers return when they have completed their portion of specified work.

(continued on page 112.)

November 1835.] QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>Kyfen Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>C. H. Strutt, Esq.</i>	
6. Do the labourers on any estate in your district perform extra labour for hire? If yes, name the estates, the rate of wages for extra work, and state how and when the payments are made; and if extra work is not performed for wages, state if reasonable wages have been offered, with weekly payment. If reasonable wages and prompt payment have been offered and rejected, state to what cause you attribute the refusal on the part of the labourers.	The labourers employed in the manufacture of sugar invariably perform extra labour for hire, earning from six bits to two guilders, or a dollar per week, which is generally paid on demand. One guilder a week was offered to the field labourers on plantation 'Spring Hall,' to labour nine hours a day, which was refused, as they could employ their time to greater advantage.	On all the estates, the labourers employed in the boiling-houses or about the buildings receive wages for extra labour, varying from two to three guilders per week each. On plantations 'Dockfour,' 'Lowlands' and 'Beehive,' the gangs employed in cane-cutting are also in receipt of wages for extra labour, at the rate of from two to three guilders per week each. The payments are generally made monthly.	In the manufacture of sugar, picking coffee and cotton, extra work is performed for wages. On the sugar estates, two stivers per hour; on the cotton, five stivers for every 10 lbs. of cotton over 40 lbs., which they are expected to give their employers; in coffee, fifteen stivers for a basket over the two they are to give their employers.
7. Have there been any instances of insubordination, or any attempt to resist authority, by force in your district? If there have been any, name the estates on which such occurrences have taken place.	None.	There have been none.	On plantation 'Kitty,' and also on plantation 'Good Hope,' an attempt was made to resist authority by force.
8. In the event of any disposition having been manifested by any of the labourers to neglect their work, or to behave rudely to those in authority over them, has such misconduct been so general as to induce you to attribute it to any combination or conspiracy? or is it only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that you have had complaints made?	I have attributed the neglect of work on plantation 'Spring Hall,' 'Good Hope' and 'Broom Hall' to combination.	I have only had complaints against a few idle and disorderly persons; the combination at 'Cove and John,' of which I formerly complained, is at an end.	On plantation 'Kitty,' the labourers combined together not to perform their work.
9. Has the attendance of the prædial labourers at church, and of their children at school, been regular, and to the full accommodation afforded them under the local circumstances of your district?	The attendance of the apprenticed labourers at church has not been equal to the accommodation afforded them; that of their children at school has been to the full of the very limited accommodation open to them.	There are no churches or schools in my present district; many of the apprenticed labourers, however, attend the churches at Mahaica and at Enmore.	The attendance of the labourers at church has been good, and their children at school regular.
10. Have you individually as a magistrate, and has the court over which you preside, been under the necessity of ordering punishment by whipping during the preceding month? and, if answered in the affirmative, state the number of delinquents so punished, and the extent of punishment awarded in each case.	Nine { One - 30 stripes. Three - 25 do. each. Two - 20 " One - 15 " One - 12 " One - 10 "	Three { One - 7 stripes. Two - 12 do. each.	None.
11. Has any manager, overseer or other person in authority over the prædial labourers, been fined or otherwise punished by the court over which you preside during the preceding month, for misconduct towards any labourer or labourers? Have there been any instances of the labourers having been detained at work beyond the legal hours; and, in such case, has the shilling sterling per hour for each individual labourer been levied?	The manager of plantation 'Woodlands,' was fined 15 s. for preferring a frivolous complaint. There have been no instances of labourers being detained at work beyond the legal hours.	I have not had to fine or punish any overseer, manager or person in authority for any misconduct during the week.	None.

DISTRICT (C.)			DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>W. J. Brittain, Esq.</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R.N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	<i>Captain Allen.</i>
Not applicable to this division of the district.	None.	Extra work for hire is generally performed about the boiling-house, at the rate of one and a half to two bits per day, payment prompt; in the field, extra work for hire is rarely performed; at plantation 'Garden of Eden,' Mr. Munget, one of the representatives, offered reasonable wages for cutting cane, but it was rejected, owing to a want of confidence in the manager.	No variation whatever has taken place on this subject since the Report of the 1st October, where every particular was fully detailed.
No instance of violent resistance has come to my knowledge.	None.	There has been no insubordination or attempt to resist authority, but on the contrary, I never saw this district quieter than it is at present.	There has been no attempt to resist authority by force. On plantation 'Maria's Lodge,' for a short time the gang would not attend to the signals regulating their labour, but this was speedily put an end to.
No complaint of combination or conspiracy has been preferred.	Where such occurrences have taken place, to be attributed to the idle and disorderly only.	There has been no combination or conspiracy.	In the instance above mentioned, the misconduct was almost general, instigated apparently by a few disorderly apprentices. In other cases a few idle people only have been complained of.
I have in many cases observed a laudable desire, on the part of apprenticed labourers, to attend at both, and to get their children to do so, where it lay in their power.	Yes.	The attendance at church and school has been regular.	Divine service has not been performed at St. Mark's church last month, including five successive Sundays. The attendance of the children at school there (under the superintendence of the catechist), has been much as usual, but is not equal to the local accommodation.
Three { One - 20 stripes. Two - 10 do. each.	Three { Two - 15 stripes each. One - 24 "	None.	One - - 15 stripes.
No employer or person in authority over apprenticed labourers in this district (division) has been fined during the past month. The remaining part of this query does not apply.	None.	No.	No manager or other person has been fined by me last month. There have been no authenticated instances of labourers having been detained beyond the legal number of hours.

(continued on page 114.)

November 1835.] DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>Captain Coleman.</i>
<p><i>Answers to Question 6.</i></p> <p>Only those employed about the buildings, such as engineers, boilermen, firemen, &c. Rate of wages average about two stivers per hour, and weekly payments.</p>	<p>Upon every estate, the labourers perform extra work for hire. Upon some, the whole gang is paid, on others only the cane-cutters, or people about the buildings. The wages are from one bit to two and three guilders per week. From the great difficulty in procuring change, the payments are seldom made oftener than once a month, and sometimes not for two and three months, and even longer.</p>	<p>Extra labour for hire is very generally performed. The rate of wages is a guilder in the field, and a guilder and a half in the boiling-house. They are generally paid monthly; but on some estates the labourers themselves prefer being paid quarterly.</p>	<p>Yes, on almost all the estates, at the rate of from three to six guilders per week; paid weekly, unless where change cannot be procured.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 7.</i></p> <p>Only a few of the females on plantation 'Best.'</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No instances of this description have taken place.</p>	<p>There have been some instances of insubordination, but no attempt to resist authority by force.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 8.</i></p> <p>Mostly the same apprenticed labourers are complained of.</p>	<p>It is only with respect to a few idle and disorderly labourers that complaints have been made.</p>	<p>Solely with respect to the latter.</p>	<p>There have been many complaints made against idle and disorderly apprentices, principally females; and on plantation 'Affiance' their conduct has been bordering on conspiracy, not to perform a fair and reasonable quantity of labour.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 9.</i></p> <p>Yes; at Mr. Scott's, Rev. Wm. Harman, at plantation 'Hague;' and Rev. H. Fothergill at plantations 'Greenwich Park and Good Hope.'</p>	<p>The churches are always filled, and the schools are well attended. There is not sufficient accommodation in the churches for the labourers in this district, and there is a lamentable deficiency of schools.</p>	<p>As regular as usual, and to the full extent of the accommodation.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 10.</i></p> <p>Nine { One - - 30 stripes. Three - 25 do. each. One - - 25 " Three - 20 " One - - 15 "</p>	<p>Six { Three - - 39 stripes each. Three - - 25 "</p>	<p>Five { One - - 30 stripes. One - - 20 " Three - 15 do. each.</p>	<p>Four { Two - - 25 stripes each. Two - - 15 "</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 11.</i></p> <p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>One employer has been fined for striking an apprenticed labourer in his service. There have not been any instances of the latter.</p>	<p>There has been one instance of a labourer having been detained at work beyond the legal hours, and the sterling per hour has been levied accordingly.</p>

DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John M'Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Ryck de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir.</i>
Extra labour is not much required, except on the sugar estates, where occasionally the boilermen and firemen perform it; wages varies; in general paid weekly, or when asked for.	On all sugar estates, persons employed about the buildings.	Yes, for reasonable wages and prompt payment.	Very little extra labour for hire is performed, except in the manufacture of sugar. On all the sugar estates, the persons employed about the boiling-house are paid.
No.	No.	No.	No.
Only of a few idle and disorderly that I have had complaints made against.	The women on plantation 'Highbury' never finish a fair days' labour.	No, I do not think so; it exists among the idle and disorderly. Such, after a fair trial, if guilty, are brought to a sense of their duty in the pale of the Ordinance.	No.
Yes.	It has.	I have heard nothing to the contrary, as the Rev. — Ross is gone to Europe. Divine service is generally performed by one of the ministers of the other parishes.	Yes.
Three { One - - 30 stripes. Two - - 25 do. each.	One - - 25 stripes.	Six { One - - 30 stripes. One - - 25 " Four - - 15 do. each.	Two { One - - 30 stripes. One - - 20 "
No.	No.	No.	No.

(continued on page 116.)

November 1835.] QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>C. H. Strutt, Esq.</i>	
<p>12. Have any complaints been preferred to you during the last month, from any apprenticed labourers, respecting their clothing, food, treatment, or upon any subject? In the event of any complaints having been made to you, have you carefully investigated into the matters, and caused justice to be rendered to the parties as far as it was in your power? State the number and the nature of the complaints which may have been preferred to you in general terms.</p>	<p>Two complaints were made by prædial apprenticed labourers against their managers, for ordering them to labour in the field when they had not been accustomed to field labour, as they stated.</p>	<p>An apprenticed labourer of 'Anne's Grove' complained to me that a man at Lowlands had a dog belonging to him, which he refused to give up; I immediately rode over, and got the animal restored to its rightful owner, and settled the matter amicably. I have had no complaints respecting clothing, food, &c.</p>	<p>The general complaints from the labourers have been fighting, and a few cases of jealousies among themselves.</p>
<p>13. Have any of the free children upon any of the estates in your district been bound apprentices during the last month? If yes, name the estates upon which such occurrences have taken place, and state if the transactions were with the free consent and approbation of the parents of the children.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>There have been none.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>14. How are the children fed and taken care of on the estates in your district? Are they fed from the stores of the estates gratuitously, and is an additional quantity of salt fish and plantains issued for them? or are they fed out of the allowance due to their parents? When their mothers are at work in the field, is a woman specially appointed to take care of their young children, and exempted from all other duty? Are the children when unwell allowed the advantage of the medical assistance and hospital treatment of the estate in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery.</p>	<p>The children are fed gratuitously on every estate (except on plantation 'Woodlands,' where salt fish is not issued to them.) Nurses are specially appointed to take care of the children when their parents are at labour. They have the advantage of medical assistance and hospital treatment as formerly.</p>	<p>They are fed gratuitously. There are women appointed to take care of the young children. They are allowed medical assistance in the hour of sickness.</p>	<p>The children are fed and taken care of as formerly, and women are appointed to take care of them when their mothers are at work in the field, and exempt from all other duty. They have also the advantage of medical assistance and hospital treatment.</p>
<p>15. On how many estates in your district are schools established? Name the estates, proprietors, and managers of estates having schools.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>I have, unfortunately, no schools in my district, with the exception of a Sunday school at 'Chapman's Grove.' Dr. Chapman is the proprietor.</p>	<p>There has been no increase or decrease in schools since my former report.</p>
<p>16. Are there any remarks or observations which you may wish to convey to the Lieutenant-governor, connected with the peace, tranquillity and happiness of the district under your superintendance? If yes, state the same.</p>	<p>None. (signed) <i>K. Heyland,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>This month I have not. (signed) <i>C. H. Strutt,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>I think the district tranquil and quiet, and going on very well, particularly the last fortnight. (signed) <i>A. M. Lyons,</i> S. J. P.</p>

DISTRICT (C.)			DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>W. J. Brittain, Esq.</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R. N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	<i>Captain Allen.</i>
One complaint for an assault and battery has during the past month been made to the magistrate of this division of the district. The case was carefully investigated and dismissed, it being unsubstantiated by the evidence produced.	None.	One complaint was preferred against a manager for striking an apprenticed labourer, but was withdrawn by the complainant.	Twenty complaints have been preferred by the apprenticed labourers during the month, and justice has been rendered in all cases, as far as was practicable or desirable for the interests of the complainants.
None.	None.	No.	No free children have been bound apprentices last month.
Most opulent employers in this town feed the free children of the apprenticed labourers.	The children are fed from the stores of the estates gratuitously, and women specially appointed to feed and to take care of the young children, who are admitted freely into the hospitals when unwell.	With the exception of plantations 'Little Diamond,' 'Garden of Eden,' and 'Prosperity,' the children have an extra allowance of provisions on all the estates in this division. They are allowed, without exception, nurses and medical attendance.	The free children are generally fed by an allowance of salt fish and plantains issued to the mothers, and when the latter are at work in the field, a woman is appointed to take care of them. The children are reported to receive the same medical assistance and hospital treatment as when in a state of slavery.
Not applicable to this division of the district.	Houston and Rome.	There are schools at Peter's Hall, Perseverance and the Craig, under the management of the Rev. L. Strong.	The report of the schools has not varied in any respect during the last six months.
No particular grounds of remark at present suggest themselves.	This month shows a progressive improvement both in males and females.	Nil.	Nil.
(signed) <i>J. W. Brittain,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>Thomas Delafons,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>George Ross,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>J. A. Allen,</i> S. J. P.

(continued on page 118.)

November 1835.] DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>Captain Coleman.</i>
Answers to Question 12. None.	None.	A complaint was made by an apprenticed labourer against a manager, for withholding a part of his allowance of provisions, which, upon investigation, was proved to have been wholly unfounded.	Some complaints have been preferred to me by the apprenticed labourers respecting trifling assaults; I have carefully investigated into the matter, and caused justice to be rendered to the parties, so far as it was in my power. Two trifling assaults by overseers on apprenticed labourers, which were compromised, and two others of similar nature referred to the next court (inferior) of criminal justice.
Answers to Question 13. None.	None.	None have been thus bound.	No, none.
Answers to Question 14. Plantations 'Hague,' 'Groenveldt' and 'Met en Muzog,' no food or doctor. Plantations 'Anna Catharina,' 'Vreesen Hoop,' 'William' and 'Best,' no food, but doctor allowed. On the other estates in this district no change has taken place.	Upon every estate in this district the children are treated as formerly, with the exception of 'Vertrowen' and 'Bellefield,' owned by Mr. Howell, and 'Success,' owned by Mr. Jones, where only medical attendance is provided for them.	The children are fed and taken care of in every respect in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery.	The same as before, and no complaints.
Answers to Question 15. On six estates (names given.)	Four schools.	On five (names given.)	On one only, plantation 'Anna Regina,' James Stewart, attorney, and Robert Mackay, manager.
Answers to Question 16. Nil. (signed) <i>Spry Bartlett,</i> S. J. P.	The negro has not a proper idea of the value of time or of money. Nothing could teach him the true value of these sooner, or promote industry more, than being paid every week for his extra labour. (signed) <i>Geo. Killock,</i> S. J. P.	The general conduct of the apprenticed labourers in this district has been most exemplary, and they have worked with much assiduity during the past month. (signed) <i>George Ball,</i> S. J. P.	No. (signed) <i>Thomas Coleman,</i> S. J. P.

DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John M'Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Ryck de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
No, with the exception of the cases referred to your Excellency.	No.	None whatever.	No.
No.	No.	No.	Two free children have been bound apprentices during the last month; one an orphan girl, to Mrs. M'Donald, widow of the late James M'Donald, Esq. who was the last owner of the mother as a slave; the child is now registered as a non-prædial. The other is a prædial attached to plantation Post Mourant, with the free consent, indeed on the personal application of the only surviving parent, the father.
Generally, the same as before the 1st of August 1834.	Taken care of in the same manner as when in a state of slavery.	On most estates in the district the children under six years have a gratuitous allowance of food and medical attendance.	On three estates the children are fed out of the allowance due to their parents; on the others they are fed gratuitously from the stores of the estates. On all, women are appointed to take care of the children, and they have the advantage of medical assistance and hospital treatment.
On most of the estates there are schools among the labourers themselves; on several there are teachers engaged, besides the establishments at the places of worship.	On three estates (names given.)	On six estates (names given.)	None.
Nil. (signed) <i>George Rose,</i> S. J. P.	Nil. (signed) <i>John M'Leod,</i> S. J. P.	Recommends, as a check to the commission of rape on infants, that the English Act of Parliament which declares the nullity of assent in an infant under the age of 10, be in force in this colony, &c. (signed) <i>A. Van Ryck de Groot,</i> S. J. P.	Nil. (signed) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir,</i> S. J. P. (True extracts.) <i>J. H. W. Sidley,</i> Private Secretary.

GUIANA.

—No. 256.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *J. C. Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 256.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 27 January 1836.

I BEG leave to lay before your Lordship a copy of a speech which I yesterday addressed to the combined court of this colony, upon opening the session for the present year. As that speech contains a faithful and accurate account of the prosperity, tranquillity and industry of this province, I shall, upon the present occasion, not trespass longer upon your Lordship's time than respectfully to refer your Lordship to that document; and at the same time to offer my sincere congratulations at the complete and triumphant success which has attended the Abolition of Slavery in British Guiana; a success so much beyond what even the most sanguine of the advocates for the abolition anticipated, that I am induced to look forward to the cessation of the apprenticeship system without apprehension.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Carm^t Smyth.*

Enclosure in No. 256.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

Enclosure in
No. 256.

THE following Speech, addressed this day by his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, Major-general Sir *James Carmichael Smyth*, Bart., to the Members of the Honourable the Court of Policy and the Financial Representatives, in combined Court assembled, is published, by command of his Excellency, for general information.

Guiana, Public Buildings, 26 January 1836.

By Order of his Excellency,

H. E. F. Young, Government Secretary.

Gentlemen of the Court of Policy, and Gentlemen Financial Representatives in combined Court assembled:—

IN meeting you upon the present occasion, I have very great pleasure in being enabled to congratulate you upon the flourishing condition of this very important colony; upon the happy, tranquil and industrious state of our labouring population; upon the very considerable additional quantity of produce manufactured and exported as compared with the years of slavery; upon the improvements and new buildings which are every where rapidly arising around us; upon the absence of crime, and upon the paucity of punishment. I do not believe that any province of the British Empire can be justly quoted as being in a more prosperous state than British Guiana. All interests in this colony are equally thriving.

II.

It is, however, gentlemen, the business of the legislator neither to be dazzled with present prosperity, nor to be depressed with apparent adversity. He is calmly to consider those measures, by the adoption of which the first is to be maintained and the latter to be removed. Having triumphantly, successfully and prosperously taken the first great step towards the emancipation of our labouring population; having personally witnessed the working of the present system of apprenticed labour, we have experience and practical knowledge to assist us in forming our arrangements for the future. We have only ourselves to blame if we are not as successful in the second step as we have been with the first; if the final results of the complete change, which will, in so very few years, inevitably take place in the situation of the labouring class, is not attended with that mutual advantage to the employer and to the labourer which has accompanied the commencement.

III.

I believe there is hardly a person connected with this colony who is not now convinced of the worldly policy of affording religious and moral instruction to the labouring class, even should he not be actuated by considerations of a more exalted nature. I am happy to bear witness to the unwearied exertions of the reverend the ministers of the religion of our Saviour, and of the several catechists, to whatever church or sect they may belong. The mild precepts of the Christian religion, the pure morality inculcated by the Gospel, have taken deep root in this colony. This, gentlemen, is not idle declamation. Look at the weekly announcement of marriages; at the shame and sense of degradation which now accom-
pany

pany concubinage. Turn to the proceedings of the Supreme Criminal Courts; of the Inferior Criminal Courts; to the periodical police reports of the Sheriffs; inquire into the nature of the crimes, and the number of prisoners. Examine the reports of the Special Justices. Look into the gaols themselves. I ask if any gentleman can point out any part of His Majesty's dominions where fewer crimes are committed? where greater tranquillity is enjoyed? or, where the labouring population is more industrious? With these strong proofs of the improved morality of the labouring population; of the immediate practical good to be expected from the more enlarged diffusion of religious and moral instruction, we are surely called upon by self-interest, independently of all higher motives, to do all in our power to encourage and to gratify that anxiety for instruction which so happily prevails. It affords me pleasure to be able to state, that at this moment there are no less than nine chapels building, the necessary funds for the construction of which have been raised by subscriptions from amongst the proprietors, aided by the apprenticed labourers themselves. Upon all occasions the apprenticed labourers have subscribed willingly and liberally (according to their humble means) towards the construction of a temple for the living God. A people who thus act, who are so desirous of obtaining instruction and of raising themselves in the scale of civilized life, are not likely to fly to the bush. They will not abandon their ministers, their chapels, their schools, for the woods and wilds of the interior, provided their homes are not rendered unhappy. On those estates where the apprenticed labourers are comfortably located, where they have the undisturbed and undisputed possession of small portions of land, and are protected and encouraged in the cultivation of the same, the necessary labour required by their landlord will, in my opinion, be cheerfully afforded after the 1st August 1840, for moderate and reasonable wages.

IV.

In reflecting upon the state of this province, and upon the good conduct of the apprenticed labourers, let us not overlook the fact of no less than 12 police-sergeants, 120 armed policemen, and 12 police establishments having been judged necessary, and been actually decreed in the Ordinance No. 43, for the government of the apprenticed labourers in this colony. Such was the distrust, such were the apprehensions entertained at the moment. We have not however built a single police station, nor have we a single armed policeman in the country districts. Each judicial district has merely one unarmed messenger, employed under the Special Justice, to deliver the necessary summons or citation to a witness in the case of a complaint brought before him. The pay of these messengers is the only expense incurred by the colony, in lieu of the £. 11,000 per annum, which was the lowest estimate of the expense of the proposed police establishment. These facts, gentlemen, I appeal to with pleasure. Judging of the future by the past, I am sanguine in my expectations of the fortunate result of the great and blessed change which has been so far happily accomplished. The decree which abolished slavery laid, I am fain to believe, the foundation stone of permanent prosperity for British Guiana.

V.

I have deemed it right, previously to entering upon the business of the session, to trouble you with the foregoing observations. I will only add, that in the happiness I feel at the present flourishing state of the province, in the satisfaction I experience at witnessing the complete and triumphant success of the line of conduct I felt it my duty to adopt, I am amply compensated for whatever opposition I may have met with, and for whatever ebullition of angry feeling may occasionally have been manifested towards my administration of this government. Conscious of the integrity of my motives, these things in fact never caused to me a moment of serious uneasiness. You may depend upon it, gentlemen, that you will find me as zealous in the discharge of my duty, and as anxious as I ever have been, for the success of every measure which may have for its object the advancement of the permanent prosperity of this important and magnificent colony.

VI.

I have now sincere pleasure in being able to announce to you the immediate and, as I hope, final termination of all discussions connected with our civil list. Of the two propositions forwarded from hence in the month of June last, I have received the King's commands to accept, in His Majesty's name, of that which, after due consideration, I should consider the best calculated for the good of his service and the welfare of the province. I accordingly accept, in His Majesty's name, of that plan which does away with the King's chest; places His Majesty's incidental revenue at your disposal, as a part of your ways and means; and secures to the servants of the Crown the regular payment of their established salaries. This plan is perfectly in accordance with my own views and wishes, as explained to you on former occasions. An Ordinance to carry this measure into operation has been prepared, by my instructions, by the Attorney-general, and will forthwith be submitted to the Court of Policy. As soon as this Ordinance is passed, an order will be issued by His Majesty in council, placing this combined Court in possession of full authority with respect to the details of the yearly Estimates. I trust, gentlemen, that all causes, not only of present but even of possible future differences, with respect to our yearly financial arrangements, being thus about to be removed, the happiness, tranquillity and prosperity of this colony will rest upon too secure a basis to be easily interrupted.

GUIANA.

Gentlemen, Financial Representatives,—

I will not at present detain you any longer. You may now retire. I shall lose no time in preparing, with the assistance of the Court of Policy, the Ordinance to which I have referred, as also the Estimates for the service of the present year. As soon as the Estimates are ready, and which I hope will be the case in a few days, I shall again call for your assistance.

The importation duties having been so profitable, I hope you will deem it advisable to propose the continuance of this source of revenue, which it appears will enable you to dispense with the taxes on income and on gigs and horses, the abolition of which I earnestly recommend, as diminishing the frequency of oaths and affidavits, an evil that every prudent and moral legislator ought to endeavour to avoid, tending, as they do, to place the conscience and the pecuniary interests of the tax-payer at variance. In furtherance of this view, as also with the object of substituting a mode of raising the revenue less varied in its items and more simple in its form than that which now exists, it may be worth your attentive deliberation to consider how far a duty on exports, in conjunction with that on imports, can be so equitably adjusted to the general interests, as to render unnecessary any other species of taxation.

I also am equally anxious that the lastage or tonnage duty, payable at the Berbice River, should be done away with, so that the two ports of the colony should be perfectly assimilated in point of expense. These things, however, you will duly weigh and consider at the proper period; I merely allude to them at present as hints for your consideration.

26 January 1836.

J. Carmichael Smyth.

—No. 257.—

No. 257.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *J. C. Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 28 January 1836.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Lordship the epitome of the monthly reports I require from the special justices for the month of December last. Your Lordship will perceive, with pleasure, the very few punishments which have been found necessary, and that they have only amounted to twenty-one. I trust that the period is not very distant when they may be done away with altogether.

I beg leave further to lay before your Lordship the weekly reports from the gaols of George Town and of New Amsterdam: a reference to these documents will show your Lordship that in no part of His Majesty's dominions are fewer crimes or outrages committed. In fact, the most perfect tranquillity prevails, and a ready obedience to the law is paid by all, without any coercive measures being required.

Your Lordship will be able to judge of and to appreciate the industry and goodwill of the apprenticed labourers, by an inspection of the accompanying official documents from the Custom-houses of George Town and of New Amsterdam. The value of the additional produce exported during the year 1835, as compared with the average of the years of slavery, is not far short of half a million sterling, and has required twenty-seven additional merchant vessels, and furnished employment for 540 additional British seamen to convey the same to Europe. These incontrovertible facts require no comment. The value of the imports into British Guiana, during the same period, cannot be so correctly ascertained, as the Custom-house here has no means of affording that information, which can only be got at through the Custom-houses in Great Britain and Ireland; but the collector informs me that, in his opinion, they have more than doubled during the last year. There is a general appearance of happiness and content, and a marked improvement in the dress and in the comforts of the labourers and of their families most gratifying to behold, and which are too evident not to be apparent to the most careless observer. I have the pleasure of being able to report to your Lordship, that nothing can be more favourable than the present state or the future prospects of this colony, as far as I am enabled to judge.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Carm^t Smyth.*

Enclosure

Enclosure (A.) in No. 257.

EPITOME of the MONTHLY REPORTS from the FIFTEEN STIPENDIARY SPECIAL JUSTICES in *British Guiana*, for the Month of December 1835.

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>C. H. Strutt, Esq.</i>	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	
1. ARE the labourers in your district civil, contented and cheerful?	They are.	Yes. I have visited sixteen estates during the month; names given in the original Report.	I have visited 24 estates during the month; names given in original Report. The labourers in this district are civil, contented and cheerful.
2. Havet they performed their work during the last month with alacrity and good-will?	They have, with the exception of a few badly-disposed individuals on plantation 'Bachelor's Adventure.'	The work has been performed with alacrity and good-will generally.	The work has been performed with alacrity and good-will, except on 'Cumming's Lodge.'
3. Has the work on any estate been unwillingly or not readily performed? If yes, have the goodness to name the estate, the proprietor, or his attorney, and the manager, in order that an inquiry may be forthwith instituted into the causes which may have led to such conduct.	On plantation 'Bachelor's Adventure' the apprenticed labourers have not been doing their work either so readily or so willingly as I could wish; some of them are decided skulkers, and I anticipate trouble with them ere I shall be able to bring them to a sense of their duty. The Messrs Hopkins are the proprietors; Mr. Grant is the attorney.	The work has not been readily performed on plantation 'Woodlands,' George Rainey, attorney; John Mitchell, manager. And on plantation 'Good Hope,' John Douglas, attorney; Patrick Ennis, manager.	The work has been unwillingly performed by the women in the strong class. Maclean and Garnet joint proprietors; manager, T. McDonald.
4. Is task-work generally resorted to within your district? or do the labourers prefer working the seven hours and a half per day, as fixed by law?	A species of voluntary task-work is generally resorted to in my district, both managers and apprenticed labourers being guided by the tariff.	In general; it is, however, optional with the apprenticed labourers.	Task-work is generally resorted to in this district.
5. What are the working hours most generally in use in your district? Are there any estates in your district on which the labourers are compelled to lay by for two or three hours in the middle of the day, and then to complete their seven hours and a half in the afternoon (by which division of their labour they have little or no time to themselves)? If yes, have the goodness to name the estates, proprietors or attorneys, and the managers.	On plantations 'Clonbrook,' 'Ann's Grove,' 'Cove and John,' 'Paradise,' 'Enmore' and 'Bachelor's Adventure,' the hours of labour are from seven to eleven and from one to half-past four; on the other estates they are allowed to work their hours off without intermission, or are guided by the tariff in their voluntary task-work, frequently finishing a proper quantity of labour in four or five hours.	When task-work is not resorted to, the hours of labour in general use are from seven to half-past two o'clock P. M. On plantation 'Cane Grove,' G. L. Bell, attorney and manager; and 'Broom Hall,' William Booker, attorney and manager. The hours of labour are from seven to eleven, and one to half-past four. On plantations 'Fellowship' and 'Park Front,' the labour is performed in five days, at the rate of nine hours per day.	The labourers generally commence work at seven o'clock, and go on until they finish; on no estate are they compelled to lay by in the middle of the day.

(continued on page 124.)

December 1835.]		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN.	RIVER.	UPPER RIVER.	Captain Allen.	
George Ross, Esq.	Captain Delafons, R.N.	Captain Coleman.		
Answers to Question 1.	They are.	Yes, generally so, with some few exceptions, during the month. I have visited all the estates under my magisterial charge.	On some estates they are, but on others quite the reverse. I have visited eleven estates (names given in original Report) and the hospitals thereon during the month.	Yes, generally so. I visited ten estates and the hospitals thereon (names given in original Report); I likewise visited twenty other estates or wood-cutting establishments (names given) during the month. The apprenticed labourers are, for the most part, contented and happy; those of 'Maria's Lodge,' 'Chantilly' and 'La Parfaite Harmonie' excepted.
Answers to Question 2.	Judging by the paucity of complaints, the conclusion to be drawn respecting the disposition of the apprenticed labourers is favourable.	Generally, some few exceptions only.	On several estates they have not.	Yes, with some few exceptions.
Answers to Question 3.	No.	No, generally.	Yes, particularly on 'Little Diamond,' Messrs. Blake and Bishop, trustees, and Roger Hunter, manager; 'Garden of Eden,' Messrs. Mangel and Luther, attornies, and L. M. Cruikshank, manager; 'Friendship,' Messrs. Rivers and Koolas, attornies, Roderick M'Kenzie, manager; 'Farm,' Messrs. Rivers and Koolas, attornies, and John M'Kenzie, manager.	The work has not been readily performed on plantation 'Chantilly,' Alexander Stevenson, proprietor, C. H. Jones (late) manager; 'Vredestein, Stewart and M'Cormack, managers; P. Young; 'Maria's Lodge,' Lane and Paul, attornies, G. Johnston, manager; 'La Parfaite Harmonie,' Mr. St. Felix, proprietor, J. Parlee, manager.
Answers to Question 4.	Task-work is resorted to on the estates in this division of the district; the town mechanics work the legal time.	They work the seven hours and a half per day, as fixed by law.	The labourers in this part of the district generally prefer working the seven hours and half a per day, as fixed by law; but on many estates they do not perform one-half the work which by assiduous and steady industry they might easily perform in that time.	Task-work is generally resorted to.
Answers to Question 5.	On the estates attached to this division, the labourers usually begin about seven o'clock A.M., and lay by when their task is finished,	From seven A.M. until half-past two P.M. None are obliged to lay by during the day.	The working hours most generally in use are from seven A.M. to half-past two P.M. I am not aware of any estate in this part of the district to which the latter part of this question applies.	Working hours, where no task-work is resorted to, seven to eleven A.M., twelve to half-past three P.M. There are no estates where the labourers are compelled to lay by three hours in the middle of the day.

DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>J. W. Brittain, Esq.</i>
<p>During the month, I have visited the hospitals on five estates, and the labourers appear contented and civil.</p>	<p>Yes; during the month I have visited the hospitals of 22 estates on Leguan, 19 estates on Wakenaam and three estates on Hog Island, being the whole of the estates in this district.</p>	<p>They are perfectly civil, and appear contented and cheerful. I have visited and conversed with the labourers, and have also inspected the hospitals on nineteen estates (names given in original Report). The sick are by no means numerous, and appear well taken care of.</p>	<p>They are, with very few exceptions, civil, contented and cheerful.</p>
<p>Generally throughout the district, with the exception of plantation 'Cornelia Ida'; but that only commenced last Tuesday, and I understand they returned to their work this morning.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>They have, on every estate in this district.</p>	<p>They do the amount of work expected from them with the more alacrity and good-will, as on almost every estate in the district; additional labour is performed for hire.</p>
<p>Only the above and some few of the women attached to plantation 'Fellowship'; but for some time the conduct of these apprenticed labourers has been most excellent. Plantation 'Cornelia Ida,' Mr. Vyohouse, attorney; Mr. George Ross, manager. 'Fellowship,' Captain Watterton, proprietor; Mr. S. Watterton, manager.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>The work has not been unwillingly performed on any estate in this district.</p>	<p>I have visited the only estate in the district (plantation 'Affiance'), where discontent prevailed during the month before last. The labourers are now working cheerfully there, the same as on other estates.</p>
<p>Generally task-work.</p>	<p>Task-work is general, and preferred by the labourers.</p>	<p>Task-work is generally resorted to, and preferred by the labourers.</p>	<p>Task-work is very generally resorted to in this district. Indeed, I have not heard of any work in the district not done in that way, except the picking of cotton and coffee, which the managers assert does not admit of being done by task.</p>
<p>The bell, on most estates, rings at seven, and the labourers usually remain until their task is finished.</p>	<p>Upon no estates are the labourers compelled to lay by. They work as they like. The hours are from about six to twelve, one, two, three, four and five, according to circumstances, and the bargain made.</p>	<p>The labourers go to work at half-past six or seven, and finish at their option. They are not compelled to lay by in the middle of the day on any estate in this district.</p>	<p>The hour they are expected to turn out is seven A.M. Some turn out earlier, in order to have more time to work extra for hire. The most able and diligent labourers often finish the scale of work assigned to them in little more than four hours. The more indolent take six; but all prefer finishing an assigned scale, to remaining seven hours and a half in the field. No complaint has been made respecting the hours of labour.</p>

(continued on page 126.)

December 1835.] DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John M'Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>Van Ryck de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
<p><i>Answers to Question 1.</i></p> <p>Generally they are. I have visited every estate in the district some two or three times, and several of the hospitals.</p>	<p>Yes, generally.</p>	<p>During the month, I have visited twelve estates and the hospitals thereon, and found the apprenticed labourers civil, contented and cheerful.</p>	<p>I have visited all the estates in my district. In general the labourers are civil, contented and cheerful.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 2.</i></p> <p>Generally they have.</p>	<p>In most instances.</p>	<p>In general they have.</p>	<p>Yes, with few exceptions.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 3.</i></p> <p>No, with the exception of a few.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Generally it has. In the best gangs there are idlers and indifferent characters; such of course excepted.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 4.</i></p> <p>Yes, it is generally preferred by the labourers.</p>	<p>The task-system is resorted to; the labourers preferring the same.</p>	<p>Task-work is most generally performed by the labourers. They work it diligently in general, and in so doing are early at home; some at one, some at two o'clock, according to their activity and diligence.</p>	<p>A specified portion of work is usually allotted to each labourer.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 5.</i></p> <p>From seven to half-past two, or until their task is finished, which is often as early as half-past twelve; and optional with themselves whether they rest or not during their task.</p>	<p>From half-past six till the day's labour is performed.</p>	<p>As the labourers in general prefer task-work, which they finish as it suits themselves, they are not controlled therein. The bell rings, or shell is blown at eleven and one o'clock, to mark time.</p>	<p>Work is generally commenced about seven o'clock, and the labourers return when they have completed their portions of specified work.</p>

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.)
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>C. H. Strutt, Esq.</i>	<i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
6. Do the labourers on any estate in your district perform extra labour for hire? If yes, name the estates, the rate of wages for extra work, and state how and when the payments are made; and if extra work is not performed for wages, state if reasonable wages have been offered, with weekly payment. If reasonable wages and prompt payment have been offered and rejected, state to what cause you attribute the refusal on the part of the labourers.	The labourers employed in the manufacture of sugar invariably perform extra labour for hire, earning from 6 bits to 2 f. (guilders), and sometimes a dollar a week, which is paid upon demand. The offer to employ field labourers during their own hours has not been repeated.	On all the estates in my district the labourers employed in the boiling-houses and about the buildings receive wages for extra labour, varying from two to four guilders per week each. On plantations 'Dock-four,' 'Lowlands' and 'Beehive,' the gangs employed in cane-cutting are also in receipt of wages for extra labour, from two to three guilders per week each. At 'Anne's Grove' the cotton pickers are allowed one bit for every 10 lbs. above 50 lbs.; payments monthly.	The labourers perform extra labour for hire in the manufacture of sugar and picking cotton and coffee; also, men employed in punts, schooners, &c. Two stivers per hour in the buildings, five stivers for every 10 lbs. of cotton, and five stivers for a basket of coffee. The men employed in the schooners and punts are paid according to the distance, five stivers to 20 a trip, according to the distance. Rum, tobacco and sugar also allowed them.
7. Have there been any instances of insubordination, or any attempt to resist authority, by force, in your district? If there have been any, name the estates on which such occurrences have taken place.	Three trifling instances on plantations 'Batavia,' 'Helena' and 'Belmont' On 'Helena' and 'Belmont' some slight attempt was made to resist authority.	There have been none	None.
8. In the event of any disposition having been manifested by any of the labourers to neglect their work, or to behave rudely to those in authority over them, has such misconduct been so general as to induce you to attribute it to any combination or conspiracy? or is it only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that you have had complaints made?	The neglect of work on plantations 'Woodlands' and 'Good Hope' was so general that I have been induced to attribute it to combination.	- - - - -	The strong women of plantation 'Cumming's Lodge' conduct has been very rude to those in authority over them, and so general as to induce me to attribute it to combination, not to perform their work. This only attaches to the women; the men and other women are going on very well.
9. Has the attendance of the prædial labourers at church, and of their children at school, been regular and to the full accommodation afforded them under the local circumstances of your district?	The attendance at church has not been equal to the accommodation afforded them; that of their children at school has been to the full of the extremely limited means of instruction open to them.	I think I may say it has.	The attendance of the labourers at church has been good, and of their children at school.
10. Have you, individually as a magistrate, and has the Court over which you preside, been under the necessity of ordering punishment by whipping during the preceding month? and, if answered in the affirmative, state the number of delinquents so punished, and the extent of punishment awarded in each case.	One - - - 20 stripes.	None.	None.
11. Has any manager, overseer, or other person in authority over the prædial labourers been fined or otherwise punished by the Court over which you preside during the preceding month, for misconduct towards any labourer or labourers? Have there been any instances of the labourers having been detained at work beyond the legal hours? and, in such case, has the shilling sterling per hour for each individual labourer been levied?	James Rutherford, manager of plantation 'Carlton Hall,' and W. H. Whitecombe, overseer of plantation 'Strathaven,' were each fined five pounds for the maltreatment of apprenticed labourers.	I fined an overseer at plantation 'Paradise,' named Watson, 22 guilders for unnecessary severity to a woman of the estate when acting as constable. There have been no instances of any labourers having been detained beyond the legal hours during last month in my district.	One manager has been fined 10 shillings.

(continued on page 128.)

December 1835.]		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN.	RIVER.	UPPER RIVER.	Captain Allen.	
George Ross, Esq.	Captain Delafons, R. N.	Captain Coleman.		
Answers to Question 6.	On the estates in this division extra work for hire is performed about the buildings, at the rate of one and a half to two bits per day; payment prompt; and on plantation 'Sophia,' a coffee estate, extra work is done when the crop is to be picked.	None by force. On plantation 'Ruimveld,' 24 Dec. a gang of 28 labourers were complained of for neglect of duty, rushed out of court, and for a short time effected their escape, but the ringleaders returned the same day, and were sent to the tread-mill and solitary confinement.*	Extra labour for hire is generally performed in and about the buildings, at the rate of from one and a half to two bits per day, prompt payment. It is rarely performed for hire in the fields.	The detail respecting extra labour for hire and wages given &c. has not varied since last report on that subject.
Answers to Ques. 7.	No.	* The above is the answer to No. 7 query. No. 6 query is answered in the original Report, No.	There have been some instances of insubordination, but no attempt to resist authority by force in this part of the district.	There have been some individual instances of insubordination, but none of a combined or general nature. There has been no attempt to resist authority by force, except that of a drunken man resisting being confined.
Answers to Question 8.	There have been no symptoms of insubordination or conspiracy.	Where such conduct has taken place, I attribute it to the idle and disorderly. At Ruimveld, on the 24th Dec. I solely attributed it to the influence which Alexander, apprentice labourer, held over the gang; he I sentenced to 14 days' hard labour (tread-mill) and to 10 days' solitary confinement.	There have been many complaints made against idle apprentices, though but few disorderly; and I cannot but attribute it to a conspiracy among them to perform as little work for their employers as they possibly can.	The complaints about neglect of work last month I have rather attributed to bad management of the estates concerned, than to any combination or conspiracy. In other respects, a few idle or disorderly apprentices only have been complained of.
Answers to Ques. 9.	The places of worship and schools are well attended, and the accommodation quite sufficient.	Yes.	Yes. last month, has little varied; that of the children has increased; but the attendance in either case is not equal to the local accommodation.	The attendance at the church of St. Mark, where divine service was performed
Answers to Question 10.	None.	None.	Four { One - - 25 stripes. Three - - 20 do. each.	None.
Answers to Question 11.	No.	None.	No.	No case of the nature has occurred, or been substantiated last month.

<p>DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (H.) <i>J. W. Brittain, Esq.</i></p>
<p>Only about the buildings; firemen, boilermen and engineers; rate of wages about two stivers per hour, paid generally weekly, in silver.</p>	<p>Upon every estate the labourers perform extra work for hire; upon some the whole gang are paid; on others only the cane-cutters and those about the buildings. The wages are from one bit to three guilders per week.</p>	<p>Extra work for hire is very generally performed; the rate of wages is from a guilder to one and a half per day, according to the work they are employed at. They are usually paid monthly. There are, however, a very few estates on which, from what cause I have not been able to ascertain, the labourers, particularly the females, are averse to field-work.</p>	<p>On almost, if not every estate in the district, extra labour is performed for hire by the men, women, and even children. The general rate of hire is five bits for the amount of work expected as a day's labour from an able apprenticed labourer. On the estate where I at present reside, 'La belle Alliance,' I this day saw from six to eight guilders paid to a considerable number of labourers, for extra labour performed during the week.</p>
<p>Some insubordination was shown by the women of the 'Fellowship' and 'Cornelia Ida,' but soon checked.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>Nothing whatever of this nature has taken place.</p>	<p>Nothing like an attempt to resist authority by force in this district has come to my knowledge during the last month.</p>
<p>Mostly the same idle and disorderly apprentices are complained of.</p>	<p>It is only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that complaints have been made.</p>	<p>Wholly with respect to the latter.</p>	<p>There has been some attempt on the part of the pregnant women, in the very early stage, and some only pretending to be so, to refuse to do their work, even in the weekly gang. By punishing some of the worst with solitary confinement for a short time, I trust this combination will shortly be put an end to.</p>
<p>Yes.</p>	<p>The churches and schools are well attended, but there are only two churches in the district, whilst there ought at least to be double as many. There is likewise a great want of schools.</p>	<p>As usual, and generally to the full extent of the accommodation. The church is about to be immediately enlarged for their convenience. The evening school of the rector is also well attended, both by adults and children.</p>	<p>The attendance of the apprenticed labourers at church is to the full extent of the accommodation afforded, and the</p>
<p>Seven { One -- 30 stripes. Two -- 20 " each. Four -- 15 " "</p>	<p>One -- 25 stripes.</p>	<p>Three { One -- 25 stripes. One -- 15 " One -- 8 "</p>	<p>Five { One -- 20 stripes. One -- 15 " One -- 10 " Two -- 8 do. each.</p>
<p>8 December. Geo. Waldie, overseer, plantation 'Ben Amstel,' was complained of by two apprenticed labourers for assaulting them; the accused having expressed his sorrow for his conduct, I permitted a compromise, his paying me 44 guilders, which I delivered to the complainants, taking their receipt for the same.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No instances of either have occurred.</p>	<p>No complaint has been made to me of the nature during the month.</p>

(continued on page 130)

December 1835.] DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>J. M'Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Ryck de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
<p><i>Answers to Question 6.</i></p> <p>On the sugar estates occasionally, the boilermen and firemen do, and latterly on some of the cotton estates they have performed extra labour in ginning and picking; wages vary; paid weekly or when asked for.</p>	<p>On sugar estates the persons about the buildings.</p>	<p>Yes; the labourers are hired either to the proprietors they belong to, or to the other estates, for reasonable wages and prompt payment.</p>	<p>Very little extra labour for hire is performed, except in the manufacture of sugar. On all the sugar estates, the persons employed about the boiling house are paid.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 7.</i></p> <p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 8.</i></p> <p>Only of a few idle and disorderly that I have had complaints made.</p>	<p>It is only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that complaints have been made.</p>	<p>No, I do not think so; it exists amongst the idle and disorderly, and such after a fair trial, if convicted, are brought to a sense of their duty within the pale of the ordinance.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Ques. 9.</i></p> <p>Yes; since I last reported to your Excellency, I have had an opportunity of going to the chapel at Fowles, (which in one of my former reports I mentioned was built by the labourers in their own time, and in which a Wesleyan missionary officiates every Sunday), and having observed such remarkable cleanliness, decent order and attention in the labourers, I have great pleasure in mentioning it here.</p>	<p>It has.</p>	<p>I have heard nothing to the contrary, since the Rev. Mr. Ross left this section for Europe for the benefit of his health; divine service is from time to time performed by one of the other ministers. Mr. Henry, the catechist, reads every Sunday to a congregation, in absence of a clergyman.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 10.</i></p> <p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>Twenty-two convictions (of persons, one having been twice convicted) have occurred in this district during the last month. None were punished by whipping.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 11.</i></p> <p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>C. H. Strutt, Esq.</i>	
12. Have any complaints been preferred to you during the last month, from any apprenticed labourers, respecting their clothing, food, treatment, or upon any subject? In the event of any complaints having been made to you, have you carefully investigated into the matters, and caused justice to be rendered to the parties, as far as it was in your power? State the number and the nature of the complaints which may have been preferred to you in general terms.	No complaints have been made, except the two mentioned in answer to the 11th query.	The only complaint that I have had during the preceding month, worthy of mention, is referred to in my last answer. I have had several minor complaints, all of which I settled amicably between the parties, giving my best attention to each case as it came before me.	The complaints preferred are by the indolent; I have carefully investigated them, and almost invariably found them frivolous and vexatious.
13. Have any of the free children, upon any of the estates in your district, been bound apprentices during the last month? If yes, name the estates upon which such occurrences have taken place, and state if the transactions were with the free consent and approbation of the parents of the children.	None.	There have been none.	None.
14. How are the children fed and taken care of on the estates in your district? Are they fed from the stores of the estates gratuitously, and is an additional quantity of salt fish and plantains issued for them, or are they fed out of the allowance due to their parents? When their mothers are at work in the field, is a woman specially appointed to take care of their young children, and exempted from all other duty? Are the children, when unwell, allowed the advantage of the medical assistance and hospital treatment of the estate, in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery?	The children are on every estate fed, taken care of, and allowed the advantage of medical assistance and hospital treatment gratuitously, as previous to their emancipation.	They are fed gratuitously, and have medical attendance during sickness. While their mothers are in the field, there are women appointed to take care of them.	The children are fed and taken care of, and when unwell allowed the advantage of medical treatment as formerly. Women are appointed to take care of the young children when their mothers are at work in the field.
15. On how many estates in your district are schools established? Name the estates, proprietors and managers of estates having schools.	None.	The only day-school in my district is on plantation 'Enmore.' The estate belongs to Mr. Porley, who resides in England. Mr. Gordon is the manager.	There has been an additional Sunday-school opened by Mr. Watt (at Bethel Chapel), minister of the London Missionary Society.
16. Are there any remarks or observations which you may wish to convey to the Lieutenant-governor, connected with the peace, tranquillity and happiness of the district under your superintendance? If yes, state the same.	With respect to my answer to the 5th query, I have to state that the labourers of Cane Grove prefer to lay by in the middle of the day; and I was fearful of interfering with the labourers of plantation 'Broom Hall,' as they were taking off the cotton crop.	I have none.	I consider the district tranquil and quiet; the holidays went off very well, the labourers seemed very happy, and they were liberally supplied with pork, tobacco, pipes, rum and sugar by their employers.

(continued on page 132.)

(signed) *K. Heyland,*
S. J. P.

(signed) *C. H. Strutt,*
S. J. P.

(signed) *A. M. Lyons,*
S. J. P.

December 1835.]		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R. N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>Captain Coleman.</i>	<i>Captain Allen.</i>	
Answers to Question 12. Two complaints against a deficiency of clothing have been preferred, and decided upon; three for assault were preferred, but dismissed, the parties not having again appeared to substantiate their charges.	None.	No.	Twenty-seven complaints have been preferred by the apprenticed labourers during the month (subject given in original Report). In all these cases I have carefully inquired into them, and rendered that justice I thought most eligible for the complaint.	
Answers to Question 13. No.	None.	No, none.	No free children have been bound apprentices during the month.	
Answers to Question 14. On the estates in this division of the district, the free children have an allowance of food, as well as nurses and medical attendance.	The children are fed gratuitously from the estates. Women are specially appointed to take care of the young children; when they are unwell they are admitted freely into the hospitals.	With the exception of plantations 'Little Diamond,' 'Garden of Eden' and 'Prosperity,' the children have an extra allowance of provisions; they are all provided with nurses and medical attendance.	The children are usually fed by an allowance of salt fish and plantains to the mothers, unless when young, when it is customary to give them a little rice, barley or sugar in lieu. A woman is usually allowed to look after them when their mothers are in the field, who is exempted from other duty when the number is considerable. <i>N. B.</i> —The children at Maria's Lodge are not fed.	
Answers to Question 15. At plantations 'Kitty' and 'Sophia' chapels are established, at which the children are taught.	'Rome' and 'Houston,' and one is about to be established at 'Ruimveld.'	Three; at 'Petershall,' 'Perseverance' and the 'Craig,' all under the superintendence of the Rev. L. Strong.	Schools are established, or instruction given, on 10 estates (names given); on plantation 'Wales,' by an apprenticed labourer.	
Answers to Question 16. (signed) <i>Geo. Ross,</i> S. J. P.	None, particularly; but I think the apprenticed labourers generally appear to have a better feeling towards their employers than I have before observed. (signed) <i>Tho' Delafons,</i> S. J. P.	None but what are hereinbefore conveyed. (signed) <i>Tho' Coleman,</i> S. J. P.	Nil. (signed) <i>J. A. Allen,</i> S. J. P.	

DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>J. W. Brittain, Esq.</i>
None.	None.	No complaints have been preferred.	No complaints have been made to me during the month by apprenticed labourers against their employers.
None.	None.	None have been thus bound.	None.
Plantations 'Hague,' 'Grovenveld' and 'Met en Meerzorg,' no food or doctor. 'Anna Catherina,' 'Vreesen Hoop,' 'William' and 'Best,' no food, but doctor allowed. All the estates allow nurses when the mothers are in the field.	The children are taken care of as formerly upon all the estates in this district, except upon 'Bellefields' and 'Vertrower,' on Leguan, both owned by Mr. Bovell.	The children continue to be taken care of in every respect in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery.	I have only heard of one estate where any difference has been made in this particular since the 1st of August 1834. On this estate, plantation 'Exmouth,' a cotton estate, the free children have the use of the hospital, but no allowance of food or clothing. These children are taken care of when their mothers are at work.
On six estates; on one twice daily; on the remainder twice a week.	'Enterprize' and 'Endeavour,' of which Mr. Rae is attorney and proprietor, have a school between them; also 'Waterloo' and 'Moeyville,' of which Mr. Noble is attorney and proprietor, all on Leguan. There is a school upon Meerzong Wakenhaam, of which Mr. Bishop is attorney.	On five (names, &c. given in original report.) Little progress has, however, been as yet made in the instruction of the apprentices or their children, nor does sufficient encouragement seem to be held out to competent persons as teachers, &c.	Plantation 'Anna Regina' alone has a school on the estate. There is a school held daily in the parish church from four to six o'clock p.m. at which about 100 attend, and on Sundays between one and four o'clock, at which about 150 attend; on all which occasions the rector is indefatigable in instructing them.
Nil. cellent conduct of the apprenticed labourers, and that they have worked assiduously, not only for the present month, but during the whole year. There can be no better proof than the fact (which I state upon good authority), that so far from the gloomy anticipations at one time so prevalent having been realized by the result, the produce of the year on most of the estates has seldom been equalled, and on some never exceeded, and if upon two or three estates there has been a small deficiency, the managers assure me the falling off has not been occasioned by any want of diligence on the part of the apprenticed labourers. (signed) <i>Spry Bartlett,</i> s. J. P.	Nil. (signed) <i>George Killock,</i> s. J. P.	I have great satisfaction in repeating my report of the excellent conduct of the apprenticed labourers, and that they have worked assiduously, not only for the present month, but during the whole year. There can be no better proof than the fact (which I state upon good authority), that so far from the gloomy anticipations at one time so prevalent having been realized by the result, the produce of the year on most of the estates has seldom been equalled, and on some never exceeded, and if upon two or three estates there has been a small deficiency, the managers assure me the falling off has not been occasioned by any want of diligence on the part of the apprenticed labourers. (signed) <i>George Ball,</i> s. J. P.	I think it would be highly desirable for at least two schools to be established, one at each end of the district, at a distance from the parish church, which is in the centre. Several to whom I have spoken approve of the principle, but express great disappointment at the British Government not having, according to promise, offered to bear some share in the expense of such establishments. (signed) <i>J. W. Brittain, s. J. P.</i>

(continued on page 134.)

December 1835.] DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>J. M'Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Ryck De Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
Answers to Question 12. No.	One; not decided, in consequence of the indisposition of the defendant.	None of any importance.	No.
Answers to Question 13. No.	No.	No.	No.
Answers to Question 14. Generally the same as before the 1st of August 1834.	Children taken same care of as when in a state of slavery.	On most estates in the district the children under six years have a gratuitous allowance of food and medical attendance.	On three estates the children are fed out of the allowances due to their parents; on the others they are fed gratuitously from the stores of the estates. On all, women are specially appointed to take care of the children, and they have the advantage of medical assistance and hospital treatment.
Answers to Question 15. There are schools on almost all the estates among the labourers themselves, on several of which there are teachers engaged, and those at the places of public worship.	On plantation 'Bleyaandel,' G. P. Van Hold attorney, under charge of the Rev. S. Heywood; 'Denticum, Winter and Innes,' J. B. Winter, Esq. attorney.	On six estates.	None.
Answers to Question 16. Nil. (signed) <i>George Rose,</i> S. J. P.	None. (signed) <i>J. M'Leod,</i> S. J. P.	— <i>A. Van Ryck De Groot.</i>	None. — (True extracts.) <i>Sidley,</i> Private Secretary.

Enclosure (B.) in No. 257.

WEEKLY STATE of PRISONERS confined in His Majesty's Gaol of *George Town*.

	Whites.		Coloured and Black.		Apprenticed Labourers.		TOTAL.		In Hospital.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Confined for Debt - - -	1	-	4	-	-	-	4	1	-	-
Sentenced by Supreme Criminal Court - - -	1	-	-	1	2	-	3	1	-	-
Ditto by Inferior ditto - - -	-	-	2	-	2	1	4	1	-	-
Ditto by Special Justices - - -	1	-	-	-	29	27	30	27	1	3
Ditto by Court Martial - - -	11	-	1	-	-	-	12	-	-	-
Awaiting Trial - - -	4	-	4	-	34	6	42	6	3	-
Runaway Apprentices - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL - - -	18	-	11	1	67	34	95	36	4	3

British Guiana, Monday, 25 January 1836.

(signed) *P. Horan*, Keeper of the Gaol.

Enclosure (C.) in No. 257.

WEEKLY STATE of PRISONERS confined in His Majesty's Gaol of *New Amsterdam*.

	Whites.		Coloured and Black.		Apprenticed Labourers.		TOTAL.		In Hospital.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Confined for Debt - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sentenced by Supreme Criminal Court - - -	2	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Ditto by Inferior ditto - - -	-	-	1	-	2	2	3	2	-	-
Ditto by Special Justices - - -	-	-	-	-	3	1	3	1	-	-
Ditto by Courts Martial - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Awaiting Trial - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Runaway Apprentices - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
TOTAL - - -	3	-	3	-	6	3	10	3	-	-

British Guiana, Monday, 18 January 1836.

(signed) *P. Simonelli*, Keeper of the Gaol.

PUNISHMENTS for the Month of December 1835.

Total Number of Apprentices throughout the Island, Province, or Government.	Total Number of Punishments inflicted under the authority of Special Magistrates throughout the same.	Proportion per cent. of Punishments to Apprentices.	Total Number of Males Punished.		Total Number of Females Punished.	The Average Number of Stripes inflicted in cases of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum Number of Stripes inflicted in any one case of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum of Severity in any one case of Punishment by Confinement.	The Maximum of Severity in any other mode of Punishment.
			By Whipping.	Otherwise than by Whipping.					
72,120	751	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	358	372	18	30	Three Months.	One Month's Hard Labour.

(A true copy.)

H. E. F. Young, Gov. Sec.

Enclosure (D.) in No. 257.

RETURNS received from the Collector and Comptroller of the *Demerara* and *Essequibo* Districts, and from the Acting Collector and Comptroller of *Berbice* District.

	SUGAR.			RUM.			MOLASSES.	COTTON.	COFFEE.
	Hogheads.	Fi kins.	Barrels.	Puncheons.	Hogheads.	Barrels.	Casks.	Bales.	Pounds.
1836 - - -	63,900	4,059	4,496	23,659	6,230	1,491	27,160	2,319	3,278,930
1835 - - -	52,544	3,176	3,956	16,551	5,264	1,464	33,398	3,376	2,531,700
Increase - - -	11,356	883	540	7,108	966	27	- - -	- - -	747,230
Decrease - - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	6,238	1,057	- - -

British Guiana, 29 January 1836.

—No. 258.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *J. C. Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord, Camp House, Demerara, 24 February 1836.

I HAVE the honour to forward the epitome of the monthly reports from the fifteen stipendiary special justices in British Guiana for the month of January.

No. 258.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

Enclosure in No. 258. - - - - -

EPITOME of the MONTHLY REPORTS from the FIFTEEN STIPENDIARY - - - - -

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>C. H. Strutt, Esq.</i>	
1. Are the labourers in your district civil, contented and cheerful?	Yes, in general. I have visited seventeen estates (names given in original Report) during the month.	They are.	Yes. I have visited twenty-six estates (names given in the original Report), during the month.
2. Have they performed their work during the last month with alacrity and good-will?	They have, with the exception of the labourers of plantation 'Melville.'	They have.	The work on 'Cumming's Lodge' has not been performed with alacrity and good-will during the last month.
3. Has the work on any estate been unwillingly or not readily performed? If yes, have the goodness to name the estate, the proprietor, or his attorney, and the manager, in order that an inquiry may be forthwith instituted into the causes which may have led to such conduct.	The work has not been readily performed on plantation 'Melville,' George Rainey, attorney; and David Hill, manager.	The work has not been unwillingly performed by the labourers on any estate in my district during the month. The complaints brought before me being generally against a few idle and disorderly individuals, and not against any gang in particular.	The work on 'Cumming's Lodge' has not been readily performed. This only applies to the strong women. All the other labourers perform their work remarkably well. Proprietors Messrs. Memburn and Garnet. Manager, T. M'Donald.
4. Is task-work generally resorted to within your district? or do the labourers prefer working the seven hours and a half per day, as fixed by law?	Voluntary task-work is generally performed. The apprenticed labourers sometimes, however, prefer to labour the seven hours and a half.	A kind of voluntary task-work is resorted to in my district (with but few exceptions), the managers and apprenticed labourers taking the tariff as a guide.	Task-work is generally resorted to.
5. What are the working hours most generally in use in your district? Are there any estates in your district on which the labourers are compelled to lay by for two or three hours in the middle of the day, and then to complete their seven hours and a half in the afternoon (by which division of their labour they have little or no time to themselves). If yes, have the goodness to name the estates, proprietors or attorneys, and the managers.	The hours (when task-work is not resorted to) are from seven to half-past two. On plantations 'Fellowship' and 'Park Front,' the forty-five hours' labour per week are performed in five days; and they in consequence lay by for two hours in the middle of the day.	The hours in general use are from seven to eleven, and from one to half-past four; but, on all the estates, the labourers are allowed to leave the field as soon as they have performed a reasonable quantity of work according to the tariff; and I have known many of them to have finished by eleven o'clock, A.M.	The labourers commence work at seven, and go on until they finish, — twelve, one, two and three o'clock, according to the weather.

Enclosure in No. 258.

SPECIAL JUSTICES in *British Guiana*, for the Month of January 1836.

DISTRICT (C.)			DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R.N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>Captain Coleman.</i>	<i>Captain Allen.</i>
They are.	Yes. I have visited seven estates (names given in original Report), during the month, and I observe a very obvious improvement in the cheerfulness of the apprentices generally.	On some estates they are, but on others the reverse. I have visited ten estates (names given in original Report), during the month. labourers did not appear contented and happy, were 'La Parfaite Harmonie,' 'Maria's Lodge' and 'Malgrè-tout.'	Yes, very generally so. I inspected the hospitals on sixteen estates, and also visited thirteen estates (names given) during the month, in which the only estates in which the
With very few exceptions, the work has been performed with every appearance of goodwill.	Yes, generally.	On several estates they have not.	They have, with very few exceptions.
With the exception of a momentary discontent on plantation 'Sophia,' which was allayed without having recourse to corporal punishment. There has been no manifestation of unwillingness.	Generally no, with the exception of some idle females.	Particularly on plantation 'Little, Diamond,' Messrs. Blake and Bishop, trustees; Roger Humber, manager. Plantations 'Farm and Friendship,' Messrs. Reeves and Koolas, attornies; and John and Roderick Mackenzie, managers.	The work has not been performed with readiness by some of the gang on plantation 'Malgrè-tout,' C. F. Milne, proprietor; no manager. And unwillingly by the gang on plantation 'Maria's Lodge,' Lane and Paul, attornies; G. Johnstone, manager. On the last named estate, I ascribe any misconduct of the gang to have originated chiefly, if not solely, with the manager.
Task-work is resorted to on the estates in this division. The town mechanics work the legal time.	They work the seven hours and a half per day, as fixed by law.	The labourers in this part of the district generally prefer working the seven hours and a half per day; but on many estates they do not perform more than one-half of the work, which by assiduous and steady industry they might easily do in that time.	A certain quantity of work (without any written contract to that effect) is generally performed as a task throughout the district.
On the estates attached to this division, the labourers usually begin about seven o'clock, and lay by when their task is finished.	Generally from seven to half-past two P.M. There are females who go later to the field, consequently they remain longer at work. This is an accommodation to themselves granted by the managers.	The hours most generally in use are from seven A.M. to half-past two P.M. I am not aware of any estate in this part of the district to which the latter part of this question applies.	When no task is given or accepted, the hours of labour are usually from seven to eleven o'clock, and twelve to half-past three o'clock; or from seven to eleven o'clock, and one to half-past four o'clock. There are no estates where the labourers are compelled to lay by two hours, in the middle of the day. When complaints are made as to the interval of rest, one hour has been assigned by me for that purpose.

(continued on page 136.)

January 1836.] DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>J. W. Brittain, Esq.</i>
<p><i>Answers to Question 1.</i></p> <p>I have visited the hospitals on five estates (names given) during the month, and the labourers appear to be contented and cheerful. The only estates I can except are plantations <i>Cornelia Ida</i> and <i>Met en Meerjorg</i>.</p>	<p>Yes. During the month I have visited the hospitals on twenty-two estates on <i>Leguan</i>; nineteen estates on <i>Wakenaam</i>, and three estates on <i>Hog Island</i>, in all forty-four estates, being the whole of them in this district.</p>	<p>They are perfectly civil, and appear contented and cheerful. I have visited twenty estates and the hospitals thereon (names given in the original Report) during the month. The sick are not numerous, and seem well taken care of. Plantation '<i>Van Arnick</i>', Messrs. Murray and Brothers, attorneys, is the only estate on which the hospital is insufficient.</p>	<p>They are.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 2.</i></p> <p>On plantation '<i>Cornelia Ida</i>' much work has been lost during the month, but previously to Christmas, the conduct of the apprenticed labourers on this estate was most excellent.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>They have worked with much alacrity and apparent good-will.</p>	<p>With very few exceptions.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 3.</i></p> <p>Plantation '<i>Cornelia Ida</i>,' Mr. Vyhouse, attorney, Mr G. Ross, manager. Plantation '<i>Met en Muizog</i>,' a few of the women neglected their work, but not to any extent.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>The work has not been unwillingly performed on any estate in this district.</p>	<p>Nothing like systematic or general insubordination or unwillingness to do their work has been manifested by the apprenticed labourers on any estate in this district.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 4.</i></p> <p>On most estates task-work.</p>	<p>Task-work is general and preferred by the labourers.</p>	<p>Task-work is generally resorted to, and preferred by the labourers.</p>	<p>Task-work is generally done. There is no estate where the labourers prefer working the seven hours and a half, nor have I heard of any individual apprenticed labourer who made choice of working in that way during the last month.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 5.</i></p> <p>The bell rings on the estates generally at seven, and the labourers usually remain until their task is finished.</p>	<p>The working hours are from six to one, two, three, four, &c. according to circumstances, and the bargain made. The labourers work as they choose.</p>	<p>The labourers go to work at from half-past six to seven in the morning, and finish at their option. They are not compelled to lay by in the middle of the day on any estate in this district.</p>	<p>The managers are satisfied if the work expected be done, and well done, and never interfere with the labourers about the hours it is done in; some turn out late, which I discountenance, by pointing out not only its disadvantages in their present state, but after the expiration of the apprenticeship, &c.</p>

DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John M'Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Ryck de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
Generally they are. I have visited every estate in the district, and some two and three and even four times during the month; I have also visited several of the hospitals.	Generally.	During the month I have visited 21 estates (names given) and inspected the hospitals; I found the apprenticed labourers civil, tolerably contented and cheerful.	I have visited all the estates in my district. In general they are so.
Generally they have.	In most instances.	In general they have.	Yes, with few exceptions.
No, except by a few.	Not.	Generally it has. Amongst prime gangs there are idlers and indifferent characters, &c.	No.
Yea, generally; and preferred by the labourers.	It is. On no estate do the labourers prefer working the seven hours and a half per day, as fixed by law.	Task-work is most generally preferred amongst the apprenticed labourers; they work it diligently in general, and in so doing are early at home, some at one and some at two o'clock, in proportion to the diligence and activity.	A specified portion of work is usually allotted to each labourer.
From seven A. M. till their tasks are completed.	From seven A. M. till the day's labour is finished.	The labourers preferring task-work, finish it as it suits themselves. The bells ring or the shells are blown at eleven and at one o'clock to mark time.	Work is generally commenced about seven o'clock, and the labourers return when they have completed the portion of specified work.

(continued on page 140.)

January 1836.] QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>C. H. Strutt, Esq.</i>	
6. Do the labourers on any estate in your district perform extra labour for hire? If yes, name the estates, the rate of wages for extra work, and state how and when the payments are made, and if extra work is not performed for wages, state if reasonable wages have been offered, with weekly payment. If reasonable wages and prompt payment have been offered and rejected, state to what cause you attribute the refusal on the part of the labourers.	The labourers employed in the manufacture of sugar invariably perform extra labour for hire, and earn from six bits to two or three guilders a week, which is paid on demand. The field labourers on plantations 'Helena,' 'Supply' and 'Good Hope' very generally perform extra labour for hire, at the rate of two guilders for a certain task.	On all the estates in my district, the people employed in the boiling-houses and about the buildings receive wages for extra labour, at the rate of from two to three guilders per week. The field gangs of 'Beehive,' 'Dochfour,' 'Lowlands,' 'Greenfield,' do occasionally work for hire also.	Extra labour for hire is performed in the manufacture of sugar, two stivers per hour; and on the cotton estates during crop time, generally speaking; all the people employed in schooners and other craft are paid so much a trip, from a bit to a guilder.
7. Have there been any instances of insubordination, or any attempt to resist authority by force in your district? If there have been any, name the estates on which such occurrences have taken place.	One trifling instance on plantation 'Broom Hall.'	There have been none.	The strong women on plantation 'Cumming's Lodge' have been very insubordinate.
8. In the event of any disposition having been manifested by any of the labourers to neglect their work, or to behave rudely to those in authority over them, has such misconduct been so general as to induce you to attribute it to any combination or conspiracy; or is it only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that you have had complaints made?	I have attributed the neglect of work on plantation 'Melville' to combination. There have been during the month 50 convictions against apprenticed labourers of this estate.	—	—
9. Has the attendance of the prædial labourers at church, and of their children at school, been regular and to the full accommodation afforded them under the local circumstances of your district?	The attendance of the labourers at church has not been equal to the accommodation afforded; that of the children at school has been to the full of the very limited means open to them.	It has.	The attendance of the labourers at church has been good, and of their children at school has been regular. The attendance at the Bethel Chapel has been numerous, as well as at the school.
10. Have you, individually as a magistrate, and has the court over which you preside, been under the necessity of ordering punishment by whipping during the preceding month? and, if answered in the affirmative, state the number of delinquents so punished, and the extent of punishment awarded in each case.	Five { One - - 30 stripes. Four - 25 ,, each.	Two { One - - 12 stripes. One - - 10 ,,	None.
11. Has any manager, overseer, or other person in authority over the prædial labourers been fined or otherwise punished by the court over which you preside during the preceding month, for misconduct towards any labourer or labourers? Have there been any instances of the labourers having been detained at work beyond the legal hours; and, in such case, has the shilling sterling per hour for each individual labourer been levied?	One manager and one overseer, have been fined each 3 <i>l.</i> , for violating the Ordinance (No. 43,) by beating or maltreating apprenticed labourers.	I have not had occasion to fine, or otherwise punish any person in authority during the month.	One overseer fined 2 <i>l.</i> for an assault on an apprenticed labourer.

DISTRICT (C.)			DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R. N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>Captain Coleman.</i>	<i>Captain Allen.</i>
On the estates in this division, extra work for hire is performed about the buildings at the rate of one and a half to two bits per day, payment prompt; and on the plantation 'Sophia' coffee is picked for hire during the crop season.	None, but in the boiling-house.	Extra labour for hire is generally performed about the buildings at the rate of from one to two bits per day, prompt payment; it is rarely performed for hire in the field.	The labourers perform extra work for wages on sixteen estates (names given) about the buildings during the manufacture of sugar, and on many of them for work done in the field, chiefly cutting canes. Wages from two to four guilders, and from one to three guilders per week, and from one to two bits per day.
With the exception of the momentary fit of bad humour at plantation 'Sophia,' already alluded to, there has been no insubordination in this division.	None.	There have been some instances of insubordination, but no attempt to resist authority by force in this part of the district.	There have been one or two individual instances of insubordination, but none that merit repetition. There has been no attempt to resist authority by force.
There has been no organized combination.	No; where such may be visible, I attribute it to the idle and disorderly.	A strong disposition has been manifested by many of the labourers to resist their work, and by some to behave rudely to those in authority over them, and such misconduct has been so general, as to induce me to attribute it to a conspiracy amongst them to perform as little labour as they can.	It is only with respect to a few disorderly apprentices that any well-grounded complaints have been made.
The places of worship and schools are well attended, and the accommodation is quite sufficient.	Yes.	Yes.	The attendance of the labourers at St. Mark's church was equal to the local accommodation; that of their children at school there has little varied, and is not equal to the accommodation.
None.	Two { One - - 24 stripes. One - - 18 "	One - - 30 stripes.	One - - 25 stripes.
Five employers have been fined by me during the month for offences under Ordinance (No. 43.)	Yes; Mr. Philip Edghill has been fined by me ten guilders for a trifling assault upon an apprenticed labourer on plantation 'La Penitence.'	No.	No.

(continued on page 142.)

January 1836.] DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>W. J. Brittain, Esq.</i>
<p><i>Answers to Question 6.</i></p> <p>Only those about the buildings, such as firemen, engineers, boilermen; they are paid weekly in silver. Average rate for extra wages, about two stivers per hour.</p>	<p>Upon every estate extra labour is performed; upon many the whole gang are always paid; on others, only the cane-cutters and people about the buildings. The wages are from one bit to two and three guilders per week, according to circumstances.</p>	<p>Extra labour for hire in the boiling-house is universally performed, and on most estates in the field also, though not with the same alacrity, the females being more averse to it than the males.</p>	<p>Extra labour is very generally resorted to in this district; men, women and even children perform it. On many estates they are paid weekly; on some, I believe, with their own consent, monthly. I receive no complaints on this head. On the estate where I am now located, 'La Belle Alliance,' about 1,000 guilders have been paid for the two last months for extra labour.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Ques 7.</i></p> <p>Only with respect to some of the women belonging to plantation 'Cornelia Ida.'</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None, but a very few individual cases of no importance.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 8.</i></p> <p>The female apprenticed labourers of plantation 'Cornelia Ida' evidently conspired to neglect their work; also a few of the females (about nine) on plantation 'Met en Meezog.' The male labourers punished by whipping are mostly runaways and old offenders.</p>	<p>It is only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that complaints have been made.</p>	<p>Solely with respect to the latter.</p>	<p>Although the number of complaints have exceeded those of the preceding, it will be seen, on inspecting the record, that a great many of them were of a nature to call for very small punishments. I have seen no reason to apprehend anything like a general combination to resistance on any estate in the district.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Ques. 9.</i></p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>The churches are always filled and the schools well attended. There is a lamentable deficiency of both schools and churches in this district.</p>	<p>It has been as regular as usual, and I think to the full extent of the accommodation.</p>	<p>It has, both as regards the parents and children. Further accommodation, both as to churches and schools, is required, to meet the wants and wishes of the apprenticed labourers generally.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 10.</i></p> <p>Nine { Three - 30 stripes each. Three - 25 " Three - 15 "</p>	<p>Three - 39 stripes each.</p>	<p>Ten { One - 39 stripes. One - 30 " Four - 25 " each. One - 20 " One - 15 " One - 12 " One - 10 "</p>	<p>Seven { Two - 15 stripes each. Two - 10 " Three - 8 "</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 11.</i></p> <p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No complaints of this nature have been made.</p>

DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John M'Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Ryck de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
<p>Extra labour is not much performed or required in this district; on some of the sugar estates a few about the buildings are employed occasionally. Wages varies; in a few instances reasonable wages have been offered, and rejected, as not being sufficient. Payments made weekly, or when asked for.</p>	<p>On all estates the persons employed about the buildings, whilst manufacturing sugar.</p>	<p>Yes, the labourers are bired either to the proprietors they are attached to, or to the other estates, for reasonable wages and prompt payment.</p>	<p>On sugar estates, about the buildings, a little extra labour in the field has also been performed. I think the inclination to work for wages is increasing. I have been anxious to introduce task-work for wages, but have not yet succeeded, &c.</p>
<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>None whatever.</p>	<p>On plantation 'Port Mourant,' there has been an instance of insubordination and combination among the whole of the women gang; they appear to have been dissatisfied, in consequence of some women having been required to go to their work after having been discharged by the medical attendant. They evinced the feelings first by doing little.</p>
<p>Only with respect to a few idle and disorderly, I have had complaints made.</p>	<p>Complaints preferred during the month have been against old offenders.</p>	<p>No, I do not think so; it is amongst the idle and disorderly it exists; and such, after a fair trial (if convicted), meet their desert in the pale of the ordinance.</p>	<p>Replied to above.</p>
<p>Yes.</p>	<p>It has.</p>	<p>I have heard nothing to the contrary. Since the Rev. J. Ross left the station for Europe, for the benefit of his health, almost every Sunday a clergyman performs divine service, or Mr. Henry, the catechist, reads the Scriptures and prayers for the congregation.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>None.</p>	<p>Two - 20 stripes each.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Mr. A. M'Watt, a manager and part proprietor of a cattle farm, has been fined 20s. for an assault on a prædial labourer in his service.</p>

(continued on page 144.)

January 1836.] QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.)
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>C. H. Strutt, Esq.</i>	<i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
12. Have any complaints been preferred to you during the last month, from any apprenticed labourers, respecting their clothing, food, treatment, or upon any subject? In the event of any complaints having been made to you, have you carefully investigated into the matters, and caused justice to be rendered to the parties as far as it was in your power? State the number and the nature of the complaints which may have been preferred to you in general terms.	None, with the exception of the two named in my answer to No. 11 query.	I have had a few trivial complaints, not important enough, however, to be recorded here. I afforded them my best attention as they came before me, and settled them amicably.	There have been a few complaints made by the idle going into the hospital and refusing to work, although reported by the medical attendant 'Not sick.'
13. Have any of the free children upon any of the estates in your district been bound apprentices during the last month? If yes, name the estates upon which such occurrences have taken place, and state if the transactions were with the free consent and approbation of the parents of the children.	None.	There have been none.	None.
14. How are the children fed and taken care of on the estates in your district? Are they fed from the stores of the estates gratuitously, and is an additional quantity of salt fish and plantains issued for them? or are they fed out of the allowance due to their parents? When their mothers are at work in the field, is a woman specially appointed to take care of their young children, and exempted from all other duty? Are the children when unwell allowed the advantage of the medical assistance and hospital treatment of the estate in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery?	They are fed and taken care of gratuitously, as when in a state of slavery, except on woodlands, where they have no allowance of salt fish.	The children on the estates in my district are allowed the same advantages of food, clothes and medical attendance as when in a state of slavery.	The children are fed and taken care of as formerly.
15. On how many estates in your district are schools established? Name the estates, proprietors and managers of estates having schools.	None.	There is a school on plantation 'Enmore,' Mr. Porter, who resides in England, being the proprietor. I am happy to add, that there will soon be a school also on plantation 'Greenfield,' belonging to Mr. Glen, of George Town.	On eleven estates schools are established (names given in original report.)
16. Are there any remarks or observations which you may wish to convey to the Lieutenant-governor, connected with the peace, tranquillity and happiness of the district under your superintendance? If yes, state the same.	I believe the combination on plantation 'Melville' is at length at an end. (signed) <i>K. Heyland,</i> S. J. P.	None. (signed) <i>Cha' Henry Strutt,</i> S. J. P.	I consider the district tranquil and quiet (with the exception of Cumming's Lodge), and every thing going on very satisfactory. (signed) <i>A. M. Lyons,</i> S. J. P.

DISTRICT (C.)			DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	RIVER. Captain <i>Delafons, R. N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. Captain <i>Coleman.</i>	Captain <i>Allen.</i>
Seven complaints have been lodged by apprenticed labourers during the month; one respecting lodging, five respecting their allowance of clothing, and one for maltreatment, and decisions given by me in each case.	None.	None but what have been specially reported on.	Nineteen complaints have been preferred during the month; all have been inquired into, or are in progress of being so, and redressed to the best of my power.
No.	None.	No.	None.
On the estates in this division the free children have an extra allowance of food, as well as nurses and medical attendance.	The children are fed gratuitously from the stores of the estates. When unwell they are received into hospitals, and proper females are appointed to attend them when their mothers are in the field at work.	With the exception of plantation 'Garden of Eden,' 'Little Diamond' and 'Prosperity,' the children have an extra allowance of provisions; they are, without exception, allowed nurses and medical attendance.	The children are generally fed by an additional allowance of plantains and salt fish to the mothers; if very young, they commonly receive a little barley, rice, sugar, &c. in lieu. They are attended by a nurse when their mothers are in the field. They are reported to receive medical attendance as when in a state of slavery. The free children of 'Maria's Lodge' are not fed.
On plantations 'Kitty' and 'Belle Air,' missionary chapels are established, at which the children are taught.	'Rome' and 'Houston,' and one very far advanced at Ruinveldt.	Three; at 'Peter's Hall,' 'Perseverance' and the 'Craig,' all under the superintendence of the Rev. L. Strong.	Schools are established on nine estates (names given in original report.)
I am of opinion that the establishment of a savings bank in each district would greatly promote the industry of the working classes throughout the colony.	None other than that the feeling between the apprentices generally and their employers or managers appear to me to be fast improving.	None but what are hereinbefore conveyed.	Nil.
(signed) <i>Geo. Ross,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>Tho' Delafons,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>Tho' Coleman,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>J. A. Allen,</i> S. J. P.

(continued on page 146.)

January 1836.] DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>W. J. Brittain, Esq.</i>
<p><i>Answers to Question 12.</i></p> <p>A complaint was made to your Excellency by some of the female apprenticed labourers of plantation 'Met en Meerjorg,' that since Christmas they have only received two pounds of salt fish; this complaint was clearly proved untrue.</p>	None.	Two complaints were made, but, upon investigation, were proved unfounded.	Two, found to be frivolous and vexatious.
<p><i>Answers to Question 13.</i></p> <p>None.</p>	None.	None.	None.
<p><i>Answers to Question 14.</i></p> <p>On plantation 'Hague,' 'Groenveld,' 'Leonora,' and 'Met en Meerjog,' no food or doctor. 'Anna Catherina,' 'William,' 'Vreesen Hoop,' 'Best,' no food, but doctor allowed. All the estates allowed nurses when the mothers are at work.</p>	The children on all the estates in the district are treated the same as before the 1st of August 1834.	In the same manner as when in a state of slavery.	As before the apprenticeship, except upon plantation 'Exmouth,' where they are provided for in sickness, but receive no other allowance.
<p><i>Answers to Question 15.</i></p> <p>On six estates (names given in original Report).</p>	Three.	On five (names given in original Report).	But one. The clergymen of the parish also instruct daily all who attend at the church before four and six o'clock P. M., as well as on Sundays.
<p><i>Answers to Question 16.</i></p> <p>I am sorry to say the number of females punished during the last month has much exceeded that of the month of December; but it will appear that one-half of the number are attached to plantation 'Cornelia Ida' and 'Met en Meerjorg.'</p> <p>(signed) <i>Spry Bartlett,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>Nil.</p> <p>(signed) <i>George Killock,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>The conduct of the labourers, particularly since the middle of the month, has been particularly good, and the managers assure me that they never worked more cheerfully or better at any former period whatever. It is true there is an increase of punishments, but this is but the usual consequences of the holidays.</p> <p>(signed) <i>G. Ball,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>Repeats observations of last month.</p> <p>(signed) <i>W. J. Brittain,</i> S. J. P.</p>

DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John M'Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Ryck de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
No.	No.	None of any importance.	No, except in the case before mentioned.
No.	No.	No.	No.
Generally the same as before the 1st of August 1834.	The same as when in a state of slavery.	On most estates they receive gratuitous allowance of food, medicine, assistance and attendance.	Except on three estates, they are fed from the stores of the estates; in other respects they are treated as formerly.
There are schools amongst the labourers themselves on nearly all the estates; on a great many, teachers engaged besides those at the different places of worship.	On four (names given).	On six estates (names recorded in original Report).	None.
Nil. (signed) <i>G. Rose,</i> S. J. P.	Nil. (signed) <i>John M'Leod,</i> S. J. P.	None. (signed) <i>A. Van Ryck de Groot,</i> S. J. P.	Nil. (signed) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir,</i> S. J. P. (True extracts.) <i>J. H. D. W. Sidley,</i> Private Secretary.

(continued on page 148.)

GUIANA.

—No. 259.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *J. C. Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 259.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 11 March 1836.

WITH reference to that part of your Lordship's Despatch of the 22d January, which relates to the suggestion I had the honour to submit in the fourth paragraph of the Despatch 13th November last, addressed by me to your Lordship, relative to an amendment in the mode of appraising the remainder of the time and services of such apprenticed labourers as might be able to purchase their immediate emancipation, I beg respectfully to observe, that I am afraid I did not express myself with sufficient clearness. I never meant to assume that the calculations I entered into were not open to controversy, and were not liable to be deemed to be erroneous. All that I meant to impress upon your Lordship was, that in my opinion some general rules might be established, so as to afford a maximum and a minimum by which the appraisers might be guided. Every day, however, which passes away, advancing as it does the approach of the period when the apprenticeship will cease, diminishes the necessity of any regulation of the nature to which I have alluded. As a check upon exorbitant and unfair appraisements, I have directed that henceforth a nominal monthly return shall be published of all apprenticed labourers who may have purchased their emancipation by appraisal. Such return to state the name, age, sex; whether prædial or non-prædial; amount of the appraisal; names of the appraisers, and of the approving judge. The publicity thus given to all proceedings connected with the appraisal of the remaining time the apprenticed labourer has to serve cannot but tend to prevent irregularities, and perhaps may as effectually guard the interests of the parties concerned as if a maximum and a minimum had been established by law.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

—No. 260.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *J. C. Smyth*.

No. 260.

Sir,

Downing-street, 25 April 1836.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 11th ult. explanatory of your former Despatch on the subject of the mode of appraising the remainder of the time and services of such apprentices as might be able to purchase their immediate emancipation.

In reply, it is only necessary that I should acquaint you that I approve of the instructions which you have issued, that a nominal monthly return should be published of the apprentices who had during that period purchased their entire freedom by appraisal, showing the name, age, sex, &c. of each. I concur with you in thinking, that the publicity of a return of this nature will be found to be of good effect in preventing unfair appraisal; and I shall be glad to find that a measure so simple in its operation has been attended with the anticipated advantages.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

—No. 261.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *J. C. Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 261.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 16 March 1836.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Lordship the epitome of the monthly reports from the fifteen stipendiary special justices for February.

I have, &c.

J. Carmichael Smyth.

Enclosure in No. 261.

EPITOME of the MONTHLY REPORTS from the FIFTEEN STIPENDIARY SPECIAL JUSTICES in *British Guiana*, for the Month of February 1836.

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>Charles Henry Strutt, Esq.</i>	
1. Are the labourers in your district civil, contented and cheerful?	Yes, in general. I visited seventeen estates (names given in original Report), during the month; and I also inspected the hospitals on several estates.	They are.	Yes. I have visited twenty-four estates (names given in the original Report) during the month.
2. Have they performed their work during the last month with alacrity and goodwill?	Yes, very generally.	They have.	Yes.
3. Has the work on any estate been unwillingly or not readily performed? If yes, have the goodness to name the estate, the proprietor, or his attorney, and the manager, in order that an inquiry may be forthwith instituted into the causes which may have led to such conduct.	The work was not readily performed at one period during the month on plantation 'Melville,' George Rainey, attorney; D. Hill, manager; and on 'Spring Hall,' John Jones, attorney; R. Trotman, manager.	The work has not been unwillingly performed on any estate in my district.	The work on plantation 'Cumming's Lodge,' by the strong women only, has not been readily performed. Proprietors, Murburn & Garnet; manager, J. M'Donald.
4. Is task-work generally resorted to within your district? or do the labourers prefer working the seven hours and a half per day, as fixed by law?	Task-work is almost universally resorted to. It is, however, optional with the apprenticed labourers, who sometimes prefer working the seven hours and a half.	A kind of voluntary task-work is most generally in use in my district, both managers and apprenticed labourers taking the tariff as their guide.	Task-work is generally resorted to.
5. What are the working hours most generally in use in your district? Are there any estates in your district on which the labourers are compelled to lay by for two or three hours in the middle of the day, and then to complete their seven hours and a half in the afternoon (by which division of their labour they have little or no time to themselves)? If yes, have the goodness to name the estates, proprietors or attorneys, and the managers.	The hours of labour (when task-work is not resorted to) in use are continuous, from seven o'clock A.M. to half-past two o'clock P.M.	The nominal hours are from seven to eleven o'clock, and from one to half-past four o'clock; but on all the estates, except 'Paradise' and 'Anne's Grove,' two cotton plantations, the apprenticed labourers are allowed to leave the field when they have followed a reasonable quantity of work, according to the tariff.	Commence generally at seven o'clock, and finish about one o'clock. On 'Cumming's Lodge' the strong women are compelled to lay by two hours in the middle of the day, in consequence of their conspiring together, and resisting to perform their work. The other labourers finish about one o'clock.

(continued on page 150)

February 1836.]		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D.)	
TOWN. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>		RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R.N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>Captain Coleman.</i>	<i>Captain Allen.</i>	
Answers to Question 1.	They are.	Yes, generally; with some exceptions. I have visited six estates (names given) during the month.	They are in general civil and cheerful; but on some estates they are not contented. I have visited twelve estates and the hospitals thereon (names given) during the month.	Yes, in most cases. I inspected the hospitals of twelve estates (names given) during the month; and have visited also twelve other estates, wood-cutting or other establishments (names given); on all these the apprenticed labourers appeared in general contented and happy; those on plantation 'Malgrè-tout' excepted.	
	Answers to Question 2.	On the estates annexed to this division, I have availed myself of the opportunities afforded by the dry season, of walking into the fields now and then, in the morning. On all these occasions, I found the labourers behaving as well as could be desired.	Yes, generally; but there are exceptions, particularly on the estate of 'Ruimveld,' 'La Penitence' and 'Werk-en-Rust.'	On some estates they have not.	Yes, with very few exceptions.
	Answers to Question 3.	No.	Generally no; but some few idle and disorderly individuals on the estates of 'Ruimveld,' 'La Penitence' and 'Werk-en-Rust' have, and giving much trouble.	Yes. Plantation 'Mocha,' — Dawson, Esq., trustee; J. W. M'Kinnon, manager. 'Little Diamond,' Messrs. Blake & Bishop, trustees; R. Hunter, manager. 'Peter's Hall,' Messrs. Taylor & Smith, attornies; Wm. Barry, manager. 'Henry,' John Lane, attorney; A. Nicholson, manager. 'Golden Grove,' Dr. Rankin, proprietor; A. Brown, manager. 'Farm,' Messrs. Rivers & Koolas, attornies; John M'Kenzie, manager.	Complaints have been made as to the insufficiency of work done on plantations 'Malgrè-tout,' C. F. Milne, proprietor; no manager. 'Maria's Lodge,' Lane & Paul, attornies; G. Johnstone, manager. On the first named estate, the gang is at present not complained of. On the second, the truth of the statement has not yet been investigated.
		Answers to Question 4.	Task-work is resorted to on the estates in this division. The town mechanics work the legal time.	They work the seven hours and a half per day, as fixed by law.	The labourers in this part of the district generally prefer working the seven hours and a half per day, as fixed by law.
	Answers to Question 5.	None.	Generally from seven A.M. until half past two P.M.; but many individuals come to the field at a much later hour, consequently are obliged to remain longer in the field.	From seven A.M. to half-past two P.M. I know of no estate to which the latter part of this question applies.	From seven to eleven o'clock, four hours; and from twelve to half-past three o'clock, three hours and a half: seven hours and a half. Or, from seven to eleven o'clock, four hours; and from one to half-past four o'clock, three hours and a half: seven hours and a half. There are no estates where the labourers are compelled to lay by two hours in the middle of the day. On some it is done without being complained of, in which case the system is not interfered with.

DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>J. W. Brittain, Esq.</i>
<p>During the month I have visited the hospitals on five estates (names given in original Report). The apprenticed labourers are well found in medical advice, and are contented and civil.</p>	<p>Perfectly so. During the last month I have visited the hospitals on 19 estates on 'Wankenhaam;' 12 on 'Leguan,' and 3 on 'Hog Island,' being all the sugar estates in this district.</p>	<p>They are perfectly civil, and appear contented and cheerful. I have visited 20 estates (names given in original Report), and inspected the several hospitals. The sick are few on most of the estates, and seem well attended to; but on plantation 'Hoff Van Aurick' the hospital is very bad. The manager, however, assures me that a new one will be shortly erected.</p>	<p>They generally are so.</p>
<p>Except on plantation 'Met-en-Merzog.'</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>They have.</p>	<p>With very few exceptions they have.</p>
<p>Plantation 'Met-en-Merzog,' proprietors, Messrs. Fullerton & M'Donald; manager, Hugh Ross; attorneys, Messrs. Wilkinson & Burnet.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>The work has not been unwillingly performed on any estate in this district.</p>	<p>There has been no marked unwillingness to work on any estate during the month.</p>
<p>Task-work generally throughout the district.</p>	<p>Task-work is universal, and preferred by the labourers.</p>	<p>Task-work is generally resorted to, and preferred.</p>	<p>Task-work is very generally done, and a considerable amount of extra labour is performed on most estates in the district.</p>
<p>The bell rings on most estates at seven, and the labourers can quit the field the moment their task is finished.</p>	<p>From about six and seven to one, two, three, four, five and six, according to circumstances and the bargain made. Upon every estate whenever their task is done they leave the field. Work as they choose.</p>	<p>Commences generally at half-past six or seven, and finish at the option of the labourers. They are not compelled to lay by in the middle of the day.</p>	<p>The amount of work done is alone taken into consideration, and not the hours.</p>

(continued on page 152.)

February 1836] DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John M'Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Ryck de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir Esq.</i>
<p><i>Answers to Question 1.</i></p> <p>They are generally. I have visited every estate in the district, and some two, three and four times during the month, and most of the hospitals.</p>	<p>Generally. I have visited most estates in the district, some three or four times; no complaints preferred.</p>	<p>During the month I have visited 12 estates (names given), and inspected the hospitals thereon. I found the labourers civil, tolerably contented and cheerful.</p>	<p>I have visited all the estates in my district; in general they are civil, contented and cheerful.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 2.</i></p> <p>They have generally, with few exceptions.</p>	<p>In most instances.</p>	<p>In general they have,</p>	<p>Yes, with few exceptions.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 3.</i></p> <p>No, except by few.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Generally it has; in best gangs there are indifferent characters, as may be seen from the Judicial Records; such of course excepted.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 4.</i></p> <p>Yes, generally, and is preferred by the labourers.</p>	<p>It is.</p>	<p>Task-work is most generally preferred by the labourers; they work it diligently in general, and in so doing are early at home, some at one, some at two o'clock, according to their activity.</p>	<p>A specified portion of work is usually allotted to each labourer.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 5.</i></p> <p>From seven A. M. to half-past two, or till their tasks are finished. They can rest or not during their tasks. They are not compelled to lay by; and they have frequently finished their work by twelve and one o'clock.</p>	<p>From half-past six till the day's labour is performed.</p>	<p>As the labourers generally prefer task-work, they finish it as it suits themselves; they are not controlled therein.</p>	<p>Work is generally commenced about seven o'clock, and the labourers return when they have performed their portion of specified work.</p>

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.)
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>Charles Henry Strutt, Esq.</i>	<i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
6. Do the labourers on any estate in your district perform extra labour for hire? If yes, name the estates, the rate of wages for extra work, and state how and when the payments are made; and if extra work is not performed for wages, state if reasonable wages have been offered, with weekly payment. If reasonable wages and prompt payment have been offered and rejected, state to what cause you attribute the refusal on the part of the labourers.	The labourers employed in the manufacture of sugar invariably perform labour for hire, earning from six bits to two guilders per week, which is paid on demand. The field labourers of plantation 'Good Hope' and 'Helena' very frequently perform extra labour for hire, at the rate of 2 f. for a day's work of 7 ½ hours, as laid down in the tariff.	The people employed in the boiling-houses and about the buildings are in receipt of wages for extra labour; their earnings vary from two to three guilders per week each. On 'Beehive' and 'Grenfield' those occupied in the field occasionally work for hire, also earning from two to three guilders per week. The payments are usually made every month.	In the manufacture of sugar, and also field labourers perform extra labour for hire, and at crop time the coffee and cotton estate labourers; two stivers per hour for working in the buildings; nine guilders for weeding per acre of plantations; two guilders for one punt of canes; and 12 labourers have agreed to hole 10 acres of land, formerly in cotton, for 20 joes (about 30 l.) payments monthly.
7. Have there been any instances of insubordination, or any attempt to resist authority by force in your district? If there have been any, name the estates on which such occurrences have taken place.	None.	There have been none.	None.
8. In the event of any disposition having been manifested by any of the labourers to neglect their work, or to behave rudely to those in authority over them, has such misconduct been so general as to induce you to attribute it to any combination or conspiracy? or is it only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that you have had complaints made?	On plantation 'Melville' and 'Spring Hall,' the neglect of work was so general that I attributed it to combination.	—	Plantation 'Cumming's Lodge,' the strong women behave very rudely to those in authority over them, and have combined and conspired not to perform their work.
9. Has the attendance of the prædial labourers at church, and of their children at school, been regular and to the full accommodation afforded them under the local circumstances of your district?	In both instances the attendance has been good.	It has.	The attendance of the labourers at church and at Bethel chapel has been very good, and their children regular at school.
10. Have you, individually as a magistrate, and has the court over which you preside, been under the necessity of ordering punishment by whipping during the preceding month? and, if answered in the affirmative, state the number of delinquents so punished, and the extent of punishment awarded in each case.	Two, 15 stripes each.	None.	None.
11. Has any manager, overseer or other person in authority over the prædial labourers been fined or otherwise punished by the court over which you preside during the preceding month for misconduct toward any labourer or labourers? Have there been any instances of the labourers having been detained at work beyond the legal hours? and, in such case, has the shilling sterling per hour for each individual labourer been levied?	One person fined 2 l. sterling for maltreating his apprenticed labourer.	No.	One overseer fined ten shillings, or seven guilders, for an assault on an apprenticed labourer. Amount of fine paid to the labourer.

(continued on page 154.)

February 1836.]		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R. N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>Captain Coleman.</i>	<i>Captain Allen.</i>	
<i>Answers to Question 6.</i> On the estates attached to this division, extra work for hire is performed about the buildings, at the rate of one and a half to three bits per day during the grinding, payment prompt; and on plantation 'Sophia' coffee is picked for hire during the crop season.	None, except in the sugar-houses.	On almost all the estates, at the rate of from one to two bits per day, about the buildings, prompt payment; the labourers show great disinclination to perform any other work for wages except occasionally digging trenches, and prefer taking provisions, &c. to town for sale.	The rate of wages for hire, names of the estates, &c. &c. has not varied in any particular since last month.	
<i>Answers to Question 7.</i> There has been no attempt to resist authority by force.	None.	None within the month.	There has been no instance of insubordination meriting particular notice, except of a labourer of plantation 'Wales,' who made use of abusive language to his manager. There has been no attempt to resist authority by force.	
<i>Answers to Question 8.</i> There has been no combination or conspiracy.	When such instances have taken place, to be attributed to the idle and disorderly only. On the estates of 'Ruimveld,' 'La Penitence' and 'Werk en Rust.'	Many complaints have been made with respect to idle and disorderly apprentices; but, with the exception of plantation 'Mocha,' they have not been so general as to warrant my attributing them to combination or conspiracy.	The complaints made have only had reference to a few idle apprentices, with the exception of the estates named under question 3.	
<i>Answers to Ques. 9.</i> The places of worship and schools are well attended, and the accommodation quite sufficient.	Yes.	Yes.	The attendance exceeded the local accommodation. The attendance of children at the Sunday school has been as regular as usual, but has not been equal to the accommodation.	
<i>Answers to Question 10.</i> None.	None.	Four, 20 stripes each.	One, 15 stripes.	
<i>Answers to Question 11.</i> No.	Mr. Petrie has been fined the price of two ducks, for shooting two belonging to an apprenticed labourer of plantation 'Ruimveld,' &c.	Yes; one manager has been fined 3 <i>l.</i> sterling, for illegally confining some labourers in the hospital from three o'clock in the afternoon till six o'clock the following morning; but not in the stocks or in solitary confinement.	No conviction has taken place last month on the above subject.	

DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>J. W. Brittain, Esq.</i>
<p>Only those about the buildings, such as firemen, boiler-men, engineers, &c. They are paid in silver weekly, if possible. Average rate, two stivers per hour.</p>	<p>Upon every estate extra work is performed for hire; upon many estates the whole gang is paid all the year round, and upon these there are scarcely any complaints. The managers all declare that this is by far the best plan. Upon others, only the cane-cutters and people about the buildings are paid. The wages are from one bit to two and three guilders per week, according to circumstances.</p>	<p>Extra labour for hire in the boiling-house is performed on every estate, but is not so universal in the field. Wages rate from a guilder to one and a half per day, according to the work they are employed at; paid usually monthly; on some estates quarterly.</p> <p>down in the scale for seven hours and a half, but more is often given by agreement. So far from the apprenticed labourers showing any unwillingness to do extra work, I have known them apply for it to a neighbouring manager, when their own could not give it to them.</p>	<p>I have already stated, in reply to the 4th question, that a considerable amount of extra labour is performed on most estates. I should feel at a loss to name any estate where no extra work has been done. I hear no complaints of the mode of payment; the lowest rate of wages is one guilder for the quantity of work laid</p>
<p>Only on plantation 'Met-en-Meerzog.'</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>Nothing of this kind has occurred.</p>	<p>No attempt has been made, or, I think I may say, been thought of.</p>
<p>Combination to neglect their work evidently existed on plantation 'Met-en-Meerzog,' but (with three exceptions) only with respect to the female apprentices.</p>	<p>It is only with respect to a few idle and disorderly, that complaints have been made.</p> <p>their fellow labourers to acts of insubordination and neglect of work; but although the same individuals had twice before succeeded in producing serious mischief, they entirely failed in their object on the present occasion, the other labourers refusing to listen to their evil counsel; nor had they the smallest grounds for complaint, it having been satisfactorily proved that the work they found fault with was usually performed within four hours, and they are three of the most able young men on the estate.</p>	<p>With respect to the latter only, three of whom attached to plantation 'Perseverance,' made an attempt to seduce</p>	<p>A few individuals have so combined, but in no case, during the month, has such combination been so extensive as to affect the gang of an estate generally.</p>
<p>Yes.</p> <p>and one church upon 'Leguan.' From the size of the islands and number of estates, there ought to be at least one more upon each island. The few schools there are, are well attended.</p>	<p>The churches are always filled. There is only one church upon 'Wakenhaam'</p>	<p>As regular as usual, and I think to the full extent of the accommodation.</p> <p>shall have been completed. The attendance of the children and adults at both the daily and Sunday schools is considerable, and increasing, under the zealous care and persevering exertions of the rector.</p>	<p>It has been regular, and to the full extent, not only of the accommodation now afforded to the labourers, but to what it will be when the enlargement of the church now in progress</p>
<p>Three { One - 39 stripes. One - 25 " One - 10 "</p>	<p>Four { Three - 39 stripes each. One - 25 "</p>	<p>Five { Two - 30 stripes each. One - 20 " Two - 15 " "</p>	<p>Three { One - 20 stripes. One - 15 " One - 10 "</p>
<p>Robert Waterton, Esq., J. P., pleaded guilty to an assault on George, an apprenticed labourer, of plantation 'La Jalousie,' and was fined 2<i>l.</i> sterling. Douglass, an apprenticed labourer, on plantation 'Met-en-Meerzog,' complained of an assault by Mr. Hugh Ross, catechist. I referred the complaint to Edward Schultz, Esq., J. P., who permitted a compromise by the complainant being fined 22 guilders.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>There have been no instances of either during the month.</p>	<p>One overseer, on plantation 'Watton Hall,' was sentenced to pay a fine, for having used abusive and indecent language to a female apprenticed labourer. The seven hours and a half work daily has universally been commuted for a proportionate amount of work; viz. the scale of task-work published. This is always diminished when the work is harder than usual. Should that not be the case, the special magistrate would feel it to be his duty to interfere.</p>

(continued on page 156.)

February 1836.] DISTRICT (L.) George Rose, Esq.	DISTRICT (K.) John M'Leod, Esq.	DISTRICT (L.) A. Van Ryck de Groot, Esq.	DISTRICT (M.) J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.
<p><i>Answers to Question 6.</i></p> <p>Extra work is not much required, except on some of the sugar estates, when occasionally the boilermen and firemen are employed. Wages vary; paid weekly, or when asked for.</p>	<p>All persons employed about the buildings on sugar estates. Extra labour has been performed on plantation 'Adelphi' and on 'Philadelphia,' at the rate of one guilder and one guilder and a half per day.</p>	<p>Yes, the labourers are hired either to the proprietors they belong to, or to other estates, for reasonable wages, prompt payment.</p>	<p>I am not aware of any field labour having been performed for hire during the month. Liberal, I may say high, wages and prompt payment have been offered, and not accepted. I can only attribute the refusal on the part of the labourers to a disinclination to perform field labour. In the boiling-house or about the buildings they will perform extra labour cheerfully.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Ques. 7.</i></p> <p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>There has been an instance of insubordination and riot at plantation 'Alness,' but it did not appear that there was any attempt to resist authority by force. The case is fully reported in the Record of Complaints.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 8.</i></p> <p>Only with respect to a few idle and disorderly.</p>	<p>The complaints preferred during the month were against old offenders, at least in most instances.</p>	<p>No, I do not think so; it is amongst the idle, disorderly, and such, after a fair trial, if convicted, are brought to a sense of their duty in the pale of the law.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Ques. 9.</i></p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>It has.</p>	<p>I have heard nothing to the contrary. Divine service is performed every Sunday, either by a minister, or, in absence, by Mr. Henry, the catechist, who reads the Scriptures.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 10.</i></p> <p>Two - 20 stripes each.</p>	<p>Eight { Two - 25 stripes each. Two - 20 " Four - 15 "</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>Two { One - 20 stripes. One - 12 "</p>
<p><i>Answer to Questions 11.</i></p> <p>No.</p>	<p>No complaint has been preferred.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.)
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>Charles Henry Strutt, Esq.</i>	<i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
12. Have any complaints been preferred to you during the last month, from any apprenticed labourers, respecting their clothing, food, treatment, or upon any subject? In the event of any complaints having been made to you, have you carefully investigated into the matters and caused justice to be rendered to the parties as far as it was in your power? State the number and the nature of the complaints which may have been preferred to you in general terms.	Two men of plantation 'Broom Hall,' complained of their allowance of plantains, and one man of plantation 'Farm,' complained of having been confined by his manager. After a careful investigation, I adjudged these complaints to be frivolous.	I have had several minor complaints, and during the month, to all of which I gave my best consideration as they came before me; none, however, were of sufficient importance to require notice or enumeration here.	No complaints, except from a few idle and indolent labourers.
13. Have any of the free children upon any of the estates in your district been bound apprentices during the last month? If yes, name the estates upon which such occurrences have taken place, and state if the transactions were with the free consent and approbation of the parents of the children.	None.	None.	None.
14. How are the children fed and taken care of on the estates in your district? Are they fed from the stores of the estates gratuitously, and is an additional quantity of salt fish and plantains issued for them? or are they fed out of the allowance due to their parents? When their mothers are at work in the field, is a woman specially appointed to take care of their young children, and exempted from all other duty? Are the children when unwell allowed the advantage of the medical assistance and hospital treatment of the estate in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery.	The children throughout the district have the same care, attention and treatment as when in a state of slavery.	The children are provided for as before the 1st August 1834.	As when in a state of slavery.
15. On how many estates in your district are schools established? Name the estates, proprietors, and managers of estates having schools.	None.	There are two schools.	There has been no increase or decrease during the month.
16. Are there any remarks or observations which you may wish to convey to the Lieutenant-governor, connected with the peace, tranquillity and happiness of the district under your superintendance? If yes, state the same.	None.	None. I am happy to have again to remark that my district is in a very quiet and satisfactory condition, the labourers being cheerful and contented and the managers satisfied.	The district is very quiet, and lately a visible inclination to work in the field for wages has appeared, and I have every reason to hope that it will be general.
	(signed) <i>K. Heyland,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>Charles Henry Strutt,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>A. M. Lyons,</i> S. J. P.

(continued on page 158.)

February *836.]		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D.)	
TOWN. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R. N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>Captain Coleman.</i>	<i>Captain Allen.</i>		
Answers to Question 12.	Three complaints by apprenticed labourers against their employers have been made, and the parties fined. One complaint respecting clothing has been heard, and dismissed. One respecting medical attendance is in progress.	April, an apprenticed labourer of plantation 'Rome and Houston,' has complained of Mr. Bascone his manager, but has failed to prove his complaint.	Complaints have been made by several of the apprenticed labourers at plantation 'Peters' Hall,' as not having comfortable places of residence; upon investigation, it appears several houses have fallen down, which are being rebuilt, and are nearly finished.	Twelve complaints have been preferred during the month of various sorts; they have been inquired into, and redressed, as seemed most desirable for the complainant.	
Answers to Question 13.	None.	None.	No, none.	None.	
Answers to Question 14.	The same as when in a state of slavery.	As when in a state of slavery.	With the exception of plantations 'Prosperity,' 'Garden of Eden,' and 'Little Diamond,' the children receive an extra allowance of provisions. They are, without exception, allowed nurses and medical attendance, and I have no complaints under this head.	As when in a state of slavery, except that the free children of Maria's Lodge receive no allowance.	
Answers to Question 15.	On two.	One on 'Rome,' and one nearly ready on the estate 'Ruimveld.'	On three (names given).	On ten estates (names given).	
Answers to Question 16.	Recommends improvements in the existing police establishment of George Town. (signed) <i>George Ross,</i> S. J. P.	I am sorry to observe a wish to evade the usual labour in the field by many females on the estates of 'Ruimveld,' 'La Penitence,' and 'Werk-en-Rust;' but, generally speaking, they are old offenders. (signed) <i>Thomas Delafons,</i> S. J. P.	No. (signed) <i>Thomas Coleman,</i> S. J. P.	None. (signed) <i>J. A. Allen,</i> S. J. P.	

DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>J. W. Brittain, Esq.</i>
None.	No.	No complaints of this kind have been preferred.	None.
None.	No.	None.	None.
On plantations 'Hague,' 'Groenveld,' 'Leonora,' and 'Met en Murzog,' no food or doctor allowed. On plantations 'Best,' 'William,' 'Anna Catherina,' and 'Vreesen Hoop,' no food, but doctor on the other estates, as when in a state of slavery.	As before the 1st August 1834.	Children taken care of, as when in a state of slavery.	Since the beginning of last month, when I reported that the free children on all the estates were treated as before the apprenticeship, I have been informed that there are a few on which they do not receive an allowance of food or clothing; and on one of the finest estates in the district (Windsor Castle), not only is this the case, but further, the mothers of those children have been made to pay out of the price of their extra labour, the price of the medical attendance of all their free children since 1st August.
On six estates (names given.)	On two estates.	On seven (names and particulars given).	On one estate.
None. (signed) <i>Spry Bartlett,</i> S. J. P.	Complaint of the want of clergymen, two being insufficient in the district. (signed) <i>Geo. Killock,</i> S. J. P.	The apprenticed labourers, collectively, continue to behave extremely well, and to work assiduously. (signed) <i>Geo. Ball,</i> S. J. P.	Nil. (signed) <i>J. W. Brittain,</i> S. J. P.

(continued on page 160.)

February 1836.] DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John M'Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Ryck de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
Answers to Question 12. No.	One against Mr. Scott, manager of 'Sandont,' which was investigated on the spot, and dismissed as false and frivolous.	None of any importance.	No.
Answers to Question 13. No.	No.	No.	No.
Answers to Question 14. Generally the same as before the 1st of August 1834.	As when in a state of slavery.	On most estates in the district, the children under six years of age have a gratuitous allowance of food and medical attendance.	On three estates the children are fed out of the allowances due to their parents; on the others they are fed gratuitously from the stores of the estates. On all women are employed to take care of the children, and they have the advantage of medical assistance and medical treatment.
Answers to Question 15. There are schools amongst the labourers themselves on almost all the estates; on several there are teachers engaged, and those at the different places of worship.	On two estates (names given.)	On six estates in the district (names given in the original Report.)	None.
Answers to Question 16. Nil. (signed) <i>George Rose,</i> S. J. P.	Nil. (signed) <i>J. M'Leod,</i> S. J. P.	None at present. (signed) <i>A. Van Ryck de Groot,</i> S. J. P.	Nil. (signed) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir,</i> S. J. P. <hr/> (True Extracts by) <i>J. H. D. W. Sidley,</i> Private Secretary.

—No. 262.—

GUIANA.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *J. C. Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 19 March 1836.

No. 262.

IN the newspapers which arrived in this colony by the last mail, the particulars are given of a very numerous meeting held at Birmingham for the purpose of petitioning Parliament for the complete and immediate abolition of the apprentice system, and the consequent emancipation of the labourers in the West India colonies from the control of the special justices. As, from the influential character of several of these gentlemen who are stated to have addressed the meeting; there can be little doubt but that the subject will be brought before Parliament, I have conceived that, in the straightforward discharge of my duty, it is incumbent upon me, as the officer to whom the administration of the government of certainly the second West India colony in point of produce, wealth and importance, is at this moment intrusted, respectfully to lay before your Lordship my views upon the proposed measure; I assure your Lordship that I should much regret and lament the doing away of the apprenticeship. I deprecate any sudden change or the abandonment of a system which, in British Guiana at any rate, so completely answers. Neither the planters nor the labourers are prepared for any immediate alteration. Of other colonies I presume not to speak nor to offer any opinion; but in British Guiana, not only the letter, but the spirit of the Act of Parliament abolishing slavery and introducing apprentice labour have been so strictly enforced, that no act of tyranny, of cruelty or of oppression can take place without the speedy detection, exposure and punishment of the person so offending. Not the slightest corporal punishment is or can be inflicted but by the sentence of a special justice or that of an inferior criminal court, presided by a sheriff. Not only not a lash can be given that is not reported to the officer administering the government, but if he has reason to think the sentences severe, the minutes of the evidence can be forthwith sent for and examined. This sort of jealous vigilance, with which the administration of the criminal law is watched over in this colony, has (I am well aware) made me very unpopular with those who are advocates for more stern and severe measures; the results, however, of the line of conduct pursued in British Guiana, as shown in the happiness and tranquillity of the labourers, and the immense additional quantity of produce exported since the abolition of slavery, ought to satisfy the most sceptical.

In thus advocating the continuance, for the present, of a system which, to a hasty observer, may appear to be too favourable to the interests of the planter, as put in opposition to those of the labourer, I beg to explain to your Lordship, that I am influenced solely by what I conceive to be the general good, and that the apprentice system (if carefully superintended in its details) appears to me to be equally necessary and advantageous to both parties. If I was susceptible of being influenced by unworthy motives, the continued opposition and ill-will I have experienced on the part of the most influential of the planters would rather have induced me to have arrived at the conclusion, that the apprenticed system ought to be abolished. I am, however, of a decidedly contrary opinion; the managers and the labourers are daily approximating; not only wages for additional labour are becoming more common, but large fields of sugar canes are weeded or cut down by agreement. Labour is, in fact, finding its level and its value; nothing can be going on better, and I do not think that the permanent well-being of the labourer would be accelerated by any immediate change of system. We have every thing to expect from persevering in the present plan; it is impossible to foretel what mischievous effects a sudden and (in my humble opinion) an uncalled-for change might produce.

I ought, perhaps, to apologize for having thus obtruded my opinions upon your Lordship, but my anxiety for the general welfare of this province, and the good of His Majesty's service, will, I am confident, to your Lordship appear a sufficient excuse.

I have, &c.

J. Carm^t Smyth.

— No. 263. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Sir *J. C. Smyth*, Bart., to Lord *Glenelg*,
dated Camp House, Demerara, 14 April 1836.

No. 263.

(A.)
(B.)

“ I TAKE the liberty of forwarding in this Despatch the monthly epitome of the reports of the special justices for last month; as also a copy of the return of produce made last year in British Guiana, and contrasted with former years. I have only respectfully to congratulate your Lordship upon the continued decrease of punishment and increase of produce; in short, upon the peace, happiness and content which prevail throughout every part of this extensive colony.”

Enclosure in No. 263.

EPITOME of the MONTHLY REPORTS from the FIFTEEN STIPENDIARY SPECIAL JUSTICES in *British Guiana*, for the Month of *March 1836*.

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>Charles Henry Strutt, Esq.</i>	
1. Are the labourers in your district civil, contented and cheerful?	Yes. I have visited 17 estates, and the hospitals thereon (names given in original report), during the month.	They are.	The labourers are contented and cheerful.
2. Have they performed their work during the last month with alacrity and good will?	Yes, in general.	They have.	Yes.
3. Has the work on any estate been unwillingly or not readily performed? If yes, have the goodness to name the estate, the proprietor or his attorney, and the manager, in order that an inquiry may be forthwith instituted into the causes which may have led to such conduct.	The work has not been unwillingly performed.	The work has not been unwillingly performed on any estate in my district during the month.	None.
4. Is task-work generally resorted to within your district? or do the labourers prefer working the 7 ½ hours per day, as fixed by law?	Voluntary task-work is performed. The labourers, however, sometimes prefer the 7 ½ hours.	A kind of voluntary task-work is most generally in use, both managers and apprenticed labourers taking the tariff as their guide.	Task-work is generally resorted to.
5. What are the working hours most generally in use in your district? Are there any estates in your district on which the labourers are compelled to lay by for two or three hours in the middle of the day, and then to complete their 7 ½ hours in the afternoon (by which division of their labour they have little or no time to themselves); if yes, have the goodness to name the estates, proprietors or attornies, and the managers.	The hours of labour in most general use, when task-work is not resorted to, are from 7 to ½-past 2 o'clock.	The nominal hours are from 7 to 11, and from 1 to ½-past 4; but on all the estates, with the exception of two cotton plantations, 'Paradise' and 'Anne's Grove,' the labourers are suffered to leave the field when they have performed a reasonable quantity of work; and I have known many to have finished by 10 and 11 o'clock.	The labourers generally commence labour at seven A. M., and go on until they finish, 12, 1, 2 o'clock. On no estate are they compelled to lay by in the middle of the day.

(continued on page 164.)

March 1836.]		DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R. N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>Captain Coleman.</i>	<i>Captain Allen.</i>	
<i>Answers to Question 1.</i>	They are.	Yes, generally.	In general they are. I have visited 11 estates, and the hospitals thereon (names given in original report), during the month.	Yes, in most cases. I visited 25 estates during the month, and the hospitals belonging to 18 (names given in original report); on all of which, with some trifling exceptions, the labourers seemed contented and happy.
<i>Answers to Question 2.</i>	They have performed their work with as much good will as could reasonably be expected	Generally, but some exceptions.	On some estates they have not.	Yes, in general.
<i>Answers to Question 3.</i>	No.	No, generally.	Yes, particularly on plantation 'Peter's Hall,' Messrs. Smith & Taylor, attornies; W. Barry, manager. 'Farm,' Messrs. Reewers & Koolas, attornies; John Mackenzie, manager; and 'Henry,' John Lane, esq., attorney; A. Nicholson, manager.	The work has not been performed cheerfully this month by part of the gang on plantation 'Schoonoord,' W. M. Manget, proprietor; J. Ross, manager. 'La plantation Harmonie,' J. de St. Felix, proprietor; G. Parke, manager.
<i>Answers to Question 4.</i>	Task-work is resorted to on the estates. The town mechanics work the legal time.	They work the 7½ hours per day, as fixed by law.	The labourers in this part of the district generally prefer working the 7½ hours per day, as fixed by law.	Task-work is usually resorted to, without any express contract to that effect.
<i>Answers to Question 5.</i>	On the estates the labourers commence about seven o'clock, and lay by when their task is finished.	Generally from seven A. M. till half-past two P. M. There are several individuals who come later, and are obliged to remain later in the field.	From seven A. M. to half-past two P. M. There are no estates to which the latter part of this question applies.	From 7 to 11, and 12 to 3½—7½ hours; or from 7 to 11, and from 1 to 4½—ditto. There are no estates where the labourers are compelled to lay by two hours in the middle of the day.

DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlet, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>W. J. Brittain, Esq.</i>
<p>During the month I have visited the hospitals on seven estates (names given in original report); the apprentices appeared well found in medical aid, and contented.</p>	<p>Perfectly so. During the month I have visited the hospitals of 22 estates on Leguan, 19 on Wakewaam, and three on Turk's Island, in all 44, being the whole of the estates in the district.</p>	<p>They are perfectly civil, and apparently contented and cheerful. I have visited the estates hereafter enumerated, and inspected the hospitals thereon (22, enumerated in original report). The sick appear well attended to.</p>	<p>Generally they are so.</p>
<p>Generally throughout the district, with the exception of plantation 'Met en Meerzog.'</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>They have.</p>	<p>With the exception of three estates, where passive resistance was for a short time attempted, as further noticed in the answers to questions 7 and 8, they did their work cheerfully last month.</p>
<p>Plantation 'Met en Meerzog,' Messrs. Fullerton & Co., proprietors; Mr. Hugh Ross, manager.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>The work has not been unwillingly performed on any estate in this district.</p>	<p>There is no estate in this district on which permanent ill-will has been displayed. On the three estates alluded to in the previous answer, the passive resistance was speedily put an end to, and they have since been remarkably both orderly and contented.</p>
<p>On most of the estates throughout the district.</p>	<p>Task-work is general, and preferred by the labourers.</p>	<p>Task-work is generally resorted to, and preferred.</p>	<p>There is no estate in this district where the labourers work 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours a day. The scale of work laid down is generally adopted, from which, when the work is unusually heavy, a deduction is made by compromise.</p>
<p>The bells ring on the estates about seven A. M., and the labourers usually remain until they have finished their task.</p>	<p>From about 6 to 12, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, &c., according to circumstances and the bargain made. The labourers work as they choose.</p>	<p>The labourers usually go to work at half-past six or seven in the morning; sometimes later. There is no estate in the district in which they are compelled to lay by in the middle of the day.</p>	<p>No notice whatever of hours is taken by managers. The labourers turn out and leave off when they please. All that is required is, that the task assigned be done, and well done. When the work is not done, the hour when the labourer turned out is sometimes mentioned as a proof of idleness; and in these cases it often appears that the labourer was not on the field at nine, or even at ten o'clock.</p>

(continued on page 166.)

March 1836.] DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John M'Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Ruyk de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
<p><i>Answers to Question 1.</i></p> <p>In general they are. I have visited every estate in the district, and some two or more times, and several of the hospitals.</p>	<p>Generally.</p>	<p>During the month I have visited 13 estates (names, &c. given in the original Report), and the hospitals thereon, and I found the labourers civil, and tolerably contented.</p>	<p>Generally yes. I have visited all the estates in my district, except 'Skeldon' and 'Ella and Mary,' during the month.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 2.</i></p> <p>With some exceptions they have.</p>	<p>In most instances.</p>	<p>In general they have.</p>	<p>Yes, with few exceptions.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 3.</i></p> <p>In a few instances; and I have had to reprimand the first gang of plantation 'Blairmont' for negligence, which I am happy to say has had a good effect.</p>	<p>On plantation 'Philadelphia,' Mr. Katz; representatives, Briant, Lowenfiel & Melville.</p>	<p>In general it has. Amongst the best gangs there are idle and indifferent characters; such of course excepted.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 4.</i></p> <p>Yes, generally, and preferred by the labourers.</p>	<p>It is.</p>	<p>Task-work is most generally performed by the labourers; they work it diligently in general, and in so doing they are early at home; some at one, some at two o'clock, as the work speeds.</p>	<p>Task-work is generally performed.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 5.</i></p> <p>From seven A. M. to half-past two P. M., or until their tasks are finished, and optional with themselves whether they rest during their work or not.</p>	<p>From seven A. M. till the day's labour is finished.</p>	<p>As the labourers generally prefer task-work, they finish it as it suits them best; they are not controlled therein. The bells ring, or the shells are blown, at 7, at 11, at 1, and at $\frac{1}{2}$-past 4 o'clock, to mark the time.</p>	<p>—</p>

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>Charles Henry Strutt, Esq.</i>	
6. Do the labourers on any estate in your district perform extra labour for hire? If yes, name the estates—the rate of wages for extra work—and state how and when the payments are made—and if extra work is not performed for wages, state if reasonable wages have been offered, with weekly payment. If reasonable wages and prompt payment have been offered and rejected, state to what cause you attribute the refusal on the part of the labourers.	The labourers employed in the manufacture of sugar invariably perform extra labour for hire, earning from 6 bits to 2 guilders per week. Extra field labour is performed on plantations 'Good Hope,' 'Helena' and 'Supply,' at the rate of about 6 bits or 2 guilders for a full day's work. Wages are paid weekly.	On all the estates the people employed about the building and in the boiling houses, are in receipt of wages for extra service, and earn at the rate of from 2 to 3 guilders per week each. On 'Beehive' and 'Greenfield' they occasionally work in the field for hire, earning 2 or 3 guilders per week each. Payments usually made monthly.	On sugar estates they perform extra labour for hire; 2 stivers per hour in the boiling houses, 30 stivers for cutting a punt of canes, and 9 guilders per acre, weeding a plantain walk; and for extra labour on the cotton and coffee estates during crop time. Wages paid monthly, and weekly when change can be found.
7. Have there been any instances of insubordination, or any attempt to resist authority by force, in your district? If there has been any, name the estates on which such occurrences have taken place.	None.	There have been none.	None.
8. In the event of any disposition having been manifested by any of the labourers to neglect their work, or to behave rudely to those in authority over them, has such misconduct been so general as to induce you to attribute it to any combination or conspiracy?—or is it only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that you have had complaints made?	The disposition to neglect work has been confined to a few idle apprentices.	None.	None.
9. Has the attendance of the prædial labourers at church, and their children at school, been regular, and to the full accommodation afforded them under the local circumstances of your district?	The attendance has been good.	It has.	It has.
10. Have you, individually as a magistrate, and has the court over which you preside, been under the necessity of ordering punishment by whipping during the preceding month?—and, if answered in the affirmative, state the number of delinquents so punished, and the extent of punishment awarded in each case.	One :—15 stripes.	One :—12 stripes.	None.
11. Has any manager, overseer, or other person in authority over the prædial labourers been fined or otherwise punished by the court over which you preside during the preceding month, for misconduct towards any labourer or labourers? Have there been any instances of the labourers having been detained at work beyond the legal hours?—and, in such case, has the shilling per hour for each individual labourer been levied?	None.	None.	None.

(continued on page 168.)

March 1836.]		DISTRICT (C.)			DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN.	RIVER.	UPPER RIVER.	DISTRICT (D.)		
<i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	<i>Captain Delafons, R. N.</i>	<i>Captain Coleman.</i>	<i>Captain Allen.</i>		
<i>Answers to Question 6.</i>	Extra work for hire is performed about the buildings, at the rate of from 1 ½ bit to 3 bits per day during the grinding; payment prompt: and on plantation 'Sophia,' coffee is picked for hire during the crop season.	The only estate on which I know extra labour for hire has been done this month is 'Honston,' where the men have worked in digging a new punt trench, and when having finished their usual day's labour, as by law established, have afterwards done a good day's work, for which they have been regularly and amply paid, earning nearly 1 dollar per day.	Extra labour for hire is generally performed about buildings at the rate of from 1 to 2 bits per day, prompt payment. Extra labour for hire is rarely performed in the field.	The labourers perform extra work for hire on 16 sugar estates, about the buildings, and, on many of them, for work done in the field, chiefly when cutting canes, viz., labour is performed for hire on 17 coffee estates (names of estates given in original Reports.) Wages vary, yet ample.	
<i>Answers to Questions 7.</i>	There has been no attempt to resist authority by force.	None.	There have been some instances of insubordination on plantation 'Peter's Hall'; but no attempt to resist authority by force.	There have been a few instances of insubordination not deserving of particular notice, but no attempt to resist authority by force.	
<i>Answers to Question 8.</i>	There has been no combination or conspiracy.	When such disposition has been manifested, I attribute it to idle and disorderly apprentices, particularly on 'Ruimveld' and 'La Penitence.'	There have been many complaints against the idle and disorderly apprentices; but I do not feel myself warranted in attributing it to combination or conspiracy.	The misconduct above alluded to, had reference to a few disorderly apprentices only.	
<i>Answers to Questions 9.</i>	The places of worship and schools are well attended, and the accommodation quite sufficient.	Yes.	Yes.	The attendance of the predial labourers at church of St. Mark, has been as regular as usual during last month. The attendance of their children at the Sunday-school there has decreased, and is not equal to the local accommodation afforded.	
<i>Answers to Question 10.</i>	None.	Six: two, 30 stripes each; one, 24 stripes; one, 18 stripes; one, 15 stripes; one, 10 stripes.	Three: one, 30 stripes; one, 20 stripes; one, 15 stripes.	None.	
<i>Answers to Question 11.</i>	No person in authority over the field labourers has been fined.	None.	No.	No conviction has occurred this month. Some complaints as to food, clothing or assaults have been amicably compromised between the parties.	

DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlet, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>H. J. Brittain, Esq.</i>
<p>Only about the buildings, such as boilermen, engineers, firemen. They are paid weekly, in silver. Average about 2 stivers per hour.</p>	<p>Upon the whole of the estates extra work is performed for hire. Upon many of the estates the whole gang is paid, on others only the cane cutters and people about the buildings. The wages are from 1 bit to 2 or 3 guilders per week. Upon the estates where the whole gang is paid, there is scarcely a complaint; never about work.</p>	<p>Extra labour for hire is general, but more universal in the boiling-house than in the field. Wages from a guilder to 1 ½ guilder per day, according to the nature of the work; and they are in general paid monthly, though on some estates, but quarterly. I have, however, strongly recommended weekly payments.</p>	<p>Extra labour is performed on most estates in the district. At 'Caledonia,' in Pomeroun, 3 bits only are given for the scale of work assigned for 7 ½ hours. On other estates 4 and 5 bits are given; on some estates 6 bits. It is not when the highest rate is paid that the most extra work is done. On plantation 'Caledonia' much extra labour is performed,</p>
<p>Only with respect to the estate 'Met en Meezog.'</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No instances of these have occurred.</p>	<p>No instances of resistance by force has occurred, but on three estates passive resistance was attempted. On</p>
<p>plantations 'Coffee Grove' and 'Dumbarton Castle' generally, and on plantation 'Windsor Castle,' among the female apprenticed labourers only. In every instance their perversity was effectually and speedily corrected by a little firmness and persuasion, attended with but moderate correction, as will be seen by this month's record of convictions.</p>			
<p>It is generally the same disorderly apprentices complained of.</p>	<p>It is only with respect to a few disorderly apprentices that complaints have been made.</p>	<p>With respect to the latter only, except on the plantation 'Good Intent,' where, in the early part of the month, the female labourers formed a sort of combination, under the silly notion of being entitled to Saturday, although working but 7 ½ hours the other five days. The matter, however, was by no means serious, and was easily suppressed.</p>	<p>In the three instances above-mentioned, the passive resistance was obviously the consequence of very general combination; in no case, however, extending beyond the individual estate; and, as before stated, in every case easily and effectually put an end to.</p>
<p>Yes.</p>	<p>The churches and schools are always well attended. There is a lamentable deficiency of both.</p>	<p>It has been as regular as usual, and I believe to the full extent of the accommodation.</p>	<p>The attendance of the apprenticed labourers at the parish church on Sundays, is to the full extent that it can accommodate, even with</p>
<p>its late considerable enlargement. Two chapels of ease are about to be erected at about four or five miles from the parish church, up and down the coast. These I have no doubt, as well as the two chapels lately finished in Pomeroun, will be all equally well attended, so long as they continue to be superintended by a zealous and diligent pastor.</p>			
<p>Two:—one, 15 stripes. one, 10 ditto.</p>	<p>Six: four, 29 stripes each; two, 25 stripes each.</p>	<p>Five: three, 20 stripes each; two, 15 stripes each.</p>	<p>The determined and general passive resistance offered by the apprenticed labourers on plantations 'Coffee Grove' and 'Dumbarton Castle' imposed upon me the painful necessity of inflicting this</p>
<p>month the unusual number of 188 stripes. It was only in the case of 'Coffee Grove' that a repetition of this disgraceful punishment was required. Three men on this estate received, first, 15 stripes each, and afterwards 20 stripes each. Five men on 'Dumbarton Castle' received 15 stripes each once. One other man received eight stripes.</p>			
<p>Mr. M'Gaw, overseer of plantation 'Anna Catharina,' pleaded guilty to the complaint of Henny, a female apprenticed labourer, for beating her, and was fined by me 2<i>l.</i> Roderick Boat, captain, plantation 'Nouvelle Flandres,' was fined by me 2 dollars, for assaulting Philander, apprenticed labourer of said estate.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>A manager and an overseer have been fined; the first for unlawfully confining, the other for assaulting, an apprenticed labourer. No instances of the latter have occurred.</p>	<p>No charge of this nature has come before me.</p>

(continued on page 170.)

March 1833.] DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John M'Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Rijk de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lochart Muir, Esq.</i>
<p><i>Answers to Question 6.</i></p> <p>Extra labour for hire is not generally required in this district. On the sugar estates the boilermen and firemen are employed occasionally. Wages vary; paid weekly, or when asked for.</p>	<p>On all sugar estates the persons employed about the buildings average wages, 2 bits. On plantation 'Adelphi,' the men have done shovel work, and earned 5 bits after performing usual labour.</p>	<p>Yes, the labourers are hired either to the proprietors they belong to, or to other estates, for reasonable wages and prompt payment.</p>	<p>On plantation 'Port Mourant,' the people cutting canes have been paid 1 1/4 bit for every two feet by four in breadth and height, which they may cut beyond the ordinary task. All, I believe, have done extra work, and some have earned more than a dollar per day. At plantation 'Hampshire' also, they have generally performed extra labour in cutting canes; they are paid 2 bits for a cord seven feet by four.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 7.</i></p> <p>None.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Yes; on plantation 'Mary's Hope' there has been an instance of insubordination and resistance to the authority of the manager.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 8.</i></p> <p>Only with respect to a few idle and disorderly, except the first gang at 'Blairmont,' early in the month, and they had combined not to perform a reasonable quantity of work, but are now going on very well.</p>	<p>On plantation 'Philadelphia,' the men for several days did not perform a sufficient quantity of work. The same quantity of work was done by the strong and weak hands.</p>	<p>I do not think so; it exists amongst the idle-disposed and disorderly; and such, after a fair trial, if found guilty, meet their deserts within the pale of the ordinance.</p>	<p>There was a partial, not general, combination in the case last referred to. The particulars will be found in the record of complaints.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 9.</i></p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>It has.</p>	<p>I have heard nothing to the contrary.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 10.</i></p> <p>None.</p>	<p>Three: one, 39 stripes; two, 15 stripes each.</p>	<p>Five: one, 39 stripes; two, 30 stripes each; one, 25 stripes; one, 15 stripes.</p>	<p>Two, 30 stripes each.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 11.</i></p> <p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>Chas. Henry Strutt, Esq.</i>	
12. Have any complaints been preferred to you during the last month, from any apprenticed labourers, respecting their clothing, food, treatment, or upon any subject? In the event of any complaints having been made to you, have you carefully investigated into the matters, and caused justice to be rendered to the parties as far as it was in power? State the number and the nature of the complaints which may have been preferred to you in general terms.	One complaint of maltreatment was preferred, which I allowed to be compromised at the request of the complainant.	I have had complaints from some of the apprenticed labourers on plantation 'Baillie's Hope,' concerning the bad quality of rice served out to them. His excellency the Lieutenant-governor is aware from the report of Mr. Candlin, S. J. P., and myself, how the matter was settled.	A few complaints from pregnant women, saying that they are not able to perform any work.
13. Have any of the free children upon any of the estates in your district been bound apprentices during the last month? If yes, name the estates upon which such occurrences have taken place, and if the transactions were with the free consent and approbation of the parents of the children.	None.	There have been none.	None.
14. How are the children fed and taken care of on the estates in your district? Are they fed from the stores of the estates gratuitously, and is an additional quantity of salt fish and plantains issued for them? or are they fed out of the allowance due to their parents? When their mothers are at work in the field, is a woman specially appointed to take care of their young children, and exempted from all other duty? Are the children when unwell allowed the advantage of the medical assistance and hospital treatment of the estate in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery?	The children are fed, receive medical assistance and hospital treatment, and nurses are appointed to take care of the young children while their parents are at labour, gratuitously, with the exception of some free children of plantation 'Broom-hall,' who do not receive food, as their mothers, in the opinion of the attorney, have not conducted themselves well.	The young free children on all the estates in my district are fed and clothed gratuitously, and have medical attendance in the hour of sickness.	As formerly; a woman is appointed to take care of them when their mothers are at work in the field; also allowed the advantage of medical assistance and hospital treatment, as when in a state of slavery.
15. On how many estates in your district are schools established? Name the estates, proprietors and managers of estates having schools.	None.	There are schools established on plantations 'Enwore' and 'Greenfield.' The former belongs to Mr. Porter, and the latter to Mr. Glen of Georgetown.	No increase or decrease since my last report.
16. Are there any remarks or observations which you may wish to convey to the Lieutenant-governor, connected with the peace, tranquillity and happiness of the district under your superintendence? If yes, state the same.	None.	I have none.	I consider the district going on very well. Seventy-four convictions less than last month, and sincerely do I hope I may continue to make so favourable a report.
	(signed) <i>K. Heyland,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>Charles Henry Strutt</i> Special Justice of the Peace	(signed) <i>A. M. Lyons,</i> S. J. P.

(continued on page 172)

March 1836.] DISTRICT (C.)			DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R. N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>Captain Coleman.</i>	<i>Captain Allen.</i>
<i>Answers to Question 12.</i> Five charges have been preferred by apprenticed labourers against their employers, and investigated; of which three were for assaults, and two for the non-delivery of the legal allowance of food. Of these two were dismissed, two were compromised, and on the fifth the accused was fined.	None.	No.	Twenty complaints have been preferred upon different subjects. They have been inquired into and redressed as far as was practicable.
<i>Answers to Question 13.</i> None.	None.	No.	None.
<i>Answers to Question 14.</i> They have an extra allowance of food as well as nurses and medical attendance.	The children are fed and taken care of gratuitously from the stores of the estates. When ill they are freely admitted to the hospitals; women are provided (specially) to take care of the young children when their mothers are at work in the field.	With the exception of plantation 'Prosperity,' and 'Little Diamond,' the children have an extra allowance of provisions. They are allowed, without exception, nurses and medical attendance.	The children are generally fed by an allowance of plantains and salt fish to the mothers. Women are provided to attend them while their mothers are in the field. They are reported to receive medical assistance as when in a state of slavery.
<i>Ans. to Quest. 15.</i> On two estates (names given) missionary chapels are established.	'Rome and Houston,' and 'Ruimiveld.'	On three, viz. 'Peter's Hall,' 'Perseverance,' and the 'Craig,' all under the management of the Rev. C. Strong.	Schools are established or instruction given on 11 estates, (names given in original report.)
<i>Answers to Question 16.</i> Nil. (signed) <i>George Ross,</i> S. J. P.	None. (signed) <i>Thos. Delafons,</i> S. J. P.	No. (signed) <i>Thos. Coleman,</i> S. J. P.	— (signed) <i>J. A. Allen,</i> S. J. P.

DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlet, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>W. J. Brittain, Esq.</i>
None.	No.	No complaints have been made except those already stated.	None.
None.	No.	None have been thus bound.	None.
I am happy to inform your Excellency, that the only estates in my district which do not allow food to the emancipated children, are, 'Vreesenhoop,' 'Best,' 'Anna Catharina,' and 'Juchen Vunden.' All now allow medical aid and nurses while the mothers are at work in the field.	Upon all the estates in this district, the children are treated as formerly.	The children are fed and taken care of in the same manner as when in a state of slavery.	I feel gratified in stating that the proprietor of 'Windsor Castle' has agreed to feed the free children on his estate, and to give them clothing for the year. On 'Dumbarton Castle' those children have had no allowances whatever since the apprenticeship of their parents. There are a few estates where the mothers have refused these allowances, under a misapprehension that their accepting them would compromise the freedom of the children.
On six estates (names, &c. &c. given in original report.)	There are two.	One-eighth (names, &c. &c. given in original report.) parish has attached to his house a daily infant school and a daily evening and Sunday school in the church. The catechist has the same at his residence attached to the chapel at plantation 'Hackney in Pomeroun.'	Plantation 'Anna Regina,' alone has a school upon the estate, but the rector of the
Nil. (signed) <i>Spry Bartlet,</i> S. J. P.	Nil. (signed) <i>George Killock,</i> S. J. P.	The apprenticed labourers continue to behave extremely well, and to work very assiduously. (signed) <i>George Ball,</i> S. J. P.	I have, during this month, visited every estate in the district, and when in the Pomeroun, I inspected the Lazaretto. The general state of the estates is highly satisfactory, but the Lazaretto' is more destitute, I shall not say of the comforts, for it has none, but of the necessaries of life, than I could have believed, had I not seen it. There are nine unfortunate beings now compulsorily confined there; some of them formerly highly respected upper servants in opulent families. I purpose handing in immediately a report upon this subject. <i>W. J. Brittain.</i>

(continued on page 174.)

March 1836.] DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John M'Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Rijk de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
Answers to Question 12.	No.	None to speak of.	No.
Answers to Question 13.	No.	No.	No.
Answers to Question 14.	Generally the same as before the 1st August 1834.	Children receive the same treatment as when in a state of slavery.	On most estates in this district, the children under six years of age receive a gratuitous allowance of food and medical attendance. I believe on five estates the free children are not fed from the stores of the estates. On the other three, the children are so fed ; but there seems to be a general impression on the part of the parents, that if they take the allowances that were formerly given, the children will be bound hereafter to work upon the estates. On all they have medical attendance and nurses.
Ans. to Quest. 15.	On almost all the estates there are schools amongst the labourers themselves, and on several, teachers are engaged, besides those at the places of public worship.	On two estates (names, &c. given in original report. One at the Mission House, New Amsterdam, and at the chapel at Lonsdale.	On six (names, &c. given in the original report.) None.
Answers to Question 16.	Nil. (signed) <i>George Rose,</i> S. J. P.	The labourers on plantation, 'Philadelphia,' are now performing their work to the satisfaction of the manager. (signed) <i>John M'Leod,</i> S. J. P.	None. (signed) <i>A. Van Rijk de Groot,</i> S. J. P. (signed) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir,</i> S. J. P.

(B.)—*British Guiana.*

A STATEMENT of the QUANTITY of PRODUCE made during the Years 1833, 1834 and 1835.

	1833.	1834.	1835.
Sugar - - - -	99,106,827 lbs.	81,085,483 lbs.	107,586,405 lbs.
Rum, proof 24 - - -	1,767,546 galls.	1,903,775 galls.	2,650,942 galls.
Ditto - 23 - - -	694 -	1,972 -	9,107 -
Ditto - 22 - - -	1,300 -	27,717 -	85,606 -
Ditto - 21 - - -	26,305 -	45,520 -	5,108 -
Ditto - 20 - - -	102,612 -	86,621 -	119,030 -
Ditto - 19 - - -	490,381 -	442,443 -	704,943 -
Ditto - 18 - - -	137,300 -	123,582 -	169,131 -
Molasses - - - -	5,121,301 -	3,288,586 -	3,105,421 -
Coffee - - - -	4,459,596 lbs.	3,035,556 lbs.	3,065,742 lbs.
Cotton - - - -	954,857 -	926,944 -	867,942 -
Value of plantations and cattle, &c. sold -	f. 796,716. 19. 4.	f. 531,757. 19.	f. 577,212. 19.

To his Excellency the Lieut.-Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *M. Viret,*
Accountant Financial Department.

— No. 264. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *James Carmichael Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 264.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 23 April 1836.

I TAKE the liberty of laying before your Lordship a Government notice which I issued on the 21st instant, together with copies of the returns to which it alludes. Your Lordship will see by these documents the flourishing and prosperous state of this colony. The immense augmentation of produce ought to convince the most sceptical of the good conduct of the apprenticed labourers; and of their willingness to labour when treated with kindness, and receiving some moderate remuneration for work performed in their own time. It is most gratifying to me to be enabled to lay such documents before your Lordship.

I have, &c.

The Right hon. the Lord *Glenelg*,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed)

J. Carmichael Smyth.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

Major-General Sir *James Carmichael Smyth* has directed that the following documents be published in the Royal Gazette for the information of all concerned :

(A.)—A Return of the quantity of Colonial Produce shipped from the ports of George town and New Amsterdam during the first quarter of the present year, as compared with the corresponding periods of the three last years of slavery, namely, 1831, 1832 and 1833.

(B.)—A Return of Colonial Produce manufactured in British Guiana during the year 1835, according to the returns given in, upon oath, from the respective estates to the financial accountant, and contrasted with the returns for 1833 and 1834.

2. His Excellency is desirous of offering his sincere congratulations to every person interested in the welfare of British Guiana at the irrefragable proofs which the foregoing documents afford of the continued prosperous, happy and flourishing state of this province. There have been already exported, during the first quarter of the present year, 18,789 hogsheads, 1,223 tierces, and 1,500 barrels of sugar, being 8,203 hogsheads and 300 tierces more than passed through the Custom-house during the same period, upon the average of the three last years of slavery. The additional quantities of rum, molasses and of cotton exported during the last quarter have also been very considerable. Of coffee alone, the additional amount has been 450,562 pounds. Satisfactory as the Custom-house returns are, those of the financial accountant are even still more so, showing an immense steady increase of the staple article of produce manufactured during the year 1835.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor requests of the special justices to take every opportunity of explaining to the apprenticed labourers how much he is pleased and gratified at their good conduct. His Excellency will not fail to lay before the Right honourable the Lord *Glenelg*, in order that the same may be submitted to the King, a full report of the manner in which the

BRITISH
GUIANA.

the apprenticed labourers discharge their duties ; of the anxiety they evince to obtain instruction and information ; and of the respect which they pay to the laws and to those placed in authority over them. The Lieutenant-Governor feels confident that the apprenticed labourers will continue to conduct themselves in the same meretorious and praiseworthy manner ; and that, after the expiration of their apprenticeship (on the 1st August 1840), they will feel an honest pride in showing to the world that they are, in every respect, worthy of being classed with the best of their free fellow-subjects of the British empire.

By order of His Excellency Major-General Sir James Carmichael Smyth,

Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown,
Demerary, 21 April 1836.

Henry John Baird,
Assist. Gov. Sec.

(A.)—Ports of *Demerara* and *Berbice*, *British Guiana*.

RETURN of COLONIAL PRODUCE shipped from the Ports of this Colony in the First Quarter of 1836 (viz., from the 5th January to the 5th April), as compared with the Average Quantity of the corresponding Quarters of 1831, 1832, 1833.

	SUGAR.			RUM.		MOLASSES.		COFFEE.	COTTON.	
	Hhds.	Trs.	Brls.	Puns.	Hhds.	Brls.	Hhds.	Trs.	Pounds.	Bales.
FROM THE PORT OF GEORGETOWN :										
Average quantity of produce exported in the first quarters of the three years preceding emancipation - - -	12,248	688	1,379	5,716	1,136	301	8,036	-	436,838	805
Quantity exported first quarter of 1836	14,742	779	1,099	5,510	1,408	358	8,786	-	602,700	718
Increase - - - -	2,494	91	-	-	272	57	750	-	165,862	-
FROM THE PORT OF BERBICE :										
Average quantity of produce exported in the first quarter of the three years preceding emancipation - - -	2,638	200	160	1,069	152	5	797	-	286,500	334
Quantity exported first quarter of 1836	4,347	444	401	1,579	246	17	1,308	-	596,400	374
Increase - - - -	1,709	244	241	510	94	12	511	-	309,900	40
TOTAL { Increase - -	4,203	335	-	304	366	69	1,261	-	450,562	-
Decrease - -	-	-	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	47

Custom-House, Demerary, 14 April 1836.

His Excellency Major-Gen. Sir Jas. Carmichael Smyth,
&c. &c. &c.

Chas. Robinson, Collector.
P. Staple, Comptroller.

(B.)—*British Guiana*.

A STATEMENT of the QUANTITY of PRODUCE made in the Years 1833, 1834, 1835.

	1833.	1834.	1835.
Sugar - - -	99,106,827 lbs.	81,085,483 lbs.	107,586,405 lbs.
Rum, proof 24 - - -	1,767,546 galls.	1,903,775 galls.	2,650,942 galls.
Ditto - 23 - - -	694 -	1,972 -	9,107 -
Ditto - 22 - - -	1,300 -	27,717 -	85,606 -
Ditto - 21 - - -	26,305 -	45,520 -	5,108 -
Ditto - 20 - - -	102,612 -	86,621 -	119,030 -
Ditto - 19 - - -	490,381 -	442,443 -	704,943 -
Ditto - 18 - - -	137,300 -	123,582 -	169,131 -
Molasses - - -	5,121,301 -	3,288,586 -	3,105,421 -
Coffee - - -	4,459,596 lbs.	3,035,556 lbs.	3,065,742 lbs.
Cotton - - -	954,857 -	926,944 -	867,942 -
Value of Plantains and Cattle sold - - -	f. 796,716. 19. 4.	f. 531,757. 19. 0.	f. 577,212. 19. 0.

(signed) *M. Viret*,
Financial Accountant

To his Excellency Major-Gen. Sir Jas. Carmichael Smyth,
&c. &c. &c.

(A true Copy,)

Henry John Baird,
Assist. Gov. Sec.

— No. 265. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *James Carmichael Smyth*.No. 265^r

Sir,

Downing-street, 21 June 1836.

I HAVE had the honour to receive and to lay before the King your despatch of the 23d of April last, inclosing a government notice which you had issued on the 21st of that month, showing, from comparative returns of colonial produce shipped from and manufactured in British Guiana since the abolition of slavery, the flourishing state of the colony.

I have received the King's commands to express to you the high gratification with which His Majesty has received so conclusive a proof as is offered in the important document which you have transmitted, of the increasing prosperity of British Guiana, and of the happy result which the colony exhibits of the great measure of negro emancipation.

His Majesty has at the same time been pleased to direct that you should communicate to the apprenticed labourers His Majesty's gracious approbation of their meritorious conduct, and his confident expectation that they will justify the favourable anticipations which you have expressed of their future conduct.

Lieut.-Gov. Sir James Carmichael Smyth,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 266. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *James Carmichael Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 266.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 6 May 1836.

WITH reference to the latter part of the despatch of the 11th March, which I had the honour to address to your Lordship, and in which I state that "as a check upon exorbitant and unfair appraisements, I had directed that henceforth a periodical nominal return should be published, of all apprenticed labourers who may have purchased their emancipation by appraisement, and that such return should state the name, age, sex, whether prædial or non-prædial, amount of the appraisement, names of the appraisers and of the approving judge," I have now to lay before your Lordship a printed return of the nature I have described for the first quarter of the present year. Your Lordship will regret to see how very few labourers have been able to purchase their emancipation, in consequence of the exorbitant prices at which their services are invariably valued. I hope, however, that the publicity thus given to these transactions will be productive of good.

The Right hon. the Lord Glenelg,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

The Lieutenant-governor has directed that henceforth a quarterly nominal Return of all apprenticed labourers who have purchased their emancipation by appraisement shall be published in the Royal Gazette. The Return will state name, age, sex, whether prædial or non-prædial, amount of the appraisement, names of the appraisers, and also of the approving judge.

By Order of his Excellency,

Office of Government Secretary, }
29 April 1836.

Henry John Baird,
Assist. Gov. Sec.

RETURN of APPRAISEMENTS for *Demerara and Essequibo.*

Name of Apprenticed Labourer.		Aged Years.	Registered Employment.	Amount of Appraisement.	Name of Employer, or Person receiving the Money.	Names of Appraisers. 1. Appraiser appointed by Special Judge. 2. Appraiser appointed by Employer. 3. Umpire appointed by Approving Judge.	Name of Approving Judge.
Male.	Female.						
January 1836 :							
	Pomelia	- 45	n. p. servant - -	330	Michael Thompson	1. Thomas Forrester 2. William Hedges. 3. George Fraser.	J. N. Harvey.
William	- - -	- 34	p. a. tradesman - -	1,200	- representatives of plantation Good Hope.	1. John Alstrom - 2. Dr. M'Turk. 3. F. Verbeke.	Ditto.
	Mercy	- 37	p. a. field - -	950	- representatives of plantation Sophienburg.	1. Thomas Forrester 2. C. W. Leonard. 3. M. M'Turk.	Ditto.
	Judy	- 47	n. p. domestic - -	-	Mary Ann Orr	opposed.	
Signature of Special Justice,						<i>George Ross, S. J. P.</i>	
February 1836 :							
	Coomba	- 44	n. p. huckster - -	700	Dr. Bell - -	1. John Alstrom 2. James Burnet. 3. James Stewart.	J. N. Harvey.
Cæsar	- - -	- 49	p. a. field - -	1,000	R. G. Butts - -	1. John Alstrom - 2. F. Verbeke. 3. James Stewart.	Ditto.
	Sooley	- 47	p. a. washerwo-	1,000	- representatives of plantation Turkeyen.	1. John Alstrom - 2. John Laurie. 3. F. Verbeke.	J. W. Willis
	Rebecca	- 19½	man - - -				
	Peggy	- 10	hired out - -				
	Esther	- 49	none - - -	330	- ditto.		
	Betty Dolly	- 52	p. a. field - -	550	- representatives of plantation Anna Catherina.	1. James Rowan - 2. John Gibbs. 3. F. Verbeke.	J. N. Harvey.
	Sally Ann	- 39	n. p. domestic - -	-	A. B. Goring - -	-- opposed and ad-	Ditto.
	William	- 16	wood cutting - -	700	- - estate of N. W. Pollard.	1. John Alstrom - 2. C. Benjamin. 3. A. Macqueen.	Ditto.
	Peggy	- 21½	p. a. little gang - -	880	- representatives of plantation Profit.	1. Thomas Campbell 2. James Stewart. 3. F. Verbeke.	Ditto.
	Louis	- 27	p. a. about buildings	1,200	- representatives of plantation Doornhaag.	1. J. Alstrom - - 2. James Stewart. 3. Thomas Campbell.	Ditto.
	Daphne	- 8	p. a. field - -	together 1,200	- representatives of plantation Malgretout.	1. J. Alstrom - - 2. James Stewart. 3. Thomas Campbell.	Ditto.
	Madelain	- 33	p. a. jobbing - -				
	Jeanette	- 16	p. a. domestic - -	880	- representatives of plantation Potosi.	1. J. Alstrom - - 2. James Stewart. 3. C. Benjamin.	Ditto.
			n. p. field - -	440	E. E. A. Haaseman	1. J. Rowan - - 2. J. Gibbs. 3. C. Benjamin.	Ditto.
Signature of Special Justice,						<i>George Ross, S. J. P.</i>	
March 1836 :							
	Juliet	- 46	p. a. sick nurse - -	660	- representatives of plantation Maria's Lodge.	1. Dr. King, at request of applicant. 2. Alexander Grant. 3. Thomas Blake.	J. N. Harvey.
	Present	- -	- - - - -	700	Esther M'Pherson	1. John Lane, at request of applicant. 2. Wm. M'Pherson. 3. J. C. Shade.	Ditto.
Johannes	- - -	- 9	p. a. no employment	800	- representatives of plantation Thomas.	1. Jan Koert - - 2. W. Murdoch. 3. M. Streele.	Ditto.
	Joanna	- 40	p. a. hired out - -	880	- representatives of plantation Goede Fortuin.	1. John Alstrom - 2. James Stewart. 3. W. E. Pierce.	Ditto.
Henry Cato	- - -	- 23	p. a. carpenter - -	2,200	-- James Johnston of plantation Providence.	1. Dr. King, by Captain Coleman. 2. Thomas Smith. 3. Jan Koert.	Ditto.

Name of Apprenticed Labourer.		Aged Years.	Registered Employment.	Amount of Appraisement.	Name of Employer, or Person receiving the Money.	Names of Appraisers. 1. Appraiser appointed by Special Justice. 2. Appraiser appointed by Employer. 3. Umpire appointed by Approving Judge.	Name of Approving Judge.
Male.	Female.						
March 1836—continued.							
Thomas Walker	- - -	33	p. a. carpenter	Guild. Dem. Cr. 2,200	-- James Johnston of plantation Providence.	1. Dr. King, by Captain Coleman. 2. Thomas Smith. 3. Jan Koert.	J. N. Harvey.
	Sophia - -	21	p. a. field	440	-- proprietors of plantation Velselhoofd.	1. Dr. King - - 2. Thomas Smith. 3. M.'Steele.	Ditto.
	Antoinette -	47	p. a. washerwoman	600	- representatives of plantation Mokha.	1. W. Deeges, by request of applicant. 2. F. Verbeke. 3. P. Rose.	Ditto.
Peter Thornton	- - -	19	p. a. tradesman	900	- representatives of plantation Good Hope.	1. John Alstrom - 2. James Stewart. 3. John Lane.	Ditto.
	Charamantje -	44	p. a. field	1,200	- representatives of plantation La Penitence.	1. Jan Koert, by desire of applicant. 2. P. Rose. 3. John Coates.	Ditto.
Boston - - -	- - -	41	p. a. jobber	1,500	- representatives of plantations Ann's Grove and Triumph.	1. John Coates, by desire of applicant. 2. James Stewart. 3. W. E. Pierce.	Ditto.
	Matilda - -	20	p. a. domestic	950	- representatives of plantation Haarlem.	1. A. Grant - - 2. P. Rose. 3. James Burnett.	Ditto.
Polydore - - -	- - -	36	n. p. carpenter	1,600	-- John Cliff, of Greenock, in Essequibo.	1. John Alstrom - 2. Mathew Steele. 3. George Fraser.	Ditto.
	Amimba - -	42	p. a. jobber	not given in.	- representatives of plantation Sparta.	1. M. Steele, by desire of applicant. 2. P. Rose. 3. John Coates.	- Amimba's application stands over in consequence of her not having been able yet to come to town.
	Henrica - -	19	p. a. domestic	1,100	- representatives of plantation Sparta.	1. M. Steele, by desire of applicant. 2. P. Rose. 3. John Coates.	J. N. Harvey.

Georgetown, 15 April 1836.

George Ross, S. J. P.

RETURN of APPRAISEMENTS for the District of Berbice.

Date of Manumission.	Name.	Age.	Sex.	Registered Employment.	Name of the Employer.	Amount of Appraisement.	Name of the Appraisers.	Name of the Approving Judge.
1836:						f.		
26 February	Isabella -	26	female	domestic	Rose Stewart - -	600	private sale.	
8 March	Carel -	31	male	carpenter	P. Dettering - -	800	- ditto.	
12 -	Sarah -	45	female	field	Estate D'Hankar -	69	-- purchased for her own benefit at Veadue.	
12*	Milton -	52	male	field	A. P. L. P. Friends. } Wm. Forsyth	2,565	-- David Melville and Donald Ross.	Sam. Firebrace, Acting First Puisne Judge.
	Delia -	22	female	field				
	Nanny Quin	42	female	domestic				
	Patrick -	15	male	field				
	Celia -	64	female	nurse				
21 -	Anna Maria	3rs. m. 11 7	female	domestic	} Mary Elliott - -	440	private sale.	
	William -	8 11	male	ditto				

* One family.

John McCleod, Special Magistrate, K. District.

BRITISH
GUIANA.

— No. 267. —

No. 267.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *James Carmichael Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 11 May 1836.

For Lord Glenelg's
Circular Despatch,
Vide Parliamentary
Session 1836, Paper
No. 166-1, p. 6.

I HAVE not been inattentive to the important subjects to which your circular of the 25th November 1835 relates. I have, however, deferred making any communication to your Lordship until I had an opportunity of personally conferring with the Bishop of the diocese, and of ascertaining to what extent his Lordship would be able to assist, from the funds placed at his disposal by religious societies; and in what manner that aid would be afforded. The Bishop left this colony a few days ago, and I am enabled to report to your Lordship as follows:

In the district of Demerara and of Essequibo there are seven parishes under the charge of rectors of the Church of England, and in the district of Berbice there will hereafter certainly be not less than three. In his charge to the rectors, the bishop promises and undertakes to pay five-sixths of the expense of such schools as may be established under their charge and control in their respective parishes, provided the parishioners will pay the remaining sixth. There can be no doubt but that a considerable number of good and well-regulated schools will speedily be established by the rectors in question, under the patronage and influence of the bishop. Of the money required to pay the remaining sixth of the expense, according to the plan of the bishop, I will hereafter explain my views. In the meantime I will only observe to your Lordship that the pecuniary assistance thus proffered by the Bishop towards those parishes which are or may be hereafter under the charge of the Church of England, very considerably diminishes the demands which would otherwise be made upon the pecuniary grant placed by Parliament at the disposal of your Lordship.

There are in Demerara and in Essequibo six parishes under the spiritual care of the ministers of the Church of Scotland; and three additional parishes in the district of Berbice may fairly be calculated upon. It would thus appear that in nine parishes of this province, attached to the Presbyterian form of worship, pecuniary aid will be required to put the inhabitants of those parishes upon the same footing, with respect to schools, as the inhabitants of the 10 parishes under the spiritual charge of the Church of England have lately been placed by their bishop. I sincerely hope that the application to the General Assembly, alluded to by your Lordship in your despatch of the 24th March 1836, will be productive of good effect; and will enable the ministers of the Church of Scotland to make themselves as useful in their several parishes, in superintending the education of the rising generation, as they are desirous to be.

I have great pleasure in being able to state to your Lordship that the combined court, during its late session, met every proposition relative to additional churches, chapels and schools, with a most liberal spirit. Independent of several specific votes, they have granted 30,000 guilders, rather more than 2,000*l.*, in aid of the schools in Demerara and Essequibo; and 10,000 guilders towards those in the district of Berbice. This money will give to each parish about 164*l.*; and if aided by donations and subscriptions from the inhabitants of the several parishes, will enable the respective ministers to establish at any rate one additional school. In the English parishes, as the bishop is able to afford such material assistance from the funds placed at his disposal, the progress will, of course, be more rapid.

In the foregoing remarks I have confined my observations solely to the additional schools which will be under the control of the rector, or minister of the parish (as the case may be). The various religious societies, as enumerated in the margin of your Lordship's circular of the 25th of November 1835, will make their applications and representations to your Lordship in the mode pointed out in Sir George Grey's letter of the 21st July 1835, to the secretary of the Treasury. I beg, however, to trespass upon your Lordship's time with a few observations with respect to the establishment of a normal school in this colony. It was my intention to have applied the building formerly occupied as a dwelling-house by the chief justice (but to which accommodation the new chief justice, under the Earl of Ripon's despatch of the 3d June 1831, will not be entitled,) to the purpose of a normal school; and I had proceeded to digest the necessary arrangements, and to calculate the probable expense of educating and preparing 20 young men as catechists. The plan

plan will, however, decidedly not answer in this colony. As the most perfect toleration prevails in British Guiana, it might, at first sight, have been imagined that, in this province, more readily than in any other part of His Majesty's dominions, a normal school, upon liberal and comprehensive principles, might have been established. Neither, however, the Church of England, nor the Kirk of Scotland, nor the Wesleyan Missionaries, nor the London Missionary Society, nor the Roman Catholics, are disposed to send any young men to the proposed normal school, nor to receive their catechists from thence. I have not yet a single candidate for admission, although I have given publicity to the plan, and endeavoured to recommend it. Each persuasion wishes to educate their own catechists.

The Right hon. the Lord Glenelg, (signed) I have, &c.
&c. &c. &c. *J. Carmichael Smyth.*

— No. 268. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *James Carmichael Smyth*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 12 July 1836.

No. 268.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your despatch of the 11th of May last, containing your answer to my circular despatch of 25th November 1835, on the subject of negro education.

I have received with peculiar gratification your report of the efforts which have been made by various churches and Christian societies in British Guiana, for diffusing amongst the youth of the colony the blessings of education and Christian knowledge, and I cannot but convey to the Court of Policy the expression of my cordial satisfaction at learning the very liberal grant which they have made for the same important purpose.

I have felt it my duty to convey the substance of your despatch to His Majesty, who has been graciously pleased to command me to signify, through you, to the Court of Policy, His Majesty's approbation of the efforts which they have wisely made for the benefit of the rising generation, from which His Majesty anticipates results most beneficial to that part of his dominions.

Lieut.-gov. Sir J. Carmichael Smyth,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 269. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *James Carmichael Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 15 May 1836.

No. 269.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Lordship the epitome of the monthly reports from the 15 stipendiary special justices in British Guiana, for the month of April. Your Lordship will observe with pleasure, that there have been only 19 punishments with the cat in this province during the month of April, and that most of these punishments were for assaults upon one another, or for petty thefts.

The Right hon. the Lord Glenelg, (signed) I have, &c.
&c. &c. &c. *J. Carmichael Smyth.*

Enclosure in No. 269. - - - - -
 EPITOME of the MONTHLY REPORTS from the FIFTEEN STIPENDIARY SPECIAL

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>Charles H. Strutt, Esq.</i>	
1. Are the labourers in your district civil, contented and cheerful?	Yes, in general. I have inspected 18 estates and the hospitals thereon, (names given in original report), during the month.	They are.	Yes. I visited 15 estates, &c. (names given in original report), during the month.
2. Have they performed work during the last month with alacrity and good will?	Very generally.	They have.	Yes.
3. Has the work on any estate been unwillingly or not readily performed? If yes, have the goodness to name the estate, the proprietor, or his attorney, and the manager, in order that an inquiry may be forthwith instituted into the causes which may have led to such conduct.	On plantation 'Cane Grove,' John M'Kay, manager, the apprenticed labourers performed their work unwillingly for the first week in the month.	The work has not been unwillingly performed on any estate in my district during the month.	None.
4. Is task-work generally resorted to within your district? or do the labourers prefer working 7½ hours per day, as fixed by law?	Voluntary task-work is in general performed. The apprenticed labourers however sometimes prefer labouring for 7½ hours.	Voluntary task-work is most generally in use in my district, the managers and apprenticed labourers taking the tariff as a guide.	Task-work is generally resorted to.
5. What are the working hours most generally in use in your district? Are there any estates in your district on which the labourers are compelled to lay by for two or three hours in the middle of the day, and then to complete their 7½ hours in the afternoon, (by which division of their labour they have little or no time to themselves); if yes, have the goodness to name the estates, proprietors or attorneys, and the managers.	The working hours in use, (when task-work is not resorted to), are from seven to half-past two o'clock. On plantation 'Parkfront,' the 45 hours labour per week are distributed through five days at nine hours per day.	The nominal hours in use in my district are from 7 to 11 and from 1 to half-past 4; but on all the estates, with the exception of the cotton plantations 'Anne's Grove' and 'Paradise,' the labourers are allowed to leave the field when they have performed a reasonable quantity of work, and I have known many to have finished by 10 or 11 o'clock.	Labour commences at seven o'clock, and goes on till the work is finished. On no estate are the labourers compelled to lay by in the middle of the day.

Enclosure in No. 269.

JUSTICES in *British Guiana*, for the Month of *April* 1836.

DISTRICT (C.)			DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN.	RIVER.	UPPER RIVER.	
<i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	Captain <i>Delafons, R. N.</i>	Captain <i>Coleman.</i>	Captain <i>Allen.</i>
They are.	Yes. I have this month visited eight estates, (names given in original report), and the labourers appear generally contented, with some few exceptions.	Yes, generally. Visited 16 estates and the hospitals thereon, (names given in original report, during the month.	Yes, with few exceptions. I visited the hospitals of nine estates (names given), and 12 other plantations (names also given in original report), on none were any complaints preferred by the labourers, plantation 'Moirtgedacht' excepted; and on all the others, with some exceptions as to 'Schoonord' and 'La Parfaite Harmonie,' they seemed contented and happy.
They have performed their work with as much good will as could reasonably be expected.	Yes, generally.	Yes, except partially on some estates.	Yes, very generally so.
The work has been readily performed, with the exception of a slight temporary misunderstanding among some of the apprenticed labourers attached to 'Belleair.'	Generally. No.	Yes. Plantation 'Petershall,' Messrs. Smith & Taylor, attornies; William Barry, manager. Plantation 'Friendship,' Messrs. Rievers and Koolhas, attornies; Robert Mackenzie, manager. Plantation 'Farm,' Messrs. Rievers and Koolhas, attornies; John Mackenzie, manager. 'Garden of Eden,' Messrs. Manget and Luthers, attornies; E. J. Oudkirk, manager.	The work has not been very readily performed by part of the women gang on plantation 'Schoonord,' N. M. Manget, proprietor; J. Ross, manager; and by part of both gangs on plantation 'La Parfaite Harmonie,' F. D. St. Felix, proprietor; G. Parke, manager.
Task-work is resorted to on the estates in this division; the town mechanics work the legal time.	They work the 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours per day, as fixed by law.	The labourers generally prefer working the 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours per day, as fixed by law.	Task-work is usually resorted to.
On the estates attached to this division the labourers usually begin about seven or rather later, and lay by when their task is finished.	From 7 A.M. until half-past 2 P.M.; but there are many exceptions to this by the females, who come later into the field, and who of course work later.	From 7 A.M. to half-past 2 P.M. There are no estates in this part of the district to which the latter part of this question applies.	From 7 to 11, and from 12 to half-past 3, or from 7 to 11, and from 1 to half-past 4. There are no estates where the labourers are compelled to lay by two hours in the middle of the day.

(continued on page 184.)

<p>April 1836.]</p> <p>DISTRICT (E.)</p> <p><i>Spry Bartlet, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (F.)</p> <p><i>George Kellock, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (G.)</p> <p><i>George Ball, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (H.)</p> <p><i>J. W. Brittain, Esq.</i></p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 1.</i></p> <p>During the month I have visited the hospitals on six estates, (names given in original report). The apprenticed labourers appeared well found in medical advice, &c., and contented and civil.</p>	<p>Perfectly so. During the month I have visited the hospitals on 22 estates on Leguan, 3 estates on Hog Island, and 19 estates on Wakenaam, in all 44 estates, being the whole of the estates in the district.</p>	<p>They are perfectly civil, and seem contented and cheerful. I have visited 18 estates (names given in original report), and inspected the hospitals thereon; the sick appear well taken care off, but although somewhat more attention to cleanliness than formerly is apparent, yet there is still much room for improvement in this respect.</p>	<p>They are.</p>
<p><i>Ans. to Ques. 2.</i></p> <p>Remarkably well throughout the district, with the exception of plantation 'Met en Meerzog.'</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>They have very generally.</p>	<p>Very generally they have.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 3.</i></p> <p>Plantation 'Met en Meerzog,' Messrs. Fullerton and M'Donald, proprietors; Mr. Hugh Ross, manager.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>The work has not been unwillingly performed on any estate in this district.</p>	<p>I have had no intimation of any such disposition having prevailed on any estate in the district.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 4.</i></p> <p>Generally throughout the district.</p>	<p>Task-work is general, and preferred by the labourers.</p>	<p>Task-work is generally resorted to and preferred.</p>	<p>The scale of work published is generally adopted throughout this district.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 5.</i></p> <p>The bell rings on most estates in this district at seven, and the labourers can return the moment their task is finished.</p>	<p>Upon no estate are the labourers compelled to lay by. They work as they like; the hours are from about 6 to 12, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, according to circumstances and the bargain made.</p>	<p>The labourers generally go to work at half-past 6 or 7, and finish at their option. There is no estate in this district in which they are compelled to lay by in the middle of the day.</p>	<p>No such vexatious division of the hour of labour is known here.</p>

DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Macleod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>Aban Rijck de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
Generally they are. I have visited every estate in the district, some two and more times during the month, and most of the hospitals.	Generally.	During the month I have visited three estates (names given); I found the labourers civil and tolerably contented.	I believe so, but have only been able to visit two estates this month.
With some exceptions they have.	Generally.	In general they are.	I have reason to believe they have.
No, except by a few; and I have had to reprimand the men gang on plantation 'Balthayock' for negligence, which has had a good effect. I have also repeatedly reprimanded and admonished the women on that estate, but without producing more diligence on some of them.	No such complaint has been preferred.	Generally it has in the best gangs; there are indifferent subjects or idlers, as may be seen from the judicial record of proceedings submitted to his Excellency for the month, such of course excepted.	Not that I am aware of.
Yes, generally, and preferred by the labourers.	It is. On no estate do the labourers prefer working the 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours, as fixed by law.	The task-work is most generally performed by the labourers; they work it diligently in general, and in doing so are early at home; some at one, some at two o'clock, as the work speeds.	Task-work is generally performed.
From 7 A.M. until their tasks are finished, and optional whether they rest or not during the time; the tasks are often done by 12 o'clock.	From 7 A.M. until the day's labour is finished.	As the labourer generally prefers task-work, they finish it as it suits them best, and are not controlled therein. The bell rings or shell blows at 11, at 1, and at half-past 4 o'clock to mark time.	Work is generally commenced about seven in the morning. The labourers leave the field when their task is finished.

April 1836.] QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>Charles H. Strutt, Esq.</i>	
6. Do the labourers on any estate in your district perform extra labour for hire? If yes, name the estates, the rate of wages for extra work, and state how and when the payments are made; and if extra work is not performed for wages, state if reasonable wages have been offered, with weekly payment. If reasonable wages and prompt payment have been offered and rejected, state to what cause you attribute the refusal on the part of the labourers.	In the manufacture of sugar, earning from six bits to two guilders per week—payments are made on demand. Extra field labour has not during the month been performed to any extent, which I attribute to the unfavourable state of the weather.	On all the estates in my district the people employed in the boiling-houses and about the buildings work for hire, and earn from two to three guilders per week each. On plantation 'Beehive' and 'Greenfield' they occasionally work in the field, also for hire, where they frequently earn half a guilder per day. The payments are usually made every month.	The labourers perform extra labour for hire in the field, and also in the buildings; 40 stivers for a punt of canes; 10 guilders per acre weeding a plantain walk; 10 stivers each employed in the punts & schooners going to Georgetown; two stivers per hour in the boiling-houses; payments monthly and weekly.
7. Have there been any instances of insubordination, or any attempt to resist authority by force in your district? If there have been any, name the estates on which such occurrences have taken place.	None.	There have been none.	None.
8. In the event of any disposition having been manifested by any of the labourers to neglect their work, or to behave rudely to those in authority over them, has such misconduct been so general as to induce you to attribute it to any combination or conspiracy? or, is it only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that you have had complaints made?	The disposition of the apprenticed labourers of plantation 'Cane Grove,' in the beginning of the month, to neglect work was so general that I attributed it to combination.	- - - - -	The complaints made generally have been in consequence of not returning immediately to their work after the holydays, but these are few.
9. Has the attendance of the prædial labourers at church, and of their children at school, been regular and to the full accommodation afforded them under the local circumstances of your district?	Yes, in both respects.	It has. children at school, has been very good. About 500 labourers were confirmed by the bishop of the diocese, and I am happy to say the proprietors allowed all to attend who wished, whether to be confirmed or not.	The attendance of the labourers at church, and their children at school, has been very good. About 500 labourers were confirmed by the bishop of the diocese, and I am happy to say the proprietors allowed all to attend who wished, whether to be confirmed or not.
10. Have you, individually as a magistrate, and has the court over which you preside, been under the necessity of ordering punishment by whipping during the preceding month? and, if answered in the affirmative, state the number of delinquents so punished, and the extent of punishment awarded in each case.	One, 20 stripes.	None.	None.
11. Has any manager, overseer or other person in authority over the prædial labourers been fined or otherwise punished by the court over which you preside during the preceding month for misconduct towards any labourer or labourers? Have there been any instances of the labourers having been detained at work beyond the legal hours? and, in such case, has the shilling sterling per hour for each individual labourer been levied?	None.	None.	None.

DISTRICT (C.)			DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, Esq.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>Captain Coleman.</i>	<i>Captain Allen.</i>
On the estates in this division extra work for hire is performed about the buildings, at the rate of 1 ½ to 3 bits per day during the grinding, payment prompt; and on plantation 'Sophia' coffee is picked for hire during the crop time.	No.	Yes; it is generally performed about the buildings, at the rate of from one to two bits per day, prompt payment; it is rarely performed in the field.	The account respecting extra work, wages, names of estates, &c., has not varied in any particular since the report of last month, when the whole was fully stated.
There has been no attempt to resist authority by force.	None.	There have been some few instances of individual insubordination, but no attempt to resist authority by force.	There was an instance of gross insolence on the part of an apprenticed labourer to his overseer. There has been no attempt to resist authority by force.
There has been no insubordination or conspiracy.	Where such occurrences have taken place, to be attributed solely to the idle and disorderly.	There have been many complaints against idle apprentices, but I do not feel myself warranted in attributing it to combination or conspiracy.	The case above alluded to regarded a disorderly apprentice only. The indolence on 'Schoonard' and 'Laparfaite Harmonie' was partial, and wore no appearance of combination or conspiracy.
The places of worship and schools are well attended, and the accommodation quite sufficient.	Yes.	Yes.	It has not varied since last month, and was equal to the local accommodation.
None.	Four: two, 24 stripes each; two, 15 stripes each.	None.	One, 15 stripes.
None.	None.	No.	None.

(continued on page 188.)

April 1836.] DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlet, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Kellock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (C.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>J. W. Brittain, Esq.</i>
<i>Answers to Question 6.</i> About the buildings; they are paid weekly, in silver, at the rate of about two stivers per hour.	Upon every estate the labourers work extra work for hire; upon some estates the whole gang are paid; on others, only the cane cutters and people about the buildings. The wages are from one bit to two and three guilders per week.	Extra labour for hire in a greater or less degree is general, but is more universal in the boiling-house than in the field, particularly as regards the female labourers, who on several estates evince much reluctance to field work for hire. Payments are usually made monthly.	Extra labour is very general throughout this district; nor do I hear any complaints of want of punctuality in payments.
<i>Ans. to Ques. 7.</i> None of any consequence, and that alone confined to plantation 'Met en Meerzog.'	No.	No such instances have occurred.	Nothing of the kind has occurred in the district during the month.
<i>Answers to Question 8.</i> It is generally the same idle apprentices against whom complaints are made.	It is only with respect to a few idle and disorderly that complaints have been made.	Solely with respect to the latter.	Nothing of the kind.
<i>Ans. to Ques. 9.</i> Yes. mentable want of	The churches are always crowded: there is a most lamentable want of both churches and schools. great distance of the church from some parts of the district is a considerable obstacle to a full attendance, especially in bad weather.	As regular as usual, and, I think, under local circumstances, to the full extent of the accommodation; but the great distance of the church from some parts of the district is a considerable obstacle to a full attendance, especially in bad weather.	The attendance of the apprenticed labourers at church, and of their children at school, continues to be to the full extent of the opportunities afforded to them.
<i>Answers to Question 10.</i> None.	Four, 30 stripes each.	Three: one, 30 stripes; two, 15 stripes each.	One, 10 stripes.
<i>Answers to Question 11.</i> Mr. G. M'Clintock, overseer on plantation 'Vreesen Hoop,' was fined four dollars for an assault on an apprenticed labourer. He pleaded "not guilty" in the first instance, but retracted that plea and admitted his guilt.	No.	No instance of either has occurred.	No employer was convicted or charged before me during the month. No labourers work for the 7 ½ hours.

DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Macleod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Rijk de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
There is more encouragement given to the labourers to perform extra labour by several lately, and when it is, I think they evince great willingness to resort to it. On the 'Foulis,' its cultivation is being extended by extra labour; wages vary; paid weekly or when required.	On all sugar estates the persons about the buildings.	The labourers are either hired on the estate to which they are attached, or to other estates, for reasonable wages and prompt payment.	At plantations 'Port Mourant' and 'Hampshire,' they perform extra work in cutting canes for hire. On all sugar estates those employed in the boiling-house are paid.
No.	Not.	No.	No.
Only with respect to a few idle and disorderly, except the gang at Bathayock, where a combination certainly existed not to perform a sufficient quantity of work during the last month.	Not.	No, I do not think so; it exists amongst the idle and disorderly, and such after a fair trial, if convicted, meet their desert within the pale of the ordinance.	No.
Yes; and the apprenticed labourers in their own time, in the neighbourhood, have erected a large temporary building on plantation 'Waterloo' for a chapel, which was opened as a place of public worship early the last month, when a very large congregation of respectably dressed and attentive labourers and many other inhabitants assembled.	It has.	I have heard nothing to the contrary; there is now a Roman chapel fitting up in the neighbourhood besides. The Rev. J. Miram has come lately to reside at Fern chapel.	Almost all roads, houses and churches, have been under water during the month in this district.
None.	Two: one, 30 stripes; one, 15 stripes.	None.	Three: two, 25 stripes each; one, 15 stripes.
No.	No.	No.	A proprietor has been fined for striking an unattached prædial labourer. The case is fully reported in the record of complaints.

April 1836.] QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>Charles Heury Strutt, Esq.</i>	
12. Have any complaints been preferred to you during the last month, from any apprenticed labourers, respecting their clothing, food, treatment, or upon any subject? In the event of any complaints having been made to you, have you carefully investigated into the matters, and caused justice to be rendered to the parties, as far as it was in your power? State the number and the nature of the complaints which may have been preferred to you in general terms.	Four complaints from apprenticed labourers have been preferred during the past month for mal-treatment, by those in authority over them. I carefully investigated them, and rendered justice as far as it was in my power.	I have had two or three minor complaints, to which I gave my best attention as they came before me; neither of them were, however, of sufficient importance to require particular mention here.	A few complaints amongst the labourers, arising chiefly out of traffic amongst themselves, and which I manage to settle without a great deal of trouble.
13. Have any of the free children, upon any of the estates in your district, been bound apprentices during the last month? If yes, name the estates upon which such occurrences have taken place, and state if the transactions were with the free consent and approbation of the parents of the children.	None.	There have been none.	None.
14. How are the children fed and taken care of on the estates in your district? Are they fed from the stores of the estates gratuitously, and is an additional quantity of salt fish and plantains issued for them? or are they fed out of the allowance due to their parents? When their mothers are at work in the field, is a woman specially appointed to take care of their young children, and exempted from all other duty? Are the children, when unwell, allowed the advantage of the medical assistance and hospital treatment of the estate in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery?	The children receive the same treatment with respect to food, medical assistance, &c. &c., as when in a state of slavery, with the exception of a few of those on plantation 'Broom Hall,' who are not fed in consequence, as the attorney states, of the misbehaviour of their mothers.	The free children in my district are fed and taken care of gratuitously, and have medical attendance in the hour of sickness.	In the same manner as when in a state of slavery.
15. On how many estates, in your district, are schools established? Name the estates, proprietors, and managers of estates having schools.	None.	There are two established in the district; viz. on plantations 'Enmore' and 'Greenfield.' The former estate belongs to Mr. Porter, and the latter to Mr. Glen.	There has been no increase or diminution since last report.
16. Are there any remarks or observations which you may wish to convey to the lieutenant-governor, connected with the peace, tranquillity and happiness of the district under your superintendance? If yes, state the same.	I have to observe, that from the bad state of the roads, which have been rendered impassable by the late rains, I was not able to visit the estates more than once during the month. (signed) <i>K. Heyland,</i> S. J. P.	None. I am happy to add, however, that my district is in a very quiet and satisfactory condition. (signed) <i>C. H. Strutt,</i> S. J. P.	I consider the district tranquil and quiet, and every thing going on well. (signed) <i>A. M. Lyons,</i> S. J. P.

DISTRICT (C.)			DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R. N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>Captain Coleman.</i>	
Four charges have been preferred by apprenticed labourers against their employers for assault or beating. One case has been compromised; in one case the employer has been fined; and the other two have been dismissed for want of evidence.	Bob, an apprenticed labourer attached to a task-gang, lodged a complaint against the manager for confining him all night in the hospital; and after a most full and careful investigation into it, it was dismissed as frivolous and vexatious, the complainant having failed to prove his charge, but substantiated charges against himself.	None, but what have been already reported upon.	Twenty-six complaints have been preferred during the month. They have all been inquired into and redressed, where well founded, to the utmost of my power, for the benefit of complainants.
None.	None.	No.	None.
On all the estates in this division of the district the free children have an extra allowance of food, as well as nurses and medical attendance.	In the same manner as while in a state of slavery.	With the exception of plantation 'Prosperity' and 'Little Diamond,' the children have an extra allowance of provisions. They are all allowed nurses and medical attendance.	The free children are usually fed by a little salt fish and plantains, issued to the mothers, or, when young, barley, rice, sugar, &c., is given in lieu. When their mothers are at work, a person is appointed to take charge of them, who is exempted from other duty, when their number is considerable. They are reported to receive the same medical treatment and assistance as when in a state of slavery.
At plantations 'Kitty' and 'Belair,' missionary chapels are established; and a Church of England catechist 'Thomas' and 'Kitty,' to instruct the children.	'Rome' and 'Houstoun' and 'Ruimveldt.'	Three; viz. 'Peter's Hall,' 'Perseverance,' and the 'Craig.'	Schools are established or instruction given on 13 estates; names, &c., given in original report.
—	None.	No.	Nil.
(signed) <i>George Ross,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>Thos. Delafons,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>Thos. Colcman,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>J. A. Allen,</i> S. J. P.

(continued on page 202.)

April 1836.] DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlet, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Kellock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>J. W. Brittain, Esq.</i>
Answers to Question 12.	None.	No.	A complaint was made against a manager for not allowing an apprenticed labourer water to drink when in hospital, which, after a very careful investigation, and the examination of 10 witnesses, proved wholly unfounded and malicious.
Answers to Question 13.	None.	No.	None.
Answers to Question 14.	I am happy to state to your Excellency, that since my last report, Mr. Manget, as attorney for plantation 'Anna Catherina,' has directed the food, doctors and clothing to be allowed to the unapprenticed children. The only estates now which do not allow food are the 'Best,' 'Tuchen de Vrienden,' and 'Vrusen Hoop.' Medical aid is granted throughout the district.	Upon all the estates in this district the children are treated as formerly.	In the same manner as when in a state of slavery.
Ans. to Ques. 15.	I find some difficulty in acquiring correct information on this head. If the question be put directly, it often gives offence, and the reply is, "I am not bound to do so; I am, therefore, not obliged to answer that question." No apprenticed labourer complains on this head, being aware that they have no legal claim. From late information I am led to believe, that on several estates the only gratuity afforded to these free children is a nurse when the mother is in the field, and the use of the hospital when they are sick.	On six estates; names, &c., given in original report.	There is a school on 'Meerzog,' Wakenhaam, E. Bishop, q. q., and one between 'Waterloo' and 'Maryville,' Leguan; J. Noble, proprietor. There is a school taught by the catechist at Leguan. A school-house has just been erected at Wakenhaam, and another about to be erected.
Answers to Question 16.	On eight; names, &c., given in original report.	Only as yet upon one estate, plantation 'Anna Regina;' but I hear it proposed to erect them on other estates.	Nil.
	There are numbers of huxtering people who come from town, and go all about, without any one knowing who they are. These people encourage petty thefts on estates, by taking payment in fowls, sugar, plantains, &c. &c., which they send up to town and sell. It would be desirable that no one should go about huxtering who had not a licence. The licence ought to be given only to the person who goes about, as one person often has half a dozen people huxtering.	The chief occurrence during the month, upon which I should wish to make some observations, is that several women in Pomeroun assert that they are non-prædial domestics, who have been compulsorily removed from George-town. I shall immediately inquire into the truth of their statements; and so soon as I receive the answers, I shall communicate them to his Excellency, should I deem his interference necessary.	(signed) <i>Spry Bartlet,</i> S. J. P.
	(signed) <i>G Kellock,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>George Ball,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>J. W. Brittain,</i> S. J. P.

DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Macleod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Rijk de Groot.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir, Esq.</i>
A woman, an apprenticed labourer, made a complaint to me, which I forwarded to the sheriff.	No.	None of the least importance.	Only in the case above noticed, and which, in fact, was preferred in the previous month.
No.	No.	No.	None.
Generally the same as before the 1st August 1834.	In the same manner as when in a state of slavery.	On most estates in the district the children under six years receive a gratuitous allowance of food and medical attendance.	On all, except three estates, food has been freely offered to the children, but has been rarely accepted by the parents. On all they have medical attendance and hospital treatment; and nurses are provided to take care of the children when the mothers are at work.
There are schools on every estate amongst the labourers themselves; on many, teachers are engaged, besides those at the places of public worship; there is one established at the new chapel on plantation 'Waterloo.'	On plantations 'Bleyandaal' and 'Lonsdale,' at the chapel, and on plantation 'Deutchum. J. B. Winter, attorney.	On six estates; names, &c, given in original report.	None.
Nil. (signed) <i>Geo. Rose,</i> S. J. P.	Nil. (signed) <i>J. Macleod,</i> S. J. P.	None at present. (signed) <i>A. Van Rijk de Groot,</i> S. J. P.	Nil. (signed) <i>J. O. Lockhart Muir,</i> S. J. P.

(True extracts.)

J. H. W. D. Sidley, Private Secretary.

BRITISH
GUIANA.

— No. 270. —

No. 270

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *James Carmichael Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 23 May 1836.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Lordship, and as I hope for your Lordship's approbation, the accompanying copy of a circular letter I have felt it my duty to address to the special justices in this colony, relative to the amount of work required from pregnant women, and women with children at the breast; and which I trust will be attended with good effects.

I have, &c.

The Right hon. The Lord Glenelg,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

(Circular.)

Sir,

Camp House, 18 May 1836.

I BEG to draw your attention to the accompanying copy of a letter, addressed by my orders to the special justice of district A., relative to the death of a twin child, of which a female apprentice, attached to one of the estates in his district, had been delivered. You will perceive, that this poor woman came to Camp House, with one child at the breast and the other dead in her arms, to complain of the extent of work she was compelled to perform. My object in bringing this distressing circumstance to your notice is, to impress upon you the necessity of paying every attention to the state of the health, and consequent strength, of any labourer who may be brought before you charged with neglect of work. This rule (just and applicable in all cases) ought to be particularly attended to as regards female labourers. The law has not, with respect to apprenticed labourers, as it did with respect to slaves (when slavery existed), pointed out the exact diminution of labour to which, according to her state of pregnancy, or the period which has elapsed since her confinement, the female labourer is entitled. In appointing special justices, and in confiding to them the superintendence of the apprenticed labourers, and the settlement of all questions which may arise between the employer and the labourer, such detailed enactments as I have alluded to, became unnecessary. In each individual case brought before you, you are the judge; and previously to pronouncing your judgment, it is for you to consider the strength and capabilities of the individual complained of. With a view to enable each special justice to form an opinion as to the diligence or idleness of the labourers in their respective districts, I caused a scale to be prepared as to the quantity of work which an effective prædial labourer might be expected to perform in a space of seven and a half hours of steady and assiduous labour, as is more fully explained to you in the 6th Article of your instructions of the 1st August 1834. This scale by no means, however, supersedes or interferes with the judgment, at which your own experience and observation may enable you to arrive. Compulsory task work (which a strict adherence to the proposed scale of work, without the consent of the labourer) would unquestionably be, is strictly forbidden by the 3d section of the 5th chapter of the Ordinance 43. A day's work of a prædial labourer is defined (in section 2, of chapter 4, of the same Ordinance) to be such a portion of specified work as can be performed by each apprenticed labourer, by assiduous and steady industry during the space of seven hours and a half. You are consequently, as I have already explained, the sole judge as to whether the labour performed is as much as the labourer, whether male or female, can and ought to perform in the time placed by law at the disposal of the employer, taking into consideration the health and strength of the individual. In all complaints against females, their state of pregnancy, the number of children they may have borne, the time since their last confinement, the age of the infant or infants they may have at the breast, I wish in future to be inquired into, and to be entered on the records of the proceedings.

I have, &c.

To ——— Special Justice of the District.

J. Carmichael Smyth.

(Copy.)

Government Secretary's Office, Guiana Public
Buildings, 12 May 1836.

Sir,

I HAVE it in command from the Lieutenant-Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, and enclosures. His Excellency observes, that a woman having two children at the breast (about six months old) is incapable of performing a full day's work in weeding, and cannot be classed as "effective." His Excellency is sorry that the medical gentleman, Mr. Thomas M'Creath, attending the estate "Helena," should have put his name to a document conveying a contrary opinion. But it does not require any medical knowledge to feel convinced that he is in error. The female Henrietta, appears to have had twins on the 9th of October; on the 8th March she appears to have been brought before you. In the evidence of the manager she is accused of "weeding and moulding canes only to the extent of 50 roods;" and she is sentenced by you to be locked up for one week in a cell during

during the day, and in the sick-house at night. Upon referring to the scale of labour, enclosure (B.), attached to your instructions (and which scale it is to be remembered is the maximum that can be expected to be performed by "effective prædial labourers"), there are three descriptions of "weeding and moulding canes." In the first description, effective prædial labourers are expected to perform 75 roods; in the second, 86 roods; and in the third, 100 roods. Before a special justice could arrive at the degree of criminality which might attach to Henrietta for only performing 50 roods, it would appear that the nature of the "weeding and moulding," as required from her, ought to have been accurately ascertained. This essential point does not appear, on the face of the proceedings, to have been inquired into. On the 18th of the same month (after having undergone her sentence, and having still her two children at her breast), Henrietta appears to have been again brought before you, accused by the manager of "persisting in her refusal to perform a sufficient quantity of work." No evidence whatever against her is offered. No details relative to her alleged misconduct are given. It is merely stated that she acknowledged the charge; and she is condemned to two weeks' imprisonment in the colonial gaol, with hard labour on every alternate day. This sentence was given upon the 18th March. It seems unnecessary to express any opinion with respect to it, as, on the 20th March, you addressed a letter to the Lieutenant-Governor, soliciting Henrietta's pardon. The poor woman was released from the gaol as soon as his Excellency received your letter. The quantity of work attempted to be exacted from her, after her return to the estate, being, as she states, much beyond her strength (keeping in mind that she had two children at the breast), she appears to have left the estate upon the 22d April for the purpose of presenting a petition to the Lieutenant-Governor. She had her two children with her. On the 30th April the Lieutenant-Governor saw the poor woman sitting at his Excellency's gate with one child at her breast, and another lying dead in her lap; she had left a petition at the Public Buildings upon the 27th April, that is three days previously; but which petition the Lieutenant-Governor had not received on the 30th. The poor woman (with her children) was immediately sent, by the orders of the Lieutenant-Governor, to the coroner; and by whom (after the legal investigation as to the death of the one found dead in her lap was concluded) she was given over to the attorney of the estate, Mr. Rainy. The verdict of the coroner and of the four jurymen, was, that the child Martin died a natural death.

From the above recapitulation of the circumstances attending the case of the female Henrietta, his Excellency agrees in the assertion contained in your letter of the 9th instant, namely, that as the child of Henrietta was not sick on the 22d April, the day she left the estate, the death of the child cannot be attributed to any neglect or want of proper care of the child on the estate. It does not, however, appear to his Excellency, that you exerted yourself to enforce a reasonable diminution of the work required by the manager from an unfortunate woman, who had two infants to nourish. A strong healthy young woman who, from idleness, refused to perform a reasonable quantity of work during the seven and a half hours she is bound to labour, would have been a very proper person to have ordered into solitary confinement, or even to have put upon the tread-mill, if the solitary confinement was not a sufficient punishment to induce her to alter her conduct. A poor woman, the mother of twins, and having them both at the breast, ought not to be locked up in a cell, or sentenced to the tread-mill, but for some aggravated offence. His Excellency should almost say, in no case; inasmuch as in thus punishing the mother, the innocent children cannot but suffer in their nourishment, and, consequently, in their health, more or less.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry John Baird,*
Assist. Gov. Secretary.

(A true Copy)

Henry John Baird,
Assist. Gov. Secretary.

To the Special Justice of District (A.)

— No. 271. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *James Carmichael Smyth*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 30th July 1836.

No. 271.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 23d of May, enclosing a copy of a circular letter addressed by you to the special justices of British Guiana, relative to the amount of work required from pregnant women, and from women with children at the breast; and I have much pleasure in expressing to you my full approval of the general instructions conveyed in that letter, and of the view which you have taken of the case which suggested them.

I have, &c.

Lieut.-Gov. Sir J. Carmichael Smyth,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

BRITISH
GUIANA.

— No. 272. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *James Carmichael Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 272.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 1st June 1836.

I HAVE deemed it advisable to offer honorary medals to be given yearly, in His Majesty's name, to such managers in this province, as shall conduct the business of the estates, severally entrusted to their charge, with the cheerful co-operation of the labouring population. I think this measure will be productive of good effects.

I take the liberty of submitting a printed copy of the rules under which I propose to issue the medals in question.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. the Lord Glenelg,
&c. &c. &c.(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

Major-general Sir James Carmichael Smyth hereby offers, and will present in the month of January 1837, in the name of His Majesty, the following honorary medals :

1. A gold medal, of value of five guineas, to the manager of that estate in the district of Demerary on which, in comparison with the number of apprenticed labourers attached to such estate, the greatest happiness, industry and contentment shall have prevailed during the year 1836. The high sheriff and two special justices will form a committee to select the manager.

2. Ditto for the District of Essequibo. The sheriff of Essequibo, and two of the special justices of the Essequibo district, to form the committee.

3. Ditto for the district of Berbice. The sheriff of Berbice, and two special justices of the Berbice district, to form the committee.

4. A gold medal, of the value of five guineas, to the manager of that estate in the district of Demerary on which, with reference to the number of apprenticed labourers attached to such estate, there shall have been the greatest number of clean healthy children attending school during the year 1836.

5. The same for the district of Essequibo.

6. The same for the district of Berbice.

2.—Candidates for the above medals are requested to have the goodness to send in their names as early in the month of January as may be convenient, in order that their respective claims may be referred to the committee with as little delay as possible.

The rectors or ministers of the several parishes (as the case may be) will be requested to join the committee in selecting the individuals to whom the three last-named medals are to be presented.

By Order of his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor,

Guiana Public Buildings, }
26 May 1836. }*Henry John Baird*,
Assist. Gov. Sec.

— No. 273. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *James Carmichael Smyth*.

No. 273.

Sir,

Downing-street, 21st July 1836.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 1st June reporting your establishment of honorary medals to be given yearly in His Majesty's name, to such managers in British Guiana, as shall conduct the business of the estates entrusted to their charge with the cheerful co-operation of the labouring population.

I recognize in this measure your accustomed anxiety to promote the mutual contentment and satisfaction of the labourers and employers of the colony under your government, and I hope that it may be attended with beneficial results. I feel it accordingly my duty to convey to you my approval of the scheme, subject, however, to any future question as to the expense with which the distribution of the medals may be attended.

I have, &c.

Lieut.-Gov. Sir James Carmichael Smyth,
&c. &c. &c.(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 274. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *James Carmichael Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 274.

My Lord, Camp House, Demerara, 15th June 1836.

I BEG to submit to your Lordship an authenticated copy of an ordinance passed by myself and the Court of Policy establishing saving banks in this colony, and which I hope will meet with His Majesty's most gracious approbation.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. the Lord Glenelg,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Jas. Carmichael Smyth.*

Printed in the Ap-
pendix, No. 107.

— No. 275. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *James Carmichael Smyth* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 275.

My Lord, Camp House, Demerara, 16th June 1836.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Lordship the epitome of the monthly reports from the 15 stipendiary special justices in British Guiana for the month of May.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. the Lord Glenelg,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth.*

Enclosure in No. 275. - - - - -
 EPITOME of the MONTHLY REPORTS from the FIFTEEN STIPENDIARY

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>Charles H. Strutt, Esq.</i>	
1. Are the labourers in your district civil, contented and cheerful?	Very generally. I have visited sixteen estates during the month; names of estates given in original report.	They are so, with the exception of a portion of the gang at Clonbrook.	Yes. I have visited sixteen estates during the month; names, &c. given in the original report.
2. Have they performed their work during the last month with alacrity and good will?	Yes, for the most part.	With the above exception, they have.	Yes.
3. Has the work on any estate been unwillingly or not readily performed? If yes, have the goodness to name the estate, the proprietor, or his attorney, and the manager, in order that an inquiry may be forthwith instituted into the causes which may have led to such conduct.	On plantation 'Broom Hall,' William Booker, attorney and manager, and on plantation 'Spring Hall,' J. Jones, attorney, R. Trotman, manager, the work at one period of the month was not readily performed.	On plantation 'Clonbrook' there has been an idle and insubordinate spirit existing among some of the people for the last fortnight, which I cannot account for. I hope soon however to bring them to a sense of their duty.	On plantation 'Better Hope' the work has not been willingly or readily performed. Attorney, Dr. M. Turk; manager, J. Walker.
4. Is task-work generally resorted to within your district? or do the labourers prefer working the seven and a half hours per day, as fixed by law?	Task-work is generally resorted to. The labourers sometimes prefer working the seven hours and a half.	A kind of voluntary task-work is most generally in use in my district; the managers and apprenticed labourers taking the tariff as their guide.	Task-work is generally resorted to.
5. What are the working hours most generally in use in your district? Are there any estates in your district on which the labourers are compelled to lay by for two or three hours in the middle of the day, and then to complete their seven hours and a half in the afternoon, (by which division of their labour they have little or no time to themselves)?—if yes, have the goodness to name the estates, proprietors or attorneys, and the managers.	When task-work is not resorted to, the hours of labour are invariably continuous, viz. from seven to half-past two o'clock. The labour of forty-five hours per week is performed in five days on plantations 'Fellowship' and 'Park Front.'	The nominal hours are from seven to eleven, and from one to half-past four; but on all the estates the labourers are allowed to leave the field when they have performed a reasonable portion of work, and I have known many of them to have finished by eleven or twelve o'clock.	Commence generally at seven, A. M., and go on until they finish; sometimes twelve, one and two o'clock. On no estate are they compelled to lay-by in the middle of the day.

Enclosure in No. 275.
SPECIAL JUSTICES in *British Guiana*, for the Month of *May* 1836.

DISTRICT (C.)			DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R. N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>Captain Coleman.</i>	<i>Captain Allen.</i>
In general, they are.	Yes, generally. I have visited seven estates during the month (names given in original report). The apprentices appear generally content.	Generally, they are. I visited nine estates (and the hospitals thereon) during the month; names given in original report.	They are civil, and in most cases contented and cheerful. I inspected during the month the hospitals of fourteen estates (names given in original report). I also visited six other estates and wood-cutting establishments.
They have performed their work with as much good-will as might reasonably be expected.	Yes, generally.	Generally, they have; but on some estates they have not performed a fair and reasonable quantity.	Yes, in general.
The work has been readily performed; in fact, I have not had a single complaint before me on that score during the last month from any one of the estates included in this division. On plantation 'Kitty' there was a difference, and a good deal of talk, respecting the quantity of canes which should form a reasonable task in cutting; but it was settled amicably, and the parties entered into a written agreement before me.	No.	Yes. Plantation 'Peters Hall,' Messrs. Smith & Taylor, attornies; William Barry, manager;—plantation 'Little Diamond,' T. Bishop, esq., trustee; D. Ross, manager;—plantation 'Friendship,' Messrs. Revers & Koohaas, attornies; R. M'Kenzie, manager;—and plantation 'Garden of Eden,' Messrs. Manget & Luthers, attornies; E. J. Oudkirk, manager	The work did not appear to have been readily performed on plantation 'La Parfaite Harmonie,' (on which estate they are now doing well); and a report has latterly been made to the same effect from plantation 'Schoonved,' which has not yet been investigated.
Task-work is resorted to on the estates in this division. The town mechanics work the legal time.	They work the seven and a half hours per day, as fixed by law.	The labourers generally prefer working the seven and a half hours per day, as fixed by law.	Task-work, without any written contract (except in two or three instances, is generally resorted to.
The prædial labourers usually begin about seven o'clock, or rather later, and lay-by when their task is finished.	From seven, A. M., until half-past two, P. M.	Generally from seven, A. M., to half-past two, P. M. There are no estates to which the latter part of this question applies.	From seven to eleven, and twelve to half-past three; from seven to eleven, and one to half-past four. There are no estates where the labourers are compelled to lay-by two hours in the middle of the day. About the buildings it is customary to do so, but no complaint has ever been made on that account.

(continued on page 200.)

<p>May 1836.]</p> <p>DISTRICT (E.)</p> <p><i>Spry Bartlet, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (F.)</p> <p><i>George Killock, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (G.)</p> <p><i>George Ball, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (H.)</p> <p><i>W. J. Brittain, Esq.</i></p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 1.</i></p> <p>During the last month I have visited the hospitals on plantations 'Haarlem,' 'Fellowship,' 'Hague,' 'Grovenveld' and 'Leonora,' and the apprenticed labourers appeared contented; the hospitals clean and well found.</p>	<p>Yes. During the month I have visited the hospitals of twenty-two estates on Leguan, nineteen on Wake-naam, and three on Hog Island, in all forty-four, being all the estates in this district.</p>	<p>They are perfectly civil, and seem very contented and cheerful. I have visited twelve estates (names given in original report), and inspected the hospitals thereon, in which the sick appear well taken care of.</p>	<p>Generally they have been so; on two or three estates they have for a time been disposed to insubordination, and impudent to the head men over them in the field.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Q. 2.</i></p> <p>Mr. Hugh Ross (the late manager) reported to me, at my last visit to plantation 'Met en Merzog,' that no improvement had taken place. Mr. M'Lennan took charge of that estate on Wednesday last.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Very much so, in general.</p>	<p>With the above-mentioned exceptions, they have done so.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 3.</i></p> <p>Since Monday the 23d May the men-gang of plantation 'Vreed en Hoop' have evinced a disposition to neglect their work; their conduct since February 1835 has been most satisfactory, and it is totally out of my power to account for this change.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>The work has not been unwillingly performed on any estate in this district.</p>	<p>On 'Better Success' considerable insubordination and idleness prevailed, owing to the impassable state of the road leading to it, which prevented the magistrate or medical practitioner from attending there for some time. Nothing bordering, however, on violence was either threatened or apprehended there.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 4.</i></p> <p>Task-work, generally, throughout the district. The apprenticed labourers of plantation 'Vreed en Hoop,' mentioned to Captain Delafons, Captain Ross and myself, on Tuesday, that they wished for their hour, and it was arranged for them to commence work at seven, and to leave by signals at half-past two. This is on the 'Vreed en Hoop' only.</p>	<p>Task-work is universal, and preferred by the labourers.</p>	<p>Task-work is generally resorted to and preferred.</p>	<p>The scale of work is general in this district; none work the seven and a half hours, with the exception of a few on cotton estates, and they only in that description of work which does not admit of being tasked.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 5.</i></p> <p>The apprenticed labourers are expected to commence work at seven, and leave off as soon as their task is finished. Very few are in the field after two, and those are generally idle people.</p>	<p>From about six to twelve, one, two, three, four, five and six o'clock, according to circumstances and the bargain made. The labourers work as they choose themselves.</p>	<p>Usually at half-past six or seven o'clock, and finish at their option. There is no estate in this district in which they are compelled to lay-by in the middle of the day.</p>	<p>The amount of work required is alone looked to; the hours of labour are not at all interfered with by the employer, except where they turn out unreasonably late in the morning, and even then never when the full amount of work required is done.</p>

DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Macleod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L) <i>A van Rijk de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. J. Caudlin, Esq.</i>
Generally they are. In consequence of the state of the weather, almost impassable roads, and illness during the month, I have not been able to visit more than the half of the district.	Generally.	During the month I have visited 'La Prudence,' in the Mara section, and found the labourers civil and tolerably contented. I then held a court of special justice.	Generally.
Generally they have.	In most instances.	In general they have.	Generally.
No, except by a few.	It has this day been reported to me (1st June) that on plantation 'Highbury' the apprentices have not been attending to their duty for the last week.	Generally it has. In the best gangs there are indifferent subjects, as may be gathered from the the judicial records humbly submitted to his Excellency; such, of course, excepted.	No.
Yes; it is generally preferred by the labourers.	Task-work is generally resorted to.	The task, or nine hours' work, was formerly preferred by the people generally in the lower and middle section of this district, but since some time, they seem to prefer the seven and a half hours, or a moderate scale of work, projected and approved of by the magistrate, whereby they have sometimes finished at one, sometimes at two o'clock, though they very seldom are at their work in the field before eight. In the upper section they all work the seven and a half hours in preference.	Task-work is generally adopted.
From seven, A.M. to half-past two, P.M., and in some instances as early as half-past twelve and one o'clock; and optional with themselves whether they rest or not during their task.	From seven o'clock till the day's labour is completed.	Most generally now the labourers work the seven and a half hours, on the aforesaid moderate scale of work; generally it is worked diligently, and as it best suits them; they are not controlled therein. The bell rings or shell blows at stated times to mark eleven and one o'clock and half-past four.	They commence work about seven o'clock, A.M., and continue till they finish their day's task.

May 1836.] QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) A. M. Lyons, Esq.
	EASTERN DIVISION. K. Heyland, Esq.	WESTERN DIVISION. Charles Henry Strutt, Esq.	
6. Do the labourers on any estate in your district perform extra labour for hire? If yes, name the estates, the rate of wages for extra work, and state how and when the payments are made; and if extra work is not performed for wages, state if reasonable wages have been offered, with weekly payment. If reasonable wages and prompt payment have been offered and rejected, state to what cause you attribute the refusal on the part of the labourers.	The labourers employed in the manufacture of sugar invariably perform extra labour for hire, and earn from 6 bits to <i>f.</i> 2 and <i>f.</i> 3 per week, paid on demand. The boat people receive extra wages, either <i>f.</i> 1 a trip, or 6 bits a week. Extra field labour has not been performed during the month, owing to the unfavourable state of the weather.	On all the estates in the district the people employed in the boiling-houses and about the buildings receive wages for extra services. On plantations 'Bechine' and 'Greenfield' they work in the field occasionally for wages also. Their earnings vary from two to three guilders per week each. Payments monthly.	On the sugar estates they perform extra work for hire, and on the cotton during the crop time; on the former two stivers per hour, and the latter five stivers for every 10 lbs. over 40 lbs. Payments weekly and monthly.
7. Have there been any instances of insubordination, or any attempt to resist authority, by force, in your district? If there have been any, name the estates on which such occurrences have taken place.	None.	There have been none.	None.
8. In the event of any disposition having been manifested by any of the labourers to neglect their work, or to behave rudely to those in authority over them, has such misconduct been so general as to induce you to attribute it to any combination or conspiracy? or is it only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices that you have had complaints made?	I have attributed the neglect of work on plantation 'Broomhall' to combination.	- - - - -	On plantation 'Better Hope' women and men conducted themselves very rudely to those in authority over them.
9. Has the attendance of the prædial labourers at church, and of their children at school, been regular, and to the full accommodation afforded them under the local circumstances of your district?	In both instances the attendance has been as good as could be expected from the state of the roads and the bad weather.	It has.	The attendance has been good.
10. Have you, individually as a magistrate, and has the court over which you preside, been under the necessity of ordering punishment by whipping during the preceding month? and, if answered in the affirmative, state the number of delinquents so punished, and the extent of punishment awarded in each case.	Three. Two, 30 stripes each; one, 15 stripes.	Two. One, 20 stripes; one 12 stripes.	None.
11. Has any manager, overseer, or other person in authority over the prædial labourers been fined, or otherwise punished by the court over which you preside during the preceding month, for misconduct towards any labourer or labourers? Have there been any instances of the labourers having been detained at work beyond the legal hours? and, in such case, has the shilling sterling per hour for each individual labourer been levied?	None.	None.	One overseer fined <i>s. l.</i> for an assault on an apprenticed labourer. Fine paid.

DISTRICT (C.)			DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>George Ross, Esq</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R.N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>Captain Coleman.</i>	
On the estates in this division extra work for hire is performed about the buildings, at the rate of from 1½ to 3 bits per day during the grinding, payment prompt; and on plantation 'Sophia' coffee is picked for hire during the crop season.	None, but in the boiling-houses and on the estates of 'Rome' and 'Houston,' where the industrious are employed digging punt trenches, and earn with ease three dollars per week, even at this unfavourable wet season.	Extra labour is generally performed about the buildings, at the rate of from one to two bits per day, prompt payment; but it is rarely performed in the field.	The statement respecting extra labour, wages, &c. &c. under this query has not varied in any particular since the report of April last.
There has been no attempt to resist authority by force.	None.	There have been some few instances of insubordination, but no attempt to resist authority by force.	There has been no attempt to resist authority by force, nor any instance of insubordination deserving of particular notice.
There has been no combination or conspiracy.	Where any such may have taken place, I attribute it only to the idle and disorderly.	There have been many complaints against idle apprentices; but I should not be warranted in attributing them to combination or conspiracy, without further proof than what I have been able to obtain.	The disposition to rudeness or neglect of work complained of last month has only had reference to a few idle apprentices.
The places of worship and schools are well attended, and the accommodation quite sufficient.	Yes.	Yes. church last month exceeded the local accommodation. The attendance of the children at the Sunday school there has not varied, but is not equal to the accommodation afforded.	The attendance of the prædial labourers at St. Mark's
None.	Three. Two, 15 stripes each; one, 20 stripes.	Three. Two; 25 stripes each; one, 30 stripes.	One, 10 stripes.
None.	None.	No.	No person in authority over the labourers has been fined by me last month. There has been no authenticated instances of the latter having been detained at work beyond the legal number of hours.

(continued on page 204.)

May 1836.] DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlet, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>W. J. Brittain, Esq.</i>
<p><i>Answers to Question 6.</i></p> <p>Only about the buildings, such as engineers, boilermen, firemen, &c. They are paid weekly, in silver: average about two stivers per hour.</p>	<p>Upon all the estates in this district extra work is performed for hire. Upon some the whole gang is paid, on others only the cane cutters, and people about the buildings. The wages are from six bits to three guilders per week. Upon those estates where the whole gang is paid there has never been a single complaint about work.</p>	<p>Extra labour for hire is general in a greater or less degree, but more universal in the boiling-house than in the field. The labourers on most estates are paid monthly.</p>	<p>The quantity of extra labour performed has of late decreased. I attribute this chiefly to different rates being paid on different estates; and those managers who pay low wages express themselves displeased with their own labourers if they leave them to look for higher wages. Many in this case desist from doing any extra work. With this their managers are dissatisfied, and to this cause I attribute the unusual number of complaints.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 7.</i></p> <p>Only on plantation 'Vreed en Hoop' has there been any insubordination.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No such instances have occurred.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 8.</i></p> <p>The complaints are generally against the same idle and disorderly apprentices.</p>	<p>It is only with respect to a few idle and disorderly labourers that complaints have been made.</p>	<p>Only with respect to the latter.</p>	<p>There have been some instances of resistance to the performance of ordinary work, bearing the character of combination, but never accompanied with violence, nor so obstinately persevered in as to excite any apprehension.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Ques. 9.</i></p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>The churches and schools are always well attended. There is a most lamentable deficiency of both churches and schools.</p>	<p>As regular as usual, and I think to the full extent, under local circumstances.</p>	<p>The attendance of a very considerable number of the apprenticed labourers at church, and of their children at school, still continues.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 10.</i></p> <p>Three. Two, 15 stripes each; one, 25 stripes.</p>	<p>Three; 39 stripes each.</p>	<p>Three. Two, 30 stripes each; one, 2 stripes.</p>	<p>One; 10 stripes.</p>
<p><i>Answers to Question 11.</i></p> <p>Murphy, late a driver and constable on plantation 'Leonora,' was fined by me eleven guilders for an assault on Jack, an apprenticed labourer, which sum I have paid to the colonial receiver-general.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>A manager was fined for striking an apprenticed labourer, but the assault was of a very trifling nature.</p>	<p>None.</p>

<p>DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (K.) <i>John MacLeod, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (L.) <i>A Van Rijk de Groot, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. J. Candlin, Esq.</i></p>
<p>On some estates, where it is required, every encouragement is given to the apprenticed labourers to work extra labour, and in most cases they perform it readily. Wages vary; paid weekly, or when asked for.</p>	<p>Twelve men did shovel-work for Mr. Henry, in New Amsterdam; on Whit-Monday they earned 3½ guilders each; they worked all day. On all coffee estates the apprentices work for hire, and are paid at the rate of 1½ guilder per day. On all sugar estates the persons employed about the buildings.</p>	<p>The labourers are hired by the proprietors to whom they belong, or to other estates, for reasonable wages and prompt payment.</p>	<p>Extra labour is general, but wages vary according to circumstances; the payments are weekly.</p>
<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Only of a few idle and disorderly that I have had complaints made.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No, I do not think so; it exists amongst the idle and disorderly; and such, after a fair trial, if found guilty, meet their desert in the pale of Ordinance, No. 43.</p>	<p>No; the complaints have been only against a few idlers.</p>
<p>Yes; and I am happy to say, arrangements are about being made, and subscriptions already entered into, by some of the estates and inhabitants, to build a church and parsonage, for a resident clergyman of the church of England, in this district.</p>	<p>Not, in consequence of the unfavourable state of the weather.</p>	<p>I have heard nothing to the contrary. The Rev. J. Mirams is now settled at Rossfield or Fern chapel. Regular divine service is performed.</p>	<p>In consequence of the present state of the country, the clergymen have been obliged to take up their residence in New Amsterdam, and divine service has not been performed for the last month, owing to the continued heavy rains.</p>
<p>None.</p>	<p>Three { two, 15 stripes each. { one, 10 -</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>No.</p>	<p>The manager of plantation 'Philadelphia' was fined 14 guilders, for having a man kept in confinement in hospital 24 hours.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>

May 1836.] QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>Charles Henry Strutt, Esq.</i>	
<p>12. Have any complaints been preferred to you during the last month, from any apprenticed labourers, respecting their clothing, food, treatment, or upon any subject? In the event of any complaints having been made to you, have you carefully investigated into the matters and caused justice to be rendered to the parties as far as it was in your power? State the number and the nature of the complaints which may have been preferred to you in general terms?</p>	<p>One complaint was preferred for protracting labour. One respecting food (withdrawn); I caused justice to be rendered.</p>	<p>I have had several minor complaints preferred before me, to each of which I gave my best consideration. None, however, were of sufficient importance to require particular mention here.</p>	<p>There have been a few complaints of labourers going into the hospital after the holidays, when the medical gentleman has reported them not sick.</p>
<p>13. Have any of the free children upon any of the estates in your district been bound apprentices during the last month? If yes, name the estates upon which such occurrences have taken place, and state if the transactions were with the free consent and approbation of the parents of the children.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>14. How are the children fed and taken care of on the estates in your district? Are they fed from the stores of the estates gratuitously, and is an additional quantity of salt fish and plantains issued for them? or are they fed out of the allowance due to their parents? When their mothers are at work in the field, is a woman specially appointed to take care of their young children, and exempted from all other duty? Are the children when unwell allowed the advantage of the medical assistance and hospital treatment of the estate in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery?</p>	<p>They are invariably fed, and receive medical assistance, &c., as when in a state of slavery. With the exception of a few on plantation 'Broom-hall,' where, owing, as the attorney states, to the bad behaviour of their parents, they are not fed.</p>	<p>The free children are fed and clothed gratuitously, and have medical attendance in the hour of sickness.</p>	<p>The young children are treated in the same manner as when in a state of slavery.</p>
<p>15. On how many estates in your district are schools established? Name the estates, proprietors, and managers of estates having schools.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>On two estates,</p>	<p>No increase or decrease since last report.</p>
<p>16. Are there any remarks or observations which you may wish to convey to the Lieutenant-governor, connected with the peace, tranquillity and happiness of the district under your superintendence? If yes, state the same.</p>	<p>I beg to bring under the notice of the Lieutenant-governor the almost impassable state of the roads I have found it impossible to visit the estates twice during the month.</p> <p>(signed) <i>K. Heyland,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>I have none.</p> <p>(signed) <i>C. H. Strutt,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>There has been a little excitement on some of the estates after the holidays; and in consequence of a change of managers on 'Better Hope' particularly, all is going on well, and the district tranquil. Eight convictions less than in April.</p> <p>(signed) <i>A. M. Lyons,</i> S. J. P.</p>

DISTRICT (C.)

DISTRICT (D.)

Captain *J. A. Allen.*

TOWN. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	RIVER. Captain <i>Delafons, R.N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. Captain <i>Coleman.</i>	DISTRICT (D.) Captain <i>J. A. Allen.</i>
Two complaints have been preferred by apprenticed labourers against their employers for maltreatment, of which one has been dismissed as not proved, and the other has been compromised. One complaint has been tried for assault, and the accused fined.	None.	Yes, one from three apprenticed labourers of 'Peter's Hall,' against the manager and overseer for beating and illegally confining them, which after a careful investigation, was dismissed for want of sufficient proof; and one from an apprenticed labourer of 'Providence,' against an overseer, for assaulting him, and cutting his hand with a boot: referred to the sheriff's court.	Twenty-two complaints have been preferred during the month (nature of, given in original Report). They have been inquired into and redressed, or are in progress of being so when well founded.
None.	None.	None.	No free children have been bound apprentices last month.
On all the estates in this division the free children have an extra allowance of food as well as nurses and medical attendance.	The children are fed gratuitously from the estates, and when sick are freely admitted into the hospitals. On the various estates women are specially selected to take care of the young children, which women are exempted from all other duty	With the exception of plantation 'Prosperity' and 'Little Diamond,' the children have an extra allowance of provisions; they are all allowed nurses and medical attendance.	Generally, as when in a state of slavery.
At plantation 'Kitty' and 'Belair' missionary chapels are established and a church of England catechist visits plantation 'Thomas' and 'Kitty' to instruct children.	Rome, and Honston and Ruimveldt.	On three (names given in original Report).	Schools are established, and instruction given on fourteen estates; (names given in original Report.)
Nil.	None.	I have not been able to visit the distant estates so often as I could wish, by reason of the badness of the roads, which has repeatedly been reported to the Commissary.	Nil.
(signed) <i>George Ross,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>Thomas Delafons,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>T. Coleman,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>J. A. Allen,</i> S. J. P.

continued on page 208.

May 1836.] DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Killock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>J. W. Brittain, Esq.</i>
<p>Answers to Question 12.</p> <p>None.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>A complaint was made against a manager for requiring more work than the law allowed, and for using a false measure in laying down the work, which on a full investigation upon the spot proved to be wholly unfounded.</p>	<p>None, with exception of some very old or infirm apprenticed labourers, who complain of being sent out of the hospital, and are ordered by the doctors for duty, who declare that they are not able to do regular field work. I feel much difficulty in opposing these medical certificates on my own judgment, unsupported by any other authority to which I can in such cases appeal.</p>
<p>Answers to Q. 13.</p> <p>None.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>None have been thus bound.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Answers to Question 14.</p> <p>On plantation "Vried en Hoop" and "Jucken de Vrienden" no food is allowed to the unapprenticed children; all the estates allow medical attendance and nurses during the time their mothers are in the field.</p>	<p>As before August 1834.</p>	<p>The children are fed and taken care of in every respect in the same manner as when they were in a state of slavery.</p>	<p>On all estates, as far as I can learn, the free children are now admitted into the hospital, and the young ones have old women appointed to take care of them when their mothers are in the field. But I apprehend there are several estates where they are not fed or clothed at the expense of the proprietors.</p>
<p>Answers to Q. 15.</p> <p>On six estates, names given in original report.</p>	<p>Upon four estates there are schools; on three there is one school between them. Names given in original report.</p>	<p>The same as stated in last and former reports; viz. on eight estates, with occasional instruction on two others.</p>	<p>Several proprietors speak of establishing schools, but none as yet exist except on plantation 'Regina.' The school at the parish church is still regularly attended to for adults, children and infants.</p>
<p>Answers to Question 16.</p> <p>Nil.</p> <p>(signed) <i>Spry Bartlett,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>Nil.</p> <p>(signed) <i>George Killock,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>The apprenticed labourers continue to behave well and work assiduously.</p> <p>(signed) <i>George Ball,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>The number of complaints preferred this month are unusually numerous, but the cases will appear generally very light, some trifling. See reply to query 6.</p> <p>(signed) <i>J. W. Brittain,</i> S. J. P.</p>

<p>DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Mac Leod, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Rijk de Groot, Esq.</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. J. Candlin, Esq.</i></p>
<p>No.</p>	<p>Not.</p>	<p>None of any importance.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>No.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Generally the same as before the 1st August 1834.</p>	<p>Children taken the same care of as when in a state of slavery.</p>	<p>On most estates, the children under six years of age receive gratuitous allowance of food and medical attendance.</p>	<p>On a few of the estates the children are fed, on others, the parents have refused the allowance, but have as much ground as they wish. On all the estates the free children receive medical attendance.</p>
<p>On almost every estate in the district there are schools among the labourers themselves; on many there are teachers engaged, and those at the several places of worship.</p>	<p>At the chapels on plantations "Blayendaal" and "Lonsdale," and in New Amsterdam.</p>	<p>On six estates (names, &c. given in original report.) in all the chapels, which in favourable weather are well attended.</p>	<p>No schools on any of the estates, with the exception of Skelden, on which a clergyman is resident; there is one day school in the district, and Sunday schools are opened</p>
<p>Nil. (signed) <i>George Rose,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>The roads in the district are impassable: having no boat, I have not been able to visit the estates as usual. Having alluded to 'Highbury,' it may be well to state that I have hired a boat, and intend visiting that estate tomorrow. (signed) <i>John Mac Leod,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>I have lately understood, that from a long and lamentable neglect of upholding rigorously the laws and ordinances respecting the immediate separation of the lepers from the healthy people, throughout the whole of Berbice, this most dreadful of all diseases has made fearful progress, and is gaining ground daily, so that, if not checked, as far as human foresight is able, the consequences in the end may prove above calculation. (signed) <i>A. Van Rijk de Groot,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>The unusual quantity of rain fallen has caused heavy losses to the proprietors, and the apprentices have also suffered in their stock, but are reported to have behaved well, and when called upon for extra labour to carry off the water from the estates, have done it cheerfully. (signed) <i>J. J. Candlin,</i> S. J. P.</p>

(True Extracts.)

J. H. D. W. Sidley, Private Secretary.

TABLE (B.)

RETURN of the Number and Effect of the Returns of PUNISHMENTS received by the Lieutenant-Governor of *British Guiana*, from the SPECIAL MAGISTRATES, from the 1st August 1835 to 31st May 1836.

Colony.	Date.	Total Number of Apprentices throughout the Island, Province or Government.	Total Number of Punishments inflicted under the Authority of the Special Magistrates throughout the same.	Proportion per Cent. of Punishments to Apprentices.	Total Number of Males punished.		Total Number of Females punished.	The Average Number of Stripes inflicted in cases of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum Number of Stripes inflicted in any one case of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum of Severity in any one case of Punishment by Confinement.	The Maximum of Severity in any other mode of Punishment.
					By Whipping.	Otherwise than by Whipping.					
BRITISH GUIANA,	Aug. 1835	71,000	951	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	88	353	510	20	25	38 days	-- 24 days' hard labour.
	Sept. -	71,000	955	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	79	347	529	18	22	29 days	-- 17 days' extra labour.
	Oct. -	71,528	945	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	77	363	505	20	29	28 days	-- 25 days' hard labour.
	Nov. -	71,224	797	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	55	257	485	19	30	6 months	-- 6 weeks' hard labour.
	Dec. -	72,120	751	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	21	358	372	18	30	-- 3 months' solitary confinement.	-- 1 month hard labour.
	Jan. 1836	72,409	922	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	47	378	497	22	30	3 months	-- 1 month hard labour.
	Feb. -	72,203	880	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	34	340	506	19	39	2 months	-- 6 weeks' hard labour.
	Mar. -	72,015	691	$\frac{1}{4}$	46	286	359	21	39	3 months	-- 6 weeks' hard labour.
	April -	70,978	553	$\frac{1}{4}$	19	229	305	20	39	3 months	-- 3 months' hard labour.
	May -	71,528	633	$\frac{1}{4}$	25	266	342	19	39	1 month	-- 6 weeks' hard labour.

— No. 276. —

No. 276.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *James Carmichael Smyth*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 27th June 1836.

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit to you an order of His Majesty in Council, explaining the ambiguity in the definition of the word "employer," which occurs in the *British Guiana* ordinance of the 8th March 1834, for the government of the apprenticed negroes.

I have, &c.

(signed)

Glenelg.

Lieut.-Gov. Sir *Jas. Carmichael Smyth*,
&c. &c. &c.

Printed in the Appendix, No. 108.

M A U R I T I U S.

— No. 277. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *William Nicolay* to Mr. Secretary
T. Spring Rice, dated Mauritius, 18th April 1835.

MAURITIUS.

No. 277.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith transcripts, duly authenticated under my hand and the public seal of this colony, of the following Ordinances passed by me, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, numbered and intituled as follows :

No. 5, of 1835. "For the purpose of regulating the Internal Order and Discipline of the Prisons."

No. 6, of 1835. "Ordinance modifying certain Dispositions of the existing Criminal Laws, and adding new Dispositions thereto."

No. 5, of 1835.
Vide Appendix,
No. 109.
No. 6, of 1836.
Vide Appendix,
No. 110.

— No. 278. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *William Nicolay*, dated
Downing-street, 7th December 1835.

No. 278.

I HAVE received your Despatch, dated the 15th of April, enclosing certain Ordinances passed by you, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, in the months of February and March 1835.

In the Ordinance, No. 5, of 1835, for the regulation of prison discipline, I find an article numbered 5, in the following terms : "The gaol for the apprentices shall be distinct and separate." This article His Majesty is pleased to disallow, because His Majesty cannot admit the propriety of any distinction being made by law in respect to the punishment of offences by apprenticed labourers, and by other persons, when such offences do not relate to the duties owing by the apprentices to their employers. The local legislature cannot have too distinctly impressed upon them the great principle of the legal equality of all classes of the King's subjects in Mauritius, and the necessity of observing the practical consequences resulting from that principle. His Majesty is graciously pleased to confirm and allow the other enactments of this Ordinance.

In the Ordinance, No. 6, of 1835, for the modification of the criminal law, I find the following articles :

"Art. 5. Vagrancy is a misdemeanor.

"Art. 6. Vagrants or vagabonds are those persons who are without any fixed residence, or who have not the means of subsistence, and habitually carry on neither trade nor profession.

"Art. 7. Vagrants or vagabonds, who shall have been pronounced such by the law, shall, for the act of vagrancy alone, be condemned to an imprisonment not exceeding six months, and shall, after undergoing such punishment, be placed at the disposal of the Government, to be employed in the public works, until they can prove, in a satisfactory manner, that they have procured employment or the means of subsistence."

The definition of vagrants or vagabonds, thus contained in art. 6, is so general as to subject to six months' imprisonment, and to an indefinite amount of unrequited labour on the public works, every man who has not a fixed residence, and even those unfortunate persons, who, without any fault of their own, may neither have the means of subsistence nor an habitual occupation; His Majesty has, for these reasons, been pleased to disallow sec. 5, 6 and 7 of this Ordinance.

I am to signify to you His Majesty's pleasure that no Ordinance respecting vagrancy be passed without a suspending clause. It is a subject on which there is an obvious danger of the growth, under present circumstances, of a code framed on principles inconsistent with those of the Slavery Abolition Act.

In the same Ordinance I find the following : "Article 3. If the offence be committed by a person apprenticed under the Slavery Abolition Act Bill, the punishment of the whip may be ordered, conjointly or otherwise with one of the other punishments."

166.—II.

"Art. 9.

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“ Art. 9. The last alinea of the art. 94 and of the art. 219 of the Code d’Instruction Criminelle are modified and made applicable to the apprentices under the Slavery Abolition Bill.”

These enactments are objectionable on the ground which I have already mentioned. They place the apprenticed labourers under a penal code, to which the other members of society are not subjected; His Majesty therefore disallows them. His Majesty is also pleased to confirm and allow such parts of this Ordinance as are not noticed in the preceding remarks.

— No. 279. —

No. 279. COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *William Nicolay* to Mr. Secretary *T. Spring Rice*.

Sir, Mauritius, 23 April 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an extract of the Minutes of the Executive Council of this colony, in reference to the 4th article of the 7th chapter of the Order in Council of the 17th September 1834, by virtue of which an apprenticed labourer may, without a written pass, quit the premises of his employer to a distance of five miles.

I likewise beg to transmit a copy of a representation upon the same subject, from Major Cunningham, one of the superintending special magistrates, and who is perfectly acquainted with the character of the class of persons in question. His opinion with respect to the serious evils to be anticipated from the great latitude granted in the article alluded to, is, I fear, well founded; and has indeed already been practically experienced.

I therefore beg to submit for your consideration, whether the local legislature of Mauritius may not be allowed to modify that article of the Order in Council, in order to obviate the mischiefs to be apprehended.

I have, &c.

(signed) *William Nicolay*.

Enclosure in No. 279.

EXTRACT of the MINUTE of the PROCEEDINGS of the EXECUTIVE COUNCIL at the Meeting held at Government-house, on Monday the 2d day of March 1835.

Present:—His Excellency the Governor, the Officer Second in Command of the Troops, Colonial Secretary, Procureur and Advocate-General.

“ Chapter 7, clause 4.

“ The distance here allowed is very great in regard to this colony, and it was in consequence resolved to re-consider the subject, with the view of limiting the distance if possible, without contravening the Order in Council, for so great a latitude is likely to be productive of much mischief here.”

EXTRACT of the MINUTE of the PROCEEDINGS of the EXECUTIVE COUNCIL at the Meeting held at Government-house, on Friday the 6th day of March 1835.

Present:—His Excellency the Governor, the Officer Second in Command of the Troops, Colonial Secretary, Procureur and Advocate-General.

“ Chapter 7, clause 4.

“ Although fully aware of the very serious evil consequences that will result in this colony, from leaving the apprenticed labourers so large a space to roam about in as five miles, without a written pass from their masters, yet the Order of His Majesty in Council is so explicit on that point, that the Board cannot recommend any limitation of it, as it would be directly at variance with the King’s Order. But the matter is one of so much importance to the tranquillity and good order of the colony, that the Council would earnestly request his Excellency the Governor, to apply by the earliest opportunity to the Secretary of State for permission to modify that part of His Majesty’s Order, and to apply to it the principle laid down in article 5, chapter 4, of Ordinance, No. 1, of 1835, by which the distance is to be regulated by the special justices in each district, according to local circumstances, but subject to the sanction and approval of the Governor.”

SUPERINTENDING SPECIAL JUSTICE OFFICE, *Plaines Wilhems* and *Moka*.

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To the Honourable *G. F. Dick, Esq.*, Colonial Secretary.

Sir,

Moka, 22 April 1835.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, a circumstance, which while I deeply regret, I deem it my duty to bring under his Excellency's notice; namely, the increase of crime, and consequent punishment necessary, in the sections of Moka and Plaines Wilhems, the former under my special, the latter my general superintendence. The cause I have clearly traced to the operation of the 4th article, 7th chapter, of His Majesty's Order in Council, 17th September 1834, permitting apprentices to leave their masters' premises to the extent of five miles, without a written or other permission, I respectfully state my reasons for ascribing increase of crime to the above, it places the idle, the drunkard, the thief, or otherwise bad character, on an equality in point of indulgence with the best conducted, to which latter class leave was generally accorded when required, if unjustly withheld, an appeal to the magistrate gave it; it was thus an excitement to propriety of behaviour and industry.

Few of the field apprentices (the great proportion of which are Malgache and Mozambique) have an idea of time or distance, a consequence is, many have been liable (through ignorance) to punishment for loss of time to their masters, during the day, although not culpable from having strayed beyond the limit (five miles); (the time required for which distance back and forward, takes at least two hours and a half, or three, perhaps). In many instances, I have, by explanation, induced the master to waive his right to extra labour for a first offence of this nature; but, unfortunately, it is a precedent the guilty as well as ignorant lay hold of, and it is difficult to make the distinction.

This is, however, one of the lesser evils; populous parts of Plaines Wilhems and Moka adjoin Port Louis, indeed, from the latter section, by crossing the mountains, which the apprentices generally do, going to town, brings it within the limit of five miles from almost any habitation, and those beyond that distance a mile or so exceed the boundary, and plead ignorance.

On Sunday, in particular, on the high roads, I have found drunkenness to a great extent among apprentices returning at night from town, and *vice versa*, the equally dissolute from that come into the districts and commit petty thefts and various depredations, which are more common than formerly; if they are at home by gun-fire they cannot be apprehended, so that they have nearly two hours after it is dark to wander about at a distance from home, which gives them a better chance of not being detected; the apprentice who is aware that if absent from work, he must make it up by double time, does not leave his master's premises till his work is finished, about half-past five, or, if he accepts compensation for extra work, most likely after six; so at dark, he goes off to town, with just the possibility in some instances of getting back by gun-fire, if his habits are steady there may be no harm done, but it is the drunkard and thief, who under cloak of night go out; both propensities they (almost) may indulge in with impunity, that is with less chance of discovery.

By the former limit, which (with his Excellency's sanction I fixed at one mile), liquor, beyond what the master gave, could only be got at by stealth, so near home, the drunkard had a chance of getting back to his hut undiscovered, and probably guilty of no further delinquency; if in that state five miles from home, for it is the failing (drunkenness) of the majority, he perhaps wanders further, and when he recovers his senses finds himself so far from home discovery is inevitable, if he has money, he drinks as long as it lasts, becomes a maroon, and apprehended after three weeks or a month, wandering about, half starved or existing by plunder, he suffers the extreme punishment awarded by law, not having character to induce mitigation, if he has, he has by this liberty been exposed to a temptation he had not before. So from one state he goes on to another, till he becomes reckless, frequent punishment (corporal) tends but to harden the habitual drunkard, and creates other vices.

From my frequent visitations through my districts, I have naturally acquired not only a personal knowledge of, but am acquainted with the characters of a great body of the apprentices, especially those of dissolute habits, who, in my late situation as assistant protector of slaves, I have had occasion to note, and since as magistrate been called upon to punish; among this class, for of course the bad associate with the like, I have met such returning in numbers together (belonging to different estates,) after dark from town; such combinations, although but at present a nuisance, if permitted to continue serious evils may result from it. Character varies much among them; on some estates where there may be 100 and upwards, I may not have a complaint from either master or apprentice, for a length of time, whereas on another, out of 30 apprentices, I may have found it necessary to confine 15 to the limits of the estate, drunkards, thieves, and otherwise bad characters; thus I respectfully submit that being required to obtain leave to be absent from the master served as an excitement to propriety of conduct, and was not only the most humane, but best method of punishment as it lessened crime.

Even those of generally industrious habits, it has in some degree unsettled, principally among the adults; this permission to wander has been most pernicious (never looking to the future when they will be thrown on their own resources, and must depend on their individual industry for the support of themselves and families hereafter), they naturally follow the bad example they have in their seniors.

The sawyers and woodcutters, generally the best and most industrious class, earning for themselves, at leisure hours, between three and five dollars each per month, are now frequently

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quently absent at hours before thus appropriated. There is another inconvenience it causes, the apprentice formerly intrusted with the produce which his master sent daily to the bazar to sell, the sole means to many of supporting themselves, families and dependants, was obliged to have a pass which specified what he carried, and to whom he belonged, that man can now carry to the same market, like produce stolen, and there is no authority to question his right; it would be a preventive to this, if an apprentice in charge of, or conveying property of any description, whether belonging to himself or others, was obliged to obtain a pass specifying the description of property, to whom it belonged, and where he was taking it to; this could be no hardship to him, and would be beneficial to his master's interests and the community at large, as it would prevent thefts, which now are carried on without the power of detection so easily.

I have, &c.

(signed) G. Cuningham,

Superintending Special Justice Plaines Wilhems and
Moka Districts.

— No. 280. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *William Nicolay*.

No. 280.

Sir,

Downing-street, 9 January 1836.

I HAVE received your Despatch, dated 23d April last, proposing that the local legislature of Mauritius should be authorized to modify so much of the 4th art. of the 7th chap. of His Majesty's Order in Council of the 17th September 1834, as relates to the distance beyond which an apprenticed labourer may not absent himself from his residence without the permission of his employer.

It is impossible to allow the introduction, by the subordinate authority of the Legislative Council of Mauritius, of any change in the law promulgated by the King in Council.

It may perhaps be necessary that this part of the Royal Order should be revised and amended by His Majesty; but I am unwilling, except upon a clear proof of the necessity, to authorize a departure in Mauritius from principles which have been established in the other Crown colonies. But as Major Cuningham's letter, proposing this innovation, was written after only a very few weeks' experience of the new system, and as it could not reasonably be expected to have produced within that short period the salutary results which have followed elsewhere upon a more patient and protracted experiment, I think it necessary to wait further intelligence before I advise His Majesty in Council to narrow so material a part of the privileges accorded to the apprenticed labourers.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 281. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *William Nicolay* to the Earl of *Aberdeen*.

No. 281.

My Lord,

Mauritius, 14 May 1835.

HEREWITH I have the honour to forward a transcript, duly authenticated under my hand and the public seal of this colony, of the undermentioned Ordinance, passed by me, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government; viz.

No. 8, of 1835. "For insuring, in conformity to the dispositions of the Order in Council of the 17th September 1834, the due execution of the Slave Abolition Act at Mauritius."

I have, &c.

(signed) *William Nicolay*.

Ordinance, No. 8,
of 1835.
Vide Appendix,
No. 111.

— No. 282. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *William Nicolay*.

No. 282.

Sir,

Downing-street, 10 October 1835.

I HAVE received your Despatch, dated the 14th May last, enclosing an Ordinance, No 8, of the year 1835, enacted by yourself and the Council of Government at Mauritius, for insuring, in conformity with His Majesty's Order in Council of the

the 17th September 1834, the due execution of the Slavery Abolition Act in that island.

I have received His Majesty's commands to make to you the following communication on the subject of this Ordinance.

The 13th and 14th sections, when read in their relation to each other, will be found to establish the two following rules: First, as often as an apprentice shall be sentenced to imprisonment for any offence cognizable by a special justice, he shall, after the imprisonment has been suffered, labour in his employer's service for such a time as shall indemnify the employer for the time subtracted by the imprisonment. Secondly, if an apprenticed labourer is condemned to imprisonment, the special justice on the demand of the employer may commute that imprisonment for extra labour on the estate. The first of these rules exonerates the master from all loss in which the misconduct of the apprentice might otherwise involve him. The second gives the employer a direct advantage from that misconduct. The tendency of these rules will probably be rather to increase than to diminish the amount of crime. However negligently a man may perform his duties to his apprentices, and however little he may exert himself to deter them from violations of the law, he will himself be exempt from all consequent inconvenience. I do not think that the good of society at large, or that the permanent welfare of either party will really be promoted by such rules. That degree of inconvenience which by the general course of human society all men are liable to suffer from the misconduct of those towards whom they stand in any pecuniary relation, can never be advantageously counteracted by positive laws.

The 16th article enables the employer to confine his apprentice in the stocks for any misconduct, and without any restriction as to the length of the confinement, if immediate notice be given to the special magistrate. The highest penalty for the improper use of the power is 20 s. There can be no good reason for exempting an apprenticed labourer from that liability to immediate arrest and confinement to which other members of society are liable, upon any infraction of the law; but as the stocks must always be regarded in the light of a punishment, and as one main principle of the existing law is to deprive the employer of the power of punishing, the enactment, in its present form, is objectionable. It might properly be incorporated into the law, if the power of confinement were limited to those cases in which there was sufficient cause to apprehend the escape of the offender; if the power were granted not to the employer himself, but to the local police, and if some time were fixed beyond which the imprisonment should in no case continue.

The 19th section authorizes the employment of apprenticed labourers on Sunday, for the preservation of the property of their masters. The latitude of this expression is such as to afford an apology for much Sunday labour, opposed to the intention of Parliament. The clause could be unobjectionable if limited, as in the preceding section, to labour undertaken upon any extraordinary emergency of fire, inundation, hurricane, or the like.

In the same clause, the 19th, occurs an enactment, that for the purposes of religious instruction the special justices "shall be bound to establish from time to time, conjointly with the masters and with the sanction of the Governor, special regulations having for their object the conciliating as far as is practicable with reference to the localities and the number of places of worship, the free and full exercise of religious worship, with the interests of the masters and the maintenance of public order;" upon a subject of such paramount importance as the maintenance of religious worship, it is impossible to sanction any enactment so obscure and indefinite as that which I have transcribed.

The 21st section forbids a labourer to contract for his own time, with any person except the proprietor of the estate to which he is attached, if that proprietor shall offer wages which the special justice shall consider reasonable. This enactment is opposed to the spirit of the Slavery Abolition Law. There is no reason why the apprentice should be restrained from hiring himself during his leisure to any person other than his regular employer, though at a lower rate of wages than that employer is prepared to pay. The work offered by the third party may be more regular or more easy, though less remunerated, or that third person may be an indulgent master, or may have in his service the near kindred or friends of the labourer. Immediate gain is neither the single nor the chief inducement to work in many cases of this nature.

The 22d and 23d sections for the punishment of combinations amongst labourers

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labourers to raise, and amongst masters to depress, the price of labour, have this remarkable difference, that the master is to be punished only if the execution of the plan had actually commenced; whereas the punishment of the labourer is to follow upon the mere formation of the design. If such rules are to exist at all they should be precisely mutual. But it appears to me needless and unwise to punish any combinations of this kind, unless they are so framed or so executed as to deprive of their freedom of action those who may wish to dissent from the general scheme. Experience has largely proved the injustice and the ultimate inutility of any more rigid restrictions.

His Majesty for these reasons is pleased to disallow so much of the 13th, 16th, 19th, 21st, 22d, 23d and 40th sections of this Ordinance, as I have already noticed, and His Majesty is graciously pleased to confirm and allow the rest of the enactments it contains.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 283. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *William Nicolay* to the Earl of *Aberdeen*.

No. 283.

My Lord, Mauritius, 3 July 1835.
AS your Lordship must naturally be anxious to be informed respecting the effect of the system of apprenticeship introduced into the colonies by the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, I am happy in being enabled to give the most satisfactory accounts, as far as concerns this colony, where the Act has now been in operation for five months.

From the reports of the several special magistrates, I learn that they have not experienced, from the masters of apprentices, any obstruction to the fair execution of their duties.

The complaints preferred by apprentices against their masters, have been very few indeed; and the cases of insubordination and misconduct on the part of the apprentices, appear even fewer than was to be expected, considering the notion entertained by many of them, that when slavery was declared to be extinct, they were not obliged to work any longer.

The satisfactory manner in which the new system acts, is to be attributed, chiefly, to the number of magistrates being sufficient to admit of constant visits to the several estates, and the consequent summary decisions of those magistrates on the spot.

I trust, however, that ere long the number of special magistrates may be diminished, without prejudice to any party; though this must be done with great caution.

I have, &c.

(signed) *William Nicolay.*

— No. 284. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Wm. Nicolay* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Mauritius, 19th November 1835.

No. 284.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith transcript of an Ordinance passed by the Council of Government of this island; viz.

No. 14, of 1835. "Extending to the special magistrates, the jurisdiction in all cases of misdemeanors committed by apprentices under the Abolition Act."

The object of this Ordinance is to give the special magistrates the same authority as if (under the provisions of the 14th clause of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery) they were included in a general commission of the peace. At Mauritius no such general commission exists; and the only magistrate whose functions correspond with those of a justice of the peace, is the 'juge de paix' at Port Louis.

Ordinance, No. 14,
of 1835.
Vide Appendix,
No. 14.

— No. 285. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *William Nicolay*, dated
Downing-street, 27th March 1836.

MAURITIUS.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Despatch, dated the 19th of November, enclosing three Ordinances, passed by yourself, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government of Mauritius, in the months of September and October last. I subjoin a list of their numbers, dates and titles.

No. 285.

His Majesty commands me to signify to you his gracious approbation and allowance of the Ordinances, Nos. 13 and 15, of 1835.

The Ordinance, No. 14, transfers from the ordinary to the special magistrates the cognizance of certain misdemeanors in those cases in which the offender happens to be an apprenticed labourer. You state that the design of this enactment is to give to the special magistrates the same authority as they would have by being included in the general commission of the peace in those colonies in which such commissions are ordinarily issued. That design, however, is very imperfectly accomplished. A special magistrate invested with the general commission in Jamaica, or any other of the old British West India Islands, would be competent to take cognizance of all felonies, misdemeanors, and breaches of the peace, by whomsoever committed. But by this Ordinance the competency of the special magistrate is extended to the case of misdemeanors only against the general law of the island; and is to be exercised in those cases alone in which the apprenticed labourer is the offender. If he should happen to be the sufferer, this new jurisdiction of the special magistracy could not be exerted for his protection.

The second clause of this Ordinance subjects apprenticed labourers offending against the general law of the island, not only to penalties to which other persons are not liable, but to the obligation from which the rest of the colonial society are exempt, of compensating by a fine the party immediately injured by the offence.

The third clause provides for the punishment of the offences of concealing maroon apprentices, and of aiding them in their escape. But nothing can be more lax and vague than the definition both of the crime and the punishment. I remark also, that these offences are to be punished in the same manner as offences against the police law; that is, not by the special magistracy alone, but by the ordinary justices of the peace, or by the court of correctional police.

For these reasons His Majesty has been pleased to disallow this Ordinance, and commands me to impress upon you the indispensable necessity of abstaining for the future from assenting to any law for the government of apprenticed labourers, of which the operation is not suspended, until His Majesty's pleasure shall be known. Some very extreme and urgent occasion may perhaps arise to justify a departure from this rule; but in every such case you will consider yourself as bound to vindicate the exception by a full explanation of the motives which may have induced you to acquiesce in it.

But whether laws of this nature shall be suspended, or shall take effect immediately on their promulgation, there is one general principle to which His Majesty expects and requires, that on every such occasion the most explicit and studious deference be shown. That principle is, that the apprenticed labourers be not subjected to any penalty, restriction or prohibitory rule of any nature whatsoever, to which all the other members of society are not made equally liable, except only so far as a special code may be indispensable to secure the punctual performance of the duties which Parliament has required the apprentices to render to their employers. No enactment affecting the apprenticed labourers exclusively must be assented to by you, unless it shall first be clearly established that it falls within the reach of that exception. In every other respect the great principle of legal equality of all classes of the King's subjects in Mauritius must be stedfastly borne in mind, and firmly enforced.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 286. —

MAURITIUS.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *William Nicolay* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Mauritius, 24 December 1835.

No. 286.
Parliamentary
Papers, No. 278-1,
ordered to be
printed, 10 June
1835, p. 212.

“YOUR Lordship, in a Despatch dated 31st May last, notifies the disallowance of the Ordinance, No. 4, of 1835, on account of the regulations prescribed by the 4th article, respecting the marriage of apprentices.

“The object of that article was to encourage lawful marriages among that class, by relieving them from the payment of the usual fees.

“It was likewise considered desirable for their own interests, that they should not be permitted to marry wholly without consent, as in the case of guardians and wards.

“By the disallowance of this Ordinance, apprentices are, of course, precisely on the same footing as all the rest of the community, with respect to marriage.”

— No. 287. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *William Nicolay* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Mauritius, 23 January 1836.

No. 287.

“I TAKE this opportunity of explaining, in reference to your Lordship’s observations upon the 16th article of the Ordinance, No. 8, of 1835, that the authority therein given to the employer to confine an apprentice in the stocks, was intended to be exercised exclusively (in cases of insubordination and grave offences) for the purpose of securing the person of the offender, where there might be no other means of doing so; and it is especially provided that immediate notice of the circumstance is to be given to the special justice, in order that the case might be taken cognizance of by him, with the least possible delay.

“Without such power in the hand of the master, it must frequently happen, as experience has shown, that apprentices of the most violent and dangerous character make their escape from the estate, and are probably not retaken for several days; in consequence of which they subject themselves to increased punishment, while the master loses the labour to which he may be justly entitled.”

— No. 288. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *William Nicolay*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 20 January 1836.

No. 288.

IT has been represented to me, on the authority of the public journals of Mauritius, that an Ordinance had been proposed by you for the adoption of the Legislative Council, which, if passed into a law, would subject the whole labouring population of the island, and especially persons who might be introduced there from the eastward, to restraints and penalties of so extremely onerous a nature as nearly to revive, under a new name, the former servile condition of the great body of the people. I can scarcely believe that the statement, if it be not entirely without foundation, is, at least, not much exaggerated; yet, as it rests apparently on no light authority, (for the heads of the proposed law are stated at length in one of the colonial journals which has been sent to me for my inspection,) I cannot feel entirely exempt from anxiety on the subject. You will have the goodness immediately to report to me whether any law for the government of free labourers has been proposed by yourself, or by any other person, for the adoption of the Legislative Council; if so, you will immediately transmit me a copy of any such proposed law. Further, you will distinctly understand that no law for regulating the relations between free labourers and their employers must be proposed by you, unless with the previous sanction of His Majesty to the terms of any such proposal; and that you are not at liberty to assent to any law of that nature if proposed by any other person, unless it contain a clause suspending its operation until His Majesty’s pleasure shall have been signified.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 289. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *William Nicolay* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Mauritius, 23 January 1836.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith transcripts of two Ordinances passed by the Council of Government of this colony, on the 2d November last; viz.

No. 16, of 1835. Respecting field labourers and workmen.

The object of this Ordinance is completely set forth in the preamble.

No. 17, of 1835. Respecting servants, porters and daily workmen.

May be considered as a corollary to No. 16.

Regulations on these subjects, by legal enactment, were much wanted; and the provisions of the two Ordinances have received general approbation in this colony, and promise to produce a very good effect.

The only objections to any part of these Ordinances come from Mr. Hollier Griffiths, merchant. They relate to certain articles in No. 16, as set forth in a letter from that gentleman to the Colonial Secretary, dated 20th November last, and of which a copy is enclosed.

From the nature of these objections, I referred them to the procureur-general. A copy of his report upon the subject, with an English translation, is herewith transmitted; and it appears to me he completely repels the arguments adduced by Mr. Griffiths.

Your Lordship will perceive by this correspondence, that there has lately been introduced into this colony a great number of Indian labourers, a measure which, to a certain extent, will, I conceive, prove very beneficial; as, besides furnishing an increase of labour at the moment, it will, in all probability, stimulate the other classes of working men to seek employment.

I have, &c.

(signed) *William Nicolay*

Enclosure in No. 289.

To the Honourable *G. F. Dick*, Colonial Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

Sir,

Port Louis, Mauritius, 20 November 1835.

I FEEL it my duty to lay before his Excellency the Governor the accompanying copies of a correspondence held by my house with the chief commissary of police under the dates specified at foot, and to request his Excellency will be pleased to transmit the same, together with a copy of the present, to the Right Honourable Secretary of State for the Colonies.

His Excellency will observe, that the above-mentioned officer, in his letter of the 16th October, declined replying to the question proposed in the letter addressed to him by my house under date the 26th September. On the 14th instant was promulgated the Ordinance, No. 17*, of the present year, which, by its 17th article, sets this question at rest for the future, at least for so long as that Ordinance shall remain in force. The enactment, however, to which I refer, appears to me to offer conclusive proof that no law to the same effect existed previously. The same observation applies also to the enactment contained in the 18th article of the said Ordinance, and I therefore trust I cannot be considered unreasonable or presumptuous, in desiring an explanation of the conduct held towards my partners and myself by the chief commissary of police, in insisting on our furnishing a security which he was not legally entitled to require at our hands.

I abstain from making any further remarks on the particular case above referred to. The following observations relate to the law as it now stands, and which, by our letter to you of the 16th instant, we have proved our readiness to obey, so long as it shall remain in force, notwithstanding the objections I am about to offer thereto. My motive in bringing those observations under the notice of the Right Honourable Secretary of State, is founded on the hope that they may tend to promote a more mature consideration of the Ordinance in question, previously to its receiving His Majesty's Royal sanction.

The said Ordinance contains three enactments which form the object of the present observations; they are as follows:

1st. The enactment contained in the 17th article, which prohibits the introduction into this colony of any number of workmen or labourers, of any class, from any place whatsoever, except under the authorisation of his Excellency the Governor.

2d. That contained in the 18th article, whereby persons introducing workmen or labourers into the colony under the authorisation aforesaid, are rendered liable to the payment of expenses of which the extent cannot be defined under circumstances independent of their will or control.

3d. The enactment contained in the 24th article, in virtue of which all such workmen or labourers are rendered liable to transportation from the colony, at the sole will of the

166.—II.

MAURITIUS.

No. 289.

Ordinance, No. 16,
of 1835.
Vide Appendix,
No. 113.
Ordinance, No. 17,
of 1835.
No. 114.

20 Nov. 1835.

5 Jan. 1836.

Enclosure in
No. 289.

* No. 16, an erroneous number having been given in the printed copies.

executive

MAURITIUS.

executive power, without judgment by a competent tribunal, for the undefined offence of having committed a "delit contre l'ordre public;" an expression I fear I might not be able to translate correctly into English, and which, from its entirely foreign acceptation, I cannot but regret to see introduced into any branch of British legislation, affecting any class of His Majesty's subjects.

It is not my province perhaps to examine into the wisdom of placing in his Excellency's hands the power granted by the first article referred to, of refusing permissions for the introduction of workmen or labourers, and consequently throwing upon his Excellency the responsibility of so doing, I shall therefore limit myself to observing on this head, that in any case of extreme emergency or overwhelming necessity that might possibly arise, it could hardly be necessary to confer such a power by legislative enactment. That the exercise of such a power under any other circumstances would necessarily be a source of great discontentment and complaint, whilst, on the other hand, should that power never be so exercised, as I confidently trust that under his Excellency's government as at present constituted it never will, the enactment would become utterly useless.

On the general policy of these enactments, inasmuch as their inevitable effect will be to discourage the introduction into this colony of free workmen or labourers, it will hardly be necessary for me to insist, such enactments may find advocates amongst those who are entitled to dispose of the labour of emancipated slaves, and who, therefore, if employing that labour themselves, are jealous of the introduction of rival industry, or if letting it for hire, are anxious to maintain its price, interested calculations in which the share each member must necessarily derive from the general prosperity of the community are unfortunately sometimes not taken into account. They may also be approved by others, who consider the continual intervention of the executive power in affairs which least require it, as a necessary attribute of good government, and indispensable for the peace and security of the community; but they can never be defended on principles of sound policy. To promote the establishment of free labourers in this island by the means of premiums of encouragement, would be a measure which the actual state of the colony imperiously demands, and the strongest reasons, as well as some examples worthy of imitation, would fully justify, did the financial situation of the colony permit such employment of any part of the public revenues; whilst no example does to my knowledge in any civilised country, in modern times at least, of the creation by legislative acts, of obstacles to the augmentation of the labour and industry of a community.

An objection to this view of the question has, however, been made, and indeed appears to be pointed at by the law under consideration; viz. that the immigration of a considerable number of strangers would render more difficult the maintenance of public tranquillity. I readily admit that public tranquillity is less liable to be disturbed in a thin than in a dense population: it therefore follows, in course, that if the amount of the actual population were reduced, the maintenance of public tranquillity would be thereby facilitated, and this argument would consequently tend equally to justify measures for diminishing the actual amount of population, or for preventing its increase; such views as these, however, can never be taken as a guide for fixing a line of policy to be pursued to the end of ensuring the prosperity of the colony. The amount of capital that may reasonably be expected to be employed for the introduction of free labourers, is too limited to authorize any apprehension that their number can ever, under any view of the question, prove too considerable; and as to the maintenance of the King's peace, I trust it cannot be seriously apprehended that it can ever be attended with the least difficulty or embarrassment to His Majesty's Government, whilst, at all events, it is the duty of the community at large, of which those labours would form a part, and to the revenues of which they would contribute by indirect taxation, to place sufficient means to that effect at the disposal of the Government, and to support all the expenses thereof.

My objections, however, to the enactments in question, repose on higher grounds than those above adverted to, anxious as I am to avoid whatever might possibly be interpreted as disrespectful to the legislative power, I feel it my duty to question the competency of the authority by which the enactments referred to have been made.

The legislature of this island, in regulating within the limits prescribed to it, the internal affairs of the colony, is bound to respect the constitutional rights of the rest of His Majesty's subjects. One of those rights is that of free circulation throughout His Majesty's dominions. The exercise of this right may be limited by the royal prerogative, by forbidding the departure of a British subject from Great Britain, or by recalling him thither if absent therefrom. But this power vested in His Majesty has been considered so contrary to the liberty of the subject, that very few instances are on record of its ever being exercised, and at all events, His Majesty's royal prerogative does not extend so far as to prohibit the entrance into his dominions of any of his subjects. His right has again been curtailed, in one instance, by the supreme power of the state, in respect to British subjects settling in the possessions under the government of the Honourable East India Company; but this restriction, which was perhaps justly supposed to be commanded by political motives of paramount importance, and imposed, I believe, by the authority of Parliament, does now no longer exist.

The dispositions of the Ordonnance to which I refer, were evidently intended to be directed against the introduction into this colony of field labourers, natives of the British possessions in India, and as by the Act 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 85, the government of those possessions is continued to the Honourable East India Company, expressly in trust only for the Crown of Great Britain, I conceived that no doubts could exist as to those natives being British subjects, and entitled, in as far as regards the present question

at least, to all rights appertaining to any other class of the same. I therefore purposed to address his Excellency on what I considered to be an infringement of those rights, as stated in the correspondence herein referred to, and one of the principal arguments I intended to employ was this, that if the government of this colony was legally entitled thus to infringe the rights of His Majesty's subjects, natives of India, it might equally claim the same authority in respect to the subjects of His Majesty's natives of Great Britain.

It was not without surprise that, on the promulgation of the Ordonnance in question, I observed that the extreme case I had merely intended to put as an argument, is really comprised in the operation of the clauses I have cited; I know not whether such was really the intention of the framers of that Ordonnance, and indeed I can scarcely bring myself to believe that it could be so contemplated; but in fact, as those clauses are worded, the mechanic, artificer or workman, natives of Great Britain, and the field labourer, natives of India, are equally liable to be excluded from the colony, and the former is thus deprived of a right appertaining to him by birth. Thus that which is beyond the limits of His Majesty's royal prerogative, is enacted by the local legislature of the island of Mauritius, which exists only in virtue of an order of His Majesty in Council.

And a most remarkable feature of the dispositions referred to, is that His Majesty's subjects above-mentioned incur this disability provided only they have been provident enough to ensure to themselves, by a previous agreement, the certainty of employment, and therefore of the means of honest maintenance, on their arrival in the colony; whilst the less meritorious, who have taken no engagement of that nature, require no license or authorisation for coming into this colony.

One point of great importance remains yet to be noticed more particularly; it is the enactment contained in the 24th article, whereby His Majesty's subjects, whether natural born or others, who enter this colony under an engagement to work for hire, are rendered liable to transportation therefrom, without trial by the competent tribunals of the colony, but the present observations being addressed to a British statesman, I feel that any comments on such an enactment would be not only superfluous, but also unseemly.

In offering these observations to the consideration of His Majesty's Government I cannot refrain from expressing the anxious hope that, in justice to me, they may be attributed to no other motive than an earnest desire that the legislation of this colony may be rendered, as far as possible, conducive to the prosperity of the same, and under this sole limitation, in so far as it may be absolutely requisite, conformable to the spirit of the British constitution in all cases wherein the rights and liberties of His Majesty's subjects at large are, as in the present instance, materially interested.

I have, &c.,
(signed) *Hollier Griffiths.*

LETTERS referred to in the present :

- Letter addressed to the Chief Commissary of Police, dated 24th September 1835.
 Letter from the Chief Commissary of Police, dated 25th September 1835.—Reply, dated 26th September 1835.
 Letter from the Chief Commissary of Police, dated 16th October 1835.
Idem, dated 2d November 1835.
 Letter addressed to the Chief Commissary of Police, dated 4th November 1835.

(signed) *H. G.*

(Copies.)

To *John Finnis*, Chief Commissary of Police, &c. &c. &c.

Sir,

Port Louis, 24 September 1835.

WE have the honour to hand you inclosed a copy, certified by us, of an agreement entered into at Calcutta the 18th July last, by 100 labourers, of which 97, including a boy, have arrived at this port, per ship *Drongan*, were landed yesterday, and have proceeded to the following estates, where they will be employed :

- 31 To the estate *La Barraque*, at *Grande Port* ;
 26 To the estate of *Mr. Mervénat*, *Pamplémousset* ;
 40 To the estate *L'Union*, at *Mapou*.

Considering the above labourers to be British subjects, we are not aware of the existence of any obstacle to their coming into this colony, or of any obligation on our parts to furnish any security to the government. As, however, it appears that the practice prevails here of giving such security, and as any objections we might offer might be misinterpreted, and thus prove prejudicial to the success of an enterprize, which may, perhaps, need the aid and protection of the local government, we shall hold ourselves ready to enter into such reasonable arrangements and security as the said government may require.

We have, &c.
(signed) *Paul Froberville, Griffiths & Co.*

MAURITIUS.

Police Department.

Messrs. *P. Froberville, Griffiths & Co.*

Gentlemen,

Port Louis, 25 September 1835.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your letter of yesterday's date respecting the Indians recently landed from the Drongan, and I now beg to inclose you for signature the engagement required on their account, which I will thank you to have stamped and returned to this office.

You will perceive that it is necessary to have the sanction of the government for the introduction of these people, which can now be applied for.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Finniss, Chief Commissary.**John Finniss, Esq., Chief Commissary of Police.*

Sir,

Port Louis, 26 September 1835.

WE have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the letter you have addressed to us under yesterday's date.

As we stated in the letter to which you reply, we consent to subscribe to the terms of the engagement you have transmitted to us. We wish it, however, at the same time, to be perfectly understood, that we cannot participate in the responsibility that may attach to any of the labourers in question being sent out of the colony, otherwise than in virtue of a sentence legally pronounced.

We would also request, in reference to the passage of the contract, which states, that we have obtained the authorisation of government, that you would have the goodness to inform us in virtue of what law that authorisation is required. We are assured that in other cases it has been dispensed with; but nevertheless, should the law require it, we shall subscribe most readily thereto.

We have, &c.

(signed) *Paul Froberville, Griffiths & Co.*

Police Department.

Messrs. *Froberville, Griffiths & Co.*

Gentlemen,

Port Louis, 16 October 1835.

YOUR letters to me of the 24th and 28th (26th) ultimo, respecting the Indian labourers imported by you on the 20th ultimo, having been submitted to his Excellency the Governor, I have been directed to insist upon the usual security being given.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Finniss, Chief Commissary.*

Police Department.

Messrs. *Froberville, Griffiths & Co.*

Gentlemen,

Port Louis, 2 November 1835.

I SHALL be obliged by your favouring me with an answer to my letter of the 16th ultimo, respecting the security for the Indian labourers, imported by you on the Drongan.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Finniss, Chief Commissary.**John Finniss, Esq., Chief Commissary of Police, &c. &c. &c.*

Sir,

Port Louis, 4 November 1835.

WE beg to acknowledge receipt of the letters you have addressed to us under date 16th ultimo and 2d instant. The pressure of our occupations connected with our claims to indemnity under the Emancipation Bill, have alone prevented our replying at an earlier moment to the former.

In our previous correspondence we had consented to give to the government the security demanded by you, and for which our agreement with the labourers in question goes to secure us an indemnity, and we therefore read with surprise the concluding paragraph of your letter of the 16th ultimo, since it could hardly be necessary to insist on receiving what had never been refused.

From the motives already stated, we return to you, stamped and signed by us, the engagement transmitted to us by your letter of the 25th September.

We have felt it necessary to change that part of said document which stated that we declared we had obtained the permission of the government. This alteration does not effect the

the nature of the engagement, and we trust it cannot be the intention of government to require us to subscribe to an untruth.

In our last letter we requested you to inform us in virtue of what law such a permission is necessary, and we regret to observe that no notice is taken thereof in your reply; yet it would appear to us that a more reasonable request cannot be preferred by a subject than to be informed what is the law he is required to obey.

In transmitting to you the enclosed engagement, we feel it our duty to repeat, that we cannot consent to take upon ourselves any part of the legal responsibility that may attach to the act of sending out of this colony any of the individuals in question, otherwise than in virtue of a sentence pronounced by a competent tribunal. We feel it also our duty to add, that our compliance in this instance must not on any future occasion be considered to establish a precedent.

And regarding the formalities insisted upon by the government as tending to an infringement of the rights of His Majesty's subjects, natives of India, and of our own, we beg to apprise you that it is our intention to bring this case under the notice of His Majesty's Government.

We have, &c.

(signed) *Paul Froberville, Griffiths & Co.*

La conclusion de la lettre de Mr. Hollier Griffiths au Secrétaire Colonial sur l'Ordonnance locale relative aux ouvriers et laboureurs ne permet pas de douter, contre sa propre affirmation, que les motifs qui l'ont porté à réclamer auprès du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté contre plusieurs dispositions de cette Ordonnance, n'ont d'autre but que la prospérité de Maurice, par l'accroissement de son industrie, et le maintien des droits sacrés de tout sujet Britannique, lors même qu'on ne serait pas d'accord avec lui, ni sur l'application des grands principes qu'il invoque, ni sur la justesse de ses vues; et bien que ce ne soit que lorsqu'il s'est trouvé personnellement intéressé dans la question, qu'il a donné à son opposition le motif de l'intérêt général.

Il eut été peut-être plus conforme aux convenances et plus régulier que Mr. Griffiths adressât son opinion à son Excellence le Gouverneur avant la discussion qui a eu lieu au conseil législatif, sur le projet de la dite Ordonnance publié dès le 3 Octobre dernier. Son but eut été atteint de la même manière, soit que le conseil législatif eût partagé sa manière de voir, soit que ses objections, si elles n'avaient pas été admises, eussent été soumises avec l'Ordonnance elle-même au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté.

Le principal et pour ainsi dire le seul argument de Mr. Griffiths consiste en ceci; que les laboureurs Indiens qui sont introduits dans la colonie étant des sujets Britanniques, c'est porter atteinte aux droits que comme tels, ils ont de circuler dans tout l'empire Britannique, que de les assujettir aux conditions et formalités prescrites par l'Ord. No.

On n'a jamais entendu contester cette qualité aux laboureurs Indiens dont il s'agit, pas plus qu'à tous ceux qui habitent aucune possession ou territoire dépendant de la Grande Bretagne, quoique cependant il puisse être mis en question si la plupart de ces individus ne sont pas sujets de princes étrangers.

Il n'est pas nécessaire d'examiner non plus ici si le titre de sujet Britannique et les droits qui en dérivent ne sont pas susceptibles, selon les lieux et les circonstances, de distinctions et de modifications essentielles; si pour celui qui n'a acquis cette qualité que par la conquête ou la cession du pays, les droits sont partout absolument les mêmes que pour le sujet d'origine, ou plutôt s'ils ne sont pas relatifs et limités pour les uns, et dans le sens le plus absolu pour les autres.

Ce sont des questions d'une haute importance, et qui ne me paraissent pas se rattacher au sujet actuel.

Mais ce point concédé, il n'en résulte pas que la seconde partie de la proposition de Mr. Griffiths soit vraie pour le cas et dans les circonstances où il veut l'appliquer.

Il reste à examiner la question de savoir si le sujet Britannique, né sous les lois et la constitution de la Grande Bretagne, lorsqu'il habite un pays qui, bien que sous la domination Anglaise, est régi par des lois différentes de celles de l'Angleterre, n'est pas tenu de s'y conformer.

C'est une exception commune à toutes les métropoles que leurs colonies sont régies, quant à leur administration intérieure, par des lois particulières, parce que les éléments de la société n'y étant pas les mêmes qu'en Europe (surtout lorsque l'esclavage existait), le même système de législation n'y est pas applicable.

En France, l'ancienne métropole de Maurice, la constitution même consacre cette exception. Ses colonies sont régies par des Ordonnances Royales.

Les colonies Anglaises autres que celles qui ont une législature, le sont par des ordres de Sa Majesté en Conseil, ou par des Ordonnances locales approuvées par Sa Majesté.

C'est par une conséquence de ce principe que, sous le gouvernement Français de Maurice, un arrêté du capitaine-général en date du 28 Avril 1808 avait déterminé les conditions auxquelles tout arrivant dans la colonie (il s'agissait particulièrement des Français) était soumis et les formalités qu'il avait à remplir.

A défaut ou sur le refus de s'y conformer il en était référé au capitaine-général qui pouvait ordonner l'expulsion de l'individu.

Si cet arrêté n'existait que dans le recueil des anciennes lois Françaises, on pourrait peut-être mettre en doute si elle est au nombre de celles qui ont survécu au changement de domination.

MAURITIUS.

Mais elle a été considérée tellement sage et tellement nécessaire à la tranquillité et à la police intérieure du pays, qu'elle a été renouvelée, avec un pouvoir plus étendu accordé à l'autorité supérieure, à l'égard de toute personne arrivant pour la première fois dans la colonie, par la proclamation du Gouverneur Farquhar, en date du 18 Mai 1816.

L'article 12 de cette loi porte : " Tous passagers arrivant dans la colonie seront tenus en débarquant de se rendre aussitôt au bureau de la police, pour y déclarer leurs noms, leur profession, leurs moyens d'existence, et les personnes auxquelles il peuvent être adressés, immédiatement après, ils seront tenus de se présenter au bureau du secrétaire en chef du gouvernement, et dans le cas où ils désireraient se fixer dans la colonie, ils ne pourront le faire sans en avoir préalablement obtenu une permission spéciale du gouvernement, laquelle sera délivrée par le dit secrétaire en chef, et cette permission sera de suite enregistrée au bureau de la police générale."

L'article 13 soumet tous passagers, s'ils ne sont pas bien connus, quoique ayant un état, à produire pour caution une personne domiciliée.

(Il ne s'agit pas là d'un étranger pour lequel il y a des lois spéciales, et qui est, dans tous les cas, tenu de fournir caution.)

L'article 18 défend aux habitants de recevoir chez eux, ou prendre à leur service comme ouvriers ou autrement, aucun individu qui n'exhiberait pas le permis prescrit à peine d'une amende de soixante piastres, \$ 60.

Cet article était particulièrement applicable au cas où s'est trouvé Mr. Griffiths lors de sa correspondance avec le commissaire en chef de la police.

L'exécution de cette loi n'a jamais donné lieu à aucune plainte sous les deux gouvernements Français et Anglais. Personne avant Mr. Griffiths n'y avait vu une violation flagrante des droits de sujets Britanniques ou des citoyens Français.

On y a reconnu au contraire une mesure de prévoyance et de police intérieure dont le but était de ne pas admettre indistinctement au milieu d'une population dont la classe inférieure et ignorante forme, dans une grande proportion, la partie la plus nombreuse, des individus sans moralité, ni moyens d'existence, plus propres à y jeter le trouble et le désordre qu'à augmenter ses moyens d'industrie.

La nouvelle Ordonnance, dans les dispositions critiquées par Mr. Griffiths, est basé sur le même principe de sécurité et de conservation, que les circonstances et le besoin d'autoriser tout d'un coup l'introduction en masse dans la colonie d'un grand nombre de mercenaires, rendait encore d'une nécessité plus évidente.

Les lois générales dans les colonies ne sont pas non plus celles de la Grande Bretagne.

A Maurice, par exemple, la loi sur les successions, toute la loi civile, les lois même politiques, les lois criminelles, celles sur la liberté individuelle, diffèrent essentiellement des lois de la Grande Bretagne, et cependant tous les sujets Britanniques à Maurice, sans distinction d'origine, y sont soumis. Le jury, institution si éminemment nationale, n'y existe pas, et cependant le tribunal criminel, tel qu'il y est institué, prononce sur la vie ou la mort de tout sujet Britannique.

Pourquoi donc celui-ci ne serait-il pas soumis à une loi de police intérieure qui ne le repousse pas du pays, mais qui, s'il y vient sans aucune de ces garanties qui sont partout nécessaires au repos de la société, le soumet à quelques formalités, et ne l'expose à être renvoyé du pays que s'il devient nuisible à la tranquillité publique.

Cela s'applique surtout à cette classe de laboureurs Indiens qui par leurs mœurs, leurs usages et leurs habitudes, et leur religion, sont de véritables étrangers dans tout autre pays que le leur.

Et qu'on veuille bien considérer que ce n'est pas de leur propre mouvement que ces hommes s'expatrient et qu'ils viennent à Maurice, poussés par le besoin, y demander un asile et du travail. On pourrait trouver une sorte d'inhumanité à les repousser.

Ce sont des contractants de Maurice, des spéculateurs qui vont les chercher et les entraînent hors de chez eux sous l'appât d'un salaire plus fort que celui qu'ils peuvent y obtenir.

Il y a plus; la condition principale de leur engagement est qu'après son expiration ils seront reconduits dans leur pays aux frais de celui auquel ils ont loué leurs services. Ils se considèrent donc aux-mêmes comme des étrangers transportés temporairement dans un pays autre que celui qui est leur véritable patrie.

La mesure dont il s'agit n'a d'ailleurs pas pour objet leur exclusion—elle a un but tout contraire! Elle tend seulement en autorisant et favorisant l'introduction d'hommes utiles et laborieux, à empêcher qu'on ne transporte dans la colonie la lie des bazards de l'Inde et avec elle des germes de désordre. Tout société a droit de repousser de son sein et à plus forte raison de ne pas y admettre tout ce qui peut compromettre son existence et sa tranquillité.

Et dans quel moment cette crainte salutaire est-elle écoutée et des précautions si sages sont-elles prises? C'est lorsque cette nouvelle population est mise immédiatement en contact avec elle des nouveaux apprentis à peine sortis de l'esclavage, encore susceptibles de toutes les impressions, et auxquelles il est si important, au premier degré de la civilisation, de ne donner que des idées et des exemples d'ordre, de travail et de subordination. Ce but sera manqué s'il est permis de les mêler avec tous les vagabonds et tous les gens sans aveu dont l'Inde fourmille!

C'est un essai que fait la colonie de Maurice, peut-être plus favorisée sous ce rapport qu'aucune autre colonie. Et qui peut dire quelle influence aura ce mélange d'individus avec les mœurs, leurs usages et leurs vices, sur notre population indigène, surtout quand elle sera entièrement libre? Il ne serait pas impossible que celle-ci se considérant comme une race supérieure ne contractât de l'éloignement pour le travail de la terre. Le temps et l'expérience

l'expérience décideront cette question d'économie sociale. Il appartient à un gouvernement sage d'y donner son attention. Il faut donc ne s'avancer qu'avec prudence dans cette nouvelle voie !

Mr. Griffiths voit, dans les mesures qui font l'objet de sa critique, un grand obstacle apporté à l'essor de l'industrie. Ce n'est qu'une supposition gratuite de sa part, et jusqu'à présent les faits sont contraires à son assertion. Tous les travailleurs Indiens qu'on a voulu introduire ont été admis sans difficulté, parce que chacun de ces individus ne portant pas avec lui son certificat de moralité, ce n'est que par sa conduite dans la colonie qu'on pourra juger s'il est digne de l'admission qui lui aura été accordée ; ce qui prouve que la nouvelle ordonnance n'est pas contre l'admission des laboureurs Indiens, mais seulement contre ceux qui deviendraient une charge et un danger pour le pays : par conséquent elle n'est pas contre l'industrie agricole, mais bien au contraire en sa faveur ; car ce ne sont pas des hommes vicieux et inutiles qu'il faut à l'industrie.

Atti surplus ces précautions ont été dictées par l'expérience locale.

Déjà un premier essai semblable avait été fait sous l'administration de Sir Charles Colville en 1830.

Mais soit que le choix des hommes introduits de toutes les parties de l'Inde ait été fait avec trop peu de soin, soit aussi qu'il n'existât pas de moyens de coercition suffisants pour les maintenir dans le devoir et la discipline, tous se refusèrent bientôt au travail, abandonnèrent leurs ateliers, couvrirent les routes et encombrèrent les rues et la police du Port Louis. Les maîtres s'empressèrent de demander leur renvoi de la colonie dont ils menaçaient la tranquillité, et sans l'heureuse précaution que le gouverneur avait prise alors, comme aujourd'hui, d'assujettir les introducteurs à un cautionnement pour répondre des frais de débarquement des personnes introduites, le trésor public aurait été exposé à une dépense considérable.

Mr. Griffiths connaissait ces faits et n'ignorait pas la condition à laquelle tous les habitans, d'un commun accord, s'étaient soumis alors, lorsqu'il demandait au commissaire en chef de la police de quel droit il opposait des conditions à la libre circulation de ses Indiens sujets Britanniques.

Aussi l'ordonnance qui a été érigé en loi cette ancienne mesure du gouvernement, a-t-elle obtenu l'assentiment général ? Beaucoup d'observations ont été envoyées au gouverneur, pour être soumises au Conseil Législatif lors de la discussion, mais pas une seule n'a eu pour objet de réclamer contre les dispositions blâmées par Mr. Griffiths, pui se dit cependant l'organe de l'intérêt général.

Aujourd'hui le nombre des travailleurs Indiens introduits est déjà plus considérable qu'il ne l'a été sous le gouvernement de Sir Charles Colville. Plusieurs exemples de refus de travail et d'insubordination ont déjà eu lieu mais on a réussi avec de la prudence et de la fermeté à faire rentrer les mutins dans le devoir. Quelques cas ont fait regretter que la loi n'ait pas autorisé le magistrat à infliger le châtement corporel, peine de discipline admise dans leur pays.

Mr. Griffiths trouve exorbitant et arbitraire le pouvoir donné au gouverneur d'autoriser ou de ne pas autoriser l'introduction de travailleurs libres.

Si d'après qui vient d'être exposé, le principe de la loi est admis, ce pouvoir ne peut être remis en d'autres mains, puisque l'autorité administrative et exécutive résident dans les colonies dans la personne du gouverneur, assisté d'ailleurs, au besoin, de son conseil.

Ce pouvoir est indispensable, si disposé même que le gouverneur pourrait être à n'en faire que rarement usage. Ne pourrait il pas arriver du moment où cette irruption de laboureurs Indiens excéderait ce que les besoins et la sureté même du pays peuvent comporter. Faudra-t-il attendre le mal pour y remédier par une mesure spéciale et nécessairement arbitraire ? Et ne vaut il pas mieux au contraire en prévoir la possibilité en donnant d'avance à l'autorité supérieure le pouvoir nécessaire.

Je blâme surtout l'autorité donnée au gouverneur de renvoyer de la colonie ceux de ces travailleurs qui se rendraient coupables de délits contre l'ordre public.

Mr. Griffiths commet à ce sujet une étrange méprise ; il confond le renvoi de ces hommes dans leur pays avec la déportation qui est une peine infâmante, que les tribunaux seuls peuvent prononcer et qu'il compare avec la transportation qui est aussi dans les lois pénales de l'Angleterre.

Rien ne se ressemble moins. Le pouvoir donné ici au gouverneur est le même que celui qu'il a à l'égard des étrangers qu'on refuse d'admettre dans la colonie ou qu'on renvoie dans leur patrie. C'est à l'égard des laboureurs Indiens l'exécution anticipée de la condition de leur engagement.

Le cas rentre alors dans la question générale qui a déjà été traitée, de savoir si ces Indiens, tout sujets Britanniques qu'ils sont, peuvent être assimilés pour la colonie et dans les circonstances où ils y arrivent à des étrangers, et soumis à la loi de police qui ne les y admet que sous de certaines conditions.

Jusqu'au cautionnement exigé de ceux qui introduiraient un certain nombre de ces individus dans la colonie, qui a été l'objet de la critique de Mr. Griffiths, et c'est en effet par là que son opposition a commencé. Tout le monde s'y était soumis sans difficulté même avant la publication de la nouvelle ordonnance. Mr. Griffiths a mis une sorte d'amour propre à ne pas agir et penser comme tout le monde.

Ce cautionnement loin d'être un obstacle à l'introduction de ces travailleurs libres est au contraire une garantie en faveur de ces individus eux-mêmes, autant qu'en faveur de l'ordre public. Sans cette garantie, qu'arriverait-il ? C'est que l'habitant mécontent d'un travailleur au choix duquel il n'aura pas pris de part et qu'il aura reçu du premier spécula-

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teur venu, le chassera de chez lui, et que cet homme mal noté, et ne pouvant plus trouver de travail, sera un vagabond sans asyle et sans moyens d'existence. Il sera conséquemment à la charge du pays et il faudra que la colonie fasse les frais de son passage pour l'Inde. Déjà sans cette condition il y en aurait un grand nombre dans ce cas là. Il faudrait alors un plus grand nombre d'agens de police, ce serait une branche de plus à ajouter aux dépenses publiques et l'on ne manquerait pas de s'en prendre à l'imprévoyance du gouvernement.

Mr. Griffiths trouve ce cautionnement indéterminé et arbitraire.

La formule annexée à l'ordonnance en indique toute l'étendue. Ce n'est pas une pénalité envers le maître, c'est uniquement le remboursement du prix de passage pour l'Inde et des frais de nourriture et d'hôpital que le gouvernement aurait été dans le cas de payer depuis la détention de l'individu jusqu'à son embarquement. Or ces frais se réduisent à très peu de chose, parceque l'Indien est l'homme le plus sobre de la terre, et que le prix demandé pour leur passage est connu et très borné.

Mais le dernier argument de Mr. Griffiths est que la loi, telle qu'elle est, s'appliquerait même à l'ouvrier et à l'artisan qui viendrait d'Angleterre pour s'établir à Maurice.

Ce raisonnement est une contradiction de Mr. Griffiths avec lui-même, car il implique nécessairement une distinction entre le sujet Britannique en Angleterre et l'Indien, pour lequel il réclame tous les droits de sujet Britannique, et la libre circulation dans toutes les parties de l'empire.

Il est évident cependant que tel n'est pas en effet l'esprit et le but de la nouvelle ordonnance qui a particulièrement en vue les travailleurs libres engagés dans l'Inde.

Dans le projet d'ordonnance qui a été publié avant la discussion au Conseil Legislatif, il y avait les mots "laboureurs étrangers," qui se retrouvent encore dans le préambule de l'ordonnance, et ça été précisément pour éviter l'application de cette qualité d'étrangers (prise dans un sens trop absolu) à des sujets Britanniques qu'on y a substitué la phrase, "Il ne pourra être introduit de l'extérieur," sans songer à l'Angleterre dont il n'est pas probable qu'ils s'expatrient des troupes de travailleurs pour venir cultiver la terre, sous le tropique, à l'île Maurice.

Il résulte d'ailleurs des articles 17, 18 et 19 combinés entr'eux et avec le préambule de l'ordonnance, qu'ils ont spécialement pour objet les engagements qui seraient contractés pour introduire dans la colonie des travailleurs libres en masse et par bandes vissent-ils même d'Angleterre que dans l'intérêt général du pays autant que dans celui des engagés eux-mêmes, et pour qu'ils ne fussent pas la victime de fausses spéculations, l'autorisation du gouverneur serait encore nécessaire, parceque cette autorisation serait pour ces individus eux-mêmes une garantie qu'ils trouveront de l'emploi et du travail dans le lieu pour lequel ils se seraient engagés.

Mais il est évident aussi que ces dispositions ne s'appliqueraient pas à tout ouvrier ou artisan sujet Britannique qui viendrait isolément et de son propre mouvement pour exercer à Maurice son état et son industrie.

Celui là se trouverait dans le cas de l'art. 13 de la Proclamation du 18 Mai 1816, qui soumet tout arrivant, s'il n'est pas bien connu, à se faire cautionner par une personne domiciliée.

Il n'y a rien d'arbitraire ni de rigoureux dans une semblable formalité; qui n'est qu'une mesure ordinaire de police. C'est bien la moindre chose que celui qui arrive dans un pays, dans une colonie surtout, trop souvent le refuge de ceux qui se sont dérobés ailleurs à l'atteinte des lois, se fasse connaître à l'autorité du lieu. Il suffit même ordinairement d'un répondant dont on n'exige pas de cautionnement.

Cette mesure n'est appliquée qu'aux étrangers.

(signé)

P. D'Epinau,
Proc. et Adt-General.

Port Louis, 5 Janvier 1836.

(Translation.)

THE conclusion of the letter of Mr. Hollier Griffiths to the Colonial Secretary, on the local Ordinance relating to the workmen and labourers, does not permit me to doubt (although he affirms the contrary) that the motives which induced him to make representations to His Majesty's Government against several dispositions of that Ordinance, were based on a desire to extend the prosperity of the Mauritius by the increase of its industry and the maintenance of the sacred rights of every British subject; and this notwithstanding the government should disagree with him on the application of the great principles he invokes, and on the rectitude of his views; and although it was only when he felt himself personally interested in the question, that he has given to his opposition the plea of general interest.

It would perhaps have been more regular and courteous for Mr. Griffiths to have forwarded his opinion to his Excellency the Governor, previously to the discussion which took place in the Legislative Council on the project of the said Ordinance, published on the 3rd of October last. His object would have been equally accomplished by this measure, whether it had pleased the Legislative Council to have adopted his suggestions, or to have forwarded his objection, if deemed inadmissible, together with the Ordinance itself, to the Home Government.

The chief and indeed almost the only argument of Mr. Griffiths consists in this, that the Indian labourers who were introduced into the colony being British subjects, it is an invasion of the privilege which they possess, as such, to travel to and fro in all parts of the British

British dominions, to subject them to the conditions and formalities prescribed by the Ordinance, No. 16.

It is not known that this privilege of the Indian labourers in question has ever been doubted any more than that possessed by all those who reside in any possession, territory, or dependency of Great Britain, although it may be disputed whether the major part of these Indian labourers are not the subjects of foreign princes.

It is not necessary to examine here whether the term British subject and the privileges attached to it are not, according to places and circumstances, susceptible of important division and modification; whether the person who acquires this quality by conquest or cession, possesses everywhere precisely the same privileges as a natural born subject, or whether the rights of the former are not construed in a relative and limited sense, whilst those of the latter are recognized as absolute.

These are questions of great importance which do not appear to me to belong to the present subject.

But this point conceded, it does not follow that the second part of the proposition of Mr. Griffiths is correct in the case and circumstances to which he would apply it.

It remains for us to examine this question, whether the British subject, born within the laws and constitution of Great Britain, is not, when he is inhabiting a country which, although within British dominions, is governed by different laws than those of England, compelled to pay obedience to such laws.

It is a distinction common to every metropolis, that their colonies are governed, as to their internal administration, by special laws, because the elements of society are not the same therein as in Europe (especially when slavery existed); the same system of legislature is not applicable.

In France, the former metropolis of the Mauritius, the constitution itself has determined this distinction; the colonies are governed by royal Ordinances.

The English colonies, other than those which possess a legislative assembly, are governed by Orders of the King in Council, or by local Ordinances approved of by His Majesty.

It is by virtue of this principle, that, under the French Government of the Mauritius, an arrêté of the Captain-general, bearing date the 28th April 1808, established the conditions to which every person arriving in the colony (it relates especially to Frenchmen) should be subjected, and the formalities he had to fulfil.

In default of, or refusal to comply with the same, the matter was referred to the Captain-general, who could order the forced departure of the individual.

If this arrêté were only to be found in the collection of the old French laws, a reasonable doubt might arise, whether it had not fallen into desuetude, or whether it could be considered as among those which have survived the change of domination.

But it has been deemed so prudent and essentially necessary to the tranquillity and internal police of the country, as to have been renewed with a greater latitude of power to the chief authority with regard to every person arriving for the first time in the colony, by a proclamation of Governor Farquhar, bearing date the 18th May 1816.

The 12th article of this law runs thus: "All persons arriving in the colony shall be bound, on landing, to go to the police-office, and there make a declaration of their names, profession and means of subsistence, and the individual to whom they are addressed; immediately afterwards they shall go to the chief secretary's office, and in case they intend to establish themselves in the colony, they shall not be permitted to do so without having first obtained the special authority of the government, which shall be delivered by the chief secretary in writing, and immediately registered at the general police-office."

The 13th article subjects every passenger, unless well known, although he may have a profession, to furnish the security of a domiciled inhabitant. (This does not relate to a foreigner, for with regard to such there are special laws; he is obliged in all cases to give security.)

The 18th article prohibits the inhabitants from receiving or taking into their service as workmen or otherwise, any individual who shall not produce the prescribed authority, under pain of a fine of 60 *l.* sterling.

This article is especially applicable to the case in which Mr. Hollier Griffiths was placed at the period of his correspondence with the chief commissary of police.

The execution of this law has never given rise to any complaint under either the French or the English Government. No one before Mr. Griffiths could discover in it an open violation of the rights of British subjects or of French citizens.

On the contrary, it has been acknowledged to be a measure of foresight and of internal police, the object of which was not to permit the indiscriminate introduction of persons without morality or means, among a population of which the lower and ignorant class formed the greatest part; it was felt that such a promiscuous introduction would be more calculated to sow tumult and disorder than to increase the industry of the country.

The new Ordinance, in the dispositions commented on by Mr. Griffiths, is based on the same principle of security and good order, which the circumstances and the necessity for permitting the introduction *en masse* into the colony of a great number of mercenaries, rendered again of the most apparent necessity.

The general laws in force in the colony are not, moreover, those of Great Britain.

At the Mauritius, for example, the law on successions, the whole of the civil law, the laws of a political nature, the criminal laws, and those of individual liberty, differ widely from the laws of Great Britain; nevertheless, all the British subjects at the Mauritius, without distinction of birth, are subject to them. The Jury, an institution so eminently national,

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national, does not exist, and yet the criminal court, as it is at present constituted, sits on the life and death of every British subject.

Why, therefore, should not the British subject be subjected to a law of internal police which does not drive him from the colony; but which, if he comes without any of those guarantees which are everywhere necessary for the peace of society, subjects him to certain formalities, and only exposes him to be sent from the country in case he shall become dangerous to the public tranquillity.

This is, above all, applicable to the lower class of Indian labourers, who, by their manners, their usages, their customs and their religion, are perfect strangers in every other country but their own.

Let it also be remembered that it is not of their own spontaneous movement that those men expatriate themselves and come to the Mauritius, driven by want to seek an asylum and labour; there may exist a species of inhumanity in rejecting them. It is the contractors of the Mauritius, speculators, who go in quest of them and drag them from their home, under the enticement of greater wages than they can obtain where they are.

There is something more: the chief condition of their agreement is, that, after its expiration, they shall be taken back to their country at the cost of the person who has hired them. They, therefore, consider themselves as strangers, removed for a time into another country than that which they deem their own.

Moreover, the measure in question has not for its object their exclusion, but the direct contrary; it tends only, in authorizing and encouraging the introduction of useful and laborious men, to prevent the bringing to the colony of the refuse of the Indian bazars, and with such, the germs of disorder. Every society has the right of rejecting from its circle, and consequently of not admitting into it, anything likely to compromise its existence or tranquillity.

At what moment is this salutary fine to be felt, and wise and prudent precautionary measures to be taken? It is when this new population is put into immediate contact with the new apprentices just emerging from slavery, still susceptible of every impression; and to whom it is of importance, at the first step towards civilization, to give idea and examples of order, labour and discipline. This end would be frustrated if permission were given to associate them with all the vagabonds and all the idlers with which India swarms.

It is a trial which the colony of the Mauritius is taking; more fortunate, perhaps, in this respect than any other colony. Who can say what influence this medley of individuals with their manners, their usages, and their vices, will have on our indigenous population, especially when it shall become wholly free? It is not impossible that the latter, considering themselves of a superior class, may contract a disgust for agricultural or field labour. Time and experience will decide this question of social economy. It is the part of a wise government to give to it a serious attention; it is, therefore, necessary to proceed with caution in the new order of things.

Mr. Griffiths sees, in the measures which form the object of his criticism, a great obstacle to the progress of industry; this is a gratuitous supposition on his part, for, up to the present period, facts are opposed to his assertions. All the Indian labourers that it has been desirous of introducing have been admitted without difficulty, because each of those individuals, not bringing with him a certificate of good conduct, it is only by his conduct in the colony that a judgment can be formed whether he be worthy of the admission which has been granted or not; which proves, of itself, that the local ordinance is not adverse to the admission of Indian labourers, but only to the introduction of those who might become a burthen on, or dangerous to, the country; and that, consequently, the law is not hostile to agricultural labour, but, on the contrary, favourable to it; it is not vicious and useless men that are required for husbandry. Superadded to which, these precautions have been dictated by local experience.

Already a similar attempt was made, and for the first time, under the administration of Sir Charles Colville, in 1830.

But whether the selection of the men introduced from the several parts of India had been carelessly made, or that there were not sufficient coercive means for the maintenance of order and discipline, all within a short time refused to work, abandoned their places of labour, crowded the public roads, and filled the streets and the police-office of Port Louis. The masters hastened to solicit their being sent from the colony, the tranquillity of which they endangered; and had it not been for the prudent and fortunate precaution which the governor at that period took, and as is practised now, to require security from the party introducing them, to answer for any expense consequent on their introduction, the public treasury would have been exposed to a considerable outlay.

Mr. Griffiths knew these facts, and was not ignorant of the conditions to which all the inhabitants with one common consent had submitted themselves, when he demanded of the chief commissary of police by what right he imposed conditions on the spontaneous movements of those Indian British subjects.

The ordinance also, which gave the authority of law to this ancient measure of the government, met with general approbation. Many observations were forwarded to the governor for submission to the Legislative Council, at the period of its discussion, but not one had for its object any complaint against the dispositions censured by Mr. Griffiths, who, notwithstanding, says that he speaks in the interests of all.

On this day the number of Indian labourers introduced surpasses that under the government of Sir Charles Colville. Several examples of insubordination and refusal to work have already taken place; but with a becoming prudence and firmness means have been taken to compel the return of the delinquents to their duty. Some cases have given cause to regret that

that the law did not empower the magistrate to inflict corporal chastisement, the disciplinary punishment authorized in their own country.

Mr. Griffiths qualifies as monstrous and arbitrary the power given to the Governor to permit or refuse the introduction of Indian labourers.

If, after what has been said, the principles of the law be admitted, this power cannot be entrusted to other hands, since the administrative and executive authority in the colony are vested in the person of the Governor, assisted, if need be, by his council.

This power is indispensable; so disposed also that the Governor may be rarely called upon to exercise it. May not a period arrive when this influx of Indian labourers may exceed the wants, or be inconsistent with the safety of the colony? Must we await the evil in order to remedy it by a special measure necessarily arbitrary? Were it not better, on the contrary, to guard against the possible contingency by vesting in the chief authority all necessary power?

Mr. Griffiths especially blames the authority given to the Governor to send out of the colony those of such labourers who shall not have been guilty of crimes against public order.

He here commits a great error; he confounds the sending of those men to their country with transportation, which is an infamous punishment which the courts alone can pronounce; and which he confounds also with transportation, which is a punishment in the penal laws of England.

Nothing can be more dissimilar. The power which is given to the Governor here is the same as that which he possesses with regard to foreigners, whose admission into the colony is refused, or who are sent back to their country; with reference to the Indian labourers, it is but the anticipated execution of the condition of their agreement.

The case also comes under the general question which has already been treated of, namely, whether those Indians, British subjects as they are, can be assimilated in the colony and under the circumstances in which they arrive therein to foreigners, and be subject to the law of police, which only admits them under certain conditions.

Even the security required from those who introduce a certain number of these individuals into the colony, has met with the animadversions of Mr. Griffiths; and it is in effect with this that his opposition commences. Every person had submitted to it without remonstrance, even before the publication of the new Ordinance. Mr. Griffiths has imposed upon himself a certain "*amour propre*" not to act or think like other people.

This security, so far from being an obstacle to the introduction of those free labourers, is, on the contrary, a safeguard to the individuals themselves, as well as beneficial to the maintenance of public order. Without this guarantee what would happen? The planter, dissatisfied with a labourer in the choice of whom he had no share, and whom he may have received from the first speculator who offers, would dismiss him; and this man, with a bad character and unable to procure work, would become a vagabond, without home or the means of subsistence. He would consequently be a burthen to the country, and the colony would be compelled to pay his passage to India. Already, but for this security, a great number of individuals would have been so situated. In such case a greater number of police agents would be necessary; it would be another item of expense to add to the public expenditure; and voices would not be wanting to attribute it to the lack of foresight of the government.

Mr. Griffiths finds this security to be indefinite and arbitrary.

The form annexed to the Ordinance sets it further at length; it is not a penalty inflicted on the master, it is simply the repayment of the amount of the passage money to India, and the cost of maintenance and hospital expenses which the government may have to pay, from the detention of the individual to the period of his embarkation; moreover these expenses are reduced to a mere trifle, because the Indian is the soberest man on earth, and the amount required for his passage is known and trivial.

But the last argument of Mr. Griffiths is, that the law as it stands is applicable to the workmen and artificer who shall come from England to establish himself at the Mauritius.

This argument is in contradiction with Mr. Griffiths himself, since it necessarily implies a distinction between the British subject in England and the Indian, for whom he claims the rights of a British subject, and free ingress and egress in and from every part of the empire.

It is evident however that such is not, in effect, the spirit and object of the new Ordinance, which had especially in view the free labourers hired in India.

In the project of the Ordinance which was published before the discussion in the Legislative Council, there were the words "foreign labourers," which are still to be found in the preamble of the Ordinance, and it was precisely to avoid the application of the word "foreigner" (taken in too absolute a sense) to British subjects that this phrase was substituted, "there shall not be introduced from abroad," without dreaming of England, from which country it is not probable that bands of labourers would expatriate themselves to cultivate the soil under the tropic at the Mauritius.

It results further from the 17th, 18th, and 19th articles, taken collectively with the preamble of the Ordinance, that such articles had principally for object the contracts which should be entered into for the introduction into the colony of free labourers in numbers or in bands. Should they even come from England, the general interest of the colony, as well as that of the hired parties themselves (in order that they may not become the victims of mistaken speculations), would render still the authority of the governor necessary, because this authority, or permission, would be a guarantee to the individuals, that they should find employment in the spot wherein they had covenanted to labour. But it is

evident,

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evident, also, that these dispositions are not applicable to every British workman or artificer who shall come alone, and of his own accord, to the Mauritius, to exercise his business or calling; such person would become subject to the application of the 13th article of the proclamation of the 18th May 1816, which requires that every person arriving (if he be not well known) shall furnish the security of some domiciled inhabitant.

There is nothing arbitrary or vexatious in such a formality; it is nothing more than an ordinary rule of police. It is exacting very little of a party who arrives in a country, and above all, in a colony too often the refuge of those who seek shelter from the application of the laws, to require of him to make himself known to the authority of the place; it usually suffices that a responsible person presents himself without requiring security. This latter measure is only enforced against foreigners.

Port Louis, 5 January 1836.

(signed) P. D'Epinau, Proc.-Genl.

— No. 290. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *William Nicolay*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 25 May 1836.

No. 290.

I HAVE received your Despatch, dated the 23d of January last, inclosing two Ordinances passed by yourself, with the advice of the council of government of Mauritius, on the 2d November last. These documents did not reach me until the 21st instant. I have lost no time in bringing them under the consideration of the King; and, by His Majesty's commands, I address to you the following communication respecting them.

You refer to the preamble of the Ordinance No. 16, as completely setting "forth the object of this law." That preamble, after adverting to the abolition of slavery, to the consequent changes in the habits of the colony, to the natural inclination to sloth of persons passing from slavery to freedom, to the daily introduction into the colony of foreign labourers, and to the inadequacy of existing laws to compel the lower classes of society to labour, proceeds to declare it "necessary that measures should be taken of a nature to conciliate the maintenance of good order, the demands of industry and agriculture, as well as to protect the respective interests of masters and servants." This preamble appears to me wanting not only in perspicuity, but in adaptation to the enactments which follow. The design of the law might more accurately have been described as the substitution of some new coercion for that state of slavery which has been abolished; the effect of it, at least, is to establish a compulsory system scarcely less rigid, and in some material respects even less equitable than that of slavery itself.

The Ordinance commences (sect. 1) by directing an annual census to be made of all the inhabitants of the colony. To accomplish such an object, with an approach to accuracy, requires a large body of minute regulations, especially in reference to the case of those who are too young, too infirm, or too ignorant to perform aright the duty of returning their own names. But this enactment disposes of the whole subject in a single sentence, subjecting every person who shall not make a return comprising the various particulars enumerated, to a penalty not exceeding 2*l*. Such legislation cannot but be attended by great uncertainty and much occasional injustice. But I pass to the more immediate and important objects of the law.

The second section gives a definition of the term "vagabonds," who are to be placed under the surveillance of the police; and who, if convicted of any offence against the police law, are to be punished, on the first occasion, by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, and on a second offence, by imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, either with or without hard labour in each case. The transgressions of the police law to which these punishments are attached, are all offences of a minor description, and some of them of a most trivial kind. It becomes material, then, to inquire in what consists the character of a "vagabond," which is so greatly to aggravate the guilt and the penalty. By a "vagabond" is declared to be meant any person capable of labour, but having neither occupation nor employment, nor the known means of subsistence. Thus, then, every handicraftsman out of work is by this law declared a "vagabond," and is to be driven, not merely by that injurious designation, but by the liability to the most rigid penalties, to seek immediate service, however disadvantageous or unfair may be the terms offered by the employers of such labourer.

The third clause declares, that all persons under the age of 60 years, capable of labour

labour, and who should be unable to prove that they follow some business, or possess sufficient means of subsistence, shall be bound to take to some trade, or find employment, or to hire themselves as field labourers, within a period to be fixed by the police. In the event of a failure to perform this duty, the offender is to be delivered over to the police, to be employed on the public works. Thus every man and woman (for no distinction is made of sex) who cannot find work, or who may be disposed to indulge in temporary repose, is to be subjected to participate in the labour hitherto reserved for convicts, and justly degraded both for its severity and for its degradation.

The clause proceeds to declare, that if after three months any such person shall not have found employment, he may be placed, by sentence, on some plantation, or in some manufactory, to be there employed for a period not exceeding three years. A man or woman being first committed to the general police to labour on the public works, because he or she could not find employment, is thus further made liable to three years' labour on a sugar estate, because he or she has not procured work elsewhere, although the necessity of labouring on the public works may have rendered the obtaining such employment impossible. Whether that impediment exists or not, it is not however required that any real or imputed misconduct should precede this sentence of three years' compulsory labour; nothing more is necessary than that the sufferer should not for three months have found employment.

Respecting the remuneration to be made for this compulsory service, the daily duration of it, and the maintenance of the labourer, the Ordinance is entirely silent.

The law, however, proceeds to give an appeal against this sentence. From the police the labourer may transfer the question to the Court of First Instance; but he must do this within eight days from the service of the sentence, and the decision of the Court of First Instance will be final.

Thus the labourer, condemned without even the imputation of a fault, to three years' compulsory labour, must within eight days institute a suit, or be finally excluded from relief. No person is appointed to sue for him, or to act as his protector or adviser. In reference to the ignorant and helpless people to whom this semblance of redress is offered, it may well be regarded as an illusion. To those who live at a distance from Port Louis, it is nothing better than a mockery of justice. The exclusion of an appeal from the Court of First Instance, in a case where the highest interests of the suitor is involved, is also a novelty of the most objectionable kind. I abstain from any more particular notice of the reasons which render the superintendence of the Court of Appeal in all such cases indispensable.

The Ordinance, however, advances much further in the coercive system than has hitherto been noticed: "If at the expiration of the three years the said individual shall not find employment, he may be subjected to a new engagement, in the same manner as before." The state of the handicraftsmen of Mauritius is therefore, according to this Ordinance, to be that of compulsory labour for life on the plantations to which they may be assigned by the police. I say "for life," because it is manifestly impossible, except under some very peculiar circumstances, that any man fixed by the law on a particular estate, should be able to find labour elsewhere immediately on the termination of his servitude. If it be said that the workman might seek another engagement while working under his first master, so as to prevent the occurrence of this fatal interval of inaction, the answer is to be found in the 25th section, which subjects to a fine, over and above damages, any person enticing, or endeavouring to entice any labourer to leave his master's service. The bonds are drawn tightly round him in every direction in which the assertion of his freedom could possibly be made. With what elaborate care this is done will appear from the regulations which are next to be noticed.

By the fourth article it is required that every person above the age of 21 years, who shall be desirous of hiring himself out to service, for any period exceeding one month, shall, under the penalty of a fine or imprisonment, register his or her name at the police; the persons labouring by compulsion, as already mentioned, are to be registered by the police without their own intervention. To every registered person is to be given a ticket, describing his name, birth-place and employment; stating also whether he is married or not, and comprising the name of his employer. Without such a ticket no person can be hired, and no labourer may change his employer without at the same time resorting to the police, and

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obtaining a new ticket. For any omission in this respect, the labourer (not the hirer) is to be punished by eight days' imprisonment.

This system of registering the whole working population is calculated to bring them all into a virtual bondage to their employers. The possession of a "ticket" is the indispensable condition of changing from one service to another; therefore, every person who shall, by an accident, lose this paper, or who may be fraudulently deprived of it, will be unable to relieve himself from any service however burdensome.

But this Ordinance looks beyond the present to future generations; children of the age of eight years or upwards may be apprenticed not to trades merely, but in any kind of work however rude and unskilful, until the completion of their 21st year. If the parent, tutor or guardian consent, the child is to be so bound; if the parent, tutor or guardian do object, then it is said the child may be bound with its own consent. The consent of a child of eight years is, I need scarcely say, unfit to be taken on such an occasion, and in the case of orphans there would be neither tutor nor guardian to consent for persons in that condition of life which is here contemplated.

If the parents of the child are unable to support him, he is to be apprenticed without any consent whatever: the rule is manifestly unjust. Although the parent may be unable to support the child, the child may be well able to support himself, or some other person (the supporters of a charity-school, for example,) may be willing to provide for his maintenance.

Respecting the terms of the apprenticeship, and the duties to be imposed by it on the master, the law is entirely silent. But if the apprentice be under the age of 14, the master may confine and punish him or her, at his discretion, it being required only that the punishment should be proportionate to the age and fault of the apprentice.

At a more advanced age, the apprentice committing a "serious offence" (the term is left thus indefinite), or failing to fulfil the terms of the contract in a variety of enumerated modes (one of which is described by the singular expression of "bad will"), may be punished by fine and imprisonment, and this rule is extended to all labourers and workmen. This is a very lax and objectionable style of penal legislation.

But the 11th clause is still more open to censure. It subjects to imprisonment, not exceeding 12 months, with or without hard labour, any workman or apprentice who shall menace or strike his master, or his master's representative. Thus the lowest servant on an estate, armed with the delegated authority of the owner, is to be regarded by the workmen with such reverence, that a blow, however well he may have deserved it, or a threat, however reasonable or by whatever ill usage extorted, is to subject the labourer to a penalty which should be reserved for crimes against the State of the most serious kind.

If three or more labourers shall associate or conspire to quit their service, or to change the conditions of their contract, or to enforce an increase of wages, they may be punished with six months' hard labour, without prejudice to a public prosecution. Without minutely inquiring into the degree of public danger likely to arise from such associations, I remark that combinations amongst employers to prevent their workmen from finding better services, or to depress the rate of wages, though an offence far more easy of perpetration, and far more injurious if committed, is passed over without any penalty or notice whatever.

If the master shall not fulfil the terms of his contract, he, it is said, may be compelled thereto at the suit of his labourer, and shall pay damages according to the circumstances of the case. Thus while on the one side there is the summary and effective remedy of fine and imprisonment, the remedy on the other side is that of a civil action, which, in the case of a common workman, is equivalent to a declaration that there shall be no remedy at all.

But the case of "excessive punishment," or "ill treatment," is supposed, and in that case, in addition to damages, in a civil action, the master is to be liable to a fine not exceeding 10*l.* sterling. I need scarcely notice that such a maximum of penalty for all the acts falling within the description of excessive punishment or ill-treatment may be altogether disproportionate to the crime.

But whilst the offences of the master are thus slightly touched, and his obligations left without any definition, the 20th and two following clauses subject the labourer not only to imprisonment but to two-fold payment for all time subtracted from

from his service, and even to the payment of two days' labour for every day lost to the master by the imprisonment.

All the penalties of this law are exigible before a single justice of the peace, and that too without appeal.

I might prosecute these remarks still further, but it is unnecessary. Enough has been stated to show that this is an Ordinance to which it is impossible that His Majesty's assent should be given; nor is it without very deep concern that I have found that such enactments could obtain either the concurrence of the members of the Council or your own sanction. The freedom contemplated by Parliament, and to procure which such costly sacrifices have been made, must be ill understood at Mauritius, if it be supposed to be compatible with such regulations as these, or with any others which may be conceived in a similar spirit.

In my Despatch of the 20th January last, I referred to what then appeared to me an incredible report, that an Ordinance had been proposed for the adoption of the Council at Mauritius, "which if passed into a law, would subject the whole labouring population of the island, and especially persons who might be introduced there from the eastward, to restraints and penalties of so extremely onerous a nature as nearly to revive, under a new name, the former servile condition of the great body of the people." I now reluctantly admit that the report was well founded, and that the law is obnoxious to the precise charge which was thus preferred against it.

I am commanded by His Majesty to signify to you his disallowance of this Ordinance, which you will make known in the most public manner, with the least possible delay.

The objects of the Ordinance No. 17 are not explained in your Despatch, nor can I collect them with any clearness from the preamble, or from the enactments of the law itself.

In substance, it is provided, that all servants, not being apprenticed labourers under the Abolition Act, who may engage in any kind of service, shall register themselves at the police, under the penalty of imprisonment not exceeding three days; and that every person so registered shall receive a ticket, which may serve to identify him.

No master of an apprentice, under the Abolition Act, may hire out any such apprentice until he has first caused him to be thus registered, and procured for him a ticket from the police.

No person may be hired as a servant unless provided with this ticket of registration, which is to be kept by the employer.

Persons discharging their servants must, within three days, take the ticket to the police; and the servant quitting his employment must, within three days, repair to the police, and must there state whether he wishes to continue in service, or to enter on a trade; and the ticket, with this declaration endorsed upon it, is to be returned to the servant, or, in the case of apprenticed labourers, to the employer. Except the ticket thus indorsed be delivered to the new master, the hiring will be illegal.

Any servant out of place for three months, and who has not sufficient means of employment, is to be set to labour at the public works, or if his permit of residence be temporary, may be sent out of the colony.

The consent of the special justice is declared necessary to enable the master of an apprenticed labourer to hire him out to another person, or to allow him to work on his own account.

All servants who intend to employ themselves, and all apprentices under the Abolition Act whom it is designed to employ as day labourers, porters, messengers, chairmen, or in similar occupations at Port Louis, are to wear a badge, and when not employed must remain in a place to be assigned for that purpose.

These regulations may, partly at least, have been demanded by some local exigency, the nature of which I do not understand; but as they are presented to me in this naked form, I can only regard them as calculated to subject the whole working population of the colony to restrictions of an irksome, invidious and painful kind, which must greatly impede the free demand for employment and the free supply of labour. I contemplate them with the greater jealousy when received in their connection with the Ordinance, No. 16, to which I have already adverted, regarding them as conceived in the same spirit and dictated by the same general policy.

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Under these circumstances, His Majesty is pleased to disallow this Ordinance also.

In conclusion, I am commanded to repeat, in the most emphatic terms, His Majesty's injunction contained in my Despatch of the 20th January last, that no law for regulating the relations between labourers and their employers, or affecting the condition of the labouring people of Mauritius as a distinct class, must be proposed by you to the Council, except with His Majesty's express previous sanction of the terms of any such proposed law; and that you do not assent to any law of that nature if proposed by any other members of the Council, unless it contain a clause suspending its operation until His Majesty's pleasure shall have been signified.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 291. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *William Nicolay* to Lord *Glenelg.*

No. 291.

My Lord,

Mauritius, 25 January 1836.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a transcript of an Ordinance, No. 18, of 1835, passed by the Council of Government of this colony, on the subject of public instruction generally, but having reference more particularly to the Royal College at Port Louis. It is evident, for several reasons, that this Ordinance cannot be put into force until it shall be confirmed by His Majesty.

I likewise transmit a copy of the last Report of a Committee appointed to take the subject into consideration. This document contains much useful matter, but there are some parts of it which appear to me very objectionable.

The proposed composition of the Committee of Public Instruction would diminish the influence of government, and give too much weight into the hands of the inhabitants.

A still more extraordinary suggestion to my mind is, to limit the extent of instruction in all the private schools in the colony, in order to assure the pre-eminence of the college; and, in pursuance of this recommendation, a project of an Ordinance was actually drawn up, containing the following declarations:

“Private schools shall not in any case be other than preparatory or secondary schools.

“Preparatory schools shall only teach reading, writing, and the rudiments of arithmetic.

“In the secondary schools education shall not be extended beyond the elements of the English, French and Latin grammars, the elements of arithmetic and geometry, drawing, and the rudiments of history, and of the arts and sciences.

“The Royal College shall alone have the right of teaching the higher branches of learning, in addition to those mentioned in the preceding article.”

And penalties are attached to the breach of any of these provisions.

Immediately after perusing this project, I signified that I could not possibly assent to it; and, in consequence, the Ordinance, No. 18, herewith transmitted, was introduced, rejecting the restraints on education in private schools, and altering the composition of the committee of public instruction.

I will now proceed to offer a few observations on some parts of the Ordinance, No. 18.

Articles 3, 4 and 5, without limiting the extent of education in private schools, prescribe certain formalities and restrictions, which, in England, might perhaps be regarded as too censor-like; but in a community like this, such control appears very necessary; and it has always existed at Mauritius formerly to a much greater extent than is imposed by the present Ordinance.

With respect to the Royal College it seems needless here to examine the various circumstances which have caused its decline for some years past. It will be sufficient if the present Ordinance shall have the effect of rendering it an establishment of future public utility.

I will now beg your Lordship's attention to some of the provisions of this Ordinance which call for special explanation.

Article 6 authorizes the admission of boarders and half-boarders into the college, agreeably to the ancient usage, but which was directed, by Viscount Goderich, in a despatch dated 31st July 1831, to be discontinued.

His

Ordinance, No. 18,
of 1835.
Vide Appendix,
No. 115.

His Lordship's opinions upon this subject appear to have been formed entirely upon the recommendations of the Commissioners of Eastern Inquiry, and which have been found, on experience, to be productive of much inconvenience. I beg to refer your Lordship to the arguments on this head, in the accompanying Report of the Committee, and which, I think, speak strongly in favour of returning to the former system of admitting boarders and half-boarders.

Article 8 makes a provision of 1,500*l.* per annum, to be appropriated from the public funds, towards the general expenses of the establishment; this requires some reflection.

There was formerly a certain number of boarders and half-boarders placed in the college at the public expense, and which amounted to between 1,100*l.* and 1,200*l.* a year, until the number of those pupils gradually diminished, in consequence of Lord Goderich's directions before alluded to.

I conceive that the proposed grant of 1,500*l.* will be absolutely requisite for the first year, there being already some arrears of salaries due to the masters, owing to the falling off in the receipts for some time past, occasioned by the small number of scholars attending the college; and I fear that these arrears have, in part, also been caused by the want of proper management. Still what is justly due to the teachers ought to be paid.

Trusting that the financial affairs of the establishment will hereafter be better conducted, and there being every reason to expect that the number of pupils paying for their education will be far greater than heretofore, I should think that the receipts ought nearly to cover the expenditure, after the first year. At all events, it would perhaps be better not to fix a positive annual sum, but to grant, from year to year, such aid (not exceeding a certain amount) as may be found by experience to be absolutely necessary.

The expenses for the repairs of the premises must, at any rate, be borne by the public, and are, of course, subject to variation.

Articles 14 and 15 relate to the establishment of the rector, sub-rector, purveyor, masters, &c., the mode of their appointment, and of fixing their salaries. And here I have to request your Lordship's particular attention to a subject which I consider to be of the most essential importance to the wellbeing of the college, namely, that the rector, or chief superintendent, should be selected in England. He should, in my opinion, not be a clergyman of any description, but a gentleman of general good education, with a perfect knowledge of the French language, and some acquaintance with the classics, and the arts and sciences; so that he might be able to take a general control over the several branches of instruction. Of course it is requisite that he should be a person of unquestionable moral character, and who would maintain his authority over every individual connected with the establishment, a qualification that has long been wanting here.

I would propose that his salary should be 500*l.* per annum, instead of 300*l.*, hitherto fixed for the rector or "provisieur."

Should my ideas on this head be approved, I trust that your Lordship will be able shortly to find a fit person to send out for this important object.

In the accompanying Report is a list of the masters and other persons belonging to the establishment of the college as they now stand, with their respective salaries, and which the Committee propose to continue. I do not think that there is sufficient provision for instruction in the English language, which ought to be an object of primary consideration; and it may probably become advisable to make a few other changes among the teachers, &c. But, as far as relates to expense on that head, I am inclined to believe that the amount stated (2,460*l.*) is about fair. As, however, I propose to raise the salary of the rector to 500*l.* per annum, and that it will be necessary to allot a salary for the purveyor (say 200*l.*), the total amount of the establishment will be 2,860*l.* Now the annual sum paid by each scholar, whether boarder or not, is 14*l.* 8*s.*; and supposing, which may fairly be expected, that the number of scholars will, in a short time, amount to 200, the receipts on account of their education will be 2,880*l.*; in round numbers about the amount of the expense of the establishment as proposed above. If, at any time, the receipts should fall short of the amount I have stated, the difference must be paid, I apprehend, by the public.

It appears to me, that all the scholars should pay alike for education; viz. 14*l.* 8*s.* each, and that there should be no additional contributions from them, such as entrance-fees, &c.

Upon the same principle, I think that all the salaries of the masters, and other attendants,

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attendants, should be paid from one general fund, and not to be made to depend in any way upon contributions of a precarious nature.

In the foregoing calculations, I have not made any allowance for gratuitous boarders, which of course would create an additional expense to the public, according to the number admitted. The annual expense of boarding each scholar may be reckoned at 48 *l.*

If your Lordship should approve of the annual grant from the Treasury of 1,500 *l.*, or any other sum, I should recommend its being applied to the following purposes:—

1. To the payment of any deficiency in the salaries.
2. To the maintenance of a limited number of gratuitous boarders.
3. To the expense of sending to England occasionally a few of the most distinguished pupils, and of completing their education at some of the universities of Great Britain, for the purpose, more especially, of rendering them eligible to situations in the legal profession at Mauritius on their return. This has been done in some former instances with good effect.

These suggestions must depend entirely upon the opinion your Lordship may form respecting the extent of pecuniary aid which it may be expedient to grant from the public funds on this account.

Besides the remarks which I have offered upon some articles of the Ordinance No. 18, it may probably appear to your Lordship to require further modification; but I trust the principle, and the general provisions of the Ordinance, will be approved.

I have, &c.

(signed) *William Nicolay.*

Enclosure in No. 291.

PROPOSED REPORT of the COMMITTEE of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Enclosure in
No. 291.

THE Committee nominated by circular of the 10th June last, has charged a sub-committee, formed of five of its members, to present thereto a preparatory Report.

Your committee lost no time in assembling, and after a careful examination of all the questions which appeared to merit its attention, it was resolved to present the following draft of a report to the commission.

The committee, of which the sub-committee forms a part, has been charged to report to Government its opinion on the best means to be employed in propagating and perfecting education in the colony, and for assuring, at the same time, the regeneration and prosperity of the Royal College.

On the first discussion of the question, your committee considered, that, on account of the limited extent of the colony, and the small number of the inhabitants, the means of education would, no doubt, be found in the existing schools; as far, at least, as concerns those families who have the means of paying for the same. As to the poor classes, your committee considers that preparatory free schools should be opened in the different districts; whereof they will again treat at the end of this Report.

With respect to the college, local experience failing, that of all countries, and the opinion of the most enlightened men on the positive advantages of education received in public institutions, would suffice to convince the most incredulous that the prosperity of this establishment will, of itself, be a sure guarantee of a perfect and approved system of colonial education.

As to the private schools, they may certainly be of great assistance to the college and to education in general; it is, therefore, just and necessary to encourage them, and your committee has not failed to take them into consideration.

The prosperity of the Royal College being the essential object of the labour and report of the committee, your committee, consequently, commenced their labours at that establishment. The causes of the decline of that institution are numerous; many of them have existed from a remote period, others, again, are recent; some are circumstantial, others, again, are personal; they are known to the committee, and it may be said of the community in general. Your committee conceives, therefore, that it is unnecessary to designate them, or point them out, one by one, for the changes they propose will at the same time sufficiently indicate their nature and tend directly to destroy them.

The first change which your committee conceives ought to be made, to assure the regeneration of the college, is the liberal and parental intervention of Government; not so much in the direction of the establishment, as in the protection necessary to restore its ancient importance, and in the indispensable pecuniary aid necessary to restore public confidence, as well as that of those who are actually employed or who may hereafter be employed in that institution.

The state of destitution in which the college has lately found itself, has not a little contributed to undervalue it in the eyes of the public, it having been perceived that the
deficiency

deficiency of its own resources was not covered by Government, and that it was almost abandoned to itself as if it were a private establishment. Its speedy downfall was predicted; and the heads of families, witnesses of a too positive contraction of all the sinews of that institution, took their children therefrom and placed them in the private schools, the prosperity of which was at that period favoured by many causes and circumstances. This destitution was so complete that the masters found themselves deprived of their salaries; and they all naturally considered this privation as a proof of the decline disquieting to their future prospects. They also experienced other unpleasant objects; they were all discouraged; and one of the most useful among them resigned, and carried his services to the private schools. The majority, however, be it observed, to their credit, remained faithful in spite of such a rude trial, and thus rendered a singular service to the community.

In order to remedy existing evils, to prevent similar ones for the future, to restore necessary confidence to the masters, to prevent the total desertion which menaces the college, and to remove entirely from the public mind a dangerous anxiety respecting the future stability of that establishment, your committee conceives it necessary that Government should pay forthwith the arrears of salary due to the masters, that it should guarantee the same for the future, as well as the preservation and reparation of the buildings, to cover which the funds might be found insufficient. This responsibility would, virtually, only be apparent, unless unforeseen events should happen, for the college will speedily augment its income sufficiently to pay all its expenses, and the effectual intervention of Government will assure the confidence and attachment of all those who are interested therein.

Another very powerful inducement might also be held out to the masters to attach themselves to the college, in the creation of a fund sufficient to meet all claims to retiring pensions, which are assured to them by art. 13 of the arrêté of the 5 Brumaire, year XII, on the positive assurance of such pensions by any other resolution whatever. This fund might be hereafter raised from the savings made by the administration of the establishment on the amount which we are now going to treat of.

A subsidy is granted to the college from the colonial treasury; the ministerial despatch, dated 31 July 1831, which has been communicated to the commission, proposes a reduction thereof, on a principle which your committee cannot recommend. It is proposed to reduce the expenditure of the institution by according to the masters, if not for the whole, at least for a portion of their salaries, a fee to be paid by the scholars on their admission to the different classes. This system may be judicious in a university in Europe, but your committee conceives it to be absolutely impracticable here, not only to the parents and scholars, but to the masters themselves. It would be repugnant to them all on account of the habits acquired by the actual system of remuneration; perhaps, also, on account of prejudices or local customs, which everywhere imperiously exact conformity thereto.

Your committee is, on the contrary, of opinion that this subsidy should be increased, and determined by law, and that it cannot be fixed at a less sum than 1,440 £ per annum; for the solidity and permanency of the college depends above all on the augmentation and stability thereof.

The present subsidy is 1,283 £ per annum; the motives which influence your committee to solicit an augmentation thereof are founded on the following calculations.

The establishment of the college, formed in a manner the most limited and economical which is compatible with the due administration thereof, cannot cost a less sum than 2,460 £ per annum.

A detailed statement thereof is submitted below, which your committee conceives to be the most in harmony with the pressing exigencies of education and the state of the income of the college, and which should be augmented in proportion to the increase of the funds:—

A Rector	- - - - -	\$ 125
Two Latin Masters	- - - - -	140
Two English ditto	- - - - -	140
Two Professors of Mathematics	- - - - -	140
One French Master	- - - - -	60
One Reading ditto	- - - - -	40
One Writing ditto	- - - - -	50
One Drawing ditto	- - - - -	50
One Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres	- - - - -	80
Two Ushers	- - - - -	70
One Clerk for the Roll and Accounts	- - - - -	20
Addition to the Salary of the Master who fulfils the duties of under Rector	- - - - -	25
One Medical Attendant, at \$120 per annum	- - - - -	10
One Nurse and Sempstress	- - - - -	25
One Porter	- - - - -	20
Domestic cooks, &c.	- - - - -	30
Total Monthly Expense - - -		\$ 1,025
Total Yearly Expense - - -		£. 2,460

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Now the actual income of the college amounts on an average to 1,200 *l.* per annum; a deficiency therefore of 1,440 *l.* exists, which, so long as it is not covered, will certainly prevent the prosperity of the college, and will ultimately cause its utter ruin. It is that deficiency of 1,440 *l.* which your committee considers it indispensable to claim from Government.

It is true that the actual deficiency is not so great as that here shown; but the number of masters actually attached to the college is inadequate; and moreover, the difference between the subsidy granted up to the present time and that now sought for is not material, nor that between the real deficiency and the supposed one; and your committee would observe to those who might be disposed to reproach them with endeavouring to augment the actual expense, that public dignity suffers from the state of insufficiency and incapacity in which the college is now placed, and that the number of masters, &c. whose salaries would amount in the aggregate to 2,460 *l.*, is strictly indispensable to the success of the first steps to be taken in adopting a new system. Moreover, your committee conceives that the college ought to be classed with those establishments which are the most useful and important to the colony, and that public education ought to be borne, equally with the expense of any branch of the administration, by the public; again, the benefits arising from education are so well appreciated, and so ardently desired by the colony in general, that it is not to be presumed that the public would think of complaining of the employment of any public money which should be devoted to the amelioration of the present system of education.

It is very probable that the income of the institution will hereafter be augmented; even in that case the subsidy claimed will still be indispensable, not to restore the college, but to assure its prosperity. The excess between its income and expenditure should be employed in augmenting the number of professors, in extending the different branches of education, in teaching new ones, in the purchase of physical, chemical and astronomical instruments, in the formation of a library, in embellishments; in a word, in all those ameliorations which are necessary to the completion of a liberal education, which the institution is at present deprived of.

This excess ought also to be specially devoted to compensate to the college the sum allowed by Government for the education of the free scholars, who will then be admitted under the patronage of the Committee of Public Instruction, and without any other special retribution. Your committee is in hopes that this excess will also furnish a fund of reserve to be employed in sending a certain number of chosen scholars to the English Universities, a measure at once calculated to promote colonial education and to cement the bonds of union between the mother country and the colony.

The second change which your committee proposes, is the re-establishment, as speedily as possible, of the boarders and half-boarders.

The Report of the Commissioners of Inquiry thereon is materially erroneous, and the despatch of 31st July 1831, framed on this Report, which recommends that only day scholars be received, is the result of insufficient information.

Boarders and half-boarders were received at the college from its foundation, in order to suit local circumstances and the wants of the population; the suppression thereof has considerably injured public education, and this is certainly one of the principal causes of the decline of that institution. It has injured public education by forcing a certain number of children who could not be day scholars to abandon their studies at the college; it has deprived the institution of the most certain portion of its income; for instead of causing, as had been supposed, a general influx of scholars, the number has, on the contrary, been diminished by almost all the boarders and half-boarders, who have been removed to the secondary schools, where boarders and half-boarders are admitted. The reason thereof is this: the great majority of those scholars belong to families who reside in the country districts, having no town residence where their children might be lodged.

The evident necessity of receiving scholars to board and sleep in the college is shown by the fact, that since the receipt of the above-mentioned despatch, the Committee of Public Instruction has been forced to authorize the present rector to board the scholars on his own account, in the interior of the establishment; and that he actually boards and lodges 25 who have remained faithful to the college, although they cannot find in this new arrangement all the guarantees which ought to be met with in a public institution.

The end which was aimed at, when boarders were excluded, respecting the favour and encouragement which ought to be shown in the education of all the classes which compose the colonial population, contributes not a little to the persistence with which your committee conceives it their duty to urge the readmission thereof. Colonial prejudices have been considerably weakened in the last few years; and in the result of the experiment which has been lately tried at the college by the admission of all classes as day scholars, your committee finds an encouragement to make the same experiment with respect to boarders.

The third change which your committee recommends is the formation of the Committee of Public Instruction on a new basis. The present committee has undoubtedly not been deficient in good will to perform its mission, but we are now arrived at a period when by the nature of its construction it will be deprived of its necessary influence. At the present moment a public institution cannot attain the pinnacle of prosperity, unless the public has the greatest part of the direction in its own hands.

Government ought still to have a right to inspect the institution, religion ought also to be immediately represented thereat; your committee would therefore propose as a measure calculated to assure the active and interested co-operation of all the community, the influx of scholars, and consequently powerfully contribute to the prosperity of the college, to compose the Committee of Public Instruction as follows:

The

The Colonial Secretary, the head minister of the Catholic religion, the head minister of the Protestant religion, and six or nine other members, to be elected yearly, either at a meeting of those parents who have children at the college, who shall be assembled to that effect, or at a meeting of the notables who are charged with the yearly formation of double lists of assessors for the court of assize, or by any other elective body which may be subsequently substituted for the latter.

There is a number of other measures of minor importance which ought to be obtained from government, and put in force by the committee as above composed, which the committee does not conceive necessary to detail minutely. The greater part of these details should be provided for by specific regulations, to be framed without delay, which should not deviate from the spirit of this Report, and should be conformable to the general principles on which is founded an education at once moral, religious, intellectual and physical.

Your committee confine themselves to indicating as the principal points, the conscientious choice of a rector, whose known erudition, tried character and rank in life will assure to him, not only indisputable influence with all the members of the institution, but also the most complete possession in every respect of public confidence; then comes the choice of masters in the colony, and in England and France, when a sufficient number is not to be found here; the measures adopted to induce the scholars to forward their studies; the extension of the knowledge of the English language; the continuation of the suppression of the masters' table; their not being allowed lodging within the precincts of the college as soon as it shall be practicable; their being restrained from teaching any other scholars whatever, without the permission of the Committee of Public Instruction; the superintendence of the food of the boarders and half boarders; the obliging of the ushers to divide impartially the food without distinction; gymnastic exercises, fencing, horsemanship, &c. &c.

Your committee considers it important that government be solicited to order the urgent repairs required by the college buildings to be made, and the speedy completion of the wing which was commenced a long time since.

Your committee then took into consideration the state of the private schools. They do not hesitate to say that the exercises of those schools ought to be restrained to certain branches of education, in order to guarantee the perfection of public education, and at the same time to assure the pre-eminence of the Royal college.

The only doubt raised in the minds of your committee was on the question whether the restriction ought to be immediate, and have a retroactive effect on the existing schools, or whether it ought only to have effect prospectively.

The colonial laws respecting public education and the formation of schools are very incomplete, and it would be a vain attempt to endeavour to find any dispositions therein which would determine, in a precise manner, the limits on the mode of education to be followed in the private schools.

The "arrêté" of 5 Brumaire, year XII, is the only one which speaks of preparatory and secondary schools, and that was to mention that local circumstances prevented the government and the municipal bodies (les communes) from establishing them at their expense, and that all the branches of education professed in such institution should be taught at the "Lycée," which is now called the Royal College. This circumstance only goes to show that the division of schools into preparatory and secondary, was from the commencement intended by our legislature.

The 21st article of the same "arrêté" is thus worded: "No private school shall be opened or continue its exercises under any pretence whatever, without permission from the préfet colonial."

The same prohibition was re-enacted 15 years afterwards by the proclamation of 27 January 1813, the last legislative enactment on public education.

The 9th article thereof says: "No private school shall be opened or continue its exercises, under any pretence whatever, without permission from his Excellency the Governor."

According to the above citations it would appear that the existing laws on the subject gave to the executive authority the absolute right to permit or to refuse the opening of a school, and even to withdraw suddenly a permission which has been granted.

It was in virtue of these laws that the actual schools have been opened; the permission granted by the Committee of Public Instruction, some verbally, others in writing, contain no expressions which may be construed to grant to these schools an unlimited right of teaching. On the contrary, restrictions are to be found in some of these permissions, and in the division into preparatory and secondary schools, as mentioned in the "arrêté" of Brumaire, year XII, the studies in which are determined by their own designations.

Your committee examined three minutes (procès verbaux) extracted from the registers of the Committee of Public Instruction, which contain the permission for opening private schools.

The first, dated 17 June 1828, grants permission to Mr. Lingery to open a secondary school, and the committee probably intended to observe the same restriction in the subsequent permissions.

The second, dated 23 May 1832, grants permission to Mr. Faraguet to replace Mr. Farquharson at the head of the latter's school; and at the same time intimates to him that the Committee of Public Instruction is occupied in framing rules to which it is to be understood that he shall conform as soon as they shall be communicated to him. This is a conditional permission, and the conditions depend on the committee.

It is to be observed that no permission to Mr. Farquharson is to be found in the registers of the committee.

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The third, dated 8 January 1834, authorizes Messrs. Mars and Bellet to succeed to Mr. Coppalle, to whom it does not appear that any written authority was ever granted. Messrs. Mars and Bellet also succeeded to Mr. Lingery, whose permission, as has been remarked, extended only to a secondary school.

The Government might therefore, strictly speaking, at the request of the committee, and the committee itself might legally withdraw the permissions previously granted, or limit their teaching to certain inferior branches of education; but the heads of the private schools would not fail to take advantage of the circumstance of their encroachments, having been for some time past tolerated, in spite of the publicity and notoriety given to the nature of their studies.

However short may have been the duration of this toleration, your committee, which does not however deem it expedient to apply the principle of unrestricted liberty in the mode of instruction to our small community, conceives it advisable to respect even the error into which the private schools have been led, and to establish for the future only the rules of restriction which they consider necessary to the general interests of education, and in conformity to the local wants of the colony.

The masters of the private schools might therefore complete the education of those scholars who are actually under their direction; but with respect to those who may be subsequently confided to their care, they should be bound to restrict their teaching to those branches of education which are taught in the preparatory and secondary schools, according to the permissions which will be delivered to them to that effect. They should be bound, by the Ordinance on public instruction, to furnish the committee with an exact and certified list of all the scholars who are actually in their schools. The draft of this Ordinance is annexed to the present Report; it has for its basis the exclusive right of the Royal College to cultivate the higher branches of learning, and the distinction of the private institutions into preparatory and secondary schools, to be placed under the immediate superintendence and control of the Committee of Public Instruction.

As a means of diffusing the benefits of education among the lower classes of the community, your committee would recommend the opening of free preparatory schools in the country districts for the indigent portion of the population.

The college and the private schools in town offer easy and sufficient means for the education of the families in easy circumstances of the whole island. With respect to the free-schools, your committee has been informed that a select committee has been charged by Government to report on their utility and formation. Your committee will therefore refrain from dwelling longer thereon; they will only add that it appears to them that a beneficial disposition might be established, by which those scholars who shall have most distinguished themselves in the rural free schools, and who shall promise by their intelligence to become useful members of society, be chosen to form part of the free pensioners of the Royal College.

— No. 292. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *William Nicolay*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 11 August 1836.

No. 292.

I HAVE received your Despatch dated the 25th of January last, enclosing an Ordinance, No. 18, of 1835, on Public Instruction, and also enclosing a Report of the Committee on Public Instruction, in reference to the provisions of that Ordinance.

These documents embrace three topics, which, for my immediate purpose, it will be most convenient to consider apart from each other. They are, first, the institution of a new Committee of Public Instruction; secondly, the regulation under which private schools are to be placed; and, thirdly, the management and support of the Royal College.

The Committee of Public Instruction is to consist of 13 members, of whom nine are to be chosen by a popular election, while the remaining four are to act in that capacity in virtue of their ecclesiastical or civil offices. Amongst the official members one is described as "The Head of the Protestant Church." By this expression I presume is meant the senior officiating clergyman within the colony, of the Established Church of England and Ireland; but the designation of "Head of the Protestant Church" is not only inapt as descriptive of that functionary, but might justly give umbrage to the members of the Kirk of Scotland, and to the various denominations of Protestant Dissenters in the island.

I cannot but hesitate to approve the introduction of so large a number of elected members into a body of this description. However useful may be the influence and control of a popular constituency over officers intrusted with certain political duties, I should anticipate more of evil than of good from the exercise of that authority over persons discharging the functions of visitors of a collegiate institution. Judging from all analogy, and from the more obvious reasons of the case,

case, I should conclude that the visitatorial power would be more judiciously confided either to a single person or to a body so small as to exclude the danger of cabal and the noxious effects of party dissensions.

Passing, however, to the second general topic, the regulation of private schools. I find here much more serious ground of objection. The effect of the third and fourth clauses is to render the licence of the Governor indispensable to the opening or keeping a school for the instruction of youth; and the licence, when obtained, is to be revocable at his will. The fifth clause constitutes the Committee of Public Instruction judges, without appeal, of the propriety of the plans of instruction to be pursued in all such schools.

I am not, of course, ignorant how widely the habits and the maxims of this kingdom differ from those of most other European states on the subject of the public instruction of youth; and I am not disposed to call in question, or to discuss in this place, the soundness of those views in compliance with which the government is in other countries made responsible for the proper education of the people, and armed with all the power necessary to discharge itself of that responsibility. Waiving these questions, it is sufficient for the present purpose to say, that the control of the education of youth by the Government supposes and requires the support of elementary and all other schools at the public expense. But the plan which this Ordinance would establish, while it imparts to public officers the power to regulate and to control, does not give to them any resource for assisting in the business of education. There is no mutuality or interchange of advantages.

Further, the restraint on the liberty of private teaching being opposed to the spirit of our national laws, and to the deliberate opinions of the people of this kingdom, could not be enforced in a British colony without producing a strong sense of injury amongst a very large and important class of persons taking a deep interest in the promotion of sound knowledge and religious education in Mauritius. Large sums have been voted by Parliament, and contributed by the voluntary zeal of individuals, for this purpose. The London Missionary Society, and some other associations of the same description, have made considerable grants with this view; and out of the public funds placed at my disposal, I have assigned to the trustees of the Mico Charity no small proportion, to be employed by them in furthering the same work. I learn that those trustees have actually despatched to Mauritius four teachers from the Island of Guernsey, and that the proceedings of the Missionary Society have not been less prompt and decisive.

Under such circumstances, it is impossible that His Majesty should be advised to sanction the restrictions of this Ordinance, except in deference to the most clear and decisive reasons; in the documents before me I have looked in vain for a solitary argument in support of them.

It appears, indeed, that restrictions similar to those which it is now proposed to enact, already exist, though in a less definite form, under the earlier law of Mauritius. I have thought it my duty to advise His Majesty in Council to abolish those restraints altogether, and I enclose an Order which has been made by His Majesty in Council for that purpose. Convinced as I am of the indispensable duty of promoting to the utmost possible extent the education of youth in the colony; assured that the only real prospect of accomplishing that design is to be found in the Christian zeal and benevolence of the people of Great Britain, aided by Parliamentary Grants; and believing that the control of the Governor, and the superintendence of the Committee of Public Instruction, would check that zeal, and divert that bounty into different channels, I doubt not that I am consulting best for the real interest of Mauritius by advising His Majesty to abolish every restraint on the freedom of private teaching in that colony.

If it could be supposed that any teacher would inculcate immoral, irreligious or seditious principles, the offence would of course be within the reach of the general law; but in the character of those by whom these undertakings are directed, we have a much more effectual security against such abuse. To them also we may cheerfully confide the duty of employing and superintending teachers meriting the general confidence of society, and actuated by the highest motives.

The third object of this Ordinance is the government of the Royal College, and the provision of funds for its support.

On this subject His Majesty's Government have no wish but to defer to the settled opinions and general views of that class of the colonial society which the measure will affect. Whatever system of instruction or of superintendence shall obtain

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obtain their deliberate approbation, will be most acceptable to His Majesty, provided that it involves the grant of no exclusive privileges in favour of the college and to the prejudice of other schools, and that no distinction be made for the benefit of any particular class, whatever may be their national origin or descent. On the subject of expenditure a more difficult question is, however, to be anticipated.

I entirely agree with you, that it is impossible to endow this college by any new fixed charge upon the public revenue: whatever sums may be voted in aid of the institution must be made the subject of an annual estimate. But I am disposed to regard even such occasional grants with but little favour. The pupils of the college belonging to the wealthy class of society, are precisely those who are best able to defray the charge of their own education, and it seems unreasonable and unjust to apply for the assistance of the rich in cultivating the higher branches of literature and science, funds which are required for diffusing an elementary education amongst the poor, those funds being the produce of duties by which the whole community is alike affected.

As I collect from your Despatch that the operation of this Ordinance has been suspended until His Majesty's pleasure should be known, I lose no time in acquainting you that, for the reasons I have already mentioned, His Majesty declines to sanction this law, and commands me to signify to you his disallowance of it. If it should be thought right to make any new Ordinance for the government of the Royal College, or in any manner respecting public education, you will adhere to the same course of reserving it for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure; and you will not give your provisional assent to any law of that kind, which shall clearly fall within the reach of any of those objections which it has been my duty to make to the present Ordinance.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 293. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *William Nicolay* to Lord *Glenelg.*

No. 293.

My Lord,

Mauritius, 29 February 1836.

IN compliance with the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's circular despatch of the 18th June last, I have the honour to transmit herewith the Returns called for by the House of Commons in their Address dated 1st June 1835.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Nicolay.*

Enclosures in No. 293.

(No. 1.)

RETURN of all STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES who have been removed from or resigned their Office since the 1st February 1835.

NAMES.	DISTRICT.	Date of Resignation or Removal.	CAUSE.
Capt. E. Martindale -	Flacq - -	15 Apr. 1835	- - his health having been affected by exposure to the rain and sun in making his daily rounds of visits to the estates.
W. C. Lavers, Esq. -	Savanne - -	17 Feb. —	- - arrival of Mr. Anderson from England, and appointed by Right Hon. Secretary of State.
G. Fanquerran, Esq. -	Black River - -	12 Mar. —	- - arrival of Mr. Minchin from England, and appointed by Right Hon. Secretary of State.
P. Icery, Esq. - -	- - Plaines Wilhelms.	1 Aug. —	- - arrival of Mr. Mearing from England, and appointed by Right Hon. Secretary of State.
E. Virieux, Esq. -	Grand Port - -	30 Sept. —	- - arrival of Capt. Gaynor from England, and appointed by Right Hon. Secretary of State.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Port Louis, Mauritius,
1 January 1836.

G. F. Dick, Colonial Secretary.

No. 1. Names of Magistrates.
No. 2. Punishments.
No. 3. Apprentices who have purchased freedom.
No. 4. Copies of Instructions to Magistrates.

Enclosures in No. 293.

(No. 2.)

RETURN exhibiting the NUMBER and EFFECT of the RETURNS of PUNISHMENTS received by the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor from the Special Magistrates, from the last day of the month of January 1835 to the first day of the month of January 1836.

DISTRICT.	Total Number of Apprentices comprised in the District of this Magistrate.		Total Number of Punishments inflicted.	Total Number of Males Punished.		Total Number of Females punished.	Average Number of Stripes in the Punishments by Whips.	Maximum Number of Stripes in any one Case of Punishment by Whipping.	Maximum of Severity in any one Case of Punishment by Confinement.	Maximum of Severity in any other mode of Punishment.
	Males	Females.		By Whipping.	Otherwise than by Whipping.					
Port Louis	8,247	6,055	4,377	2,895	313	1,169	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	1 month	-- Six months' hard labour; fed on bread and water; penitentiary dress.
Pamplemousses	1st Section		325	199	71	55	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	3 do.	-- One month hard labour; 22 weeks' extra services; 10 nights in stocks; penitentiary dress.
	2d do.		676	276	243	157	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	1 do.	-- Forty days' hard labour; 35 weeks' extra service; one month in stocks at night.
	3d do.		778	336	261	181	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	3 do.	-- Two months' hard labour; six months' extra service; one month in stocks.
Riviere du Rempart.	1st do.		769	356	247	166	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	2 do.	-- One month hard labour; one month extra services; two days in stocks; penitentiary dress.
	2d do.		1,186	473	411	302	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	6 do.	-- Six months' hard labour; 96 hours' extra service; penitentiary dress.
Flacq	1st do.		1,529	446	754	329	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	3 do.	-- Two months' hard labour; 18 months' extra service; six times in stocks, three hours each time.
	2d do.		1,010	538	288	184	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	2 do.	-- Two months' hard labour; two months' extra service; eight nights in stocks.
Grand Port.	1st do.		404	259	41	104	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	2 do.	-- One month hard labour; two months' extra service; eight days in stocks, every other day for six hours.
	2d do.		437	210	105	122	22	39	3 do.	-- Three months' hard labour; one month extra service; eight nights in stocks.
Savanne	1st do.		225	119	55	51	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	3 do.	-- One month hard labour; two weeks' extra service; six days in stocks.
	2d do.		278	94	116	68	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	30	1 do.	-- One month hard labour; 15 hours' extra service.
Black River.	1st do.		107	73	21	13	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	30	2 do.	-- Four months' hard labour; two months' extra service; four months in stocks.
	2d do.		269	134	83	52	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	6 do.	-- Six months' hard labour; 12 days in stocks.
Plaines Wilhelms	1st do.		506	293	97	116	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	6 do.	-- Six months' hard labour; two months' extra service; 15 nights in stocks.
	2d do.		163	68	74	21	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	1 do.	-- Three weeks' forced labour; one month extra service; 15 nights in stocks; penitentiary dress.
Moka	1,036	770	163	68	74	21	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	1 do.	-- Three weeks' forced labour; one month extra service; 15 nights in stocks; penitentiary dress.
	36,527	24,518	13,039	6,769	3,180	3,090	18 $\frac{1}{2}$			

N. B.—Returns have not yet been received of the number of apprentices in the several districts divided into sexes; but they have been called for, and measures are also in progress for a general census of the population of the colony, by which, when completed, accurate information on this point will be obtained. The numbers above stated are therefore only approximate, having been extracted from the different returns formerly furnished by the late registrar of slaves; but in the aggregate, they correspond with the number for which claims to compensation have been lodged with the Colonial Commissioners upon the registrar's certificates of the apprentices as they stood on the 1st February 1835.

(signed) William Nicolay, Governor.

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OFFENCES for which PUNISHMENTS have been inflicted on APPRENTICED LABOURERS.

For desertion.

being vagabonds.
 running away.
 indolence at work.
 idleness at ditto.
 negligence at ditto.
 drunkenness.
 selling spirits contrary to law.
 ill treatment of animals, cattle, mules,
 horses, &c.
 leaving hospital without permission
 when a patient.
 leaving post when stationed as watch-
 man (gardien); allowing master's pro-
 perty to be injured or stolen.
 insolence to masters and magistrates.
 disobedience.
 insubordination and exciting others to it.
 meeting.
 threatening overseers, managers and
 masters.

For assaulting and striking, and otherwise
 ill-using wives, children and fellow
 apprentices.
 neglect of children.
 riotous and disorderly conduct at night.
 preferring unfounded complaints against
 masters and fellow apprentices.
 gambling on high roads.
 theft.
 using false keys to open presses, and
 stealing therefrom.
 breaking open comrades' houses, and
 stealing from them.
 swindling, getting things at shops in
 master's name.
 making away with money entrusted to
 them.
 wilful destruction of comrades' property,
 and of master's.

Memorandum.—It has been found by the special justices, and particularly by those of Port Louis, that a great portion of the punishments falls on certain apprentices of profligate habits, who are constantly reappearing before them, and who are but few in number compared with the mass of apprentices under their jurisdiction. The offences they commit are not of a nature to require them to be taken before a higher tribunal, where a heavy sentence would be awarded that would operate their reformation and prove a warning to others. They are callous to the lighter punishments they receive under the special police laws, and continue in their vicious habits to the great injury of themselves and their associates. The Port Louis magistrates say that there are about 100 of incorrigible subjects of this kind in their district, a large portion of whom are women.

(No. 3.)

RETURN of the Names and Number of APPRENTICED LABOURERS who have Purchased the unexpired term of their Apprenticeship between the 1st February 1835 and the 1st February 1836, and the several sums paid for the same.

No.	APPRENTICES.		Ages.	MASTERS.	Sum paid, and whether by Agreement between the Parties or by Estimation.	DATE.
	NAMES.	SURNAMES.				
1	Serahine	L'Endormie	20½	Mr. Alehauwin	40 agreement	8 April 1835
2	Joséphine	Desroches	35	Mr. Duvivier, for his wife	40 by estimation	18 —
3	Lemorongue	Bonne	53	Mrs. Vandermaesen	30 agreement	23 —
4	Rosalie	St. Pierre	39	- - Mr. Dis. Lacoudray, for Mrs. Guiot (absent).	30 by estimation	29 —
5	Sophie	Sophia	39	Mr. A. Sornay	28 agreement	29 —
6	Hypolite	Nauette	34	Ditto	50 —	29 —
7	Aurelie	Lanceé	36	- - Mr. P. Lourneau, for the minors Lecudence.	120 —	2 May —
8	Geneviève	Lacouture	26	Mr. Piétry	40 —	4 —
9	Elodie	Lacouture	11	Ditto	—	—
10	Fifine	Albert	35	- - Mr. Lavoquer, for Mrs. Lemerte (absent).	56 by estimation	4 —
11	Amanda	Scipion	22	Mrs. Ve. Froberville	50 —	13 —
12	Doralie	Jasmin	—	Mr. F. B. Bonsergent	45 —	19 —
13	Augustin	Signole	27	Mr. J. B. Prezelin	80 agreement	26 —
14	Valery	Lambin	36	Mrs. Ve. Suzor	55 —	26 —
15	Jules	Bontemps	22	Mr. Hervé	50 by estimation	1 June —
16	Estelle	Lasage	40	P. Froberville and Co.	50 agreement	5 —
17	Arsene	Phersan	46	Miss Lucette Carré	30 —	15 —
18	Virginie	Baine	30	Mrs. P. Pellegrin	40 —	16 —
19	Azor	Tête de Bois	38	Mrs. St. Romain	—	—
20	Delphine	Sargine	38	Ditto	—	—
21	Jn. Marie	Sargine	15	Ditto	—	—
22	Marie	Aza	9	Ditto	105 —	22 —
23	Louis	Aza	7	Ditto	—	—
24	Francoise	Macambour	49	Miss Eth. Michel	50 —	23 —
25	Zelie	Zinon	26	- - The Baroness D'Unienville.	40 —	24 —
26	Orphise	Desmarais	29	Mrs. Ve. Daruty	30 —	25 —

No.	APPRENTICES.		Ages.	M A S T E R S.	Sum paid, and whether by Agreement between the Parties or by Estimation.	D A T E.
	NAMES.	SURNAMES.				
27	Erodiassé	Julie	21	Miss Rne. Veronge	40 agreement -	27 June 1835.
28	Felix	Membro	—	Mr. Guillard	100 estimation -	29 —
29	Jérôme	Michel	39	Mr. P. Roger	70 agreement -	1 July —
30	Marceline	Toboso	34	Mr. F. Faduille	88 estimation -	3 —
31	Alfred	Toboso	9	Ditto		
32	Numa	Venus	23	Mr. H. F. Vandière	60 agreement -	8 —
33	Théophile	Colte	40	Mr. Jn. Raoult	50 — - -	20 —
34	Florimond	Cateau	8	Mrs. Ve. Darné	8 — - -	23 —
35	Adeline	Alzire	26	Mr. P. Farquharson	50 estimation -	23 —
36	Sélestin	—	—	Mr. Horgue	30 agreement -	27 —
37	Virginie	Boncœur	34	--Miss F. Bellard, repg. Mrs. Ve. Freycinet.	30 — - -	23 —
38	Furcy	Agathe	20	Miss Ethe. Pigeot	50 — - -	4 August —
39	Allain	Toald	45	Mr. B. Chartot	35 estimation -	25 July —
40	Agnes	Laccomaun	17	Mr. A. F. Perrier	50 agreement -	8 August —
41	Jn. Louis	Auguste	35	Mr. H. Letard	60 — - -	3 —
42	Zélia	Tranquille	19	Miss C. Boudret	50 — - -	20 —
43	Félicité	La Boussole	23	Miss E. E. Robertson	50 estimation -	17 —
44	Honorine	Marie	28	Mrs. Ve. Lahaussé	56 — - -	11 —
45	Jenny	Grenade	23	Ditto	52 — - -	11 —
46	Edouard	Charles	29	Mrs. R. Daruty	40 agreement -	25 —
47	Augustin	Tranquille	28	Mr. P. F. Moignac	70 — - -	25 —
48	Florine	Rosette	34	Mrs. S. Walker	20 — - -	25 —
49	Rose	Marie	27	Miss Ple. Grangé	40 estimation -	31 —
50	Félix	Josse	42	Mr. F. Berger	100 agreement -	1 September —
51	Victor	Lubois	27	Mrs. Vve. Daruty	70 — - -	2 —
52	Aurélié	Fabre	28	Miss Laure Laurens	60 estimation -	9 —
53	Leonce	Fabre	6	Ditto		
54	Francois	Joseph	45	Mr. Ante. Bestel	60 agreement -	31 August —
55	Théodore	L'Effronté	24	Mrs. Vve. Blanchard	40 — - -	10 September —
56	Fanny	Adeline	17	Mr. P. Beauvils	50 — - -	17 —
57	Victor	Rosette	21	Mrs. Barclay	50 — - -	16 —
58	Jeannot	Jean	63	Mr. Kpern and Mrs. G. Deville	50 estimation -	15 —
59	Desiré	Frequette	34	Mrs. Vve. Labolière	60 agreement -	11 —
60	Augustine	Gertrude	16	Mrs. Martindale	30 — - -	18 —
61	Adolphe	Fonta	36	Mrs. Saulnier	45 — - -	15 —
62	Jne. Delphine	Gregoire	—	Mrs. Vve. Lahaussé	50 estimation -	22 —
63	Frederick	Laurent	20	Mlle. A. Jollivet	60 agreement -	23 —
64	Silvie	Renaud	18	Mr. T. Lavergne	60 estimation -	29 —
65	Alexandrine	Marie	—	Miss J. Despagnac	50 — - -	1 October —
66	Noel Damon	Marie	—	Ditto		
67	Julienne	Pellegrin	54	Mrs. Ve. Beguinot	24 — - -	10 —
68	Amédée	Julienne	15	Mrs. Ve. Lahaussé	40 — - -	13 —
69	Joséphine	Basset	18	Mr. Ct. Galdemar	30 agreement -	13 —
70	Zelime	Agathe	27	{Mr. Lequitte, repg. the son of the late Mrs. Lequitte - }	50 — - -	16 —
71	Prosper	Agathe	10			
72	Fidèle	Colin	40	Mr. A. Rolando	60 — - -	20 —
73	Aurélié	Fauvette	23	Mrs. Ve. Szeville Doger	50 — - -	27 —
74	Toinette	Cédipe	36	Mrs. Desylva	28 — - -	28 —
75	Adelaide	Cédipe	—	Ditto		
76	César	Louis	59	Miss Francoise Panon	90 — - -	3 November —
77	Cecile	Louis	35	Ditto		
78	Adèle	Reine	25	Ditto		
79	Eliza	Yacinthe	26	Mr. Chs. Pitot	50 — - -	3 —
80	Adelaide	Rose	39	Mrs. Ve. Leries	130 estimation -	3 —
81	Ophélie	Rose	18	Ditto		
82	Maurice	Rose	16	Ditto	30 agreement -	9 —
83	Felicia	François	19	-- Mr. A. Duhamel, for the Suc ^{on} Duhamel.		
84	Mimi	Louise	22	Mrs. Fodéré	50 — - -	14 —
85	Victorine	Berthide	—	Mr. C. O'Sughrue	30 estimation -	16 —
86	Lisette	Rapouza	16	Miss Jne. Mle. Rose	30 agreement -	16 —
87	Aly	Jardin	61	Mr. J. Barry	10 — - -	18 —
88	Casimir	Braue	43	Mrs. J. L. D. Margane	30 — - -	24 —
89	Virginie	Rose	39	Pre. Romieu St. Aubin	40 estimation -	25 —
90	Josephine	Briseraison	22	Mr. H. Gérard Ardé	50 agreement -	26 —
91	Marie	Adeline	17	Miss H. Lacour	48 — - -	1 December —
92	Louise	Lamoureux	20	Mrs. Romefort	34 estimation -	3 —
93	Philogene	Rebecca	25	Mr. J. Camoin	40 agreement -	7 —
94	Josephine	Lollette	—	Mr. J. Lemoirt	40 — - -	9 October —
95	Baptiste	L'Entété	33	Mr. A. A. Labistour	60 — - -	8 December —
96	Alexis	Russie	28	Miss B. Diore	40 — - -	10 —
97	Pie. Louis	M. Julienne	43	Mr. F. Rondeaux	20 — - -	16 November —

No.	APPRENTICES.		Ages.	MASTERS.	Sum paid, and whether by Agreement between the Parties or by Estimation.	DATE.
	NAMES.	SURNAMES.				
98	Coradin -	Thomas -	49	Mrs. Giraud -	40 agreement -	22 December 1835.
99	Emile -	Rosette -	16	Mr. P. Lagesse -	45 — - - -	23 —
100	Gustave -	Rosette -	20	Ditto -	45 — - - -	23 —
101	Chiffon -	Tata -	32	Miss Ge. Legoy -	40 — - - -	24 —
102	Aurore -	Venus -	17	Mr. H. F. Vaudriere -	60 — - - -	28 —
103	Alexis -	Louise -	8	Mr. P. Collard -	18 estimation -	28 —
104	Charlotte -	Lacorbine -	18	Mrs. C. Mariette -	40 — - - -	29 —
105	Clarice -	Claire -	43	Mrs. P. Allard -	66 agreement -	29 —
106	Eucharice -	Claire -	13	Ditto -		
107	Clarice -	Ladouce -	—	Succ ^{on} Lachiche -	60 estimation -	6 August —
108	Leonce -	Ladouce -		Mr. Lomet -	85 — - - -	9 June —
109	Janvier -	Sultan -	—	Suc ^{on} Gaillardon -	30 — - - -	3 September —
110	Frédéric -	Marie -	—	Suc ^{on} Lachiche -	30 — - - -	6 January 1836
111	Caroline -	Ladouce -	—	Ditto -	39 — - - -	
112	Euranie -	Ladouce -	—	Suc ^{on} A. Lefèvre -	64 — - - -	1 —
113	Virginie -	Cybelle -	—			
114	Chery -	Cybelle -	—	Mr. Castera -	40 agreement -	9 —
115	Constance -	Aza -	46	Mrs. Virieux -	40 — - - -	12 —
116	Carolie -	Alerte -	23	Mr. P. Jaubert -	14 — - - -	14 —
117	Hélène -	La France -	33	Mr. G. Raffray -	60 — - - -	20 —
118	Gervais -	Le Bon -	28	Mr. Périchou -	25 estimation -	26 —
119	Philo -	Philoctète -	59	Mrs. Tarnee -	26 agreement -	27 —
120	Augustine -	Jeanne -	16	Mr. H. F. Vandiere -	15 — - - -	28 —
121	Theodore -	Venus -	11	Mr. B. Lemasson -	40 — - - -	29 —
122	Lse. Elizabeth -	Eulalie -	—	Miss H. Laval -	30 — - - -	30 —
123	Thérésé -	Lisse -	35	Ditto -		
124	Ursule -	Lisse -	18	The minors Brun -	50 — - - -	18 November 1835
125	Zelime -	Emilie -	39	Mr. le Millieu -	37 12s. — - -	20 December —
126	Geneviève -	Marcelle -	38	Ditto -	10 — - - -	20 —
127	Ernest -	Flora -	7	Widow Dayot -	30 — - - -	10 November —
128	Mle. Charlotte -	Fidèle -	25			

Colonial Secretary's Office, Port Louis,
22 February 1836.

(signed) *George F. Dick,*
Colonial Secretary.

N.B. During the same period 122 Apprentices have been liberated gratuitously from their term of apprenticeship; and 10 have obtained entire freedom from having been in England.

On the 1st February 1836, there were in progress 29 acts of liberation by purchase, and 67 gratuitously.

(Circular.)

(No. 4.)

To the Special Justices.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Port Louis,
30 January 1835.

Sir,

His Excellency the Governor directs me to transmit to you your commission as special justice, and his general instructions for your guidance, together with a copy (in French) of the Act of Parliament, and a book in which you are to record your proceedings.

You have already been furnished with a copy of the Local Ordinances, No. 11, of 1834, and No. 1, of 1835, as well as of the Governor's proclamation to the slave population on the approaching change of their condition, which his Excellency wishes you to take every convenient opportunity of explaining to the Blacks.

You are thus in possession of the principles by which your conduct is to be regulated, and of his Excellency's views generally as to the mode of carrying them into execution; but the filling up of the more minute points of detail can only be the result of practice and experience.

In the meantime, the Governor desires me to acquaint you that your salary will be the same as fixed by the Act of Parliament, and that the Council of Government, in consideration of the smallness of the sum, has added 72 *l.* annually for house-rent, where you are not provided with quarters at the public expense, together with 48 *l.* for providing you with the means of conveyances throughout your section, in order that there may be no impediment to the zealous and effective discharge of your duty.

A.

By your commission you have a general superintendence throughout your district, on which subject further instructions will be conveyed to you hereafter.

B.

His Excellency directs me further to intimate to you that the situation must be viewed by you as purely provisional, and as such giving no claim for compensation on your ceasing to fill it from any cause whatever.

District A.

And you will also understand that you are not to quit your _____ without having received the Governor's permission, and arranged with one of the other justices to do the urgent duty during your absence.

Section B.

I have, &c.

(signed) *G. F. Dick,* Colonial Secretary.

(Circular.)

To the Special Justice for

Sir,

Government House, 30 January 1835.

1. HAVING appointed you to be the special justice of peace for the section of the district of ———, I have now to convey to you some general instructions for your guidance in the discharge of your duty.

2. The late period at which the Order of His Majesty in Council, bearing date the 17th September 1834, arrived here, will prevent its publication in time to be acted upon by the 1st of February; and the Local Ordinances, No. 11, of 1834, and No. 1, of 1835, passed by the Governor in Council, will be the law for the apprentice system until the Order of His Majesty in Council shall be duly promulgated in the colony.

3. In principle, these laws are the same, and the differences in the details not generally material; indeed, the chief distinction seems to be, that the Local Ordinances are more full and explanatory in their details, and therefore, by making yourself intimately acquainted with their provisions, you cannot fail to understand, and to be well prepared to put in execution, the Order of the King in Council whenever it shall be published here. And as an intimate knowledge of the laws under which you are to act is a primary duty with you, I cannot too strongly impress upon your mind the necessity of deep and earnest attention in the study of the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Colonial Slavery, and of the Ordinances passed to give it effect.

4. The success of this new system, involving as it does a vital change in the constitution of colonial society, will depend principally upon the activity, energy and temper with which the special justices may execute their duties at the commencement of this great change.

5. Constant visits to the estates and establishments within your section, with summary investigation on the spot, accompanied, in every practicable instance, by a prompt decision on the case there, will be the surest means of enabling you to administer justice in the spirit designed by the Legislature, and to the advantage and general satisfaction of those concerned, thereby assuring, as far as possible, the success of the grand and noble experiment of general emancipation.

6. In the course of these visits, it should be your endeavour to acquire an accurate and intimate knowledge of the characters and dispositions of the inhabitants of your section, masters as well as apprentices, and of the prevailing habits and customs of all ranks of the population. You will find that by understanding and working upon the innocent prejudices of the different classes, which can only be effected by an intimate knowledge of their language and habits, much good may often be done without having recourse to the execution of the laws. And it is scarcely necessary for me to impress upon you, that whatever reform in the morals and behaviour of the lower orders can be brought about by persuasion and conviction, will be much more lasting in its effects, and more productive of general benefit, than that which is the result of coercion.

7. The necessity for the greatest activity, zeal and temper, should be instilled into the minds of the police guards; and they should be made distinctly to understand, that any deficiency in these respects, or any acts of a more serious nature, such as drunkenness, insubordination, &c. will render their continuance in the public service impossible. The men selected for this service are generally acquainted with local customs and habits; and, as much as possible, only persons of good character will be admitted into the special police force. It will require your constant care and attention to preserve due discipline, and a proper respectability of conduct, among the police guards, as that is most important to their usefulness, and the efficient discharge of their duty, particularly in regard to their moral influence with the apprentices.

8. It is very desirable that a proportion of them should be continually patrolling the section, and that, on their return to the station, they should report what they have observed during their walks; and any occurrences of importance should be noted down in writing, specifying particularly all the estates they may have visited during each patrol. And as a check on them, in regard to the accuracy of such reports, you should, at your subsequent visits to the estates mentioned, make inquiry into the truth of the guards having been there, and of the circumstances connected with it, reported by him.

9. By law, you are required to visit each estate having 10 apprentices, or upwards, once in 10 days; but it is by no means intended by this regulation to limit your visits to that class of estates, to the exclusion of those having a smaller number of apprentices, or that your appearances on the larger properties should be limited to the number of times prescribed by law; on the contrary, it is most necessary that you should, as often as your other duties will allow, call at the smaller establishments, and increase your visits to the larger, whenever time will permit, or your presence be called for by the information you receive from your guards, or may obtain from any other quarter.

10. Your special duty is the administration of justice with the strictest impartiality between masters and apprentices; but abstract impartiality will lose its effect unless it be accompanied by temperance of language, calmness of deportment, and firmness of purpose; and it will, therefore, be especially incumbent on you to be habitually guarded in your communications with them, and deliberate in pronouncing your judgments, if you expect that they should have weight either with the apprentices or their masters.

11. From the whole tenor of the Act of Parliament, and the discussions to which the question of slavery has given rise, both in and out of Parliament, it is evident that idleness, drunkenness and theft are the conspicuous defects of the Negro character; and in

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working for a successful issue to the grand experiment of general emancipation, these faults must be watched and guarded against with as much anxiety and attention as more serious vices and crimes.

12. It is therefore essential that you should, on all occasions, inculcate on the minds of the apprentices the necessity of, and the moral obligation to industry; and by the most prompt and energetic repression of all disposition to idleness, demonstrate to the apprentices that it will inevitably and immediately bring its punishment with it; on the other hand every encouragement should be given to those who are industriously disposed; and in your communications with the masters you should endeavour to obtain from them such indulgences for the diligent and well-behaved apprentices as may show them that their conduct has been noticed and approved, and will be rewarded. By these means it is hoped not only that the apprentices will be stimulated to industry, but that they will gradually learn to comprehend and appreciate the advantages of good conduct and the value of private character; to which in their state of slavery they have generally been comparatively indifferent, from not feeling that the subsistence of themselves and their families depended on their individual good behaviour.

13. And here I may remark, that it is very desirable to encourage the employment of the apprentices during their extra hours, on the estates to which they respectively belong, as it will tend to render them more steady and domestic in their habits, and to wean them from that disposition to change and roving about but too common among the lower orders here. In your intercourse, therefore, with the masters, you should endeavour to induce them to make permanent arrangements for this purpose, and at the same time inculcate upon the apprentices that it is for their own advantage, as well as a duty to their master, to give him the benefit of their additional labour, when he offers adequate remuneration, as provided by art. 19, sect. 3, chap. 5, of Ordinance No. 1, of 1835.

14. From the information that has reached me of the nature of the complaints of the slaves, I find that a large proportion of them originate in food and clothing, and as it is not improbable that the complaints of the apprentices may proceed also in a great degree from these two causes, you will be pleased to inculcate on the masters the strictest attention to the enactments of the law on these heads, and the utmost regularity in the supply of them, to save themselves as well as you much useless trouble and discussion. You will take occasion, in the course of your periodical visits, to satisfy yourself as to the quality of the articles of food; and with regard to clothing, it would prove a great preventive of complaints if you could arrange with the different masters that you could inspect the apprentices half-yearly with it on, and early after its delivery to them.

15. From the disproportion in the sexes, the mixed state of the population, and the deficiency of moral education, marriages among the lower orders are little known here, and the necessity of them, as establishing a sacred tie and religious obligation, is but imperfectly understood; it is therefore my wish that you should take every opportunity of encouraging settled unions among the apprentices, and regular marriages where they comprehend the solemn obligation it imposes. To facilitate this object, an Ordinance (No.) lately passed, provides that no fee shall be payable on the marriage of apprentices.

In many instances the reputed husband and wife live on different estates, and it may occasionally happen that one or both of the masters may not be disposed to admit of the unrestricted intercourse of the parties by allowing them free admission on their respective estates. In every such instance it will be your duty to inquire into the characters of the apprentices concerned, and if you find them deserving of the favour, to use your influence with the master or masters to grant them permission mutually to visit each other, subject, of course, to a compliance with the rules and regulations for the management of the estates to which the apprentices may respectively belong.

The authority of parents and the obedience of children are very equivocal among that class of the population about to become apprentices, and it is therefore highly expedient, whenever the opportunity may offer, that you should inculcate the importance of these duties, and of the faithful and affectionate discharge of them; for upon the proper understanding and practice of the reciprocal duties of parent and child will depend, in a great measure hereafter, the behaviour of these persons as members of society. It is likewise the basis of all government, and is the first training of the youthful citizen to the exercise of civil rights and legal obedience.

If the parents be impressed with a due sense of their authority and privileges, and with feelings of responsibility for the exercise of them in a kind and affectionate manner, they will easily understand the use of power in a superior, and will be able to estimate goodness shown to an inferior; and if the child be early taught obedience and constant respect to parents, he will readily comprehend the necessity of submission to legal restraints, and of reverence for those who are in authority over him. By such means the rising generation may be so far advanced in the practice of their duties as members of the community, that in a few years no trace of the existence of slavery will probably be found in the conduct and habits of those who are about to be delivered from it.

It is provided by the Act of Parliament that the apprentices shall have full liberty of worship, but from the deficiency of churches in the colony, it has been found necessary to make provision against the misapplication of this most important privilege, as you will see by article 13, sec. 3, c. 5, of Ordinance, No. 1, of 1835. And as from the same cause it is urgently required that provision should be made for imparting religious and moral instruction to the apprentices, particularly to the children, I would wish you early to concert with the masters respecting the means of performing divine worship regularly on Sunday on each estate, and of having morning and evening prayers read during the week, whenever it

it can be done conveniently, a practice which I understand has been adopted already on several habitations in the windward districts.

It being found as yet impracticable, except to a very limited extent, to provide proper places for regular police establishments with prisons attached to them, as anticipated by the law, I am compelled to have recourse to other places of confinement which may be duly authorized by me on your report; and it will therefore be your duty carefully to examine the several places proposed for confinement on the different estates in your section, and to be particularly watchful and attentive to the treatment of the prisoners detained in them. But you will find likewise by the local Ordinance, No. 1, of 1835, that power is given to the special justices to commute imprisonment for extra service, a facility which I cannot too strongly recommend to your attentive consideration for all cases not of criminal offence, as tending most effectually to meet the views of His Majesty's Government in regard to inculcating habits of labour on the apprentice, whilst it preserves him from the contamination of evil associates whom he would be sure to meet with in a public prison, or even in a penal gang.

By clause 13 of the "dispositions générales" in Ordinance, No. 1, a discretionary power is vested provisionally in the special justices to send prisoners condemned to imprisonment with hard labour to Port Louis to undergo their punishments, and when of long duration, this may be had recourse to; but where limited to a few days, the means of carrying the sentence into effect will probably be found within the district.

The law has likewise provided that whenever circumstances may require it, you may apply for and obtain the assistance of the whole public force of the district, including of course that of the general police; and I have to add, that the officers commanding the King's troops at the different stations in the island will be prepared to render you every assistance, on receiving a requisition from you to that effect; you will however not resort to this measure except in cases of the most urgent necessity, and which I confidently anticipate will not occur.

With regard to the general police establishment, much benefit will result from a mutual good understanding between you and the officers of that department in the district, and which it is therefore my wish should be assiduously cultivated by both for reciprocal advantage, and the good of the public service.

Your communications with me will be carried on through the Colonial Secretary. All extraordinary occurrences, particularly in the outset of the new system, are to be reported to him for my information at your earliest convenience, and whatever information you may require in the discharge of your duty will be furnished by him.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Wm. Nicolay.*

(Circular.)

Colonial Secretary's Office, Port Louis,
13 February 1835.

To the Superintending Special Justices of Pamplémousses, Rivière du Rampart, Flacq, Grand Port, Savanna and Black River; and Special Justices of Plaines Wilhems, Moka and Seychelles.

Sir,

His Excellency the Governor directs me to acquaint you, that until permanent arrangements can be made for feeding the prisoners in the several districts, the assistant commissary-general has been instructed to place at your disposal a quantity of rice, and fire-wood for cooking it, and proper pots, in order that the prisoners under your charge may be regularly supplied with food.

The rice and fire-wood will have to be accounted for; and you will be pleased, therefore, to give directions to your serjeant to be careful in his issues.

The prison ration to be one pound of rice for each individual not employed in any labour.

Oil has been also ordered to be sent for the use of the guards on duty at night.

I take this opportunity of requesting that you will furnish me with a nominal return of the serjeants and guards attached to you, with the days on which they respectively entered on duty.

I have, &c.
(signed) *G. F. Dick*, Colonial Secretary.

(Circular.)

To the Superintending Special Justices.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Port Louis,
23 February 1835.

Sir,

It being desirable that the special justices of the respective sections of districts should fix on different days of the week as their day of audience, I have his Excellency's directions to request you will so arrange it with the special justices of your district that their days may be separate, and that the audiences of any two be not fixed for the same day.

I have, &c.
(signed) *G. F. Dick*, Colonial Secretary.

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(Circular.)

To the Special Justices.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Port Louis,
2 March 1835.

Sir,

A REFERENCE having been made to the Procureur and Advocate-general on a question which has arisen, viz. How far it may legally rest with the special justices of the districts to attend to the wish of any apprentice who, with the consent of his master, may be desirous of being placed in any other class than that in which he is enrolled on the books of the slave registry? I have been directed to acquaint you, for your information and guidance in this matter, that such an arrangement would be entirely at variance with the fourth clause of the Slavery Abolition Act, under which the classification of the apprentice is declared to be dependent, not on the will of the parties, even where all are agreed, but on the nature of the work on which each apprentice has been employed for a fixed and determined period prior to the passing of the Act. Once made up on this basis and finally closed, the lists then fix irrevocably the condition of each apprentice. If a non-prædial is desirous of working as a prædial apprentice, an agreement to this effect may be entered into between him and his master, under the superintendence of the special justice, who in such a case will have additional motives for satisfying himself that the consent of the apprentice has been fully and freely given, after due reflection on his part. But in this, as in all other conventions between the master and apprentice, the engagement can only be made for the space of one year.

I have, &c.

(signed) *G. F. Dick*, Colonial Secretary.

(Circular.)

To the Special Justices.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Port Louis,
4 March 1835.

Sir,

THE attention of his Excellency the Governor having been specially drawn to the means of providing for the maintenance of children under the 13th section of the Slavery Abolition Act, and viewing the question as one of high importance, I have been directed to state to you, that taking into consideration the long period of servitude which that apprenticeship will entail, his Excellency conceives that the circumstances of each case should be carefully inquired into, and well considered, before the special justice gives his sanction to the apprenticing of children till the age of 21. His Excellency has desired me to observe generally, that where mothers are capable and desirous of maintaining their children themselves, they ought to be encouraged to a perseverance in those habits of industry which will naturally accompany their desire to provide for their offspring; but where children may not be properly supported by their parents, and are in consequence exposed to suffering from the want of such support, and if you are thoroughly convinced of their entire inability to maintain their offspring, apprenticeship may then be had recourse to, as the provision which the law has made for their maintenance in such a contingency.

His Excellency has heard, with satisfaction, that in the same instances the parents have made an agreement with the masters to give a certain portion of extra labour in proportion to the number of their children, the master providing for them as heretofore. Such an arrangement appears to his Excellency to be an eligible one, and to be deserving of encouragement throughout the colony.

I have, &c.

(signed) *G. F. Dick*, Colonial Secretary.

(Circular.)

To the Special Justices.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Port Louis,
20 April 1835.

Sir,

HIS Excellency the Governor having referred to the Procureur and Advocate-general the question of the formalities to be observed for effecting the enfranchisement of apprentices, who with the consent of their masters or mistresses have been in England, I have been directed to acquaint you, that although the Order of the King in Council does not subject to any formalities any apprentices who may have a right to claim their liberty under the 3d section of the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery, it nevertheless appears desirable in the interest of all parties, that the course of proceeding in such cases should be distinctly laid down; and his Excellency has therefore approved of the following as the formalities to be observed in such cases.

Apprentices who may be entitled to the benefit of the section of the Act above recited, shall appear before the special justice of the district, and lay before him the proofs on which their claim to liberty is founded. The special justice shall therefore call before him the person in possession of the claimant, in order that he may satisfy himself of the truth of the

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the facts set forth. If such facts are not disputed, the special justice may deliver an act declaratory of the freedom of the individual in virtue of the 3d section of the Act of Parliament, which said act of liberty should, like all other acts of liberation from the term of apprenticeship, be subject to registry in the registers of the supreme court; but should it so happen that the sojourn in England of the apprentice may be disputed, the consideration of the question in such a case will not be within the competence of the special justices, but will appertain to the ordinary tribunals.

I have, &c.
(signed) *G. F. Dick*, Colonial Secretary.

MAURITIUS.

(Circular.)

To the Superintending Special Justices and Special Justices of Districts.

Sir,

Colonial Secretary's Office, 9 Oct. 1835.

THE 1st, 11th & 12th clauses of c. 4 of His Majesty's Order in Council of the 17th Sept. 1834, requiring that certain declarations should be made to the special magistrates by all masters having prædial apprentices in their employ, with regard to the mode of provisioning them during the 12 months following, and that all those omitting or neglecting to make such declarations, should be subject to the penalties therein laid down, I have been directed by the Governor to state to you, that as it never has been the usage in this colony to make allotments of land to slaves or apprentices to be cultivated by them for their subsistence, the proclamation of the 2d of April last, issued in virtue of the power conferred on the Governor under the 5th clause of the 4th chap. of the Order in Council, was limited to fixing the nature and quantity of the various articles of which the daily rations of the apprentices ought to be composed, and that it was not for these reasons thought necessary that any local law should be made for regulating the hours to be allowed to the apprentices for the cultivation of the grounds which might be allotted to them.

2. Considering it therefore probable that the masters of apprentices are impressed with the belief that the Proclamation of the 2d April last is a modification of the provisions of the Order in Council, in as far as they relate to the subsistence of the apprentices, and that it comprises all the obligation of the master under that head, his Excellency conceives that the penalties of the law cannot be applied, and you will accordingly consider yourself authorized to dispense with the declaration required by the 1st article of the 4th chap. of the Order in Council aforesaid. But in case it should happen that since that mode of provisioning their apprentices has been brought to the knowledge of their masters, any of them may have availed themselves of it, his Excellency desires that you will make careful and minute inquiry into the subject, and report to me for his information whether any inhabitants of the section under your superintendence has made allotments of land to his apprentices to be cultivated by them for their own subsistence.

I have, &c.
(signed) *G. F. Dick*, Colonial Secretary.

— No. 294. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *William Nicolay* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Mauritius, 23 April 1836.

WITH reference to your Lordship's Circular Despatch of the 12th July last, I have the honour to forward herewith, returns A. and B. of the number and effect of the returns of punishments received by me from the special magistrates of this island, for the month of January last.

A return similar to document A, but embracing the whole of 1835, was transmitted with my Despatch, No. 21, of 29th February last; in reference to which document, I deemed it proper to call the attention of the special justices to the apparently large amount of punishment which is exhibited.

From the replies, and from the records of the justices, it is to be gathered, that certain hardened offenders are repeatedly brought before them, thereby tending to swell the list of punishments inflicted; whilst the number of apprentices habituated to the commission of crime is, proportionally, much less considerable.

Inclosed I transmit the reply of the special justice of Port Louis, the most populous part of the island, merely as a sample of the general substance of the reports of the others.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Nicolay*.

No. 294.

(A.)
(B.)Circular,
2d March 1836.
Capt. Weir,
5 March 1836

TABLE (B.)
GENERAL RESULTS.

Total Number of Apprentices throughout the Island, Province or Government.	Total Number of Punishments inflicted under the Authority of Special Magistrates throughout the same.	Proportion per Cent. of Punishments to Apprentices.	Total Number of Males punished.		Total Number of Females punished.	The Average Number of Stripes inflicted in cases of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum Number of Stripes inflicted in any one case of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum of Severity in any one case of Punishment by Confinement.	The Maximum of Severity in any other mode of Punishment.
			By Whipping.	Otherwise than by Whipping.					
54,276	1,332	2½	535	462	335	18½	39	3 months -	4 - 3 months' hard labour; 1 ditto to sleep in the stocks; 7 ditto, 16 days extra service; half wages forfeited; robe of disgrace.

William Nicolay.

To the Special Justices, Port Louis.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Port Louis,
2 March 1836.

Gentlemen,

AN analysis of your journals for the year 1835 having been made by order of his Excellency the Governor, for the purpose of being laid before the House of Commons, I have the honour, by his direction, now to transmit an extract of the results.

And as the proportion of punishments appears large, his Excellency would be glad to receive from you such explanation on the point as you may have it in your power to offer.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Geo. F. Dick,*
Colonial Secretary.

EXTRACT of the Journals of the Special Justices of Port Louis.

Total number of punishments inflicted -	-	-	-	-	-	4,377
— of males punished by whipping	-	-	-	-	-	2,895
— of ditto otherwise	-	-	-	-	-	313
— of females punished	-	-	-	-	-	1,169

Sir,

Port Louis, 5 March 1836.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your letter, under date the 2d instant, on the subject of the number of punishments inflicted on apprentices during the year 1835. In reply, I beg to state, that though the number appears large, it is entirely confined to about 300 apprentices, of which about 150 are no sooner discharged from the Bagne than they maroon, and, on apprehension, are again presented before us. There are some who, except when they are fortunate enough to escape arrestation for a time, are here three and even four times in a month, on account of short acts of maroonage or vagabondage, and generally they are apprehended immediately in consequence of their characters being well known to our police guards.

It is a well-known fact, that in all large towns there are a greater number of depraved characters than would be found among a population much more numerous residing in the country; and, unfortunately, a few proprietors, anxious to get rid of their bad characters, of whom nothing can be made on their estates, give permission to many to hire themselves in town; and, so as the money is paid, the means by which it is obtained is little thought of by some who are entitled to the services of apprentices.

It would appear that there were 4,377 punishments during the year 1835; I have little doubt that at least 3,500 out of that number are attributable to marooning.

We have before us this day the 644th maroon since the commencement of this year, and his Excellency will see by this what proportion are punished for this offence.

We very seldom indeed now see a new face as a culprit; nearly all the complaints preferred against apprentices being confined to those who are already well known to us.

I avail myself of this opportunity to repeat my firm conviction of the great advantage to be derived to the public, and to the individuals themselves, by the Governor's sanction being given to the employment in the dependencies of some of the very bad characters among the apprentices. They will be removed from temptation; the colony will get rid of persons who do not work, inflict much misery on their masters, steal, and join in every sort of mischief, while it will benefit by their employment in the small islands, where labour is in great demand. The apprentices will, after a time, if we may judge by former cases, return reformed characters, and become useful members of society, instead of continuing, as they now are, its pest.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Weir,*
Superintending Special Magistrate.

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— No. 295. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. M. MacGregor*, Bart. to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, dated Government-House, Antigua, 29 August 1834.

I DO myself the honour of forwarding, by the present opportunity, transcripts of bills for this Island, passed by the Council and Assembly, and assented to by me, in the months of July and August last, viz.

“An Act for the punishment of idle and disorderly persons, rogues and vagabonds, incorrigible rogues and other vagabonds in this Island.”

In the altered state of the Island, after the 1st day of August next, when a general emancipation is to take place, it was deemed necessary to prevent idle and profligate characters from roaming through the colony, and compelling them, if possible, to resort to industrious habits for support. This Act was framed on those principles, as well as to repress vice and immorality, and is intended to operate as similar Acts in the mother country.

“An Act for the establishment and regulation of a market in the town of St. John, and for regulating the sale of various commodities throughout the Island.”

No. 295.

Vide Appendix,
No. 117.*Vide Appendix,*
No. 118.

— No. 296. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of *Aberdeen* to Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 27 December 1834.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 29th October last, leaving to their operation the Acts passed by the legislature of Antigua in the months of July and August last.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Aberdeen.*

No. 296.

Vide Appendix,
No. 117 & 118.

— No. 297. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart. to Mr. Secretary *Spring Rice*, dated Government-House, Antigua, 22 December 1834.

I DO myself the honour of forwarding transcript of a Bill passed by the legislature of this Island, viz.

“An Act for more effectually preventing the purchase of stolen iron, copper, lead and brass in this Island; and for repealing sundry laws at present in force in the said island relative thereto.”

No. 297.

Vide Appendix,
No. 119.

— No. 298. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of *Aberdeen* to Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 27 February 1835.

AN Act passed in the Island of Antigua, in the month of November last, for preventing the purchase of stolen goods, contains a clause (No. 4) which subjects to very severe punishment any person found in possession of any iron, copper, lead or brass, who shall not be able to prove to the satisfaction of the magistrate before whom the complaint may be lodged in the first instance, or in the event of a trial, to the satisfaction of the court and jury, by what means such articles

No. 298.

Vide Appendix,
No. 119.

ANTIGUA. articles came into his possession, or show some reasonable cause to induce a belief that he was lawfully possessed of them.

This enactment unavoidably suggests the remark, that there can scarcely be a single householder, nor, indeed, many adult inhabitants in the island, who might not be found in possession of some of the enumerated metals, either wrought or unwrought, without having the power to prove, or even to recollect, how they first came into their keeping. Whether such persons would be able to show reasonable cause, inducing a belief that the possession was lawful, must depend upon the uncertain and fluctuating opinions of successive magistrates, judges and jurymen. The rigour of the enactment will, therefore, in most cases, and in ordinary times, defeat itself; and innocent persons will usually find, in public opinion, an effectual protection against the undue severity of the legislature. Anticipating, therefore, no immediate injury to anyone from this law, I have not thought it incumbent on me to recommend to His Majesty in Council the disallowance on this ground of an Act, which in other respects appears unexceptionable. But, on the other hand, believing that such legislation tends to deprive the law of its proper character of a fixed rule of action, and to render it the ready instrument of caprice, of momentary excitement and of personal prejudices, and that the multitude, who estimate their own legal obligations, not by what is written in the statute book, but by what is passing about them, may thus be often betrayed into a fatal snare, I cannot think that a penal enactment so directly involving some evident injustice ought to be accepted on the calculation that it will be permitted habitually to slumber. For this reason the decision of His Majesty in Council on this Act will be suspended, until you shall have suggested to the Council and Assembly the expediency of defining, with greater precision, an offence against which penalties of so much rigour have been denounced, and until I shall have learned the result of that recommendation.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Aberdeen.*

— No. 299. —

No. 299. COPY of a DESPATCH from *Lord Glenelg* to *Sir E. J. M. MacGregor, Bart.*

Sir,

Downing-street, 14 May 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 23d ult., disallowing an Act passed by the Legislature of Antigua in the month of December last, for regulating special contracts between labourers and their employers, &c.; accompanied by an extract from a Report of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Foreign Plantations, explaining the grounds upon which His Majesty was advised by their Lordships to disallow the same.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

(Enclosure in No. 299.)

Enclosure in
No. 299.

EXTRACT from REPORT of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, recommending the disallowance of Antigua Act for regulating Special Contracts between Labourers and their Employers, &c.

BECAUSE it needlessly interferes with the free competition for wages on the one hand, and for labour on the other.

— No. 300. —

No. 300. COPY of a DESPATCH from *Sir E. J. M. MacGregor, Bart.* to *Lord Glenelg.*

My Lord,

Government House, Antigua, 14 July 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's despatch of the 14th of May last, intimating that His Majesty had been advised to disallow the Act of this legislature "for regulating special contracts between labourers and their employers," &c., and herewith to forward copies of communications between the Council and

Nos. 1, 2, 3.

23 April.
Vide Papers printed
by Order of the
House of Commons,
10 June 1835, 278,
two pages 34 & 305.

and Assembly and myself, and of a report of a joint committee, indicative of the principles on which, in the opinion of the two houses, any other enactment on this important subject should hereafter be framed.

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

Enclosures in No. 300.

(No. 1.)

His Excellency the Governor to His Honour the President and Council.

YOUR honourable board is informed that an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 23d of April, has been received by the Governor from Lord Glenelg, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, disallowing an Act passed by the legislature of this island, entitled "An Act for regulating special contracts between labourers and their employers, and enforcing a strict observance of such contracts," the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Foreign Plantations, stating, as the grounds upon which His Majesty was advised to disallow the said Act, that it "needlessly interferes with the competition for wages on the one hand, and for labour on the other."

Enclosures in
No. 300.

Government House, St. John's, (signed) *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Governor.
2 July 1835.

(No. 2.)

Sir,

WE have received the directions of the board of council and house of assembly to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's communication of the 2d instant, acquainting them that His Majesty had been advised to disallow the Act of this Island for "regulating special contracts between labourers and their employers, and enforcing a strict observance of such contracts, as needlessly interfering with the free competition for wages on the one hand, and for labour on the other." And we have been desired to take the opportunity of transmitting to your Excellency, with a request that it may be laid before His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, the copy of a report of a joint committee of the two houses on this most important subject, and which is indicative of the principles on which, in the opinion of the two houses, any other enactment should hereafter be framed.

14 July 1835.

We have, &c.
(signed) *Samuel Warner*, President.
Nicholas Nugent, Speaker.

(No. 3.)

WE the Joint Committee of the Council and Assembly, appointed to consider and report upon the subject matter of the despatch, which has recently been received by his Excellency the Governor from the Right Hon. the Earl of Aberdeen, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated the 28th February last, have read his Lordship's strictures on our law for regulating hirings in husbandry with great surprise and chagrin.

We are not prepared to admit the propriety of those strictures. The particular enactments to which they relate, whatever may be their real character, are, with very few exceptions, the offspring of the noble Secretary's own department; and if there be anything connected with them, for which the legislature of this colony can be justly reproached, it must be its having too implicitly relied on the good faith of His Majesty's Government, when it availed itself of the Earl of Ripon's invitation to adopt them.

We trust that the Council and Assembly will always entertain with becoming respect any observations that the colonial minister may feel it his duty to offer for their consideration. It is his undoubted right to advise, and assign his reasons for advising the King, to disallow any Acts that may be passed by the legislatures of the chartered colonies; but we submit that it ought to be invariably exerted with sound discretion, and a scrupulous regard to the privileges of those independent bodies. When viewed in all its bearings, in this momentous crisis of the fate of this colony, this right would, moreover, appear to be of too serious a complexion to admit of delegation in the ordinary routine of office, as an intemperate or injudicious exercise of it towards us, (grounded on false theories and erroneous impressions, derived from either impure or imperfect sources,) must infallibly frustrate our present anxious endeavours to give security to property, and preserve the revenues of the Crown unimpaired, by keeping all classes of the inhabitants within their proper sphere, under the common operation of salutary and constitutional laws.

When these colonies were settled, it was declared by the British Parliament that the local legislature should not be at liberty to make laws repugnant to those of the parent state; from which we conceive it may fairly be deduced that, while those legislatures continue to observe the spirit and general principle of that prohibition, they ought not to

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be thwarted in the execution of their sacred trust by the capricious dictation of His Majesty's official advisers.

We admit that while slavery existed in the British colonies in the West Indies, the abuses that were inseparable from that arbitrary system made it imperative upon the Government to keep a watchful eye over the proceedings of the local authorities; although we cannot acquiesce in his Lordship's observation, that the combination of party and judge under that system was simply "sanctioned by the law, the usages, and the public opinion of West Indian communities."

That system really grew out of the far more solemn sanction of its open encouragement by the British Government, by British statutes, and by the British people, with the aid of British capital; and we cannot, consequently, refrain from expressing our surprise that the colonists should, after having under such circumstances patiently endured the loss of property in slaves, with a nominal compensation, be obliquely upbraided by a British minister with having held such property under that more solemn sanction, and upon the faith of the security it was naturally considered to afford to the possessor. A new era in the annals of this colony has arrived, which will be memorably noted in the page of history. In the position in which Antigua now stands, in virtue of her spontaneous act of moral courage, by which all distinctions of colour are for ever abolished within her precincts, and all classes of society made equally free and brought under the common protection of her laws, she ought not to be any longer regarded with distrust by the Government. Had she been so fondly attached to the principles of the system of slavery, as to be anxious "to promote 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," she would not have renounced them when it was at her option to adhere to the remnant of that odious system, at least for a given period, and the liberal feeling she evinced on that occasion, and which alone could have directed her policy in making her election, ought assuredly to have been received by the minister as an earnest of her disinclination to derogate from those civil rights which she had so gratuitously and disinterestedly conferred on the class to which he alludes. We say disinterestedly, because she claims the merit of having not simply emancipated her slaves, but of having, at the same time, provided for the comfort and relief of the aged and infirm amongst them, and with prudent foresight generally afforded to the rest a temporary refuge from that distress which might otherwise have been consequent on the being too abruptly thrown upon their own resources. She would not now retrace her steps, and fall back upon the system of compulsory apprenticeship, if it were in her power so to do. The bold alternative which she deliberately embraced has made her labourers as free as the peasantry of England; and in spite of all the impediments she has hitherto encountered in the pursuit of her object, she does not despair of eventually arriving at the consummation of rendering them equally industrious and contented with their lot.

In making our election in favour of immediate emancipation, we were in a great measure influenced by the propositions addressed to the West India body, by the Earl of Ripon, when that nobleman was at the head of the colonial department, and contemplated the introduction of the British statute for the abolition of slavery. It was a part of his projected scheme, which he obviously communicated for the purpose of reconciling the colonists to the measure to which it referred, that the labouring population should be subjected to peculiar restraints, which he considered to be not less essential to the wellbeing of that population than they must confessedly be to promoting the growth and manufacture of our staple commodities. Although the propositions emanated ostensibly from the Colonial minister, it is clear that they either involved a pledge on the part of the Government to give them every necessary effect, or were calculated to mislead the body to which they were addressed. We certainly held them to be binding on the Government, whatever changes might occur in the cabinet, and acted upon that impression when we embodied some of the principles of them in our law for regulating special hirings in husbandry, which has been so strongly criticised by the Earl of Aberdeen. His Lordship is pleased to preface his objections with the remark, that "Antigua has earned for herself 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."

We shall not pause to inquire whether a code, which is expressly framed to meet the particular position and immediate exigencies of one of the British West Indian Colonies, could be put in general operation throughout those colonies with any chance of practical benefit, but proceed to observe, that the distinctions which his Lordship has thus ascribed to Antigua would seem to weigh but little with the Government in the scale of her deserts, as all that has hitherto animated her struggle, to ensure the success of her eventual experiment, is the consciousness of having done what she felt to be right, when she resolved upon it; should it end in ruin, we shall at least have the consolation of reflecting that we did not rashly brave the result.

We, in the first instance, addressed ourselves to Lord Stanley, then at the head of the colonial department, by a joint memorial, expressive of our prepossession in favour of it, but distinctly pointed to the difficulties which surrounded it, and inviting a candid declaration on his part, of the assistance we were likely to derive from the Government in a courageous attempt to surmount them. His Despatch of the 13th December 1833, informed us, that "with regard to the specific measures of relief and protection, which we had pointed out, namely,

namely, the abolition of the 4½ per cent. duties, the monopoly of the home market, as against foreign slavery-holding states, and the encouragement of the cultivation of sugar, by giving facilities for its use in the breweries and distilleries, his Lordship regretted that he must confine himself to the general intimation of his intention to give to those subjects the most impartial and careful attention; that, at the same time, however, he might venture to assure us, that the line of conduct which the colony of Antigua was disposed to pursue upon that momentous occasion would secure to it a strong claim upon the Imperial Parliament for such relief and assistance as would be afforded, without adding to the fiscal burden or injuring the general interests of the mother country." Although this Despatch did not directly pledge the government to any specific measure of relief or protection, we regarded it as an earnest of their cordial approval of our policy and determination to assist us, to a certain extent, in maintaining it. Under that impression we ventured to ingraft on our Act for the Abolition of Slavery, a clause for relieving the colony from the 4½ per cent. duties, which had been for more than a century and a half corroding its vitals; and we confidently expected that it would be favourably entertained by Lord Stanley, from whom it must be remembered that we had not then the slightest intimation of the obstacle which was afterwards stated to exist to its being allowed by the King. It was not until the 19th February 1834, that it occurred to his Lordship to apprise us that "these duties were under the control of the Imperial Parliament, and the Assembly of Antigua had no right to legislate as to the repeal or modification of them." When that communication reached us, the die had been already cast; our course had been already taken; and it was too late to recede; both principle and policy impelled us forward; and we manfully proceeded, at all hazards, to realize the expectations which the abortive effort we had made had very naturally raised in the minds of the negro population. We then abolished slavery and the 4½ per cent. duties by separate Acts. The one was confirmed, and the other disallowed; (for the reason which Lord Stanley had previously assigned) and Mr. Secretary Rice in announcing the failure of this principal prop of our political structure, was pleased to characterise the unrestricted emancipation of our slaves as "a wise and benevolent measure of the legislature of Antigua," and to express a hope that "under the new system, the enlightened inhabitants of the colony would not only be rewarded by the consciousness of having deserved well of their country, but also by the extension of industry, the security of property and the promotion of the general interests of the Island."

If these duties are actually under the control of Parliament, it is difficult to understand upon what principle Lord Stanley and his successors can have held it reconcilable with the solemn pledge contained in his despatch of the 13th December 1833, to omit to take the sense of the House of Commons upon the propriety of relinquishing them; and this too apparent want of sympathy towards us in our present critical position, has been very recently rendered the more dejecting to us by the circumstance of our legislature being included in a circular communication from the colonial department, conveying a tender of the abolition of the duties in question, on the condition of our assuming another burden, which, although its specific weight might be somewhat below the maximum of that for which it is proposed to be substituted, would be the more intolerable of the two, on account of its never varying in the severity of its pressure on the landed interest.

Lord Stanley having been the author of the system of apprenticeship, we could not have been surprised at his declining to afford us any facilities in departing from it, if a sense of public duty had dictated his adoption of that course; and a candid avowal of his disapprobation of a sudden transition from slavery to freedom would have commanded our respect, although it defeated our favourite purpose.

Mr. Secretary Rice, however, has declared that we acted "wisely as well as benevolently in allowing our slaves to pass at once to a state of unrestricted freedom;" and this being the view which that minister professed to take of our momentous experiment, he would seem to have been bound, in common consistency, to make some little effort to promote its success. Had we received the support which we had every right to expect from the Government, that success would long ere this have ceased to be doubtful, and our example would most probably have been promptly followed by the sister colonies: whereas, our being first left to our unassisted efforts to surmount the difficulties of our perplexing position, and latterly treated with indignity in the exercise of our legislative functions, is, we apprehend, but little likely to make converts to our policy, but will rather serve to expose us as a beacon to deter those colonies from encountering the dangers which appear to surround us, and which they would be naturally too apt to magnify.

If our liberal policy has unhappily proved detrimental to the interests of those colonies, by engendering a spirit of discontent in the minds of their apprenticed labourers, the reflection that the laws we are now devising for the regulation of husbandry may possibly pass into a rural code for the rest of the colonies embraced in the Slavery Abolition Act, must render it more particularly incumbent on us to take care that those laws shall not be such as to lay us open to merited reproach from those whom we have already unintentionally offended.

It now becomes our duty to discuss the various objections which have been made to an Act for regulating hirings in husbandry, by the Earl of Aberdeen, in the order in which they occur in his Lordship's despatch, and submit our dispassionate opinion upon them to the consideration of the Legislature.

It is not customary, in framing Acts of Parliament, to give any precise definition to words to which the common law of the land has annexed a particular acceptation; and it is to be presumed, that the term special contract might be easily understood by our magis-

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tracy, as it appears to have been by his Lordship, whose interpretation of it is perfectly consistent with the sense in which it was used by the legislature, and adopted from the 28th and 30th clauses of the Earl of Ripon's draft of an "Ordinance regulating the labour to be performed by the population rural of British Guiana, and the remuneration to be received by them in return for such labour." At the same time, we are by no means inclined to disregard his Lordship's scruples on this head. The bill, as it originally stood, made it essential to the validity of the contracts that they should be reduced into writing; but it was considered by a majority of the House of Assembly, that the labourers would not be readily prevailed upon to subscribe to a formal document, from an apprehension of its being calculated to entrap them; and the words "or otherwise" were inserted in consequence. We have no hesitation, under existing circumstances, in recommending that all "particular hirings," as distinguished from "general hirings," in the mother country, should be entered into in writing, in the presence of a magistrate, and signed by him, in attestation of the free concurrence of the contracting parties, after having received a distinct explanation from him of the nature and effect of such particular hirings respectively.

His Lordship is pleased to usher in his second stricture with a declaration, that "he makes no objection to the general principle of visiting the defaults of labourers by a forfeiture of wages for a greater length of time than that of the absence itself, or even by punishment involving some bodily suffering; that 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 this island, it is necessary that the 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; that there would otherwise arise want of mutual confidence, destructive to any scheme of extending improvement and expenditure, and a decline of agricultural and commercial industry, by which no class of persons could in reality suffer so much as those whose daily subsistence depends on their daily manual labour." It would have been strange indeed if his Lordship had refused his assent to a general principle which has invariably regulated the husbandry of the mother country from the reign of Queen Elizabeth to the present day. Antigua cannot consistently receive as a boon what she claims as a right; and we respectfully, but firmly, maintain that she ought to be allowed to regulate her husbandry in the manner which shall appear to her legislature to be most conducive to her prosperity, under the legitimate restraint, to which she will always cheerfully submit, of being obliged to adhere, in all her enactments, to the spirit of the British constitution and social regulations of the parent state. In not one of the details of the enactments which are objected to, have we transgressed the limits which our charter has prescribed. The laws of England, as well as the propositions from the Earl of Ripon to the West India body, to which we have already referred, would have warranted us in coercing our labourers to work at a settled rate of wages; but our policy has been to try the effects of conciliation and forbearance with them before we proceeded to extremities. It must have been evident to his Lordship, from the short duration which we had assigned to the Act, that it had been resorted to on the spur of the occasion, and as a temporary expedient. Sufficient time had elapsed since the abolition of slavery to enable us to discover the more formidable evils, against which our legislation should be immediately directed. We had anxiously watched the working of the new system, and ascertained the points on which it was most likely to fail. The establishing and taking off the first crop under that new system, was an object of vital importance to us; as, with the loss of that crop, must of necessity have perished the means of defraying the expenses of cultivation in the succeeding year; a calamity against which the majority of the landholders could not have successfully struggled; and a large proportion of our negro population must have been, consequently, thrown out of employment, and either have deserted the colony to seek a subsistence, or become a prey to destitution. These were so many powerful inducements to us to prepare, as we did, to meet a pressing emergency; and it is to be deeply lamented that the Earl of Aberdeen should, in the absence of all information as to the practical effects of our enactments, have so abruptly abrogated them while our critical crop was in jeopardy, in utter disregard of the general welfare, and upon specific grounds, which are derogatory to the character and privileges of our legislature, and calculated to unsettle the minds of the lower orders, and bring the constituted authorities into contempt with them. This colony is, under existing circumstances, as it were in a state of infancy. We have yet to learn that a rod must not be held over a child for the purposes of domestic discipline, because it cannot be lawfully used for correcting the licentious habits of a man. The negro who has been just transported from Africa to the shores of Trinidad, and apprenticed in that colony, would assuredly require to be kept in subjection by restraints that would not be applicable to the condition of the more enlightened labourer of Antigua; and, considering the numerical disproportion that exists between our higher and lower classes, and the suddenness with which the latter have so recently passed from slavery to freedom, it is our conscientious conviction, that we cannot safely consent to place them, as we are gravely instructed to do by an act of perilous elevation, which would be without a parallel in the history of the world, completely on a level with the freeborn peasantry of England, who are so much further advanced in civilization, and whose industry and fidelity stand approved by the experience of ages. The probatory term which the wisdom of the Imperial Parliament annexed to their emancipation, sufficiently evinced the sense which the British nation entertained of their present unfitness for any greater exemption from control in the enjoyment of their liberty, than we are prepared to allow them.

The penalties which the Act inflicts on a labourer for absenting himself from the service of his employer are precisely the same as those which are prescribed by the Earl of Ripon's proposed "Ordinance for the prevention of indolence, vagrancy, &c., committed by the rural population of British Guiana." The particular clause upon which his Lordship animadverts, may certainly, if construed according to its very letter, occasionally operate with undue severity; but it is of infinite importance to the agricultural interests that the labourer should not be at liberty to "loiter," instead of punctually fulfilling his engagements; and the discipline of the estates could not therefore be relaxed in this respect, without opening a door to an habitual disregard on the part of the labourer of the appointed hours of assembly in the field, and his capriciously leaving his work at a critical moment, when the injury which his employer might actually suffer could not be justly measured by the shortness of the absence. The employer should, we conceive, be invested with a right of mulcting, to a limited extent, for these minor offenses, subject to an appeal to a magistrate for his decision; and, in the event of his abusing that right, he should be liable, on summary conviction, to make instant reparation to the injured party, in treble the amount of the wages that may have been unjustifiably withheld.

His Lordship disapproves of our having referred the question of the reasonableness of the cause of absence in each successive case, to the unfettered discretion of the justice of the peace before whom the complaint may be preferred, although he admits, that "it is indispensable to confide to the judge an ample discretion to distinguish, as occasions arise, between reasonable and unreasonable apologies for absence from work." This is a very tender point, upon which we lament exceedingly that his Lordship has been so unguarded in his suggestions, and the reasonings by which he has endeavoured to enforce them. As servants in husbandry are punishable in England on summary conviction before a single justice, our enacting that all forfeitures annexed to misdemeanours committed by labourers in this colony shall be imposed at a petty sessions, would be virtually declaring the gentlemen who are in our commission of the peace, to be as unworthy of their trust as the Earl of Aberdeen considers them to be. We believe them to be, generally speaking, by no means inferior, in point of education, to the county magistrates in the United Kingdom; and this being the case, the only ground on which his Lordship's apprehension of their being less likely to administer impartial justice between the labourer and his employer must necessarily proceed, is, that of their not possessing an equal share of integrity. The county magistrate in the United Kingdom is no more a disinterested stipendiary officer than the magistrate of Antigua is, but is equally a private gentleman, with local interests and local prejudices, to bias and pervert his judgment; and, notwithstanding his greater affluence, and consequent importance in the eyes of the ministry, is equally subject, with the dejected and unpitied West India planter, to the common lot of human infirmity. They both hold their offices under the Crown, and are removable for misconduct at the King's pleasure. The common law of England is in full force in this colony. The King's representative is always easy of access. The public press is abundantly free from unconstitutional restraints, and a magistrate abusing his trust would, therefore, be at once liable to dismissal from office, to personal reparation to the injured party, and to exemplary punishment by the criminal court. We have not heard of the occurrence in this colony of the particular abuse which his Lordship observes "can be scarcely considered as impossible in a society like ours." The case of the King against Hoseason presents an unquestionable proof that it has once formed a blot in the escutcheon of one of the members of that body, which would seem to be so immaculate in the eyes of his Lordship. If the ingredients of our society are not sufficiently pure for the purposes of the Government, the places of those gentlemen who are now in the commission of the peace may be easily supplied by an adequate number of stipendiary officers; but until these stipendiary officers shall be appointed to relieve them from their irksome duties, his Lordship must excuse our declining to withdraw from them that implicit confidence which has been hitherto reposed in their integrity, and they have always appeared to our legislature to deserve.

The punishment annexed to drunkenness, and the failure to provide for infant children, are in perfect accordance with the 14th clause of one of the Earl of Ripon's proposed ordinances for the regulation of the rural population of British Guiana. The vice of drunkenness must, in a moral point of view, be always equally degrading to the person who is addicted to it, but its culpability in the eye of the law must essentially vary in proportion to the importance of the trust with which the offender may be charged, and the obligation we have imposed upon the labourers as to the maintenance of infant children is more limited in its compass than that which is prescribed by the ordinance to which we have referred, and the 7th section of the British statute of the 43d Elizabeth, c. 2. But we, nevertheless, think it advisable, under existing circumstances, to exclude these particular provisions from our rural code, and make them the subject of separate enactments, extending generally, as his Lordship proposes, to all classes of the community.

The clause which is the subject of his Lordship's fourth objection only differs from the 37th clause of one of the Earl of Ripon's proposed ordinances for regulating the population of British Guiana, in superadding the infliction of a penalty of 10*l.* on the employer in the event of his being convicted of a breach of contract or ill usage. The English statutes do not empower the magistrate to extend his award beyond the wages in arrear, and discharge from service. We deemed it expedient to enact, that the penalty should be paid into the public treasury, in order to guard against the temptation that must have been otherwise held out to unfounded complaints and combinations on the part of unprincipled labourers to support each other in establishing them. The injury which the labourer derives from a

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temporary abstraction of wages cannot be very considerable, unless he neglects to avail himself of his power of obtaining immediate reparation, and we presume that the provision we have already recommended for deterring employers from abusing the right of mulcting for minor offences, will, if extended generally to the non-payment of wages, suffice to satisfy his Lordship on this head. In the absence of an express declaration to the contrary, the law would consider the remedy which the Act has given to the labourers for any wrongs he may suffer as emulative; but there can be no harm in our being more explicit in this respect.

His Lordship's fifth objection would seem to be one of a very extraordinary complexion; as the labourer does not pay any rent for the house which he occupies on the estate of his employer, he is no more a tenant than the domestic servant in England, who has a bed in the attic of his master's house. In our Act for the Abolition of Slavery, which has been confirmed by the King, it is distinctly declared that the privilege which was reserved to the labouring population, of retaining the occupation of the houses which had been assigned to them when they were in a state of slavery for the succeeding twelvemonth, was a gratuitous accommodation to them for that limited period, and should depend, among other things, on their working for the proprietors of the respective estates to which they were attached, at a stipulated rate of wages.

The occupation of the house is virtually a part of the consideration which the labourer receives for his services; and, as it is a maxim of British law, that "in all contracts the obligation must be mutual" if the labourer transfers his services to another estate, in violation of a prior engagement, he must necessarily be held to have forfeited his claim to every part of the equivalent which his first employer had agreed to give for them. The labourer who is not under a special hiring is at liberty to leave the estate on which he has been accustomed to work, and attach himself to any other he may prefer; but in case of his selecting to do so, he must, as a matter of course, relinquish the possession of the house he had been permitted to occupy in the character of a hired servant. Proprietors of estates are not obliged to adhere to any particular scale of wages, but free to offer whatever they think they can afford to any labourers they wish to employ, provided such labourers are completely absolved from their obligations to their first employers, and can either be accommodated with houses upon the respective estates, or settle themselves, as an independent peasantry, in detached cottages in the vicinity.

Under these circumstances, we cannot perceive that we have, by imposing a penalty on a person employing the occupant of a house on another man's estate, attempted anything like a "formidable abridgment of the new freedom, and of the legal equality of the emancipated slaves." The Act has, upon the whole, as a temporary expedient, been attended with very solid advantages to the colony, as it has taught the labourers the necessity of working for their subsistence, and punctually fulfilling their engagements.

The form of the clause, for the recovery of penalties, is one which is very generally adopted in the revenue Acts of the mother country. It was intended to give greater latitude and facility to the magistrates in framing their convictions, but there can be no valid objection to substituting another, of a more definite character.

As the labourer could only be brought under the operation of the penal provisions of the law in question, by his own voluntary act of entering into a special hiring, we cannot understand how "the free people of colour, who were never in bondage, could possibly regard the novel disabilities imposed upon them with just and reasonable dissatisfaction." We, however, propose that all the provisions of the Act, which is now under consideration, should be confined to rural labourers; and that the misdemeanours of mechanics, who are not attached to estates, and of domestic servants, should form the subject of a separate enactment.

Your committee are, in conclusion, inclined to recommend that the English law of general hiring should be adopted in this colony, with some little modification.

In the absence of a special hiring, every labourer engaged to work on an estate, at a particular rate of wages, but not for any definite period, should be considered to be under a general hiring; but such general hiring should be determinable at any time within a twelvemonth, by either party, on a month's notice; the penalties imposed on either party for disregarding his relative obligations, should extend generally to all hirings, and the occupation of a house, or receipt of wages, should be sufficient *primâ facie* evidence of a general hiring.

The wages of the labourer should be stopped in case of sickness; but the employer should be obliged to provide him with medicine and medical attendance. Considering the indolent habits of the negro, and the number of labourers employed in the cultivation of estates in this colony, as compared with the husbandry of England, this proposed precaution against pretended ailments could not be safely dispensed with, and our imposing on the employer the burden of supporting his labourers during a protracted illness, would virtually amount to a prohibition of his ever availing himself, under a general hiring, of the services of those who might be capable of earning a subsistence by performing the lighter work upon his estate, notwithstanding their being subject to a chronic complaint.

Committee Room, 25 June, 1835.

(signed)

Wm. Byam.
Thos. Caull.
Wm. Musgrave.
Thos. Sanderson.
F. Shand.

— No. 301. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart. to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government-House, Antigua, 10 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward the undermentioned Act, passed by the legislature of Antigua, viz.

“An Act for the better adjusting and more easy recovery of the wages of servants in husbandry, and of artificers, handicraftsmen and other labourers employed upon estates, and for the better regulation of such servants, handicraftsmen and other labourers.”

This Act empowers one or more justices of the peace to examine all disputes between masters or mistresses and servants in husbandry for a year, or any longer or lesser time, to be heard and determined by one or more justice or justices residing in or near the parish where such master or mistress shall inhabit, and shall make order for payment of such wages as shall be due, in default of payment to levy the amount by distress and sale. Misdemeanour, miscarriage, or ill behaviour on the part of servants in husbandry, &c. punishable with one month's imprisonment in house of correction, or by abating wages, or discharging of such servants, &c. Master or mistress, or employer of servants in husbandry, &c. may abate a reasonable part of wages of servants for such days or parts of days as he shall be absent. Servants in husbandry absenting without reasonable cause, or wilfully neglecting to work, or wilfully damaging employer's property, guilty of misdemeanour. Points or questions of law arising upon causes of discharge to be decided by justices, according to the approved adjudications under the law of master and servant in the mother country. Party agrieved may appeal to Court of King's Bench and Grand Sessions. Persons employed to work on estates at a particular rate of wages, in the absence of proof to the contrary, to be considered under a general hiring. Employer may abate wages of servants in cases of sickness, but shall provide servant during sickness with medical care, under penalty of 5 *l.* All special or particular hiring of servants in husbandry to be entered into in presence of justice of peace, and officially attested by him. Persons knowingly employing any servant in husbandry under general hiring, &c. to forfeit 10 *l.* recoverable as in 1st clause. Wages of servants in husbandry, &c. payable weekly, in some day of the week, Sunday excepted.

This Act is intended to give the magistracy a summary jurisdiction in all complaints, differences and disputes which may arise between the master and the agricultural servant relating to hiring and wages.

It is based on the principle of the laws which regulate these matters in the mother country. Its provisions are salutary and efficient, the Act is altogether unexceptionable, and is in conformity also to the spirit of the Earl of Aberdeen's despatch to the Governor on this subject.

— No. 302. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government-House, Antigua, 10 Aug. 1835.

Your Lordship will learn from the enclosed papers, that intelligence reached me, on the morning of the 3d instant, of a discontinuance of work by the labourers on many estates, and of an apprehended combination amongst that class throughout the island, with the view of persisting in this design.

Although peasants in a free country may be entitled to desist from toil whenever so inclined, the landed proprietors of Antigua are no less privileged in evicting their dependents refusing to serve them from the tenements, which, after the 1st of this month, the latter can no longer legally retain.

The working population had been induced, it seems, to cherish extraordinary expectations of some important amelioration in their condition on the expiration of the first year of freedom, conceiving that they were to obtain houses and grants of land, and, in many instances too, that a sum of money for distribution amongst them had been remitted to me by His Majesty.

These delusions it became requisite immediately to dispel, there being no means

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of foretelling into what excesses the people might be led, while influenced by them, if suffered to remain congregated in large masses. In order, therefore, to evince that the support of the executive would not be wanting, in case of need, to the due execution and maintenance of the laws, a detachment of an officer and 17 men was sent, on the 4th instant, to an estate where the peasantry, amounting to 500 souls, were said to be particularly refractory, and this demonstration enabled the superintendent of police, under whom, in his magisterial capacity, the troops were placed, to prevail upon the labourers to resume their tasks.

The absence of statutes regulating agreements between the proprietors and working orders having probably contributed towards this sudden and unlooked for ebullition, the immediate enactment of legislative provisions, calculated to remove a state of uncertainty equally injurious to the landowners and agricultural labourers, was suggested by me to the Council and Assembly. An Act for that purpose was accordingly passed by the Board and House, which, having received my assent, is transmitted to your Lordship by the present opportunity, and promises in a great measure to avert the recurrence of popular excitement.

I have, &c.

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

Enclosures in No. 302.

(No. 1.)

At a Meeting of His Majesty's Privy Council, held at Government-House on Monday the 3d August 1835.

Enclosures in
No. 302.

Present:—His Excellency Sir Evan John Murray MacGregor, Bart.; the Hon. Samuel Warner, the Hon. Meade H. Daniel, the Hon. William Byam, the Hon. Paul Horsford, the Hon. Richard W. Nanton, the Hon. Francis F. Brown.

The Governor informs the Board that he has deemed it incumbent on him to convene the gentlemen members this day at brief notice, in order to bring under their cognizance the following communications received by him this morning, which are read, as follows:

Sir,

St. John's, 3 August 1835.

As an individual in whose neighbourhood and division certain circumstances have taken place, I should feel it my duty to detail to your Excellency the matters to which they have reference; but, as a member of your Excellency's Privy Council, the propriety of my doing so appears to me a duty also imposed.

Having been given to understand yesterday, that it was the intention of the labourers on the different estates to cease all work this day, and that they entertained extraordinary views and ideas, I confess I was nevertheless unprepared for the actual fact. I regret, however, to state to your Excellency, that in all my neighbourhood all the labourers on the various estates have refused to perform any work whatever, manifesting an insolence of conduct and behaviour extremely improper, and subversive of all regularity and order.

I am informed that to the south part of the island similar conduct prevails; and, considering it of the very first importance to the interests of the island that some measures should be speedily and generally adopted, I have thus thought it right and proper to make this communication to your Excellency.

I have the honour, &c.

(signed) *R. W. Nanton*.

Sir,

Police-Office, Head-quarters, St. John's, 3 Aug. 1835.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I received information yesterday of the intention of the labourers in the southern district of the island to strike work this morning for increased wages. This, I now learn, has been carried into effect; and I am also sorry to say that those of Popeshead Division have adopted the same course.

Other estate's people are at work, but I fear that the example of the former will be generally followed by to-morrow, unless speedy measures are taken to strike terror into the minds of the disaffected.

I have, &c.

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

The Hon. Richard W. Nanton corroborates the above statements, by informing the Board that the labourers in his neighbourhood, computed at the number of 1,800, had thrown up all work and were wandering about in idleness, and that there was an evident change in their carriage and demeanour towards their employers.

The Hon. William Byam states, that of seven estates under his direction the labourers of four of them had struck work, and that he had been informed by the manager of one of them, that some of the labourers had told him (the manager) they expected the King would do something for them, and they were waiting to see what it was.

The Hon. Samuel Warner states, that on his estate there were no field labourers at work; and that his manager had reported, that from an elevated position he had perceived no labourers at work on the contiguous estates.

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The Hon. Colonel Francis F. Brown states, that all his people are at work, and that he has perceived no change in their department.

The Hon. Meade H. Daniel states, that as far as he is informed, the labourers on the estates under his charge are all at work.

The Hon. R. W. Nanton informs the Board that he has received a note, stating that the people on several estates to the southward have refused to work.

It having been stated by the latter gentleman that he had taken four or five of his labourers, who had refused to work, before Mr. Scotland, the sitting magistrate in St. John's, with the view of eliciting from them the reasons for their conduct, the Board express a wish to have Mr. Scotland's statement of the matter; he is accordingly called, and states in substance as follows:

That the parties in question were brought before him and his brother magistrate, not on complaint, but for the purpose of explanation. That they did not state precisely what was their motive for refusing to work, but that they thought there had been some alteration in the law as regarded them, and were waiting to see what it was. Whereupon the magistrates represented to them the folly of their proceeding, and explained to them what the alteration in the law really was; they told them at the same time that they could not compel them to work, and that they were free to go where they pleased; but that their houses and ground belonged to their employers. Mr. Scotland further adds, that this mode of reasoning appeared to have had its due effect upon the parties; for that they had immediately promised to return to their usual labour.

The Board considering these several statements, are impressed with a belief that a combination so extensive and apparently preconcerted, must have its rise in some delusion or misapprehension on the part of the labouring population, the nature of which it would be highly desirable to discover, and whether it has originated in a misconception of the people themselves, or in some false notions infused into their minds by evil designing persons. That the remedy for the moment will be best secured by a firm and steady resistance to all unreasonable demands; and that where it may be found necessary to put the law in force as regards eviction from the property, any resistance to the execution of that law should be immediately met by effectual measures on the part of the executive; that if unhappily (what may possibly be apprehended from past experience) such proceeding should be followed by the firing of cane-pieces or buildings, that then and in that case the executive should be armed with the means of adopting further effectual measures.

The Board further considering that it would be advisable the chief of police should communicate personally with the labourers on several estates where the combination existed, and more particularly on Mr. Jarvis's property, where it appeared to be most complete, with the view to warn them of the consequences of their present conduct, as seriously affecting not only their own interests, but those also of their brethren in the sister colonies; and at the same time to inform them that the Governor and Council are now sitting for the purpose of putting a check to the evil complained of; the chief of police is called and instructed accordingly.

It is also suggested that it would be expedient to the present purpose, if his Excellency would be pleased to address the magistrates of the several districts on the subject, in such terms as he may deem most befitting the occasion; with the view of guiding their conduct, and of obtaining from them the fullest information.

[Adjourned to Wednesday next, the day after to-morrow.]

(No. 2.)

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At a meeting of His Majesty's Privy Council, held at Government House, by adjournment, on Wednesday, the 5th day of August 1835.

Present:—His Excellency Sir Evan John Murray MacGregor, Bart.; the Hon. Samuel Warner, the Hon. Meade H. Daniell, the Hon. William Byam, the Hon. Paul Horsford, the Hon. Richard W. Nanton, the Hon. Francis F. Brown.

Read Circular Letter of his Excellency the Governor to the magistracy, on the subject proposed at the last meeting, as follows:

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 3 August 1835.

It having been represented to me this morning, that the labourers on several estates in different parts of the Island have this day refused to work, and there being reason to apprehend that a similar proceeding may be more extensively pursued, I deemed it advisable to bring the circumstance immediately under the cognizance of His Majesty's Privy Council.

It is the opinion of the Honourable Board, that the magistracy should be required to furnish the Governor now, or hereafter, with every information on the above subject; and that it is extremely desirable that proprietors and directors of estates should be strongly recommended to preserve unanimity and concert upon this emergency; at the same time carefully avoiding hasty or precipitate steps, which possibly might tend to defeat such general measures as may become eventually necessary, if those of a conciliatory character should prove unavailing.

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I have, therefore, to request that you will have the goodness to communicate with the several proprietors and directors in your neighbourhood, and to impart to me such intelligence and suggestions as may be collected from them, or you may think fit to offer for my consideration, so long as the disposition at present manifested shall be persevered in by the working classes.

If it shall seem to you that the course taken by the labourers is founded on any misapprehension regarding the tenure of the houses they have hitherto been permitted to occupy, it will be requisite to refer to the annexed extracts of the colonial laws, which (as confirmed by the King) you will be pleased clearly to explain to the labouring population within your district.

To one of His Majesty's
Justices of the Peace.

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

EXTRACT of an ACT for relieving the Slave Population from the Obligations imposed upon them by the recent Act of 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." Dated the 4th day of June 1834.

"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 on such plantation, 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 cases of insubordination, 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 occupations of the said habitations or tenements by way of temporary and gratuitous accommodation for the year ending on the 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."—*Vide* 3d clause.

EXTRACT of an ACT for Consolidating and Amending the Laws relative to Malicious Injuries to Property, dated 23d day of August 1834.

"And be it further enacted, that if any person or persons shall obstinately persist in intruding himself, herself or themselves on any plantation, lands or other premises, after being warned to depart therefrom, it shall and may be lawful for any constable to take such offender or offenders into his custody, and carry him, her or them before any one of His Majesty's justices of the peace, who, on due conviction, shall have authority to fine such offender or offenders in a sum not exceeding 5*l.* or, in default of payment thereof, to commit such offender or offenders to the common gaol for a period not exceeding 10 days."—*Vide* 11th clause.

Read Report of the Superintendent of Police, as follows :

Police Office, Head Quarters, St. John's,
5 August 1835.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency having been pleased to order that I should repair on Monday last to the estates in the division of Popeshead, for the purpose of representing to the labourers in that quarter the necessity which existed on their part, of resuming their work without delay; I have now the honour to report, that I endeavoured to carry your Excellency's views into effect to the best of my ability, and, I trust, with success, on several estates.

I despaired, however, of making any sensible impression on the people at Jarvis's estate, because I had previously experienced their high and obstinate bearing when I ventured to advise them on a former occasion; and this having been reported by me to your Excellency, I received further orders to conduct a detachment of His Majesty's troops to the spot early on the following day. The force arrived there at about 15 minutes before daybreak, and halted at a short distance from the negro houses, midway between Jarvis's and Blizards, so as to be within view of the people on both properties. I took the bugler with me to an elevated spot among the huts, and precisely at daybreak they were roused from their beds on the former estate by the martial strains of his instrument. Half an hour elapsed before I could get the main body of the labourers to turu out, and I was obliged to assure them again and again that no bodily harm was intended to be done by the troops,

troops. After their assembling I discovered in their countenances and demeanour a mixture of pride and anger, stifled by controlling circumstances; and my advice and persuasion, as well as the assurances of your Excellency's protection and goodwill, while they continued to behave like faithful subjects to the King, seemed to have been addressed to inanimate objects.

The parley (if I may use the term) being ended, Mr. Howell, the attorney, arrived with his list, and calling over the names, inquired of each labourer whether he or she would resume work? Every answer was in the affirmative, and in the course of half an hour the effective strength of the estate was in full operation in the field. The troops then advanced, and went into quarters; and the gangs of several estates in the vicinity were at work before I left Popeshead, which took place at 10 o'clock in the morning.

I have, &c.

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

The Hon. Samuel Warner states that about the half of his people have returned to their work.

The Hon. William Byam states, that of the several estates under his direction, with the exception of one, and that a small one, the people had all returned to work. He also read a note received by him, to this effect: That the writer had expected some occurrence like the present, from having heard labourers say to each other some days back, whilst passing his house, situated near the high road, that after the 1st of August (meaning the present month) their houses were to become their own, and that they would no longer work for 1s. a day.

The superintendent of police is called, and in answer to several questions put to him, states to the following effect:

That the labourers generally have resumed their work on the several estates.

That with reference to a complaint which had reached his Excellency the Governor, from a labourer, of having been paid his wages repeatedly on Sunday morning, he was aware that such a practice did exist on some estates, and names the Cotton estate, so called.

That he is aware also of there being certain idle persons in the town of St. John, who have no ostensible means of subsistence, and who are in communication with the labourers in the country; still he conceives that the elements of delusion are within the people themselves, and that they were very generally impressed with the false notion that the houses they occupy, and more particularly those which they have built, are their own property.

That he had learned from some labourers who had come in from Cochrane's estate to ask his advice, that they entertained the impression the rate of wages had been altered on the 1st of this present month, and that they were now to commence on other and better terms. That from other labourers belonging to Nibbs's estates he had learned they conceived they were not properly free till the 1st of this month, and that some alteration in the law with regard to them had been made in their favour.

Read the following Deposition.

Police Office, St. John's, 5 August 1835.

Before the Hon. Paul Horsford and John Shiell, Esq., two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said Island.

Daniel Carty, a labourer on Old Cotton Work estate, *v.* Nathaniel Dean, manager on said estate, for putting his furniture, &c. on the high road, on Monday the 3d inst., and refusing to allow him the use of the house formerly occupied by complainant.

Complainant sworn, states that Mr. Dean has been in the habit of paying off the labourers on the said estate on Sundays, between 10 and 11 o'clock in the morning, and at no other time; thereby preventing the labourers on said estate providing themselves with provisions for the ensuing week.

That on Sunday last, at the usual time, deponent received his week's wages. He was obliged on Monday last, from want of provisions, to go to Parham town, for the purpose of supplying himself therewith; and for those reasons only, he did not turn out to labour on that morning. On deponent's return to the estate about 10 o'clock, he found his goods on the high road. Deponent returned with the intention to go to his work, but finding his goods on the road, where they now remain, he came into town to represent his case to the chief of police, and inquire in what manner he could obtain redress. That he thinks the goods of 10 labourers, circumstanced in like manner as himself, were taken from their houses and placed on the high road, and themselves dismissed from their dwellings on said estates; amongst the number was his wife, two sisters and a brother. Deponent further states that another of his brothers (George Thomas) went to work at nine o'clock; also a sister (Damsel); that the doors and windows were taken off their houses; but in consequence of their going out to work, no further process was had against them. That deponent met Mr. Jarritt, the attorney of said estate, in town last evening, and that Mr. Jarritt told him if he was ever found near the line of the estate he should be taken up, which has deterred him from returning to look after his goods, or to explain the circumstances which occasioned his absence, and applying to be reinstated in his dwelling by apologizing for his past conduct, if he should, after explanation, be considered in error by Mr. Jarritt.

his

Daniel x Carty,
mark.

Witness,

R. C. Brown, Assistant Inspector of Police.

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The Board, considering the above statements and reports, are of opinion that it would be expedient a suggestion were made to the legislature on the propriety of expediting through the house a Bill already in preparation for the better adjusting of wages of servants in husbandry, &c.; and that the said Bill should provide a remedy against the very improper practice and inconvenience of paying labourers' wages on the Sunday morning; also, that great circumspection should be recommended to commanding officers of the several corps of militia, in respect to the character of the individuals whom they admit into their respective corps.

The Board are also of opinion that the prompt measures taken by the executive on this occasion, as detailed in the report of the superintendent of police, have been attended with the happiest effects; and they trust that these will suffice for the present for the purpose of removing the erroneous impressions entertained by the labourers, and of securing their return to their usual occupations.

Adjourned *sine die*.

(No. 3.)

His Excellency the Governor to his Honour the President and Council.

It is suggested by the Governor to your Honourable Board, that a legislative enactment should be framed for the purpose of replacing, without delay, the late Act regulating special contracts between labourers and their employers, the more especially as, under the Act for relieving the slave population from the obligations imposed by the Act of Parliament for the abolition of slavery, &c., the tenure of the houses occupied by them expired upon the 31st ultimo, to which circumstance is mainly to be ascribed an unwillingness to work, manifested on the 3d instant by the peasantry in various quarters of the island.

The measures adopted by the executive in concert with His Majesty's Privy Council, for removing, through the medium of fitting explanation, the erroneous construction on the point of occupancy by which the working classes have been apparently misled in regard to the purport of the Act last mentioned, appear successfully to have allayed this transient excitement; but it would seem advisable that the payment of their wages on Sundays should be strictly prohibited by law.

While congratulating your Honourable Board on the peaceable and orderly demeanour so creditably observed by the labouring population in general since the 1st of August 1834, the Governor indulges the expectation that their steadily persevering in the same praiseworthy line of conduct will hereafter afford your Honourable Board additional grounds for reflecting with satisfaction on the liberal policy that actuated the legislature of this colony in pronouncing upon that memorable occasion all its inhabitants thenceforward equally free.

Government House, St. John's,
6 August 1835.

(signed) *E. J. M. Macgregor.*

(A similar message to House of Assembly.)

— No. 303. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 10th October 1835.

No. 303.

I HAVE received your Despatches dated the 14th of July and the 10th of August, respecting the Acts for regulating special contracts between labourers and their employers, the first of which was disallowed by His Majesty in Council, and the second of which has recently been transmitted by you for His Majesty's approbation.

I am happy to be able to acquaint you, that I shall transmit to you an order of the King in Council, leaving to its operation the second of those Acts, as soon as the necessary official forms can be completed at the Colonial Office.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 304. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government-House, Antigua, 1st August 1835.

No. 104.

THERE is in general, as far as my observation has extended, the greatest difficulty in prevailing upon proprietors and attornies in Antigua, to afford information solicited from them, even when calculated to advance their own interests. Application was made to the Houses of this Legislature, as well as to the magistracy, in consequence of Mr. Secretary Spring Rice's Circular Despatch of the 30th

September last ; but so unsuccessfully that I have gradually endeavoured to collect from a few individuals such materials as may serve to throw some light upon the condition of this colony, since its labouring population obtained unqualified freedom on the 1st of August 1834.

The enclosures consist of memoranda, by the Hon. Nicholas Nugent, Speaker of the Assembly, and of a paper wherein replies to certain queries, from Mr. Jarritt, attorney of Sir Bethel Codrington's estates; the Rev. N. Gilbert; Mr. Shirley Warner, Editor of the Antigua Herald; Mr. Loving, Superintendent of Police; Mr. Scotland, lately Editor of the Antigua Free Press; the Hon. Owen Pell; William Byam, and Meade Home Daniell, Members of Council, are inserted. Enclosure I. contains returns of this crop, and of the provisions raised, as compared with those of former years, &c. ; reports from the superintendent of police, and a few observations by myself.

On the statements, I shall not presume to offer further comment, conceiving that a much sounder deduction than it is in my power to form, will be derived from their perusal and comparison with each other, under the directions of your Lordship in the colonial department.

I beg leave, however, to solicit your Lordship's attention in particular to Doctor Nugent's remarks, as indicating the remedial measures, apparently the best adapted, with the aid of His Majesty's Government, to promote pursuits of industry within this colony, by alleviating the burthens at present pressing on the proprietary body, so as to enable them, by the possession of more extensive means, fully to employ the energies of the labouring population.

It is further incumbent on me to represent to your Lordship my humble conviction, that circumstanced as this Island is, the local legislature acted wisely in dispensing with the intermediate stage of apprenticeship, and admitting its peasantry at once into the ranks of free men.

I have, &c.

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

Enclosures in No. 304.

(No. 1.)

Q U E R I E S.

1. THE present state of the productive industry of the colony of Antigua, distinguishing the articles raised for consumption from exported produce.
2. The possible changes which the Act for the Abolition of Slavery may produce on the agricultural, manufacturing and commercial system.
3. A statement of any obstacles which may impede the powers of production or exchange.
4. The remedies, whether legislative, financial or administrative, by which those obstacles may be lessened or wholly removed.

Enclosures in
No. 304.

MEMORANDA, by way of reply.

1. The climate of the Island of Antigua is a very uncertain one, varying exceedingly from year to year as regards the quantity of rain which falls ; and the amount of the annual territorial productions varies accordingly ; the most rainy year being, *ceteris paribus*, the most productive. Mr. Colquhoun states, that on an average of years prior to 1812 the production in sugar was 13,625 hogsheads of 14 cwt. For the first 13 years of the treasury record, that is, from 1794 to 1806, both years inclusive, the average appears to have been 15,528 hogsheads of 1,500 lbs. net ; and from 1807 to 1819, 15,990 hogsheads of same weight. For the last six or seven years the average may have somewhat declined, from a greater prevalence of dry weather. The island may, however, be assumed to produce at the present period an average of about 15,000 hogsheads of 1,500 lbs. net, and probably 10,000 puncheons of molasses, and about 1,200 puncheons of rum ; the low value of the latter commodity, from the loss of the United States' market of late years, has nearly proved an entire check to distillation ; while, on the other hand, there has arisen a demand for molasses in Great Britain, for the purpose of its being converted into sugar.

All other exports being the produce of the island, are so inconsiderable in variety or extent as scarcely to be worth adverting to : they consist chiefly of arrow-root and preserved fruits.

For domestic consumption a considerable quantity of esculent roots, such as yams, eddoes and sweet potatoes, with other vegetables, is annually grown on the several plantations, as well as Indian corn (maize), and Guinea corn (millet), which latter, besides the grain yielded, is likely to become, as in Barbadoes, an excellent crop for the soiling or foddering of animals. Horned cattle enough are raised for draft, but not for a full supply for slaughter. Generally speaking, the articles of food grown within the island do not suffice

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for more than a seven or eight months' consumption of the inhabitants in each year, which is otherwise provided for by the importation of Indian corn-meal, wheat-flour, and other bread stuffs from America and Europe, as well as pulse and oats for the use of the lower animals.

The aggregate duties of customs and excise paid into the Exchequer in the United Kingdom, on an average of years from the importation of sugar, rum and molasses, the produce of Antigua, cannot, it is apprehended, be computed at less than 320,000*l.* sterling; and there is, within the colony, an impost of 4½ per cent. on all production, payable to the Crown.

2. There does not, as yet, seem any reason to question the accuracy of the principles which the public authorities of the island assumed as guiding them in their choice of a state of unconditional freedom in preference to that of a prolonged, though restricted, coercion of labour, viz.: 1. The intelligence and moral improvement of the lower orders; and, 2. Their entire dependence, from the precariousness of the climate and the absence of unoccupied lands, on the proprietors and capitalists for the means of procuring food; and, consequently, that they could not hope for the means of an honest subsistence, except by employing themselves for hire in laborious occupations. These conservative principles being admitted, there seems to be nothing wanting but proper local enactments to regulate the mutual relations of proprietor and labourer, and such encouragement on the part of the mother country as may give a due impulse to the general industry of the colony, to secure to the proprietor of the soil, as far as possible, an adequate and uniform return for his capital and exertions, and to the labourer such an amount of regularly paid and continuous wages as may suffice for his actual necessities and reasonable wants, without inducing any, even temporary, relaxation of exertion on his part. If, by any unnecessary and unwise restraints, the general productive industry of the colony be cramped, and the returns prove not sufficiently remunerating to the cultivator, there must of necessity be a gradual declension of the public wealth and resources, and an end put to all the hopes which the philanthropist may have encouraged on the subject of so glorious a reform in the social system as that which has been lately accomplished in this island.

It is more than probable that a few mountain plantations, having a precipitous and exhausted soil, may not be found hereafter to repay the cost of cultivation in sugar; and that, passing into other hands, they may either be converted into pasture or grazing farms, or, being subdivided, may be parcelled out in the cultivation of provisions, fruits, ginger, aloes, arrow-root and the like: but the greater part of the island, including the more fertile lands, is level, and may be conveniently wrought by the plough and other useful machinery; and there seems no good reason to doubt the present returns may be sustained, if not augmented, with a greater simplification of labour, especially if a remunerating return can be maintained by the price of sugar and its kindred productions in foreign markets, and there can be effected a diminution in the cost of production within the colony. Nor does a diminution in quantity necessarily imply a diminution of profitable return, as prices may be enhanced proportionally. Under the new system there might be such a diminution in the amount of supply in the markets as to augment exceedingly the value of sugar, of which there has hitherto confessedly been an over production.

There does not appear, at present, any prospect of the industry of the island being directed into any other channels more advantageous either to the inhabitants or to the revenue, shipping, and commercial interests of the parent state, than the cultivation and manufacture of sugar and its kindred products, rum and molasses. There is already an established skill in this species of production, and which, under due protection, must daily become more improved and simplified, as well in the field culture as in the methods of manufacture. The necessary mills and works are already substantially established, and the very dryness of the climate, especially in the crop months, from January to June inclusive, is to a certain extent an advantage, by rendering richer and purer the cane juice, from which cause they are converted into sugar with less labour in boiling and a small consumption of fuel, and the product is consequently of superior quality to that of most other sugar colonies.

3d. The obstacles impeding the powers of production or exchange in this colony are numerous. Among them may be enumerated: 1st. the climate, which is so exceedingly subject to long and severe droughts, and from which cause the number of its profitable productions, comparatively with other tropical countries, is exceedingly circumscribed, and the greatest application of skill and industry too frequently rendered abortive; or, in other words, the cost of production considerably augmented. This, however, being a physical evil which the wisest of legislation could not overcome (except, indeed, by relieving the collateral burthens to a greater extent), it seems unnecessary to dwell further on it. 2d. The lands being nearly all distributed in what may be termed large farms, or held in connexion with plantations, and made subservient to the culture of sugar or to grazing, there remain few or no smaller tenures or parcels of land on which the industry of the poorer classes might be developed, in the growth of any of the minor productions of the climate: and even where the proprietors and present occupiers might be disposed to sell any detached portions of land, they are for the most part so restricted and bound up in mortgages, trusts, &c. that they are prevented from doing so and granting any valid titles. A very few small tracts of land are held by the public, but they are generally so arid and barren as to promise to yield little or nothing. It would be well, however, under existing circumstances to dispose of them, and grant them out under certain regulations to individuals

duals who might be disposed to try to turn them to account. 3d. The full and real energies of manual labour are not at the present period sufficiently evolved, in consequence of the inability on the part of the planter to pay a sufficient compensation in the form of money wages. Many of the advantages and collateral aids which the slave peasantry derived under the late system have now altogether ceased, or rest precariously on the bounty and good feeling of the proprietor. Stinted wages must eventually produce stinted work. If the labourer, whether he be right or wrong, thinks his services insufficiently required, a sluggish, careless, and reluctant labour will be the consequence. To employ a smaller number of hands at a higher rate of wages would, it is feared, by throwing a number of the newly emancipated completely out of employment, in the existing state of their improvident habits, lead either to a material diminution of population, or to an extensive system of pauperage, which would entail burthens on the landed interest even more grievous than any that actually exist. 4th. Labour is not yet sufficiently simplified. Under the slave system, from which we have yet scarcely emerged, there was doubtless a wasteful application of human labour in almost every branch of our rural economy. A proprietor who was bound to maintain a certain number of slaves, had no very urgent motive to exert himself seriously in diminishing labour by the use of machinery or the brute animals. The methods adopted were indeed effectual in producing the most active vegetation, but yet they were wasteful and expensive in a high degree. Spade husbandry, for instance, may be the most efficient method of tillage, but it is too expensive for practice in farming operations in most countries. Holing and cross-holing land with the hoe were suited indeed to the climate and a state of slavery, and gave the greatest return. Carrying out manure in baskets, on the heads of labourers, gives a fine vegetation, but is certainly a very tedious application of labour. We are now under a system which invites, and indeed constrains us, to more compendious and cheaper methods of opening and manuring land. Folding animals over the surface, carting out the manure and ploughing it into the earth, will hereafter be generally resorted to, as in European agriculture. So lands possessed with couch-grass, presenting a common and formidable evil to the cultivation in our island, have been hitherto cleared by digging it out with severe manual labour with the hoe. In a little while these operations, it is to be hoped, may be adequately performed by scarifiers, brake-harrows, or other appropriate machinery, as in Europe. 5th. There are other checks to the expansion of the agricultural industry of the colony, which act injuriously by lessening or destroying the remunerating returns which would otherwise be derived from it. Thus, there is a $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. impost on all the exchangeable exports being off the colony, payable to the Crown, a disadvantage which the older and more impoverished West India colonies of His Majesty alone labour under. Then the staple productions of our soil, sugar, molasses and rum, are subject to such enormous, heavy duties of customs or excise in the mother country as to check consumption. By Act of Parliament, also, they are made subject to unnecessary duties on their importation into the British possessions in America, over and above those duties which may be imposed by the local legislatures of the respective colonies, though all such duties add materially to the cost, and consequently impede consumption in those rapidly-extending possessions (Canada for instance) whereby also a bounty is afforded on the clandestine introduction of sugar, rum, &c. from the United States of America. 5th. Many commodities and articles of indispensable necessity for plantation use, and consequently for the encouragement of industry in the West India colonies, are charged with oppressive fiscal burthens by Act of Parliament on their importation into the islands, for which no equitable policy can be assigned. The dwelling houses and plantation buildings of this country cannot be durably erected or kept in repair without a supply of pitch-pine lumber and cypress shingles; and yet these are subject to an onerous duty on importation. So likewise, red and white oak staves, without which the great staples cannot be safely transported beyond seas, pay a duty unnecessarily augmenting the price of indispensable articles to the planter. To foster the trade of the British possessions in America is intelligible ground for legislation; but the abovenamed are commodities of the exclusive growth of the Southern States of America, cannot be produced in the higher latitudes, and therefore enter into no competition with Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, or Canada. Then, our territorial productions are liable to duties quite prohibitory in the United States and other foreign countries; and all our multifarious supplies of corn-meal, lumber, horses, mules, &c. cannot be paid for by an interchange, but only in specie or bills of exchange on England, affording therefore an important ground for negotiation with the government of the United States, &c. It is worthy of inquiry how far restrictions exist on the importation of commodities of first necessity, whencesoever derived, as well as on a trans-shipment to foreign possessions, imported or exported from hence in British bottoms. The greater part of the British-shipping arrives without outward freight and in ballast. If the demand for coals, for instance, could be increased by an allowed exportation to the foreign islands, where they would be in demand for forges, distillation, &c., a convenient ballast or outward freight would relieve the shipping interest occasionally, and tend consequently to reduce homeward freights, to the planters especially, as regards the ports of Bristol, Liverpool, Whitehaven and Glasgow.

4th. Under the fourth head of inquiry, it may be well to commence with an extract from the joint Report of the Board of Council and House of Assembly of the 31st October 1833, transmitted by his Excellency the Governor to Mr. Secretary Stanley:—

“For the 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
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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 ensure the successful solution of the great problem of tropical free labour, 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, it is not in their power so to augment the value of the colonial productions by withdrawing all onerous public charges, 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."

The most prominent point of relief, in a legislative point of view, sought for this colony, is a repeal or abandonment of the 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. impost, which rests on a law of the island passed in the year 1668, and which question is still to be pressed with the most intense earnestness on the consideration of His Majesty's Government, if there be really a sincere desire to assist us (as these inquiries seem to indicate) in the arduous position in which we have been placed by the peremptory policy of the mother country. The amount of revenue thus raised is a small matter to the Crown or parent state, but of great importance as regards the development of the future industry of our island, and of the successful issue of the great experiment of tropical free labour. It is conceived that His Majesty's faithful Commons in Parliament assembled might address the Crown to give its sanction to a repeal of the Colonial Act, with an assurance that the annual amount thereby raised would be by them made good to His Majesty, his heirs and successors. The argument used of an interference with this branch of revenue being unconstitutional, does not seem to have had any great weight in the minds of His Majesty's Ministers themselves; as, at the same moment of making the objection, they drew up a project for the conversion of this fund to the purpose of upholding a judiciary establishment for the Leeward Islands. The motives for relieving His Majesty's loyal subjects in this island from this unequal burthen, it is apprehended, have been forcibly set forth in the public letters to His Excellency Sir E. J. Murray Macgregor, of the 31st October 1833 and the 16th February 1834.

Another prominent measure of legislative relief to which the agricultural and commercial interests of the British West India Islands naturally look, is an interdiction on the importation into the ports of Great Britain of the sugars of foreign slave-holding countries. To compel the natural born subjects of His Majesty to relinquish for ever the cultivation of sugar and other colonial products by means of slavery, at an immense sacrifice of property, and yet to encourage the growth, and allow the competition of the very same commodities from the possessions of foreign states, cultivated exclusively by slaves, would be a moral and political inconsistency without example, and an injustice of the most astounding character. Other legislative alleviations, it is hoped, may be found practicable, as regards a diminution of customs and excise duties in Great Britain, which, from an increased consumption, may yet sustain an equivalent revenue to the mother country; and the distilleries and breweries might perhaps be made the means of sustaining a remunerating price to the growers and manufacturers of sugar and molasses, to a certain extent, without interfering materially with the agricultural interests of Great Britain. On this great point of diminishing cost of production and supporting a remunerating value to the commodities of West India growth, must evidently hang the success of the critical and momentous experiment which has been made in the abolition of negro slavery.

In an administrative point of view, one of the first points which occurs is, a provision for the pure and able administration of justice, whereby the commercial credit of the colonies may be upheld, and a portion of the superabundant capital of the mother country may come to be safely vested in this part of the world. Proprietary, or other banks of discount and deposit, under judicious regulation, would give a spirit to agricultural enterprise, and add materially to the public convenience and resources. A planter of the best substance now, in a season of momentary difficulty, can only obtain pecuniary accommodation from English merchants, the consignees of sugar, under all the disadvantages of a constrained remittance of his crops to unfavourable markets, to compound interest, and numberless ruinous charges of commission on the gross sales, and the like.

By many it is thought that the establishment of savings-banks in Antigua would stimulate the industry of the lower orders, and tend to improve their moral habits. Friendly societies are already formed in the different parishes, under the guidance of the ministers of religion, and are highly worthy of encouragement in every point of view, especially by the proprietors of the soil, as the system may be expected to afford the best safeguard against an oppressive pauperage. If a savings-bank existed, the funds of these societies might be there securely deposited, and derive a small rate of interest. The funds being at present retained in the hands of the clergy, have, on some occasions, been stolen from their dwelling-houses. The only impediment towards forming a savings-bank seems to be, that there is no secure method of vesting the funds, so as to have a regularly-accruing interest. It is in every respect worthy the consideration of His Majesty's Secretary of State, whether the provisions of 9 Geo. 4, could not be so extended as to include the colonies, as was done by 3 Will. 4, c. 14, in favour of Jersey, Guernsey, and the Isle of Man.

In a financial point of view we can only say, that it is more than ever desirable, during the progress of the great experiment, especially to relieve the landholders, as far as possible, from

from every species of direct taxation, and that the slender funds in the colonial treasury are quite inadequate to maintain a sufficient police, or to construct buildings for their reception, houses of correction, hospitals for the sick and lunatics, parish almshouses, and the like; or even to place the common transports and communications of the different parts of the country, by the repair of the public roads, on a safe and convenient footing.

26 January 1835.

(signed) N. N.

(No. 2.)

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Question 1. How would you estimate the present state of productive industry in the colony as compared with the last or former years at this season?

Answer (A 1). R. Jarrett, esq. attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—The labourers have very little industry, not one-fourth of the provisions as formerly reaped, and the preparation for canes very backward and full of weeds.

(B 1.) The Rev. N. Gilbert, proprietor.—I think that there has been a falling off at least of one-third; and at this moment there is a considerably greater diminution of labour on account of the unsettled state of the minds of the negro population respecting the remuneration to which they are entitled during the period of crop.

(C 1.) Shirley Warner, esq. editor of the Antigua Herald.—A very difficult question; but as far as can be collected by hearsay from different quarters, I should think that the labour done this year is not far short of what was done in former years, on an average, though fewer people have undoubtedly been employed. In the time of slavery the quantum of labour was not much the subject of comparison.

(D 1.) Mr. Loving, superintendent of police.—This question can be answered by the planters, without the risk of error.

(E 1 & 2.) Mr. Scotland, sen. lately editor of the Free Press.—It will be convenient to reverse the order of these questions in replying to them. As to the second then, the cultivation of the lands universally is in the most favourable state, according to the testimony of numerous planters themselves. The operations of the crop, the preparation of the soil for planting, and every other business of the estates, are all advanced in a general view, at least as far as at the same period in former years; there are scarcely any properties to which this assertion will not apply (*see note*). On many far greater progress has been made; and wherever difficulties and failures occur, they are almost wholly ascribable to the haughty and harsh tempers and mismanagement of the directors. So that the present condition of the agriculture and manufacture of the country may be pronounced highly satisfactory; rather more than equalling the usual expectations of the planters, and very far from surpassing, or, to speak more correctly, altogether belying the anticipations of those who have taken pleasure in calumniating the negroes and prognosticating the ruin of the island from their emancipation. Upon what has been affirmed, follows of course an answer to the first question of the most gratifying nature; “the productive industry of the colony” has increased. If, with the usual chances and casualties, we find the staple manufacture in so flourishing a state as described, without the stimulus of whips and stocks, and dungeons, it is evident that a new spirit, a spirit of genuine industry, has been infused into the working peasantry. During the system of slavery they laboured as beasts under the incitement of fear or suffering; now, from the hope of reward, they see that as freemen they have an opportunity of improving their circumstances, and the sweet hope of attaining to plenty,

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&c. has called into exercise those energies which their late bondage repressed and paralysed.

Note.—The only estates known where the new system has not worked successfully and the business is in arrear, are Blubber Valley, M'Kinnon's, Mill-hill or Russel's, Johnson's Folly, Betty's Hope and Cochran's.

(F 1.) The Hon. *Owen Pell*.—In my opinion there is to be seen in almost every direction evident proof of declining exertion in the cultivation of this island.

(G 1.) The Hon. *W. Byam*.—I would estimate the productive industry to be diminished one-third in the quantity of sugar manufactured each week on plantations generally (considering the time spent in grinding) although perhaps as much sugar may actually now be realized as at the corresponding period in former years; yet that amount has been obtained by the state of the weather and prevalence of steady winds, peculiarly favourable for taking off a crop, to the neglect however of the proper proportion of other work, in consequence of which, and the severe drought, the prospect for next year is gloomy in the extreme, at this late season not half the full extent of land being planted effectively, the ratoon or second-crop canes remaining unaided, scarcely any provision-ground in preparation and the fodder for the stock as yet unsecured in stack-heaps.

(H 1.) The Hon. *M. H. Daniell*.—I am of opinion that productive industry in the colony as compared with the last or former years, considered generally, has fallen off one-fourth; but I am sanguine in the expectation of its returning to its former healthy state when both the upper and lower classes in our society better understand the true position in which they are placed in regard to each other, by the adoption of free over coercive labour.

Question 2. Is the cultivation of the lands generally in that satisfactory state which a planter might have expected and secured in the former year or years, independent of those chances and casualties which arise from the vicissitudes of weather?

Answer (A 2.) R. Jarrett, esq. attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—The lands are not half so well cultivated as formerly for want of labour, and the usual quantity must be reduced about one-third. The latter end of the year having been dry, has curtailed the present crop full one-third, and the deficiency of labour since the 1st of August has greatly added to it.

(B 2.) The Rev. *N. Gilbert*, proprietor.—Not generally; for as stated above I consider the decrease of labour to be about one-third.

(C 2.) *Shirley Warner, esq.* editor of the Antigua Herald.—I have heard universal complaints of the want of hand-weeders, but I have not heard many admissions of the natural consequences of that want. I should be inclined to reply in the negative to this question.

(D 2.) Mr. *Loving*, superintendent of police.—This question can be answered by the planters without the risk of error.

(F 2.) The Hon. *Owen Pell*.—Certainly not; since the 1st of August to the present time the weather has been such as to cause little or no extra labour, as frequently is the case, owing to heavy torrents of rain, washes, &c., and little or no sickness has prevailed; nevertheless considerable tracts of land are lying in fallow, which, in former years, at this season, (12th May) would have been either planted, or ready to plant, while the abundance of weeds, considering how dry the weather has been and the quantity of manure unthrown out on the land, are decided proofs of a deficiency of labour. It would be an interesting document to have, a return from all estates, showing the number of acres of ground, provisions planted thereon on the 1st July in the years 1835, 1834, 1833, 1832, 1831, 1830, 1829, 1828. This could be obtained without any trouble.

(G 2.) The Hon. *William Byam*.—Certainly not.

(H 2.) The Hon. *M. H. Daniell*.—The cultivation of the land generally is certainly not in that satisfactory state which a planter might have expected and secured in former years, independent of those chances and casualties which arise from the vicissitudes of weather.

Question 3. What are the articles raised or produced in the island for exportation, other than the staple articles of sugar, rum or molasses?

Answer (A 3.) R. Jarrett, esq., attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—A small quantity of arrow root.

(B 3.) The Rev. *N. Gilbert*, proprietor.—The answer to this question, both as to quality and amount, will be satisfactorily obtained by consulting the Custom-house returns of the 4½ per cent. duty, as every article of island production is, on exportation, chargeable with it.

(C 3.) *Shirley Warner, esq.*, editor of the Antigua Herald.—Arrow root, ginger pounded, (commonly called cayenne) pepper, raw hides, but in very trifling quantities.

(D 3.) Mr. *Loving*, superintendent of police.—Same as preceding answer, (D 3.)

(E 3.) Mr. *Scotland, sen.*, late editor of the Free Press.—The only products of the island exported, in addition to the staples, are a few thousand pounds of arrow root, and a very trifling quantity of cotton, ginger and preserved tamarinds.

(F 3.) The Hon. *Owen Pell*.—A small quantity of arrow root, and occasionally a few pounds of inferior cotton. Neither coffee, cocoa, ginger, pimento or aloes are exported from this island.

(G 3.) The Hon. *W. Byam*.—None to any amount. A little arrow root has lately been exported, the produce of provision-grounds allowed the labourers on plantations, free of rent, since 1st August, to the injury of the cultivation of the cane.

(H 3.) The Hon. *M. H. Daniell*.—The articles raised or produced in this island for exportation,

exportation, other than the staple articles of sugar, rum and molasses, are so very trifling as to be scarcely worthy of consideration.

Question 4. What are the articles raised in the island for home consumption, viz., for the use of its inhabitants?

Answer (A 4.) R. Jarrett, esq. attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—Potatoes, yams, eddoes, corn and plantain.

(B 4.) The Rev. *N. Gilbert*, proprietor.—I am not aware of any besides provisions, of which there is already a considerable diminution, and in all probability there will be a much greater, on account of the difficulty of procuring labour.

(C 4.) *Shirley Warner*, esq. editor of the Antigua Herald.—Besides the staples mentioned in the foregoing question, yams, eddoes, potatoes (edible roots), Jamaica pease, and other pulse (vegetables for the table), maize and Guinea corn (grain.)

(D 4.) Mr. *Loving*, superintendent of police.—Same as the preceding answer, (D 2.)

(E 4.) Mr. *Scotland*, sen. late editor of the Free Press.—The articles raised for the consumption of the inhabitants are yams, eddoes, sweet potatoes, maize, Guinea corn, a few green vegetables and a little coffee, hardly worth mentioning; but the whole amount of the above provisions is not sufficient to render unnecessary the importation of a vast quantity of corn, meal, flour, biscuit, &c. from America.

(F 4.) The Hon. *Owen Pell*.—Various and uncertain crops of edible vegetables, and a small quantity of Indian and Guinea corn-crops, owing to the drought to which the island is subject, on which little or no dependence can be placed.

(G 4.) The Hon. *W. Byam*.—Yams, eddoes, potatoes, maize, Guinea corn, cassava, plantains, bananas, fruits and vegetables.

(H 4.) The Hon. *M. H. Daniell*.—The articles raised in the island for home consumption, for the use of the inhabitants, are principally yams, eddoes, and sweet potatoes, and to a less important extent, Indian Guinea corn, plantains and bananas and, in very small quantity, coffee.

Question 5. To what extent, in your opinion, has human labour been withdrawn from agriculture since the passing of the Slavery Abolition Act?

Answer (A 5.) R. Jarrett, esq. attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—Judging by the seven estates under my charge, and the appearance of others generally, I should say that there was a deficiency of one-half. Very few of the young people have returned to work since 1st August, and little work is done on Saturdays and Mondays. Every other day of the former is a holiday, and on the latter day the muster is very small. Many come to work on Tuesday morning after breakfast.

(B 5.) The Rev. *N. Gilbert*, proprietor.—As nearly as I can form an estimate, I conceive that one-third of the labouring population are either living in idleness, being maintained by their families, or are obtaining the means of support by fishing, jobbing and other desultory occupations; a considerable number of children, from 10 to 15 years of age, living as domestics with persons who were formerly themselves slaves, or of the very lowest class of society. These persons give them no wages, merely feeding and clothing them in the coarsest manner, and employing them in the most servile occupations. In many instances the parents of the children have discovered this and removed them, but the evil is still extensive.

(C 5.) *Shirley Warner*, esq. editor of the Antigua Herald.—I should conceive that a great but undefined withdrawal of individuals from agricultural labour has taken place, but I suspect very nearly the average amount of labour has been performed by a less number than heretofore.

(D 5.) Mr. *Loving*, superintendent of police.—Ten per cent., I am of opinion, including all descriptions, some of whom have abandoned agriculture, some are on the plantations, not working, from one good cause or the other; and a certain portion are engaged by the growers of provisions on lands that have been laying fallow for many years past. I am of opinion that a part of the first-mentioned class will return to their old occupations when they have experienced the pressure of want.

(E 5.) Mr. *Scotland*, sen., late editor of the Free Press.—The abstraction of the agricultural negroes from their former occupation, since the passing of the Abolition Act, may be in the proportion of 4 or 5 per cent. among the adults, and of about 12 per cent. of children under 16.

(F 5.) The Hon. *Owen Pell*.—In number not less than one-fourth, and in effective strength not less than one-third, seeing with what little exertion the labourers work in the field, the late hours of turning out in the morning, early breaking off work in the afternoon, the practice of taking nearly a day and a half each to themselves during the week, thereby reducing the plantation labour to about four days and a half per week.

(G 5.) The Hon. *W. Byam*.—One-third actual strength, and almost entirely the rising generation.

(H 5.) I am of opinion that human labour has been withdrawn from agriculture since the passing of the Slavery Abolition Act, to the extent of one-third, but that the adult agricultural labourers will, in time, return to their former occupations. What may be the situation of the colony when the present labourers have passed away, is matter of anxious consideration. From the almost total withdrawing of the children from the estates since the passing of the above-mentioned Act, they are prevented from being brought up in those moral habits to render them willing and efficient successors to those who have gone before them.

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Question 6. Has this obstruction of human labour been yet at all supplied from other sources, either by beasts of burden, or by any improvement of the system or mode of agriculture; or do you anticipate that the loss of human labour will hereafter be so supplied?

Answer (A 6.) R. Jarrett, esq., attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—No substitute has yet been found. No doubt some experiments will be made, such as the importation of other labourers from England or elsewhere; but of the success of this plan I am very doubtful. The more frequent use of the plough, or any other implement or machine used in English agriculture, will be tried; but this will only be a trial, and cannot be equal to the labour prior to the 1st August. I conceive agriculture at this time to be on the decline. We shall perceive it more next year, and more the year after. It may be presumption in me to suggest anything, but laws framed on the apprenticeship system appear to me most conducive to the welfare of the negro and the proprietor of the soil. It is necessary they should be made to do a fair proportion of work, not suffered to wander about, and all vagabonds punished. Of the punishment at the house of correction, if they do get any, they care nothing about. A young lad told one of my managers that he had been in gaol already, and that he would go there again; accordingly he was soon sent there again for pulling down an empty negro house, and burning it. His insolence was very great. Most of those who have been committed have been there a second time.

(B 6.) *The Rev. N. Gilbert, proprietor.*—The plough is certainly coming into more general use than formerly; and the mode so customary in England of carting and spreading manure over the land, and then burying it by means of the plough, is observable in many places. That canes and provisions may be thus effectively cultivated I have had sufficient proof from my own experience, having for several successive years planted the whole crop in this manner, and obtained returns equal to any the estates have ever produced under the old plan of holing and treading out the manure. I was, in fact, compelled to adopt this system, by the small number of slaves which I possessed in proportion to the quantity of cultivable land; and I have only discontinued it in consequence of having purchased about 50 additional negroes, whose labour, although of the greatest importance at certain periods of the year, could not have been rendered fully available but by thus filling up the intervals of diminished exertion.

(C 6.) *Shirley Warner, esq., of the Antigua Herald.*—I have understood, and on one occasion I saw, more ploughs at work than were formerly used. I have no doubt that, eventually, that implement must wholly supersede the hoe in opening land.

(D 6.) *Mr. Loving, superintendent of police.*—It has not been supplied by improvement of the system or mode of agriculture. In some cases beasts of burden cannot supply this obstruction, and whether they could, it would take a large amount to furnish them, and this in ready money too.

(E 6.) *Mr. Scotland, sen., lately editor of the Free Press.*—Although through the mutual dissatisfaction, which existed from August to December last, between many of the planters and the persons who had previously been slaves, under their management much inconvenience and detriment may have been suffered where that dissatisfaction prevailed; yet it is believed that under the concessions with respect to wages, &c., which were wisely though tardily made by the employers, the want of human labour has, generally speaking, been little felt; and consequently it does not appear that any substitute has been provided, such as the labour of beasts, or that any improvement of the system or mode of agriculture has been introduced. No doubt, if, as is possible, there should at any time hereafter be a deficiency of human hands, some plan for supplying the want must and will be resorted to.

(F 6.) *The Hon. Owen Pell.*—The increased use of the plough has in some small degree supplied the place of human labour, but no substitute in machinery has yet been introduced to any extent. High prices may induce men to try experiments; but machinery requires labourers.

(G 6.) *The Hon. W. Byam.*—I do not think machinery has been introduced to its full extent to supply the place of abstracted labour, or that all has been yet done towards an improved mode of agriculture, and I anticipate in some degree the loss of human labour will hereafter be so supplied in the cultivation of the soil; but I fear this expectation cannot refer to the manufacture of sugar and the gathering in of the crop.

(H 6.) *The Hon. M. H. Daniell.*—I do not consider that any material alteration has taken place in our system of agriculture, but I anticipate that the use of the plough will become more general and extensive.

Question 7. Do you expect that other articles of growth or manufacture will be produced, in consequence of the Abolition Act, than those which were heretofore grown or made in the colony?

Answer (A 7.) R. Jarrett, esq., attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—I am not aware of any other article that could be substituted for those formerly planted.

(B 7.) *The Rev. R. Gilbert, proprietor.*—I certainly have no anticipation of this nature, nor do I think that even the cultivation of the cane would be continued to any extent were it not for the amount of capital already invested in the manufacture of sugar and the impossibility of realizing it. In fact, no sale of a sugar plantation can be effected except at the most reduced price, or by allowing the purchaser sufficient time to pay the amount out of the proceeds of the estate.

(C 7.) *Shirley Warner, esq., editor of the Antigua Herald.*—I conceive that many other articles

articles will be grown, as the destruction of the monopoly of labour has time and opportunity to call forth the energies of the people, and to induce experiments upon the productiveness of the soil.

(D 7.) Mr. *Loving*, superintendent of police.—I have always looked to the abolition of slavery as a period when adventurers would embark in the production of articles differing from those that have been heretofore grown in this colony, and in the extended cultivation of others that have been produced in a limited degree, such as cotton and coffee; of the first of which a few bales are shipped to Europe at uncertain periods, depending upon the merchants obtaining it in small quantities from plantation labourers, and a small quantity is used for boiling-house lamps on sugar estates; while the latter is to be met with only at a few family tables. Nothing can be easier or less expensive than the cultivation of cotton; and we have highlands that have been lying fallow and neglected for many years past. I am very intimate with a gentleman, a native, who is now preparing to sow a large quantity of cotton seeds on land of this description, recently purchased by him, and where also he has established a few cocoa trees from a pod obtained at the garden on Belvidere estate in this island, with the view of extending their number when he shall have imported other seeds from abroad. Wheat has been tried here as an experiment, on a few square feet of land, and the returns it gave were such as ought to have encouraged perseverance, but the planters who tried it gave the matter no further thought. A great variety of wheat is cultivated in Spain, and I see no reason why it may not succeed as well here for domestic use; the same article grows luxuriantly in South America, and the similarity of climate with ours requires no comment on the subject. The medicinal plants grown in Turkey and the east are adapted to our soil, and the indigo plant, which grew in abundance in this island some 80 years ago, and formed a part of its staple cultivation, is still to be seen here and there growing in a neglected state, from the want of a few enterprising characters to bring it into notice once more.

(E 7.) Mr. *Scotland*, sen., late editor of the Free Press.—The planters have always been averse from the cultivation of any other articles than the canes, and are likely to continue so. But when the negroes shall become proprietors or lessees of parcels of land, they may be expected to direct their attention to the increased growth of cotton, coffee, perhaps tobacco, and even indigo. But it is probable that at first they will employ themselves for some years exclusively in the raising of provisions.

(F 7.) The Hon. *Owen Pell*.—None of any importance.

(G 7.) The Hon. *W. Byam*.—None for exportation.

(H 7.) The Hon. *M. H. Daniell*.—I have no great reason at present to expect that other articles of growth or manufacture will be produced in consequence of the Abolition Act than what were heretofore grown or made in the colony.

Question 8. Is capital likely to be diverted from its usual channel in this island in consequence of unconditional freedom? Or is it more probable that it will be directed to the growth of the staple produce as before, and with additional energy?

Answer (A 8.) *R. Jarrett*, esq., attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—The importation of food will be greater than formerly; but not near so much of plantation stores. The staple produce has always been the most profitable, and will be continued as long as it can be. The exports will fall short, unconditional freedom having put a stop to all energy in planting.

(B 8.) The Rev. *N. Gilbert*, proprietor.—The merchants, mortgagees, proprietors, legatees and other persons interested in West India property, will gladly avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by the payment of 20,000,000*l.* of compensation money, to withdraw capital to that amount. More than this it will not be very easy to withdraw, as almost the whole value of the land and buildings of a sugar plantation is dependant upon its being kept in cultivation. At the same time I think it probable that loans, to be paid out of the ensuing crop, or being of a very limited amount in proportion to the supposed value of the property, will be more easily attainable than they have been for some years past, on occasion of the great uncertainty under which we laboured as to the nature of the measures which the British Parliament might think fit to adopt for the amelioration and ultimate emancipation of the slaves. In this colony we can anticipate no further interference with our property on the part of the mother country, and this will certainly give an additional feeling of security to the holders of liens on our estates.

(C 8.) *Shirley Warner*, esq., editor of the Antigua Herald.—The capital which is employed in this island is possessed principally by persons resident in the United Kingdom. Its gradual withdrawal may be more naturally expected than its employment or increased investment in this country. I look for the simultaneous growth and accumulation of capital amongst us.

(D 8.) Mr. *Loving*, superintendent of police.—Upon this subject every thing concurs to impress my mind with the belief that the planters will do all in their power to extend the cultivation of the sugar cane, as an article yielding, in their opinion, larger profits than any other to meet the ready expences of an estate. During the existence of slavery large quantities of ground provisions were planted to render them less dependant on foreign supplies for the feeding of their people; but now that this feeding is superseded by wages, they feel no inducement to persevere on this score, especially as the cultivation of an acre of potatoes or yams will cost nearly the same price as an acre of canes, with this difference, that the latter, when grown, is worth considerably

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ably more than the former, if sent to market. The planter is obliged by law to feed their old people, but they feel no concern where or how the strong and healthy obtain food. Hence the few acres of provisions that have been planted since the 1st August 1834, and hence also the high prices that are realized at this moment for many of those productions which were abundant in our markets for many years past. I apprehend that the fall of this year will demand larger supplies than usual from abroad, and even the month of June will not have passed ere the Americans will find us in a situation to become their humble dependents. Capital may, in some measure, be diverted from commerce to agriculture, by the avidity with which sugar plantations are sought after at this moment; but there are not many properties that are so free from overwhelming incumbrances, as to leave any hope of their cane lands changing masters immediately. Capital now locked up in the coffers of many of the late slaves, who were drivers, rangers and other head men on plantations, whose station gave them the means of accumulating money beyond their fellow-servants, would circulate extensively if these people could purchase small parcels of the waste lands to be seen in various quarters of the island, to the astonishment of strangers, and the discredit of our national character.

(E 8.) Mr. *Scotland*, sen. lately editor of the Free Press.—Capital is not likely to be diverted from its usual channel, there is manifestly a growing disposition to invest it in sugar estates. One or two purchases have already been made, and others, it is said, are contemplated. No other product of our soil and climate yields a return equal to that of the cane; and, as the plantations are already furnished with valuable works for the conversion of its juice into sugar, and the proprietors have heretofore devoted all their exertion and means to its cultivation, even with less encouraging prospects before them, there is reason rather to hope that additional energy will be put forth in the culture of our staple, than to apprehend its declension.

(F 8.) The Hon. *Owen Pell*.—This question is contingent on various circumstances. If peace and good order is preserved, and a spirit of industry should spring up among the inhabitants, increased capital would doubtless find its way to the island, for there are many natural inducements; the climate, comparatively speaking, is healthy, the soil productive, and easily cultivated, compared with most other colonies, and the quality of the produce of the island is of the very best description.

(G 8.) The Hon. *W. Byam*.—It cannot be withdrawn by reason of the impossibility of realising, except at an immense sacrifice, or no doubt it would, from the insecurity of the cultivation of the sugar cane, under all the political circumstances attending the West India colonies; nor is it likely, unless the policy of Great Britain is altered towards these dependencies on the empire, any additional energy can be expected from the direction of capital to this island.

(H 8.) The Hon. *M. H. Daniell*.—I do not expect that capital will be diverted from its usual channel in this island, in consequence of unconditional freedom, or that it will be directed to other than the staple produce as before; but not with additional energy.

Question 9. Supposing that the average quantity of sugar grown in this colony for the last 10 years to be about 11,000 hogsheads, how do you consider that average to be affected by the absence of coercive labour?

Answer (A 9.)—R. Jarrett, esq. attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—Judging from the present state of things, I should think it would affect it one-third less.

(B 9.) The Rev. *N. Gilbert*, proprietor.—I do not consider that 11,000 hogsheads is a fair average of the sugar crops of this island. The seven years, from 1826 to 1832, both inclusive, were very unfavourable to the cultivation of the cane, the amount of rain for those years averaging only 40·81 inches; whereas, that of the three preceding years was equal to 49·83 inches, or nearly one-fourth more, and the rain of last year was 60·83 inches, and consequently the foregoing statement of the amount of the crops will be too low. I imagine that the present crop will be 10,000 hogsheads of 1,500 lbs. net weight; but it was planted and established under the old system, and with very favourable weather. The annual decrease will, I fear, be fully equal to one-third, and nothing but discontinuing the growth of provisions, and ratooning to a very large extent, will prevent the average from falling lower still.

(C 9.) *Shirley Warner*, esq. editor of the Antigua Herald.—It is very difficult to frame a reply to this query. I see no reason to suppose that the average productions of sugar, rum, or molasses, would be much increased in this island by the change which has taken place.

(D 9.) Mr. *Loving*, superintendent of police.—This question can be answered by the planter without the risk of error.

(E 9.) Mr. *Scotland*, sen. lately editor of the Free Press.—Not at all disadvantageously, but the reverse; for it has been found that the free labourer, for a fair remuneration in wages, will exert himself much beyond all example under the system of coercion.

(F 9.) The Hon. *Owen Pell*.—Previous to the emancipation of the slaves, I was of opinion that the produce of the island, during the next seven years, would equal in quantity the produce of the last seven; the only difference being the increased expense. I am, however, now very apprehensive, from experience, and from observation of what has been passing around me the last six months, that owing to a falling off of that regular, necessary, and continuous labour, which the estates of this island at all seasons require, the produce

duce of the plantations will gradually diminish. The cultivation of ground provisions will, from necessity, be first abandoned, and the cane may be expected gradually to follow.

(G 9.) The Hon. *W. Byam*.—About one-third according to present appearances.

(H 9.) The Hon. *M. H. Daniell*.—I do not consider that a diminution of the average production of sugar in the colony for the last 10 years is likely to be caused by the absence of excessive labour, after the lapse of a short time, if at all.

Question 10. Will the culture of the sugar cane admit of being successfully aided by the application of agricultural machinery; and if so, what are the particular appliances that you would recommend?

Answer (A 10.) *R. Jarrett*, esq. attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—To do as much as possible with the plough, carting out manure, and spreading it on the surface, holing the ground as little as possible.

(B 10.) The Rev. *N. Gilbert*, proprietor.—I am not aware of any agricultural machinery that is applicable to the culture of the sugar cane, except the plough and carts, perhaps the scarifier. The steam-engine will be noticed in replying to the 13th query.

(C 10.) *Shirley Warner*, esq. editor of the Antigua Herald.—Of the affirmative to this query there can be no doubt; a country cultivated in the rudest and most inartificial manner, affords every field that can be required for the introduction of mechanical aids.

The plough, the harrow, and the spiked or smooth roller, occur instantly to the mind, as likely to increase the powers of the cultivator. The first is already in partial and increasing operation; the other two will doubtless follow; and I am far from believing that there are not many contrivances for cheapening the manipulations of agriculture that will not either be invented or imported.

(D 10.) Mr. *Loving*, superintendent of police.—Certainly, and I go no farther than to point at the necessity of constructing a machine for weeding. But the planter would then be obliged to alter his method of holing, so as to admit of the machine being worked without obstruction or injury to the crop.

(E 10.) Mr. *Scotland*, sen. lately editor of the Free Press.—The culture of the sugar-cane may be successfully aided by the application of machinery, such as the plough and harrow in level lands. Experience has proved this, and those implements are becoming more generally used.

(F 10.) The Hon. *Owen Pell*.—No doubt of it, in a practical degree; ploughs, harrows, rolls, drills for corn, scuffles for twitch, and all other agricultural implements, chaff-cutters, &c. will more or less come into use. But if some artificial grasses, roots, &c. could be found and brought from the East Indies or Southern or Western Africa, and be cultivated as a green crop, similar to turnips, mangel-wurzels and clover, and thereby enable the planter to support a large flock of stock, while at the same time he is resting and enriching his cane lands by feeding his stock on the green crop, a great part of almost all the labour now expended in raising manure would be saved, and would be applicable to other purposes.

(G 10.) The Hon. *William Byam*.—The plough and other agricultural instruments have for many years in Antigua aided the cultivation of the land for the planting of the sugar-cane and ground provisions; but I do not know any appliance that would assist in reaping in the crop; the human hand can alone execute that work.

(H 10.) The Hon. *M. H. Daniell*.—The culture of the sugar-cane admits of being successfully aided by the application of agricultural machinery. The plough, harrow, and weed extirpator are the particular appliances I would recommend. These to be used judiciously, of course, according to the nature of the soil.

Question 11. Will the expense of a sugar plantation be increased or decreased, in your opinion, under free labour?

Answer (A 11.) *R. Jarrett*, Esq. attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—Increased very materially; the food for the labourers used to be raised on the soil by their own labour.

(B 11.) The Rev. *N. Gilbert*, proprietor.—I have no hesitation in asserting, in reply to this query, that the expense of negro labour for the cultivation of an estate in this island will be diminished one-half, and yet it remains an extremely doubtful point, whether it will be worth while to continue the cultivation of sugar or not. Each of these points I will endeavour to demonstrate as concisely as possible.

Under the old system, it was always considered that 200 slaves were able to make annually 200 hogsheads of sugar, with a fair proportion of rum and molasses. Under the same system our slaves were generally valued at 100 *l.* per head. The value of 200 slaves would therefore be 20,000 *l.* and the interest of this sum at 6 per cent. is 1,200 *l.* The expense of food and clothing for the same number of slaves would also amount to 1,200 *l.* But I conceive that under the present system, and at the present rate of wages (*viz.* 1 *s.* per diem), the same number of efficient labourers may be obtained for 250 *l.* a week, or 1,250 *l.* per annum, which is about the half of the former expenditure. So far the new system appears to be the most economical, but there are many other points to be taken into consideration besides the mere expenditure in labour. It may be impossible to procure the requisite number of labourers; they may, if procured, be more idle than formerly; our canes may suffer more extensively from plunder when the crop is ready for the mill; the increased exertions necessary for taking it off may not be attainable. All these, and a variety of other evils of a similar nature, are at this moment in operation, and hence it may be very doubtful whether

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whether the diminution of expense will not be more than counterbalanced by the diminution of profits. To put the subject in a clearer light I will state it in figures, thus :

	£.	£.
Under the system of slavery,		
200 hogsheads of sugar at 30 <i>l.</i> were worth - - - -	6,000	
200 puncheons of rum and molasses, at 10 <i>l.</i> - - - -	2,000	
	<hr/>	8,000
Feeding and clothing 200 slaves - - - - -	1,200	
Interest of 20,000 <i>l.</i> being their value - - - - -	1,200	
	<hr/>	2,400
Leaving a surplus of - - - - -	-	<hr/> <u>£. 5,600</u>
Under the free system,		
133 $\frac{2}{3}$ hogsheads of sugar at 30 <i>l.</i> - - - -	4,000	
133 $\frac{2}{3}$ puncheons of rum and molasses at 10 <i>l.</i> - - - -	1,337	
	<hr/>	5,347
Amount of wages - - - - -	-	<hr/> <u>1,250</u>
Leaving a surplus of - - - - -	-	<hr/> <u>4,097</u>
Balance in favour of the old system - - - - -	-	<hr/> <u>£. 1,503</u>

The foregoing calculation is made on the supposition maintained in my replies to the other queries throughout, and which I still believe to be correct, that the produce of the island will fall off one-third ; and thus it is apparent, that although the immediate outlay of money may be diminished, yet the value of our estates and the production of the colony will be diminished at the same time, not in a corresponding but in an increasing ratio.

(C 11.) *Shirley Warner*, esq. editor of the Antigua Herald.—I should think that they would not be increased by freedom; for although wages will exceed the allowance to individuals, yet as none will be paid but those who work, and as the whole expense of supporting the labourer's family will now be borne by the labourer himself, instead of being thrown on the master as heretofore in the shape of allowance doled out to each individual, I should conceive that the aggregate cost of cultivation must be lessened by freedom, besides which the power which freedom permits of economising human labour by machinery, and even in many instances substituting mechanical contrivances and the strength of cattle for manual labour, which was impossible in any great degree under the slave system, must, I should imagine, introduce regularity, expedition and cheapness into West India cultivation

(D 11.) *Mr. Loving*, superintendent of police.—The planters can answer this question.

(E 11.) *Mr. Scotland*, sen. lately editor of the Free Press.—It has been already ascertained that the expences of sugar plantations are even now reduced below their former rate during the existence of slavery. Calculations have been made by experienced and competent gentlemen which prove that, under the single head of maintenance of labourers, there will accrue to the aggregate body of planters, by the substitution of wages for food, clothing, &c. a saving of no less than from 30,000 *l.* to 50,000 *l.* currency, for there is this difference in the computations. Add to this, that henceforward there will be no loss occasioned by the death of slaves, nor will the owners of estates be burthened with the support of infirm and superannuated persons, when those who are now quartered upon them by law shall have paid the debt of nature. Perhaps, too, a more enlarged use of cattle, the plough, &c. may enable planters to dispense with a part of their present working people, and thereby still further diminish the charges of their properties. Improvements, however, in this country are always very dilatory in their progress.

(F 11.) The Hon. *Owen Pell*.—To such estates as formerly supported their slaves by provision ground on the estates, I consider there will be an increase of 30 per cent. against the planter; that is to say, the difference betwixt his own weekly disbursement for wages and the value or his former weekly issue of food, &c. The produce of the plantation will be less, owing to a falling off of labour, while the capital (minus the compensation) will be the same amount invested in the property.

(G 11.) The Hon. *W. Byam*.—Increased as the weekly expenditure of wages, since 1st August, has been equal or beyond the former outlay attending a distribution of food, and the labour obtained much less. There are exceptions nevertheless to this conclusion; for instance, in the case of plantations which formerly had too many slaves on them, previous to the 1st August 1834, as well as in those which had too few.

(H 11.) The Hon. *M. H. Daniell*.—I consider that the expences of a plantation will be increased under free labour.

Question 12. Does it appear to you that, on the principle that advantages are derived generally from a division of labour, the growth of the canes and the manufacture of sugar might advantageously become two separate pursuits ?

Answer (A 12) *R. Jarrett*, esq. attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—I do not see how the labour could be divided, the manufacture of sugar is only a part of the year, and when we have rain to plant we cannot grind. The negroes always prefer being employed in the manufacture.

(B 12.) The Rev. *N. Gilbert*, proprietor.—I have always stated that I do not think that capital will be willingly expended on sugar estates; and even if this were not the case, it

it is scarcely probable that the present manufactories, located as they are in the most convenient situations for the cartage of the canes and produce, would be abandoned for the purpose of establishing others, which must, generally speaking, be more inconveniently placed.

(C 12.) *Shirley Warner*, esq. editor of the Antigua Herald.—I am induced to believe that the cultivation of the canes, the carriage of it to the manufactories, the manufacture of sugar and molasses, and the distillation of rum will eventually, in many instances, become separate businesses.

(D 12) *Mr. Loving*, superintendent of police.—I think it quite impossible for this division of labour to be effected in this part of the world as it regards sugar estates.

(E 12.) *Mr. Scotland*, sen. editor of the Free Press.—The idea of separating the manufacture of sugar from the growth of the cane, so as to render them two distinct occupations, seems to be neither practicable nor necessary in the present state of the island. The whole of the appropriated land, with trifling exceptions, is laid out in plantations, where the cane is cultivated to the extent of the productive capability of the soil, or of the proprietor's means; and on all these estates the necessary buildings and apparatus for the manufacture of sugar are already erected and fitted at a heavy cost. These must decay or be destroyed before there could be any hope of speculative sugar-boilers from the establishment of new works and machinery. Machinery is mentioned because it does not seem to be at all feasible to disconnect the grinding of the cane from the subsequent processes in making sugar. The exceptions alluded to above are some perhaps 18 or 20 dismantled estates, now converted to pasture, and a few inconsiderable patches, too small to be profitably applied to the cane. The only chance, therefore, of the suggested division of labour being introduced here depends upon something like this: His Majesty's Government directing the allotment of our waste land to settlers, in parcels sufficient for the advantageous culture of the cane, that is, of at least 20 or 30 acres each.

(F 12.) *The Hon. Owen Pell*.—A large factory might be established for the sole purpose of making sugar from canes grown by small proprietors, and thereby enable such proprietors to cultivate the cane without having capital to erect works. I however do not think there is any room for such establishments in this island. There are sugar mills and works enough in this island adapted to almost all the good land in the island. The cane is a raw material, is bulky and of great weight, it must therefore always be manufactured near the spot on which it is grown, unless canals or rail-roads afforded cheap and certain methods for its removal.

(G 12.) *The Hon. W. Byam*.—In the settlement of a new colony, when works could be judiciously constructed, adequate to the requirements of a certain extent of land and roads traced to facilitate cartage accordingly, the growth of the cane, and the manufacture of sugar might advantageously become too separate pursuits; but in this island (in which already every plantation has its works conveniently placed for taking off and receiving its crop) it does not appear any advantage could now be derived from a separation of the two pursuits, the capital requisite in buildings being already expended, suited to the wants of the various plantations; besides the comforts obtained by the field-labourer from a participation in the advantages arising from the manufacture of sugar, offer so much inducement to his undertaking agricultural toil, that their removal from the reach of numbers of the population could only create additional impediments to field-labour.

(H 12.) *The Hon. M. H. Daniell*.—I think not in this island.

Question 13. Would the application of steam come successfully in aid of such separation of the two pursuits just adverted to?

Answer (A 13.) *R. Jarrett*, esq. attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—Steam-mills are very useful, but very expensive, in grinding canes; I am not aware how steam could be otherwise employed.

(B 13.) *The Rev. N. Gilbert*, proprietor.—There could be no inducement to such a change, except the application of steam to the grinding the cane. This would frequently be very desirable, as it would enable us to place the works that all the cartage should be down hill, or on level ground; whereas at present the mill is generally situated on the most elevated part of the estate, for the purpose of obtaining a sufficient exposure to the wind. It must be observed that this remark does not at all invalidate the reply given to the former query; for although it may be desirable for many estates to remove their works, and establish them on lower ground, yet the expense of this may form an insurmountable obstacle, and the establishment of one set of works for several estates must always be under the objection of increasing the cartage, which is one of the most formidable difficulties we have to contend with in taking off the crop.

(C 13.) *Shirley Warner*, esq. editor of the Antigua Herald.—I am not sufficiently master of this subject to give an answer, but it seems to me that the steady continuity of working afforded to machinery, moved by steam power, must facilitate by its regularity any operations to which it is made to contribute.

(D 13.) *Mr. Loving*, superintendent of police.—If the question relates to the establishment of a steam-mill on each plantation. I answer that not more than one estate out of ten could afford such a mill, and should it get out of order during crop, the difficulty and expense of repairing it would be serious. If it be intended that these mills should be established by disinterested persons to take off the crop of the neighbouring plantations, the plan could not be effected here as it is in Europe, where the miller grinds another person's corn. The cane is an article of dead weight, and to be conveyed over hills and rugged roads to any greater distance than usual, would destroy all cattle.

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(E 13.) Mr. *Scotland*, sen. lately editor of the Free Press.—This question is answered with the last. There are however now four or five steam-engines in operation. But a large proportion of the island is very destitute of wood and water, and although the scantiness of the former might be supplied by the importations of coals, the cost of which is moderate, yet to remedy the deficiency of water by excavating ponds, &c. presents difficulties too formidable for most West Indian planters.

(F 13.) The Hon. *Owen Pell*.—Steam would come in aid of the above plans, and being always available, is particularly well adapted as a moving power in taking off a crop that is ripe at all, and every season of the year. The sea breezes of this island are in general so regular, and the wind is so cheap an agent, that steam I think will never come much into use in this colony.

(G 13.) The Hon. *W. Byam*.—Steam would necessarily form the chief aid in such a separation, as the large quantity of canes to be disposed of daily could not be left to a less certain operation.

(H 13.) The Hon. *M. H. Daniell*.—I am of opinion that a good wind-mill, in a proper situation, is the cheapest machine, and fully sufficient in this island to answer all our purposes of manufacture.

Question 14. Are there any difficulties to operate against the small growers or lessees of small properties in this colony, and of what nature are they?

Answer (A 14.) *R. Jarrett*, esq. attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—Small estates have an advantage over large ones in obtaining a sufficient quantity of labourers, and those that have been short-handed, have an opportunity of obtaining more than formerly. But the labourers are fond of changing their employers. I see no difficulty attached to them more than to larger ones.

(B 14.) The Rev. *N. Gilbert*, proprietor.—There is the unanswerable objection of the impossibility of keeping a sufficient quantity of stock to take off the crop; as well as the great expense of erecting works for a small estate.

(C 14.) *Shirley Warner*, esq. editor of the Antigua Herald.—That which renders all small concerns less profitable than large ones are, *cæteris paribus*, the total loss of small portions of time, and the entire waste of refuse material.

(E 14.) Mr. *Scotland*, sen. lately editor of the Free Press.—The persons described in this question, who form a very inconsiderable number, are subject to no peculiar difficulties. Notwithstanding small properties have been very unproductive hitherto, being chiefly used for the pasturing of sheep, and a very few black cattle. But as planting of provisions is now in a great measure abandoned on the large sugar estates, they are likely to become more valuable, by being applied to the raising of those necessaries.

(F 14.) The Hon. *Owen Pell*.—Formerly the establishment of a sugar plantation with the slaves and works required a large outlay of capital. This is now, in some degree, lessened, still it is a serious undertaking, unless the small grower sold his produce (raw) to a manufacturer, and would depend on such disposal.

(G 14.) The Hon. *W. Byam*.—Frequent seasons of drought and want of water.

(H 14.) The Hon. *M. H. Daniell*.—Small sugar estates, requiring almost the same buildings and machinery as large ones to carry them on, are rendered unproductive by that cause, by failure of crops from severe droughts which this island is unhappily too frequently visited with, and by the excessive tax laid on the produce.

Question 15. Might the industrious labourer or small farmer be located on the lands, usually called 10 acre lands, with such probability of success as would induce or justify the government encouraging persons to such an undertaking?

Answer (A 15.) *R. Jarrett*, esq. attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—I do not think this would answer, as they would most probably employ the labourers from the estates.

(B 15.) The Rev. *N. Gilbert*, proprietor.—Were it possible to find from 50 to 100 allotments of those lands, of a fertile quality contiguous to each other, and were a proper set of works, and a steam-mill erected in a central position, such an undertaking might possibly prove advantageous; but the habits of the negro would make it extremely problematical at the best; and the impossibility of finding so large a quantity of good cane land uncultivated, must render it altogether hopeless in this colony.

(C 15.) *Shirley Warner*, esq. editor of the Antigua Herald.—Natives might raise stock or provisions on them; but neither their extent nor their fertility hold out any temptations to emigrants.

(D 15.) Mr. *Loving*, superintendent of police.—The location of these lands would be a general benefit to the island, and the success which would attend their cultivation at this juncture is beyond the least doubt.

(E 15.) Mr. *Scotland*, sen. lately editor of the Free Press.—In replying to this question it seems proper to remark that a distinction ought to be drawn between the general mass of unappropriated lands, and those called 10-acre lands, which only constitute a part of the former. For there are waste portions which are not known by the name of 10-acre lands; and neither the history of the colony, nor the laws nor any document extant, shows that at any period the entire soil was occupied and settled. But the interrogatory, though it speaks only of 10-acre lands, evidently from its tendency, including every part of the country which is not claimed by private individuals; and being so understood, is answered thus:

There can hardly exist a doubt that the industrious labourer or small farmer might be located on the 10-acre and other unapplied lands with great probability of success, and the execution

execution of such a project would be attended with many obvious advantages; such for example, as the increased cultivation of the cane, whose juice might be manufactured into sugar at some neighbouring works, the growth of provisions to such an extent as would very considerably lessen the demand for American corn, meal, &c. and consequently retain our money within the island; the raising of butchers' meat of every description, as well as of poultry, green vegetables, &c., the supply of all which articles is and ever has been quite inadequate to the wants of the inhabitants. Several other useful consequences might be specified if necessary. But the paramount benefit to be expected is that it would create a new and necessary order of men among us, a body of farmers, who, with their families, would form that medium between the extreme classes of our society, that link between the highest and lowest, which is indispensable to the peace and due equipoise of every community, and without which the more opulent and elevated become arrogant and despotic, the poor debased and flagitious; while they serve as a check to the indolence of the powerful, they at the same time receive information and polish by intercourse with them; these they transmit to the lowest rank, teaching them likewise by example the advantages of virtue and honest industry. Such a class of higher peasantry would bear some analogy to the English farmers, and have in their measure a corresponding effect upon the morals, prosperity and happiness of the country. It cannot be questioned that by the introduction of this much-wanted order of inhabitants, trade and commerce would be stimulated and extended, the demand for British manufactures enlarged, the consumption of our own produce increased, and the useful arts and handicrafts encouraged. The strengthening too of our militia force is another important point which would be gained. At present the jealousy of the whites, whether well or ill founded, will not entrust arms to the newly-emancipated negroes, but there can be no room for suspicion of those who should thus become interested in the soil, and whose all would depend upon the tranquillity and safety of the island. But a question has been stirred, upon the determination of which depends in a great measure, if not entirely, the enterprising of the suggested project; namely, Where does the power of granting the lands under consideration reside? Many persons suppose it to be vested in the Governor, Council and Assembly, with regard to all unoccupied lands universally. If so there is little prospect of their being distributed; the two latter bodies having for the last 50 or 60 years shown a fixed resolution not to concur in the measure. But that opinion seems not to be very firmly founded, for the following reasons: whatever might have been the terms of the original charter conferred upon the inhabitants of this island, the conquest of it by the French in the reign of Charles 2, according to the practice of that age, divested not only private landholders of all their right in the soil, but the (local) government also, if it antecedently possessed any. This right did not necessarily revive upon the recapture of the colony by the English arms. On the contrary, the King whose troops had achieved the recovery, became the sovereign and exclusive possessor of the whole territory. The restoration, or more properly regranting of the lands to their former proprietors, was an act of free and especial grace, and is so acknowledged by our 4½ per cent. Act. And this Act, which was entirely occasioned by that exercise of the Royal munificence, while it expressly imposes the duty of 4½ per cent. as a tribute of gratitude to the King for reinvesting the old proprietors with their estates, makes no mention whatever of public or government lands. And it may be remarked here, in further confirmation of the above, that the 4½ per cent. Act refers to another, No. 1, the title only of which is printed in our book of laws, and that this title runs in the following manner: "An Act for Indemnity and declaring all old Titles to Land void and lost, by reason of the French King's Conquest." Hence it appears, that although our Legislature has been allowed, for reasons of convenience, in time past to judge of the applicants, and appoint their several locations, the King's absolute and sole right to grant the lands is as indisputable in Antigua as in any of his more recent acquisitions by conquest, and may constitutionally be exercised, on any occasion by himself or his representative, without reference to the Council and Assembly. If it be not so as the King alone can divest himself of anything or right appertaining to his prerogative, where is the Act of Cession or Transfer of His sovereignty in that matter? The language of the Legislature itself, in the year 1718, proves in the most conclusive manner, that up to that date, the King had not conferred upon or delegated to it the right or power of granting waste-lands. The preamble to Act, No. 163, after stating that sundry parcels had been abandoned by former settlers, says that the government, to prevent the island from being deserted, had given to other persons "patents, grants and warrants for the same lands, which the government thought might lawfully and reasonably be done upon the failure of such non-settlers." The best authority then which the government could plead, was that they thought it lawful and reasonable, that is, expedient! But can it be imagined, that if the Royal concession of the right or sanction for its exercise, which are the sole sufficient grounds for them to stand upon, had ever been received, they would not have alleged that for their authority. But even if the Legislature could produce some charter or other documents, might it not be contended, that the power being bestowed to be used for the benefit of the country, would become forfeited and revert after the dormancy of a century. It is observable that not a single Act relating to the granting of lands has been confirmed by the King. There is however a part of the "ten acre lands," to the disposal of which our local government might, upon a superficial view, appear to have obtained a legal right. The Act, No. 118, passed in December 1700, after reciting that many proprietors of land had failed in the payment of the taxes due for their lands, enacts that unless those taxes shall be discharged before the 31st March next ensuing, all such lands shall (*ipso facto*) become forfeited to His Majesty, &c. and shall be distributed in parcels of 10 acres by the Governor, Council and Assembly." Here cur

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Government may set up a claim as for the payment of a public debt, but upon examination, it will be found only specious, for unless the lands were granted immediately by the King himself, or under His special authority, the property must be held to belong to the Crown, and consequently not taxable or forfeitable. But supposing that our government did actually obtain a right to those lands by a legal confiscation, who at this distant period shall discriminate between them and other "ten-acre lands" which have reverted to the Crown by the desertion of the grantees or their heirs? The subject of this question has been dwelt upon at some length, both on account of its great importance and yet hopelessness, unless His Majesty's Government should take the matter in hand.

(F 15.) The Hon. *Owen Pell*.—Nearly all the good land of this island worth cultivating at the present prices of produce is under tillage, with all the advantage which capital can give to it, the only difficulty being that of obtaining labourers to work it. The English farmer cannot himself labour in this climate; and without the means of hiring labourers, no benefit could attend his settling on ten acres of indifferent land in this island.

(G 15.) The Hon. *W. Byam*.—It is to be feared the small farmer must, for the above reason, fail, unless located in a few favourable situations; the disappearance of all the 10-acre proprietors of former years indicates this apprehension to be well founded, the supposed cause being want of water.

(H 15.) The Hon. *M. H. Daniell*.—I think, from the long and severe droughts under which this island so frequently suffers, the success of such a measure is more than doubtful.

Question 16. Does it occur to you, that under the present system of free labour, the industry of mechanics, or other persons not engaged in agriculture, might be advantageously applied to any article of manufacture?

Answer (A 16.) *R. Jarrett*, esq. attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—I am not aware of this.

(B 16.) The Rev. *N. Gilbert*, proprietor.—It has long been the custom to employ the tradesmen on the estates in the manufacture of sugar and rum; and I am not aware that it would be advantageous, or indeed practicable, to employ them in any other species of manufacture. In point of fact, the very commonest articles can be imported from England at a far lower price than they can be made for in this island.

(C 16.) *Shirley Warner*, esq. editor of the Antigua Herald.—To the manufacture of bricks, tiles and coarse pottery. Our mill machinery and our carts are of rude construction, and mechanics might find employment in their improvement. Artisans are more likely to show us what we want, than we can be to say what our wants are.

(D 16.) Mr. *Loving*, superintendent of police.—They might be industriously employed by bringing the fibrous productions into action.

(E 16.) Mr. *Scotland*, sen. late editor of the Free Press.—Persons not engaged in agriculture might be employed with some advantage in manufacturing the common sorts of leather, the coarser articles of pottery, bricks, and a small quantity of castor and belin oils.

(F 16.) The Hon. *Owen Pell*.—I consider this as an entirely agricultural country. The agriculturists can afford to pay higher wages for labour than any tradespeople in the colony; such tradespeople, at least, as are employed in manufacturing articles which can be more cheaply imported than manufactured in the island, shoes, wearing apparel, &c. The cheap transport of manufactured articles from more densely-populated countries will always operate against any domestic manufactures of the island.

(G 10.) The Hon. *W. Byam*.—There could, of course, be no competition with the British artisan in any article of manufacture; the making earthen vessels for culinary purposes, the fabrication of rope from the cocoa-nut tree, and the plaiting of hats from the leaves of the palmetto, only furnish emolument to a few persons when supported by other advantages, and are equal to maintain individuals under different circumstances.

(H 16.) The Hon. *M. H. Daniell*.—I am not prepared to answer this question at present.

Question 17. Might not the many fibrous productions of this colony be beneficially used in the same manner as flax is in the mother country, viz. by putting in occupation the spinning-wheel of the aged or infirm poor, and establishing rope walks for the manufacture of twine and cordage?

Answer (A 17.) *R. Jarrett*, esq. attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—I am not prepared to answer this question.

(B 17.) The Rev. *N. Gilbert*, proprietor.—The spinning-wheel is not in much use in England at the present day, on account of the much cheaper rate at which thread can be spun by machinery than by hand, and the same objection will be in operation here. Neither am I aware that this island affords any other materials, besides cotton, which will admit of being so employed. The objection stated in reply to the preceding query will be applicable to every species or manufacture. Nothing is manufactured in the island but from absolute necessity.

(C 17.) *Shirley Warner*, esq. editor of the Antigua Herald.—No manufacturer in this island will be able to enter into competition with the products of the looms of Great Britain. We had better send home the raw materials, and leave it to the British to work it up.

(D 17.) Mr. *Loving*, superintendent of police.—The fibrous productions of the island are very numerous, and the rough preparation of them would lead to much industry and prevent much pauperism. The layer tribe of the aloe grows luxuriantly every where, and the southwestern districts and many places abound with them, but they are totally neglected. An offer was made, three years ago, by a London house, to give 18*l.* sterling per ton for fibrous productions. It caused an attempt to be made by a planter, after taking off the sugar crop, by crushing

crushing the fibrous aloe in the mill, and a large truss was obtained and shipped. The quality was excellent for cordage; but I learned that the labour of preparation, &c. amounted to near the value of the articles, and the pursuit was abandoned. Had it been persevered in, there cannot be a doubt that practice would have caused experience, and experience profit; and as the plan extended itself, the other fibrous productions would have been successively turned to advantage. The method used by the people of Hayti for preparing the fibrous aloe is both simple and cheap. A post is stuck in the earth in a reclined position, with a strong hook near the top, and as far up as a man can easily reach. Upon this hook a branch of the aloe is placed, and the operative shaves or scrapes off the green bark with an old knife, or any other instrument that is most convenient to him. This done, the article is put away to get thoroughly dry, which is soon effected, on account of its porous or spongy quality, and when dry it is packed together and shipped. This is the precise mode. We may do the same thing to-morrow; and I would point, firstly, at a large tract of neglected upland running parallel with and in the rear of Parham's town, where the fibrous aloe grows abundantly. I cannot see any reason why rope-walks for the manufacture of cordage might not be established here, provided the undertaking were gone into by joint speculators, and patronized by the Legislature.

(E 17.) Mr. *Scotland*, jun., late editor of the Free Press.—Cordage of very good quality and strength might be made with facility; but it does not seem probable that the spinning-wheel and loom would succeed; and even if they were introduced, the cheapness and superior quality and beauty of the British manufactures, would render our domestic articles unsaleable.

(F 17.) The Hon. *Owen Pell*.—In all tropical countries there are varieties of grasses and fibrous plants capable of being converted into manufacturing purposes; but I believe they require considerable labour in the cultivation and their preparation, before they can be turned to any useful or profitable purposes. Whenever there is a superabundance of labour for the cultivation of the cane, or from any circumstances, it becomes not worth cultivating, it is not impossible women may begin to spin, and men to make twine; provided, however, the importation of such articles are rigidly prohibited, or that the inhabitants of this island become reduced to such wretchedness they could find nothing to give in exchange for imported articles.

(G 17) The Hon. *William Byam*.—Such employment might give a living, if there was plenty of water to use in the manufacture of the fibres.

(H 17.) The Hon. *M. H. Daniell*.—I am well convinced that the fibrous productions of this island may be beneficially used in the manufacture of twine and cordage; and I am justified in this opinion from the result of experiments commenced by a former commissioner of the dock-yard at English Harbour, Captain White, and unfortunately cut short by his death.

Question 18.—Might the loom be also brought into use here with any advantage?

Answer (A 18.) R. Jarrett, esq., attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—Nor this.

(B 18.) The Rev. *N. Gilbert*, proprietor.—The foregoing objections will again recur. In case of lumber becoming scarce, the manufacture of coarse bags to carry home the sugar, is the only one I can imagine to be practicable; and even these articles may be imported at a cheaper rate than they can be made at in this colony. In fact I see little use in discussing this question at all; for it is evident, that if England can undersell, as is well known to be the case, all the civilized countries of Europe, there can be no hope of any of these colonies being able to supply their own wants with any advantage. The production of the raw material is the natural use of colonial establishments; and the manufacture of the article so produced will always be better accomplished, and at a cheaper rate, by the mother country.

(C 18.) *Shirley Warner*, esq., editor of the Antigua Herald.—Answered in the last reply.

(D 18.) Mr. *Loving*, superintendent of police.—The use of the loom would not be of any pecuniary benefit to the inhabitants of this island, because the manufacture of linen and cotton stuffs is conducted upon so cheap a plan in the United Kingdom, that clothing imported here costs less to the consumer, with the merchant's profits and other charges thereon, than the bare labour of manufacture would amount to amongst us. There is an amazing tact among our rural people at plaiting and twisting fibrous substances; and as they are in the habit of making a rude but durable rope, for moving their fish-pots, the art of spinning and rope-making would combine amusement with labour, and be easily acquired.

(F 18.) The Hon. *Owen Pell*.—Never, under existing circumstances.

(G 18.) The Hon. *W. Byam*.—Not while the colony is able to avail itself of the skill of the mother country, and properly employed in raising a valuable exchangeable production suited to its climate.

(H 18.) The Hon. *M. H. Daniell*.—I have not sufficient information to enable me to give a good opinion on this subject.

Question 19.—Are you aware that some of the fibrous plants here offer the means of manufacturing a cloth or linen of peculiarly fine texture?

Answer (A 19.) R. Jarrett, esq., attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—I do not know of any.

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(B 19.) *Shirley Warner*, esq., editor of the Antigua Herald.—I have no knowledge of any such material. The silk cotton (*bombax ceila*) has been tried, but altogether failed.

(C 19.) *Shirley Warner*, esq., editor of the Antigua Herald.—I have seen a sort of linen made from the fibres of the banana or plantain: the silk grass and American aloe also furnish fibres of considerable fineness, great length, and, I have understood, not subject to contraction on the application of water. And very little exertion would subject these materials to the experimental industry of British weavers, as the raw material can be procured in almost any quantity, and for nothing.

(D 19.) Mr. *Loving*, superintendent of police.—In 1832 I saw about half a yard of cambric, manufactured in the East Indies from the silk aloe, which grows here also. This aloe, be it observed, makes the best razor-strop in the world, and is used for that purpose by some persons here.

(E 19.) Mr. *Scotland*, late editor of the Free Press.—Fibres of the plantain and dagger aloe have been wrought into cloth of considerable fineness; and a beautiful damask table-cloth has been exhibited here, said to be manufactured of the latter plant.

(F 19.) The Hon. *Owen Pell*.—Answered in No. 17.

(G 19.) The Hon. *W. Byam*.—Yes; but the answers to the preceding questions show an incompetency to these sources of advantages.

(H 19.) The Hon. *M. H. Daniell*.—I have been told so, and believe the information to have been correct.

A Statement of any obstacles which may impede the powers of production or exchange of produce.

Question 20. Are there any difficulties which, in your opinion, oppose themselves to an increased productive industry, and of what nature are they?

Answer (A 20.) R. Jarrett, esq., attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—The great and only difficulty that I know of, is the disinclination of the negro to work; nothing but want will compel them; and they have so many resources within themselves, and can live on so little, that it will be a long time before they will be brought to it.

(B 20.) The Rev. *N. Gilbert*, proprietor.—The want of machinery is the great obstacle; and this, in the present state of science, is irremediable, as no machinery can be worked in this island from the want of fuel. The natural indolence of the negro character, and the enervating effect of the climate upon the white inhabitants, will ever be a great impediment to the establishment of any of the European manufactures amongst us. The rate of wages also at present given for agricultural labour, viz. 1 s. to the first, and 9 d. to the second gang, effectually prevents us from increasing the productive industry of the country. Mr. Inglis, in his late work on Ireland, gives many instances of labourers with large families, and a rent to pay of 40 s. sterling per annum, receiving only 6 d. sterling per diem for their labour; and he states 4 d. a day to be the full average rate of wages paid to agricultural labourers throughout all Ireland. Now, when it is remembered that our labourers receive the highest of these rates, that their wives may earn the same, and many of their children more than the lower rate of remuneration; that they have houses free of rent; that they are allowed ground to cultivate for themselves; that they are permitted to keep as many pigs, goats and poultry as they please; that a doctor is provided for them, free of expense; that their aged and infirm relatives are supported by the plantation on which they were formerly; I say, when these things are considered, it will be at once apparent, that the remuneration for labour in this colony is far greater than is necessary to supply the wants of the labouring population. This is the real cause of the withdrawing of so large a portion of the negroes from field labour. If one in a family is constantly at work, he can maintain all the rest; or if he is single, his wants may be abundantly supplied by the labour of two or three days in the week. Under these circumstances, it must be hopeless to think of increasing the productive industry of the country; and it is really matter of wonder that the negroes work as constantly as they do. The rate of wages must be lowered, or the labourer must acquire more expensive habits, before we can reasonably expect to extend the cultivation of our estates, or even to retain them in their present condition.

(C 20.) *Shirley Warner*, esq., editor of the Antigua Herald.—A reply to this query would open a very wide field for discussion. The whole system of slavery, by creating a monopoly of labour, was opposed to productive industry; and although that great moral and social evil is in itself abolished, yet every trace of its consequences is untouched. The monopoly of the supply which Great Britain assumed, the monopoly of our products, on which she built that assumption; the unremitting industry with which she endeavoured to draw our surplus products to herself annually, instead of encouraging their re-investment, and consequently increased production in the country; the wanton prohibition to our trying new modes of enriching ourselves, by increasing our duties on our sugar, when clayed, and our being prevented altogether from refining it; the extraction from the country of the 4 ½ per cent. duty; the closing against resident natives almost every office of emolument, have almost withered every hope of advancement; no door for enterprise, for invention, or indeed for real industry, but has been shut; and if any steps have been made in advance, they have been made in spite of overwhelming difficulties, and merely enable us to hope that hereafter we may get on better.

(D 20.) Mr. *Loving*, superintendent of police.—It has been the policy of the legislature and leading men of Antigua, above all the West India colonies, to be exceedingly jealous of small proprietors; and it would appear that this feeling was generated to keep the people

people of colour from rising in the scale of society by the possession of agricultural property. Where possessions of this description have been bequeathed to them by their fathers or friends, the adverse party were never satisfied till, by a course of petty vexation, or ingenious contrivance, which it is now unnecessary for me to particularize, the ownership was transferred to the white inhabitants; and few of these properties remain unchanged. By the custom of the island (there being no law on the subject) every proprietor of 10 acres of land is entitled to vote for a member of assembly; and as the possession of such lands, if numerous (when absenteeism is so prevalent among the great proprietary body) would throw the elective strength into the hands of their owners, the policy alluded to has not been weakened by the march of time or events. The white inhabitants have likewise crippled each other in this respect; and one may perceive in his rambles through the country the remains of small cattle-mill estates sprinkled over a single plantation of large extent, the wealthy proprietor of which had eaten up his poor neighbour in times past. Hence the number of uncultivated acres which the owners have not the means of working at this day, but which may be turned to profitable account by sale, lease, or otherwise, in trifling proportions to poor industrious men. The southern and mountainous parts of the island exhibit a dreary and uncivilized appearance, where little is to be seen but barren hills and thick woods; and though many of these spots, with others farther inland, belong to estates that are entailed, or under mortgage to English merchants, yet may they be rendered valuable if the attorneys, or agents of the parties here, or in England, would bestir themselves in the matter. It is no less disgraceful to the character than prejudicial to the best interests of the island, to allow so many acres of land to remain idle; and in this respect, the fable of "The Dog in the Manger" may be appropriately applied to us. There can be no doubt that the cultivation of provisions will be finally abandoned by the sugar planters, because the experience they have had since the abolition of slavery establishes the fact, that the returns will not pay for the labour in ready money; and we can only hope for this diminution in our ground provisions being supplied by a multitude of small proprietors, who, by their active personal industry, and by that of their children, or other connexions, and by methods more simple and cheaper than can be obtained by their wealthier neighbours, will become the saviours of the country against the pressure of want. A single instance of this description of proprietors will, I trust, sufficiently illustrate and prove the validity of my suppositions. A black man, who belonged to Brookes's estate, and became free on the 1st of August last, purchased, out of his many years' savings, 10 acres of woodland, at the foot of Crabb Hill, about a musket-shot to the east of Johnston's Point. This spot had been originally conveyed to a gentleman for electioneering purposes; and being thus disencumbered from a large tract of private land, the sale of it was easily effected. The present owner began with the erection of a small hut and clearing the land, by the assistance of his wife: the fuel was turned into charcoal, which commands a ready sale; the clearing and weeding were rapidly followed by cultivation; and before the close of the year the place exhibited a growing crop, more luxuriant than was to be met with in any part of the island. The proprietor's huts and other domestic comforts increased as he had leisure, and this little farm blooms like a rose in the wilderness, separated from kindred or rival. It serves to cheer the lonely traveller in those solitary parts, where nothing is to be seen on either hand but thick woods or the blue ocean; nothing to be heard but the dashing of waves, or the melancholy notes of the turtle dove. I went last week to Willoughby Bay, and my attention being drawn to the desert appearance of the hill belonging to the Hope estate, just over the town, the minister of the gospel with whom I sojourned made this remark: "What a pity it is to see this place so neglected, while there are some of the former slaves on the estates in this neighbourhood eagerly desiring to purchase small parcels of it."

(E 20.) Mr. *Scotland*, sen. late editor of the Free Press.—The chief impediments to the industry of the negro population arise from the late market-hucksters' license and labourers' special contract laws, which were framed for the purpose of checking the freedom of trade, and limiting the variety of occupation among that class, in order to constrain them, for want of other employ, to work on the sugar estates. These Acts have not only subjected the labourers to much detriment, but caused great inconvenience to the inhabitants of the towns, by diminishing their supplies of fish, poultry, vegetables, &c.

(F 20.) The Hon. *Owen Pell*.—No other difficulties of any consequence, except the difficulty of obtaining labour in sufficient quantity to cultivate the land. The facility of living without any great personal exertions, and the natural tendency of the climate to induce indolence, the little real, and the less artificial wants of the people, are all obstacles (and in my opinion invincible ones) to an extensive improvement in the productive industry of the island. In Europe the labourer would perish without a house, fuel, and raiment. The colonial labourer can be happy and contented without either; his real wants are therefore very limited.

(G 20.) The Hon. *W. Byam*.—Aversion to labour on the part of a great proportion of the population. Paucity of wants on the part of the working classes. Disregard of provision for the future. Love of indolence and pleasure.

(H 20.) The Hon. *H. M. Daniell*.—Yes, the poverty of the inhabitants is mainly produced by the unnatural, unjust, and oppressive treatment which they have suffered under for many years past, from the mother country.

The remedies, whether legislative, financial, or administrative, by which these obstacles may be lessened or wholly removed?

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Question 21.—Is there any Act or regulation, either of His Majesty's Government or the local legislature, which, in your opinion, would be remedial of the difficulties you have stated?

Answers (A 21.) R. Jarrett, esq. attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—The payment of the compensation-money will enable the embarrassed proprietor to carry on his sugar estate some time longer, the want of which many are now feeling. And if His Majesty would be pleased to repeal the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. duty, it would be a great relief to all.

(B 21.) *The Rev. N. Gilbert, proprietor.*—It is evident from the returns of the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. duty payable on all importations into this colony, that their amount cannot be less than 300,000 *l.* per annum; and as this amount would, if consumed in the island, give an average of nearly 9 *l.* per head for the expenditure of each individual, in imported articles alone, it results that a very considerable proportion of these goods must be again exported; and it is, therefore, clearly the interest of the mother country to do all in her power to increase a trade so highly and directly lucrative to herself. If St. John's were made a free port, it would be equally beneficial to this colony and to the mother country; and would be no more than a just acknowledgment of the readiness with which the wishes of His Majesty's Government were met, and even anticipated by the instant and unconditional emancipation of the whole labouring population of this colony. There is an Act of the British Parliament for the regulation of contracts between the master and his labourers, passed in the reign of his late Majesty George 4, which would, I think, meet all the difficulties we have to contend with in the regulation of our agricultural labourers. It is true that an Act has lately been passed, and is now in operation in this colony, for this express purpose; but that Act labours under two radical defects. It is founded on the imaginary state of society, viz. on the plan of Lord Goderich, for the regulation of the slaves in the Crown colonies, which has in fact never been reduced to practice, and it is founded also upon an anomalous state of society, on a state of transition from slavery to freedom. Our labourers are now as free as the labourers of England, and consequently the English laws are the proper laws for the government of labourers in her colonies; and as these laws have already received the sanction of experience, there can be little doubt of their answering, in every respect, the requirements of the present emergency. This is not the place to enter into an extended discussion of our colonial Act, neither is it my intention to censure what has been already done. The colonial Act has certainly been of some use; but I think that of the Imperial Parliament would be more effective. There is also one obvious method of removing a most grievous obstacle to the agricultural prosperity of the country, and one which it rests entirely in the breast of His Majesty to confer; I mean the abolition of the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. duty on all exported produce. It is needless now to point out the unjust nature of this impost, that it was extorted from us by the strong hand of power, that it is based on a false position, that by the mode of collection, an additional 7 per cent. on the amount of the duty is extracted in the form of packages; that no other parts of His Majesty's dominions are subject to this exaction; that even the more fertile conquered colonies, although the plea of right might have been much more equitably applied to them, are exempted from it; that the articles so taxed, are, besides supporting the colonial government, subject to a duty of more than their intrinsic value, on their arrival in England; that the Imperial Parliament, having taken from us the most valuable part of that property, from which the duty was levied, have virtually, and under every view of justice and equity, really abrogated it; these, and many other considerations, which it is unnecessary now more particularly to mention, must be obvious to His Majesty's Government; and we cannot help feeling the conviction that, guided as His Majesty's councils are, by men of tried integrity and ability, so odious an impost will not be continued longer than the necessities and emergencies of the crisis require.

(C 21.) *Shirley Warner, esq. editor of the Antigua Herald.*—The establishment of a university at the most convenient and healthy island, where the upper classes might educate their children, without the necessity of sending them to England; the erection of one central legislature, as extensive as the military, ecclesiastical, and post-office establishment; the opening a legitimate field to the ambition of the wealthy and influential, either by making the Upper House to consist of members appointed for life, or hereditary, or by conferring personal honours of a distinct denomination from those existing in Europe, so that they might be worthless anywhere but in their own country; and in the erection of courts of justice, both criminal and civil, as well as in equity, as extensive as the proposed legislature. In fact, combining all the British colonies to the east of Porto Rico, into one great province, and looking on every separate one as a country; but without destroying the present local legislatures, which would provide for all internal and local ameliorations.

(D 21.) *Mr. Loving, superintendent of police.*—I could suggest that an annual tax of 2 *s.* currency per acre be laid on all uncultivated lands over and above 50 acres, attached to any sugar plantation, (allowing the 50 acres for pasturage.) That the tax be 3 *s.* per acre on all uncultivated lands belonging, but not attached, to any sugar plantation; and to all other lands so uncultivated, not belonging, or having reference, to such plantations, or not forming any part of what is termed country lands, 4 *s.* per acre. That the country lands be sold in parcels of from two to five acres, and not more, to ensure its cultivation, and to serve a greater number of those whose little capital is now locked up, waiting for the opportunity of making such purchases. That no labourer residing on any sugar plantation be permitted to assist in the cultivation of these lands at any time during the crop; and that no labourer aforesaid shall render his assistance as aforesaid out of crop, except on Saturdays, in order that the cultivation thereof may be chiefly carried on by the purchaser and his family residing

siding on the spot, and not to the prejudice of the sugar estates. That purchases should be made on these terms, and that an annual return be given in to the Treasury, on oath, of the non-employment of the labourers specified herein. Lastly, that an annual bounty of 2s. per acre be given on all lands cultivated with yams, potatoes, eddoes, tanyas, plantains, cassava, arrow-root, castor seed, ginger, cocoa, cotton and coffee, or either of these products, for the next five years.

(E 21.) Mr. *Scotland*, sen., late editor of the Free Press.—The remedy is obviously the repeal or amendment of those laws; so that the industry of the working people may be left unshackled and free to be applied as they themselves choose.

(F 21.) The Hon. *Owen Pell*.—This question involves so many considerations, that I am not prepared to answer it without much more reflection than my short stay in the island admits of.

(G 21.) The Hon. *W. Byam*.—Acts and regulations in aid of continuous labour, passed by the local legislature, and sanctioned by His Majesty's Government, on the model of those framed under Lord Goderich's authority, would do much good; but the repeal of the 4½ per cent. duty, and cordial encouragement of the staple commodities of this island, whose inhabitants are employed in raising sugar by free labour, by the introduction of such sugar into the provinces and distilleries, together with the reduction of duties to the peace rate, and the absolute exclusion of all slave-made sugar from the British market, and abandonment of the intention to equalize the duty on East India sugar, would be remedial of the difficulties stated in regard to the cultivation of the sugar-cane; to which may be added, with reference to the good government of the colony, the support of the magistracy in the execution of their arduous duties, and an expression of compliance in their honest endeavours to execute the task committed to their charge, in contradistinction to the suspicion too publicly and frequently avowed, proceeding from the Colonial Office, as exhibited in sundry communications.

(H 21.) The Hon. *M. H. Daniell*.—On the part of His Majesty's Government, a removal or diminution of the oppressive burdens imposed upon the productions of the island, and allowing the sons of the soil to fill the situations of trust and emolument under the Governor, which are invariably given to strangers, to the utter exclusion and manifest injury of the natives of the land, and which I consider to be one of the greatest hardships we labour under.

Question 22. Is there any public establishment or under taking that would assist the colony at this juncture, or give increased vigour to industry, agricultural or commercial?

Answer (A 22.) R. Jarrett, esq. attorney of Sir C. Codrington.—I cannot answer this question of my own knowledge.

(B 22.) The Rev. *N. Gilbert*, proprietor.—A savings bank would, I believe, be beneficial; but this subject is already under the consideration of the local legislature. The establishment of a colonial bank, for deposits and for making moderate advances on the coming crop, would undoubtedly give increased vigour to agricultural industry; and I fear that, unless some such plan is adopted, many estates will, in a short period, be thrown partially, if not totally out of cultivation. We have already seen, in former years, that it was necessary for the treasury of the island to make advances, in order to secure the feeding of the slaves; and the same necessity will again occur, in order to enable those who are deeply mortgaged, or otherwise encumbered, to pay their free labourers. A moderate advance upon the coming crop, if secured to the lender by legal enactments, would always be easily repaid; and although it might retard for the moment payments to the mortgagee and other claimants on the property, it would eventually secure their interests, and become a permanent benefit to the colony.

(C 22.) *Shirley Warner*, esq. editor of the Antigua Herald.—One great colonial bank, with a paid-up capital, having branches in the different colonies; its notes to be legal tender everywhere but on its own counter and on the counters of its branches; all its metallic payments to be in sovereigns and shillings; no prevention, of course, to the establishment of private or joint-stock company banks. The business of the colonial bank to be limited to issue, deposit and discount; the branches not to issue any notes but those of the parent establishment. I do not think any other patronage requisite beyond a clear explanation and following out of the regulations which are now established by Act of Parliament for the Bank of England. Profits will draw capital.

(D 22.) Mr. *Loving*, superintendent of police.—There is no such establishment or undertaking of a public nature, nor is there any of a private description; and with respect to the latter, I would remark, that public spirit in this island appears to want elevation by the means of some extraordinary lever. Previous to 1827 an agricultural society flourished for some years, and had its ploughing materials, its prizes, &c.; but it lingered and died. Not so in Barbadoes, Grenada and St. Kitt's, where such societies exist in the vigour of health. Some time in 1831, or the succeeding year, a private individual sent a petition to the House of Assembly, praying for legislative aid and patronage in the manufacture of flour from sweet potatoes. This person was a man of colour and a native of the island, possessing a farm of 36 acres, part of which was appropriated to the growth of the potato. A sample of the flour was produced and approved of by the members of the house; and some of it, made into cakes and presented to Sir Patrick Ross, was partaken of by ladies at Government House, and commended for its good quality. The sweet potato gives an abundant crop in

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four months, but after reaping it has not the property of lasting, without decay, for more than half the time that the yam does, yet the flour manufactured from it will keep good from one year to another, and become a valuable auxiliary against our great and servile dependence on foreign supplies, and the uncertainty of obtaining these supplies at certain periods. Notwithstanding this, however, there appears to have been a secret jealousy entertained against the petitioner, because so useful a discovery would have better come from a better (more opulent) man. His plans were treated with coldness and contempt, and the subject dropped into oblivion, as far as legislative patronage was concerned, though it still occupies the mind of the projector. In the latter end of 1832 the leading gentlemen of the island undertook to form a society for promoting industry, and with the view of applying the country lands called the "Body Ponds," already alluded to, to the maintenance of poor families, by grants of small portions. The general outline of the plan was excellent, and it went also to the improvement of our fishery on the coast. A managing committee was appointed, and I was named among them. Application was made to the Council and Assembly to grant to the society a charter: but this undertaking, like many others of equal necessity, fell to the ground from the want of public spirit, before it had made any further advances towards the constitutional permanency.

(E 22.) Mr. *Scotland*, sen. late editor of the Free Press.—No such public establishment exists; and it does not appear in what way, or for what specific end, one could be beneficially instituted; but were it otherwise, the want of liberality and an enlarged policy among our men of influence would destroy all hope of the success of any undertaking entrusted to their management, except such as should promote their own peculiar and distinct interests.

(F 22.) The Hon. *Owen Pell*.—I am not aware of any.

(G 22.) The Hon. *W. Byam*.—Government having refused to remit the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. duty, on which terms alone this colony proposed unrestricted emancipation, and having been deaf to the repeated urgent solicitations for relief through a reduction of the duty on sugar, this colony can ask nothing more likely to relieve industry, agriculture and commerce, and to advance the comfort of the working classes than it has already done. The course for the mother country, if sincere, is plain and palpable; and with Great Britain rests entirely the fate of the experiment which the landholders of Antigua are striving to bring to a successful issue.

(H 22.) The Hon. *M. H. Daniell*.—This is a subject which I have not had sufficient opportunity to weigh and consider, to enable me to give a satisfactory reply to.

[*This and the following question have been put to the superintendent alone.*]

Question (A.) If such location be considered advantageous, would you give the preference to Europeans or to negroes?

Answer (A D.) Mr. *Loving*, superintendent of police.—I would give the preference to those only who would cultivate the land, without reference to their complexions; and as there are persons enough in the island who desire to have allotments by purchase or otherwise, it would be best to give them the preference.

Question (B.) Be pleased to state, as far as you are aware, the cause of discontinuance of occupation of the 10-acre lots.

Answer (B D.) Mr. *Loving*, superintendent of police.—The 10-acre lands consist of uncultivated tracts in the gift of the Crown or of the colonial government; and though it had been the usage in ancient times for the Governor, Council and Assembly to pass laws for transferring them to whom they liked, yet it does not seem reasonable, as I have heard it spoken to the contrary, that the right of the Crown can be questioned, even at this late moment, as to the disposal of them in case the local authorities should be capricious enough to keep them without occupants and in an uncultivated state. To arrive at a proper conclusion of the means that were taken to parcel them out, and the objects intended thereby, it will be necessary to advert to the laws that were enacted on the subject in times past. By the Act of December 1700, vol. i. page 130, Laws of Antigua, it would appear that persons had procured large tracts of these lands without the ability of settling them or paying the taxes thereon. The treasurer was therefore authorized to call upon the delinquents to appear and settle the public demands within a given time, and in failure thereof, such lands were to be forfeited to His Majesty, his heirs and successors, and to be granted by the Governor, Council and Assembly to poor settlers, more especially to the King's regiment, now to be disbanded, who are hereby declared to be first preferred to the settlements aforesaid. The titles to such lands, with the surveyor's return thereon, were to be recorded in the secretary's office, in a book appropriated to that use, and the possessor was to be exempt from levy for debt, from taxation, and to give the right of suffrage at elections, &c.; the grantee who deserted his land for 12 months, on the heirs of his body being extinct, the grant was to revert to His Majesty, &c.; and 3 *l.* in money, a barrel of beef and a cask of flour were to be given to each settler at the commencement. This liberality did not appear to answer the end of establishing a larger white population, or to have been properly appreciated, as, by a subsequent Act, of October 1701, vol. i. page 135, not a year after the former one, it is recited that the greatest part of those soldiers who have been encouraged to become planters in this island by having certain proportions of land, some money, and other assistance given them, whereby they might become honest and useful settlers amongst us, have, instead of answering these good ends, abused the public bounty and become idle and vagrant fellows; and then it is enacted, that in failure of their carrying the intention of the law into effect by the space of six months, they should be disqualified from the provisions

visions of the grant. Another Act, dated in June 1747, vol. i. page 292, points at the circumstance of the heirs of some of the grantees not occupying or manuring the 10-acre lands, and at their leasing them out, and provided for their forfeiture in such cases. No other law for such purposes is to be found in our statute books, but it is evident that the attempt to locate settlers was a failure, and it is certain that there are no more than seven of these 10 acre lots which remain in the posterity of the grantees; the greater part of which are uncultivated, being used for the rearing of cattle, and the remainder of little value to the possessors. It is remarkable that no annual returns have been made of these lands of late years, as is required by law; and I am induced to believe that some of the parties are apprehensive of being overhauled, since the recent agitation of questions regarding country lands. I perceive by the records of the Treasury, that there are three lots of country lands, possessed by as many parties, and parcelled out at 40, 21 and 20 acres. That of 21 acres was returned some years ago by the heirs of Elizabeth Colquhoun; but, I beg to notice more particularly, that this lot has been sold by the attorney of the heirs of the grantees, contrary to law, and that it has since been resold to another party. I am in fact persuaded, that if some stir were made in these matters, many abuses would be found to exist, and it would be the means of rendering such public grants more productive of the ends that were intended by the legislature of former days. It may hence be inferred that the majority of these lots have been lying neglected since the last century; but I am not acquainted with the districts in which they may severally have been. Indeed, I am of opinion that many portions of them have been gradually annexed to the neighbouring sugar plantations, and that their original positions could be ascertained by no other means than a reference to the book which was kept in the secretary's office, agreeably to the law that I have previously cited. This much, however, I may assert, that there is a tract of country land called the Body Ponds, containing 100 acres, more or less, remaining uncultivated at this moment. It is situated about the centre of the island, and is watered by a most romantic and never-failing stream; the position is favourable in every respect for small settlers, and a proposition to sell it was entertained by the legislature about the years 1830 and 1831, but it has never been carried into effect.

(I 1).—LETTER and RETURN from Collector of Customs at this Port.

Custom-House, Antigua,
31 July 1835.

May it please your Excellency,
I HAVE the honour to enclose for your information a Return of the Staple Articles, the produce of this island, exported for the last eight years, ending 5th January 1835, as well as the total amount for this year up to date. There are still four or five ships loading, and taking their united cargoes at 1,000 hogsheads, will show the total amount of the crop for the present year, or sufficiently exact to compare the total with that of former years; and on the 5th January ensuing, an exact statement will be furnished for your Excellency's information.

I have &c.
(signed) G. A. Gore, Collector.

His Excellency Sir Evan M. MacGregor,
&c. &c. &c.

Port of Antigua.

AN ACCOUNT of STAPLE ARTICLES, the Produce of this Island, exported between the Years 1827 to the 31st July 1835.

	SUGAR.			RUM.		MOLASSES.			
	Hhds.	Frks.	Barrels.	Pipes.	Punchs.	Hhds.	Puncheons.	Hhds.	Barrels.
Exported in the year ended									
5 Jan. 1828	5,786	749	886	- -	769	310	2,907	183	2
Ditto — 1829	13,256	1,681	1,806	1	1,536	765	7,764	405	12
Ditto — 1830	12,241	1,307	1,284	- -	3,161	341	6,308	- -	17
Ditto — 1831	11,202	1,349	1,070	- -	2,485	632	4,600	-	-
Ditto — 1832	12,600	1,474	2,840	1	2,446	500	7,834	456	713
Ditto — 1833	9,975	821	3,380	1	1,021	242	7,265	439	642
Ditto — 1834	9,258	789	2,231	- -	613	23	6,807	188	-
Ditto — 1835	17,682	1,830	3,411	- -	945	337	11,841	-	-
Ditto 31 July 1835	10,715	1,195	2,584	- -	718	223	6,281	408	231
Afloat - - -	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Custom-House, Antigua, }
31 July 1835. }

(signed) G. A. Gore, Collr.

ANTIGUA.

(I 2.)—A RETURN showing the Number of ACRES of PROVISIONS on Estates in *Antigua* from the Year 1828 to 1835.

NUMBER OF ACRES PLANTED IN EACH YEAR.							
1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.
48	48	51	48	86	123	33	7
6	5	9	7	11	7	6	none.
6	none	11	6	2	6	none	none.
45	62	46	57	56	64	41	25
24	28	30	23	24	28	22	31
46	40	51	65	74	68	38	46
18	19	15	32	40	34	21	18
37	26	37	39	29	38	21	29
15	24	30	18	16	17	7	17
16	37	36	34	34	47	8	26
13	12	17	17	16	16	4	none.
95	179	161	267	253	231	72	none.
74	81	118	85	77	82	59	3
93	127	128	116	133	139	45	none.
64	85	94	106	130	83	46	5
33	98	114	108	133	134	129	29
53	100	129	141	131	135	96	3
20	22	23	20	39	61	60	none.
54	53	44	34	41	38	29	none.
10	10	10	10	12	32	34	none.
30	33	30	36	60	55	30	none.
20	20	20	20	20	20	20	none.
20	20	20	20	20	20	20	none.
18	30	22	36	34	32	none	none.
28	26	35	19	20	28	15	14
34	27	34	21	28	22	19	none.
47	49	46	48	47	48	19	10
43	41	44	45	44	43	20	none.
40	42	44	43	46	44	16	9
4	none	4	none	15	12	5	none.
24	26	35	18	38	48	21	none.
none	none	none	none	14	8	none	none.
40	35	30	38	36	39	40	none.
60	60	60	60	60	60	50	20
60	60	60	60	60	60	50	30
40	40	40	40	40	40	25	15
44	50	47	60	55	68	43	23
35	40	37	36	49	45	29	16
29	30	39	29	54	44	32	20
20	20	25	25	25	30	25	20
50	50	50	50	50	60	60	20
20	20	25	25	25	30	25	20
30	30	30	30	30	50	60	10
50	50	50	50	50	60	60	39
40	40	40	40	40	45	45	20
15	20	20	20	20	20	20	15
50	50	50	50	30	40	40	10
70	70	70	70	70	70	70	20
50	50	50	50	50	50	50	30
35	35	35	35	35	35	30	28
1,802	1,830	2,336	2,289	2,506	2,609	1,700	619

(I 3.)—RETURNS of GAOL and HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

(Antigua.)—A STATEMENT of PRISONERS committed to GAOL from 1st August 1834 to 31st July 1835.

1834.					1835.						
August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.
73	78	90	68	88	37	44	29	37	21	62	14

N.B.—The increase in June occasioned by commitments from the court of sessions.

31 July 1835.

(signed) *George Lowen,*
Deputy Provost Marshal.

(Antigua.)—A STATEMENT of PRISONERS committed to the HOUSE OF CORRECTION, from the 8th December 1834 to 31st July 1835.

December 1834.	1835.						
	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.
19	60	75	45	44	22	35	23

N.B.—The prisoners in December 1834 were already in custody when the house of correction was given up to Mr. Jones, and those in June were accounted for by the commitments from the court of sessions.

(I. 4.)—REPORTS from Superintendent of Police.

Sir,

Police Office, Head-quarters, St. John's, 1 July 1835.

As time progresses, and we advance from the memorable event of the 1st of August 1834, I find it difficult to obtain matter for compiling my usual monthly report, in consequence of the increasingly happy state of affairs in this island, and the total absence of any occurrences worthy of notice. The sugar crop is completed on most of the plantations, and the uncommon celerity with which the work was conducted, is a strong testimony in favour of the labouring population, and an assurance of steadiness and good behaviour in time to come. At no period of our history have the laws been better respected by all classes than at this juncture; and the colony at large is in that state of tranquillity and social harmony which must impart unalloyed satisfaction to every lover of his country.

I have, &c.

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

Sir,

Police Office, Head-quarters, St. John's, 31 July 1835.

THIS being the day preceding the first anniversary of that eventful crisis when slavery was totally abolished in Antigua, I feel much pleasure in reporting to your Excellency, that the churches and chapels throughout the island are opened for Divine service, and that the labourers in this district are to be seen on the high roads and streets in decent apparel, the better disposed going to return thanks to Almighty God for their recent deliverance, and the more careless to spend the day in social mirth among their relations and friends.

The month ending to-day has not presented one circumstance upon which I could offer the slightest remark; and I may safely refer your Excellency to my Report for June as a faithful criterion by which you are to judge of the existing state of the island.

Notwithstanding this, however, I am not free from apprehensions, that our entry upon a new year of freedom, in conjunction with the recent disallowance of the labourers' contract law, and the expiration of the time during which the peasantry were to hold the possession of their dwellings, free of rent-charge or other molestation, might unsettle the minds of some hundreds, so far as to create momentary disorder; but looking to the hitherto passive conduct of the working classes, I see no reason to apprehend any serious results in the event of such an occurrence. Connected with the well-being and comfort of this extensive portion of our population, I would here remark, that I entertain serious forebodings of their being reduced to great distress from the want of that description of food to which they have been accustomed from early life, and which their circumstances enabled them to purchase at all times. I allude to the positive determination, on some sugar estates, to abandon the cultivation of ground provisions, and on others not to raise any more than may be expedient for family use and the wants of their aged negroes. The plan is fast approaching to maturity, and, should we be overtaken by one of those visitations of Divine Providence, so much to be apprehended at this season of the year, and at a moment when we are scantily supplied with the actual necessities of life from abroad, the result will be deplorable indeed; and more so from the probability that our immediate neighbours may be in a situation parallel with our own. Your Excellency will recollect that some time ago, I pointed out this approaching evil in my answers to certain queries connected with the agricultural prospects of the island, and then ventured to predict that the month of June in this present year would not have passed ere the inhabitants of Antigua became the humble dependants on supplies from the United States. This assertion has been completely verified; the dilemma increases hourly, and will go on progressively during the remainder of the year. With my opinion on the subject, I also pointed out the means remedial of the difficulty; and I earnestly hope that His Majesty's Government may devise some measures whereby the poorer inhabitants of this colony may derive the benefit of purchasing food at moderate rates, by the establishing of small proprietors on the public lands

ANTIGUA.

lands in the island; for it must be evident, that while the pay, in ready money, which the labourer now obtains for his hire, has given him an advantage over his former situation, yet he will hardly be benefited if his outlay for food divest him of the means of saving any portion of his earnings. This will necessarily breed discontent; he will become clamorous for increased wages, and more mischief might be created from this circumstance than any other that I can possibly think of.

The general tranquillity of the island affords me no opportunity of enlarging upon this Report; and sincerely wishing a continuance of things as they are,

I have, &c.

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

(I. 5.)

NOTES by the Governor.

(A 1.) *Answer* to Query 6, by Mr. Jarrett.—The indifference of prisoners to confinement in the house of correction has since ceased, owing to its better regulation and the introduction of the tread-wheel.

(A 2.) The proneness of labourers to change their employers, adverted to in Mr. Jarrett's reply to question 14, is certainly, in a general scale, counteracted by their strong attachment to the dwellings in which they have been accustomed to reside.

(B 1.) The Rev. Mr. Gilbert notices the employment, by poor persons, of children withdrawn from estates; but the executive and clergy have adopted measures, in concert with some of the principal proprietors, to check this evil, by increasing the means of religious instruction in the country.

(B 2.) The calculation, in this rev. gentleman's answer to query 11, does not appear conclusive. In accounting for the amount of the present crop, it is certainly to be borne in mind, that the preparatory labour was partly performed, before the 1st August 1834, by slaves; still Mr. Gilbert does not seem to give credit for the capital and interest to be derived from the compensation-money, and for the subsequent relief from the necessity of keeping up a succession of human stock, by purchasing slaves, and from other obligations connected with the old system.

(C 1.) Mr. Shirley Warner, in replying to question 20, mentions "the closing against resident natives every, or almost every, office of emolument."

There are hardly any offices in the gift of the Crown; the army is open to West Indians as well as to other classes of the King's subjects, who think fit to enter it. There is nothing to exclude West Indian gentlemen from church preferments. They may also be employed in the customs. With the exception of the troops, the customs department, and the governor, there do not appear to be any offices paid by the Crown. The number of appointments is exceedingly small, and, with only two or three exceptions, not worth the acceptance of candidates from home.

(C 2.) In answering the 21st Query, Mr. Shirley Warner recommends the creation of "personal honours" in this colony that would be worthless anywhere else. This suggestion might apply to possessions abroad; in British America, for instance, where wealthy proprietors have permanently settled; but there are peers, baronets, and gentlemen of rank, scattered through the West Indies as landowners already. And while on the one hand no colonial honours would tempt them to fix their abode in these regions, so on the other, there is no class resident here on whom, considering the habits of the country, such distinctions would set gracefully, the principal gentlemen already enjoying the title of Honourable, as members of council.

The plan of a central legislature is an extension of the original proposals by His Majesty's Government for establishing general legislatures in Barbadoes and Antigua, which seems to have been abandoned. Mr. Shirley Warner's project is not likely to occasion any saving of expense to the mother country, and as it cannot be well executed, unless well paid for, would, if effected in the present times, probably do more harm than good.

(D 1.) Under the head of 10-acre lands, the Governor concurs in opinion with Mr. Loving, that if parcels of lands are portioned out to tenants on a small scale; the inhabitants ready to purchase ought to be preferred to strangers; the more particularly as settlers of the lower order of Europeans would, for the most part, set no other example to the negroes than that of turbulence and drunkenness.

Had the 10-acre lands been at the disposal of the executive, the experiment of letting out or selling them in lots, would have been tried ere now, and it is intended to bring the matter, at a convenient season, under the attention of the Council and Assembly; not, however, with any sanguine expectations of success. They may deem the arrangement altogether impolitic; but if that difficulty is overcome, then the dilatory mode in which they carry on public business exposes their measures frequently to great uncertainty of issue, and private partialities might influence decisions on the applications of offerers for purchase; however well designed, it was injudicious in the Home Government to allow the House of Assembly a voice in such a matter. In Dominica it rests with the Governor and Council; but the Council usually abstain from interference. There is doubtless very little demand for land in that colony, and the Governor is thus enabled now and then to do an act of grace to some poor person.

(2.) In his replies to Questions No. 20 and 21, Mr. Loving adverts to the unwillingness of the larger proprietors to form small lots for the poorer classes, and instances the right of holders

holders of 10 acres to vote at elections for members of assembly; and it is obvious that such a title to suffrage may indispose many members who are now constantly certain of being returned, to any extension of the privilege of electing, whereby their seats would be rendered insecure.

Upon the same principles should the Assembly wish to prevent the culture of waste lands by small proprietors, that body cannot well be expected, for the present, to patronize the taxes proposed by Mr. Loving, for a more liberal, but directly opposite purpose.

(3.) The Governor's influence over the proprietors, being annihilated by the position in which that functionary is placed, since the Leeward Islands have been again collected under one official head, there is no possibility of his promoting useful institutions, or of obeying in other respects any benevolent or generous impulse.

(E 1.) Mr. Scotland's answers to the two first interrogatories present a picture of the agricultural condition of the island, which may possibly come to be realized; but is not as yet quite accurate; the sweet hope of attaining to plenty not seeming generally to actuate the labouring population. That a man should work as a free labourer with as much energy as while liable to be goaded by the lash, is not to be expected, nor indeed desired; but it is no less unreasonable to imagine that the mere act of emancipation should suddenly endow a person, previously enslaved, with the intelligence and clear perception of his newly-acquired station, which, from the cradle, progressive training and observation teach the free-born peasant.

The great mass of negroes are not much disposed to look beyond their immediate wants, nor is this circumstance affected by the treatment they receive from their employers. Those who were reputed severe masters, have been in many instances well supplied with labourers; and again, kind masters have been deserted; while, on different estates, under the same manager, the work-people have pursued opposite lines of conduct.

It is not until the managers who have been accustomed to govern slaves, and the labourers who have themselves been slaves, shall have ceased to be, that the advantages of freedom will probably come into perfect operation. The suspicion, low cunning, and duplicity, necessarily engendered by the state of thralldom in which they were educated and oppressed, cannot be at once laid aside by the emancipated labourers, whose moral improvement must be gradual. In the meantime it is most gratifying to record that they have comported themselves in a more peaceable and orderly manner than could well have been anticipated; and it is fair to presume that their character will be steadied and invigorated, when they are taught by their altered condition to look to their own resources and exertions for support and maintenance.

(2.) In replying to the 15th Question, Mr. Scotland recommends the creation of yeomanry, by means of parcelling out lots of land; and as this practice to a certain extent might be desirable, it is gratifying to state that cottages and small enclosures are forming in various directions: but the great drawback is not, perhaps, sufficiently considered, viz. the frequency of dry seasons, and the risk thence to be encountered, whether in raising canes, provisions, or stock, in most situations, by adventurers engaging with very limited means in agricultural pursuits.

(3.) Mr. Scotland answers Queries 20 and 21 by objecting to certain laws. They are possibly defective; but to leave the industry of the working people unshackled and free, to be applied as they themselves choose, would be the speediest mode of accomplishing their ruin. Labour, unless continuous, would be useless to the landowner; and if the command of it is not secured to him, his agricultural career must terminate; for the majority of the peasantry of this country would not work voluntarily for above two or three days per week, being as yet too little acquainted with liberty and its consequences, to discern that their interests are indissolubly connected with those of the proprietors, especially in a climate so exposed as that of Antigua to vicissitudes.

(F 1.) Mr. Pell, in answering the 2d interrogatory, states that a return could be obtained, without any trouble, of the number of acres of ground provisions cultivated in the successive years, up to the present period. It is by no means an easy matter, however, to procure information from West Indian proprietors; but a return of the description alluded to, so far as the reports extend, has been already inserted, although, instead of in 155 estates, the quantity of provisions in 50 only is expressed.

These remarks, which it appears to me needless to prosecute, in the remaining answers from Messrs. Pell, Byam, and Daniell, are submitted with great diffidence, owing to the novelty and intricacy of the subject, and the contradictory opinions of it entertained by so many respectable gentlemen of practical experience and intimate acquaintance with the local usages, resources and necessities of this colony, which appears abundantly entitled, as the birth place of freedom amongst the sugar islands, to some substantial proof of support and encouragement from the parent state.

(signed) *E. M. MacGregor*, Governor.

— No. 305. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 20 September 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 1st ultimo, enclosing the information which, in conformity with the instructions contained

No. 305.

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tained in Mr. Spring Rice's despatch of the 30th September, you had since obtained, and I have to desire that you would convey to the various gentlemen who have contributed the information you have now transmitted, my thanks for their gratuitous and very valuable assistance. I shall have the honour of making such further communications to you as may appear to be necessary on the subjects noticed in your despatch and in its enclosures, after I shall have had the necessary time for the perusal and consideration of them.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 306. —

No. 306.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor* to Lord *Glenelg.*

My Lord,

Government House, Antigua, 14 Sept. 1835.

A REPORT from the superintendent of police is herewith forwarded for your Lordship's information.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Governor.3 September 1835.

Enclosure in No. 306.

Enclosure in
No. 306.

Sir,

Police Office, St. John's, Antigua, 3 Sept. 1835.

I HAVE the honour to make to your Excellency a report of the internal state of this island, as far as it has come under my own observation, during the short period which has elapsed since my appointment to the situation of superintendent of police.

From the information which I have been able to collect by my own personal exertions, and from the reports of the assistant inspectors at the out-stations, I am induced to believe, that in general, a far better feeling and good understanding at present prevails between the labourers and their employers than hitherto.

The proprietors, attorneys and managers all appear to contribute, as well as circumstances will admit, to the comfort and health of their labourers, by rebuilding and repairing their several cottages, which were unfortunately blown down or injured during our late awful visitation.

The agricultural labours at this period of the year are generally considered to be progressing as favourably as can be expected; and the general opinion is, that although the labourers do not perhaps perform the same proportion of field work in the given time that they did during the existence of slavery, they are at the same time subordinate and well-behaved.

The planters have derived a considerable degree of benefit from the Act recently put into operation for regulating the hiring of agricultural labourers, as it has proved an effectual means of preventing so much of that wandering disposition previously manifested by this class of the population.

Capital offences have much decreased in number, as well as all minor ones; and the principal crimes latterly submitted for the investigation of the magistrates, seem to consist chiefly in trifling trespasses and breaches of contract.

I have much satisfaction in reporting to your Excellency, that the several members of the police force under my charge have, individually and collectively, strenuously endeavoured, by a zealous co-operation, faithfully to discharge the duties required of them by the community at large.

I have further to report, that the most ready assistance and support has been afforded by the several magistrates whenever called on.

A general Return of the police establishment is herewith transmitted for your Excellency's information.

I have, &c.

(signed)

Richard S. Wickham,
Superintendent of Police.To His Excellency
Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

— No. 307. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor.*

Sir,

Downing-street, 16 November 1835.

No. 307.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 14th September last, enclosing a Report from the superintendent of police of the state of the island under your government.

I have had the honour to lay this Report before the King, and His Majesty has commanded me to express to you the satisfaction which he has derived from the evidence

evidence afforded by this document of the progressive improvement of the state of society in the island, from which the happiest results to all classes of the community may be confidently anticipated.

The kind and liberal conduct of the proprietors, attorneys and managers in repairing the injury sustained by the cottages of their labourers during the late hurricane reflects great credit on them, and affords satisfactory proof that they are fully sensible of the moral obligations which attach to their social position, and that they are prepared to discharge them in a manner best calculated to ensure a successful issue of the great change which has recently taken place, by conciliating the good-will and regard of the labouring population.

The sensible diminution in crime is another feature in this Report of the most gratifying nature. I cannot but hope that the advantages which appear already to have arisen in Antigua from the transition from a system of slavery to absolute and unrestricted freedom will tend to allay any undue apprehension as to the future, which may exist in some of those colonies where this great social change is as yet only in progress towards its full completion.

You will convey to the several magistrates, and to the superintendent and members of the police force, the sense which His Majesty's Government entertain of their zealous and efficient discharge of their important duties.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 308. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart. to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government House, Antigua, 15 September 1835.

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward the undermentioned Acts, passed by the Legislature of Antigua, in the months of August and September last; viz.

“An Act for the better adjusting and more easy recovery of the Wages of Artificers, Handicraftsmen, and other Labourers working under Hirings, in the several Towns in this Colony; and for the better regulation of such Artificers, Handicraftsmen and other Labourers.”

Former Act referring only to artificers and labourers on estates, made by this Act applicable to the same description of persons in the towns and other places of the colony. All Acts at variance with, or repugnant to the said Act of the 6th of August last, repealed.

This Act is merely an extension of the Act which passed the Legislature of this island, on the 6th instant. The former Act regulated the hirings and wages of artificers, handicraftsmen and other labourers employed upon estates: this Act extends the provisions of the former to the hirings of persons of the same classes working in the several towns and other places in this island.

“An Act for better regulating Menial Servants.”

Menial servants (in the absence of particular agreement) to be considered under a general hiring, and to be dealt with in the same manner, and to have the same remedies as prescribed under Act of the 6th of August 1835, intituled “An Act for the better adjusting and more easy recovery of the Wages of Servants in Husbandry, &c.”

The object of this Act is to give menial or domestic servants the same remedies for their wages, and to make them liable to the same penalties for misconduct in such their employment as are given and imposed by the Act recently passed here, “for the better adjusting and more easy recovery of the Wages of Servants in Husbandry, &c.”

The Act was required, to make the code on this subject complete, and the Act will advance the objects for which it was intended.

— No. 309. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 30 November 1835.

THE Acts passed by the Governor, Council and Assembly of the island of Antigua, in the months of August and September last, having been referred by His Majesty in 166.—II.

No. 308.

Vide Appendix,
No. 121.

Vide Appendix,
No. 122.

No. 309.

Vide Appendix,
Nos. 121 & 122.

ANTIGUA.

in Council to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Foreign Plantations, that Committee have reported to His Majesty in Council their opinion that the said Acts should be left to their operation; and I have the honour to transmit to you herewith an order of His Majesty in Council, dated 20th November 1835, approving that Report.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 310. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor* to Lord *Glenelg.*

No. 310.

My Lord, Roseau, Dominica, 30 December 1835.
A REPORT from the superintendent of police of the island of Antigua, is herewith forwarded for your Lordship's information.

I have, &c.
(signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Governor.
The Right Hon. Lord *Glenelg*,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 310.

Enclosure in
No. 310.

Sir, St. John's, Antigua, 2 December 1835.
I HAVE the honour to report, that a continued uninterrupted state of peace and good order has happily prevailed throughout the island during the last month.

The calendar of offences for trial at the ensuing sessions bears little comparison with those of former periods; and I am happy to state, that the crimes generally are of a trifling nature, and principally petty thefts.

By a comparison of the two last lists of offences submitted for investigation, it will be found that a decrease has taken place in that for November.

A list of offences for November I have the honour now to submit.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Richard S. Wickham*, Superintendent of Police.
To His Honour the President administering the Government,
&c. &c. &c.

Police Office, St. John's, Antigua, 1 Nov. 1835.

RETURN of OFFENCES reported at the different POLICE STATIONS,
from 1st to 31st October 1835.

NATURE OF OFFENCES.	STATIONS.				TOTAL.
	St. John's.	Parham.	English Harbour.	Johne's Point.	
Assaults - - - - -	3	-	7	-	10
Assaults and batteries - - - - -	10	3	7	-	20
Breach of contract - - - - -	3	9	13	-	25
Burglaries - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-
Commitments under the Vagrant Act	9	-	1	-	10
Ditto for fines - - - - -	6	-	7	-	13
Ditto under amended Porters' Act	4	-	11	-	15
Felonies - - - - -	-	1	-	-	1
Injury to Property - - - - -	3	17	23	-	43
Larcenies - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-
Misdemeanors - - - - -	-	1	-	-	1
Murders - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-
Thefts - - - - -	3	1	1	-	5
Trespasses - - - - -	1	15	6	-	22

(signed) *S. Wickham*, Superintendent of Police.

— No. 311. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart., to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government House, Antigua, 21 June 1836.

“ HEREWITH addresses are laid before your Lordship that have passed between his honour the President and the two houses of Legislature in Antigua, on the occasion of their meeting after the late election.

“ On the subject of free labour it is important to observe, that Mr. President Warner himself is a convert to its advantages, and, as a practical planter and well-informed gentleman, his opinion is probably as soundly formed as that of any member, either of the Council or Assembly. In a Report, too, from the superintendent of police, it is stated, as that officer’s impression, ‘ that not one proprietor would voluntarily return to a state of slavery, or adopt the apprenticeship system, if it were in his power to do so,’ and, ‘ that unqualified freedom has worked well, and continues to work well wherever there has been moderation, with discretion and firmness, when requisite, on the part of employers.’

“ Mr. Wickham adds, ‘ that the interests of the proprietors alone are liable to injury from the system adopted in this island. The labourer will always obtain employment if he is of steady and industrious habits.’ But if the labourer will always obtain employment, it would seem that there must always be persons in condition to employ him; and even were it possible to separate the welfare of the two classes, that of the former is unquestionably entitled to be preferably considered, if the true object of good government consists in diffusing most extensively the greatest amount of human happiness.”

No. 311.

Nos. 1, 2 & 3.

Nos. 4 & 5,
8th June and
20th May 1836.

Enclosures in No. 311.

(No. 1.)

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

WITH the lively interest I must naturally entertain in all that concerns the welfare and happiness of Antigua, I experience a grateful satisfaction in being able to state, by information derived from the most authentic and intelligent sources, that a well-grounded conclusion may be drawn of progressive improvement in the industry of the labouring classes, in their principles of morality and in their pursuit of religious instruction, exhibiting a promise of prosperous result to the great measure of unrestricted freedom.

(signed) *Samuel Warner*,
President administering the Government.

Enclosures in
No. 311.

(No. 2.)

EXTRACT of ADDRESS from Board of Council to His Honour the President administering the Government, dated June 2, 1836.

DEEPLY involved as every member of this Board is in the prosperity and well-being of the island, and called on by every principle of public duty and every consideration of private interest, to promote the general welfare, it is with extreme sorrow, that after most anxiously watching all that is daily passing around us, we are unable to bear testimony to that progressive improvement in the industry of the labouring classes, which we hoped would have been the gradual result of the great measure of unrestricted freedom.

(signed) *Meade H. Daniell.* *Bertie E. Jarvis.*
William Byam. *Francis F. Brown.*
Richard W. Nanton. *Owen Pell.*
Paul Horsford.

(No. 3.)

EXTRACT of ADDRESS from the Assembly to his Honour the President administering the Government.

WE receive with pleasure the information derived from the most authentic and intelligent sources, that a well-grounded conclusion may be drawn of progressive improvement in the industry of the labouring classes; and, yet are we not so bold as to persuade ourselves that the

ANTIGUA.

the principles of morality, or the pursuit of religious instruction, as at present generally exhibited, give no unqualified assurance of a prosperous result to the great measure of unrestricted freedom; nor can we, with all respect for those more immediately connected with the important work, admit that the education of the young is at present conducted on a system consistent with habits of industry, or calculated to fit them for that station in life which the circumstances of the island require, and to which its resources naturally call them.

(signed) *Nicholas Nugent*, Speaker.

(No. 4.)

Sir,

St. John's, Antigua, 8 June 1836.

IN obedience to the commands contained in your Excellency's despatch of the 22d of April last, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the Report from the superintendent of police therein called for.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Samuel Warner*,
President administering the Government.

(No. 5.)

Sir,

Superintendent's Office, 20 May 1836.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, annexing the copy of a despatch from his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, calling on me for a Report "respecting the present condition of Antigua, as affecting the interests of proprietors and labourers under the system of freedom established in this island."

Unconnected as I am with the local agricultural duties, I fear the question is indeed much involved, but I shall endeavour briefly to answer it to the attainment of some practical inference, without presuming that my observations will afford the required satisfactory information. All manner of opinions are, and will doubtless be, maintained by different residents on matters of detail; but I am fully convinced, that not one proprietor would voluntarily return to a state of slavery, or adopt the apprenticeship system, if it were in his power to do so.

The unqualified freedom has worked well, and continues to work well, wherever there has been moderation with discretion and firmness, when requisite, on the part of employers.

The labourers (as I stated in my Report of September last year) certainly do not work so vigorously as they did during the existence of slavery, but sufficiently so, in most instances, to afford a remunerating return to the proprietor, if adequate prices could be sustained.

The labourers continue to act occasionally in a capricious manner, under a transient impression of obtaining a larger hire, or from some momentary impulse of dissatisfaction, a circumstance which must vitally tend to the serious injury of the proprietor, by retarding the progressive stages of agricultural labour.

In the valleys or fertile lands, where food is more easily obtained, and clothing most disregarded, the idleness and carelessness on the part of the labourers, in the performance of their work, are generally most conspicuous.

Besides this, the labourers on most properties are exceedingly reluctant to work on the Saturday, many not working on that day for the whole year, a fact which must greatly diminish their own industry, as well as their wages, and in many instances lead to habits of idleness and immorality, creating at the same time a mutual loss, both to the landholder and tenant.

These causes are at present strongly affecting, and if persevered in, must materially injure and diminish each succeeding crop, and naturally prove most prejudicial to the interests and prosperity of the proprietors.

The present opinion is, that the crop of sugar, as well as all other articles of husbandry, is proportionally less this year than in almost any other on the records of the island.

Various are the causes attributed to this unfortunate and ruinous occurrence; by some, the dreadful effects and injuries experienced during the awful visitation in August last year; the unpropitious weather which succeeded it, enhanced by a want of promptitude and energy, which could not, in proper season, be either enforced or induced, on the part of the labourers, to make every favourable moment available in counteracting their misfortunes.

The only universal complaint or rational cause of alarm, is the withdrawal of the young persons from any proportion of plantation labour, or trivial occupation, for the purpose of education, or being placed out to learn different trades of mechanics or artisans; and the general impression is, that the system of education has been overdone, and that the rising generation will grow up without the ability or inclination to engage, at any future period, in the different branches of field labour, or cultivation of the soil.

To

To the proprietors the consideration of this subject certainly is one of the deepest interest and greatest importance; nevertheless, if the sustaining principle originally assumed by the Legislature be true and just, that the rural and other population cannot exist in Antigua without great and continued labour in tilling the earth, they may yet hope that the young, on attaining a sufficiently mature age, will, and must engage in the same pursuits as their progenitors did.

I am, however, on the whole, happy to persuade myself that the work on the estates is, for the most part, proceeding more steadily, and that the operations for the past year have tended to impress upon the labourers a strong sense of mutual dependance, so as to render them less capricious in their pursuits. But it must be obvious, from my preceding observations, that the interests of the proprietors have been as injuriously, as those of the labourers have been beneficially, affected; and I have had occasion to remark, that in the parts of the island where uncultivated lands prevail, the labourers in the neighbourhood are endeavouring gradually to render themselves independent of sugar cultivation; and that very few of the young people, who, in the year 1834, were engaged in the initiatory labour on the estates, or not quite old enough for the occupation, have since entered into any kind of agricultural services.

In conclusion, I cannot but express my belief that the interests of the proprietors alone are liable to injury from the system of freedom adopted in this island. The labourer will always obtain employment, if he is of steady and industrious habits; and the laws of his country will enforce an even-handed administration of justice for the payment of his wages, when not punctually made to him. On the other hand, if he is idle, and will not work for his own maintenance, the Vagrant Act provides him with food, shelter, employment, and medical attendance.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Richard S. Wickham*, Superintendent of Police.

— No. 312. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 15 August 1836.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 21st of June last, enclosing the addresses which have passed between the President and the two Houses of the Legislature of Antigua, on the occasion of their meeting after the late elections.

No. 312.

In acknowledging these documents, I beg to express to you the satisfaction with which I have received the additional evidence which is afforded, in the papers which accompany them, of the advantages which are derived from free labour in Antigua.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

M O N T S E R R A T.

— No. 313. —

MONTSERRAT. COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart., to Mr. Secretary
T. Spring Rice.

No. 313.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 10 Dec. 1834.

I HAVE the honour to forward transcripts of Bills passed by the Legislature of Montserrat; viz.

1st. “ An Act for the Classification of Apprenticed Labourers.”

The Bill, in conformity with the Slavery Abolition Bill, divides the apprenticed labourers into three classes, prædials attached, prædials unattached, and non-prædials. Registrar within 14 days to deliver a list to any person or persons appearing on the register, to be in the possession of any slave, with a certificate; such lists to be returned to the registrar within 14 days, distinguishing to which of the said classes each slave belongs, with an affidavit annexed to the truth of such return, under the penalty of 10*l*. Registrar, if dissatisfied with return, authorized to issue summons to party to attend him, and to bring with him the slave or slaves respecting whose classification any doubts should arise, and to examine into the same, and either to correct or confirm the return; in case either party dissatisfied with registrar’s decision, liberty given to appeal. As soon as the classification is returned, there shall be affixed to the entry of the name of each prædial attached, the letters P. A.; to the prædials unattached, the letters P. U.; and the non-prædial, N. P.; such entry to be conclusive evidence of the class to which the apprenticed labourers belong. Parties omitting to make the return or affidavit, or to attend the registrar, subject to a penalty of not more than 10*l*., nor less than 20*s*.

2d. “ An Act for giving to the Special Magistrates Jurisdiction over Apprenticed Labourers, and directing their mode of proceeding in the exercise of such Jurisdiction.”

This Act directs, the special magistrate shall reside within the district to which he is appointed, and directs the special magistrate to hold a session for hearing and deciding complaints brought before him once a week, or oftener if necessary, and to visit plantations once a month; he is also directed to keep a journal of all complaints, and the proceedings and his decisions thereupon, and to transmit duplicates thereof to the Governor, with an affidavit of the correctness of such journal. The Act further directs all complaints to be reduced to writing, and to be read by or to the complainant, and subscribed by him. The justice may immediately dismiss complaint, or may proceed to inquire into the truth of the complaint, on oath and arrest, or summon the parties complained against. In capital or transportable offences, justice to issue his warrant for apprehension of offenders. Justice authorized to summon witnesses when necessary. Depositions to be taken in writing, and the case heard in the presence of all parties. Justice may adjourn hearing, may commit or bail party charged, and shall decide as law and reason require, in case of dismissal as frivolous and vexatious. Justice to adjudge complainant, if an apprentice, to labour for his employer not exceeding 15 hours in one week; but if the employer, to pay not less than 20*s*., nor more than 5*l*., for the use of the labourer: if dismissed as malicious, complainant, if an apprentice, shall, at the instance of the party charged, be imprisoned with hard labour, not exceeding one month; if the employer, be fined not more than 40*s*., for the use of the apprentice. Decisions of justice, a bar to any other proceedings. Directions given for drawing up convictions and commitments, &c. All warrants, &c., issued by justice, to be executed by the police or any other person justice may direct. Witness when summoned, not appearing, or refusing to be sworn or examined, justice authorized to commit such defaulter until he shall submit. If actions brought against justice, and judgment for him, plaintiff

to

to pay treble costs. Justice may tender amends at any time before final judgment. Actions to be commenced within six months; the forms are annexed. MONTSERRAT.

3. "An Act for establishing a Police in the said Island."

The Island to be divided into two districts. The Commander-in-Chief of Montserrat by proclamation to define the limits; each district to be under the control of a special magistrate. Twenty acres in each district to be appropriated to the purpose of buildings for a police establishment and house of correction; each establishment to consist of 10 privates and one serjeant, able-bodied men; the privates to receive 4s. 6d. per diem, and the serjeants 6s.; once in each year all to be furnished with uniform. At each establishment a penal gang is to be formed, to consist of offenders condemned to imprisonment and hard labour. The members of police may hire labourers, together with the penal gang, to aid in erecting temporary accommodations for police until permanent ones be provided. If any policeman misbehaves, special magistrate to suspend him, subject to Commander-in-Chief's ultimate decision. Each quarter the special magistrates to give in a report of the details of their respective establishments. The internal discipline of these settlements to be subject to the control of person administering the government.

4th. "An Act for the Summary Punishment of Common Assaults and Batteries, and of Riotous and Disorderly Conduct."

The Act for the summary punishment of common assaults, &c. gives the magistrate, upon complaint made by the person or persons aggrieved, jurisdiction to hear and determine all cases of assault or batteries, all cases of riotous or disorderly conduct, and of abusive or provoking language tending to a breach of the peace, or of blasphemous and improper language used in the streets or highways; and upon conviction to pay such fine with costs (if ordered) not exceeding 10*l.*; and if fine and costs not paid within the time, the magistrate may direct offender to be imprisoned in the common gaol, not exceeding two calendar months, unless fine and costs sooner paid. Justice empowered, in case of loss of personal property, to appropriate any part of the fine as a compensation to the complainant. Justice may dismiss the complaint, if not proved, or upon sufficient justification, or as not deserving punishment, with or without costs, and shall give a certificate of such dismissal. Persons obtaining certificate of acquittal, or paying fine, or undergoing imprisonment, released from any civil or criminal proceeding. In case of any assault or battery, committed in attempting to commit felony, or any assault which they may think indictable, they shall abstain from deciding thereupon, and refer it to the superior courts. Jurisdiction of justice restrained where assault and battery involves title to lands, &c., or cases of bankruptcy or insolvency, or any execution under any process of any court of justice.

Vide App. No. 123.

I have, &c.

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

— No. 314. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Secretary *Charles Grant* to Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart.

No. 314.

Sir,

Downing-street, 29 April 1835.

I HAVE received your despatch dated on the 10th of December last, in which you enclose the transcripts of four Bills passed by the Legislature of Montserrat. One of these, for the summary punishment of common assaults, might with more accuracy be described as an Act, as it has received the assent of the officer administering the Government. The other three relating to apprenticed labourers, you have correctly described as Bills, since they appear to have passed only two of the branches of the Colonial Legislature. I am unable to account for the silence of your despatch respecting a distinction at once so palpable and so important.

It would be contrary to all precedent and usage if His Majesty in Council should confirm a Colonial Act, to which the Governor's assent had not been first given; this is the more inconvenient, because these Bills appear to have

MONTSERRAT. been passed in fulfilment of the terms prescribed by Parliament, as the condition upon which alone any colony might participate in the Compensation Fund. It will therefore be impossible to declare in the words of the Statute, that "adequate and satisfactory" provision has been made in Montserrat for those purposes.

I cannot pass from the subject without directing your notice to the fact, that even if the difficulty to which I have adverted had not arisen, there would have been another insuperable impediment to acknowledging the claim of this colony to a share in the Compensation Fund. The Order of the King in Council for regulating the condition of apprenticed labourers in certain of the Crown colonies, is divided into 12 chapters. The three Bills which you have transmitted of Montserrat, omit all the various topics noticed in the last nine of those chapters, and which are far more important than the subjects to which the attention of the Legislature of Montserrat has been directed.

I have, &c.

(signed) C. Grant.

— No. 315. —

No. 315. EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart., to the Mr. Secretary *Charles Grant*.

Government House, Antigua, 22 June 1835.

In your despatch of the 29th April last (Montserrat), surprise is expressed at my having sent home, in mine of the 10th December 1834, three of four Acts purporting to have been passed by the Legislature of Montserrat, one of which alone had been assented to.

The three remaining documents, it will be gathered from the accompanying copies of correspondence, are already in the Colonial Office, in duplicate; one set having been sent direct by the President, and the other, with my letter of the 10th December last, already alluded to.

Mr. President Hamilton admits, that the first did not bear his name, or the Montserrat Great Seal, but the correspondence will distinctly prove that I had directed these Acts to be assented to by the President, that they had even been proclaimed, and consequently, that if Mr. Hamilton's testimony to their validity has been left incomplete, the circumstance had eluded observation here, in the hurry of making up the despatches of that period for transmission by the packet, an unconscious omission, for which I beg leave sincerely to apologise, and a repetition of which in future every precaution will be adopted to prevent.

It will be observed that other Acts, in lieu of those in question, are stated by the President to be now in preparation.

Enclosures in
No. 315.

Enclosures in No. 315.

(No. 1.)

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 16 July 1834.

IN compliance with the instructions contained in its postscript, I have the honour to forward for your information and guidance, the copy of a despatch from Mr. Spring Rice, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, relative to the Acts connected with the Abolition of Slavery therein alluded to, which have been passed by the Legislature of Montserrat.

I have, &c.

To the President of Montserrat.

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

(No. 2.)

Sir,

Montserrat, 17 July 1834.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, with copy of the Right honourable Mr. Secretary Rice's despatch to you of the 6th June, the original of which never came to hand.

I lost no time in communicating with Mr. Dyett, King's counsel, who, under the circumstances of his not having retained an exact copy of the Abolition Bill alluded to, assured me that

Nos. 1 to 16.
16, 17 July; 21, 18,
12 August; 1, 2, 3,
20 Sept.; 6, 14 Oct.;
& 4 Nov. 1834; —
and 26 Feb.; 9 & 16
June 1835.

6 June 1834.

that he would immediately prepare one in every respect similar to the one transmitted, and in all points conformably to the Imperial Act, to which Bill, as soon as it is re-enacted, I shall give my assent, agreeable to Mr. Secretary Rice's instructions. In the meantime I shall be happy to receive your instructions, whether the Bill shall be then sent to you for transmission, or forwarded direct by me to Downing-street. The Legislature meet on Saturday, when they will adjourn to a given time, and pass the re-enacted Bill.

MONTSERRAT.

I have, &c.

To Sir E. J. M. MacGregor, Governor.

(signed) *Henry Hamilton*, President.

(No. 3.)

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 21 August 1834.

WITH reference to the Secretary of State's despatch of the 6th of June, and to your Honour's application, owing to the neglect of the colonial officer, in not retaining copies of certain Acts, consequent on the abolition of slavery, I herewith transmit transcripts thereof, received from the Right honourable T. Spring Rice, who is pleased, in a despatch of the 1st ultimo, to express his expectation that the Legislature of Montserrat, "which is responsible for the omission, will, no doubt take proper measures to prevent the recurrence of such dereliction of duty on the part of the clerk of the Assembly."

I have, &c.

To his Honour the President.

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

(No. 4.)

Sir,

Montserrat, 18 August 1834.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I had an application from the Legislature on the 12th instant, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, to give my assent, and affix the Great Seal to a duplicate copy of our Apprenticeship Bill (the original that had been transmitted for His Majesty's approbation, not yet returned,) to enable Captain Græme, the stipendiary magistrate, to enforce the law and penalties attached to it.

On the Bill being presented to me by a member of Council, I demurred, stating that I wished to have an opportunity of consulting you on the subject. About one hour after I received the enclosed resolution of the Privy Council, as also a St. Kitt's paper of the 5th instant, containing a circular letter from Mr. Secretary Rice to Lieutenant-governor Nixon on exactly a similar business, which induced me immediately to give my assent, and have the Bill proclaimed. Under those circumstances I trust that my conduct will meet your approbation.

I have, &c.

To Sir E. J. M. MacGregor, Governor.

(signed) *Henry Hamilton*.

(No. 5.)

Montserrat.

At a Meeting of the Privy Council held on Tuesday, 12 August 1834.

Present:—The Honourable William Shieff, President; the Honourable Michael Furlonge, the Honourable Francis Polhill, the Honourable Edmond Semper, the Honourable R. S. Goodhall.

On motion made and seconded, it was resolved, That the following message be sent to his Honour the President administering the Government of the said island.

That a message from the House of Assembly, relative to the authority of the stipendiary magistrate, of which a copy is hereby forwarded to your Honour, has been sent up to this board. This message has been communicated to Captain Græme, and the opinion of the King's counsel has been given in accordance with the message from the Assembly. Captain Græme has therefore declined inflicting any punishment upon apprentices, who may become deserving of the same. Under these circumstances we beg leave respectfully to advise, that your Honour should remove these difficulties by affixing the seal to the Act now presented to you for that purpose.

Privy Council Chamber, 12 August 1834.

(No. 6.)

The Gentlemen of the Assembly to the President and Council.

WE think it but fair that Captain Græme should be informed that there is no law in the island which empowers him to punish apprentices in consequence of the Executive of the island refusing to put the Great Seal to the Bill passed by both Houses for that purpose; nor can we see any use in putting the country to the enormous expense of the police establishment, which can be of no use, nor made available under existing circumstances.

This House beg leave further to state, for the information of the Executive, that they consider it quite useless to legislate any further upon the question, in consequence of the Bill

MONTSERRAT. under which they conceive themselves acting, and which authorized Captain Græme's proceeding against the apprenticed labourers, being rendered inoperative for the want of the assent of the Executive.

(signed) *John Allers*, Speaker.

(No. 7.)

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 1 Sept. 1834.

THE Bill alluded to in your Honour's communication of the 12th ultimo, is, I conclude, one of those for assenting to which the Colonial Secretary of State's authority has been conveyed to your Honour, and under that impression I approve of its having received the Great Seal of Montserrat.

At the same time, unless directions are obtained by your Honour from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, or from the Governor of the Leeward Islands, empowering your Honour to assent to any Bill passed by the Council and Assembly, it may be right to observe, with reference to the Royal instructions, that such assent by the President of Montserrat would be invalid.

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

To his Honour the President of Montserrat.

(No. 8.)

Sir,

Montserrat, 23 September 1834.

I BEG to inform your Excellency, that on the 19th instant, the House of Assembly then sitting, I received a message from the Speaker, requesting to be informed whether three Bills, now inclosed, had received the Royal Assent; if so, that I would be pleased to publish them.

I informed him that His Majesty's pleasure had not as yet been signified to me, and until that event took place, or that I received instructions from your Excellency to give my assent, I must decline publishing the same.

On the 20th instant I received a letter from the Speaker, requesting me to forward the same to you, a copy of which I now submit to your consideration and instruction to me.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Hamilton*, President.
His Excellency Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor, Governor, &c. &c. &c.

(No. 9.)

Sir,

Montserrat, 20 September 1834.

ON motion made and seconded in the honourable House of Assembly yesterday, I was commanded to address your Honour, and to inform you that the country is at present in a state of great embarrassment, in consequence of the non-publication of the Bills lately passed by the Legislature. These Bills are, first, a Bill intituled "An Act for establishing a Police in this Island;" secondly, a Bill intituled "An Act for the Classification of Apprenticed Labourers;" and thirdly, a Bill intituled "An Act for giving to the Special Magistrate Jurisdiction over Apprenticed Labourers, and directing their mode of proceeding in the exercise of such Jurisdiction." The House further commanded me earnestly to entreat that your Honour would be pleased forthwith to apply to his Excellency the Governor of the Leeward Islands, for his sanction to your affixing your signature and seal of office to these Bills, in order that they may be considered as in immediate operation, transcripts whereof can be made after publication, to be transmitted to His Majesty's Government for confirmation.

In the execution of the commands of the honourable House of Assembly, I am afforded an opportunity of declaring to your Honour that the present state of this island calls for recourse to prompt measures of improvement. I would, with deference and submission, bring to your Honour's notice, that at this moment the special magistrate is exercising jurisdiction over apprenticed labourers unauthorized by law; that a police force has been established, and is in full operation, in like manner unsanctioned; and that the classification of apprenticed labourers has taken, and is taking place, in the absence of the like authority. I am persuaded that the welfare of the community, of which you are at the head, is an object of your Honour's solicitude, and I trust that your Honour will be induced to procure the sanction of the Executive to these Acts, from a conviction of their being indispensable.

I have, &c.
(signed) *John Allers*, Speaker.

(No. 10.)

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 6 October 1834.

IN reply to your Honour's despatch of the 23d, received on the 29th ultimo, and to a communication, under date the 20th ultimo, from the Speaker of the Assembly to your Honour, I have

I have to request that this letter, with the documents accompanying it, may be imparted to the honourable House; some mistake appearing to have very inconveniently retarded the assent of the Executive to the Bills, transcripts of which proceeded with my despatch of the 21st August, which Bills your Honour was previously authorized to sanction by my letter of the 16th July last, and its inclosure, acknowledged by your Honour on the following day.

The Bills herewith returned are the same, and when assented to, I have to request your Honour will favour me with copies of them for transmission to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department.

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

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

1, 2, 3, 4-
16 July, 6 March,
19 July, & 21 Aug.
1834.

(No. 11.)

Montserrat, 14 October 1834.

Sir,
IN compliance with your Excellency's instructions, as communicated in your letter of the 6th instant, I beg to inform you that I have laid before the Speaker and the Assembly your letter, with its inclosure, and beg to express my concern at the delay that occurred in proclaiming the Bills, in consequence of my misapprehension of the Secretary of State's instructions relative to them. They are, however, now in force, and from the explicit instructions conveyed to me respecting all future Bills to be passed, a similar occurrence cannot happen. I directed the Secretary to make transcripts of those Bills, to be forwarded to you with as little delay as possible.

To his Excellency Sir E. J. M. MacGregor,
Governor.

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

(No. 12.)

EXTRACTS of a DESPATCH from the President of *Montserrat* to the Governor; dated *Montserrat*, 4 November 1834.

THE Secretary having furnished me with the transcript of one of the Bills returned from England, I unfortunately, through mistake, forwarded that Bill in place of the one now sent.

I hope to receive the transcripts of the remaining English Bills in time to accompany this letter, as at present there is no direct opportunity for Antigua.

(No. 13.)

Montserrat, 10 November 1834.

Sir,
I HAVE the honour to inclose transcripts of two Bills, with their summaries. The one, a Bill giving jurisdiction to the special magistrates. The other, the classification of apprenticed labourers.

To his Excellency Sir E. J. M. MacGregor,
Governor.

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

(No. 14.)

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 26 February 1835.

IN transmitting the accompanying copy of a despatch from the Earl of Aberdeen, I have to request that your Honour will be pleased to recommend to the Council and Assembly of *Montserrat* the revival, in reference to his Lordship's observations, of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, which it will be observed by an order of His Majesty in Council, is about to be left to its operation.

The law for the government of apprentices, which had not been received at the date of the Secretary of State's despatch, it is to be hoped will, ere now, have reached the Colonial Department, having been forwarded by me in a letter under date the 10th of December 1834.

To his Honour the President.

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

15 Jan. 1835.

(No. 15.)

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 9 June 1835.

IN reference to the accompanying copy of a letter, from the Right Honourable Charles Grant, I have to state my inability to account for the observations therein contained, on the subject of three of the Bills adverted to.

Your Honour, by my directions, assented to the same, transcripts of which, received from your Honour, were forwarded to the Colonial Department in my despatch, to which the
166.—II. Secretary

MONTSERRAT

Secretary of State alludes, under the impression that they bore your Honour's signature and the Montserrat Great Seal. In the hurry of preparing for the departure of the packet, if either of these forms has been omitted, the circumstance might have escaped notice in my office, and I am under the necessity of applying to your Honour upon these points for more precise information, if attainable. Two of the Bills, said not to be assented to, arrived here from Montserrat on the 21st of November, and the third on the 4th of December.

The chapters of the Order of the King in Council, noticed by Mr. Grant, your Honour received, I presume, with my Lord Stanley's communication of the 19th October 1833.

His Honour the President,
&c. &c. &c.

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

(No. 16.)

Sir,

Montserrat, 16 June 1835.

I HAD the honour to receive your letter of the 9th instant, together with the copy of a letter from the Right Honourable Charles Grant, Secretary of State for the Colonies, to your Excellency, on the subject of three Bills from this island, forwarded by you to the Colonial Office without my signature or the Great Seal, which I perused with great pain, such omissions being solely attributable to me; having received your general assent to them, as Bills emanating out of the Abolition Bill, that I received from the Colonial Secretary of State, with orders to sign, seal and return the same to him direct; thus removing that Bill out of the general rules established for the submission, on my part, of all Bills passed by the Legislature to your Excellency for my assent, prior to my affixing my signature and Great Seal to them.

I can only attribute so great an oversight to some unaccountable infatuation of the moment, from an over-anxiety, which I sincerely regret.

The chapters of the Order in Council, with your letter and that of Lord Stanley, were all submitted to the consideration of the Legislature by me in December 1833.

Those Bills are now under the revision of both Houses, and as soon as completed shall be forwarded, with the amended Abolition Bill, all signed and sealed, to your Excellency, for transmission to the Colonial Office.

To his Excellency
Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Governor.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Hamilton*, President.

— No. 316. —

No. 316. COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart., to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government House, Antigua, 27 June 1835.

IN further reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 29th of April last, particularly to that part of it which adverts to the Order of His Majesty in Council for regulating the condition of apprenticed labourers in certain of the Crown colonies, I do myself the honour of transmitting (as received from the President) an Act passed by the Legislature of Montserrat, intituled "An Act for the protection and maintenance of Apprenticed Labourers in this Island, and for insuring the punctual discharge by such Apprenticed Labourers of the services due by them to their Employers, and generally for regulating the Conduct and for the punishment of any Offences committed by such Apprenticed Labourers;" together with a Report by a joint-committee of the Council and Assembly upon the subject of your Lordship's above-mentioned despatch, and Copy of a Letter addressed to Mr. President Hamilton by myself.

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

Act.
14 August 1834.
Vide App. No. 124.

22 June 1835.
26 June 1835.

Enclosures in
No. 316.

Enclosures in No. 316.

(No. 1.)

Montserrat:

THE Committee appointed by both Houses of Legislature to prepare an answer to remarks made the Right honourable Charles Grant, His Majesty's Colonial Secretary, under date of the 29th April 1835, stating that all the various topics noticed in the last nine chapters of the Orders in Council, passed by His Majesty, for regulating the condition of apprenticed labourers in this island, have been omitted, do report, that on the 29th of May 1834 the Legislature passed a Bill for the protection and maintenance of apprenticed labourers in this island, for insuring the punctual discharge by such apprenticed labourers of

of the service due by them to their employers, and generally for regulating the conduct, and for the punishment of any offences committed by such apprenticed labourers. MONTSERRAT.

That such Bill was forwarded to his Excellency Sir Evan MacGregor on the 31st of the same month, who acknowledged the receipt of the same on the 3d June, as per copy of his letter below.

Leeward Islands, Government House, Antigua,
3 June 1834.

Sir,
I have the honour of acknowledging the Apprenticeship Bill received with your Honour's despatch of the 31st ultimo, and of mentioning that it will be forwarded by the next packet to the Right honourable the Colonial Secretary of State.

I have, &c.

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

His Honour the President of Montserrat, &c. &c. &c.

That such Bill was expressly framed from the Orders in Council that were sent out by His Majesty's Government for our guidance.

That such Bill arrived in Downing-street, as was acknowledged by the Right honourable T. Spring Rice, then Colonial Secretary; but owing to the officer administering the Government of this island having forwarded such Bill without his signature, and the Great Seal being affixed, it could not be laid before His Majesty in Council for His Majesty's confirmation.

That on such information being received in this island, the Legislature immediately ordered a copy of the said Bill to be made, which was done, and sent to Antigua, to his Excellency Sir Evan MacGregor, to be transmitted, which he did on the 10th of December, as communicated to the officer administering the Government, under date of the 26th February. As, after inclosing an extract from Lord Aberdeen's despatch, who had succeeded the Right honourable T. Spring Rice as Colonial Secretary, under date of 15th January, saying, "That the law for the government of apprentices which was received, 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." His Excellency adds, "That the law for the government of apprentices, which had not been received at the date of the Secretary of State's despatch, it is to be hoped ere now has reached the Colonial Department, having been forwarded by me in a letter under date of the 10th of December 1834." That your committee fear the second copy of the Apprenticeship Bill has never reached its destination, or His Majesty's Colonial Secretary would have discovered that all the chapters mentioned by him as omitted have been regularly passed and embodied in such Apprenticeship Bill.

And your committee further report that chapter 4 of the Orders in Council has been enacted in the 4th, 29th, and 30th clauses of the Apprenticeship Bill.

Chapter 5 in clauses 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 24, 27.

Chapter 6 in clauses 6, 32, 33, 34.

Chapter 7 in clauses 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 45.

Chapter 8 in clause 1.

Chapter 9 in clause 2.

Chapter 10 in clause 5.

Chapter 11 in clause 3.

Chapter 12 in clauses 40 and 41.

That the said Bill contains 45 clauses, many of which are suited to the particular situation of the island, and which are not mentioned in the Orders in Council.

That the clause relating to boats and vessels is provided for in a Bill passed the 11th of May last; and that, by the recommendation of the Right honourable T. Spring Rice, part of the 12th chapter of the Orders in Council is introduced in the Militia Bill, which has received the Royal Assent.

And your committee recommend that a copy of this report be sent to his Excellency Sir Evan MacGregor, to be forwarded with a copy of the Apprenticeship Bill to the Colonial Secretary.

Committee-room, 22 June 1835.

(signed) *John Dobridge*, Chairman.

(No. 2.)

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 26 June 1835.

THE several Acts received with your letter of the 22d instant, and described as follows by your Honour, will be forwarded by the next packet to the Colonial Department:—

An Amended Abolition Act.

An Apprenticeship Act.

A Police Act.

An Act giving Special Magistrates Jurisdiction over Apprentices.

An Act for the Classification of Apprentices.

The Report of a Committee of the Council and Assembly, which accompanied your Honour's letter, will be likewise submitted for the Secretary of State's consideration.

MONTSERRAT.

It is, however, requisite to point out a mistake which appears to have occurred, in imagining that the Bill for the protection and maintenance of apprenticed labours, said to have been passed on the 29th of May 1834, had been sent home by me on the 10th of December in that year, inasmuch as several Acts having been passed in relation to apprentices, I had then no reason to doubt, but at the same time no correct means of ascertaining, in addressing your Honour on the 26th February last, that the Apprenticeship Bill meant by the committee was not one of those upon that subject inclosed in my above-mentioned despatch to the Right honourable the Colonial Secretary, of the 10th of December, which were, however,

First, the Act for the classification of apprenticed labourers, and,

Secondly, the Act for giving to the special magistrates jurisdiction over them.

The first-mentioned Bill, for the protection of apprentices, as mentioned in my despatch to your Honour of the 3d June 1834, was actually forwarded by the packet on the 5th day of that month.

No duplicate of the Act appears to have been since received from Montserrat, nor has any acknowledgment arrived from the Colonial Department of the letter in which it was inclosed.

I have, &c.

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

His Honour the President of Montserrat, &c. &c. &c.

— No. 317. —

No. 317.

COPY of a DESPATCH from *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart., to
Mr. Secretary *Charles Grant*.

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 25 June 1835.

WITH reference to my letter of the 22d instant, I do myself the honour of forwarding the undermentioned Acts therein referred to, and required by your despatch of the 29th of April last, as since received, assented to, from the President of Montserrat; viz.

1st. "An Act for the Classification of Apprenticed Labourers."

2d. "An Act for giving to the Special Magistrates Jurisdiction over Apprenticed Labourers; and directing their mode of proceeding in the exercise of such Jurisdiction."

3d. "An Act for establishing a Police in the said Island."

I have, &c.

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

— No. 318. —

No. 318.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart. to Mr. Secretary *Charles Grant*, dated Government House, Antigua, 25 June 1835.

HEREWITH I have the honour of forwarding the following Act, passed by the Legislature of Montserrat, in the month of May last; viz.

"An Act to repeal the proviso contained in the fourth clause of an Act, intituled 'An Act for the Abolition of Slavery in this Island.'"

This Act is passed to remedy a mistake in the original Bill transmitted, not being in conformity to or in accordance with the Act of the Imperial Parliament. The present clause amended will probably prove more satisfactory, and render the Bill complete and in unison with the Imperial Bill.

The amendment now made is in perfect conformity to the provisions contained in the fourth clause of the 3d & 4th Will. 4, c. 73, and is the consequence of my Lord Aberdeen's despatch of the 15th January last.

— No. 319. —

No. 319.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government House, Antigua, 28 July 1835.

HEREWITH I have the honour of forwarding the undermentioned Act, passed by the Legislature of Montserrat; viz.

"AN Act for the regulation of Porters, Jobbers and Watermen, and all such persons

3.
Vide App. No. 125.
Vide App. No. 126.
Vide App. No. 127.

Vide App. No. 128.

Parl. Paper, No. 278-2, ordered to be printed 10 June 1835, p. 48.

Vide App. No. 129.

persons as shall ply as porters, jobbers and watermen in any of the towns, roads or bays of this island, and for the regulation of small Boats and Crafts of every description which ply for hire in the said roads or bays." MONTSERRAT.

The objects of this Act are to regulate the hire of porters, jobbers and watermen, to oblige the owners of small boats to register the same, and to provide for their use and employment.

Its provisions appear to be fair, equitable and judicious, and the Act seems in all respects unobjectionable.

— No. 320. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart.

No. 320.

Sir,

Downing-street, 1 Feb. 1836.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of several Acts passed by the Legislature of Montserrat, for giving effect to the Act of Parliament for the abolition of slavery.

The suggestions which Lord Aberdeen made in his despatch of the 15th Jan. 1835 having been adopted by the Legislature in the Acts now under consideration, and in addition to those Acts which they have now passed for the good government of the apprenticed labourers. I have had the satisfaction of advising His Majesty to allow the Acts in question, and to declare, by an Order in Council, that the island of Montserrat is entitled to participate in the Compensation Fund. I shall have the honour of transmitting to you by the next packet two Orders of His Majesty in Council, giving effect to this decision.

I have subsequently received a despatch from the President of Montserrat, dated 12th December, stating that having had reason to fear the above Acts had not reached this office, the Legislature had thought fit to pass several other Acts upon the same subject, copies of which he enclosed. You will have the goodness to acquaint the President with His Majesty's decision upon the former Acts, when he will no doubt see the expediency of recommending the Legislature to repeal the Acts which they have subsequently passed.

I have, &c,
(signed) *Glenelg*.

Vide Papers.
Printed by order of
the House of Com-
mons, 10 June 1835,
No. 278-2, p. 48.

— No. 321. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart.

No. 321.

Sir,

Downing-street, 15 February 1836.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 1st instant, I have the honour to transmit to you an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 3d instant, leaving to their operation several Acts passed by the Legislature of Montserrat for the purpose of giving effect to the Act for the Abolition of Slavery. I likewise enclose an Order in Council bearing the same date, declaring that the island of Montserrat is entitled to participate in the Compensation Fund.

In transmitting these Orders I have only to observe, that by the provisions of the Colonial Abolition Act, it is not quite clear whether a single magistrate is not authorized to sanction the removal of apprenticed labourers from one plantation to another; and further, that it would be desirable to state the period in them which an apprenticed labourer may be ejected by a summary process from land which he has unlawfully occupied. I have no doubt that the Legislature will see the propriety of remedying these defects at the earliest opportunity.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg*.

For the Montserrat
Act for the Aboli-
tion of Slavery, *vide*
Papers printed by
order of the House of
Commons, 10 June
1835, No. 278-2,
p. 307; also, *vide*
Appx. to these Pa-
pers, Nos. 124, 125,
126, 127, 128, 130.

MONTSERRAT.

—No. 322.—

No. 322.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. President *Hamilton* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Montserrat, 11 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 18th June; and in reply to the queries therein set forth, I have the honour to state as follows: to the

*Wide Papers printed
by order of the House
of Commons.*

1st. That Captain Græme was the only special magistrate appointed to this island: that he arrived here on the 5th August 1834, since which time he has solely discharged the duties of his office; no special commission having been granted by me to local magistrates.

2d. Requiring the number and nature of the punishments inflicted on the apprenticed labourers, separating the males from the females. I am to state that this Return will be forwarded by the next packet. In the meantime I can pledge myself, on the faith of Captain Græme, "that no female has ever received corporal punishment by whipping, or otherwise, since 5th August 1835; nor have the courts of justice ever awarded any such punishment within that period to females."

3d. The items set forth in the enclosed Return.

4th. Only one station established in this island; the special magistrate has been instructed generally to carry into execution the Abolition and Apprenticeship Acts.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Hamilton*, President.Enclosure in
No. 322.

Enclosure in No. 322.

MONTSERRAT.—RETURN of the NAMES and NUMBER of APPRENTICED LABOURERS who have purchased the Unexpired Term of Apprenticeship, together with the AMOUNT paid for the same; from August 1834 to August 1835.

NUMBER AND NAMES.	AMOUNT.	NUMBER AND NAMES.	AMOUNT.
	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
1. John Locker - - -	16 17 6	18. Bodkin - - -	9 - -
2. James White - - -	14 17 -	19. Robin - - -	9 - -
3. Ann Christmas - - -	14 17 -	20. James - - -	9 - -
4. Richard Williams - - -	22 10 -	21. Ned Mason - - -	22 10 -
5. John Parler - - -	22 10 -	22. Cecilia - - -	22 10 -
6. William Chambers - - -	22 10 -	23. Alicia (an infant) - - -	6 15 -
7. Richard Dyett - - -	18 - -	24. Richard - - -	13 10 -
8. Mary Dyer - - -	22 7 6	25. Rodney - - -	13 10 -
9. Sanickey - - -	15 15 -	26. Catherine - - -	13 10 -
10. Frances (an infant) - - -	2 5 -	27. Tom Dyett - - -	22 10 -
11. Michael Donowtro - - -	15 1 6	28. Anthony - - -	18 - -
12. Peter - - -	22 10 -	29. Jem (an infant) - - -	1 16 -
13. Betsey Diamond and - - -	18 - -	29 Apprentices.	
14. Charlotte (infirm) - - -			
25. Bean Simper - - -	33 15 -	TOTAL AMOUNT - £.	443 11 6
16. Dumont - - -	13 10 -		
17. Ann Tartar - - -	6 15 -		

—No. 323.—

No. 323.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. President *Hamilton* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Montserrat, 24 August 1835.

REQUESTING your Lordship's reference to my letter of the 11th instant. I have now the honour to enclose the Return of Punishments inflicted in this island, by Captain Græme, the stipendiary magistrate from 5th August last.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Hamilton*, President.

Enclosure in No. 323.

MONTSERRAT.—RETURN of the NUMBER and NATURE of the PUNISHMENTS inflicted upon the APPRENTICED LABOURERS by the Stipendiary Magistrates; specifying the OFFENCES for which they were inflicted, separating Males from Females.

OFFENCES.	Flogging and Whipping.		Imprisonment.		Extra Labour.		Stocks.	Hard Labour.		TOTAL.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Absence, 1 day and upwards	36	—	46	22	91	83	18	—	—	173	123	296
Cane stealing - - -	55	—	24	18	16	13	2	—	—	95	31	126
Theft - - - - -	32	—	8	4	9	3	—	—	—	49	7	56
Negligence - - - -	21	—	14	6	60	2	1	—	—	95	10	105
Insolence - - - -	12	—	19	11	9	10	1	—	—	40	22	62
Disobedience - - -	17	—	21	8	41	23	11	—	—	79	42	121
Indolence and carelessness	5	—	7	22	45	37	3	—	—	57	62	119
Feigning sickness - -	6	—	6	9	18	36	—	—	—	30	45	75
Rioting and quarrelling	9	—	11	18	6	17	5	—	—	26	40	66
Ill-using cattle - - -	4	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	8	—	8
	197	—	158	118	296	225	41	—	—	652	382	1,034

N. B.—No hard labour placed at the Magistrates' disposal.

(signed) L. Græme, Stipendiary Magistrate.

Montserrat, 20 August 1835.

— No. 324. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir E. J. M. MacGregor, Bart., to Lord Glenelg, dated Government House, Antigua, 15 August 1835.

No. 324.

“ I ENCLOSE the copy of a very singular, although not very intelligible letter, from Mr. Shiell to Captain Græme, to which it is incumbent on me to solicit the notice of your Lordship, as well as to the stipendiary magistrate's observations in reply.”

Enclosures in No. 324.

Enclosures in
No. 324.

(No. 1.)

Sir,

Montserrat, 25th July 1835.

THE first year of the apprenticeship will terminate on Friday, the 31st instant, and whatever your own opinions may be, I can have no hesitation in saying, it has most signally failed in this island. You have, however, zealously and faithfully performed your duty to your King and country, and in the difficult and delicate situation you were selected to fill, you have invariably acted with the strictest impartiality, without showing any favour or affection to any individual. You have enforced rigidly to the letter the severe enactments of the system, by compelling every person having apprentices under their care, to furnish them with two suits of clothing in the twelve months, and a distribution of salt provisions, although it was the intention of the Legislature in passing the Act (which was by some fatal mistake frustrated,) to allow them one day in every week, exclusive of Saturday, for that purpose, and which they enjoyed from the 1st of last August to the present moment; whereas the Abolition Act of Barbadoes, which has been confirmed by the King in Council, only allots one day in every fortnight, exclusive of Saturday, in substitution for those two articles.

The island has made a ruinous, wretched crop, one of the smallest for many years, nor do I believe there is an estate in it that will pay its contingent charges. Nor is its deterioration to be attributed to dry weather or any other inclemency of the seasons, but solely to the apprentices not performing their due and legal proportion of labour, which every estate is entitled by law to receive.

I consider your situation of special magistrate in a twofold character; the one to protect the apprentices from every injury and oppression, and to see the humane and beneficial enactments in their favour carried into effect, and the other that they, the labourers, perform their part of the contract, by working 40½ hours in every week, the time required of them by law to do so; duties which in my opinion are reciprocal, and as much binding on the one part as the other. You appear to have made your rule of action “*Parcere subjectis, debellare superbos.*” I readily admit and recognize so excellent a principle, but I

MONTSERRAT. may be permitted to question, on public grounds, the expediency of adopting it, when parties are concerned, as in this case, and where enactments of a severe and penal nature are in full operation, with reference to the mutual good conduct of those parties towards each other. Consult your own feelings, and say whether your invariable practice has not been, when visiting the estates officially, to inquire of the apprentices if they had any complaints to make against their directors, and whether you ever condescended to inquire of the employer if he had any to make against his employee, thereby most clearly indicating that you thought complaints could only proceed from one party, and not the other, without considering that the governed were as equally liable to commit infractions of the law as the governors.

Since the 1st of last August to the present time, I have purchased for the few estates under my care, 400 barrels of herrings, which have cost, upon an average, five dollars per barrel, a sum that you will not deem inconsiderable, for only one article of expense, and "*ex uno disce omnes.*"

To enable me, as well as others whose interests I represent in this island, to meet this heavy pressure, and those additional expenses that are imposed upon us, we must have recourse to the law for protection to cultivate our properties, which have been seriously injured during the last year, from the mistaken notion of enacting 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours in four days instead of five; very few, if any of the estates ever exceeding 32 hours in one week, to their total ruin and destruction.

To improve and ameliorate the condition of a race of people, who have been long kept in slavery, with the view of rendering them, at no distant period, fit to enjoy that greatest of all blessings, freedom, is one thing; to subvert, destroy and totally ruin much and most valuable property, is another; nor can I believe that the King's Government, the British Parliament, and the English people ever contemplated such a measure when the Act of Emancipation was passed, which declared slavery to cease for ever in every part of the King's dominions. I beg to inform you that I intend to send a copy of this letter to his Excellency the Governor, and that I shall also furnish the proprietors of this island, who are resident in England, and whose interests I represent, with copies of the same, to make such use of it as they may deem expedient.

To Captain Græme,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Shiell.*

(No. 2.)

Sir,

Montserrat, 4 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to address your Excellency on the subject of a letter which I have received from the Honourable William Shiell, a copy of which, I am given to understand, will be forwarded to your Excellency; and, in vindication of my own conduct, feel called upon to make the following statement:

I have not enforced, with the strictness which perhaps I ought to have done, the enactments of the law, which Colonel Shiell considers so severe, as a proof of which, the clothing due to Colonel Shiell's apprentices, last January, was not given out until I had reported the circumstance to your Excellency on the 16th of this month; and had I been so inclined, I could have levied penalties upon him, and almost every resident landed proprietor in the island, to the amount of some hundred pounds, for a breach of the laws in this respect alone.

I admit that the island has made a small crop, but differ entirely from the honourable gentleman as to the cause of it, for a more unfavourable season has not occurred for years; and so great was the drought, that on many estates it was requisite to replant the young canes twice, and even three times.

With regard to the statement of my favouring the apprentices, I shall be happy to submit to the strictest investigation into this unfounded accusation.

As to the paragraph, asserting that, "on my official visits to the estates, I never inquire if the managers have any complaints against the apprentices," I beg to inform your Excellency, that shortly after my arrival I appointed every Friday and Saturday (the negroes' own days), to hear complaints brought forward by either party; and on my visiting the estates monthly, I invariably forward an intimation of my intention the day previous, in order to afford the managers an opportunity to prepare their evidence against the apprentices. I have no hesitation, therefore, in saying, that Colonel Shiell's charge against me, in this respect, is most unjust, and the remark as to my condescension most ungenerous.

As to the quantity of herrings issued by Colonel Shiell since the 1st of August 1834, I have no doubt of its correctness; the law, in this respect and in clothing, stands precisely as it has done since the year 1798; although Colonel Shiell's remark would almost justify a supposition that, previous to my arrival, the issue of salt fish on his estate was not customary; nor am I aware of any additional expenses being entailed upon estates by the Apprenticeship Act, unless the legal supplies have been hitherto withheld.

The opening paragraph of Colonel Shiell's letter is so decidedly at variance with the other parts of it, that I do not clearly comprehend his object; but with respect to the number of hours' labour per week, and the division of it, the arrangement was made by the proprietors, who preferred giving to the apprentices time in lieu of food; and if it is expected to cultivate the same quantity of land in 40 hours that formerly required 60, I can only say it appears to me impracticable.

The number of persons employed in directing estates in this island is much under that in MONTSERRAT. other colonies. In Colonel Shiell's case, with four estates and a population of 900 negroes, he has only two white managers and one overseer.

The power of corporal punishment being taken from overseers, unremitting attention, as well as an increase in their number, is called for, and I conceive the great revolution that has taken place demands a correspondent change in the management of property, and any deficiency of labour ought not therefore to be attributed solely to the operation of the law.

The penal code requires me to punish by hard labour, solitary confinement, and by flogging; but although I have made pressing and repeated applications to carry hard labour into effect, little has been done to meet my wishes. The police force, now embodied one year, has not been paid, armed or clothed, although the Police Act provides for these contingencies.

It appears to me that the laws are not steadily administered, which has an evil tendency on the minds of the labouring classes. Criminals are frequently detained in close confinement for an unreasonable length of time; the trials of apprentices, against whom the grand jury found bills on the 19th or 20th of May, have been adjourned four or five times and still remain so.

At a coroner's inquest held some months ago, on the body of an infant, the investigation took place between 10 and 11 o'clock at night, a quarrel arose, in which the coroner was knocked down by a jurymen, thus outraging the feelings of the relative of the deceased, and entailing disrespect upon a solemn legal investigation.

A decided disposition has been shown by many of the resident proprietors to withhold from the negroes the clothing due to them on the 1st of January, and it was not until after I left this island, for the purpose of reporting it to your Excellency on the 12th instant, that any attention was paid to my repeated applications on the subject, and in hardly any case has the woollen clothing, so necessary in wet weather to the negro population, been issued, osnaburghs having been substituted.

With public faith negligently adhered to, laws loosely administered, and the just rights of the negro withheld, it may not be surprising that the moral influence, so necessary to the maintenance of social order, should fail in producing those salutary effects upon the working classes, which so great a revolution in their condition demands.

In conclusion, I beg earnestly to court every investigation into my conduct, which your Excellency may deem proper to institute, in consequence of Colonel Shiell's letter.

I have, &c.

(signed) *L. Græme*, Captain,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

His Excellency Sir E. J. M. MacGregor,
&c. &c. &c.

— No. 325. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart., dated Downing-street, 1 February 1836.

No. 325.

I HAVE read with great concern the statements made by Captain Græme in his letter of the 4th of August, respecting the failure of the Legislature of Montserrat to provide for the payment of the police force, or for the establishment of the necessary means for enabling the special magistrates to carry into effect so much of the law as relates to the punishment of hard labour.

The same officer reports that there has been great remissness in bringing to trial apprentices against whom the grand jury have found true bills of indictment. He adverts to a scandalous scene which took place at an inquest, at which it is said the coroner was knocked down by one of the jury, and he complains of the disposition shown to withhold from the negroes the clothing due to them.

These complaints will of course have attracted your serious attention, and I doubt not that you have called into exercise all the authority and legitimate influence of the executive Government, to enforce a more strict observance of the law, and a more exact compliance, on the part of the local Legislature, with the engagements into which they have entered. I shall, however, be happy to receive your report of the measures which you may have taken, and of their result.

MONTSERRAT.

— No. 326. —

No. 326. EXTRACTS of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart. to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government House, Dominica, 44 April 1836.

IN the conclusion of your Lordship's despatch of the 1st February last, in reference to Captain Græme's letter of August 1835, an expectation is intimated that I have called into exercise all the authority and legitimate influence of the executive Government to enforce a more strict observance of the law, and a more exact compliance, on the part of the local Legislature of Montserrat, with the engagements into which they have entered; and a desire is expressed for a Report of the measures which I may have taken, and of their result.

Previously to my receipt of the despatch herein replied to, I had called on Captain Græme for a further report, which I now do myself the honour of submitting to your Lordship, and which is more satisfactory than the first. My original object, in soliciting attention to the observations of that stipendiary magistrate, was to illicit such instructions as your Lordship might deem applicable to the difficulties he has pourtrayed.

The opinion of the Attorney-general of Dominica, on the doubts adverted to by Captain Græme, in regard to the Act to prevent malicious injuries to properties, will be found copied in the Enclosure, No. 3.

Enclosures in
No. 326.

Enclosures in No. 326.

(No. 1.)—REPORT.

Sir,

Montserrat, 25 February 1836.

SINCE my Report of the 19th of August 1835, the complaints by the planters against the apprentices have considerably diminished; and as the relation between the two parties is more distinctly defined and understood, I perceive a better feeling to exist, and a great decrease of irritating conduct on both sides.

In the month of August 1835, I punished 157 males and 62 females; in January 1836, only 96 males and 42 females, and I look to a further reduction in the numbers this month. Had my applications for proper and effectual means of punishing by hard labour, solitary confinement, and the erection of stocks in the market-places been attended to, offences would have been more easily checked, and without the necessity of a too frequent recourse to the lash.

I have at length the satisfaction to report that, with the exception of two or three estates under peculiar circumstances, the clothing for January has been duly issued, but not without giving me much trouble and difficulty.

In September the proprietors of three estates freed their negroes from the remaining term of their apprenticeship, by which step they avoided the expense of feeding them during the scarcity which prevailed at that season.

The Christmas holidays passed in the utmost tranquillity, and very few labourers were absent on the day appointed for their return to work, notwithstanding the usual gratuities being withheld, as on the preceding year.

The unqualified emancipation of the apprentices on the before-mentioned estates has given rise to little or no discontent, and the free labourers and apprentices are to be seen in adjoining fields, working as usual.

On some estates a plan has been adopted, with much success, of commuting the allowance of clothing and salt fish for money paid weekly. By the division of labour in this island, the negro works four days of 10 hours each, leaving Fridays and Saturdays at his own disposal; and in commuting the allowance, it is stipulated that the apprentice is to labour every Friday: the weekly sum, which includes the hire for this day, is divided into five parts, and in case of absence a proportionate reduction is made from his wages. I have, however, reserved to myself the right of deciding in all disputes growing out of this arrangement. In other cases I have permitted one day in the week to be given in lieu of these allowances, and I shall be happy to hear that this plan meets with your Excellency's approbation. I view the commuting system to be a good preparation for the final emancipation of the negro, and I have found it extremely beneficial in lessening the number of complaints, and particularly in ridding the sick-house of idlers, as in such cases the apprentice forfeits his claim to the full weekly payment. I have known on one estate from 15 to 20 usually report themselves sick in the beginning of the week, which number, after the adoption of commuting their allowances, was reduced to five or six.

I have again to refer to the treatment of infants and young children, as well as to the aged and infirm, and I have too much reason to believe that many deaths have been hastened from neglect and inattention; the sick nurses are generally selected as being too feeble for other employment, and the infants suffer from the mothers' want of leisure time, as well as from their intentional carelessness. Very few sick-houses in this colony are calculated

calculated for invalids, and they are looked upon rather as a place of punishment than of MONTSEERRAT-refuge.

I have invariably found the apprentices yield implicit obedience to my directions, and show a willingness to abide by my decisions on every occasion, and when the managers are persons of discretion, I find few complaints on either side. They are always ready to labour in their own time for cash payments; but on some properties they are paid in goods, or are bound to spend their wages on the estate, where supplies are generally to be had, and where credit is easily obtained, which ultimately may prove injurious to their freedom of action. I have witnessed the bad effects of this system in Mexico, which in that country has tended to retain the aborigines in a state of ignorance and degradation.

The value of landed property is on the advance; since my arrival a steam-engine, the first used in this island, has been put up at considerable expense, and a great deal of waste land has been taken into cultivation, and new works erected. Several estates have been rented to agents here on favourable terms for the absentee proprietor, thus showing an increased confidence in the minds of gentlemen long resident in this colony.

As there are many emancipated negroes in this island, it may be necessary to observe, that while I perceive no disinclination on the part of the local magistrates to investigate offences committed by them, the opposite occurs when they apply for protection. A man who complained to me a short time since of being assaulted by his employer, failed in getting a hearing, after making application in three different quarters for redress.

I accompany this Report with a correspondence respecting the illegal commitment of two apprentices, who were 31 days in confinement before I heard of the circumstance, and I solicit your Excellency's attention to the 9th clause of the Act for the Protection of Property, a copy of which I have also the honour to forward.

The crops this year, owing to the unfavourable weather last spring, will be small; the prospect for next year is extremely promising, and the appearance of the young leaves gives great hopes to the planters of an abundant crop.

His Excellency Sir E. J. M. MacGregor,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) L. Græme,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

(No. 2.)

OPINION of Mr. King's Counsel *Dyett*, of the Island of *Montserrat*; 4 March 1836.

ALL trespasses are considered wilful; and if any injury is done to property, it would, under the Act for the protection of property, be considered malicious. The condition should state that the trespass was wilfully and maliciously committed. The ninth clause of the Act gives a summary jurisdiction to the local magistrates, which they had not before in cases of petty trespasses, and enables the party injured to obtain redress without resorting to the expensive and tedious process of action. It appears to me that the separation of man and wife, prohibited in the Imperial Act, as well as the Act of this island for the abolition of slavery, relates only to persons attached to the same estate, and not to strangers. Hunger is not admitted as an excuse for the commission of any crime or misdemeanor punished by law.

(signed) *Henry Dyett*, K. C.

(No. 3.)

EXTRACTS of OPINION of HIS MAJESTY'S ATTORNEY-GENERAL of *Dominica*.

I do not think that the Act in question is in any way calculated to interfere with the Imperial Abolition Act, and I have not been able to discover that the difficulties adverted to in Captain Græme's letter of the 16th February, have any legal or just foundation. The Imperial Abolition Act vests in the stipendiary magistrate exclusive jurisdiction to take cognizance of all offences between apprenticed labourer and employer, in their relation to each other, or of any question arising out of the relation subsisting between them, and was not intended to absolve the apprentice from his liability, as a member of the community, from the operation of the general law, not immediately connected with the state of his apprenticeship.

I entirely agree with Mr. Dyett in the view he has taken of the case, and I think that the apprenticed labourer will be sufficiently protected from any undue interpretation of the Act in question, by the local authorities, by the vigilant interference of the special magistracy on his behalf, in any case of abuse.

Roseau, 13 April 1836.

(signed) *Wm. Blanc*.

TABLE (B.)

RETURN of the Number and Effect of the RETURNS OF PUNISHMENTS received by the Governor of *Montserrat*, from the Special Magistrates, from the 1st November 1835 to 31 May 1836.

Colony.	Date.	Total Number of Apprentices throughout the Island, Province or Government	Total Number of Punishments inflicted under the authority of Special Magistrate throughout the same.	Proportion per cent. of Punishments to Apprentices.	Total Number of Males Punished.		Total Number of Females punished.	The Average Number of Stripes inflicted in Cases of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum Number of Stripes inflicted in any one Case of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum of Severity in any one Case of Punishment by Confinement.	The Maximum of Severity in any other Mode of Punishment.
					By Whipping.	Otherwise than by Whipping.					
Montserrat	Nov. 1835	5,091	139	2½	44	45	50	18½	39	28 days.	3 months time to be made good. 160 days extra labour. 12 ditto. 30 ditto. 64 ditto. 66 ditto.
	Jan. 1836	5,091	96	2	20	34	42	17½	30	28 -	
	Feb. —	5,091	100	2	26	28	46	17½	39	28 -	
	Mar. —	5,091	71	1½	25	14	32	19½	36	17 -	
	Apr. —	5,091	60	1½	16	22	22	21	36	14 -	
	May —	5,091	66	1½	18	20	28	18	36	48 -	

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

ST.
CHRISTOPHER.

— No. 327. —

No. 327. EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., to Mr. Secretary *T. Spring Rice*; dated Government House, Antigua, 15 September 1834.

“ I do myself the honour of forwarding transcripts of Bills for the island of St. Christopher's, passed by the Council and Assembly of that island, in the month of July last; viz.

“ An Act for the summary punishment of Common Assaults and Batteries, and of Riotous and Disorderly Conduct in the island of St. Christopher's.

“ An Act to punish and prevent the commission of Petty Thefts, and the unlawful detention of Personal Property.”

Vide App. No. 130.

Vide App. No. 131.

— No. 328. —

No. 328. COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of *Aberdeen* to Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 12 Feb. 1835.

THE Acts passed by the Legislature of St. Kitt's, in the month of July 1834, having been referred by the King in Council to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Foreign Plantations, that Committee have reported to the King in Council their opinion, that the said Acts should be left to their operation. I have the honour to enclose an Order of His Majesty in Council, approving that Report.

Vide App. No. 130,
131.

7 February.

I have, &c.

(signed)

Aberdeen.

ST.
CHRISTOPHER.

— No. 329. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart. to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 329.

My Lord, Government House, Antigua, 25 August 1835.
THE enclosures consist of replies from his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor of St. Christopher's to Mr. Secretary Spring Rice's circular despatch of the 30th September 1834.

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

Vide Papers
printed by order of
the House of Com-
mons, 10 June 1835.
No. 278-1, p. 7.

Enclosure in No. 329.

My Lord, St. Christopher's, Government House, 8 August 1835.
IN acknowledging the receipt of Mr. Secretary Spring Rice's circular communication of the 30th of September last, requiring certain information on the agricultural and manufacturing state of this island, I have the honour to report that I delayed a reply to the same in hopes that a longer experience would enable me to give replies more likely to be realized by the ultimate effect which the change would work upon the various interests of the community. I regret to say that even now the opinions on the subjects referred to, though given by gentlemen of the greatest experience and local knowledge in the colony, are greatly at variance, and render a conclusion on the points of information rather speculative than probable. I shall however proceed to reply to the questions proposed, being governed in the same by much inquiry and conversation on the subjects to which they relate; viz.

Enclosure in
No. 329.

1. The present state of productive industry, distinguishing the articles raised for consumption in the colony from exported produce?

To this inquiry I would remark, that the industry of the apprentices certainly appears to be increasing; probably caused by their having more time to themselves. The articles chiefly raised by those individuals are potatoes, yams, cassada and other vegetables; all for consumption.

2. The possible changes which the Act for the Abolition of Slavery may produce on the agricultural, manufacturing and commercial system?

The change in the agricultural and manufacturing system will I think be favourable; though at this moment the only articles of manufacture are sugar and rum.

The commercial system may continue the same; but I conceive as the increased industry of the labourers will ultimately have the effect of providing food for themselves (the growth of the colony) a portion of trade may suffer.

3. A statement of any obstacles which may impede the powers of production or exchange?

No obstacles to this advantage or this mode of traffic are as yet apparent, nor can they well be contemplated.

4. The remedies, whether legislative, financial or administrative, by which those obstacles may be lessened or wholly removed?

As the remedies necessary for the removal of the obstacles alluded to are quite conditional on their existence, they cannot be stated.

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

— No. 330. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart. to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 330.

My Lord, Government House, Antigua, 25 August 1835.
I HAVE the honour to transmit documents connected with the stipendiary and special magistrates in St. Christopher's, received from Lieut.-governor Nixon, together with a letter from his Excellency to your Lordship's address.

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

1, 2 & 3.
12th, 11th & 13th
August 1835.
13 August 1835.

Enclosures in No. 330.

Enclosures in
No. 330.COPY of a LETTER from Lieutenant-governor *Nixon* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord, Government House, 13 August 1835.
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's circular communication, dated Downing-street, 15th June 1835, relating to the existing appointments of special magistrates, and directing me to revoke such commissions consistently with a regard to the arrangements necessary for effecting the same, and the due administration of the laws.

Vide Papers,
printed by order of
the House of Com-
mons, 10 June 1835.
No. 278-1, p. 8.

ST.
CHRISTOPHER.

I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the stipendiary magistrates having undertaken to perform the whole of the duties, I have revoked all the appointments of special magistrates within this island.

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

(No. 1.)

Sir,

St. Christopher's, Government House, 12 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's circular letter of the 21st ult. on the subject of Lord Glenelg's despatch of the 15th June, relative to the dismissal of special magistrates, directing certain information to be obtained from the stipendiary magistrates, and enclosing Returns, to be filled up by me.

I beg leave to enclose the copy of a letter I have received from the stipendiary magistrates, on the subjects referred to them for their opinion; but have to observe that I do not consider less than four magistrates sufficient for the judicial duties of this island; notwithstanding which, should illness incapacitate one gentleman from attending to his numerous avocations, a whole district would suffer from the result.

I enclose, according to your Excellency's directions, the Returns completed in all their particulars.

To his Excellency the Governor
of the Leeward Islands.

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

(No. 2.)

Sir,

Basseterre, 11 August 1835.

YOUR Excellency having been pleased to require our opinion as to whether any increase in our number is indispensable, and whether it is advisable to retain any special magistrates, we have the honour to report that we consider three stipendiary magistrates sufficient for the exigencies of this island.

To his Excellency
John Lyons Nixon, Esq. Lieut.-governor,
&c. &c. &c.

We have, &c.
(signed) *Robert Olpherts,*
F. Robinson Taylor,
Ralph B. Cleghorn, } Stipendiary Magistrates
for the Island of St.
Christopher.

(No. 3.)

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S AND ANGUILLA.

Names of Special Magistrates who are interested in Apprenticed Labour.	Names of Special Magistrates not interested in Apprenticed Labour, but still much connected with Colonial Society.	Names of Stipendiary Magistrates.	Additional Number of Stipendiary Magistrates recommended.	Names of Special Magistrates whom it may be desirable to retain for the present.	General Observations and Reasons for the Recommendations in the foregoing Columns.
ST. CHRISTOPHER:					
W. Thomson, esq.	A. H. Rawlins, esq.	R. Olpherts, esq.	- one - -	- none.	The appointments of all the special magistrates will be cancelled from this day. I consider the assistance of another stipendiary magistrate very necessary, particularly in the event of illness.
J. D. Wilson, esq.		F. R. Taylor, esq.			
J. M. Clifton, esq.		R. R. Cleghorn, esq.			
G. A. Fahie, esq.					
J. E. A. Sadler, esq.					
B. B. Greene, esq.					
ANGUILLA:					
T. Lake, esq. - - - -	- - - -	- - -	- - -	T. Lake, esq.	There being no stipendiary magistrate in Anguilla, the services of the special magistrates are indispensable. The object of having a stipendiary for that island is very desirable.
B. Hodge, esq. - - - -	- - - -	- - -	- one - -	B. Hodge, esq.	

Government House, St. Christopher
13 August 1835.

J. Lyons Nixon, Lieutenant-governor.

— No. 331. —

ST.
CHRISTOPHER.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., dated Downing-street, 14 October 1835.

No. 331.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch (St. Christopher's) dated 25th August, enclosing your correspondence with Lieutenant-governor Nixon, on the subject of the special and stipendiary magistracy of that colony.

It is the opinion of the three stipendiary magistrates who were in St. Christopher's at the date of your despatch, that three magistrates are sufficient for the exigencies of that island. The Lieutenant-governor, however, differs from this opinion, and considers that four magistrates are required in that station.

In your despatch (Virgin Island) you acquaint me, that notwithstanding the report of Mr. President Isaacs and Mr. Gordon, that one magistrate is equal to the performance of the duties required in that colony, you consider it desirable that another magistrate should be appointed to meet any emergency, in the case of Mr. Gordon's illness.

On receiving the allotment of magistrates which I had already made for the Island of St. Christopher's, with reference to the further information which I have now received, I observe with satisfaction that my previous arrangement appears to accord well with the views of yourself and Lieutenant-governor Nixon on the subject.

Anticipating the necessity of some increase to the numbers of the stipendiary magistracy in St. Christopher's, in consequence of the withdrawal of the unpaid special commissions, I had appointed Mr. Ramsay as the fourth magistrate to that island, and he will probably have arrived at his destination before your receipt of this despatch.

From the reports now before me, I am led to believe that the addition will not only fully provide for the proper administration of the apprenticed law in St. Christopher's, but will also enable Lieutenant-governor Nixon, without inconvenience, to meet any casual demand which may arise in consequence of illness or otherwise, for the temporary assistance of a second magistrate in the Virgin Islands.

You will accordingly consider yourself authorized, as occasion may seem to render it expedient, to divide the services of the one of the magistrates appointed to St. Christopher's, in such a manner between that colony and the Virgin Islands, as may appear to you best for the public service.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 332. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart. to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government House, Antigua, 8 Sept. 1835.

No. 332.

I HAVE the honour to forward the undermentioned Acts passed by the Legislature of St. Christopher's; viz.

“ An Act to continue an Act intituled ‘ An Act for dividing this Island into Districts, and for establishing a sufficient Police within the same.’ ”

The object of this Act is to continue for three years one of the Acts passed for carrying into effect in this island the Imperial statute for the abolition of slavery. As the original Act received the mature consideration of His Majesty's Government, and has been already approved of, it is humbly submitted that no observations on the Act to continue its operations can be necessary.

This Act is conformable to the instructions and repugnant to no law of the Imperial Parliament.

“ An Act for the prevention of the wilful and malicious Destruction of Cattle, and for the punishment of persons guilty of the same.”

The object of this Act is to repress an offence alleged to be increasing lately among the apprenticed labourers in this island, and which the apprentice laws cannot sufficiently punish. Cattle upon some estates have been found dead without any apparent cause, but upon examination it has been discovered that some

Vide Appendix,
No. 133.

ST.
CHRISTOPHER.

instrument or stick has been inserted in them for the purpose of inflicting the inward bruise or injury which occasioned their death. By the statute of the Imperial Parliament, 7 & 8 Geo. 4, c. 30, s. 16, unlawfully or maliciously to kill, maim or wound cattle is declared felony, punishable by transportation for life, or any term not less than seven years; and pigs have been decided to be cattle under the provisions of this statute. The second and third clauses of this Act, though not to be found in the Imperial statute, are calculated to assist in preventing the grievances complained of.

This Act is consistent with the commission and instructions, and repugnant to no British statute relating to the colonies.

“An Act to repeal all former Acts relating to the repair of the Highways, and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.”

The repairs of the highways under the Acts in force in this island, previous to the abolition of slavery, were effected by each estate supplying a proportion of slaves, who were sent and employed on the highways under requisitions from the waywardens. These Acts have become quite inoperative under the apprentice system, and the attention of the Legislature has been forcibly drawn to the subject; by the Act now under consideration, all former Acts have been repealed, but such clauses of them as were found beneficial, and not inconsistent with the new system, have been re-enacted. The sixth clause of this Act endeavours to provide for the repairs of the highways by free labour; but by the eighth clause, if labourers cannot be employed for hire, the waywardens are authorized to summon a proportion of apprentices from each estate, for the performance of this necessary and important work; and as the number of hours during which they are thereby required to work exceeds that authorized to be required from them by the apprenticed laws, it provides that two-thirds only of the sum assessed for each day's labour shall be given to the employer, and that the remaining one-third shall be given to the apprentice. By this Act the rights and the interests of the apprentice labourers will be found to have received due attention, and they are only required to work on the highways when the exigencies of the public services cannot otherwise be supplied.

This Act is unobjectionable, and is so framed as to give full effect to the purposes for which the Legislature of St. Christopher seems to have passed it.

— No. 333. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Evan J Murray MacGregor*, Bart., dated Downing-street, 14 November 1835.

No. 333.

No objection can be entertained, especially under the circumstances alleged to exist in St. Christopher's; as to the general object and main provision of the Act intituled “An Act for the prevention of the wilful and malicious Destruction of Cattle, and for the punishment of persons guilty of the same;” but the 2d and 3d sections of that Act are not equally free from objection. Their effect is to create two new misdemeanors,—a species of legislation requiring the greatest caution and precision. Of these misdemeanors, the first consists in the wilful concealment from the owner of any cattle of the name of the person destroying the same, or of the circumstances connected therewith. Here it is presupposed that it is the duty of every member of society to disclose to every proprietor of cattle, every known fact respecting their destruction; and the non-performance of that duty is to be followed by whipping, fine or imprisonment, at the discretion of the Court. An obligation of which the breach is to be followed by such consequences, (if a fit subject of legislation at all), should be previously defined with the utmost possible exactness. It should be determined within what distance of time and place the required disclosures are to be made, and all the necessary exceptions in favour of those who are prevented from making it by ignorance, by indispensable engagements, or by the closeness of their relationship to the wrong-doer, as in the case of husbands and wives, children and parents, should be specified. It can never be meant that a wife is to be subjected to fine and imprisonment for not denouncing her husband to the owner of the cattle which he may have injured; or that a child must, under a similar penalty, become the accuser of his parent.

It would not be difficult to show that the supposed duty of mutual denunciation, on the

Vide Appendix,
No. 134.

Vide Appendix,
No. 133.

the assumption of which this enactment is framed, could scarcely be reconciled with the real interests of society, except in cases of incomplete and meditated crimes, nor even then, unless in offences of a peculiarly dangerous nature; and I doubt whether this clause can be so modified as to remove the strong objection to which I think it liable.

The second misdemeanor consists in injuring or threatening to injure any one giving the information required by the Act. It may be expedient and even necessary to punish persons who, by previous threats, attempt to deter others from giving evidence in a court of law, or subsequently injure them for having given such evidence; but the objection to the enactment contained in the 3d section of this Act arises from the great laxity of expression used in the definition of the crime. Neither the nature nor the amount of the injury to be threatened or inflicted is ascertained; nor is it even stated that the motive of him who threatens or inflicts it, must be that of preventing or punishing the disclosure.

For these reasons I have felt it my duty to advise His Majesty to disallow this Act; and I have no doubt that the Legislature will see the propriety of omitting, in any future Act on the same subject, those grounds of objection which have been noticed.

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— No. 334. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 1 January 1836.

Two Acts, passed by the Legislature of the island of St. Christopher's in the months of July last, having been transferred 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 in Council their opinion that the said Acts should be left to their operation. I have the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated 21st December 1835, approving that report.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg*.

No. 334.

*Vide Acts in the
Appendix,
Nos. 132 & 134.*

— No. 335. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart. to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government House, Antigua, 16 October 1835.

I CONSIDER it proper to trouble your Lordship with the accompanying transcripts of correspondence relative to the commitment to gaol in St. Christopher's, of Mr. Cable, editor of the Advertiser of that colony, for an alleged contempt of the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas; and trust it will not appear to your Lordship that I have unduly exercised on His Majesty's behalf His Royal prerogative of pardon in this instance.

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

No. 335.

*Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
6, 7 & 8,
18, 17, 14 Sept.
& 10 & 5 Oct.
1835.*

Enclosures in No. 335.

(No. 1.)

Sir,

Government House, 18 September 1835.

I HAVE the honour to enclose the copy of a letter I have received from Mr. Cable, requesting me to forward the accompanying petition, with three newspapers, the references thereto being marked in the columns as per margin.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. Greatheed Crooke*,
President administering the Government.

His Excellency the Governor
of the Leeward Islands.

Enclosures in
No. 335.

A. B. C.

(No. 2.)

Sir,

Common Gaol, Basseterre, 17 September 1835.

YOUR Honour having declined to interfere on my behalf with the decision of the honourable Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas, I have the honour to request that your Honour

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Honour will be pleased to transmit my petition and its enclosures to his Excellency the Governor-general, in order that his Excellency's pleasure may be had thereupon.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Samuel Cable.*

(No. 3.)

TO his Honour *William Greatheed Crooke*, Esquire, President administering the Government of the said Island and of Anguilla, Chancellor, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c.

The humble Petition of *Samuel Cable*, Printer, of the said Island.

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioner hath for several years past conducted in this island a newspaper, called "The Saint Christopher Advertiser and Weekly Intelligencer."

That in such his capacity of public journalist, your petitioner did, in a number of his paper, published on the 25th of August last, offer certain remarks upon a recent judgment of the honourable court of King's Bench and Common Pleas of the said island, whereby a decision of a special magistrate was reversed.

That your petitioner was induced to offer such remarks upon the aforesaid judgment by his belief that the aforesaid judgment was contrary to law, and that it would operate as a grievous hardship upon many apprenticed labourers in this island.

That the honourable court aforesaid were pleased at their sitting, on the 28th day of August last, to pronounce a certain paragraph of the aforesaid remarks to be a contempt of the honourable Court, and to issue their summons for the attendance of your petitioner.

That the honourable court, on you petitioner's averment that he did not intend a contempt of the honourable court, were pleased to take bail for your petitioner's further appearance on the 14th day of September instant, thereby meaning to afford to your petitioner an opportunity, in the interval, of expressing his disavowal of such intention.

That your petitioner did accordingly, in the next number of his paper, published on the 1st day of September instant, "disavow, in the most extended and ample sense to which by the custom of language the words are entitled, all insinuation of wilful or corrupt partiality in reference to the court." Your petitioner also disavowed, "in like manner," any meaning "whatsoever which might be assigned to his expressions inconsistent with the court's honesty and integrity."

That on your petitioner's appearance on this present 11th September before the honourable court, in fulfilment of his recognizances, the honourable court was pleased to say, that your petitioner had, in his publication of the 1st instant, added insult to the contempt of which he had been guilty in his previous publication of the 25th day of August, and did then declare (Mr. Assistant Justice Tyson being dissentient thereon), the judgment of their honours to be, that your petitioner should be confined for the space of three months in the common gaol, and that, at the expiration of his imprisonment, he should enter into security, himself in 200 *l.*, and two sureties in 100 *l.* each, to keep the peace for twelve months.

Your petitioner respectfully submits that he had a right to discuss the judgment of the honourable court, and to allude to the constitution of the honourable court; that the paragraph which proved so obnoxious to the honourable court was, if fairly and candidly read, no contempt at all; and that, by your petitioner's disavowal on the 1st day of September instant, all possibility of misconstruction removed.

Your petitioner, therefore, respectfully and earnestly solicits, that your Honour will be pleased, by virtue of His Majesty's prerogative vested in your Honour, to discharge your petitioner from all the pains and penalties of the said judgment.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c. &c. &c.

Common Gaol, Basseterre, 14 Sept. 1835.

(signed) *Samuel Cable.*

No. 4 A.)

THE following is a copy of the decision of the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas on the subject of the legality of compelling tradesmen to work in the field, recently brought before the court by *certiorari*.

"The court having given the deepest consideration to the decision of the special magistrate in the cases of Jem Burham, registered as a cooper and prædial attached apprentice of the Clay Hill estate, John James Amory, esq., and of David, registered as a blacksmith and prædial attached apprentice of the Needsmost estate of Captain William Woodley, complaining against their respective directors for having ordered them, being tradesmen, to perform field labour, proceed to deliver their judgment thereon."

"In arriving at this decision, the court find among the apprenticeship laws lately established, that by the third clause of an Act intituled, 'An Act for prescribing the duties and regulating the conduct of apprenticed labourers within this island,' it is 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

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."

"Now the only Act that at all bears upon this directory clause, or throws any light upon it, is the Act intituled 'An Act to divide apprenticed labourers into several classes;' and by the first clause of the last-mentioned Act it is enacted, '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. To this clause the following proviso is annexed: 'Provided always, that no person of the age of twelve years or upwards shall be included in either of the said two classes of prædial apprenticed labourers, unless such person shall, for twelve calendar months at the least next before the 28th August 1833, have been habitually employed in agriculture or in the manufacture of colonial produce.'

"This proviso, as well as the body of the clause, contain the exact words of the Imperial Act, and, it will be observed, relate exclusively to the classification, and not to the duties in the class, which alone is the subject of the present motion. The classification, which is not disputed, embraces (as Mr. Solicitor-general remarks) the tradesmen of estates within the class of prædials attached. In this the court agree with Mr. Solicitor-general, and consider their opinion to be entirely in the spirit of the Imperial Act, which seems intended to bar domestics alone from the class of prædials, because, being at the call of their masters both night and day, it was thought a difference should be made between their term (if not description) of servitude and that of the labourers whose services can only be exacted for forty-five hours in each week.

"But how far can this apply to tradesmen, who, consisting of carpenters, coopers, masons and blacksmiths, constitute a considerable part of the strength of an estate, and, unlike domestics, are employed in their particular vocation for not more than one half of the year? Are they, when the business by which they are designated is finished, to do nothing, or what may they do? May not the mason be sent to the mountain to cut wood, or the carpenter hole land, or the cooper watch canes, or be an overlooker, or the blacksmith drive a cart or the rough, or either of them do the work prescribed for the others? All is field work in its varieties, and therefore, if part of it is admitted as lawful, by what rule is another part of it excluded as unlawful? The court think the line cannot be drawn with any legal or reasonable distinction between different employments; nor can they, by a general decision, prevent the occurrence of a particular grievance without causing a loss of service to the master that will bear no proportion to the instance of hardship. This, however, may always be remedied, if it shall be found that such employments have been resorted to as a punishment, or shown to be incompatible with the health of the person so employed.

"In the opinion of the court, if the Act of Parliament had contemplated such refined distinctions, or wished to interfere with such details, it would have been more particular and copious in its expression. However the business of the court, at present, is with the law as it exists, and as they are not judges of its fitness or unfitness, of its expediency or in expediency, but solely of its letter, guided, as far as they can be, by its spirit, the court, construing the law to the best of their ability, are of opinion that it contains nothing to warrant the decision of the special magistrate, and consequently direct the same to be quashed."

(No. 5 B.)

In our last number we published a judgment of the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas of this island, reversing a decision of a special magistrate as to the right, and consequently the power, of the director of a plantation to employ the artisans on his estate in field labour. Believing that the judgment in question will give rise, in numerous instances, to grievous hardship, and differing widely in opinion from the court as to the law of the case, we take an early opportunity of placing our views upon this subject before our readers.

The propriety of a classification which adopts the mechanics on estates as prædials attached, we shall examine hereafter; for the present we waive the discussion of its correctness, and proceed to contest the reasonings on which this judgment is supported by those who pronounced it.

The latter part of the 16th clause of the Imperial statute for the abolition of slavery, sets forth that "it is 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 apprenticed labourers by the persons entitled to their services." We appeal to any disinterested person, possessed of an average understanding, whether, on the common principles of morals, it is or is not cruel, unjust, wrongful and injurious to transfer a carpenter, cooper, mason or blacksmith from his handicraft to the labours of the field? What is field-labour? It is toil of the severest and most unremitting description; to dig with the hoe, to hew with the bill, to carry burdens. It is to be exposed to the elements, to be scorched

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scorched in the sun, and drenched in the rain; to stand with bare feet now on burning marl, and anon on cold slime. These circumstances, which are in themselves evils, give birth to another evil; they render this kind of occupation degrading. Was it never heard that in these islands men had maimed themselves to avoid such labours? Was it never heard that mothers had given pernicious substances to their children, so by stunting and dwarfing their growth, to disqualify them for agriculture? We need only look at the judgment before us to learn that this transference is an injury; "such employments are not to be resorted to as a punishment." Punishment! we thank their honours for teaching us that word. Punishment implies the withdrawal or infliction of something whereby a change of situation is produced, to the disadvantage of the sufferer. We have, then, the admission of the court that the alteration of employments they were considering was in its nature and effect such, that it would readily present itself to notice as a means of punishment. Notwithstanding this admission, however, the court states an opinion that if the Act of Parliament had contemplated such *refined* distinctions, (to wit, between works of skill and clod-breaking) or wished to interfere with such *details*, (*videlicet* the protection of the mechanic from being compelled to carry baskets of reeking and dripping manure upon his head), it would have been more particular and copious in its expression.

The Imperial statute, as we have seen, commands the prevention or punishment of any cruelty, injustice or other wrong or injury which may be done to or inflicted upon an apprenticed labourer by the person entitled to his services. It obviously uses the words cruelty, injustice, wrong and injury in a general and popular sense. No one will dispute that, by declaring the necessity of regulations to prevent or punish certain acts, this law declares those acts to be unlawful. We therefore entertain a belief that its letter and spirit alike forbid the practices which were brought under the notice of the court, and the legality of which the court was pleased to assert.

The restriction imposed appears to us absurd and nugatory. The only allegation which can excuse or palliate the infliction by one man of injury upon another, is the previous receipt of injury. The language, then, of this restriction, rightly interpreted, is, you shall not, for strong reasons, do that which for insufficient reasons, or for no reasons at all, you may do. Again, a party exercising, even for purposes of punishment, the powers conferred on him for other purposes, by this judgment has only to be silent, or to say that caprice, or his own necessities, and not the fault of the sufferer, induced him so to exercise it, and all remedy is by this decision precluded.

Cui plus licet quam debet, semper plus velle quam licet. We think we have already seen practical evils result from the opening which has been, in this instance, afforded to oppression; and we candidly confess that we expect to witness more.

The question cannot be considered as set at rest. Constituted as the court is, the majority of its members have a direct interest in reaching the conclusion to which they have attained. We are happy, however, to mention, to the honour of the impartiality of the Hon. Thomas Tyson, that he was, as we have been informed, dissentient from his colleagues.

(No. 6 C.)

On Friday, the 28th ultimo, we, Samuel Cable, the editor, printer and publisher of this paper, were summoned to appear before the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas, then being in session by adjournment, to answer to a charge of contempt towards the honourable court; the alleged contempt being contained in the concluding paragraph of the animadversions which, in the last number of our journal, we deemed it our duty to offer upon a late judgment of the court.

We appeared accordingly.

After certain observations from some of the members of the bench, from his honour the Solicitor-general, from Mr. Rawlins, K.C. and from ourself (a more detailed account of which will be found in another part of our columns), the court was pleased to take bail (ourself in 200 *l.*, and two sureties in 100 *l.* each) for our further appearance on Monday, the 14th day of this present month.

This temporary suspension of proceedings was stated to be with a view of affording us an opportunity, in the meantime, of publicly in this our journal retracting the matter and disavowing the meaning which occasioned the displeasure of the court, and thus of relieving ourselves from the consequences of that displeasure.

We have but little to retract, and but little to disavow.

Our first sentence in the paragraph alluded to is "the question cannot be considered as set at rest." This we cannot retract, for we believe that there are magistrates in the special commission who would carry the question to a court of error, and across the water to the Privy Council, rather than acquiesce in a decision which they consider unsound.

Our second sentence in the same paragraph is, "constituted as the court is, the majority of its members have a direct interest in reaching the conclusion to which they have attained." Neither can we retract this. Of the five members, of whom the court is composed, four are we believe engaged in the direction and management of estates. So far then from retracting; we repeat,—the majority of the court have a direct and palpable interest in reaching the conclusion to which they have attained.

Nay, we will go further—we are to be frightened neither into absurdity nor into falsehood—we will go further, and we distinctly and unequivocally refuse to disavow a belief, that this

this direct and palpable interest may have produced in the minds of their honours an involuntary bias to a particular opinion.

Our next and final sentence runs thus ; " We are happy however to mention, to the honour of the impartiality of the Honourable Thomas Tyson, that he was, as we have been informed, dissentient from his colleagues." Neither in this statement, supposing that we had been correctly informed as to the fact, do we discover anything to retract or disavow.

That the honourable gentleman referred to should come to a conclusion at variance with his interest, was indubitably to the honour of his impartiality. That his colleagues should come to a conclusion in unison with their interests, did not at all bring their impartiality into controversy. The arguments urged on their attention by the learned counsel for the appellants, may have appeared to them so forcible and convincing as to have left no doubt upon their minds. Their impartiality may be of the most exalted character, but the conjuncture of circumstances was not such as to call it into exercise and display.

" Full many a gem of purest ray serene
The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear;
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

We have since been certified that we were misinformed as to Mr. Tyson's sentiments, and that he was in accordance with his colleagues. The case being so, we cheerfully admit that the praises we bestowed on that honourable gentleman's impartiality were as superfluous and as much out of place as would have been similar praises applied to that quality in reference to the other members of the bench.

What then do we retract or disavow? We disavow in the most extended and ample sense to which by the custom of language the words are entitled, all insinuation of wilful or corrupt partiality in reference to the court. We disavow in like manner any meaning whatsoever which may be assigned to our expressions inconsistent with the court's honesty and integrity.

What we have written we have written. While in deference to the court as the oracle of the law, we make this disavowal, we claim to ourselves, as professing some acquaintance with the force and meaning of English words and phraseology, a right to maintain that there does not exist in the paragraph which introduced us to the especial notice of the court, the shadow of a reason for the court's interference.

Having said thus much, we have done. Their Honours, we are persuaded, are fully acquainted with their duties, and sensible to their responsibilities as high ministers of justice. We are but humble journalists, but we trust, we also are acquainted with our duties, and sensible to our responsibilities, in such our less lofty capacity.

We know the rights of the press ; we believe those rights to form one of the most effectual guards of civil freedom ; for those rights we are prepared to encounter the spoiling of our goods, the imprisonment of our persons, the peril of our lives. *Sanguis martyrorum semen Ecclesia*. We hold, with a confidence derived from lessons taught by the history of all time, that opinions are well recommended to general acceptance by the disinterestedness with which they are espoused, and the fidelity with which they are maintained amidst danger and difficulty. We are wedded to what we conceive to be the truth, with a fervour of affection that will make us cleave to our bride through better and through worse.

(No. 7.)

Sir,

Government House, Antigua, 10 Oct. 1835.

YOUR Honour's letter of the 18th did not reach me until the 28th ult., accompanied by a petition proceeding from Mr. Cable, editor of the St. Christopher Advertiser, for his discharge from all the pains and penalties of a judgment of the Honourable Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas of that Island, condemning the said editor for an alleged contempt, to confinement for three months in the common gaol, and at the expiration of that term, to enter into security, himself in 200*l.* and two sureties in 100*l.*, each to keep the peace for 12 months.

No explanation of the precise case in which the discussion originated that has led to the unpleasant circumstance of Mr. Cable's commitment, having been afforded by your Honour, I have to request that omission may be supplied for the consideration and decision of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, and supported by such observations as your Honour and the Court of King's Bench may be disposed to offer.

Adverting to the last paragraph of Mr. Acting Attorney-general Shieff's opinion, herewith forwarded, it would appear that the displeasure of the court was excited under the impression that an imputation was meant to be cast on their integrity by Mr. Cable, when observing " that constituted as the court is, the majority of its members have a direct interest in reaching the conclusion to which they have attained ;" but that the petitioner has declared that he " disavows in the most extended and ample sense, to which, by the custom of language, the words are entitled, all insinuation of wilful or corrupt partiality in reference to the court ;" and " in like manner any meaning whatsoever which may be assigned to our expressions inconsistent with the court's honour and integrity."

In these circumstances, considering that the court is thus vindicated, not only by its own act, but by the testimony of the prisoner himself, from the aspersion supposed to have been

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been levelled against its dignity and reputation, and having reason on the highest official authority to know, that "the abstract right of commitment for publications reflecting on the administration of justice is indisputable; but it is a right which the judges of England exercise with the utmost caution, tenderness and reserve." I deem it my duty to desire that your Honour will be pleased to grant His Majesty's free pardon to Mr. Cable, causing him to be immediately liberated from gaol, and from the exaction of securities for future good behaviour, which it is altogether contrary to the practice of courts in England on such occasions to require.

His Honour
The President of St. Christopher's,
&c. &c. &c.

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

(No. 8.)

Sir,

5 October 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th of September last, with sundry papers from St. Christopher's, forwarded to me by command of his Excellency, with his Excellency's desire that I would give my opinion on the following points.

1st. The merits of the decision of the court as to the apprenticeship law bearing on the case.

2d. As to the petitioner.

3d. Whether there be any cause why his Excellency should not liberate the prisoner from further punishment.

I have now the honour to report my opinion on the above points for his Excellency's consideration.

Nothing in the Imperial Law for the abolition of slavery is to be found directly bearing on the particular question to which the decision of the court is directed. The Act appears to have contemplated the classification of the apprenticed labourers, and not the duties to be performed by the respective classes; but that classification, based as it is upon the usual employment of the slave before his freedom, must regulate the duties to be performed by the labourers in their respective classes. The Act has separated the apprenticed labourers into three classes, but they may easily be reduced for simple illustration into two; the first consisting of the prædial labourer, who, in his state of slavery, was usually employed in agriculture or in the manufacture of colonial produce; the second, the non-prædial labourer, comprising all labourers not included in the first class.

There are many important distinctions between the two classes. The first has the term of apprenticeship extended to the year 1840; the second has it limited to the year 1838. But then the first cannot be obliged to labour more than 49 hours in the week, while the second's time of service is unlimited, and he is at the beck and call of his employer at all hours and all seasons. Constant and unremitting service is required only from one description of labourer, namely, the domestic or menial servant. The menial or domestic servant, it would seem then, composes alone the second class, while all the other effective labourers, be they what they may, are comprised in the first. But though the Legislature has not descended to the minutiae of duties to be performed in the respective classes, it contemplates in the most ample manner the prevention of any cruelty, injustice, wrong or injury which may be done to the apprentice, either by the assignment of duties or services disproportioned to his strength or ability, in any other way. The delicate outdoor sempstress may be comprised in the first class of labourers, who, from infancy has been employed only in needle-work; to order a person of this description to the laborious occupation of the field, I think would be cruel. Similar cases may occur amongst the artizans of an estate. Each case, I think, must be decided upon its own peculiar merits and circumstances. I am, therefore, of opinion, that the decision of the court, as a general proposition, is neither repugnant to the letter nor the spirit of the Imperial Statute.

Second.—Any person may canvass with decency and respect, and in the candid spirit of fair investigation, the judgment of a court of justice. But in so doing the party must be cautious that he does not overstep the prescribed bounds, and under the hollow pretext of honest discussion, attribute impure motives to the judgment of the court, or express himself in a manner tending to bring the administration of justice into contempt. The petitioner does not appear to have used very unbecoming language towards the court, such as make him guilty of a contempt to it, and such as render him amenable to its censure and punishment.

Third.—The object of punishment is either to amend the offender, or to operate upon others by example. If these objects have been effectually attained there can be no cause why his Excellency should not liberate the prisoner from further punishment.

The court seems only anxious to secure its jurisdiction from contempt.

For this purpose it afforded the petitioner an opportunity of applying a salve to the wound which he had inflicted. It is for his Excellency to determine whether the petitioner availed himself of the opportunity to apply the balm, or to poison the wound by the infusion of more malignant matter.

Henry Loving, Esq.
Acting Private Secretary.

(signed) *John Shiell*, Acting Attorney-General.

— No. 336. —

ST.
CHRISTOPHER.COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 31 December 1835.

I HAVE received your despatch, dated 16th October, respecting the case of Mr. Cable.

No. 336.

I approve your remission of the sentence pronounced on that gentleman by the Court of King's Bench of St. Christopher's. Notwithstanding the weight due to the authority of that tribunal on all ordinary occasions, I am compelled to regard with some hesitation any judgment of theirs in which the members of the court were also the parties and the accusers.

I cannot perceive that even Mr. Cable's original statement merited punishment, since it amounted to nothing more than the assertion of a fact, which, as far as I can perceive, is not contradicted, and which, if correctly understood by Mr. Cable, it deeply concerned the whole society to know; for if the contempt consisted in the supposed suggestion of an inference injurious to the character of the judges, I know not how that construction could have been more forcibly disavowed than in Mr. Cable's second publication.

Even if I am mistaken in these opinions, I must still think that Mr. Cable was entitled, according to the uniform practice of the courts of this country in similar cases in modern times, to a trial by a jury of his peers.

Passing to the question which gave occasion to these proceedings, I concur, with some modification, in the opinion of the Attorney-general of Antigua, that the law does not forbid the employment in all cases, in field labour, of prædial apprentices, whose habitual occupation in their state of slavery was that of mechanics.

The Act of Parliament and the Act of Assembly are alike silent on the subject; nor do I perceive that any general rule could have been laid down for the regulation of the labour of this class of persons, which would not have created more difficulties than it could have removed.

I agree, however, with Mr. Shiell, that the right of the employer to the services of his prædial labourers in every description of work connected with the estate, is narrowed by that general principle which forbids any cruelty or oppressive use of the employer's powers, and that each successive case, as it arises, must be brought to the criterion of that general principle.

I do not concur in the Attorney-general's statement, that the non-prædial class is to be composed exclusively of domestic servants. Mr. Shiell is, I think, inaccurate in stating that there is no other class of apprentices whose services may be required at any season and at any hour. The same thing is true of fishermen, mariners, boatmen, porters and, in a lower degree, of artizans of every kind employed in various trades, such as journeymen bakers, butchers and many others. To restrict the class to domestic servants would be to exclude large bodies whose claim rests upon precisely similar grounds.

I do not understand by what right the Court of King's Bench undertook to set aside the order of the special magistrates on the occasion to which Mr. Cable referred. The 15th section of the Act of Parliament gave to those magistrates the sole and exclusive jurisdiction in all questions of this nature, and the reservation contained in that clause of the existing authority of the superior courts seems to me to enable those tribunals to confine the magistrates within the limits of their appropriate jurisdiction, not to authorize them to review the accuracy of any decision which, within those limits, the special justices may pronounce. If the Act is in this respect defective or ambiguous, it may be necessary to apply to Parliament for an explanatory enactment.

You will transmit a copy of this despatch to the officer administering the government of St. Christopher's, who will be at liberty to communicate it to the judges.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 337. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart. to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 337.

My Lord,

Rouseau, Dominica, 2 February 1836.

I HAVE the honour to forward Reports by the stipendiary magistrates of St. Christopher's, transmitted by Mr. President Crooke, in the hope that the success of the apprenticeship

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apprenticeship system in that island may prove satisfactory to His Majesty's Government.

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

Enclosures in No. 337.

(No. 1.)

Enclosures in
No. 337.

A REPORT on the working of the Apprenticeship System in the District of Basseterre. To determine with accuracy whether the system of apprenticeship has, in its actual operation, attained the objects which induced its establishment, it must be considered in various points of view.

After my attentive observation, I do not find that the gratification with which the great though imperfect improvement already effected in the condition of the labouring population is received by them is alloyed with any discontent; nor do I find that the prospect of a future and more advantageous change excites restlessness and impatience.

The control which was formerly exerted over the actions of an apprentice being diminished, and his personal freedom increased, additional opportunities for crime must necessarily be afforded, and it may perhaps have been anticipated that its commission would become more frequent. Bearing in mind that almost all the offences of slaves, except those of a very grave character, were dealt with by a domestic jurisdiction, an examination of the judicial proceedings of the year last past will, I think, lead to a conclusion that the system of apprenticeship has not, in the slightest degree, exercised an injurious influence upon the conduct of the labouring classes in their relation to society in general.

The present system of labour, like that of which it took the place, is a system of compulsion. I have much satisfaction in being able to express an opinion, that the abolition of the private authority of the master, and the substitution of a more formal and less prompt and summary method of enforced exertion have not been followed by any failure of energy in the pursuits of agriculture and manufacture. The average quantity of work now performed in a given time is, according to the best information I can obtain, as high as during the existence of slavery.

A very large majority of the labourers readily work for wages during the greater part of the time which is by law appropriated to them for their advantage and enjoyment. To some, however, such as mothers of families, those hours are a matter of convenience, for the surrender of which the price of labour is no adequate compensation. Others cultivate, in one portion of their time, that land the use of which they have purchased in another; and, in a third, visit the town, which depends mainly upon them to dispose of the results of their industry.

A sugar estate, from the nature of the machinery generally employed in the preparation of its produce, and from the influence of uncertain seasons upon the cane harvest and upon planting, requires, at some periods, extraordinary applications of labour, in addition to the quantity usually employed. I feel pleasure in stating, that with scarcely a single exception, I have found the apprentices willing, for a moderate consideration, to work as the exigencies of the property might require.

The personal qualities of the individuals entrusted with the superintendence of estates have a great effect in rendering their direction easy or difficult. There are two estates in this district on which the interference of a special magistrate has never been required either by master or servant. There are several on which the need for such interference is rare. There are some of which it may be said that that functionary has an important share in their management.

Of his rights of personal security of property in a certain portion of his own labour, of his claim to supplies of provision and clothing, and to medical care in sickness, the apprentice is well aware. Instances not frequent have occurred of an infringement of these rights; redress has been afforded, and I think I may venture to say, that the labourer believes himself perfectly secure of always obtaining it.

In concluding this report, I beg to record my conviction, that all classes of the community may congratulate themselves upon those alterations in their social system which have already taken place, and may look forward with cheerful confidence to those which are yet to be accomplished.

Basseterre, 12 Dec. 1835.

(signed) *F. Robinson Taylor,*
Special Magistrate.

(No. 2.)

District of Christ Church, Nichola Town, and St. Mary Cayon.

Sir,

Cayon, 11 Dec. 1835.

In reply to your Honour's despatch of the 28th ult., requiring from me a report of the working of the apprenticeship system in my district, I beg to state, that considering this system to be without parallel, and beset with those difficulties which must attend any intermediate state between absolute slavery and absolute freedom, leaving much in the power

power of the parties mainly affected by it to injure and annoy each other, of which, I grieve to say, not unfrequent advantage is taken. Considering these facts, I have the honour to report, that the apprenticeship system in my district is working at least equal to my best expectations.

I may not omit to remark, and I trust it will not be deemed out of place, upon the complaints which are preferred before me against the apprenticed labourers; 1st, that they are very rarely of an aggravated nature; and 2d, that they are much fewer in number from those estates which are under the control of resident proprietors than from those under the direction of deputies.

Neither, I am happy to say, have the complaints against employers generally been either frequent in number or of an aggravated nature.

Wherever a good understanding exists between the labourers and their employers, I feel confident that a better probationary system than the one under notice could hardly have been devised. I am also convinced that, in its most perfect state, it is inferior in moral and political advantages to a state of perfect freedom, which alone affords the most effectual remedy for mental dissatisfaction, namely, separation.

As a general principle, I am gratified in being able to report, that I have found the plan of inducing to labour by friendly admonition preferable to the system of coercion by corporal punishment, which is never had recourse to but in extreme cases.

For the number and nature of punishments inflicted in my district, I have great satisfaction in pointing your Honour's attention to the monthly returns which it is my duty to transmit to your Honour. Contrasting these with the number distributed among an equal amount of population in any society, I think your Honour cannot fail to arrive at a conclusion in the highest degree favourable to the apprenticed labourers in this district.

I have, in conclusion, to report to your Honour, that agreements for extra work are general in this district, and that they prove of very beneficial tendency.

His Honour

William Gratheed Cooke, Esq.,
President administering the Government,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Ralph B. Cleghorn,*
Special Magistrate.

(No. 3.)

Sir,

Dieppe Bay District, 30 November 1835.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your circular of date November 28th, requesting me to furnish you with a report of the working of the apprenticeship system within my district, which I proceed to do, premising that, as I have resided in this colony little more than two months, the information I can satisfactorily lay before your Honour will not be so extensive as a longer experience would justify me in placing at your disposal.

The apprenticeship system in my district is working well. The proprietors are, I am generally assured, obtaining a greater quantity of work from the apprenticed labourers than they were accustomed to obtain from them when slaves.

The apprentices having a portion of time at their own disposal, are in most instances working with alacrity, universally manifest a disposition to hire themselves out when opportunity is afforded them for so doing; and in my opinion are gradually learning to estimate justly the rights attendant on their present condition, and at the same time to understand those restrictions on absolute freedom which are everywhere necessary for the well being of society.

Since my arrival in this district I have been actively engaged in establishing a system of task-work.

The scale which I have adopted, and which I have as yet seen no reason to deviate from, was compiled previously to my arrival, by Mr. Special Magistrate Olphert's, of No. 4 District, who was assisted in the same by some experienced agriculturists of this island. It provides for the more usual occupations on estates. I have represented it to the planters, explained it to the apprentices, and where both parties have concurred in its adoption, consider it as any other agreement is sanctioned by law.

Advantages which amongst others it offers to the proprietors and directors of estates are—

1. More labour, and properly executed, is obtained from the apprentices.
2. The trouble attendant on the driving system, which is necessary even now where the apprentices work by time, is principally avoided.

Many advantages accrue under this system to the labourers. They can without inconvenience to themselves generally finish their day's task by two or three o'clock, having thus three or four hours after resting and taking their noon meal, to cultivate their provision grounds, or to occupy for their own benefit in any other way they chose. The are insured the Saturday (this rate of labour being for five days of nine hours) which is of great service to them, as they have the opportunity of going to the markets to sell the produce of their provision grounds, or to hire themselves out for wages on that day. I have succeeded in establishing this system on eight estates, my district comprising 24, and I feel confident that it will, ere long, become prevalent in this neighbourhood; for though at present there is a disinclination on the part of a few planters to adopt it, and on some other estates the apprentices decline its conditions, I have heard no valid objection brought forward against it.

The apprenticed labourers universally prefer working nine hours for five days to 7½ hours

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hours for six days, and I am glad to be able to state that I have succeeded in obtaining this rate of labour, with only one exception, throughout my district.

I am convinced that their having the Saturday is of great importance, affecting not only their present comfort and prosperity, but also their prospective welfare, as by thus possessing an opportunity of earning wages, they are acquiring a just idea of the advantages of free labour and of independent resources. Many of the principal proprietors in my district hire apprenticed labourers on the Saturday: the rate of wages generally is two bits (*9d.* sterling), $1\frac{1}{2}$ bit or one bit per diem, according to the age, and ability of the individual.

My opinion that there is no want of disposition on the part of the negroes in this neighbourhood to work in their own time for a fair remuneration is supported by the fact of my having met with no difficulty in obtaining their consent to agreements providing for extra work during the forthcoming crop-time. The substance of these agreements, which vary in minutiae in different cases, is that the apprentices shall have land to cultivate for themselves (an eighth of an acre at least), that they shall be permitted to keep their stock on the estate pastured, and to cut wood and grass from the proprietors' land for their own use or for sale, and that they shall be supplied with an extra quantity of provisions. In consideration of these privileges, the apprentices engage to keep the mill at work from six o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock at night for the first five days of the week, and, if required by the employer, on the Saturday also, being paid for that day at the rate of wages general in the neighbourhood.

The number of punishments awarded by me during the two months I have had the charge of this district (which contains 2,232 apprenticed labourers) is 151. I should state that this amount is one-third greater than it otherwise would have been, in consequence of my having had occasion to punish the whole gang on one estate, sentencing them to extra labour for their employer.

In conclusion, I am happy to have it in my power to inform your Honour, that I have generally found the proprietors and managers liberally inclined towards the apprentices under their direction, granting them indulgences and privileges which the law does not demand, and that no complaint has yet been substantiated before me by an apprenticed labourer against his or her employer.

To his Honour
The President administering the Government,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robt. Murray Ramsey.*

(No. 4.)

Sir,

No. 4 District, 6 December 1835.

IN answer to your Honour's letter, dated November 27th, I have much pleasure in stating, for your information, that the system of apprenticeship under the Abolition Act is working as well as its projectors and those interested in the agriculture of the country can wish.

The number of offences are daily decreasing; and instead of the sullen and inefficient labour which characterized the commencement of the apprenticeship, has succeeded a vigorous and honest industry. By the monthly returns enclosed, your Honour will observe that Table (A.) for the month of October, as compared with the preceding month, shews a diminution of punishments amounting to 70, and the return for November, as compared with October, a further decrease of 78.

This pleasing change arises from several causes.

1. The improved acquaintance of the apprentice with the laws relative to his condition.
2. The knowledge which all possess, and the majority highly estimate, that after they have rendered honestly the prescribed weekly labour, they are in all respects as essentially free as any other subject in this community.
3. The increased confidence of the apprentice in the advice and decisions (although against himself) of the special magistrate.
4. The good understanding which in this district almost universally prevails between the apprentices and those over them, arising from the humane and kind exhibition of the authority of the latter in the performance of their duties.

Lastly, I may add, that the change may have been accelerated by the extension of a plan of task-work, which I have been long maturing, and now submit to your Honour's observation, and which is fast spreading, to the mutual satisfaction of employers and employed. I first obtained permission to try it upon an estate called the Bottom, which is superintended by a humane and most worthy manager, called Joseph Salter. It has now been in operation on this estate some months; and from the moment of its adoption until now, there has not occurred an instance of misconduct.

It has also been adopted on the Belle Tete, the Little Sir Gillis's, Somersall's and the Burt's estates two months; and out of the number of apprentices on those properties, but two instances of slight punishments have occurred up to this date. Some weeks since I had the satisfaction of adding the Godwin estate to the number. This estate has been a source of immense trouble and anxiety to me: it is daily improving, and I feel confident of a steady decrease of crime on this estate.

The cheerfulness with which the apprentices who enjoy the benefit of this system of task-works perform their labours is highly gratifying to me; their daily labour is scarcely ever protracted beyond three o'clock, p.m., and seldom after noon. Thus they have abundant time to cultivate their provision grounds (everything to them) during the first five days of the week, and the Saturday, which was formerly occupied in this necessary duty, is at leisure, either to be employed in their business or as a source of profit in labouring for hire,
opportunities

opportunities for which are plentiful in this district. And on this point I have much satisfaction in being able to report a decided change in the dispositions of the apprentices, viz. an anxiety to be hired in their leisure hours. I have received notice from the proprietors and managers of three estates of their intention to immediately adopt the "task-work," and hope, in a few months, to be able to report that almost every estate in the district is working under the plan. Wherever the apprentices are permitted the advantages derived from it, they have immediately and unhesitatingly contracted to work off the crop under the terms specified in the enclosed copy; by which it will be seen that every comfort of time, land and permission to keep stock have been secured to the labourer for 12 months, as well as the extra labour required during crop time to the employer.

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Copy not received.

The overseers of estates are required to keep a diary of the quantity of work performed by the apprenticed labourers; as from the nature of the soil, occasionally they may not be able to complete their day's task, whilst on other days they can readily exceed it. Before they quit the field the overseers are called upon to acquaint them how they stand, and enter (if any) the deficiency in the debtor column, or if otherwise in the credit column; the diary will be inspected by the stipendiary magistrate, when visiting the estates, who will acquaint the apprentices whether they owe labour to the estate or otherwise, and require the contracting parties to fulfil the agreement.

Up to this date (December 6th), however, no arrears exist, notwithstanding all the various kinds of labour which the task-work embraces, have been fairly tried, which shows how favourable it is to the apprentice, and how much he values the few leisure hours he obtains by it. Whilst the master, according to the report of Mr. Salter, obtains more labour and as well performed than he had under the old slave system.

The principal objection that is urged against its adoption is, that it is calculated through over exertion (in order that the task may be speedily gone through as possible) to fill the sick house; the contrary, after some months trial and from the report of J. B. Waterson, esq. M. D., the medical attendant of the Bottom, Belle Tête and Burt's estates, is most perfectly established.

I cannot conclude my letter to your Honour without rendering a just tribute to the character of the proprietors and managers of estates in this district, by stating that I consider the success which has attended the working of the apprenticeship in this division of the island, and its present tranquil and satisfied condition, to be more owing to their humane and generous treatment of the people under their charge, together with the good dispositions of the apprentices in general than to any efforts of mine. Every suggestion which I have made has been listened to with deference, and in most instances adopted; and it is with the utmost sincerity that I state I have every reason to be grateful for the assistance and kindness with which my endeavours for the mutual interests of master and apprentice have been uniformly met.

His Honour

The President administering the Government,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) R. Olpherts.

TABLE (B.)

RETURN of the NUMBER and EFFECT of the RETURNS of PUNISHMENTS received by the Governor of St. Christopher from the Special Magistrates, from the 1st September 1835 to 31 May 1836.

Colony.	Date.	Total Number of Apprentices throughout the Island, Province or Government.	Total Number of Punishments inflicted under the Authority of Special Magistrates throughout the same.	Proportion per cent. of Punishments to Apprentices.	Total Number of Males punished.		Total Number of Females punished.	The Average Number of Stripes inflicted in cases of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum Number of Stripes inflicted in any one Case of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum of Severity in any one Case of Punishment by Confinement.	The Maximum of Severity in any other Mode of Punishment.
					By Whipping.	Otherwise than by Whipping.					
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	October -	12,623	705	5 1/2	85	264	356	14	30	3 months -	171 hours extra labour.
	November -	13,739	451	3 1/2	55	140	256	13	30	3 months -	1 month on the tread-mill.
	December -	13,660	410	3 1/2	19	177	214	18	30	6 months with hard labour.	- - 50 days extra labour in service of employer.
	1836: January -	13,634	296	2 1/2	39	86	171	15	30	3 months -	- - 25 days extra labour, 9 hours each.
	February -	13,617	240	1 3/4	16	73	151	14	30	3 months -	36 hours extra labour.
	March -	13,572	265	2	7	97	161	14	24	3 months -	1 month penal gang.
	April -	13,537	235	1 3/4	11	97	127	10	30	4 months -	- - 108 hours of extra labour, in portions of 9 hours a week.
	May -	13,514	236	1 3/4	17	96	121	9	30	3 months -	- - extra labour on the estate for 5 Saturdays, 9 hours each day.

NEVIS.

— No. 338. —

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

NEVIS.

No. 338.

Sir,

St. Christopher, 2 August 1834.

I do myself the honour of forwarding transcripts of Acts passed by the President, Council and Assembly of Nevis; viz.

1st. "An Act to establish a Local Constabulary Force on the several Plantations in this Island."

Proprietor of plantation may appoint his labourers constables, in the proportion of two to every 100, who shall be sworn to do their duty before a magistrate, and be answerable for the good order of the estate; shall receive same pay as constables, and wear uniform. Proprietor to return list of such constables to secretary of the island, and a general list, made therefrom, to hang up in his office. Proprietor neglecting for one week to make such constables, to pay 50 *l.* penalty. Act to be in force three years.

2d. "An Act for the Summary Punishment of Common Assaults and Batteries, and of Riotous and Disorderly Conduct, in the Island of Nevis."

Persons guilty of common assaults or batteries, or riotous conduct or abusive language, to be convicted before two magistrates, liable to pay a fine of 10 *l.*, or be in gaol 60 days; the fine to go into the treasury, and if not paid, offender liable to imprisonment for two months. If prosecutor suffered personal loss, fine may be awarded to him; if trivial, magistrates may dismiss it with a certificate to party accused, who cannot be proceeded against for the same offence. Any assault, accompanied by attempt to commit felony, not to be adjudicated by the two magistrates.

I have, &c.

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

— No. 339. —

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

No. 339.

Sir,

Downing-street, 28 February 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 7th instant, leaving to their operation six Acts passed by the Legislature of Nevis in the months of June and August last.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Aberdeen*.

— No. 340. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart.,
to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Antigua, 8 September 1835.

No. 340.

THE enclosed letters from the President of Nevis relate to the subject of your Lordship's circular Despatch to that officer of the 15th of June last.

Vide Papers printed
by order of the
House of Commons, 10 June 1835, No. 278-I, p. 8.

2.
Vide Appendix,
No. 135.

Vide Appendix,
No. 136.

Enclosure in No. 340.

NEVIS.

Enclosure in
No. 340.

Sir,

Government-house, Nevis, 24 August 1834.

I HAVE had the honour to receive a circular Despatch from the Right Honourable Lord Glenelg, of the 15th June, on the subject of the special magistracy.

I consider it to be my duty to state to your Excellency the circumstances under which the special commissions were granted by my predecessor, Mr. Daniell, and, as far as I have been able, to ascertain his views upon the subject.

The special commissions were dated on the 4th of August 1834, at which time no stipendiary magistrate had arrived in the colony, and when the labouring classes were in a state of most alarming insubordination, and in the neighbouring island of St. Christopher in open rebellion.

Under these circumstances Mr. Daniell, knowing that gentlemen who must of necessity be precluded by domestic engagements from devoting the whole of their time to the discharge of most arduous and responsible duties, would cheerfully, for the welfare of their country, give a portion of that time to the performance of these duties, appointed ten special magistrates, two for each parish in the island.

With respect to the gentlemen selected for this office, it may be observed that they are most of them proprietors, or otherwise much connected with the colony. It is, I presume, scarcely necessary for me to observe, that in a small community this could not have been avoided. I am myself aware of only one gentleman, resident in the island, altogether unconnected with it, and whose character and respectability qualifies him for the office of a special magistrate; I allude to Mr. Duke, who has been placed in the special commission by myself.

The gentlemen selected by Mr. Daniell, and to whose nomination he had conceived that nothing could be objected, were principally the chief and assistant justices and members of the Council.

I have now, in obedience to Lord Glenelg's instructions, recalled all special commissions, with the exception of that granted to Mr. Duke; at the same time I pray that your Excellency will urge the necessity of His Majesty's Government immediately appointing two more stipendiary magistrates, without which I do not hesitate to give it as my opinion, that the interests of the island will suffer very materially.

Previously to the receipt of Lord Glenelg's Despatch, I had commenced a letter to your Excellency, pointing out the disorderly and disaffected state of the labouring population, and the necessity that there should be three stipendiary magistrates, residing at equal distances round the island, without which obedience to the law cannot be enforced.

It is impossible that any colonial law in furtherance of the British Act can be milder than ours, or the burden of apprenticeship rendered lighter. I have heard of no abuse of power, or of any just cause of complaint against the master; but I regret to say that the disposition to conciliate upon his part, has in most cases been met, if not with insolence and opposition, at least with passive resistance, by refusing to work, during the crop, for wages on the Saturday, or their extra hours; and six cases in which valuable pieces of canes have been destroyed by fire, have occurred under such circumstances as to leave no doubt but that they were the acts of incendiaries.

In the island of St. Christopher the very prompt and decided measures adopted by your Excellency in August last (and which were most decidedly productive of much good here), have been attended with the most beneficial results in that colony, having been seconded by the active conduct of the magistracy, and the crop has been taken off with cheerfulness and dispatch, while in this island the very reverse has been the case.

Independently of these considerations, I would observe that, from the geographical figure of the island, with a large mountain in its centre, it would appear that fewer than three magistrates residing at equal distances round the island, could not maintain good order on the estates; at present to prefer or answer to a complaint before the stipendiary magistrate, occasions to persons residing in the opposite part of the island the loss of an entire day.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Josiah Webbe Maynard*, President.

His Excellency
Sir E. J. M. MacGregor, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

Government-house, Nevis, 24 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a circular Despatch from Lord Glenelg of the 18th June, requiring certain returns therein specified.

Return No. 1 contains the names of all special magistrates removed from office.

No. 2 is a return of the number and nature of the punishments inflicted on apprenticed labourers by the stipendiary magistrate for this island. The special magistrates, I find, have kept no such record, having received no remuneration for their services, and consequently not deeming it to be incumbent upon them to do so, particularly as our colonial law has in every instance guarded against any severity.

No. 3. With respect to this return, I am unable to afford any satisfactory information, further than that in this island the purchasing of the unexpired term of apprenticeship has been considered as a civil contract between the labourer and his employer, our colonial law declaring a simple acknowledgment from the latter to be sufficient for all intents and purposes; consequently, to my knowledge many apprenticed labourers have purchased their redemption

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redemption from further servitude, without having occasion to apply to a special magistrate; and in no instance has any objection on the part of the employer been offered.

No. 4. No instructions whatever have been given to the special magistrates as to the extent and performance of their duties, the colonial law having been considered as sufficiently explanatory on all subjects.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Josiah Webbe Maynard*, President.His Excellency Sir E. J. M. M'Gregor, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 1.)

RETURN of the Names of the Special Magistrates removed from office by the authority of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Hon. James Maynard.	The Hon. Joseph Stanley.
— George Webbe.	Thomas John Cottle.
— George Samuel Wattlely.	Peter Thomas Huggins.
— John Huggins.	Walter Maynard, jun.
— Josiah Webbe Maynard, jun.	Philip Protheroe Claxton.

(No. 2.)

RETURN of the Number and Nature of the Punishments inflicted on the Apprenticed Labourers of Nevis, by the Stipendiary Magistrate, from 6th August 1834 to 31st July 1835.

WOMEN.

Absenting from estate, &c.	- - - -	imprisonment	- - - -	18
Ditto	- - - -	stocks with ditto	- - - -	20
Insolence and refusing to work	- - - -	ditto - ditto	- - - -	35
Insolence and riotous conduct	- - - -	ditto - ditto	- - - -	31
Disobedience of orders and refusing to work	- - - -	ditto - ditto	- - - -	67
Theft	- - - -	ditto - ditto	- - - -	1
Excessive insolence, &c.	- - - -	solitary confinement	- - - -	6
TOTAL				178

MEN.

Neglect of duty	- - - -	imprisonment with flogging	- - - -	5
Ditto	- - - -	ditto	- - - -	3
Insolence	- - - -	ditto	- - - -	6
Disobedience of orders	- - - -	ditto with stocks	- - - -	6
Ditto with neglect of duty	- - - -	ditto with flogging	- - - -	36
Absenting themselves	- - - -	ditto - ditto	- - - -	26
Ditto	- - - -	ditto	- - - -	13
Theft	- - - -	ditto with flogging	- - - -	12
TOTAL				107

The undersigned has to observe that apprenticed labourers sentenced to work to make up lost time are not here inserted, only those committed to gaol.

Nevis, 12 August 1835.

(signed) *Charles Kenny*,
Stipendiary Magistrate for Nevis.

(No. 3.)

RETURN of the Names and Number of Apprenticed Labourers who have purchased the unexpired Term of their Apprenticeship, and the several Sums paid for the same, up to the 31st July 1835:

Names :	£.	s.	d.	
Wm. Carroll	-	-	-	5 8 - sterling.
Job Williams	-	-	-	4 10 -
Susannah Nisbet	-	-	-	3 12 -
Patty Senior	-	-	-	2 10 -
Robert Paris	-	-	-	5 -
Nancy Scarborough	-	-	-	2 10 -

The undersigned begs to observe that he is cognizant of many others, but they have not thought proper to register their papers in his book, although gratis.

Nevis, 12 August 1835.

(signed) *Charles Kenny*,
Stipendiary Magistrate for Nevis.

— No. 341. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart., dated Downing-street, 11 December 1835.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 8th of September, enclosing communications from Mr. President Maynard, in which he recommends the appointment of two additional stipendiary magistrates to the island of Nevis.

I have to desire that you will express to Mr. President Maynard my regret that I should be precluded, by the existing distribution of magistrates in the West India Colonies, from complying with his suggestion to assign more magistrates to Nevis.

No. 341.

— No. 342. —

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

My Lord, Government-house, Antigua, 16 October 1835.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting the enclosed documents received from Mr. President Daniell, in reference to your Lordship's circular Despatch of the 15th June last, relative to stipendiary and special magistrates.

No. 342.

6 October 1835.
2.

I have, &c.

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

Enclosures in No. 342.

Sir,

Nevis, 6 October 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Honor's communication of the 5th inst., with an extract from his Excellency the Governor-general's letter, requiring my opinion as to the expediency of an increase of stipendiary magistrates.

Enclosures in
No. 342.

I beg in reply to observe, the Right honourable the Secretary for the Colonies having deemed the consent of two special magistrates necessary for carrying into effect certain clauses of the Bill for the Abolition of Slavery, a second magistrate is indispensably necessary. I consider that number amply sufficient for this island, provided the colonial legislature will establish an efficient police, a house of correction, with cells for solitary confinement, and a tread-mill.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Charles Kenny*,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

His Honor

The President Administering the Government.

Names of Special Magistrates who are interested in Apprenticed Labour.	Names of Special Magistrates not interested in Apprenticed Labour, but still much connected with Colonial Society.	Names of Stipendiary Magistrates.	Additional Number of Stipendiary Magistrates recommended.	Names of Special Magistrates whom it may be desirable to retain for the present.
Hon. James Maynard. - John Huggins. - George Webbe. - G. S. W. Wattley. Peter Thos. Huggins. Thomas John Cottle.	Hon. Joseph Stanley. - Josiah Maynard. Philip P. Claxton. Walter Maynard.	Charles Kenny.	One.	Thomas Duke.

General Observations and Reasons for the Recommendation in the above columns.—The total number of apprenticed labourers in this island (although greatly reduced in consequence of many having purchased their release from apprenticeship), amount to nearly 7,000, and are distributed over an extent of country too large to be comprised within one district. Many estates in the windward district, at present under the charge of Mr. Duke, are distant 12 miles from the residence of Mr. Kenny, the stipendiary magistrate, which must preclude his visiting these estates as frequently as would appear to be necessary for the purpose of maintaining good order, and for the protection of the apprenticed labourers.

NEVIS.

— No. 343. —

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

Downing-street, 23 January 1836.
 Sir,
 No. 343. I HAVE received your Despatch of the 16th October, with an enclosure from Mr. Kenny, upon the subject of the number of stipendiary magistrates, which the interests of the island of Nevis required to have stationed there.

On the 11th of December I informed you that I had not the means of assigning an additional magistrate to Nevis, as had been solicited by the president of the island, and to that answer I must refer you upon the present occasion.

With reference to Mr. Kenny's opinion that, as I have deemed the consent of two special magistrates necessary for carrying into effect certain clauses of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, a second stipendiary magistrate is indispensably necessary, I have to observe that, if Mr. Kenny alludes to my Despatches of the 27th and 28th July last, declaring the consent of two magistrates to be required for effecting the transfer of apprentices from one plantation to another belonging to the same owner, which instruction had no less an authority than the Imperial Act itself, the difficulty thereby created may, as it appears to me, be obviated by requesting the officer in command of the detachment at Nevis to act gratuitously as a special justice for the removal of the apprentices. If this, however, be impossible, I am aware of no sufficient reason against directing one of the four magistrates stationed at St. Kitts, to repair to Nevis, as occasions of this nature may arise for his presence. The distance between the islands is so trifling, that I cannot conceive that the difficulty to which Mr. Kenny alludes, may not by this means be removed, even if the first expedient I have suggested should be inadmissible.

I have, &c.
 (signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 344. —

No. 344. COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart., to Lord *Glenelg*.

*Vide Papers printed
 by order of the
 House of Commons,
 Nos. 278-II,
 10 June 1835.
 3g e 127.*

*(A.)
 14 October 1835;
 Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4,
 30 September,
 7th, 6th, 21st
 October 1835.
 Act printed in the
 Appendix, No. 137.*

Government-house, Antigua, 28 October 1835.
 My Lord,
 REFERRING to your Lordship's Despatch of the 27th July last, I do myself the honour to forward, to your Lordship's address, a letter from Mr. President Daniell, together with copies of communications that have taken place between that functionary and myself relative to the accompanying Act. Your Lordship will perceive by my letter (Enclosure No. 2) that I had instructed that officer to make the alterations required by your letter of the above-mentioned date, but which has not been attended to.

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

Enclosures in No. 344.

(A).

Government-house, Nevis, 14 October 1835.
 My Lord,
 I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the copy of an Act, intituled "An Act to alter and amend an Act, intituled, 'An Act to provide for the maintenance, protection and good government of Apprenticed Labourers, and to settle the jurisdiction of Special Magistrates,'" which has been passed by the legislature of this island with a view to meet the objections to the original bill contained in your Lordship's Despatch to his Excellency Sir Evan MacGregor, of the 27th July last.

As I deem it of the utmost importance to the interests of the inhabitants of this island that the Act should be submitted for the approval of His Majesty in Council with the least possible delay, I have considered it my duty to transmit it direct to your Lordship, conceiving this to be one of those occasions on which such communications may be permitted.

Your

Enclosures in
No. 344.

*Vide Appendix,
 No. 137.*

Your Lordship will perceive, that in the clause giving summary process of ejection against apprenticed labourers trespassing on lands, the limitation of time has been extended to two years. As this has been done in direct accordance with the instructions contained in the Order in Council, proposed by your Lordship's predecessors as a model for the Colonial Legislatures, I venture to hope that the present enactment will be found satisfactory to His Majesty's Government.

To the Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James Daniell*, President.

(No. 1.)

Sir,

Government-house, Nevis, 30 September 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Despatch, enclosing the copy of one from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of the Act passed by the Legislature of Nevis, in furtherance of the Act of the Imperial Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery, a copy of which has been submitted to the two branches of the legislature, in consequence of which an Act has been passed, intituled "An Act to alter and amend in part 'An Act to provide for the maintenance, protection, and good government of the Apprenticed Labourers, and to settle the jurisdiction and authority of Special Magistrates,'" a transcript of which, accompanied by a summary of its contents, I have now the honour to submit for your Excellency's consideration.

The Council and Assembly being impressed with a conviction of the importance of a transcript of this Act (in the event of your Excellency being pleased to signify your desire that it should be assented to) being forwarded by this packet, if practicable, have requested me to forward it to Antigua by a vessel employed for this purpose, and to convey to your Excellency their wishes on this subject.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Josiah W. Maynard*, President.

To His Excellency Sir E. J. M. MacGregor,
Governor, &c. &c. &c.

(No. 2.)

(Extract.)

Sir,

Government-house, Antigua, 7 October 1835.

IF your Honor will observe the rule laid down for my guidance as to the form of passing Colonial Acts adverted to in your letter of the 30th ultimo, you will at once be able to inform the Council and Assembly that the transmission of the Act accompanying it is utterly impossible by the next packet.

I am necessitated, therefore, to return the enclosed copy of the Act relative to apprenticed labourers, to be authenticated by your Honor's signature and the great seal as usual, but strongly recommending that it should be so modified as to embrace the suggestion in Mr. Acting Attorney-General Shiell's opinion, a copy of which is herewith annexed.

I have, &c.

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

To His Honor the President of Nevis,
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 3.)

Sir,

Government-house, Nevis, 21 October 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency duplicate copies of an Act intituled "An Act to alter and amend 'An Act to provide for the maintenance, protection and good government of Apprenticed Labourers, and to settle the jurisdiction and authority of Special Magistrates,'" together with summaries of its contents in duplicate.

I beg to inform your Excellency that, in consequence of the very great anxiety manifested by the inhabitants of the colony that this Act should be submitted to His Majesty with as little delay as possible, I have been induced to avail myself of the discretionary power entrusted to me by your Excellency, and to assent to the Bill, in order that a copy of it might be forwarded to the Colonial Secretary of State by the last packet. A duplicate of my letter on this occasion is enclosed for the information of your Excellency.

I have adopted this measure with less reluctance than I should otherwise have felt, in consequence of that clause of the enactment of which your Excellency recommended the modification, having been framed in strict conformity with the Orders in Council, proposed as a model to the Colonial Legislatures by His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

To His Excellency Sir E. J. M. MacGregor, (signed) *James Daniell*, President.
Governor, &c. &c. &c.

October 1835,
not received.

NEVIS.

SUMMARY.

THE clauses in the "Act to provide for the maintenance, protection, and good government of Apprenticed Labourers, and to settle the jurisdiction and authority of Special Magistrates," which were deemed objectionable by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, have been repealed and re-enacted by the Bill herewith submitted, with such alterations as were suggested in Lord Glenelg's Despatch.

Clause 1. The limitation of a week, as the period beyond which no complaint could be preferred by an apprenticed labourer for neglect in supplying him with provisions, having been deemed too narrow, the period is extended by this clause to one calendar month.

Clause 2. This clause requiring the written permission of two special magistrates for apprenticed labourers to be removed from one plantation to another, is now framed in accordance with the provision contained in the Abolition Act of the Imperial Parliament. It is proper that the circumstances should be explained under which the corresponding clause in the former Bill was framed. It was understood by the legislature, that in pursuance of the plan laid down by His Majesty's Government, only one stipendiary magistrate would be placed in this island, and one only has in fact been hitherto recognized. It is plain, therefore, that to require the consent of two would have been idle and nugatory; and in the summary accompanying the original Bill, the chief justice had the honour to state this circumstance fully in explanation of the repugnancy between the Act of this island and that of the Imperial Parliament in this particular. It was essential that the power to remove apprenticed labourers from one estate to another should be retained, and it was presumed that the intervention of one special magistrate would be nearly as effectual to prevent abuse as that of two. A second special magistrate has been recently appointed *pro tempore*, and the clause as it now stands is in accordance with the provision of the Abolition Act.

Clause 3. A limiting proviso, in accordance with the Order in Council (see page 17), has been added to this clause as it stood in the original Bill, and protects the apprenticed labourer from the process of summary ejection, if he shall have had undisturbed possession of the land in his occupation for the space of two years.

Clause 4. It is presumed that the difficulty suggested in the original 32d clause has been removed by the insertion of the words, "if such apprenticed labourer shall be willing so to do."

Clause 5. The clause declaring it to be lawful to impose the punishment of being once, twice or thrice whipped, in addition to imprisonment, was taken, in substance, from similar provisions in the Act 7 & 8 Geo. 4, c. 30. The extent of corporal punishment is now limited to 30 stripes.

George Webbe, Chief Justice.

— No. 345. —

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

Sir,

Downing-street, 1 January 1836.

No. 345.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 28th October last, transmitting an Act passed by the Legislature of the island of Nevis in October last, altering and amending an Act which they had formerly passed for the Abolition of Slavery. As this Act obviates the objections which were raised in my Despatch of 27th July last to the former Act, I have the satisfaction of informing you that it will be left to its operation, and that His Majesty will issue an Order in Council declaring that the island of Nevis having made adequate and satisfactory provision by law for giving effect in that island to the Act of Parliament for the abolition of slavery, the colonists are entitled to participate in the compensation fund.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 346. —

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

Sir,

Downing-street, 1 February 1836.

No. 346.

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 1st ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to you an Order passed by His Majesty in Council on the 16th ultimo, allowing certain Acts passed by the Legislature of the island of Nevis, for giving effect

effect to the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery. I also transmit an Order of His Majesty in Council, bearing the same date, declaring that adequate provision has been made by the Legislature of the island of Nevis for giving effect by law in that colony to the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glencg.*

*Vide Appendix,
No. 138.*

— No. 347. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart., to Lord *Glencg.*, dated Roseau, Dominica, 1 February 1836.

HEREWITH I have the honour of forwarding to your Lordship the under-mentioned Act passed by the Legislature of Nevis; viz.

“An Act for establishing a Police Force and House of Correction in and for the Island of Nevis.”

The colony being entirely destitute of any police establishment, this Bill is intended to provide for organizing such a force, upon principles of permanent efficiency, having especial regard to that state of society which will supervene in a condition of unapprenticed freedom. For this purpose, the Bill directs a Board of Commissioners to be appointed for the two branches of the Legislature, and a central police station and house of correction to be established on a piece of public land in the neighbourhood of the principal town. A sufficient number of station-houses of less magnitude are also to be established at proper situations in the island.

The police force at present contemplated by the Act consists of a superintendent, or chief of police, who will also be master of the house of correction, six mounted police constables and six on foot, all to be appointed by the Governor or President administering the government, and to be paid quarterly from the public treasury; but the number and salaries of this force may be augmented or diminished if the Board of Commissioners, with the sanction of the Board of Council and House of Assembly, shall see fit. With the force, however, abovementioned, directing and co-operating with the local constables on the plantations, it is presumed that in this small colony the objects of a police system may be fully attained. The general control over the police establishment is vested in the Board of Commissioners, but the particular management of details belong of course to the superintendent. The salary of this officer is 300 *l.* currency per annum; he is required to give security for his good conduct, and is precluded from following any other calling whatsoever.

As connected with matters of police, the 13th clause of the Bill imposes a penalty of any sum not exceeding 40 *s.* currency on the driver of any carriage or vehicle, not having reins, who may be convicted of riding on such carriage, and on any driver of a carriage or person riding who may be convicted of causing any hurt or damage by negligence or wilful misbehaviour, or any driver of a carriage convicted of being wilfully at a distance from his carriage, or of causing interruption to the free passage of any vehicle or person, or of obstructing any highway; and imposes on such driver a further penalty of any sum not exceeding 10 *l.* currency if it shall appear that any hurt or damage had been caused by such misconduct; in default of payment the offending party to be imprisoned for any time not exceeding two months. This is taken in substance from 13 Geo. 3, c. 78, s. 60.

By the 14th clause of the Bill authority is given to destroy all hogs and goats found trespassing on any cultivated lands. The nuisance caused by these animals ranging through the streets of a town in a tropical climate, and the mischief occasioned by them on land in a state of cultivation, is so great that no means short of their destruction affords an adequate remedy.

The Bill makes provision for the establishment of a penal gang, under the superintendence of one or more police constables, consisting of persons committed to hard labour.

The regulation of the expenditure incurred on account of the police establishment, and the framing of rules for the internal discipline of the house of correction, are matters confided to the Board of Commissioners.

The usual protection against legal proceedings is afforded to the police constables; and the Act is to continue in operation for five years.

No. 347.

*Vide Appendix,
No. 138.*

NEVIS.

There being no part of this Act at variance with the Royal Instructions, nor inconsistent with the local laws of the island of Nevis, it is likely to conduce materially to the good government of that island.

— No. 348. —

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

No. 348.

Sir,

Downing-street, 31 May 1836.

Two Acts, passed by the Legislature of the island of Nevis in the months of September and November last, Nos. 121 & 122, having been referred by His Majesty in Council to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, that Committee have reported to His Majesty in Council their opinion that these Acts should not be confirmed.

I have the honour to transmit to you an Order passed by the King in Council on the 27th instant, approving that Report, accompanied by an extract from the Report of the Committee, containing their Lordships reasons for recommending the disallowance of the said Acts.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg*.

Enclosure in No. 348.

EXTRACT from a REPORT of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, recommending the disallowance of Nevis Act, No. 122, for establishing a Police Force, &c. in the Island of Nevis. (Printed in the Appendix, No. 139).

Enclosure in
No. 348.

“ BECAUSE the effect of this Act is to transfer to a board of seven commissioners, of whom five must be members of the Assembly, all the most important powers connected with the police of the island, and to divert from the officer administering the government of the island to the representatives of the people, functions which properly belong to the executive authority; and because the Act enables the commissioners, and through them the House of Assembly, to issue public money without the concurrence or knowledge of the government, and because these powers would continue to be so exercised even though the Assembly should be prorogued or dissolved.”

— No. 349. —

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

No. 349.

My Lord,

Government-house, Dominica, 11 June 1836.

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of letters from the President and Speaker of the Assembly of Nevis, and a petition to His Majesty the King, from the Council and Assembly, for the appointment of an additional stipendiary magistrate.

Should this prayer be accorded, it might perhaps be desirable to assign the occasional services of one of the two magistrates in that case to be established in Nevis, to the colony of Montserrat, and to remove to the Virgin Islands the attendance, when in like manner necessary in that quarter, of a stipendiary magistrate from St. Christopher's.

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

Enclosures in No. 349.

(No. 1.)

Sir,

Government-house, Nevis, 19 May 1836.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency a petition to His Majesty from the Council and Assembly of this island, which I have been requested to forward. The copy of a Despatch addressed to me on this occasion, by his Honor the Speaker, is enclosed for your Excellency's information.

Enclosures in
No. 349.

His Excellency Sir Evan Murray MacGregor,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James Daniell*, President.

(No. 2.)

Sir,

Charles Town, 14 May 1836.

I HAVE the honour to enclose to you a petition from the Council and Assembly of this island to His most Gracious Majesty, on the subject of an additional stipendiary magistrate, which I am to request that your Honor will be pleased to forward to the Colonial Secretary of State for the purpose of its being laid before His Majesty.

I have, &c.

To His Honour the President Administering
the Government.

(signed) *Joseph Stanley*,
Speaker.

To the KING's most Excellent MAJESTY.

The humble PETITION of the Council and Assembly of the Island of Nevis,

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioners have passed an Act, which has received Your Majesty's sanction, to carry into effect the provisions of the Act of the Imperial Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery.

That, under some of the provisions of the said Act, it is imperatively necessary that two stipendiary magistrates should decide.

That Your Majesty's Government, in apportioning the number of stipendiary magistrates to the different islands, have allowed only one to this your island of Nevis.

Your petitioners humbly represent to Your Majesty that the interests of all parties in the island are very seriously affected by this arrangement. The scattered state of the population, the difficulty of access to many of the estates, the island being very mountainous, and other local circumstances, render it impossible for any one person, however active or zealous, to perform the duties of the office of stipendiary magistrate for the whole island.

Your petitioners beg to advert to the circumstances of the neighbouring island of St. Christopher, with a population only double that of this island, having four magistrates, while here the onerous duties attached to the situation are entrusted to the charge of a single individual.

Your petitioners humbly crave Your Majesty's gracious consideration of these circumstances, and venture to hope that the prayer of their petition will be granted by the appointment at Your Majesty's hands of an additional stipendiary magistrate for this island.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

(signed) *Josiah Webbe Maynard*, President.
Joseph Stanley, Speaker.

— No. 350. —

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

Sir,

Downing-street, 13 August 1836.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 11th June last, enclosing copies of letters from the President and Speaker of the Assembly of Nevis, and a petition to the King from the Council and Assembly, praying the appointment of an additional stipendiary magistrate in that island.

I have the honour to acquaint you in reply, that if by any different distribution of the special magistrates within the Leeward Island government, the object of the Council and Assembly of Nevis can be accomplished without injustice to other colonies, I should be happy to meet their wishes; and I should wish to refer this question to your own decision. But I cannot recommend to Parliament any augmentation of the present number of the special magistracy, involving, as that measure would do, an addition to the very large grants which have already been made for giving effect to the Bill for the Abolition of Slavery.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

No. 350.

TABLE (B.)

RETURN of the NUMBER and EFFECT of the RETURNS of PUNISHMENTS received by the Governor of *Nevis*, from the SPECIAL MAGISTRATES, from the 1st September 1835 to 31st May 1836.

Colony.	Date.	Total Number of Apprentices throughout the Island, Province or Government.	Total Number of Punishments inflicted under the Authority of Special Magistrates throughout the same.	Proportion per Cent. of Punishments.	Total Number of Males punished.		Total Number of Females punished.	The Average Number of Stripes inflicted in Cases of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum Number of Stripes inflicted in any one Case of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum of Severity in any one Case of Punishment by Confinement.	The Maximum of Severity in any other Mode of Punishment.
					By Whipping.	Other-wise than by Whipping.					
NEVIS:	Sept. 1835	6,195	68	1 $\frac{1}{10}$	33	9	26	18	30	31 days	-- 1 month's imprisonment and confinement in the stocks for 8 hours each time.
	Oct. -	6,195	85	1 $\frac{1}{3}$	45	12	28	20	30	28 days	-- by sentence to work for the employer for 50 Saturdays.
	Nov. -	6,195	69	1 $\frac{1}{10}$	31	13	25	16	30	1 month	-- by a sentence to serve the employer for 4 months after the expiration of the term of apprenticeship.
	Dec. -	6,195	74	1 $\frac{1}{3}$	40	10	24	14	30	28 days	-- by ditto ditto, 1 year after ditto.
	Jan. 1836	6,195	61	1	23	12	26	13	30	28 days	-- by ditto ditto, 1 year after the expiration of the apprenticeship.
	Feb. -	6,195	47	- $\frac{1}{2}$	25	1	21	16	30	28 days	-- solitary confinement for 7 days.
	Mar. -	6,184	48	- $\frac{1}{2}$	15	6	27	17	30	1 month	-- 14 days' solitary confinement.
	April -	6,184	44	- $\frac{1}{2}$	20	4	20	16	30	1 month	-- 10 days' solitary confinement.
May -	6,184	47	- $\frac{1}{2}$	29	2	16	20	30	1 month	-- 7 days' solitary confinement.	

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

— No. 351. —

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart. to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government-house, Antigua, 16 July 1835.

No. 351.

DOCUMENTS in relation to the Virgin Islands, as received from Mr. President Isaacs, are now forwarded for your Lordship's consideration; wherein will be found fully detailed the circumstances connected with the deprivation of food to which the prisoners confined in the gaol of Tortola had been exposed, and from which they were indebted for relief owing to the personal interference of Mr. Chief Justice Wigley and Mr. King's Counsel Lloyd.

It will also be found that the chief justice and stipendary magistrate concur in forcibly representing to the President, "that as far as it comes within our province we cannot maintain that order, or enforce that due obedience to the law, so highly essential to the welfare of this community, including of course the beneficial working of the apprenticeship system, without the power of inflicting imprisonment when necessary; and we submit that we are at present totally debarred from exercising that power, as we could not for one moment think of, or could we in any case consent, to sentence any individual to confinement, when we know that by so doing we not only imprison the individual, but make him subject to all the miseries attendant upon hunger and want. The stipendary magistrate has already from this cause been obliged, very lately, to discharge from confinement several apprenticed labourers, and to enable them to go at large unpunished."

Enclosures in No. 351.

EXTRACT of DESPATCH from Mr. President *Isaacs* to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, dated Tortola, 6 July 1835.

I DO myself the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, copies of correspondence which has passed between Mr. Chief Justice *Wigley*, Mr. Collector *Claxton*, Mr. Stipendiary Magistrate *Gordon* and myself, which I understand is likely to produce some salutary effect.

Enclosures in
No. 351.

Sir,

Road Town, Tortola, 11 June 1835.

I BEG to acquaint your Honor, that from information which I received late to-day, I was induced to suppose that the various prisoners confined in gaol were in a state of starvation, having been without food for two days. I immediately repaired to the gaol, in the hope that I should find such information incorrect; but I am sorry to be compelled to inform your Honor that I found it too true, as the gaoler himself stated to me that no food had been given to the prisoners since the day before yesterday! You may judge of the state in which these unfortunate people were. Mr. King's Counsel *Lloyd* (who met me at the gaol) generously supplied the gaoler with cash to procure food for the prisoners for to-day, and I have directed the gaoler to call on me for money to purchase sufficient food for to-morrow. The prisoners being thus relieved from the immediate miseries of want, I feel it my duty to acquaint your Honor with the circumstance, trusting that you will be enabled to procure the adoption of such measures on the meeting of the legislature to-morrow as will prevent the recurrence of such a horrible event.

To His Honor the President,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. Spencer Wigley*.

Sir,

Tortola, 12 June 1835.

SINCE framing our report to your Honor of the 10th instant, we find that the person who contracted with Mr. *Bryan* for the supply of the prisoners, as mentioned in that report, has, in consequence, we understand, of the non-payment of the sum allowed by the country, refused to continue the supply; and, consequently, for near two days the prisoners were without food. This was, however, at length remedied by the contractor agreeing to continue supplying the prisoners until the next meeting of the legislature. We make this circumstance known to your Honor, in the sincere hope that you may be enabled to procure the adoption of such measures on the meeting of the legislature as will preclude the possibility of the unfortunate prisoners being again allowed to experience the miseries of starvation. The marshal has, we find, no power to compel the performance of the original contract, which was to supply the prisoners until the month of August next, as the contract was never reduced into writing, nor was any penalty fixed in case of failure; but more especially as the marshal himself has failed in his part of the contract, by not paying the sum as agreed for the supplies; but such failure the marshal could not avoid, having received no payment from the country, and he having already expended every farthing of his own.

We have, &c.

(signed) *Robert Claxton*, Collector.
W. Gordon, Stipendiary Magistrate.
F. Spencer Wigley, Chief Justice.

To His Honor the President,
&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

Tortola, 22 June 1835.

HAVING waited some time in the hope (in which we were induced to indulge, from the knowledge that your Honor intended to bring the matter before the legislature, as stated by you to the chief justice, in reply to his letter of the 10th instant), that the precarious mode of feeding persons confined in gaol would be amended on the meeting of the legislature, but finding that the regular day of meeting passed without that body having assembled, we beg to suggest to your Honour the necessity of calling a special meeting of the legislature, for the purpose of taking into consideration the dreadful state to which the persons confined in gaol have been and may again be reduced, from there being no means or fund provided to meet the expense of their maintenance. We are thus urgent with your Honor, as we feel assured that as far as it comes within our province, we cannot maintain that order, or enforce that due obedience to the laws, so highly essential to the welfare of this community, including, of course, the beneficial working of the apprenticeship system, without the power of inflicting imprisonment when necessary; and we submit that we are at present totally debarred from exercising that power, as we could not for one moment think of, or could we in any case consent to, sentencing any individual to confinement, when we know that by so doing we not only imprison the individual, but make him subject to all the miseries attendant on hunger and want. The stipendiary magistrate has already, from this cause, been obliged very lately to discharge from confinement several apprenticed labourers, and to allow them to go at large unpunished. May we also venture

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to suggest to your Honor the expediency of calling the attention of the legislature to the great probability which exists of the payment of the compensation-money being delayed, so far as the Virgin Islands are concerned, in the event of their declining to remedy the present evil; as, in such case, our duty will compel us to call the attention of His Majesty's Government to the fact that although these islands have passed very wholesome laws, pursuant to 3 & 4 Will. 4, for the regulation of the apprenticeship system, still that they have rendered those laws in a great degree, if not wholly, nugatory, by not providing the means of feeding persons when committed to prison for a breach of such laws, thereby actually precluding the possibility of that punishment being inflicted. Thus we conceive that, notwithstanding the legislature have so far met the views of His Majesty's Government as to enact laws for the working of the apprenticeship system, yet they have not entered into the spirit of the Act of Parliament (3 & 4 Will. 4), or fulfilled the intention of the framers thereof, by not providing the means of carrying those laws into effect, so far at least as imprisonment may be necessary.

We venture thus to trespass on your Honor's attention, as we wish that the legislature should be made perfectly aware of the serious consequences that may result, not only to themselves individually, but also to their constituents generally; and that they may be fully advertised of the steps which we shall be obliged to pursue in the event of their not adopting measures calculated to remedy the evils to which it has been our duty to call your Honor's attention.

We have, &c.

To His Honor the President,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *F. Spencer Wigley*, Chief Justice.
W. Gordon, Stipendiary Magistrate.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Mr. President *Isaacs* to the Honourable *F. S. Wigley*, and Mr. Stipendiary Magistrate *Gordon*, dated Tortola, 23 June 1835.

I HAVE received your communication of yesterday's date, depicting the miserable state of the prisoners confined in the common gaol, and suggesting the expediency, as the legislature did not assemble on Friday last, the regular day fixed by their own rules for their meeting for the dispatch of public business, of their being specially summoned to meet for that purpose.

I shall, in accordance with your suggestion, cause special summonses to issue for a meeting of the legislature on Friday next, when, should the call be attended to, I shall lay your statements before them, and do all I can to press upon the House of Assembly the consideration of the subject, and the necessity of the adoption of some immediate measures to remove the existing evils, at all events so far as they relate to the state of the gaol, and the condition of the prisoners confined therein.

— No. 352. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., dated Downing-street, 1 September 1835.

No. 352.

By your present communication I learn that it will be impossible to carry into effect the laws which may be enacted for the regulation of the apprentices, unless the prison be established upon such a footing as shall justify the special magistrate in making commitments. The chief justice, Mr. Wigley, and the special magistrate, Mr. Gordon, in their letter to the President, of the 22d of June, have very properly suggested the question whether, so long as the present state of things in regard to the prison continues, or so long as the recurrence of it is not provided against, it will be possible for His Majesty in Council to declare that adequate and satisfactory provision has been made by law for giving effect to the Abolition Act in Tortola and the Virgin Islands, thereby entitling the inhabitants to the compensation granted by Parliament. I can have no hesitation in expressing my persuasion that, without an effective security against the recurrence of the evils in question for at least the term of apprenticeship, His Majesty in Council cannot be advised to declare that the legislature of Tortola and the Virgin Islands, has made adequate and satisfactory provision by law as required by the 44th section of the Abolition Act, for giving effect to that Act by such further and supplementary enactments as are described in the 16th section, amongst which are included enactments for the maintenance of order and good discipline amongst the apprenticed labourers. I have to desire that you will make my opinion upon this point known to the legislature of Tortola, unless they shall have already placed the prison establishment upon a satisfactory footing for at least six years from the 1st of August 1834.

— No. 353. —

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

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

My Lord, Government-house, Antigua, 17 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting the enclosed documents received from the President of the Virgin Islands, in reference to your Lordship's circular Despatch of the 15th June last, relative to stipendiary and special magistrates.

Mr. President Isaacs and Mr. Gordon concur in considering one stipendiary magistrate equal to the performance of the required duties in that colony; and the former recommends (Enclosure No. 3,) that an allowance of from 80*l.* to 100*l.* should be granted for the purpose of enabling that officer to visit occasionally the various islands comprised in it.

The sum suggested seems to me moderate and reasonable, but the climate of the West Indies is so uncertain, that sudden attacks of severe indisposition are common to all descriptions of Europeans; and this consideration influences me in suggesting that the presence of an additional stipendiary magistrate in the Virgin Islands may be found advantageous to His Majesty's service.

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

Enclosures in No. 353.

(No. 1.)

Sir,

Tortola, 30 July 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Despatch of the 21st instant, enclosing extracts from some passages of a circular Despatch addressed to your Excellency from Lord *Glenelg*, dated the 15th ultimo, in relation to special magistrates now serving in the colonies, as appointed under the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, and also forms of returns in duplicate, which your Excellency requested may be filled up and sent back with the least practicable delay, together with a report from the stipendiary magistrates of their opinion as to any increase of their body they may deem indispensable, as well as to the number of special magistrates whose aid they may think it advisable in the meantime to retain; also to receive any general observations I may have to offer on the subject. In obedience to which I have the honour to enclose a copy of the report of Mr. Stipendiary Magistrate *Gordon* relative thereto, and to forward herewith the required returns, filled up, in duplicate.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Rogers Isaacs*, President.

(No. 2.)

Sir,

Tortola, 29 July 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Honor's letter of this day's date, referring me to an annexed extract of a despatch from his Excellency Sir *Evan J. Murray MacGregor*, dated the 21st instant, and requesting my opinion as therein required, to enable your Honor to comply with his Excellency's commands. In reply to your Honor, I have to state that, since my arrival in this colony, I have performed the duties of stipendiary magistrate unassisted by those gentlemen who, previous to my arrival, had been appointed special magistrates, and who then declined doing any further duty without remuneration. It is, therefore, my opinion, founded on the experience of the past year, that an increase of the stipendiary magistracy in this island is unnecessary.

Soon after my arrival I informed your Honor that, from the want of conveyance, I was unable to visit the different islands in this Government, and the same cause prevents me now from performing that part of my duty.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. Gordon*, Stipendiary Magistrate.

(No. 3.)

Names of Special Magistrates who are interested in Apprenticed Labour.	Names of Special Magistrates not interested in Apprenticed Labour, but still much connected with Colonial Society.	Names of Stipendiary Magistrates.	Additional Number of Stipendiary Magistrates recommended.	Names of Special Magistrates whom it may be desirable to retain for the present.
None.	None.	<i>Wm. Gordon</i> , <i>Lieut. R.N.</i>	None.	None.

General Observations and Reasons for the Recommendation in the foregoing columns.—Three special magistrates, *i. e.* The Hon. *Wilson Lawson*, the Hon. *Thomas Marsh*, and *George Williams Lawes*, Esq., 166.—II.

No. 353.

For circular Despatch, 15 June, *Vide Papers* Printed by order of the House of Commons, 10 June 1835, No. 278-I, p. 8.

Enclosures in No. 353.

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Esq., were appointed special magistrates, and acted in that capacity previously to the arrival of Stipendiary-magistrate Gordon, but their commissions were then revoked, in consequence of their refusing to continue their services without a suitable remuneration. I at that time entertained the opinion that one stipendiary magistrate could not effectually discharge the duties required of him under the Slavery Abolition Act, and that it would require at least two additional magistrates to perform the duty as it related to the adjacent islands within the government. The experience, however, of the past year has demonstrated that Stipendiary-magistrate Gordon will be sufficient to perform efficiently the duties and carry into beneficial operation the apprentice laws of the Virgin Islands. It is, however, desirable that he should occasionally visit these adjacent islands, some of them distant 20 or 30 miles from Tortola, which may be accomplished by an additional allowance to that functionary of 80 l. to 100 l. sterling per annum, for providing boats, &c.

Tortola, 30 July 1835.

(signed) *William Rogers Isaacs*,
President.

— No. 354. —

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

No. 354.

Sir,

Downing-street, 18 October 1835.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 17th August, transmitting the information called for by my circular of the 15th of last June, relative to stipendiary and special magistrates.

With reference to Mr. President Isaacs' recommendation, that an allowance of from 80 l. to 100 l. sterling should be granted for providing boats to enable the stipendiary magistrate to visit occasionally the islands comprised within his commission, I have to acquaint you that the sum of 150 l. having been granted to the magistrates in order that they might obtain due accommodation, and find the means of repairing to all parts of the districts assigned to their care, it will be necessary that any expense to which Mr. Gordon may be exposed for boat-hire should be defrayed out of that fund.

In the event, however, of the commissary upon the station raising a difficulty as to the payment of the allowance, on the ground of its not according precisely with the terms of my circular of the 15th July, you will have the goodness to inform the President that the charge for boat-hire being absolutely necessary, owing to the local circumstances of the Virgin Islands, for the due performance by the magistrate of his duties, he is at liberty to state upon the certificate which will accompany the warrant for payment, that this service entitles the magistrate to the allowance of 150 l., equally with the claim for house-rent and horse-hire.

With respect to your suggestion of supplying the Virgin Islands with an additional stipendiary magistrate, in order that the public service may not be interrupted by the casual indisposition of the single magistrate stationed there, I need only refer you to my Despatch, (St. Christopher, 14 October 1835,) from which you will learn, that I have made such an arrangement with regard to the number of magistrates for that island, as appears to me well calculated to supply the means of meeting any temporary demand which may arise for the services of an additional magistrate in the Virgin Islands.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 355. —

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

No. 355.

My Lord,

Government-house, Antigua, 25 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting a letter and certain returns from the President of the Virgin Islands, forwarded by that officer in obedience to instructions received by his Honor from your Lordship direct.

I have, &c.

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

Letter,
15 August 1835.
Returns, 1, 2, 3, 4,
15 August 1835.

Enclosures in No. 355.

Enclosures in No. 355.

My Lord,

Tortola, 15 August 1835.

I HAVE received your Lordship's circular Despatch of the 18th June 1835, requiring, in conformity with an Address of the House of Commons, dated 1st June 1835, certain returns therein mentioned; and I have now the honour, in obedience to your Lordship's commands, to forward, through his Excellency Sir Evan J. MacGregor, Bart., the said several returns.

Vide Papers printed by order of the House of Commons.

The Right Hon. Lord Glenelg,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Rogers Isaacs,*
President of the Virgin Islands.

(No. 1.)

RETURN of the NAMES of all SPECIAL or STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES who have been removed from or resigned their Office, with the Reason for the same, so far as the same can be communicated.

Names of all Special Magistrates who have been removed from, or resigned their Office.	Reasons for being removed, or resigning their Office.	Names of all Stipendiary Magistrates who have been removed from, or resigned their Office.	Reasons for being removed, or resigning their Office.
Wilson Lawson. Thomas Marsh. George W. Lewes.	Appointments revoked on the arrival of the stipendiary magistrate, in consequence of their refusal to act without remuneration.	None.	None.

Tortola, 15 August 1835.

(signed) *William Rogers Isaacs,*
President of the Virgin Islands.

(No. 2.)

RETURN of the Nature and Number of PUNISHMENTS inflicted by the Authority of Mr. Stipendiary Magistrate Gordon upon Apprenticed Labourers, from the 1st day of September 1834 to the 1st day of August 1835.

NATURE OF OFFENCES.	Number of Offenders.		NATURE OF PUNISHMENTS. MALES.						NATURE OF PUNISHMENTS. FEMALES.					Total Punishments.	
	Males.	Females.	Whipping, with Confinement and Hard Labour.	Whipping.	Confinement with Hard Labour.	Confinement during intervals of Labour.	Confinement.	Extra Labour.	Confinement with Hard Labour.	Solitary Confinement.	Confinement during intervals of Labour.	Confinement, and put in Public Stocks.	Public Stocks.		Extra Labour.
Theft - - - - -	16	6	-	-	13	2	1	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	22
Disobedience of orders - - -	25	22	2	13	5	3	-	2	8	9	-	4	-	1	47
Contumacious disobedience of orders - - - - -	23	14	14	8	1	-	-	-	3	7	3	1	-	-	37
Destruction of property, breaking canes, &c. - - - -	69	17	40	16	-	-	13	-	12	3	1	-	-	1	86
Neglect of duty - - - - -	14	10	-	4	2	-	-	8	1	-	-	-	-	9	24
Indolent performance of duty	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Insolent and insubordinate conduct - - - - -	34	38	14	14	4	1	1	-	17	21	-	-	-	-	72
Combined resistance to lawful commands - - - - -	11	19	11	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	30
Runaways - - - - -	25	22	17	4	3	1	-	-	16	2	1	3	-	-	47
Absentees from duty - - - -	9	18	1	-	2	2	1	3	6	-	-	-	-	12	27
Beating fellow apprentice - -	4	4	1	1	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	8
Runaway while under sentence -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Attempting to break prison - -	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Indecent language - - - - -	1	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	3	-	6
Riotous conduct - - - - -	9	13	3	1	5	-	-	-	7	5	-	-	-	1	22
Fighting - - - - -	6	1	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	7
Harbouring apprentice labourer -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Neglect of stock - - - - -	17	-	-	13	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
TOTAL - - - - -	276	191	104	76	43	12	16	25	96	53	5	8	3	26	467

(A true extract from my Journal.)

(signed) *W. Gordon, S. J. P.*

Tortola, 15 August 1835.

(A true copy.)

(signed) *Wm. Rogers Isaacs,*
President of the Virgin Islands.

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(No. 3.)

RETURN of PERSONS who have Purchased the Unexpired Term of their Apprenticeship, since the 1st day of August 1834 to the 1st day of August 1835, and the several Sums paid for the same.

Number.	NAMES.	Amount Paid in Currency.		
		£.	s.	d.
1	Dido - - - - -	20	-	-
2	Goney - - - - -	25	-	-
3	Thomas Roach - - - - -	41	5	-
4	Nanny - - - - -	16	10	-
5	Tamardo - - - - -	28	17	6
6	Cotto - - - - -	20	12	6
7	Harry - - - - -	82	10	-
8	John Blunder - - - - -	23	18	6
9	Augustus M'Cleverty - - - - -	19	16	-
10	Billy - - - - -	24	15	-
11	Sarah Dyer - - - - -	28	17	6
11 Apprentices - - TOTAL - -		£.	332	2 -

Secretary's Office, Tortola, 15 August 1835.

I do certify the above to be a true extract, taken from the book of record of the relinquishments of apprenticeship, for which consideration-money appears to have been paid, and the amount thereof.

(A true copy.)
Wm. Rogers Isaacs,
President of the Virgin Islands.

(signed) John C. Isaacs,
Colonial Secretary.

(No. 4.)

RETURN of COPIES of INSTRUCTIONS given to the Special or Stipendiary Magistrates, as to the Extent and Performance of their Duties.

NONE, except such as were contained in the four Emancipation Acts which passed in the Virgin Islands, in conformity with the Act of the Imperial Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery, copies of which were delivered from the Colonial Office to the stipendiary magistrate of these islands on his appointment to the office.

Tortola, 15 August 1835.

(signed) William Rogers Isaacs,
President of the Virgin Islands.

—No. 356.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir E. J. M. MacGregor, Bart., to Lord Glenelg.

My Lord,

Government-house, Antigua, 14 September 1835.

No. 356.

I BEG to be honoured with your Lordship's commands upon the subject of the pretension, as explained in the Enclosures of Mr. George Hill of Tortola, to exact from his apprenticed labourers the amount of work which they may be prevented, by the inclemency of the weather, from performing for him at the regular period.

I have, &c.,

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

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
6.
28, 24 & 14 Aug.
9 & 10 Sept. 1835.

Enclosures in No. 356.

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(No. 1.)

Tortola, 28 August 1835.

Sir,
I HAVE the honour to forward your Excellency herewith, a copy of a letter addressed to me by Mr. Stipendiary Magistrate Gordon, inclosing the copy of a case which he had submitted to Mr. Lloyd, the Crown lawyer, for his opinion thereon, in consequence of a question having arisen between him and Mr. George Hill, the proprietor of Long Bush estate in this island, whether or not, he, Mr. Hill, could compel the apprenticed labourers on his estate to make up the time lost by them, owing to the boisterous state of the weather experienced here on the 13th instant, and on which Mr. Gordon is desirous to obtain the decision of His Majesty's Government. I also have the honour to enclose a copy of Mr. Lloyd's opinion on this subject, which accompanied Mr. Gordon's letter.

The course which Mr. Lloyd recommends the stipendiary magistrate to pursue until the question is decided, I coincide in, but it is very desirable that this matter should be finally settled, and I therefore crave your Excellency's instructions for my guidance on this point.

I have, &c.

(signed) *William Rogers Isaacs*, President.Enclosures in
No. 356.

24 August 1835.

(No. 2.)

Tortola, 24 August 1835.

Sir,
I BEG leave to submit for your Honor's information, a copy of a case which I submitted to the Crown lawyer, Mr. Lloyd, for his opinion. The circumstance which gave rise to the question was an application made to me on the 14th instant, by Mr. George Hill, proprietor of Long Bush estate, to know if he could legally compel the apprentices upon his estate to give up a part of the time allowed to them by law, to make up time lost to him, by the boisterous state of the weather on the 13th instant. I was struck with the injustice of his application, but as the case was altogether new, and the law being directly silent on the subject, I submitted the case for the opinion of the Crown lawyer, who agreed with me in opinion, that, if from circumstances beyond the control of the apprentice, loss of time accrued to the master, the apprentice cannot be compelled to make up such loss from the time allowed to himself.

I have therefore to request that your Honor will be pleased to submit this case for the decision of His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

His Honor W. R. Isaacs, Esq.,
President, &c. &c. &c.(signed) *William Gordon*, S. J. P.

(No. 3.)

Tortola, 14 August 1835.

Sir,
I BEG leave to request your opinion on the following case: If, from the badness of the weather, the gang upon an estate are prevented from performing their usual quantity of labour during the hours appointed for that purpose, whether the law obliges them to make up that time lost from the above cause, during the time allowed to themselves.

I have, &c.

Charles Lloyd, Esq., S. King's Counsel.

(signed) *W. Gordon*, S. J.

(No. 4.)

Tortola, 14 August 1835.

Sir,
THERE is much difficulty in coming to a correct conclusion upon the within case, as the law is silent directly upon the subject; I therefore incline to think I can only offer you an opinion founded upon usage and two principles of the law regarding apprentices. Since the system of apprenticeship has been in operation, I do not believe any instance has occurred where loss of service in consequence of bad weather has been made up from the period allowed by law to the labourer, and I should recommend that you should adhere to the principle until you have consulted His Majesty's Government on the subject, as any alteration in the present system will be attended with injurious effects, more particularly if you shall hereafter receive such an interpretation of law which will not authorize a deduction from the time belonging to the labourer.

During the system of slavery it was usual in this island to allow certain periods of rest, and a day in the week, out of crop, which was never encroached on, in consequence of a loss of master's time from bad weather; therefore it does not follow, because the law defines the period to which labour may be extended, that as a matter of necessity the whole period must be made up, without any fault of the labourer. For instance, in case of sickness, which is beyond the control of the apprentice, surely the time in that state is not required to be made up. It is only in cases of crime, offence or voluntary absence, that the law

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encroaches on the immunities of the offender. By the first clause of the Act "prescribing the duties of apprenticed labourers," it is provided that only when the apprentice is absent from labour without just and reasonable cause, he is compelled to labour for employer extra hours. Bad weather must be considered a just and reasonable cause beyond his control, and therefore, in my opinion, cannot form any substantial ground for depriving this class of persons of a portion of their own time, by which alone in many instances they are enabled to support themselves; upon the whole, therefore, the safest and most equitable course you can pursue until better informed, is not to countenance any alteration from the present system.

I have, &c.
(signed) C. Lloyd, K. C.

(No. 5.)

OPINION of the Acting Attorney-General.

WITH reference to Mr. President Isaacs' letter to his Excellency, under date of 28th of August 1835, and Mr. Stipendiary Magistrate Gordon's letter to Mr. President, concerning the opinion of the Crown officer of the island of Tortola, on the case submitted to him, I think it scarcely necessary for his Excellency to trouble His Majesty's Government on the subject matter contained in those documents.

But as it is possible the question may again arise in some of the apprenticed islands, perhaps it would be as well for his Excellency to remit the case for the Secretary of State's decision.

9 September 1835.

(signed) John Shiell,
Acting Attorney-general.

(No. 6.)

Sir,

Government-house, Antigua, 10 September 1835.

YOUR Honor's Despatch of the 28th ultimo, and its enclosures, relative to Mr. George Hill's disposition to exact work from his apprentices, in lieu of that which they may be prevented by the inclemency of the weather from dedicating to the service of their employer, will be submitted for my Lord Glenelg's commands, but until these shall be ascertained, I request your Honor will not permit any change to be effected in the present system of apprenticed labour in the Virgin Islands.

His Honor
The President of the Virgin Islands,
&c. &c. &c.

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

— No. 357. —

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

Sir,

Downing-street, 12 November 1835.

No. 357.

I HAVE received your Despatch, Virgin Islands, of the 14th September.

The question which you have referred to me for the decision of His Majesty's Government, appears to me to admit of an easy solution. I entirely concur in the opinion of Mr. Lloyd, that it is only for voluntary and not for involuntary desertion of his duty, that the apprentice is liable to forfeit his own leisure.

The visitations of Providence would be regarded, in any part of the world in which slavery had never been known, as a common calamity, affecting alike the employer and the employed, and not as a burden, from his share of which the more powerful party was to be relieved at the expense of the weaker.

I have no hesitation, therefore, in directing that if the apprentices are prevented by the weather from performing their usual quantity of labour during the hours appointed for that purpose, they shall not be compelled to make up the deficiency arising from this cause, out of the time allowed to themselves.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 358. —

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

My Lord, Government-house, Antigua, 16 October 1835.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the undermentioned Act, passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, agreeably to your Lordship's Despatch of the 28th of July last; viz.

"An Act to repeal the 7th clause, and the proviso contained in the 10th clause of an Act intituled 'An Act for regulating the division of Apprenticed Labourers,' &c. &c. &c.

The above Act repeals the 10th clause of an Act, intituled "An Act for regulating the division of Apprenticed Labourers," &c. &c. &c. and further repeals the 12th, 13th, 15th, 19th, 39th and 51st clauses of an Act, intituled "An Act prescribing the duties of Apprenticed Labourers and Employers respectively," &c. &c. &c. as also the 22d clause of an Act, intituled "An Act for prescribing the powers and duties of Special Justices," &c. and the 1st, 2d and 4th clauses of an Act, intituled "An Act to regulate the removal of Prædial Apprenticed Labourers," &c. &c. It enjoins that all places for confinement on estates be subject to the approval of the special magistrates. The Act limits the time of labour of apprenticed labourers to 45 hours, and allows them to walk at the rate of two miles an hour, to and from their work, included in such time. But this provision does not extend to stock-minders, watchmen and persons under sentence of special justice. It enacts that no prædial apprentice shall be subject to work off the plantation to which he or she is attached, without the consent in writing of two special justices, and not to separate husband, wife, child, &c. &c.

The above-mentioned Act has been passed to modify four Acts passed in the Virgin Islands in the month of April 1834, agreeably to the Secretary of State's instructions, and is not repugnant to the Imperial Abolition Bill.

I have, &c.

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

No. 358.

Act printed in the
Appendix, No. 140.
For Despatch,
28 July, vide
Papers printed by
order of the House of
Commons, 10 June
1835, No. 278-2,
p. 133.

— No. 359. —

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

Sir,

Downing-street, 1 January 1836.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 16th October last, transmitting an Act passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, repealing and amending several clauses of certain Acts which had been previously passed for the purpose of carrying into effect the Act for the Abolition of Slavery. In reply to which I have much pleasure in acquainting you, that the Assembly having sufficiently accomplished those objects which I felt it my duty to press upon their attention in my Despatch to you of the 28th July last, I have advised His Majesty to allow the Act in question, and so soon as the Legislature shall have placed the prison regulations on a satisfactory footing, as required by my Despatch of the 1st September last, I shall be enabled to advise His Majesty that the necessary Order in Council may pass which will entitle the colonists to their share of the compensation.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

No. 359.

No. 352.

— No. 360. —

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

Sir,

Downing-street, 1 February 1836.

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 1st ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to you an Order passed by His Majesty in Council, allowing an Act passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, No. 92, for giving effect to the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

No. 360.

Act printed in the
Appendix, No. 140.

TABLE (B.)

RETURN of the NUMBER and EFFECT of the RETURNS of PUNISHMENTS received by the Governor of the *Virgin Islands*, from the Special Magistrates, from the 1st August 1835 to 31 March 1836.

Colony.	Date.	Total Number of Apprentices throughout the Island, Province or Government	Total Number of Punishments inflicted under the Authority of Special Magistrates throughout the same.	Proportion per Cent. of Punishments to Apprentices.	Total Number of Males Punished.		Total Number of Females punished.	The Average Number of Stripes inflicted in Cases of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum Number of Stripes inflicted in any one Case of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum of Severity in any one Case of Punishment by Confinement.	The Maximum of Severity in any other Mode of Punishment.
					By Whipping.	Otherwise than by Whipping.					
VIRGIN ISLANDS :	1835 : August -	4,318	37	$\frac{1}{2}$	12	7	18	14	30	2 months	-- extra labour seven hours.
	September	4,318	25	$\frac{1}{2}$	13	8	4	12	18	3 —	18 hours.
	October -	4,318	30	$\frac{1}{2}$	8	14	8	13	18	6 weeks -	four hours stocks, 30 hours' extra labour.
	November	4,318	22	$\frac{1}{2}$	3	6	13	12	12	2 months	-- public stocks eight hours.
	December	4,151	14	$\frac{1}{2}$	8	3	3	12	18	2 —	-- extra labour 18 hours.
	1836 : January -	4,151	36	$\frac{1}{2}$	10	8	18	11	18	6 weeks	-- 18 hours' extra labour.
	February	4,151	28	$\frac{1}{2}$	5	4	19	12	18	3 months	-- 18 hours' extra labour.
	March -	4,000	20	$\frac{1}{2}$	11	5	13	11	18	6 weeks	14 ditto.

DOMINICA.

— No. 361. —

DOMINICA. EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart., to the Earl of *Aberdeen*, dated Government-house, *Antigua*, 13 May 1835.

No. 361. THE Enclosures contain a correspondence relative to the whipping of females and punishment of the chain-gang in *Dominica*, brought to my notice through the medium of the President, by Mr. *Fadelle*, a gentleman of colour, and member of Assembly in that island.

The Attorney-general of *Dominica* and the Acting Attorney-general of *Antigua* agreeing in the opinion that females may legally be punished with stripes in the former island, no alternative remained open to me but that of advising the President to check this practice by the intervention of his privilege of pardon. On the question of the chain-gang, the absence of information rendered me incapable of forming a decision.

Enclosures in No. 361.

(No. 1.)

Enclosures in No. 361. EXTRACT of a LETTER from his Honor the President of *Dominica*, dated Government-house, *Roseau*, 18th February 1835, addressed to his Excellency Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency a letter from Mr. *Joseph Fadelle*, dated 9th instant, addressed to your Excellency.

(No. 2.)

Sir,

Roseau, 6 February 1835.

HEREWITH I have the honour of transmitting a letter I received this morning from Mr. *Fadelle*, and as the sentence alluded to is to be carried into effect to-morrow, I have despatched a ranger with this, in order that no time might be lost, in the event of your wishing to suspend proceedings. I have submitted the letter in question to the consideration of the Attorney-general.

I have, &c.

His Honor the Commander-in-chief.

(signed) *Weston Hames*, S. M.

(No. 3.)

Gentlemen,

Roseau, 6 February 1835.

I HAVE the honour of again addressing you in the character of a friend of justice, to represent to you, as the commissioned protectors of the apprenticed labourers, the case of two female apprentices, who were sentenced yesterday by the court of grand sessions to be whipped. With an impression on my mind that such a sentence is contrary to law, I claim from you, on behalf of those individuals, such protection as you may feel yourselves authorized to afford, under the following considerations :

That under the 17th clause of the Imperial Abolition Act, power is denied any court, judge, or justice of the peace, to punish any female apprentice for any offence by her committed by whipping or beating her person, except there be a law in force in the island authorizing this, and applicable to all other persons of free condition.

That by the 116th clause of our Colonial Act, No. 37, it is declared that the Court of King's Bench and grand sessions of the peace shall try, adjudge and determine all crimes, offences and pleas of the Crown, by and according to the laws and statutes of Great Britain in force in this island, and by and according to the Acts of the Legislature of this island.

That in the absence, then, of any Act of our Legislature, referring to this subject, recourse should be had to the laws and statutes of Great Britain, where, under the Act of 7 & 8 Geo. 4, c. 29, ss. 3 & 4, the whipping of a female is solemnly prohibited.

That the laws and statutes which regulate the judgments and sentences of our court of grand sessions are those which are in force in Great Britain, and which are not contradicted by any colonial enactment.

That there being no colonial enactment contradicting the Act of Geo. 4, which prohibits the corporal punishment of females, it seems clear to me that this statute is in force in this island.

With every confidence that you will do what you conceive to be your duty in the present case,

I have, &c.

(signed) *Jos. Fadelle.*

The Stipendiary Magistrates.

(No. 4.)

Sir,

Government-house, Roseau, 7 February 1835.

I AM directed by his Honor the President and Commander-in-chief to forward you the list of sentences passed at the late grand sessions of the peace, together with a letter from Major Hames, stipendiary magistrate, and its enclosure from Mr. Fadelle, and to request you will be so good as to give your opinion whether the sentences on the two women alluded to by Mr. Fadelle, can be legally carried into effect.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Howard Lloyd, Private Sec.*

The Honourable W. Blanc, Attorney-General.

(No. 5.)

EXTRACT of LIST of SENTENCES passed at the Court of King's Bench and Grand Sessions of the Peace, holden at the Court-house, in the town of Roseau, on the 3d, and by adjournment on the 4th and 5th days of February 1835.

Our Sovereign Lord the King.

Dongouse - - Receiving stolen goods - - Guilty.

To receive 39 stripes in the public market-place on Saturday next, and fees charged to the colony.

Mary Clarke - - Receiving stolen goods - - Guilty.

To receive 30 stripes in the public market-place on Saturday next, and fees charged to the colony.

(No. 6.)

Sir,

Roseau, 7 February 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this morning, enclosing me, by direction of his Honor the President and Commander-in-chief, the list of sentences passed at the late grand sessions of the peace; also a letter from Major Hames, and its enclosure from Mr. Fadelle, requesting my opinion whether the sentences on the two women alluded to by Mr. Fadelle, can be legally carried into effect.

I have the honour to report, for the information of his Honor the President, that it is my opinion the sentences alluded to may legally be carried into effect.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Wm. Blanc.*

To H. Lloyd, Esq., Private Secretary.

DOMINICA.

(No. 7.)

Sir,

Roseau, Dominica, 10 February 1835.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, unsealed, a communication addressed to his Excellency the Governor-in-chief, which I have to request your Honor will be pleased to transmit at your earliest convenience.

I think it is in conformity with the arrangements of your Honor's department that my letter to his Excellency the Governor-in-chief should be sent to you open, for the purpose of enabling your Honor to offer whatever comments and information you may consider necessary.

I have, &c.

To His Honor James Potter Lockhart, Esq.
President and Commander-in-Chief.

(signed) *Joseph Fadelle.*

(No. 8.)

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Mr. *Fadelle*, dated Roseau, 9 February 1835, addressed to His Excellency Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart., Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

I MUST, however, no longer prolong these general animadversions, but proceed to the cases to which it is the purport of this communication to draw your Excellency's attention.

The first case is that of two female apprentices, Dongouse and Mary Clarke, who were sentenced, on the 5th instant, by the court of grand sessions to be publicly whipped, the former to receive 39, the latter 30 stripes.

On this occasion I addressed to the stipendiary magistrate a letter, under date the 6th instant, of which the following is a copy.—(*Vide* Enclosure No. 3.)

To this letter I received a reply referring me to his Honor the President, and stating that my letter would be submitted to his Honor's consideration.

* * * * *
Sir, this is not the first instance of corporal punishment having been inflicted upon females. At the court of grand sessions, held in February 1834, one Angélique Botro, a free-born female, was condemned to be and was flogged, under the ameliorating circumstance, however, of being adjudged to be whipped privately in the gaol yard.

The practice of flogging free-born females is a complete innovation in the proceedings of our criminal court, the records of which can produce Angélique Botro as the *second* instance only, at least for a long period of years, so that custom immemorial cannot be alleged as the groundwork of the Attorney-general's opinion.

The second case to which I beg leave to request your Excellency's notice is that of a free man, Xiste, who, on being found guilty of an assault, was condemned by the same court, held on the 5th instant, to the chain-gang. Nor is this the first instance, your Excellency, of a free man found guilty of an ordinary assault, having been doomed to expiate, with a chain round his neck, a whip at his back, and compelled to clean the public streets in company with the worst of malefactors, that which the English law is satisfied with punishing by fine and imprisonment. At the court of sessions, held in August 1834, one M'Cacklin, a free man, and one Franciette Jacques, a free female, were severally indicted for common assault, and, being found guilty, were sentenced to one month in the chain-gang.

On this case I cannot refrain from remarking, that I always understood it to be an axiom of the English law, that no ignominious punishment should be appended to a crime which is not in itself ignominious. The allowances made by the lenity of our law for the sudden impulses of passion, common to the frailties of human nature, are constantly overlooked in this island, and the free inhabitants, chiefly the free coloured and blacks, look with the most fearful apprehension to the jurisdiction of a criminal court, in the penal department of which they, as yet, have no part, which arrogates and exercises the unlimited power of visiting upon the most respectable families the punishment of legal degradation for common misdemeanors * * * * *

I therefore beseech your Excellency to interpose your authority towards ascertaining whether in Dominica there exists any law sanctioning the public or private flogging of females, and justifying the disgraceful sentence on a free person of being sent to the chain-gang for a common assault.

I have, &c.,
(signed) *Joseph Fadelle.*

(No. 9.)

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, dated 27th February 1835, addressed to His Honor the President of Dominica.

YOUR Honor's Despatch of the 18th instant, and its several enclosures, have been submitted to Mr. Shiell, who acts at present for His Majesty's Attorney-general here.

Mr. Fadelle treats as illegal the punishment of females by whipping, and the condemnation of free persons to the chain-gang.

It

It is on the former of these points only that Mr. Attorney-General Blanc has been consulted by your Honor, and in his letter of the 7th instant, strictly confining himself to the question of law, he affirms that the sentences of flogging, passed on the two women alluded to by Mr. Fadelle, "may legally be carried into effect;" and in this opinion, on turning to the enclosure, it will be perceived that Mr. Shiell concurs.

This learned gentleman, however, considers that unless some recent Act authorizes the punishment of the chain-gang in the instance of free persons, the 22d clause of Act No. 41, instituting it, is applicable to slaves only.

Although the whipping of women would thus appear to be legalized in Dominica, I earnestly recommend to your Honor to prevent its exercise by the intervention of the prerogative of pardon, in all future cases, when females may be sentenced to be so punished.

(No. 10.)

OPINION of Mr. Acting Attorney-General *Shiell*.

I AM not aware of any Act of the Imperial Parliament which has "solemnly prohibited" the flogging of women.

By implication, however, and upon the principle of *expressio unius est exclusio alterius*, it is prohibited by 7 & 8 Geo. 4, c. 29, and the other Acts passed about the same time, commonly called Mr. Peel's Acts.

Antecedent, however, to 7 & 8 Geo. 4, c. 29, the whipping of women in England was not illegal. By the 116th clause of the Dominica Act, No. 37, the Court of King's Bench in that island is invested with the same power in all respects as the Court of King's Bench in England. I am of opinion that the 7 & 8 Geo. 4, c. 29, does not extend to Dominica, and that the whipping of women there is not rendered illegal by that Act. It is said that the 17th clause of 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 73, has abolished this mode of punishing women in Dominica.

But I am of opinion that the proviso in that clause authorizes the whipping of female apprentices, the law being applicable to all persons of free condition.

It would be highly desirable that the whipping of females, the punishment of a barbarous age, should be abolished in every part of His Majesty's dominions.

With reference to the subject of the chain-gang. I am of opinion, that unless some Act has recently passed authorizing that mode of punishment for free persons, the 22d clause of Act No. 41, by which a chain-gang is instituted, applied only to slaves.

(signed) *John Shiell*,
Acting Attorney-General.

26 February 1835.

(No. 11.)

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Governor and Commander-in-Chief, dated 14th March 1835, addressed to his Honor the President of Dominica.

MR. FADELLE's application to me concluded with the expression of a desire to ascertain, "whether in Dominica there exists any law sanctioning the public or private flogging of females, and justifying the disgraceful sentence on a free person of being sent to the chain-gang for a common assault."

In my communication of the 27th ult. it was stated that the Acting Attorney-general of Antigua concurred with Mr. Blanc in the opinion that the sentences of flogging may legally be carried into effect on women in Dominica, but was disposed to consider the punishment of the chain-gang there applicable to slaves only.

Upon the latter point Mr. Blanc's sentiments had not then been intimated * * * It must, therefore, rest with your Honor to cause any doubts affecting the law under this head to be cleared up.

(No. 12.)

EXTRACT of a LETTER from His Honor the President of Dominica, dated 7 April 1835, addressed to His Excellency Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*.

I HAVE now the honour to send a copy of the opinion of His Majesty's Attorney-general on the legality of sentencing free persons to be worked in the chain-gang.

(No. 13.)

Sir,

Roseau, 6 April 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th March last, stating that you were directed by his Honor the President and Commander-in-chief to request I would furnish him with my opinion as to the legality of sentencing free persons to be worked in the chain-gang.

I have already had the honour of personally explaining to the President the reason why I had not earlier attended to his requisition; and assuming that his Honor in desiring my opinion has reference to the recent statements of Mr. Fadelle to his Excellency the Governor-in-chief, I have to report my humble opinion as follows:

DOMINICA.

The punishment of working in the chain-gang, as it is termed, I consider to mean nothing else but the sentencing criminals to hard labour. The statute punishment of working slaves in chains by the order of a justice of the peace, as mentioned in the Town Warden Act passed in 1806, is virtually repealed by the provisions of the Abolition Law.

There is no other means of carrying into effect the sentences of the supreme courts of this colony, awarding the punishment of hard labour, than by employing the criminals in the public lanes and streets, there being no houses of correction, nor rules or regulations of any kind for otherwise employing them; and the chain used, which has merely the name, becomes necessary for their safe custody, as they could not otherwise be kept together. I therefore conceive, that by the general law in force in this island, unconnected with any colonial Act, that the sentencing of criminals to hard labour to be worked in chains is legal, because, excepting by this mode of punishment, or by whipping, there is no other means of restraining incorrigible rogues and vagabonds, irreclaimable thieves, and daring offenders, having neither homes nor characters, nor apparent means of subsistence; and it is a subject of regret that any member of the Legislature should, instead of directing his efforts to the amendment of the law, and the improvement of what he conceives to be faulty, exclusively devote his time in raising the hopes of the depraved and the guilty, that such may with impunity persevere in their evil course.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Wm. Blanc.*

(No. 14.)

Sir,

Government-house, Antigua, 13 May 1835.

YOUR Honor's Despatch of the 7th ultimo, and Mr. Attorney-general Blanc's observations on the chain-gang, were referred to the Acting Attorney-general here as soon as received, and from the annexed document it will be perceived that the latter recommends a reference to His Majesty's Government upon this subject.

But such a reference requires the fullest previous information, and the gaol-yard in Roseau being of considerable extent, I request to be informed, whether it is not in your Honor's power to effect a preferable arrangement by causing a portion of that enclosure to be set apart for the employment of prisoners in breaking stones, or in some other useful occupation, so as to supersede the necessity of causing them to clean the streets and lanes in chains, and, at the same time, equally to accomplish the sentences of the supreme courts condemning them to hard labour.

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

(No. 15.)

OPINION of Mr. Acting Attorney-General *Shiell.*

I HAVE taken into consideration Mr. Attorney-general Blanc's opinion relative to the working criminals in chains in the island of Dominica.

That gentleman justifies the use of chains on the plea of necessity. It is not for me to decide upon the merit of such a justification.

The Act No. 41, which authorized the use of chains, applied only to slaves. That Act has been virtually repealed by the provisions of the Abolition Law, and I am not aware that any general law in force in the island of Dominica, unconnected with any local Act, legally sanctions such a practice. But as Mr. Blanc points out that there are no means of carrying into effect the sentences of the supreme courts of the colony, awarding the punishment of hard labour, than by employing criminals in the public lanes and streets, and some precautions are obviously necessary to prevent their escape, I think his Excellency had better refer the subject to the consideration and determination of His Majesty's Government.

12 May 1835. (signed) *John Shiell,*
Acting Attorney-general.

— No. 362. —

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

Sir,

Downing-street, 30 June 1835.

No. 362.

I HAVE received your Despatch, dated the 13th of May, marked "Dominica." The voluminous documents which it encloses are chiefly devoted to personal altercations, which I pass over in silence; I find in them only two questions to which it appears to me necessary to advert.

First. It is debated whether women who, under the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, have become apprenticed labourers, can be lawfully punished by whipping for offences committed, not against that or the subsidiary enactments, but against the

the general laws of the colony. The Attorney-general of Dominica, Mr. Blanc, and the Acting Attorney-general of Antigua, Mr. Shiell, concur in affirming the lawfulness of such punishments. They observe, in effect, that the 17th section of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery exempts female apprentices from liability to whipping only in respect of offences committed by them in that character; that the proviso at the close of that section leaves them to the operation of the general law, whatever it may be, respecting all other offences; that by the law of Dominica, a woman free from her birth might, for certain crimes, be adjudged to be whipped, and that consequently a woman manumitted under the Slavery Abolition Act may, for the same crimes, be subject to the same punishment. I perceive no reason to doubt the accuracy of this opinion.

I entirely approve, however, the interposition of your authority to prevent the actual infliction of a punishment so repulsive to those feelings which, for the common good of society, it is so important to cherish. You will further omit no means which can be adopted with any prospect of success, for inducing the Legislature of Dominica to prohibit entirely the use of the whip in the punishment of women, whatever may be their condition of life, or whatever the offences of which they are convicted.

Secondly. The second question debated in these papers is, whether convicts under sentence of hard labour can lawfully be worked in chains in the town of Roseau. It appears to me that Mr. Shiell places this question upon the true ground. If a person adjudged to hard labour is, from the nature of the case, required to perform that labour in a place affording a constant facility and temptation to escape, then all necessary means for the restraint and safe custody of the prisoner may be justified; and, on that principle, it is lawful to use irons, provided that neither their weight nor form be such as to inflict any unnecessary pain, and that the employment of them be not continued beyond the duration of that necessity, in which alone the defence even of the temporary use of them is to be found.

How far these considerations justify the practice observed in Dominica, is a question to the right solution of which such a report as is mentioned in your letter of the 13th May to the President of that island, is indispensable. That report, however, of course could not accompany your despatch of the same date.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 363. —

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

My Lord,
REFERRING to Enclosure No. 14, in my Despatch of the 13th May last, Dominica, I beg leave to submit to your Lordship further documents in relation to the chain-gang, of which, at my suggestion, the President of Dominica has recommended the abolition in that island.

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

No. 363.

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4,
17, 6, 10, 31 July
1835.

Enclosures in No. 363.

(No. 1.)

Sir,
REFERRING to the letter of the 13th May last, which I had the honour to receive from your Excellency on the 4th of June, I beg leave to send herewith a copy of a message sent by me on the 6th instant to the honourable House of Assembly, together with a copy of the reply received by me on the 10th instant, promising to give the subject early consideration, and as the House meet on Tuesday next I trust the suggestions on the subject will be complied with; namely, to prevent criminals being worked in chains in the public streets, and that employment of some kind may be found for them in the gaol-yard.

Enclosures in
No. 363.

To His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

I have &c.
(signed) *J. P. Lockhart*,
President and Commander-in-Chief.

DOMINICA.

(No. 2.)

His Honor the President and Commander-in-Chief to His Honor the Speaker and House of Assembly.

THE President and Commander-in-Chief takes leave to call the attention of your honourable House to the law respecting the working of criminals in chains to clean the streets and lanes of Roseau, under sentences of the courts and of magistrates, and which, from some cause, most evidently, has neither the effect of cleaning the town nor punishing the criminals; and as the subject is highly deserving of the consideration of your honourable House, the President begs leave to suggest that the punishment by close confinement in the gaol and gaol-yard would be more effectual than the present mode of allowing the prisoners to wander about the town idle, from the inattention of the overseers, and the unseemly sight of persons working in chains would be avoided.

Government-house, Roseau, 6 July 1835.

(signed) *J. P. Lockhart,*
President and Commander-in-Chief.

(No. 3.)

His Honor the Speaker and House of Assembly to His Honor the President and Commander-in-Chief.

THE House acknowledge the receipt of your Honor's message of the 6th instant, in regard to the working of criminals in chains, and will give the subject their earliest consideration.

House of Assembly, 10 July 1835.

(signed) *James Corlet,* Speaker.

(No. 4.)

Sir,

Government-house, Roseau, 31 July 1835.

IN reference to my despatch of 17th instant, respecting the criminals being worked in chains, I have now the honour to acquaint your Excellency that the persons hitherto employed working in chains, in cleaning the streets of Roseau, have been withdrawn from such occupation, and are confined in the gaol and gaol-yard at my desire; and the stipendiary magistrates have been requested, in future, not to sentence any offenders to be worked in chains, and I trust the honourable House of Assembly will shortly bring in a bill to do away with the public employment of any criminals in chains.

To His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. P. Lockhart,*
President and Commander-in-Chief.

— No. 364. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart., to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government-house, Antigua, 15 September 1835.

No. 364.

9th Sept. 1835.

No. 404.

Printed in the
Appendix, No. 141.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship's consideration the undermentioned Acts passed by the Legislature of Dominica, and, as appears from Mr. President Lockhart's Despatch, only recently discovered among the papers of the late Lieutenant-governor, Sir Charles Schomberg; viz. No. 1. "An Act to give effect to the 59th clause of an Act passed the 19th day of May last, intituled 'An Act for the Abolition of Slavery in this Island, in consideration of compensation, and for promoting the industry of the Manumitted Slaves,' and to form efficient Police Establishments in the Judicial Districts of the Justices holding Special Commissions, in aid of the power and authority in them vested, under and by virtue of the said Act."

This Act prescribes that the island should be divided into three judicial districts; the justice appointed for the Leeward district shall reside or keep an office in Roseau, a guard shall be in daily attendance at his office, and be under his orders; that all offenders adjudged to confinement, otherwise than on the estates to which they are attached, shall be committed to the gaol of Roseau, and all offenders adjudged to hard labour shall be employed in cleaning the streets, or in any other public work; the magistrates to be appointed to the North and South Windward districts shall reside at the most eligible places within their respective limits, and the officer commanding the Colonial Rangers shall furnish to each such guard as he may require. All offenders adjudged to hard labour by the magistrates of such last-mentioned districts, shall be employed in repairing the public roads of the district,

district, or in any other public work, or shall be sent to Roseau, to gaol, to be punished by solitary confinement or hard labour; the offender so committed to prison shall be allowed 3 s., and those adjudged to hard labour, 4 s. 6 d., a week, provided magistrate or marshal may order food instead of money, not exceeding 6 d. a day in the one case, or 9 d. a day in the other; the non-commissioned officers and privates of the Ranger corps, composing the guard attending the magistrates, vested with power to act as constables. Any of the guard misconducting himself while under the orders of a magistrate, if found guilty, to be punished according to the 8th clause of the Ranger Act. On the written requisition of the special magistrate, the commanding officer of the Colonial Rangers to furnish an additional number of men. In the event of sudden riot, the urgency whereof not admitting communication with Governor, magistrate may call out the militia of his district, and for such purpose is entrusted with the power given by the 28th clause of Militia Act to the Governor, to whom he is immediately to report his proceedings. The Act to be in force 12 months.

This Act originated in the Abolition Bill; it expired on the 1st August 1835; but it is in the contemplation of the Legislature to renew it with some alterations.

The repairing of the public roads has not as yet been attempted under the 4th clause, nor are there places for solitary confinement properly established. It does not appear that this Act militates against the Royal instructions, or with any British law in force in this colony.

2d. "An Act for the immediate Repair of the Public High and Bye-roads, throughout the Island."

The late dreadful hurricane had totally destroyed the public roads of the colony, and the expediency of immediately repairing the same*; the waywardens on the 31st July 1834, and, where there are no waywardens, the magistrates of the respective parishes, are empowered to carry the Act into effect; within seven days to issue warrant for the turning out on the third day after the date, one third part of all prædial labourers, to keep out and work the said labourers until the said roads are put in a proper state of repair. That each party of labourers, not less than 20, be accompanied by one or more of the constables appointed by the special magistrates; the said constables to work their respective parties under the direction and according to the orders of the waywardens or magistrates. Any waywarden, magistrate or other person in charge of labourers, neglecting duty imposed by the Act, on conviction, to forfeit 50 l. at the discretion of the court.

This Act was considered temporary, and was passed for the immediate repair of the roads, which were rendered impassable from the hurricane of the 21st September 1834. Its provisions are not contrary to the Royal instructions, or to the laws of England in force in this colony.

Enclosure in No. 364.

Sir,

Government-house, Roseau, 9 September 1835.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the transcripts in duplicate of the Acts mentioned in the margin, which were found about six weeks ago amongst some papers of the late Sir Charles Schomberg. On their being discovered, I requested Mr. Attorney-general Blanc to prepare the necessary summaries to accompany them, which I have received this morning, and send herewith.

1. An Act to give effect to 59th clause of an Act passed 19 May last, intitled "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery," &c. &c.
2. An Act for the immediate repair of the High and Bye-roads throughout the island.

I have, &c.

(signed) J. P. Lockhart,
President and Commander-in-Chief.

To His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

— No. 365. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord Glenelg, to Governor
Sir E. J. M. MacGregor, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 30 November 1835.

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 15th September, in which you have transmitted three Acts passed by the Lieut.-Governor, Council and Assembly of Dominica, in the months of September and October 1834, and which appear to have been only recently discovered among the papers of the late Lieut.-Governor Sir Charles Schomberg.

It is obvious that the most serious inconvenience cannot fail to result from the detention of Acts of the Legislature for so long a period, without their being transmitted

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No. 406.

Printed in the
Appendix, No. 142.

* Sic orig.

No. 365.

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mitted to the Secretary of State. One of these Acts, No. 404, related to the government of apprenticed labourers, and materially altered the law upon this subject, but having been passed only for a year, it had expired before its arrival in this country, and in fact was never subjected to the revision of His Majesty's Government. As it is essential, with a view to the superintendence exercised by the King in Council over Acts of Colonial Legislatures, that they should be transmitted to the Secretary of State with as little delay as possible after they have been passed, I trust some security may be adopted against the recurrence of an oversight such as that which unhappily occurred in the present instance.

The Act No. 406, intituled "An Act for the immediate Repair of the Public High and Bye-roads throughout the Island," appears to me open to serious objection.

It authorises the waywardens to call out the prædial apprenticed labourers to work on the public roads until they should be put into a proper state of repair.

There is no restriction as to the amount of labour to be done daily or weekly; nor is it declared that such labour shall be deducted from the demand of the employer on the apprentices. Such provisions ought I think to have formed part of the law; since otherwise the burthen of maintaining the roads may be thrown entirely or chiefly from the rich upon the poor, from that class of society for whose emolument or convenience they are chiefly made, to that class which has no direct and scarcely any indirect benefit from them. The Act appears to have been passed for a temporary purpose; viz. to effect repairs after a very general destruction of the highways by a hurricane; and as that occasion has long since passed by, it may now be considered obsolete; but as it was not expressly passed for a limited period, and its provisions may possibly be again called into exercise, I think it essential, unless it should be repealed, that you should suggest to the Legislature the propriety of amending it in the particular which I have noticed, as otherwise I should feel myself bound to disallow it.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 366. —

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

No. 366.

My Lord,

Roseau, Dominica, 13 January 1836.

Printed in the
Appendix, No. 143.

HEREWITH I have the honour of forwarding the following Act, passed by the Legislature of Dominica; viz. "An Act to abolish the Punishment of Females by Whipping."

There being no law in force in this island to prevent the flogging of female offenders, and it having become expedient to abolish such punishment, this Act declares it unlawful for any court, or other tribunal in this island, to sentence any female offender to the punishment of whipping her person.

The provisions of the present Act, which are embraced in a single clause, are in express accordance with the instructions of His Majesty's Government, and in conformity to recent Acts of the Imperial Parliament.

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

— No. 367. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., dated Downing-street, 14 April 1836.

No. 367.

Act printed in the
Appendix, No. 143.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you an Order passed by His Majesty in Council on the 23rd ultimo, leaving to its operation an Act passed by the Legislature of Dominica, in November last, No. 409, for abolishing the punishment of females by whipping.

— No. 368. —

DOMINICA.

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

My Lord,

Government-house, Dominica, 4 March 1836.

THE Addresses exchanged between the Council and Assembly and myself, on the occasion of my resuming the immediate administration of the government of Dominica, are herewith transmitted for your Lordship's information.

I have, &c.

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

No. 368.

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
3d & 4th March
1836.

Enclosures in No. 368.

(No. 1.)

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

IN presenting myself to the legislature for the purpose of exonerating my honourable friend, Mr. President Lockhart, from further charge of the government, his Honor has so ably administered, I have to inform your honourable Board and House, that this colony, in future, is to be my chief place of residence.

Enclosures in
No. 368.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

Notwithstanding the liberality of Parliament, the effects of the tempest still severely affect the poorer planters and other inhabitants, aggravated in many instances by the ravages of the white fly, and it is anxiously to be hoped, that some plan for the adoption of the legislature may be devised with the view of assisting the sufferers, and accomplishing the destruction of the insect that so mischievously infests the coffee plant. The medical gentlemen of the island are about to investigate this subject, and it is impossible to doubt the disposition of your honourable House to afford every practicable encouragement to so laudable an undertaking.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Council,

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

The eminent marks of kindness and good will, which your honourable Houses were formerly pleased to manifest towards me, naturally inspire me with sentiments of high gratification, on being enabled to fix my abode once more in Dominica.

During my absence the relations of colonial society have been entirely changed, and I rejoice to learn, that in this island dissensions between the employers and the employed are rare; and that the peasantry by their becoming deportment generally evince an increasing aptitude for the discreet and industrious use of the privileges eventually to be conferred to them.

Still much remains to be achieved ere the new position of the community can be finally adjusted; and in the mean time, while striving to conduct the executive government with strict impartiality, firmly to repress faction in whatever quarter it may venture to appear, and diligently to promote that spirit of union and concord, on the maintenance of which the prosperity of the colony depends, I rely with confidence on the support of your honourable Board and House, and on the continuance of all classes of His Majesty's subjects, who are loyal to the King, our most gracious Sovereign, and true to the interests of their country.

Government-house, Dominica, (signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Governor.
3 March 1836.

(No. 2.)

To His Excellency Sir *Evan John Murray MacGregor*, Bart., Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

His Majesty's loyal subjects, the Council of Dominica, return their thanks for your Excellency's speech of yesterday to the two branches of the legislature, and while they are happy to notice the favourable testimony your Excellency is pleased to bear of Mr. President Lockhart's administration, the Board receive with the highest gratification the pleasing intelligence, that this colony is in future to be the chief place of your Excellency's residence.

The marks of kindness and good will, to which your Excellency has had the goodness to advert, as having been shown you by both Houses of the Legislature, during your former abode in this island, were none other than the result of the sentiments entertained by every member of the community, of the uprightness and integrity of your government, and of your Excellency's courteous and dignified deportment on all occasions.

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Your Excellency has been correctly informed as to the general good behaviour of the peasantry of this island, and the Board are willing to believe, that by well administered laws and due encouragement, they will eventually qualify themselves for the industrious use of the privileges to be conferred upon them.

In your Excellency's declared resolution to repress faction, and to promote in the colony a spirit of union and concord, the Board readily perceive your Excellency's characteristic decision of purpose; and so satisfied are the Board that no other course can so effectually secure the true prosperity of the colony, that they most cordially pledge themselves, collectively and individually, zealously and cheerfully to support your Excellency.

Council Chamber, 4 March 1836.

(signed) *J. P. Lockhart*,
President of the Council.

(No. 3.)

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Council,

My best acknowledgments are due for the flattering terms towards myself personally, which your Honors are pleased to adopt in replying to my address of yesterday, and I most justly appreciate the important assurance of the intended support of my administration by your honourable Board.

Government-house, Dominica,
4 March 1836.

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

(No. 4.)

To His Excellency Sir *Evan John Murray MacGregor*, Bart., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

In addressing your Excellency in reply to the speech of yesterday, the House beg to offer their most sincere congratulations on the re-assumption of the government of this colony by your Excellency, doubly gratifying as this event becomes by the information that in future this colony will be the chief place of your Excellency's residence.

Aware that the distresses of the planters, particularly those employed in the cultivation of coffee, still continue, alleviated as they have been by the liberality of the British Parliament and by individual benevolence, the House notice with great satisfaction, that such distress has not escaped your Excellency's observation, and are happy to learn that a scientific investigation is in progress, with the view of discovering some means of destroying a scourge that has already effected an immense injury, and which, in its further advance, threatens the total annihilation of one of the chief productions of the colony. The House observe with pleasure that your Excellency entertains no doubt of their zealous encouragement to so laudable an undertaking.

The kind sentiments which your Excellency has been pleased to declare, in relation to those marks of attention which your Excellency's earlier administration of this government so unanimously elicited from both branches of the legislature, are reciprocated by the House with feelings both of pride and satisfaction that your Excellency should have fixed your abode once more in Dominica.

That the recent great change in the relations of colonial society, by the operation of the Abolition Act, did in its commencement occasion considerable misunderstanding and some degree of excitement, could create no surprise in any reasonable mind; the House learn from your Excellency, with the highest gratification, that dissensions are now become rare, and that from the increasing improvement in the disposition of the labouring population, they may venture to indulge a hope, unmixed with any alarming anxiety, that the period of perfect emancipation may be passed over without detriment to the welfare of the colony.

In their experience of your Excellency's past administration, the House possess the firmest assurance that, on the part of the executive, nothing will be wanting to meet the exigencies of this trying crisis; the members of this community yield to none in the British dominions in feelings of loyalty and ardent devotion to our most gracious Sovereign, whose sympathy in our late calamities will ever remain alive in our gratitude; and your Excellency may rely, with the most implicit confidence, that in the furtherance of all measures tending to ensure the continuance of union and concord among all classes of His Majesty's subjects, and to promote the true interests of the country they represent, the warm and zealous co-operation of the House will never be withheld.

House of Assembly, 4 March 1836.

(signed) *James Corlet*, Speaker.

(No. 5.)

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

It is with the most sincere satisfaction that I have received your reply to my address of yesterday. Your favourable sentiments towards myself call for my warmest thanks, and on public grounds the assurance of the co-operation of your honourable House is of the utmost importance, and its value is fully estimated by me accordingly, on resuming the immediate administration of this government.

Government-house, Dominica,
4 March 1836.

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

— No. 369. —

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

Sir,
I HAVE had the honour to receive your Despatch and Enclosures of the 4th March, and I have derived much satisfaction from the perusal of the addresses presented to you by the Council and Assembly of Dominica on your resumption of the immediate government of that island.

Downing-street, 2 May 1836.

No. 369.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 370. —

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

My Lord,
I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a return of the number of punishments received by me from the special magistrates, from 1st August 1834 to the 31st July 1835.

Government-house, Dominica, 19 April 1836.

No. 370.

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

ABSTRACT of the NUMBER and EFFECT of the RETURNS of PUNISHMENTS received by the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor of *Dominica*, from the Special Magistrates, from 1st August 1834 to the 31st July 1835.

DATE.	Total Number of Punishments inflicted.	Total Number of Males Punished.		Total Number of Females punished.	Average Number of Stripes in the Punishments by Whipping.	Maximum Number of Stripes in any one Case of Punishment by Whipping.	Maximum of Severity in any one Case of Punishment by Confinement.	Maximum of Severity in any other Mode of Punishment.
		By Whipping.	Otherwise than by Whipping.					
1834 :								
August -	114	51	24	39	25	39	6 days - -	- - Six days' bilboes; 14 days' hard labour; work two Saturdays.
September -	99	36	29	34	33	40	6 days - -	- - Six days' bilboes; three months' penal gang; work five Saturdays.
October -	70	39	11	20	32	39	6 days - -	- - Work eight Saturdays; three months' penal gang.
*November -	53	30	2	21	32	39	6 days - -	- - Work 31 Saturdays; one month penal gang; six days' bilboes.
*December -	70	30	22	18	35	39	15 days - -	- - Work eight Saturdays; three months' penal gang.
1835 :								
*January -	54	28	8	18	35	39	6 days - -	- - Forfeit three Saturdays; three months' penal gang; removed from situation of constable.
*February -	31	22	1	8	34	39	6 days - -	Three months' penal gang.
*March -	49	19	10	20	34	39	20 days - -	Three months' penal gang.
*April -	59	26	14	19	37	39	- - 6 days' confinement; when not at work 3 days' solitary ditto.	- - Forfeit one dollar and a half; work two Saturdays; 14 days' penal gang.
May - -	67	33	10	23	35	39	20 days - -	- - Three months' penal gang; work 25 Saturdays.
June - -	68	34	8	26	35	39	6 days - -	- - Work three Saturdays; three months' penal gang.
July - -	100	49	14	37	33	39	14 days - -	- - Work four Saturdays; three months' penal gang.
TOTALS -	834	398	153	283				

Note.—The Months marked thus * contain the Returns from two Districts only, the Magistrate of the third District being unable to make the Returns from ill health, &c.

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— No. 371. —

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

No. 371.

21 April 1836.

My Lord, Government-house, Dominica, 28 April 1836.
ADVERTING to my letter of this date, I do myself the honour of transmitting extracts of minutes of the Privy Council here, relative to the holidays, to the enjoyment of which apprenticed labourers are legally entitled.

Although the majority of the Board, myself included, consider the reference in the 18th clause of the law of 1834 to the 2d clause of the Slave Act of 1827, conclusive in favour of the negroes, the Attorney-general entertained, as will be seen, doubts upon the case.

A new bill is proposed, but bills frequently are very tardy in their progress, and uncertain in their result in this climate; and I beg to be forgiven for soliciting your Lordship's commands upon the question, as it stands under the existing law.

In the meantime my assent will not be given to any Act curtailing the number of days given to the apprentices under the Act of 1827.

I have, &c.

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

Enclosures in No. 371.

(No. 1.)

Government-house, 21 April 1836.

Enclosures in
No. 371.

At a Meeting of His Majesty's Privy Council,

Present,

His Excellency Sir Evan MacGregor, Bart., Governor.

The Honourable Symonds Bridgwater.

— William Blanc.
— Dugald S. Laidlaw.
— F. H. Garraway.
— Jas. L. Bremner.
— Thomas Bell.

(Extracts.)

In reference to a report now laid before the board, from Mr. Stipendiary Magistrate Lynch, dated the 16th instant, the Governor consults the board upon the question therein propounded, respecting the right of proprietors of estates to the services of apprenticed labourers upon Good Friday.

Sir,

Layon, St. Joseph, 16 April 1836.

ACTING as I have endeavoured to do whilst administering the Abolition Act of this island, in strict conformity thereto, doubts have arisen in my mind, as well as in the minds of the other stipendiary magistrates, respecting the most advisable course to be pursued in certain cases; in some of which I have been compelled to consult the spirit rather than be guided by the letter, and in other instances I have only considered the claims of humanity, and yielded solely to the force of custom.

Whilst in the performance of my official duty at Hillsborough plantation, in this parish, yesterday, the driver and constable (Anthony) appeared before me, and on the part of the entire gang and himself, inquired "whether they must return to that estate one day in lieu of the last Good Friday which they had to themselves, and on which they did no work;" and at the same time mentioned that the apprentices before the day arrived were asked by the manager, Mr. W. N. Johnstone, whether they would have that day and return him another instead, say one Saturday, "and begged to know from me whether they must return the day to-morrow?" I replied that, as they had promised to return it, I would be glad if they did so; but that I would not at present compel them to repay it, purposing to refer the matter for your Excellency's opinion.

My decision in this case, subject of course to your Excellency's judgment, is that the apprentices are entitled to the day in question, which decision rests, first, on moral expediency; secondly, upon the liberal construction of the Imperial Act, which may not have intended divesting the apprentice of any privilege which he might have enjoyed under the slave system; thirdly, the evident intention of the 18th clause of the local law, passed on the 19th day of May 1834, and the 1st and 2d clauses of the New Slave Act of 22d May 1827, to which the former expressly refers; fourthly, the analogy of the custom founded upon the opinion of His Majesty's Solicitor-general of the island of Nevis, and I believe of St. Kitt's and Montserrat also; fifthly, the fact of this holiday being gratuitously enjoyed by the apprentices upon three-fourths of the plantations comprised in my district, as well as in several estates in other districts, and its being allowed in all public offices, and commemorated as a festival by Christians in almost every portion of the civilised world.

Should

Should your Excellency, however, be pleased to consider the step either mistaken, improper or illegal, I shall of course cordially acquiesce in the expression of your Excellency's better judgment, and anxiously await the honor of some instructions on this interesting point.

I have, &c.

(signed) *William Lynch*,
Stipendiary Magistrate for
parishes of St. Joseph and St. Peter, No. 5.

Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

EXTRACT from the Colonial Abolition Act.

18th. "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, entitled '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."

EXTRACT of the Slave Act.

Clause 2. "And be it, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority aforesaid, that every field slave shall on working days be allowed half an hour for breakfast and two hours for dinner, out of crop: and no slaves, except domestic stock-keepers, watchmen and sick nurses, or others who may be required in attendance on the sick, shall be compelled to do any work whatsoever on any Sunday throughout the year, on Good Friday, nor on Christmas-day, the day following, or New Year's-day; and if either of the said last-mentioned holidays shall fall on a Sunday, the following Wednesday shall be given in lieu thereof; nor shall any slave, except as aforesaid, be compelled to do any work whatsoever before the hour of five in the morning, nor after seven o'clock in the evening, except during crop, when it shall be lawful to keep them at work until nine o'clock at night, and no longer: provided always, that it shall and may be lawful, in case of any accident or damage, at any hour of the day or night, for the proprietor, renter, attorney or manager, or other person in charge of any plantation or estate, to compel the slaves thereto attached to afford any assistance that may be required wheresoever such accidents or danger may arise; and any person offending against the provisions of this clause shall incur the penalty of 50 *l.*, to be recovered as hereinafter is directed."

With the understanding that a bill is about to be brought into the Legislature, the board were of opinion that, in the progress of the said bill, His Majesty's Attorney-general be requested to attend to this subject*, as the other holidays expressed in the 2d clause of the Slave Act, or to introduce a bill himself to that effect if the one alluded to should not pass. * *Sic orig.*

The majority of the board at the same time were of opinion, that the reference in the 18th clause of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, to the 2d clause of the Slave Act, meant to express the whole of the days as well as other allowances stated in the said latter clause.

The Attorney-general expressed his opinion, that there were sufficient doubts on the subject to warrant a reference to the Legislature.

— No. 372. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 20 June 1836.

I HAVE received your despatch dated 28th of April, expressing your desire to be informed of my opinion on the construction of the 18th clause of the Dominica Act of 1834, in reference to the question whether the apprenticed labourers are entitled to the enjoyment of Good Friday as a period of exemption from labour.

No. 372.

The right of the slave to that holiday before the 1st of August 1834, was ascertained by the 2nd clause of the Slave Act of 1827, which declared him not liable to any compulsory labour on any Sunday, on Good Friday, on Christmas-day, on the day following, or on New-year's day. The Act of 1834 secured to the apprentices all such allowances as by the Act of 1827, an owner was required to supply to and for his slave. Thus the question, so far as it depends upon positive statute, really resolves itself into the inquiry, whether the holiday of Good Friday is comprised within the meaning of the word *allowance*.

Even if that question were to be resolved according to the most severe rules of verbal and grammatical criticism, I should be disposed to answer it in favour of the claim made on behalf of the apprentices.

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But I cannot acquiesce in the opinion that this question can properly be referred to the test of mere verbal criticism on the language of the two Acts of Assembly to which I have adverted. It appears to me that the special magistrate has taken a more just as well as a more liberal view of the question, in observing that amongst the great majority of Christian churches, the obligation of devoting Good Friday to religious observances is acknowledged, and that in a Christian community it may be properly placed on the ground of a conscientious and religious duty. If so it will, I think, follow that all legislative enactments must be so interpreted as to reconcile the civil and the religious obligations with each other, unless the opposite intention be most unambiguously expressed. But in the present case not only is there no unequivocal declaration that Good Friday is to be numbered amongst the days devoted to secular labour, but the statutes seem to demand the opposite construction.

For these reasons, I think that the apprentices are entitled to the enjoyment of Good Friday as a day of rest.

Sir E. J. M. MacGregor, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

TABLE (B.)

RETURN of the Number and Effect of the RETURNS OF PUNISHMENTS, received by the Governor of *Dominica* from the Special Magistrates, from 1 August 1835 to 31 March 1836.

Colony.	Date.	Total Number of Apprentices throughout the Island, Province or Government	Total Number of Punishments inflicted under the Authority of Special Magistrates throughout the same.	Proportion per cent. of Punishments to Apprentices.	Total Number of Males Punished.		Total Number of Females punished.	The Average Number of Stripes inflicted in Cases of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum Number of Stripes inflicted in any one Case of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum of Severity in any one Case of Punishment by Confinement.	The Maximum of Severity in any other Mode of Punishment.
					By Whipping.	Otherwise than by Whipping.					
DOMINICA:	1835: *August -	11,995	35	- -	20	7	8	34	39	6 days -	-- 2 months in penal gang, Saturdays excepted.
	*September	11,995	38	- -	21	7	10	29	39	20 days -	1 month.
	*October -	11,995	78	- -	37	17	24	31	39	3 months -	14 days.
	*November	11,995	44	- -	21	8	15	32	39	20 days -	-- 18 Saturdays.
	†December	11,995	148	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	59	35	54	24	39	20 days -	-- 1 month hard labour.
	1836: †January -	12,082	494	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	65	166	263	26	39	14 days -	-- 6 months work for estate in his own time.
	†February -	12,082	270	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	46	91	133	26	39	15 days -	-- to return 1 year's labour, lost by being absent from the estate for that period.
	†March -	12,082	224	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	49	71	104	26	39	20 days -	-- 2 months hard labour; work nine Saturdays.

The Months marked thus * contain the returns of two magistrates only. The Months marked thus † contain the returns of six magistrates.

ST. VINCENT.

ST. VINCENT.

— No. 373. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 373.

My Lord, Government House, Barbadoes, 4 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter from Lieutenant-governor Tyler, reporting that, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's circular despatch of the 15th June last, he has dispensed with the services of the local special magistrates hitherto employed in the island of St. Vincent.

The Lieutenant-governor has, however, expressed his opinion that it will be impossible to carry on the police duties of the colony, for the public benefit, without the assistance of at least two more special magistrates from home; and has so fully detailed the grounds upon which this opinion is founded, that I feel it unnecessary to say more than to corroborate, in every particular, the statement contained in his letter.

The resignation of Lieutenant-colonel St. Clair, which I shall have the honour to transmit by this opportunity, will serve to show your Lordship that, even under the old system (with the advantage of being assisted by a large number of local magistrates) the duties have been found more onerous and extensive than individuals can be induced to undergo; and the Lieutenant-colonel's, as your Lordship is aware, is not the only instance of resignation upon similar grounds.

As connected with the subject of the magistracy, I have the honour to enclose copy of a despatch from Captain Tyler, reporting that he has issued a new general commission of the peace: and I have conveyed my approval of the exceptions from the former commission which he reports to exist in the present.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Enclosures in No. 373.

(No. 1.)

Sir, Government House, St. Vincent, 24 July 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a circular despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 15th June, relative to the appointment of local special magistrates within the colonies, and which contains instructions to revoke within the shortest time the commissions granting such appointments.

In accordance with these directions, I have the honour to inform your Excellency, that on the 21st instant the commissions appointing local special magistrates within this colony were revoked, and notice thereof communicated by letter (a copy of which is inclosed) to each individual who had been acting under those commissions.

The despatch further directs, that if after carrying into effect these instructions of his Lordship, I am of opinion that the present number of paid magistrates is insufficient to duly administer the laws within the colony, I am desired to state the grounds of that opinion, and in doing so to keep in view the proportion of paid magistrates (58) in Jamaica to the population of that island.

I am decidedly of opinion, that the number of paid magistrates (3) now in this colony is insufficient to perform the duties required of them in the absence of the local special magistrates. The amount of the apprenticed population of this colony is 22,250. The nature of the country over which they are scattered is so mountainous, and in some parts so impracticable, that the difficulties attending the special magistrate in the performance of his duties are not to be described. Added to this, between 2,000 and 3,000 of them are subdivided amongst the islands of the Grenadines under this Government, the extreme distance of which by sea from this island is nearly 40 miles, and experience has shown that it is most desirable that one special magistrate should be constantly resident upon them.

These circumstances will, I hope, be considered as a justification for having made in the first instance the appointments of local special magistrates in this colony, and equally support me in recommending His Majesty's Government to send out without delay additional paid magistrates to replace them, it being quite impossible for the number at present here, properly or satisfactorily to fulfil the duties which now devolve upon them. I am, however,

Enclosures in
No. 373.

No. 1.
24 July 1835.
Vide part 2, p. 8.

ST. VINCENT.

of opinion, that two paid magistrates in addition to the number (3) now here would hereafter be sufficient to perform the duties. In forming this opinion, I do so not only from a knowledge of the present tranquil state of the colony, but from the orderly conduct which is generally observed by the apprentices; likewise with a desire of complying as nearly as possible with the directions laid down by his Lordship in making the calculation for additional aid.

I have, &c.
(signed) *George Tyler.*

(No. 2.)

(Circular.)

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 21 July 1835.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that instructions have been received by me in a circular despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the colonies, dated 15th June, to revoke the commissions which I issued on the 1st of August 1834, appointing special magistrates to act in this colony in conformity with the Imperial Act for the Abolition of Slavery.

In carrying into effect this instruction, I am desired to acquaint you that the measure is one of a general character, and taken in accordance with the known views of Parliament, without reference to individuals.

I have much gratification, when making this communication, in being directed to convey to you the thanks of His Majesty's Government for the services which you have rendered in your capacity as special magistrate.

You will from this date be relieved from all further duties connected with the commission, which duties are thenceforth to be conducted solely by the stipendiary magistrates.

I have, &c.
(signed) *George Tyler.*

(No. 3.)

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 24 July 1835.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency, that in consequence of instructions received from His Majesty's Secretary of State to revoke the commissions appointing the local special magistrates within this colony, it has been necessary to issue a new general commission of the peace.

In appointing the individuals to fill the commission, it appeared to me at this particular crisis to be of the utmost importance to confine it to proprietors resident in the colony, and to a few persons whose official situations required that they should be invested with it. The original commission was issued by my predecessor, Sir George Hill, who, in subsequently extending it, added, with others, the names of four individuals, two of whom are managers, and the other two not being proprietors, or holding situations which would justify their appointment under present circumstances, I considered their continuance in the commission objectionable. With this conviction, and in conformity with the 32d and 33d articles of the Royal Instructions, I assembled a privy council, who were unanimous in the propriety of omitting the four names above alluded to in the new commission. I further suggested the great inconvenience which would naturally be experienced by the clergymen now holding benefices within the colony, should their names still be continued in the commission of the peace, the parishes over which they preside being so extensive that their time must be wholly occupied in discharging their professional duties, which, if properly attended to, would prove much more beneficial to the public good than by abstracting any portion of it for secular purposes. I am happy to say this suggestion was equally approved of and adopted in council; and the names of the Rev. T. A. Browne, of Charlotte parish, and the Rev. Charles Layton, of the Grenadines, omitted in the commission. These several alterations which it has been my duty to explain, will, I hope, when communicated by your Excellency to His Majesty's Secretary of State, meet with approbation.

To Sir Lionel Smith.
I have, &c.
(signed) *George Tyler.*

— No. 374. —

No. 374.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 24 September 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch (St. Vincent's) of the 4th August, enclosing copy of a letter from Lieutenant-Governor Tyler, in which that officer reports the revocation of the unpaid special commissions, in obedience to my circular despatch of the 15th June, and expresses an opinion, in which you coincide, that the assistance of at least two more stipendiary magistrates from home will be required in consequence of this measure.

You

You will learn with satisfaction that His Majesty's Government have anticipated even a greater demand than you have now made for an increased number of magistrates, and that I have already appointed three additional gentlemen (whose names you will find in the margin) to act in that capacity in St. Vincent.

These magistrates will probably have arrived in the colony previously to the receipt by you of this despatch, and the total number allotted to St. Vincent will then be augmented to six.

I do not apprehend that six magistrates will be found to be more than are required in St. Vincent for the efficient administration of the apprentice laws. You will, however, report to me your opinion on this point, in order that in the event of a smaller number being sufficient, I may lose no time in transferring superfluous services to other colonies, where they may be usefully employed.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

ST. VINCENT.

Mr. Polson, Mr.
Anderson. Mr. J.
G. Smith.

— No. 375. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg.*

No. 375.

My Lord, Government House, Barbadoes, 18 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a letter from Lieutenant-Governor Tyler, enclosing copies of his address to the Assembly and Council, and of the replies of those bodies.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 375.

EXTRACT from Lieutenant-Governor *Tyler's* Letter to Sir *Lionel Smith*, dated Government House, St. Vincent, 11 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to enclose your Excellency a copy of my address to the Legislature on opening the session on the 29th ultimo, and of the answers thereto from both branches.

The Bill to amend the Abolition Act of this colony, which was under discussion during six weeks previous to the dissolution of the late Assembly, was passed on the first day of the present meeting, nearly in strict accordance with the alterations pointed out as necessary to ensure the Abolition Act of this colony receiving His Majesty's sanction.

Enclosure 1;
in No. 375.

Enclosure 2, in No. 375.

(Extract.)

Mr. President, and Members of His Majesty's Legislative Council;

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Assembly;

THE Bills which were in progress previous to the dissolution will require your earliest attention to renew and complete. To one of those Bills I feel it my duty to point out the necessity of its arresting, before all others, your individual and dispassionate attention; I allude to the Bill containing the amendments proposed to be made in the Act for the Abolition of Slavery within this colony. No time should be lost in perfecting the same, in conformity with the principles laid down by His Majesty's late Secretary of State for the Colonies, who informs us that when it is so completed, His Majesty would be advised to affix to the Act of His subjects in the Island of St. Vincent his final and authoritative sanction.

Enclosure 2,
in No. 375.

Enclosure 3, in No. 375.

(Extract.)

To his Excellency *George Tyler*, Esq., Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief for the time being of the island of St. Vincent, &c. &c. &c.

THE earliest attention of this branch of the Legislature shall be directed to the renewal and completion of the Bills which were in progress previous to the dissolution, and particularly to the Bill containing the amendments proposed to be made in the Act for the Abolition of Slavery within this colony, and the Board will lose no time in contributing to perfect the same, in conformity with the principles laid down by His Majesty's late Secretary of State for the Colonies, anticipating that His Majesty will be advised to affix to such an Act of His faithful subjects in the island of St. Vincent His final and authoritative sanction.

Enclosure 3,
in No. 375.

Council Chamber, St. Vincent, 29 July 1835.

ST. VINCENT.

Enclosure 4, in No. 375.

EXTRACT from an Address from the House of Assembly to Lieutenant-Governor *Tyler*, dated 29 July 1835.

Enclosure 4,
in No. 375.

THE House will proceed without delay to renew and complete the Bills which were in progress previous to the dissolution of the late House, and more particularly will direct its attention to the completion of the Bills containing the amendment proposed to be made in the Act for the Abolition of Slavery within this colony, with the view of rendering it acceptable to His Majesty's Government and beneficial to the colony.

— No. 376. —

No. 376.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, 26 September 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the returns called for by your Lordship's circular despatch of the 18th June last, as furnished by Lieutenant-Governor *Tyler*.

4.
Vide part 3, p. 5.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Enclosures in No. 376.

(No. 1.)

Enclosures in
No. 376.

RETURN of the Names of Special or Stipendiary Magistrates who have Resigned their Office, with the Reasons for the same.

NAME of MAGISTRATE.	Description.	DATE of RESIGNATION.	REASONS.
Charles Gocking, esq.	Special -	12 Jan. 1835	Magisterial duties interfering too much with his private pursuits.
Lieut.-col. St. Clair	- Stipendiary	25 July 1835	Duties having become too arduous for his state of health.

(No. 2.)

ABSTRACT of Returns of all Punishments inflicted in the Colony from the 1st of August 1834 to the 1st of August 1835, distinguishing those inflicted by the Stipendiary Magistrates from those inflicted by the Local Special Magistrates.

	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Stipendiary Magistrate, Windward Division - -	453	433	886
Ditto - - - Southern Division - -	488	371	859
Ditto - - - Leeward Division - -	466	433	899
Local Special Magistrates - - -	70	50	120
Total - - -	1,477	1,287	2,764

(No. 3.)

ABSTRACT of Returns extracted from the Registrar's Office, of Apprenticed Labourers who have been Released, by Purchase or otherwise, from the Remainder of their Servitude, from the 1st of August 1834 to September 1835.

	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
By appraisement - - - - -	8	7	15
By agreement with their owners - - - - -	1	4	5
For a nominal consideration - - - - -	9	13	22
Total - - - - -	18	24	42

RETURN of Apprenticed Labourers, Releases of whose Services by Appraisement under the Provisions of the Abolition Act are entered on Record in the Registrar's Office of this Island.

Date of Release.	Names of Appraisers or Umpire appointed under the Abolition Act by whom Valuation made.	Name of Apprenticed Labourer.		Name of Party or Estate entitled to Services.	Amount of Appraisement.
		Male.	Female.		
1834:					<i>Currency.</i>
October - 21	Lawrence Brady - Umpire - - - - -		Mary Hoskins	Mount Wynne estate	48 - -
December 11	John M'Arthur - } Appraisers James Crosly - }		Patience -	Upper Diamond -	75 - -
- - 15	James J. Choppin - } ditto John Reily - }	Ben - -	- - -	Wallibon - -	50 - -
1835:					
February - 13	Evan Stephens - } ditto John P. Thirlwall - }	Bob Lavicourt	- - -	Rosebank - -	147 7 6
- - -	Evan Stephens - } ditto John P. Thirlwall - }	Job - -	- - -	Richmond - -	177 8 -
- - 18	Laurence Brady - } ditto John Wiseman - }	- - -	Violet - -	Hope - -	120 - -
June - 12	Chas. D. Stewart - Umpire - - - - -	James - -	- - -	Spring - -	95 - -
July - 3	Nathan Newbold - ditto - - - - -	{ John (child) Richard, d°	Present and 3 children. Margaret & d°	} Friendship - -	75 - -
August 4	Thomas Le Gall - } Appraisers Chas. D. Stewart - }	- - -	Nan - -	Union Island -	32 - -
- - 20	Robert D. Dalzell } ditto Thomas Le Gall - }	Morgan - -	- - -	- ditto - -	125 - -
- - -	Richard Robertson } ditto D. F. Sutherland - }	Peter - -	- - -	William La Borde	110 - -
September 17	Wm. Rose Scott - } ditto J. Lawson Morris - }	- - -	Hetty - -	Rosebank estate -	60 - -
Total, 8 Males, 7 Females - - -					£. 1,114 15 6

19 September 1835.

(signed) John Beresford, Registrar.

ST. VINCENT.

RETURN of Apprenticed Labourers, Releases of whose Services by the Party entitled thereto for a valuable Consideration have been entered on Record in the Registrar's Office of this Island.

Date of Release.	Name of Party Releasing.	Name of Apprenticed Labourer.		Consideration for Release.
		Male.	Female.	
1834:				
September 24	Charles Paul - - - -	- - - -	Jane - - - -	40 - -
October 16	Nathan Newbold - - - -	- - - -	Madge - - - -	100 - -
1835:				
March - 18	Charles J. Selby, trustee of Coram and others.	- - - -	Catherine Coram	120 - -
April - 8	Charlotte M. Dasent, executrix of — Dasent.	- - - -	Louisa - - - -	64 - -
July - 28	Eliza Littledale - - - -	Richard - - - -	- - - -	90 - -
Total, 1 Male, 4 Females - - - -				£. 414 - -

19 September 1835.

(signed) John Beresford, Registrar.

RETURN of Apprenticed Labourers, Releases of whose Services by the Party entitled thereto (for a nominal Consideration) have been entered on Record in the Registrar's Office of this Island, from 1st August 1834 to October 1835.

Date of Release.	Name of Party Releasing.	Name of Apprenticed Labourer.		Consideration for Release.
		Male.	Female.	
1834:				
August - 8	Pemberton Hobson and Margaret Jane (his wife).	John George John - - - -	Sophy - - - - Mary - - - - Josephine - - - -	} —
— - 12	Sarah Hobson - - - -	Polydore - - - - Lane - - - -	Polly - - - -	
— - 21	Frances Hobson - - - -	Jacob - - - - James - - - -	- - - -	
October - 28	Jane White, executrix of Kenneth Ross, executor of Robert White.	- - - -	Frances - - - -	Faithful services.
1835:				
January - 21	John Clarke, by direction of N. B. Cropper.	Lawley - - - -	- - - -	—
— - -	Daniel Wall - - - -	- - - -	Jane - - - -	10 s. currency.
March - 23	Henry Charles Warren - - - -	- - - -	Leah - - - -	10 s. ditto.
April - 3	Abraham Baxter - - - -	- - - -	Mary - - - -	10 s. ditto.
— - 7	William Tucker Dickinson - - - -	Samuel Hall - - - -	- - - -	—
— - 11	Mary Frances Questel - - - -	- - - -	Mary Maith - - - - Harriet - - - - Polly - - - -	} Faithful services.
May - 9	Joanna Coombes - - - -	- - - -	Eliza - - - -	
June - 20	James O'Brien, heir of Cornelius O'Brien.	Humphrey - - - -	Polly - - - -	

Total - - - 9 Males, 13 Females.

19 September 1835.

(signed) John Beresford, Registrar.

(No. 4.)

(Circular.)

INSTRUCTIONS to STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES.

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 23 July 1824.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you herewith a commission as stipendiary magistrate in this colony, in accordance with directions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and avail myself of the opportunity of transmitting at the same time the several documents named in the margin, containing the general instructions by which your official conduct is to be chiefly guided.

It would be impossible to arrange any specific rules, independently of these documents, that would comprise all the points necessary for your information; I have therefore only to impress upon you the importance of making yourself thoroughly acquainted with the enclosed Acts, but more particularly I would call your attention to the British Act for the Abolition of Slavery, as embracing the principles upon which alone the Colonial Acts are founded.

The duties you will have to perform might at first appear difficult and arduous, but I am persuaded that by firmness of character and promptitude of decision, every obstacle will be easily surmounted and effectually conquered.

The special magistrates appointed to your division are invested with the same authority as yourself, and are included with you in the commission of the peace for the colony. You will observe that the several Acts come into operation on the 1st of August next, on which day your duties as stipendiary magistrate will also commence.

I have, &c.
(signed) *George Tyler.*

Robert Birks Pitman, Esq. Windward Division.
Lieut.-Colonel St. Clair, Southern Division.
Robert Sutherland, Esq., Leeward Division.

ST. VINCENT.

By his Excellency, *George Tyler*, Esq. Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

(Seal at Arms.) *George Tyler.*

A Proclamation.

WHEREAS it is expedient that the slave population of this island and its dependencies should be made acquainted with the change that is about to take place in their situation on the 1st day of August next, I have thought fit to issue this my proclamation for that purpose.

It will be remembered that a short time ago His Majesty caused the Governors of the different islands to issue His Royal Proclamation to the owners of estates, to be by them read and explained to their slaves, by which they were informed that all slaves were to be made free after the 1st of August 1834.

It is therefore hereby notified and explained that the laws respecting them and the freedom they are to enjoy will be, from the 1st day of August next, as follows:

Slaves who now work upon estates and are employed in the manufacture of sugar, are to be called prædial apprenticed labourers, and are to continue to work for their masters, the same as they now do, for six years, that is, until the 1st of August 1840, after which they will be entirely free to work for themselves.

Those who are not employed on estates, or are employed as domestics, are to be called non-prædials, and are to remain as apprenticed labourers for four years, that is, until the 1st of August 1838.

The reason for this difference of the time for apprenticeship is owing to the non-prædial or domestic labourers being always employed by their masters, and having no time allowed for themselves.

The prædial apprentice is only to work a certain number of hours in the week, and is to be allowed by law one day in each week besides Sunday. The Sabbath-day being set apart for the purposes of Divine worship, no Sunday markets will be allowed by law to be held after the first day of August next. In addition to these days, the masters allow them a portion of the time they are to labour for them to cultivate their provision grounds; and this time will amount, in the whole year, to 11 days, making altogether 115 days in the whole year, which the prædial apprenticed labourer will enjoy as his own. He will also have his house, provision ground, clothing, salt fish and medical attendance as usual, during the period of his apprenticeship.

The children that belong to apprenticed labourers, and are under the age of six years on the first day of August next, will be free, and also all that are born after that time; but all that are above the age of six will be apprenticed labourers under the same laws and regulations as their parents. The children that become free on the 1st day of August next must be entirely supported by their fathers and mothers; if they neglect to do so, being able, they will be punished according to the law made for that purpose, and their children will be apprenticed to their masters until they are 21 years of age.

Imperial Abolition
Act, Colonial Abolition
Act, Police
Act.

ST. VINCENT.

Apprenticed labourers will be allowed by law to purchase their time from their masters, at a fair and just appraisement, which ought to induce them to work their grounds, or follow their trades with industry, so as to earn money for this purpose.

Now for all these indulgences they must do good work for their masters, otherwise they will be punished by the order of a magistrate, who is to be sent out from England for the express purpose of inquiring into all complaints between the masters and apprentices, and punishing them when they deserve it, as no master, manager or driver will be allowed to punish.

The punishments in future will be whipping, hard labour on the tread-mill, confinement in the stocks, working extra hours for their masters, and many others, according to the offence committed.

It is also ordered that no woman shall ever be whipped, but be punished in all other ways as the men, when they deserve it.

The King and the people of England have voted the large sum of 20,000,000 of pounds sterling, to buy the freedom of all the slaves in the West Indies; and I do earnestly require and call upon all slaves within this Government to show their gratitude for this great blessing by good behaviour, and quiet and peaceable conduct, and a cheerful and willing attention to the duties they are bound to perform for their masters. If they do this, they will prosper through life; but if they suppose they are to pass their time in idleness, they will be sadly disappointed, for the law will make them work while they are apprentices; and after that time they must work for themselves, or perish for want, as there will be no one to provide for them.

Given under my hand and seal at arms, at Government-house, in Kingstown, St. Vincent, this 2d day of April 1834.

By his Excellency's command,

(signed) *S. Osborne Gibbes*, Government Secretary.

Duly proclaimed in Kingstown, this 2d of April 1834.

(signed) *Charles J. F. Hobson*, Provost Marshal General.

(Circular.)

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 24 July 1834.

A REQUEST having been made to me by a deputation from a meeting held in Kingstown yesterday, that I would direct the stipendiary magistrates who have been appointed to this island to visit each estate contained within their separate divisions, for the purpose of explaining to the negroes the law as established for their guidance and government after the 1st of August next, I have therefore to request you will proceed without loss of time to your division, and being accompanied by the special magistrates appointed to the several districts within it, you will visit each estate and give the negroes thereon distinctly to understand you have been directed to do so by me, for the express purpose of explaining to them the law which has been established for their benefit as well as government, after the 1st of August next. This you will do in as plain language as possible, in the presence of the proprietor or manager. You will also inform the negroes of the names of the special magistrates whom I have appointed as the individuals to aid and assist you in dispensing justice amongst them.

You will likewise take the opportunity, conjointly with the special magistrates, of requesting the proprietors or managers of estates to point out and name to you such individuals as they may deem fit and proper persons to fill the situation of constable, according to the 31st clause of the Colonial Act for the Abolition of Slavery.

After having executed these duties, you will report to me the spirit and manner evinced by the negroes on receiving your communication, and whatever else may appear to you necessary for my information.

I have enclosed herewith copies of a proclamation issued by me immediately after the passing of the Abolition Act for this colony, which contains a general abstract of the laws that are to come into operation on the 1st of August. This will assist your explanation, and by leaving a copy at each estate it will enable the negro to enjoy the benefit of a reference.

R. B. Pitman, Esq.
Lieut.-colonel St. Clair.
Robert Sutherland, Esq.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Geo. Tyler*.

(Circular.)

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 20 September 1834.

AN opinion has prevailed generally in this colony that a domestic or non-prædial labourer may be liable to be sentenced, either by the proprietor or special magistrate, to work in the field or perform any prædial labour during the term of his apprenticeship.

The Abolition Act being silent upon this subject, it was difficult to form a correct decision upon it. It has, however, now come within my knowledge, from perusing the comments of His

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies upon the Act for the Abolition of Slavery at Barbadoes, that no such authority is vested in either party.

To use Mr. Spring Rice's own words, in adverting to a clause which enacts the principle alluded to, "it is impossible not to perceive that the conversion of a domestic into a field labourer, may, in consequence of the totally different nature of the employment, inflict upon him a most severe and objectionable punishment." Again he observes, "I have only to urge the repeal of the 12th section, which authorises the transfer of the apprentices' in certain cases, from the non-prædial to the prædial class."

I have thus noted these observations of Mr. Rice to establish the fact more satisfactorily to your mind, and afford you the opportunity of referring to it when explaining the different points in question to those interested within your division.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Geo. Tyler.*

R. B. Pitman, Esq., Windward Division.
Lieut.-colonel St. Clair, Southern Division.
R. Sutherland, Esq., Leeward Division.

ST. VINCENT.

Sir,

Sion Lodge, 1 October 1834.

THERE is one point which I will thank your Excellency to decide, which I have been asked, and declined giving my opinion until I know your decision.

A non-prædial apprenticed labourer prefers serving in the field as a prædial labourer, and is therefore willing to lose the benefit of the four years' apprenticeship for the sake of gaining two days in the week, Saturday and Sunday, to himself, and consequently willingly gives up all idea of emancipation until six years from the 1st of August last. Can it be permitted?

I have, &c.
(signed) *Thomas S. St. Clair*, Lieut.-colonel,
Special Magistrate.

To his Excellency the Lieut.-Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 2 October 1834.

IN answer to your letter of yesterday, I am of opinion that an apprenticed labourer, of whatever class, may voluntarily enter into any contract with his master, provided it is done openly, and with the approval of the stipendiary magistrate.

I am, &c.
(signed) *George Tyler.*

Lieut.-col. St. Clair, К. Н.,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

Gentlemen,

Government House, St. Vincent, 14 October 1834.

A NOTICE, dated 12th September, having been issued by you, to the effect that you proposed holding a petty sessions on Saturday in every week, I am commanded by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to call your attention to the circumstance of that day having been selected by Mr. Sutherland, the stipendiary magistrate of the Leeward division, for assisting at the petty sessions at Chateaufclair, and his having fixed on Wednesdays as the days for attending at Barrouallie, and Thursdays for assisting at the petty sessions in your own, the Baccamont district. As his Excellency considers it indispensable that the stipendiary magistrate should be present at the different petty sessions held in his division, I am commanded to request that you will alter the day for holding the petty sessions at the Baccamont district from Saturday to Thursday, and that you will give notice of the change.

I have, &c.
(signed) *S. Osborne Gibbs*,
Private Secretary.

The Special Magistrates,
Baccamont District.

(Circular.)

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 6 January 1835.

WHENEVER you deem it necessary, in your capacity as special magistrate, to inflict corporal punishment upon any apprenticed labourer brought before you, I have to request you will furnish me with a copy of the evidence, and the sentence passed.

I am, &c.
(signed) *George Tyler.*

The Special Magistrates,
St. Vincent.

Lieutenant-Governor's Rule for regulating Spell Work for taking off the Crop on Estates where no Agreement has been entered into for that purpose between the Employers and their Apprentices, 9th January 1835.

THE mill-gang to be divided into three spells. The first spell to commence work at the mill at five o'clock, A. M.; they will take their breakfasts with them, and will remain at their work throughout their nine hours, viz. until two o'clock, P. M. The second spell, who had commenced

ST. VINCENT. commenced their field labour at the usual time of six o'clock, ⁵A. M., will have had their hour for breakfast, their two hours at noon, and will consequently be prepared to go to their work at two o'clock to the mill, and remain until six, P. M., which will amount to 13 hours. The third spell will commence work at five o'clock at the mill the following morning, and will be relieved at two o'clock by the first spell of the preceding day.

— No. 377. —

No. 377. COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord, Government House, Barbadoes, 26 September 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for His Majesty's gracious allowance, transcripts of several Acts of the Legislature of St. Vincent, respectively intitled:—

No. 323.—“ An Act to repeal certain Clauses and to alter and amend an Act entitled, ‘ An Act for the Abolition of Slavery in the Island of St. Vincent.’ ”

No. 324.—“ An Act supplementary to an Act entitled, ‘ An Act to provide for the general Registration of all Slaves,’ ” &c.

No. 325.—“ An Act to legalise the Police Settlement of the Windward Division,” &c.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Printed in the
Appendix, No. 144.
Printed in the
Appendix, No. 145.
Printed in the
Appendix, No. 146.

— No. 378. —

No. 378. COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir, Downing-street, 12 November 1835.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 26th September, enclosing several Acts passed by the Governor, Council and Assembly of the Island of St. Vincent, for the purpose of the amendments in the slavery abolition laws required by my predecessor, Lord Aberdeen, in his despatch of the 30th March last.

On a consideration of these Acts, and a comparison of their enactments with the remarks and suggestions conveyed to you in Lord Aberdeen's despatch, I am happy to observe that the confident expectation which he expressed that the Legislature of St. Vincent would accede to the purposes contemplated in the instructions contained in that despatch has not been disappointed.

The amendments required by Lord Aberdeen appear to me to have been readily and substantially adopted, and it will therefore be my gratifying duty to advise His Majesty in Council to declare that adequate and satisfactory provision has been made by law in St. Vincent for giving effect in that island to the Act or Parliament for the abolition of slavery by the supplementary enactments therein mentioned.

There is, however, one enactment in the Act No. 323 which I cannot allow to pass without observation. The 14th section of that Act prohibits any person, under a penalty, from buying or receiving from an apprenticed labourer certain enumerated articles without the knowledge or consent of his employer, signified by a note in writing, specifying the nature and quality of the goods. As this section appears to me to have been substituted for the 62d section of the former Act, with the *bonâ fide* intention of complying with Lord Aberdeen's suggestion with respect to that section, I entirely absolve the Legislature of St. Vincent from any design of improperly encroaching on the freedom of the apprentices by the prohibition in question. I cannot, however, but think that the extent and nature of Lord Aberdeen's suggestion has been misapprehended, and that he did not intend to sanction an absolute prohibition of this description, affecting many articles of ordinary traffic, where no circumstances of suspicion attached to the transaction. I apprehended his intention to have been to suggest, as a substitute for the 62d section of the former Act, some additional security against the clandestine receipt from apprenticed labourers of goods, which the party receiving them had reason to believe were stolen. I entertain a strong objection to the section as it stands at present, as I cannot but consider it as imposing a needless and therefore unwarrantable restriction on the rights of a large class of the community. For the reason
however,

however, which I have stated, I do not think I should be doing justice to the spirit in which the Legislature of St. Vincent appear to have received and acted on Lord Aberdeen's despatch, if, on the ground of this single enactment, relating to a subject on which the language employed by my predecessor was not altogether free from ambiguity, I had advised His Majesty to withhold the declaration necessary to entitle the colony to a share in the compensation fund.

You will, however, take an early opportunity of recommending to the Legislature the repeal of this enactment; and I entertain the greatest confidence that they will readily admit the justice and the policy of remedying this defect in the Act, founded, as it appears to me, merely on a misconception.

Sir L. Smith,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 379. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

No. 379.

Sir,

Downing-street, 30 November 1835.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th instant, I have the honour to transmit to you two orders passed by His Majesty in Council on the 20th instant, the one leaving to their operation certain Acts passed by the Legislature of St. Vincent in the months of April, May and June 1834, and May and September last, and the other declaring that adequate and satisfactory provision hath been made by law in St. Vincent, by carrying into effect in that island the provisions of the Slavery Abolition Act.

Order in Council,
20 November 1835
printed in the Appendix, No. 147.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 380. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 380.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, 2 November 1835.

I HAVE much pleasure in transmitting for your Lordship's information the accompanying copy of a despatch from Lieutenant-Governor Tyler, enclosing a statement of the quantity of sugar made in St. Vincent during the last crop season, and of the sums paid to the apprenticed labourers for their extra labour.

12 October 1835.
2.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith.*

Enclosure in No. 380.

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 12 October 1835.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to your Excellency a return of the quantity of sugar made within this colony during the last crop, and of the sums paid in each division to the apprentices for their extra labour. These sums, amounting to 3,128 *l.* 5 *s.* sterling, having been paid to the apprentices in this colony during the last crop season for extra labour, will, I hope, prove the fact that the apprenticed labourers will work for hire.

Enclosure in
No. 380.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Geo. Tyler.*

ST. VINCENT.

RETURN of the Quantity of SUGAR made in the Three several Divisions of the Colony in the Crop of 1835, and of the Sums paid to the Apprentices for their Extra Labour in Manufacturing the same; distinguishing the Number of Estates where a Fixed Agreement was entered into between the Masters and Apprentices, and confirmed by the Stipendiary Magistrates, from those where no such Fixed Agreement was made.

DIVISION.	Estates where a Fixed Agreement was made.	Estates where no Fixed Agreement was made.	Total Number of Estates.	Sums Paid by Agreement.	Sums Paid where no Fixed Agreement was made.	Total Paid for Extra Labour.	SUGAR MADE.		
							Hogsheads.	Tierces.	Barrels.
				<i>Currency.</i>	<i>Currency.</i>	<i>Currency.</i>			
				£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.			
Windward - -	19	10	29	1,840 - 11	1,015 10 11	2,856 - 10	5,634	—	—
Southern - -	21	23	44	2,171 - -	260 - -	2,431 - -	4,573	137	—
Leeward - -	22	16	38	1,257 3 10	675 - 10	1,932 4 8	3,260	179	210
TOTAL - -	62	49	111	5,268 4 9	1,950 11 9	7,219 5 6 or 3,128 5 - sterling.	13,467	316	210

— No. 381. —

No. 381. COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 31 December 1835.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 2d November, enclosing copy of a despatch from Lieutenant-Governor Tyler, with a statement annexed of the quantity of sugar made in St. Vincent during the last crop season, and of the sums paid to the apprenticed labourers for extra hire.

This statement is of a very satisfactory nature, and I am much gratified to perceive this extension of a system of free labour, which I feel confident the proprietors and the labourers will find eminently conducive to their mutual interests, and which is calculated most effectually to promote the welfare and prosperity of the colony.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 382. —

No. 382. COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, 25 February 1836.

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit the copy of a letter from the Lieutenant-governor of St. Vincent, transmitting Tables (A.) and (B.) for the month of December last.

Lord *Glenelg*, &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Enclosure 1, in No. 382.

Sir,

Government House, St. Vincent, 13 February 1836.

Enclosure 1,
in No. 382.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Tables containing the punishments inflicted upon the apprenticed labourers within this colony for the month of December, and have caused to be appended to each table a report from the special magistrate of the district to which it refers, of the general conduct of the apprentices, and the reasons, if necessary, for any material increase of punishments over the preceding month.

His Excellency Major-General Sir L. Smith,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *George Tyler*.

Enclosure 2, in No. 382.

Sir,
 I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the monthly returns of my official proceedings for December 1835, and to state to your Excellency, that the conduct of the apprentices in this division has been, during that period, quiet and orderly.
 An increase of punishment will be found in the present return, as compared with my last, arising from the necessity of restoring regularity of work in two large gangs.

I have, &c.
 (signed) *R. B. Pitman*, S. J.
 His Excellency Lieutenant-Governor Tyler,
 &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 2,
in No. 382.

Enclosure 3, in No. 382.

Sir,
 IN accordance with your Excellency's circular of the 16th ult., I have, on transmitting my monthly record for December, the pleasure to inform your Excellency, that I am able to give a good report of the state and general character of the apprentices in this district.

With reference to the apparent increase, both of complaints and punishments, over the preceding month, it can easily be accounted for. The number of males punished this month, 93; females, 106. Out of this it is but fair to deduct 37 males and 64 females, they having constituted three separate gangs on separate estates; and their punishment has merely consisted of one or two days' extra labour, either for lost time or negligence in working.

With regard to the increase of punishments, particularly those of stripes, I would beg to observe, that though I have been obliged in one month to inflict 647 stripes, only 309 stripes have been given for misconduct in the relative characters of apprentice and owner or employer; the remainder are for crimes against society at large, and could be punished by any justice of the peace.

I have, &c.
 (signed) *Edwin Polson*.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.

Enclosure 3,
in No. 382.

Enclosure 4, in No. 382.

Sir,
 I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency, that the general conduct of the apprenticed labourers in the Leeward district has been very satisfactory during the whole month of December, but especially during the holidays.

It is with extreme regret I am still obliged frequently to have recourse to corporal punishment, owing to the delay in erecting a house of correction, and cells for solitary confinement in this division.

I have, &c.
 (signed) *Robert Sutherland*, S. J.,
 Lieutenant-Governor, &c. &c. Leeward District.

Enclosure 4,
in No. 382.

Enclosure 5, in No. 382.

Sir,
 I HAVE the honour to lay before your Excellency my record for the last month, ending 31st December, and am happy to state, on the whole, the punishments are generally of a much lighter nature than the preceding month.

I have, &c.
 (signed) *J. G. Smith*,
 His Excellency Lieutenant-Governor Tyler,
 &c. &c. &c. Stipendiary Magistrate for the Grenadines.

Enclosure 5,
in No. 382.

— No. 383. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 383.

My Lord,
 I HAVE the honour to enclose for your Lordship's consideration the copy of a despatch from the Lieutenant-governor of St. Vincent, enclosing Tables (A.) and (B.) for the month of January last, together with reports from the magistrates upon the general conduct of the apprentices.

I have, &c.
 (signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Vide Table (B.)
P. 385.

ST. VINCENT.

Enclosure 1 in No. 383.

Enclosure 1,
in No. 383.EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Tyler* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*
dated Government House, St. Vincent, 19th March 1836.

“ I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the returns of punishments inflicted by the special magistrates within this colony, during the month of January, together with their reports upon the general conduct of the apprentices.”

6.

6.

Enclosure 2, in No. 383.

Enclosure 2,
in No. 383.

Sir,
I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that the conduct of the apprentices in this division during the past month has been quiet and orderly.

To his Excellency
Lieutenant-Governor Tyler, &c. &c.

Windward Division, 3 February 1836.
I have, &c.
(signed) *R. B. Pitman, S. J.*

Enclosure 3, in No. 383.

Enclosure 3,
in No. 383.

Sir,
IN forwarding to your Excellency the copy of the journal of my proceedings for the month of January last, I have the gratification of calling to your Excellency's attention the decrease in the number of complaints and punishments. And I beg to remind your Excellency that it is only for the last week in January that my district was diminished by the new division on the arrival of Mr. Anderson.

To his Excellency
The Lieutenant-Governor, &c. &c.

Second District, 14th March 1836.
I have, &c.
(signed) *Edwin Polson.*

Enclosure 4, in No. 383.

Enclosure 4,
in No. 383.

Sir,
I HAVE the honour to enclose to your Excellency my first monthly report as special justice, brought up to the 1st instant. You will observe, that the offences committed on estates are exceedingly few; and that the calendar is swelled up by cases from the town, where disputes between seamen and their employers are of frequent occurrence. No very serious breach of the peace, however, has come under my cognizance.

To his Excellency
Lieutenant-Governor Tyler, &c. &c.

Richmond Hill, 10 February 1836.
I have, &c.
(signed) *John Anderson.*

Enclosure 5, in No. 383.

Enclosure 5,
in No. 383.

Sir,
IT is with regret I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency of a great increase in the number of convictions of apprenticed labourers during the month of January over the one preceding.

This is accounted for by three gangs of prædial labourers having performed their duties in a very negligent manner; they were in consequence mulcted in time.
Actual crime has decreased in frequency and magnitude.

To his Excellency
George Tyler, Esq., K. H., Lieut.-Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

St. Vincent, 1 February 1836.
I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert Sutherland,*
Special Justice Southern Division,
Leeward District.

Enclosure 6, in No. 383.

Enclosure 6,
in No. 383.

Sir,
I BEG leave to state that, in consequence of the short time I have been employed, I am unable to make any particular report to your Excellency as to the increase or decrease of crime among the apprenticed labourers in my division; but in considering the number employed therein, I conceive their conduct, generally speaking, to be orderly, and their offences not of a very serious nature.

His Excellency
Captain George Tyler, K. H., Lieut.-Governor,
&c. &c. &c. St. Vincents.

St. Vincent, 1 February 1836.
I have, &c.
(signed) *J. J. Tynling,*
Special Justice Northern Division,
Leeward District.

-- No. 384. --

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 384.

My Lord, Government House, Grenada, 3 May 1836.
 HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit Tables (A.) and (B.) for the month of February last, as furnished by the Lieutenant-governor of St. Vincent.

I have, &c.
 (signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Vide Table (B.)
P. 386.

Enclosure 1, in No. 384.

Sir, Windward District, 8th March 1836.
 I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the monthly return and abstract of my official proceedings as special justice during the month of February 1836, together with the return of the serjeant of police for the same period.

Enclosure 1,
in No. 384.

I have the honour to report for your Excellency's information that the conduct of the apprentices in this district during the past month has been quiet and orderly.

To his Excellency Lieut.-Governor Tyler,
 &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
 (signed) *R. B. Pitman*.

Enclosure 2, in No. 384.

Sir, Second District, 22d March 1836.
 I HAVE the honour to forward your Excellency the journal of proceedings before me for the month of February last, together with Table (A.)

Enclosure 2,
in No. 384.

I beg to observe, in the total number of punishments inflicted, amounting to 227, that 157, viz. 73 males and 84 females, belonging to two separate estates, were charged as distinct gangs, the one for neglecting their work and the other for destroying fences; the punishment for which is in one case two days' extra labour, and in the other one day's.

This will, I hope, sufficiently account for the apparent increase of the number of punishments in the last month over the previous one.

To his Excellency the Lieut.-Governor,
 &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
 (signed) *Edwin Polson*.

Enclosure 3, in No. 384.

Sir, Richmond Hill, 1st March 1836.
 THE accompanying document, which I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency, contains a duplicate of my journal, as stipendiary magistrate of the Third District, for the past month.

Enclosure 3,
in No. 384.

Whilst I regret the amount of complaints exhibited in the abstract view, I may be allowed to observe that they are mainly of a class which necessarily enters into the police reports of any capital; and where a commercial and agricultural community are included in the same return, breaches of the peace must greatly preponderate among the former. I am happy to say I have had occasion to punish few offenders in the rural part of my charge.

To his Excellency Lieut.-Governor Tyler,
 &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
 (signed) *John Anderson*.

Enclosure 4, in No. 384.

Sir, St. Vincent, 1st March 1836.
 I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency that the conduct of the apprenticed labourers attached to the estates situated in the Southern Division of the Leeward District has been satisfactory during the month of February, and the number of convictions nearly a half less than during the previous month.

Enclosure 4,
in No. 384.

To his Excellency George Tyler, Esq.,
 Lieut.-Governor, &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
 (signed) *Robert Sutherland*,
 Southern Division, Leeward District.

ST. VINCENT.

Enclosure 5, in No. 384.

Enclosure 5,
in No. 384.

Sir, Barronallie, St. Vincent's, 1st March 1836.
I AM happy to state to your Excellency that the apprenticed labourers in my division for the past month appear in general contented, and perform their work willingly, and the number of offences, compared with the month of January, are less.

I have felt it necessary, however, in some few instances, to inflict rather severe punishments, but with these few exceptions, the complaints are mostly of a trifling nature, and I consider the general conduct of the apprentices of the division to be really creditable to themselves.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. J. Tirling*,
Sp. Justice, Northern Div., Leeward District.
To his Excellency Captain Tyler,
Lieutenant-Governor, &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 6, in No. 384.

Enclosure 6,
in No. 384.

Sir, Bequia, 10th March 1836.
DURING the last month the complaints have been few, and punishments less.
In two cases, your Excellency will perceive, I have been obliged to enforce the maximum of fifty stripes, both which are very bad; the apprenticed labourer, Adam, is the same man that received fifty stripes, and was sentenced to work on the treadmill for a month of six spells each day, in January last.

I have, &c.,
(signed) *J. G. Smith*,
Stipendiary Justice.
To his Excellency the Lieut.-Governor.

— No. 385. —

No. 385.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.*Vide Table (B.)
p. 386.*

My Lord, Government House, Grenada, 3 May 1836.
HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit Tables (A.) and (B.) for the month of March last, as furnished by the Lieutenant-governor of St. Vincent.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Enclosure 1, in No. 385.

Enclosure 1,
in No. 385.

Sir, Windward District, 1 April 1836.
I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the monthly returns of my official proceedings as special justice during the month of March 1836, together with the quarterly report upon the state of the police force and station in this district.

Your Excellency will observe a slight increase in the number of corporal punishments inflicted in the month under review, as compared with that in the month preceding, which has been necessary chiefly in consequence of the numerous offences committed by pasture-boys and others having the charge of cattle.

I have the honour to report for your Excellency's information, that the conduct of the apprentices in this district during the past month has been very quiet and orderly.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. B. Pitman, S. J.*

Enclosure 2, in No. 385.

Enclosure 2,
in No. 385.

Sir, Second District, 18 April 1836.
IN forwarding my monthly report for March, I have again to explain to your Excellency the reason of the apparent increase of punishments, though after my explanation it will appear that there is a material decrease of general complaints.

It appears by my return that the number of punishments inflicted is 276; viz. 130 males, females 146. Out of this may fairly be deducted 175 cases; viz. 80 males and 95 females, being apprenticed labourers on Fair Hall estate, whose Saturdays I stopped in consequence of the continued fires which took place on that estate, there having been six several fires from the 7th February to the 13th March, which destroyed 13 negro houses. The 175 being deducted from the 276 cases, 101, being a material decrease from the last month.

With great deference, I would submit to your Excellency that a monthly return is hardly a fair criterion of the increase or decrease of crime, but that the return of any three months

months contrasted with the corresponding three months of the previous year is far preferable, because at different seasons of the year different species of husbandry and manufacture are being proceeded with, some of which hold out greater temptation to dishonesty and neglect than others.

To His Excellency
The Lieutenant-Governor.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edwin Polson.*

ST. VINCENT.

Enclosure 3, in No. 385.

Sir, Richmond Hill, 4th April 1836.
I HAVE the honour to hand your Excellency the duplicate record of my proceedings as special justice for the past month.
The apprentices on the estates under my charge have, with one exception, been orderly in their conduct; but I am sorry to say that the crime of theft enters several times into the abstract table of offences.

Enclosure 3,
in No. 385.

To his Excellency
Lieutenant-Governor Tyler, &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *John Anderson.*

Enclosure 4, in No. 385.

Sir, St. Vincent, 11 April 1836.
I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency that the conduct of the apprenticed labourers in my division has been very satisfactory through the past month.
The number of convictions continue to decrease.

Enclosure 4,
in No. 385.

To his Excellency
George Tyler, Esq., K. H., Lieut.-Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert Sutherland,*
Special Justice, Southern Division,
Leeward District.

Enclosure 5, in No. 385.

Sir, St. Vincent, 2 April 1836.
THE general conduct of the apprenticed labourers in my division for the past month has been such as to enable me to continue to report favourably of them to your Excellency; and although the offences for the month of February were not great, those for the last month have nevertheless decreased in the proportion of one-fourth, a fact which I feel pleasure in pointing out to your Excellency.

Enclosure 5,
in No. 385.

His Excellency
Captain George Tyler, K. H., &c. &c. &c.
Lieutenant-Governor.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. J. Tinting,*
Special Justice, Northern Division,
Leeward District.

Enclosure 6, in No. 385.

Sir, Bequia, 4 April 1836.
THE record for the month of March, I am happy to say, is far less than any of the preceding months, which I attribute solely to the examples I have been obliged to make in the months before.

Enclosure 6,
in No. 385.

To his Excellency
Lieutenant-Governor George Tyler,
St. Vincent.

I have, &c.
(signed) *John George Smith,*
Stipendiary Justice.

— No. 386. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 386.

My Lord, Government House, Barbadoes, 8 June 1836.
I HAVE the honour to transmit enclosed Tables (A.) and (B.) for the month of April last, as furnished by the Lieutenant-governor of St. Vincent.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith.*

Vide Table (B.)
P. 386.

ST. VINCENT.

Enclosure 1, in No. 386.

Enclosure 1,
in No. 386.

Sir,
I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the monthly returns of my official proceedings as special justice during the month of April 1836.

Windward District, 2 May 1836.

Your Excellency will observe that the number of punishments was greater last month than it was for some months previous, owing to the necessity of making up the work of three gangs within the district; at the same time it will be seen that the individual punishments have been of a slight nature.

With the exception of the disposition apparent amongst the apprentices upon some few estates to do their work indolently, I have no reason to complain of the conduct of the apprentices in this district.

To his Excellency Lieutenant-Governor Tyler,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. B. Pitman, S. J.*

Enclosure 2, in No. 386.

Enclosure 2,
in No. 386.

Sir,
I HAVE the honour, in transmitting to your Excellency my return for the month of April, to report the gratifying fact of the continued decrease of complaints and punishments.

Second District, 9 May 1836.

To his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edwin Polson.*

Enclosure 3, in No. 386.

Enclosure 3,
in No. 386.

Sir,
I HAVE again the honour of submitting to your Excellency's inspection the duplicate record of my proceedings as special magistrate, brought up to the 1st of this month.

Richmond Hill, 3 May 1836.

The number of cases entered, and punishments inflicted, vary very slightly from the returns from 29th February to 1st ultimo. The scale of labour recently issued has been too brief in its operation to warrant any remarks by me to your Excellency; but I have the satisfaction of stating that a decided improvement has taken place since its publication in the industry of the tradespeople on estates in my district. Breaches against the public peace, particularly robbery in various shapes, in the town of Kingston, still call for the strict vigilance of the police.

To his Excellency Lieutenant-Governor Tyler,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *John Anderson.*

Enclosure 4, in No. 386.

Enclosure 4,
in No. 386.

Sir,
I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency that the conduct of the apprenticed labourers attached to estates in the Fourth Division continues very satisfactory.

St. Vincent, 4 May 1836.

I certainly think a more kindly feeling subsists betwixt the employer and employed, which I have every confidence will be confirmed when the apprentices fully comprehend the scale of agricultural labour as approved by your Excellency.

The number of convictions this month is much greater than the preceding, in consequence of a complaint preferred against a prædial "gang," who had been led into error by two apprentices who have been frequent offenders.

To his Excellency Geo. Tyler, Esq., k. n.,
Lieutenant-Governor, &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert Sutherland,*
Special Justice, Fourth Division,
Leeward District.

Enclosure 5, in No. 386.

Enclosure 5,
in No. 386.

Sir,
I REGRET to state to your Excellency that the general conduct of the apprenticed labourers in my division for the last month has not proved so deserving of favourable report as I had the honour to make of them to your Excellency for the previous month.

St. Vincent, 4 May 1836.

The complaints against them have been greater, and some instances have occurred of most wanton depredations on the canes, by cutting and breaking them down in large quantities and leaving them in the field, owing, I conceive, to gross neglect of duty on the part of the watchmen.

His Excellency Capt. Geo. Tyler, k. n.,
Lieutenant-Governor, St. Vincents.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. J. Tindal,*
Special Justice, Northern Division,
Leeward District.

Enclosure 6, in No. 386.

ST. VINCENT.

Sir,
I HAVE the honour to lay before your Excellency my record for the month of April last, and have much pleasure in stating that the punishments for that month are much less than that of any preceding month.

Bequia, 4 May 1836.

Enclosure 6,
in No. 386.

His Excellency Lieut.-Governor Tyler,
St. Vincent.

I have, &c.
(signed) *John George Smith, S. M.*

— No. 387. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 387.

My Lord,
I HAVE the honour to transmit enclosed, for your Lordship's information, Tables (A.) and (B.) for the month of May last, as furnished by the Lieutenant-governor of St. Vincent.

Government House, Barbadoes, 14 July 1836.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 387.

Sir,
I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the monthly returns of my official proceedings for the month of May 1836, the summary of which is nearly the same as that of the month preceding.

Windward District, 4 June 1836.

Enclosure 1,
in No. 387.

In one instance only has the extremity of punishment been inflicted, which is, that of 10 days' solitary confinement upon an incorrigible offender, who appears to be callous to any and every punishment with which he has been visited.

I have the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that the conduct of the apprentices in this district as a body has been, during the past month, quiet and orderly.

To his Excellency Lieutenant-Governor Tyler,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. B. Pitman, S. J.*

Enclosure 2, in No. 387.

Sir,
I AM sorry that I am unable, in my return for the month of May, to report to your Excellency on the decrease of crime amongst the apprenticed labourers; though so far as regards complaints in the relative character of master and apprentice, there is a continued diminution.

Second District, 15 June 1836.

Enclosure 2,
in No. 387.

The slight protection afforded to the safety of the provision grounds holds out a great temptation to idle and ill-disposed apprentices to neglect the cultivation of their own grounds, and to live by plundering from the industrious; but the motive for which I am in hopes will shortly be decreased, by compelling those whose grounds are not cultivated to work them in a gang on their own days.

In the number of punishments inflicted, I beg to inform your Excellency that the gang on one estate, consisting of 46 apprentices, viz. 18 males and 28 females, were sentenced to one day's extra labour for not working properly; this being deducted from the 115 punishments, there will remain only 65.

To his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edwin Polson.*

Enclosure 3, in No. 387.

Sir,
I AM now handing to your Excellency the duplicate record of my journal as special magistrate for the past month, I am sorry it is my province to announce an increased number of cases to the previous one; and it is with equal pain I add, that the apprentices on several estates have manifested an obstinate indisposition to labour in the field to the extent sanctioned by the new regulations.

Richmond Hill, 7 June 1836.

Enclosure 3,
in No. 387.

His Excellency Lieutenant-Governor Tyler,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *John Anderson.*

ST. VINCENT.

Enclosure 4, in No. 387.

St. Vincent, 4 June 1836.

Enclosure 4,
in No. 387.

Sir,
I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency, that the conduct of apprenticed labourers on estates in the Fourth District has in general been satisfactory throughout the month of May.

A gang of 31 prædial labourers have been complained of for deficiency of work, which will account for the great increase in the number of convictions.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Robert Sutherland,*

Special Justice, Fourth District, Leeward Division.

To his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 5, in No. 387.

St. Vincent, 3 June 1836.

Enclosure 5,
in No. 387.

Sir,
THE complaints against the apprenticed labourers in my division for the last month have, I am happy to state to your Excellency, been much less than the former months. Two or three estates where the gangs have been convicted of improper performance of work, make the number punished in the month appear perhaps rather considerable, although the complaints were few. I have, however, visited the estates alluded to since, and am happy to learn they are behaving well, and working with a good will; and the general conduct of the labourers in the division is orderly and respectful.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. J. Tynling,*

Special Justice, Northern Division, Leeward District.

His Excellency Capt. George Tyler, K. H., &c. &c. &c.
Lieutenant-Governor, St. Vincent.

Enclosure 6, in No. 387.

Bequia, 13 June 1836.

Enclosure 6,
in No. 387.

Sir,
I HAVE the honour to lay before your Excellency my duplicate record for the month of May last, and am happy to say the conduct of the apprenticed labourers generally is much the same as the preceding month, with the exception of a few of the apprenticed labourers on the Union Island, who have hitherto borne a good character.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John George Smith,*

Special Magistrate, Grenadine Division.

To his Excellency Lieutenant-Governor Tyler,
St. Vincent.

TABLE (B.)

RETURN of the Number and Effect of the RETURNS OF PUNISHMENTS, received by the Governor of *St. Vincent* from the Special Magistrates, from 1 August 1835 to 31 May 1836.

Colony.	Date.	Total Number of Apprentices throughout the Island, Province or Government	Total Number of Punishments inflicted under the authority of Special Magistrates throughout the same.	Proportion per cent. of Punishments to Apprentices.	Total Number of Males Punished.		Total Number of Females punished.	The Average Number of Stripes inflicted in Cases of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum Number of Stripes inflicted in any one Case of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum of Severity in any one Case of Punishment by Confinement.	The Maximum of Severity in any other Mode of Punishment.
					By Whipping.	Otherwise than by Whipping.					
ST. VINCENT.	1835 : August -	19,300	169	1	45	86	58	25	50	3 months' hard labour on the tread-mill.	-- Continuation in state of apprenticeship for one year after the expiration of the term.
	September	19,120	316	1½	30	134	152	20	50	3 months' hard labour on the tread-mill.	-- 6 months' servitude after the expiration of his apprenticeship.
	October -	19,120	627	3½	46	264	317	29	50	3 months' hard labour on the tread-mill.	-- Extra apprenticeship for 2 months and 8 days.
	November	19,300	278	1½	41	117	120	22	50	20 nights	-- 3 months on the tread-mill.
	December	19,300	432	2¼	62	145	225	26	50	2 weeks -	30 days tread-mill.
	January - February	19,300	496	2½	85	192	219	20	50	14 days solitary.	-- 1 month hard labour on the tread-mill.
	March -	19,300	495	2½	60	190	245	19	50	10 days solitary.	-- Hard labour for 5 weeks and 30 lashes.
	April -	19,300	482	2½	59	172	251	17	35	10 days -	-- 20 days' hard labour and solitary confinement at night.
	May -	19,300	567	3	48	245	274	20	50	10 days solitary.	-- 1 month on the tread-mill and 30 lashes.

G R E N A D A.

GRENADA.

— No. 388. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to the Earl of *Aberdeen*, dated Government House, Barbadoes, 9 March 1835.

No. 388.

“ I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith transcript of the following Act of the Legislature of Grenada, intituled,

“ No. 297.—‘ An Act for establishing a Common Gaol and Treadmill in the Island of Cariacou.’ ”

Act printed in the
Appendix, No. 148.

— No. 389. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

No. 389.

Sir,

Downing-street, 12 Sept. 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an order of the King in Council, leaving to its operation an Act passed by the Legislature of the island of Grenada, in the month of November 1834, intituled,

“ An Act for establishing a Common Gaol and Treadmill in the Island of Cariacou.”

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 390. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government House, Barbadoes, 3 August 1835.

No. 390.

My Lord,

I HAVE much satisfaction in transmitting the accompanying copy of a letter from Lieutenant-Governor Middlemore, enclosing an Address of the House of Assembly, stating their readiness to comply with the suggestions contained in the Earl of Aberdeen's despatch of the 28th February last, for amending several Acts of the Legislature.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Enclosure 1, in No. 390.

Sir,

Government House, Grenada, 23 May 1835.

I HAVE the satisfaction of transmitting to your Excellency copy of an Address from the House of Assembly of this island, in answer to my message of the 12th May instant, in which I communicated the sentiments of His Majesty's Government upon certain Acts of this Legislature.

Enclosure 1,
in No. 390.

I have, &c.
(signed) *George Middlemore*.

Enclosure 2, in No. 390.

The Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly,

To His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.

THIS House, in reference to your Excellency's Message covering a despatch from the Right honourable the Earl of Aberdeen, begs to state that, in conformity with the sentiments expressed by his Lordship in that despatch, dated the 28th February last, it will proceed

Enclosure 2,
in No. 390.

GRENADA.

proceed to repeal the Act passed by the Legislature of this colony upon the 1st day of August last, for amending the slavery abolition law; and also the first clause of the Act passed on the 6th day of August last, for the amendment of the criminal law; and the whole of the Act passed on the same day for amending the Acts for the establishment of the corps of Grenada Loyal Black Rangers; and the House is of opinion that it is unnecessary further to legislate respecting the Act for granting a salary to the officiating minister of the Roman-catholic church, that Act having expired.

House of Assembly, 16th May 1835.

(signed) *John Hoyes*, Speaker.

— No. 391. —

No. 391.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 19 Sept. 1835.

I HAVE received your despatch dated the 3d of August last, and marked Grenada, enclosing a despatch from Lieutenant-governor Major-general Middlemore, dated the 23d of May, and the copy of an address from the House of Assembly, Grenada, dated the 16th of that month.

I am commanded by the King to desire that you would convey through the Lieutenant-governor to the House of Assembly, the expression of the gratification with which His Majesty has received so strong a proof of the cordial disposition of the House to co-operate with His Majesty in the measures recommended by him for the benefit of their constituents.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 392. —

No. 392.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, 6 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter from Lieutenant-governor Moir, from which your Lordship will learn that it is the opinion of the council and principal landed proprietors in the island, as well as the Lieutenant-governor, that on dispensing with the services of the local special magistracy, three additional magistrates will be required from home.

As it is my intention to desire the Lieutenant-governor to carry the instructions contained in your Lordship's circular of the 15th June last, for discontinuing the local magistrates, into immediate execution, I trust it may be consistent with your Lordship's arrangements to send out three additional magistrates with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Enclosure in No. 392.

Sir,

Government House, Grenada, 22 July 1835.

Enclosure in
No. 392.

IN reference to my Lord *Glenelg*'s circular despatch of 15th June last, addressed to your Excellency, but transmitted direct to me from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, I have deferred acting upon this subject until I shall have received a communication from your Excellency.

Having consulted the members of the council, and many of the influential landed proprietors, to whom I have privately shown the despatch, they concur with me in the proposed plan of his Lordship to substitute an additional stipendiary magistracy for the special justices in the proportion as laid down, by which three additional magistrates would be sent out to the colony, viz. five for this island and one for Carriacou, and by which arrangement a system more beneficial to the interests of the community would be established, and affording more general satisfaction. I beg to be understood as not casting any imputation on the gentlemen who have lately acted, with solely one exception, or those who are now acting, they having conscientiously and well performed their duties.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. H. Moir*, Lieut.-Governor.

His Excellency the Governor.

22 July 1835.

Abolition Papers,
1833-35, part 2,
p. 8.

GRENADA.

— No. 393. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

No. 393.

Sir,

Downing-street, 21 September 1835.

I HAVE received your despatch of 6th August, enclosing a letter from Lieutenant-governor Mair, in which it is stated to be the opinion of that officer and his council that, in consequence of the local magistrates discontinuing to administer the apprentice law, as required by my circular despatch of the 15th June, three additional magistrates will be required for Grenada.

Upon dispensing with the services of the unpaid magistrates, His Majesty's Government did not fail to apply to Parliament for authority to increase the number of the stipendiary magistrates, in order to meet the additional demand which that measure would necessarily create; and no time was lost in making such a distribution of the new appointments as there was reason to believe would be most advantageous.

Six magistrates in all have accordingly been appointed to Grenada, and the number employed in that island, at the date of your despatch, has thus been doubled.

I am happy to perceive that this number, which I had so appropriated previously to the receipt of your present despatch, is exactly that which, in the opinion of Lieutenant-governor Mair and the Council of Grenada, is considered requisite. I trust that, before the date of your receiving this despatch, the three gentlemen whose names you will find in the margin, and who have received the additional appointments, will have arrived in the colony.

Mr. John Ross,
Mr Hay,
Mr. Fraser.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 394. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 394.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, 15 September 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a despatch addressed to your Lordship by the Lieutenant-governor of Grenada in reply to your Lordship's circular despatch of the 15th June last, directing the discontinuance of local special magistrates.

I have delayed transmitting this despatch until the present opportunity, in order that I might accompany it by any further representation which the Lieutenant-governor might make in consequence of the orders which I conveyed to him for the immediate discontinuance of the local special magistrates, as reported in my despatch to your Lordship of the 6th ultimo.

I have accordingly received the letter, copy of which I have the honour to enclose. I have so far complied with the request of the Lieutenant-governor as to sanction the continuance of the local magistrates at Cariacou, that island not being included in either of the districts assigned to the stipendiary magistrates; but I have withheld my assent to his proposal for appointing an additional local magistrate to assist the stipendiaries in their several districts.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

5 August 1835.

20 August 1835.

Enclosure 1, in No. 394.

My Lord,

Government House, Grenada, 5 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's circular of 15th June, relative to the appointments in this island of a stipendiary magistracy. I beg to acquaint your Lordship that in the commissions lately issued, though bearing my signature, the several appointments received the sanction of the Governor-general in Council, on his recent visit to this colony. In the selection of those named in the accompanying list, gentlemen of the highest integrity, of the largest property, and most competent to discharge the duties were appointed; and during my short residence I have ascertained that the duty has been performed most conscientiously, and without any appeal from their decisions. The number

Enclosure 1,
in No. 394.

GRENADA.

of stipendiary magistrates for Grenada and dependencies, is limited to three, leaving the island of Carriacou without any, the population of which is about 4,000 inhabitants, and from the very mountainous nature of Grenada, the great difficulty of communication, the extreme bad state of the roads, it is impossible that three stipendiary magistrates can adequately perform the numerous duties imposed, as depositions are invariably committed to writing on each complaint, adduced before special magistrates, as well as before the stipendiary magistrates, and a certified quarterly return on oath transmitted to me by the latter, containing a copy of all depositions, examinations and sentences awarded. Under these circumstances, I shall beg to submit to your Lordship's consideration, the necessity of retaining the unpaid special magistrates in the commission of the peace, until the arrangements proposed in the circular shall receive the sanction of Parliament, namely, that of apportioning to this colony a specified additional number of paid magistrates in the proportion the population of Grenada bears to that of Jamaica, which would give in the whole six stipendiary magistrates, five for Grenada, and one for the island of Carriacou; a measure which I have ascertained would obviate the necessity of employing gentlemen interested in properties on which are apprenticed labourers, and, at the same time, meeting the general wishes of all classes of this community, and by which any imputation that might be alleged, of acting from self-interested motives in the administration of justice, would be completely removed, and would thus be placed on more fair and equitable grounds in the hands of gentlemen perfectly independent of even the suspicion.

I have, &c

The Right hon. the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

(signed) *J. H. Mair*, Lieut.-Governor.

 Enclosure 2, in No. 394.

Sir,

Government House, Grenada, 20 August 1835.

Enclosure 2,
in No. 394.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 8th of this month, and beg to inform you that I am taking measures, in the manner prescribed, to revoke the commissions of the special magistrates lately issued.

I must request your Excellency's permission to appoint one additional special magistrate in each district, to aid the three paid magistrates, as from the extents of several districts the duties cannot effectually be performed. Also one for Carriacou, as having no paid stipendiary magistrate will deprive the apprenticed labourer of an opportunity of making a complaint.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Governor-general.

(signed) *J. H. Mair*, Lieut.-Governor.

 — No. 395. —

No. 395.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 30 November 1835.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 15th September last, and to acquaint you, that as Grenada has now been supplied with six magistrates, it will be necessary that you should instruct Lieutenant-colonel Mair to withdraw the commission of the local special magistrate at Carriacou, and to station at that island one of the stipendiary magistrates recently sent out from England.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

 — No. 396. —

No. 396.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, 15 Sept. 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter from the Lieutenant-governor of Grenada, forwarding the several returns relative to the special magistrates and apprenticed population, called for by your Lordship's circular despatch of the 18th June last.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

24 August 1835.
Vide Papers relative to the Abolition of Slavery, 1836, part 3. p. 5.

GRENADA.

Enclosures in No. 396.

Enclosures in
No. 396.

4.

Sir,

Government House, Grenada, 24 August 1835.

IN conformity with the directions contained in my Lord Glenelg's circular despatch of the 18th of June 1835, I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency the several returns therein called for, for the information of His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. H. Mair*, Lieut.-Governor.

N. B.—A code of instructions for the special magistrates is in course of preparation.

His Excellency Major-General Sir L. Smith, K. C. B.
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 1.)

LIST of Gentlemen appointed Special Magistrates by virtue of a Commission issued under the Great Seal of this Colony, by Lieutenant-Governor John Hastings Mair, on the 9th of July 1835.

N A M E S.	OBSERVATIONS.
Francis Yelverton Cheekley.	
George Cruickshank.	
Francis Jemmett.	
John Todd.	
Thomas Woodcock.	
Richard Oliver Smith.	
John Berkeley - - -	-- Added on return to Grenada.
John Forrester.	
Thomas Browne.	
John Stokes.	
Hugh Rose.	
John Foreman Home.	
James Leid.	
Alexander Richard.	
George Paterson, junior.	
William Henry Whiteman.	
Joseph Nicholson.	
David Burnie.	
Duncan Blair.	
Daniel Polson.	
Adam Reid.	
William Houstoun - - -	Added on vacancy.
Thomas Spence - - -	
Andrew Munro - - -	} Additional, to fill up the vacancies of the last Commission.
James Warrand - - -	
William Burke - - -	

(signed) *J. H. Mair*, Lieut.-Governor.

N. B.—Three stipendiary magistrates not included in this Return.

(No. 2.)

GRENADA.—RETURN of the NUMBER and NATURE of the PUNISHMENTS inflicted on the APPRENTICED the 31st July 1835; specifying the OFFENCES for which

GRAND DIVISION.	OFFENCES.	Dismissed.		Admonished and Discharged.		Bound to the Peace.		Fines paid	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	By Employers.	By Apprenticed Labourers.
First Grand Division contains about 4,123 Males. 3,675 Females.	Refusing to work	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	Conspiring together not to work	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Assaults on fellow apprentices	7	2	—	4	3	4	—	1
	Ditto by employers on ditto	—	—	3	—	—	—	6	—
	Stealing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Ditto in provision grounds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Runaways	4	7	—	44	—	—	—	—
	Seizing goods from each other	—	—	22	1	—	—	—	—
	Disobedience of orders	3	5	7	10	—	1	—	—
	Neglecting their watch	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
	Making away with employer's goods	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Maltreating live stock	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Killing - ditto	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Neglecting stock, and allowing them to trespass	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	Indolence	—	5	3	1	—	—	—	—
	Complaints against employers	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	Insolence	—	1	2	2	—	3	—	—
	Neglecting their provision grounds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Cutting, stealing and destroying canes	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Destroying property of fellow apprentice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Quarrelsome and insubordinate conduct	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	
Drunkenness	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	
Leaving the colony without a pass	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Injuring employer's property	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Perjury	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	TOTAL First Grand Division	19	22	47	64	3	8	6	4
Second Grand Division contains about 2,980 Males. 3,301 Females.	Refusing to work	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Conspiring together not to work	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Assaults on fellow apprentices	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Ditto by employers on ditto	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
	Stealing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Ditto in provision grounds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Runaways	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Seizing goods from each other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Disobedience of orders	9	9	5	5	—	—	—	—
	Neglecting their watch	5	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
	Making away with employer's goods	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Maltreating live stock	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Killing - ditto	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Neglecting stock, and allowing them to trespass	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Indolence	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Complaints against employers	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Insolence	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Neglecting their provision grounds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Cutting, stealing and destroying canes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Destroying property of a fellow apprentice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Quarrelsome and insubordinate conduct	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Drunkenness	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Leaving the colony without a pass	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Injuring employer's property	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Perjury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	TOTAL Second Grand Division	28	12	7	5	—	—	3	—

(No. 2.)

LABOURERS in the Colony of *Grenada*, by the Special or Stipendiary Magistrates, from the 1st August 1834 to they were inflicted, separating Males from Females.

ON ESTATES.						WHIPPED AND														TOTAL.	
Solitary Confinement.		Extra Labour.		Extra Labour and Solitary Confinement.		Solitary Confinement in Gaol.		Hard Labour on the Tread Mill.		Hard Labour and Solitary Confinement.		Whipped.	On Estates,		Solitary Confinement in Gaol.	Hard Labour on the Tread Mill.	Hard Labour and Solitary Confinement.	Gang sentenced to Extra Labour.	Referred to the Courts.	M.	F.
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		Extra Labour.	Solitary Confinement.							
-	-	64	119	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	2	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	71	124
-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	3
-	3	-	2	-	-	1	2	4	2	-	1	10	1	-	2	1	1	-	-	33	21
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-
1	2	12	24	1	4	5	1	16	40	4	33	33	19	7	4	17	2	-	-	147	155
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
1	8	89	89	3	3	-	1	3	11	2	11	20	35	1	-	3	1	-	-	168	139
4	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	58	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
-	-	19	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	44	4
-	3	182	153	1	2	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	191	165
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
-	3	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	5	9	5	3	-	-	1	-	-	22	25
-	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2
-	3	2	6	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	11	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	14
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
3	5	2	15	1	10	-	-	1	-	-	2	4	5	2	-	1	-	-	-	19	33
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	10	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
10	27	410	418	6	24	6	4	26	66	13	52	148	88	17	7	25	11	-	-	841	690
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,531
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	1	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	4	11
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	3	10	6	-	-	2	-	3	1	-	2	8	4	8	-	2	1	-	-	43	12
1	15	36	105	2	7	-	1	13	9	4	6	30	21	11	-	7	3	-	-	142	157
-	1	13	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	12	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	39	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	5	53	74	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	17	3	-	-	-	-	-	85	85
-	3	10	1	2	-	7	-	-	2	2	7	4	16	2	-	1	-	-	-	49	13
-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	6	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	8	7
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	29	125	191	4	10	9	2	17	14	6	16	73	63	35	-	10	6	-	-	381	287
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	668

GRAND DIVISION.	OFFENCES.	Dismissed.		Admonished and Discharged.		Bound to the Peace.		Fines paid	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	By Employer.	By Apprenticed Labourers.
Third Grand Division contains about 3,545 Males. 3,752 Females.	Refusing to work - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Conspiring together not to work - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Assault on fellow apprentices - - - - -	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Ditto by employers on ditto - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Stealing - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Ditto in provision grounds - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Runaways - - - - -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	Seizing goods from each other - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Disobedience of orders - - - - -	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
	Neglecting their watch - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Making away with employer's goods - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Maltreating live stock - - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Killing - - ditto - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Neglecting stock, and allowing same to trespass - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Indolence - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Complaints against employers - - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	8	-
	Insolence - - - - -	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
	Neglecting their grounds - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Cutting, stealing and destroying canes - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Destroying property of fellow apprentice - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Quarrelsome and insubordinate conduct - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Drunkenness - - - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Leaving the colony without a pass - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Injuring employer's property - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Perjury - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Fire raising - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	TOTAL Third Grand Division - - -	7	3	1	3	-	-	8	-

RECAPITULATION

Total, about	Total First Grand Division - - - - -	19	22	47	64	3	8	6	4
10,648 Males.	Total Second Grand Division - - - - -	28	12	7	5	-	-	3	-
10,426 Females.	Total Third Grand Division - - - - -	7	3	1	3	-	-	8	-
	GRAND TOTAL, Colony of Grenada - - -	54	37	55	72	3	8	17	4

* This number includes the dismissed, admonished and discharged, bound to the peace, and fines paid by employers.

Dated at Grenada, }
the 1st day of August 1835. }

ON ESTATES.						Solitary Confinement in Gaol.		Hard Labour on the Tread Mill.		Hard Labour and Solitary Confinement.		Whipped.	WHIPPED AND						Referred to the Courts.	TOTAL.	
Solitary Confinement.		Extra Labour.		Extra Labour and Solitary Confinement.		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		Extra Labour.	On Estates,		Hard Labour on the Tread Mill.	Hard Labour and Solitary Confinement.	Gang sentenced to Extra Labour.		M.	F.
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.									Solitary Confinement.	Solitary Confinement in Gaol.						
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	1	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	10	2	-	-	3	2	4	6	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	22	11		
1	-	18	22	-	-	4	5	10	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	39	35		
2	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	10	-		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	15	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	1	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	11	-	
1	1	-	5	-	-	2	9	1	3	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	15	19	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	1	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	1	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
6	2	34	30	-	-	17	16	15	14	-	-	41	-	-	-	-	11	3	4	147	
																			68		

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GRAND TOTAL, Colony of Grenada.

RECAPITULATION.

10	27	410	418	6	24	6	4	26	66	13	52	148	88	17	7	25	11	-	-	1,531
3	29	125	191	4	10	9	2	17	14	6	16	73	63	35	-	10	6	-	-	668
6	2	34	30	-	-	17	16	15	14	-	-	41	-	-	-	-	11	3	4	215
19	58	569	639	10	34	32	22	58	94	19	68	262	151	52	7	35	28	3	4	* 2,414

TOTAL Number of Apprentices punished - - - - 2,166

(signed) J. H. Mair,
Lieutenant-Governor.

GRENADA.

(No. 3.)

GRENADA.—RETURN of APPRENTICED LABOURERS who have purchased the Unexpired Term of their Apprenticeships, and the several Sums paid for the same, between the 1st day of August 1834 and the 1st August 1835.

No.	NAMES.	SUMS PAID.	REMARKS.
	1st DIVISION :	£. s. d.	The several sums herein set down are in the currency of the country; eight shillings sterling is about equal to one pound current money.
1	John Wake - - -	215 15 6	
2	Nancy - - -	100 - -	
3	Therese - - -	65 - -	
4	Agnes - - -	66 - -	
5	Mark - - -	36 6 -	
6	Charles - - -	108 - -	
7	Maxinine - - -	135 - -	
8	Elizabeth - - -	66 - -	
9	Gracey - - -	105 - -	
10	Frederick - - -	30 - -	
11	Augusta - - -	82 10 -	
12	Grace - - -	56 - -	
13	Sally - - -	70 - -	
14	Madlaine - - -	79 4 -	
15	St. John and } - - -	52 16 -	
16	Caroline }		
	2d DIVISION :		
17	Jessy - - -	62 14 -	
18	Betty - - -	86 - -	
19	Kate - - -	90 - -	
20	Angelique - - -	30 - -	
21	Ellinor - - -	110 - -	
22	Susan - - -	56 2 -	
23	Nelly - - -	43 15 -	
24	Betsy - - -	43 15 -	
25	Eliza - - -	25 - -	
26	Jessy - - -	12 10 -	
	3d DIVISION :		
27	St. Louis - - -	105 10 -	
28	Lucretia - - -	100 - -	
29	Mary - - -	100 - -	
30	Jenny - - -	120 - -	
31	Celanus - - -	148 10 -	
32	Hector - - -	40 - -	
33	Catherine - - -	47 - -	
33	Apprentices - TOTAL £.	2,488 7 6	

Dated at Grenada this 1st day of August 1835.

(signed) *J. Mair*
Lieutenant-Governor.

(No. 4.)

CIRCULAR to be communicated by Mr. *Cayley*, to the Special Magistrates,
First Division.

Sir,

Government House, 26 June 1835.

His Excellency the Lieut.-governor, having observed a deposition taken before a special magistrate that a cart-whip had been employed as an instrument of punishment, desires that it may be understood that in all cases where special magistrates may deem it necessary to inflict corporal punishment the military instrument called the "cat" shall alone be used. The cart-whip has been, or ought to have been, long since abolished.

Thomas Cayley, esq., S. M.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James Clarke*, G. S.

Instructions similar to the above communicated to the other divisions.

TABLE (B.)

RETURN of the Number and Effect of the RETURNS OF PUNISHMENTS received by the Governor of *Grenada*, from the Special Magistrates, from 1 September 1835 to 31 May 1836.

Colony.	Date.	Total Number of Apprentices throughout the Island, Province or Government	Total Number of Punishments inflicted under the authority of Special Magistrates throughout the same.	Proportion per cent. of Punishments to Apprentices.	Total Number of Males Punished.		Total Number of Females punished.	The Average Number of Stripes inflicted in Cases of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum Number of Stripes inflicted in any one Case of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum of Severity in any one Case of Punishment by Confinement.	The Maximum of Severity in any other mode of Punishment.
					By Whipping.	Otherwise than by Whipping.					
Grenada.	1835 : September	* 19,393	312	1½	35	181	96	20	30	61 days -	-- 78 days' extra labour on estate.
	October -	21,734	† 614	2½	30	293	291	21	39	84 days -	-- 30 days' confinement, 25 lashes at the commencement, and 30 lashes at the expiration. <i>N. B.</i> The 30 lashes at the expiration remitted by order of Lieut.-governor as irregular.
	November	21,672	333	1½	10	165	158	15	39	30 days solitary.	-- 60 days' confinement in gaol and hard labour on the tread-mill.
	December	‡ 21,832	160	¾	12	77	71	11	35	7 weeks -	90 days' hard labour.
	1836: January -	21,466	150	¾	18	73	59	14	39	60 days -	50 days' extra labour.
	February -	21,826	229	1	7	92	130	23	30	30 days -	60 days' hard labour.
	March -	21,136	259	1½	10	95	184	27	30	14 days -	-- 2 months' hard labour on tread-mill and solitary confinement.
	April -	21,136	368	1½	8	182	178	23	30	74 days -	-- 90 days' hard labour and solitary confinement.
	May -	21,136	241	1¼	7	123	111	25	30	30 days -	60 days' hard labour.

* The above is the number returned by the stipendiary justices, which is less than that furnished in the last population return by 1,681 persons.
 † In some instances it has been found requisite to sentence whole gangs to extra labour, by which the increase is accounted for.
 ‡ In future the population returns of each district will be taken from the registrar's books.

T O B A G O .

— No. 397. —

TOBAGO.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to the Earl of *Aberdeen*.

No. 397.

My Lord,
 Government House, Barbadoes, 9 Feb. 1835.
 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,
 No. 279. An Act to prevent the Clandestine Departure of Persons from this Island.
 No. 280. An Act to enable Apprenticed Labourers, Servants and Poor Settlers to recover Debts in a summary manner.

I have, &c.
 (signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Act printed in the Appendix, No. 149.

Ditto - No. 150.

— No. 398. —

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

No. 398.

Sir,
 Downing-street, 14 May 1835.
 Two Acts passed in the month of December last by the Legislature of Tobago, having been referred by the King in Council to the Lords of the Committee of Privy

TOBAGO.

Privy Council for Trade and Foreign Plantations, that Committee have reported to His Majesty their opinion, that these Acts should be left to their operation; and I have the honour herewith to transmit to you an order of His Majesty in Council approving that Report; viz.

23 April.

No. 279. An Act to prevent the Clandestine Departure of Persons from this Island.

No. 280. An Act to enable Apprenticed Labourers, Servants and Poor Settlers, to recover Debts in a summary manner.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 399. —

No. 399. EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*, K. C. B., to the Earl of *Aberdeen*; dated Government House, Barbadoes, 16 March 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit enclosed, for His Majesty's gracious allowance, the transcript of an Act of the Legislature of Tobago, intituled,

No. 281. An Act for the prevention of Trespasses in the said Island.

Act printed in the
Appendix, No. 151.

— No. 400. —

No. 400. COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 7 April 1836.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated 23d ultimo, leaving to its operation an Act passed by the Legislature of the island of Tobago, in the month of January 1835, intituled,

No. 281. An Act for the prevention of Trespasses in the said Island.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 401. —

No. 401. COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to the Earl of *Aberdeen*.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, 11 April 1835.

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit for your Lordship's information, a despatch from Lieutenant-governor *Darling*, transmitting copies of the speech which he addressed to the Council and Assembly, on the occasion of the recent opening of the Legislature, and of the replies of those bodies thereto.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 401.

EXTRACT of DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Darling* to Sir *Lionel Smith*, dated Government House, Tobago, 18 March 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copy of the speech with which I opened the present session of the Provincial Parliament on the 10th instant, as well as copies of the addresses presented to me yesterday by the Legislative Council and House of Assembly.

Enclosure 2, in No. 401.

EXTRACT from Lieutenant-Governor *Darling's* Speech to the Council and Assembly.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

It is highly gratifying to me, in concluding this address, to be able to congratulate you on the continued tranquillity and good order prevailing throughout the island. The special magistrates

Enclosure 1,
in No. 401.

2.

Enclosure 2,
in No. 401.

magistrates, to whose zealous services I continue to be much indebted, have in fact but little to do. The happy results of the good understanding which appears now to be fully established between the apprenticed labourer and his employer, are clearly shown in the trifling nature of the complaints preferred to the magistracy; and I think I am not over zealous in considering the general good character of the apprenticed labourer in the island of Tobago so fully established as to render it unnecessary that I should again publicly advert to it.

The unusual state of good health which, by the blessing of Divine Providence, has for many months been enjoyed throughout the island cannot fail to impress every reflecting mind with a deep sense of the gratitude that is due to the Beneficent Author of all good; nor can it fail to produce the humble desire that we may, by the improvement of our future lives, become more deserving of the mercies and blessings we are permitted to enjoy.

Government House, Tobago, 10 March 1835.

TOBAGO.

Enclosure 3, in No. 401.

EXTRACT of an ADDRESS from the Council to his Excellency Major-General *Henry Charles Darling*, Lieutenant-Governor, &c. &c. &c.

THIS board have much pleasure in according with your Excellency the satisfaction at the continued tranquillity and good order of the apprenticed labourers in this island. They conceive the colony is greatly indebted to the special magistracy for their exertions in meeting any imaginary discontent; and they hope the mother country will take into consideration their meritorious services.

This board fully agree with your Excellency, that the inhabitants of this island have every reason to be truly grateful to the Almighty for the continuance of good health with which they have been blessed for a long period back.

Council Chamber, 16 March 1835. (signed) *W. T. Nicholson*,
President of the Council.

Enclosure 3,
in No. 401.

Enclosure 4, in No. 401.

EXTRACT of an ADDRESS from the Assembly to his Excellency Major-General *Henry Charles Darling*, Lieutenant-Governor, &c. &c. &c.

THE House most sincerely hope that the health, peace and tranquillity of which your Excellency has drawn so flattering a picture may long continue to be enjoyed by the colony.

House of Assembly, 17 March 1835. (signed) *James Johnston*,
Speaker.

Enclosure 4,
in No. 401.

— No. 402. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*. No. 402.

My Lord, Government House, Barbadoes, 6 July 1835.

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit for His Majesty's gracious allowance transcripts of the following Acts, which have been passed by the Legislature of Tobago.

No. 284. An Act to regulate the Conduct and fix the Value of the Labour of Persons acting as Porters and Labourers in the said Island.

No. 287. An Act for the more summary punishment of Petty Thefts.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Act printed in the
Appendix, No. 152.
Act printed in the
Appendix, No. 153.

— No. 403. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*. No. 403.

Sir, Downing-street, 14 September 1835.

Two Acts passed by the Governor, Council and Assembly of the island of Tobago, in the months of January, February and April last, having been referred by His Majesty in Council to the Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council 166.—II. for

TOBAGO.

for Trade and Foreign Plantations, that Committee have reported to His Majesty in Council their opinion that the said Acts should be left to their operation. I have the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 9th September 1835, approving that report; viz.

No. 284. An Act to regulate the Conduct and fix the Value of the Labour of Persons acting as Porters and Labourers in the said Island.

No. 287. An Act for the more summary punishment of Petty Thefts.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 404. —

No. 404. COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg.*

My Lord, Government House, Barbadoes, 4 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for His Majesty's gracious allowance, the transcript of an Act, intituled (No. 289) "An Act for establishing certain Rules and Regulations respecting Persons sentenced to be punished by Hard Labour."

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith.*

— No. 405. —

No. 405. COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith.*

Sir, Downing-street, 12 October 1835.

I HAVE received your despatch, dated the 4th of August last (Tobago), inclosing the Treadmill Regulation Act of that Island.

The 5th section of this Act authorizes the superintendent of the treadmill to compel any prisoner to work, by whipping with a cat-o'-nine-tails, or by solitary confinement, if the ability of the prisoner to perform such labour shall first have been ascertained by the opinion of a medical practitioner.

It appears to me that there are not wanting objections of conclusive weight against the exercise of this discretionary power by the superintendent of the treadmill.

These objections apply with peculiar force to the West Indies, where the disuse of the whip to coerce labour on the plantations is so recent as to have still left a peculiar and just dread of that power on the one side, with perhaps more than common temptation to abuse it on the other. Some effective, and, therefore, severe provision to overcome the contumacious inaction of the prisoners is of course necessary; but as the treadmill retains its wholesome terror and its efficacy as a means of punishment in this kingdom without the use of whips, I cannot acknowledge the necessity for resorting to that practice in Tobago.

You will instruct the Lieutenant-governor to suggest to the Council and Assembly the immediate repeal and amendment of this part of their law; and until I shall learn the result of that recommendation, His Majesty's decision on the Act will be suspended.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 406. —

No. 406. COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Darling* to Lord *Glenelg.*

My Lord, Government House, Tobago, 4 August 1835.

SINCE I had the honour of putting my hand, about an hour ago, to two despatches addressed to your Lordship respecting the special and stipendiary magistrates of this colony, I have accidentally cast my eye upon the Sun newspaper, of the 20th June,

June, in which I find the following passage imputed to Mr. Fowell Buxton, in his speech in Parliament of the 19th, on the question of suspending the payment of the sum voted to the West India Proprietors as compensation on the abolition of slavery, viz

“ In the island of Tobago, since the passing of the Emancipation Act, a female slave had been publicly whipped. In consequence of these circumstances a meeting of the special magistrates was held, and the Antigua Advertiser newspaper stated, that a proportion of about five or six to two of the special magistrates present stated that they knew the punishment to be illegal, but that they were resolved to inflict it, some from motives of humanity, as they averred, and others because they said the Court of King’s Bench could take no cognizance of their acts as special magistrates. All this, notwithstanding the remonstrance of the Solicitor-general.”

In the Standard and Evening Mail the reason assigned for this punishment considerably enhance the turpitude of the conduct of which the magistrates are said to have been guilty.

From whatever source Mr. Buxton may have drawn his information on this subject, I feel it my duty to the magistracy of Tobago, if not to myself as the principal, to give the fullest and most complete contradiction to the assertion that any female in this island has since the 1st of August been subjected to corporal punishment in any manner that could possibly justify this assertion, which is altogether unfounded.

The magistrates, I am convinced, would, to a man, have shrunk from the act imputed to them under the circumstances stated, while the whole official conduct of the Solicitor-general is the most complete refutation of the puerility imputed to him on the occasion that can be imagined.

I am aware, my Lord, of the latitude which gentlemen in certain places occasionally assume in speaking of the character and conduct of individuals who are not at hand to justify themselves.

I am also aware of the facility with which error may be imputed to a newspaper reporter, when the injured party complains of the injustice and injury he has sustained; but such a salve, privately administered, can but imperfectly heal the wound that has been recklessly and publicly inflicted on the absent.

Although no direct mention is made of the officer administering the government in this case (which may be presumed to have taken place unknown to him), it is obviously impossible that it could long pass without coming to his knowledge; and as it is but reasonable to suppose that he must have become acquainted with the facts before the reports could have reached the honourable gentleman mentioned, it must follow as a fair inference, that I, the individual presiding over this community, not having taken any notice of this flagitious proceeding, have, by silence and indifference, tacitly acquiesced in its propriety.

I know not, my Lord, how Mr. Buxton can justify to himself, for the purpose of strengthening his own cause, the injury of another’s character, or how he can hazard assertions which may prove injurious to men as honourable as himself, on vague and insufficient authority.

To your Lordship, possibly, and the Colonial Department, who have the means of ascertaining the facts connected with this imputed violation of law and decency, it may not be necessary that I should justify myself and the officers of Government under me; but, as the public and our friends have no other means of judging of our official conduct than through the public prints, the injury to us in this respect becomes irreparable.

With this feeling, my Lord, I look with confidence to your Lordship’s readiness to render to the character of the Lieutenant-governor and magistrates of Tobago that public justice to which I trust they have not yet forfeited the claim, except in the imagination, perhaps, of Mr. Buxton.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry C. Darling*, Lieutenant-Governor.

P. S.—I have felt it the more proper to address this letter to your Lordship, as I find it stated in the Sun, that Sir George Grey admitted “ that facts had occurred in the West Indies since the 1st of August which were a disgrace to human nature; ” and in the Mail and Standard, that “ he would admit there had been some such acts as his honourable friend has described.”

I trust that my motives for troubling your Lordship on this occasion will not be mistaken.

(signed) *H. C. D.*

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— No. 407. —

No. 407.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 21 September 1835.

I HAVE received from the Lieutenant-governor of Tobago a despatch, dated on the 4th of August last, commenting on certain expressions attributed by the London newspapers of the 20th of June last to Mr. Buxton, in his place in the House of Commons. The Lieutenant-governor denies, in the most unqualified terms, the truth of a statement which those journals ascribe to Mr. Buxton, respecting the punishment of a female in the island of Tobago, and calls upon me to render public justice to himself and to the magistracy of the colony, observing that the demand is preferred with the greater reason, because, on the same authority, Sir George Grey is reported, in his answer to Mr. Buxton, to have acknowledged that, since the abolition of slavery, some facts had occurred in the West Indies which were a disgrace to human nature, and that there had been some such occurrences as those which Mr. Buxton had described.

I feel strongly, and admit without reserve, that the honour of all His Majesty's absent officers employed in the civil service of the Crown in the colonies is under the protection of the head of this department; and I trust that, to the utmost of my power, that duty will ever be zealously and firmly discharged. In his place in the House of Commons, Sir George Grey has given the most decisive proofs that he is animated by the same feeling; and the Lieutenant-governor of Tobago may be confidently assured, that no parliamentary debate can be accurately reported in which either Sir George Grey or myself may appear to have been lukewarm in the defence of the good name of any colonial officer, however elevated or however obscure his position.

In the particular case to which the Lieutenant-governor refers, it does not appear that any allusion was made to himself, except as he may be constructively responsible for the imputed misconduct and subsequent impunity of the special magistrates of the island. I am very happy to learn that the charge, said to have been made by Mr. Buxton against them, was entirely unfounded; and if the House of Commons were now in session, I am persuaded that Sir George Grey would seek the earliest opportunity for giving, on the Lieutenant-governor's authority, the most unequivocal contradiction to the statement. But except within the walls of Parliament itself, I am not aware by what means I could satisfy the Lieutenant-governor's solicitude that I should publicly vindicate his conduct, and that of the local magistrates. I need scarcely state that it is impossible for me to publish an authoritative vindication of them in the journals in which the charge itself appeared. If, in the next Session, further papers in elucidation of the progress of society in the West Indies under the new law, shall be laid, by His Majesty's command, before the two Houses, the despatch which I have received from the Lieutenant-governor of Tobago will be amongst the number.

In the meantime he will allow me to observe, that, at so great a distance from this kingdom, he may perhaps attribute much more importance to a newspaper report of this description than it really deserves. The good sense and characteristic love of justice of the people of England afford every man protection against the injury to which he might otherwise be exposed by charges which he has not a full opportunity to refute; and in the multitude of loose and hasty statements of this kind which are continually made in the progress of any great public discussion, a charge so vague as that which is attributed to Mr. Buxton in this instance excites but little attention at first, and within a very short space of time is entirely and universally forgotten.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 408. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 408.

Government House, Barbadoes,
20 August 1835.

My Lord,

I BEG leave to forward to your Lordship the enclosed despatches, addressed to your Lordship by Lieutenant-governor Darling, in reply to your Lordship's circular despatches of the 15th and 18th June last, which were sent to me unsealed, for my perusal.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Enclosure 1, in No. 408.

My Lord,

Government House, Tobago, 4 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's despatch (circular of 15th June).

This despatch directs the revocation of all commissions that may have been granted to special magistrates from amongst the colonists, as soon as the arrangements necessary for transferring their duties will admit.

I have, in consequence, to report to your Lordship, that there are at this moment four special magistrates employed in Tobago, of the description alluded to, the whole of whose services will be dispensed with on the arrival of Mr. Norcott, stipendiary magistrate, from Jamaica.

The Marquis of Sligo having given me to understand, by despatch of 7th June, that Mr. Norcott would leave Jamaica by the next packet, I confidently expect him by the next mail-boat from Barbadoes, when I shall be extremely glad to be released from my dependence on the island magistracy, who, although I have considered them entitled to my acknowledgments, have not altogether administered the law as I could have wished.

It is not for me to inform your Lordship that men who have been for years accustomed to the exercise of absolute power over slaves, on the produce of whose labour they have a direct interest, find difficulty in exerting that control over their passions which becomes necessary when their authority over the same individuals is subjected to restrictions imposed by law.

It is, nevertheless, but justice to the local magistrates of this island, who have been acting under my appointment, to say, that they have not shown any disposition to cruelty or excessive rigor, though they have, in some instances, had more frequent recourse to corporal punishment than I could have desired.

The flogging, however, with the cat, as administered instead of the cart-whip, is comparatively a very trifling punishment, and would be less frequently resorted to were there proper places of confinement, or for hard labour, established in the distant parts of the island.

None of these have yet been erected, and our poverty, I fear, precludes the hope of any very effective establishment of this kind at the colonial expense.

A vote of 100 *l.* for the erection of a tread-mill to windward has passed the Assembly, but the funds have not yet been raised.

The Lord Glenelg.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. C. Darling*.

Enclosure 2, in No. 408.

My Lord,

Government House, 3 August 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's despatch of the 18th June (circular), calling for various returns and reports connected with the apprenticed labourers of this island.

I now forward to your Lordship the documents specified under the first and fourth head of your despatch. Those required under the second and third will take so much time to prepare, that I am induced to put your Lordship in possession of what I am able to furnish, without waiting for the remainder, which I shall have the honour to transmit with the least possible delay.

In submitting to your Lordship the copies of instructions I have given the stipendiary magistrates, I beg to bring under your consideration that I have not been able to issue instructions to these officers in the clear and satisfactory form I could have wished, from the circumstances under which I have been placed with respect to them.

I found myself on the eve of entering upon the new system about to take place on the 1st of August 1834, when the authority of the general magistracy of the island over the population, whose civil condition was about to undergo such an important and deeply interesting change, was to cease and determine, without the presence of any one of the functionaries

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Enclosure 1,
in No. 408.

For Circular
15 June, *vide Papers*
relative to the Abolition of Slavery,
part 2, 1833-35,
p. 8.

Enclosure 2,
in No. 408.

For Circular
18 June, *vide Papers*
relative to the Abolition of Slavery,
part 3, 1836, p. 5.

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tionaries to whom was to be transferred the power necessary for maintaining the tranquility of the island, and for enforcing the reciprocal duties arising out of the new state of things; nor had I any information as to the number of stipendiary magistrates that would ultimately be allowed for the island.

Thus circumstanced, I was under the necessity of making special temporary appointments; and, as I could not hold out any prospect of remuneration for what was expected to prove an arduous and disagreeable duty, the propriety of dividing the island into small districts presented itself to my consideration, that the persons who were about to accept the offices of special justices might have the least possible grounds of complaint as to the duties to be required of them. The island was in consequence divided into 10 districts; and, as I could not but be sensible that my power over the gentlemen to be appointed to their superintendence would be of a very uncertain and fragile nature, I did not consider it politic to exact of them anything more than a general observance of the Abolition Act, the less so as I was in daily hopes of being relieved from dependence upon officers over whom my control might at any moment, by caprice or other circumstances, be destroyed.

At the date of Mr. M'Intosh's arrival, on the 9th of August 1834, my arrangements were necessarily already made; and as I could not but hope to be strengthened by the speedy appearance of the remaining stipendiaries, I was unwilling to disturb them, hoping that one change of system would suffice. No magistrate, however, arriving for some time, and Mr. M'Intosh becoming urgent for employment, I appointed him to the superintendence of one of the small districts already mentioned, the special justice under whom it had been placed having expressed a wish to be relieved.

I at the same time issued to Mr. M'Intosh the instruction, of which I beg leave to enclose a copy, not extending it, however, to the other magistrates, for reasons that will be obvious to your Lordship.

In this situation, with only one stipendiary magistrate, the duty continued to be carried on until the arrival of Mr. Child on the 6th of last June.

Understanding then that no further acquisition of independent magistrates was to be expected, I proceeded to a more permanent arrangement and distribution of the island, placing one of the stipendiary magistrates in charge of three of the former districts in the windward part of the island, and assigning to the other an equal number to leeward, but with a great disproportion of population, arising out of local circumstances. I was fortunate enough to prevail upon three of the former special justices to continue their services in the central districts, and to induce a gentleman, who had not hitherto been employed, to take upon himself the charge of the fourth, which had been thrown upon my hands.

I then addressed to Mr. Child the instructions, of which I have the honour to enclose a copy, and was soon happily relieved from the apprehension of being left still dependent, by a letter which I had the honour to receive from the Marquis of Sligo, acquainting me that a stipendiary magistrate, Mr. Norcott, was to be sent from Jamaica to this island.

Looking with confidence to the arrival of that gentleman by the mail-boat, which reached Tobago this day, I prepared, on the 25th ultimo, an instruction for him, copy of which I have the honour to annex, and hope, as far as they go, these several instruments will meet with your Lordship's approval.

I regret to say that my expectations respecting Mr Norcott have been for the present disappointed.

The Right Hon. the Lord Glenelg.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. C. Darling*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Enclosure 3, in No. 408.

Enclosure 3,
in No. 408.

TOBAGO :—RETURN of the Names of all SPECIAL or STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES who have been removed from or resigned their Office, specifying the Reasons for the same.

SPECIAL MAGISTRATES employed under the Authority of the Lieutenant-Governor.

Henry Hamilton.
Frederick Clarke.
James Kick.

W. F. Nicholson.
John Baird.
John Stewart.

The further services of these gentlemen dispensed with from 1st July, in consequence of the arrival of stipendiary magistrates from England.

STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES discontinued.

None.

4 August 1835.

(signed) *Henry C. Darling*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Enclosure 4, in No. 408.

Sir,

Tobago, Government House, 17 June 1835.

Enclosure 4,
in No. 408.

HEREWITH I have the honour to present you with a commission, wherein are detailed the limits of certain districts over which you are to preside as a special justice, under the provisions of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery in this island. A question having arisen as to the power possessed by me to grant you a commission of a more permanent description as stipendiary magistrate under the appointment of His Majesty, and the Crown law officer having given it as his opinion that that power has not been delegated to me with sufficient formality to enable me so to do, I have been under the necessity of referring the case to the Governor-in-Chief for his Excellency's instructions for my guidance. In the meantime, the commission which you will receive herewith invests you with as full power and authorities for the discharge of your duty as if it were signed by His Majesty, while the instructions which authorize the issue of your salary, from the date of your being ready to take upon you the duties of your office, will remove any just grounds of complaint or dissatisfaction on your part, at the disappointment you may for the moment experience at not receiving a permanent commission.

Annexed to this letter is the copy of an instruction which I addressed to Mr. M'Intosh in October last, and the Governor-in-Chief and His Majesty's Secretary of State having been pleased to approve thereof, you will receive it as your guide (in conjunction with the Abolition Act, of which you have a copy) on the points to which it more immediately refers. I must at the same time explain, that when these instructions were drawn up, I was in hopes of having a sufficient number of stipendiary magistrates from home to render me independent of the local magistracy of the island; but that not being the case, and finding that I am in some measure to depend upon the co-operation of these gentlemen, I am of opinion, that some modification of the instructions in question is advisable, or that I should draw your attention to certain parts of them, which, as I do not consider it proper to address them to the special magistrates of the island, may require to be executed with the greater delicacy and caution. First, with respect to the allowances of provisions required by the 10th and 12th clauses of the Abolition Act, to be issued to the apprenticed labourers, I would supersede that part of the instructions which requires you "once at least in each month to inquire whether the provisions issued on the several estates are sound and fit for consumption," and recommend your inquiries on this point to be confined to the occasions on which you may receive complaints of their being of a bad or unwholesome quality, when you will proceed as directed in the instruction.

Having ascertained that there is a sick-house or hospital on each estate, and observing, by the 19th clause of the Abolition Act, that although it is required that there shall be "a good and sufficient hospital, of proper size and dimensions," there is no penalty attached to there not being one, it may not be advisable to make your inquiries on this subject in such a manner as may be likely to lead to the necessity of your making any report to me on the subject, unless your attention be drawn to it by any complaint of the want of medical care or attention to the sick on any estate, in which case you will observe the instruction already given. You will, however, on your first visit to each estate, inquire the name of the medical attendant, and enter the same in your journal, to be reported for my information. You are at liberty to reside wherever you may be able to establish your residence to your own satisfaction, taking care that proper places, with reference to the general extent of your district, be appointed and made known, for holding your weekly sittings. With reference to that part of the instructions which directs, under the 55th clause, that six constables shall be appointed in each district, it may be necessary to observe, that that regulation was made with the idea that the island would be divided into two districts only; but there being ten, instead of two, it may suffice if you appoint three constables in the districts under your superintendance, which, together with a constable on each estate, is authorized by the 60th clause; and the general good conduct of the apprenticed labourers, since the 1st of August last, will, I trust, enable you, without much trouble, to maintain the same good order and tranquillity that has hitherto prevailed. To the remaining part of the instructions on this point I request your particular attention, as I attach much consequence to the system with respect to the constables being duly understood and properly enforced. As to the compensation the district constables may expect for their services, I am not at present prepared to say that they will receive anything beyond what is allowed to the ordinary constables of the island, when employed under the general magistracy, but I will not fail to bring the subject under the consideration of the House of General Assembly at the next meeting of the Legislature, with a view to a permanent stipend being granted. In conclusion, and with reference to the latter paragraph of the instruction to Mr. M'Intosh, I have only further to express the general confidence which I place in your zeal and discretion in the discharge of a very important duty, which I have reason to believe, from a 10 months' experience, may be conducted so as effectually to promote the contemplated object of Government, without exciting feelings of anger or discontent on the part of the apprenticed labourers or their employers.

Wm. A. Child, Esq.,
Special Magistrate.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. C. Darling,*
Lieutenant-Governor.

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Enclosure 5, in No. 408.

Sir,

Government House, Tobago, 25 July 1835.

Enclosure 5,
in No. 408.

HEREWITH you will receive a commission, appointing you a stipendiary magistrate under the Act for the Abolition of Slavery in this island, together with a copy of that Act; one of the amended Abolition Act, and one of the Petty Theft Act, all having reference to the duty on which you are about to be employed.

You will also receive copy of an instruction which I addressed to Mr. M'Intosh on the 17th October 1834, and of one to Mr. Child on the 17th June 1835.

These instructions, with the accompanying Acts, you will, I trust, find a sufficient guide in all ordinary matters of duty. Whenever a difficulty of an unforeseen nature may occur, you will of course make special reports of the circumstance, and apply for such further instructions as you may find necessary.

In your commission are defined the precise limits of the district over which you are to preside. You are at liberty to reside in such part of it as may be most convenient for the performance of your duty, and wherever you can establish yourself to your own satisfaction; bearing in mind that in this, as well as in every particular connected with your duty as a stipendiary magistrate, it is desirable that, to the utmost possible degree, you should keep yourself independent of the attorneys, managers and others having an interest in apprenticed labourers.

On comparing the letter of instructions to Mr. Child with that addressed to Mr. M'Intosh, you will find some discrepancies in certain points. These arose out of existing circumstances at the different periods when the instructions were issued.

As the first mentioned contains some modification of those comprised in the latter, where such difference shall be found, I should prefer your adopting the former as your guide, it being highly desirable, on every occasion of intercourse with the planters, that your duty should be performed in the manner least likely to provoke feelings of anger or discontent. This, I am satisfied, will be found perfectly practicable, without in the least degree committing the interests of the apprenticed labourers, whom you are equally required to protect from severity and injustice, on the part of their employers, and to restrain, as far as may be in your power, from acts of irregularity, insubordination or breach of the laws provided for their governance and protection.

Having perused with attention the reports of the special justices throughout the island, since the 1st of August 1834, I am strongly inclined to the opinion, from the general nature and extent of the complaints that have come before them, that the object of maintaining due order amongst the apprentices, and of obtaining from them a sufficient quantity of labour, may be attained without the infliction of corporal punishment, which it is on every account desirable to avoid. I therefore take this opportunity of impressing upon you my desire, that, except in extreme cases of absolute insolence, or direct refusal to obey the commands of their employers, recourse be had to any other sort of legal punishment in preference to whipping.

Having doubts of the qualifications of the medical attendants on some of the estates, you will be pleased to ascertain, by inquiry of the managers, the names of the medical persons employed by them respectively (without disclosing the reason of the inquiry), of which you will make a return to me, with the duplicate of your first quarterly journal.

Being desirous of obtaining, as correctly as possible, a return of deaths amongst the white inhabitants of the island during the year 1834, I have to request that you will endeavour to ascertain the name of every white person who died in the district under your superintendance from the 1st of January to the 31st of December in that year, specifying, if possible, the following particulars:

Name of the deceased.
Age.
Illness occasioning death.
Length of illness before death.
Length of residence in the island.

Accompanying your journal to 30th of September, I wish to receive answers to the following questions:

1. Has the late crop been greater or less than that of the last year, and in what proportion?
2. To what cause is the difference attributed?
3. Are the apprenticed labourers considered as having done a fair proportion of labour through the year, reckoning from the 1st of August 1834 to 1835?
4. Have they, in general, worked cheerfully, or has any particular discontent been manifest?
5. On what terms generally did they agree with the managers for their extra labour during crop time?
6. Have the mothers of the young children shown any disposition to bind them apprentices? In how many instances has it been done in your district?
7. Has the general conduct of the apprentices, during the 12 months from 1st August 1834, both as respects their labour in the field and their general behaviour, been such as to have produced any decided opinion, on the part of the proprietors or managers, as to any particular

particular result that may be expected at the end of the apprenticeship system, affecting the future operations of sugar cultivation and manufacture?

8. If the managers have already entered into any calculation as to the rate of wages they will probably be able to afford for free labour, be pleased to state the average rate in your district for the different classes of mechanics and labourers?

9. What is the opinion of the majority of proprietors and managers in your district, as to the introduction of European labourers, with a view to their partaking in the labour of sugar cultivation, not only as respects field labour, but the other operations connected with that manufacture? Is it desirable or otherwise?

There are many subjects of information connected with the statistics of this island, on which I shall probably endeavour to gain the required information through your means at no distant date; but being unwilling to divert your attention from the more immediate object of thoroughly establishing a system of good understanding between the apprenticed labourers and their employers, which should be the first object of your desire, I will abstain from obtruding further on your attention at present, assuring you that the more ample and satisfactory the information you are so good as to communicate, on the points already submitted to you, the greater will be my obligation; nor can I doubt of your thereby recommending yourself to the favourable opinion of His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

William Norcott, Esq.,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

(signed) *Henry C. Darling,*
Lieutenant-Governor.

Enclosure 6, in No. 408.

Sir,

Government House, Tobago, 17 October 1834.

Enclosure 6,
in No. 408.

You will receive herewith a commission, appointing you a special stipendiary magistrate of this island, under the Abolition Act, to be charged with the superintendence of district No. 5, the limits of which are defined in the said commission.

You will also receive a copy of the Abolition Act of the island, and of the Act to amend the same, which last was assented to by me on the 29th of May.

The general provisions of these Acts it will be your duty on all occasions to enforce; and when complaints shall be made to you by the apprenticed labourer or his employer, or where it shall otherwise come to your knowledge that they are infringed, immediate inquiry must be instituted, and redress of grievances afforded with the least possible loss of time.

Although the terms of these Acts are clearly expressive of the duties required of you as a special magistrate, I consider it necessary to call your attention, in a particular manner, to the following points:

It is provided by the 10th clause of the Abolition Act, that persons entitled to the services of apprenticed labourers shall supply weekly a certain specified allowance of provisions, over and above the portion of land prescribed by law; and by the 12th clause it is specified what articles of provisions shall be issued in lieu of the allotted allowances of time and land, where there may not be sufficient land adapted for the cultivation of provisions for the apprenticed labourers on any estate.

It will, in consequence, be your duty, once at least in each month, to inquire whether the provisions issued on the several estates are sound and fit for consumption, and of the quality further specified in the 13th clause (particularly the salt fish, which, when old, is apt to be rank and unwholesome); and where the contrary may, on examination by you of the article complained of, be found to be the case, you will apprise the manager, attorney or other person having charge of the estate to require him forthwith to provide provisions of a proper quality; but, as it may sometimes occur that these, particularly the fish, cannot immediately be had, it will be your duty to make an entry in your journal of the circumstance, and at a future visit ascertain whether any arrears that may for a time have been withheld have been subsequently issued. It is also provided by the 16th clause, that a good and comfortable house shall be provided for each family of apprenticed labourers, and that each apprentice shall receive annually certain enumerated articles of clothing.

You will therefore consider it your duty, within two months after the 1st of January in each year, to ascertain that the 12 months' clothing has been issued, and of a proper quality.

Where it may not be the case, you will call for an explanation of the cause in writing, and make a special report thereon for my information.

The 18th clause points out how you are further to proceed on this case: it being provided by the 19th clause, that there shall be a proper hospital established on each estate, you will, at least once in every month, visit the same and ascertain that it is such, and kept in such manner, as is contemplated by the Act.

By the 29th clause it is enacted that the punishment of any male offender, when necessary, shall be inflicted with the same instrument and in like manner as in His Majesty's army. You will, on your first visit to each estate in your district, and as often afterwards as may appear to you necessary, make such inquiries as shall satisfy you that the law on this point is duly observed.

The 36th clause requires that when task-work is performed on any estate, it shall not be undertaken by the apprentice but with his own consent. You will, therefore, inquire of the manager of the several estates as to any work of this nature that may be in progress, and

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and ascertain, by personal interrogation of the apprentices, whether the same is compulsory on his part or otherwise.

The remaining clauses of the Act, to the 43d inclusive, are further sufficiently explanatory on this subject.

The 44th clause requires that the special magistrate shall reside within the limits of the district to which he shall be appointed, unless prevented by sickness or other reasonable cause, to be allowed by the Lieutenant-governor. You have my permission to establish your residence within a reasonable distance from the precincts of your district, making known where you are to be found, and appointing some place within the district for holding your weekly sittings.

This indulgence is granted only in consideration of the probability of your removal within a short period from the district to which you are at present appointed, on the final arrangement of the stipendiary magistracy of the island.

By the 46th and 47th clauses you are required to keep a journal of all cases, causes and complaints that shall be brought before you, a duplicate whereof is to be transmitted to the Lieutenant-governor quarterly, as a voucher necessary to the issue of the magistrate's salary. The correct keeping of this document I consider of the first importance, as it will afford the means of ascertaining the progressive improvement or change of any kind that may take place in the conduct and disposition of the apprenticed labourers generally, as well as the comparative degree of good order, discipline and treatment observed on different estates, whence inferences may be drawn, not requiring to be further explained at present. As to the prescribed form in which this journal is to be kept, a copy will be hereunto annexed of the manner in which I wish the entries and reports of all cases or complaints that may be brought before you to be made; this I shall call the Complaint-book, &c., as will be specified in the form.

In addition to this a separate journal, or general memorandum of your proceedings, will be required. The principal subjects for entry herein will be the dates and places when and where you hold your weekly sittings, with abstract of all complaints brought before you, and reference to the complaint-book for particulars, including the evidence, your decision and disposal of the case, as for instance: "Weekly sitting, Monday the _____ at

heard complaint of *A. B.*, apprenticed labourer, against the manager of _____ estate, for undue punishment of alleged offence. See complaint-book, page _____ 2d. Complaint of *C. B.*, manager of _____ estate, against apprenticed labourer, *C. D.*, for continued absence from work; see complaint-book, page _____ &c." Entries of the days on which you make your monthly visits to the several estates within your district, noticing particularly anything you may have found irregular, the reasons assigned for the irregularity, and the orders you may have given to rectify it. This journal must be your inseparable companion on all your official visits, as reference to it will refresh your memory as to what was done on a preceding visit, and was to be inquired into on a subsequent one, or, in other words, will show what orders were given to correct abuses, how they have been complied with, and their effect. These, with many other particulars which cannot be enumerated, but which will be obvious to any man of business, will form the contents of this journal. A book for the entry of correspondence will also be indispensable.

By the 50th clause the special justice is empowered, when he shall pass sentence of confinement upon an apprenticed labourer, to direct that the same shall take place upon the plantation to which the apprentice shall belong. As sending delinquents to Scarborough from remote parts of the island is attended with much inconvenience, loss of time and expense, it is extremely desirable that the latitude here given should be acted upon as often as possible when confinement is adjudged, until public prisons are erected in other parts of the island. It will therefore be your duty particularly to inspect the place of confinement (where any does exist) on every plantation in your district, in order to ascertain its adaptation to the intended purposes, as respects the admission of air, the absence of dampness, and the perfect cleanliness of the place, not being too scrupulous as to any other comforts. Should it not be fit for the reception of a prisoner, with due regard to the claims of humanity, you will require the manager of the estate to have it put in proper order before it is made use of.

The 55th clause authorizes the appointment of six fit persons as policemen, to be sworn in as constables in each district. You will of course make the best selection of persons you are able for this service, a nominal list whereof you will be pleased to transmit for my information. Whenever the Legislature shall decide as to the nature of remuneration the constables are to receive, I shall be ready with the special magistrates to frame such general regulations for their government as may appear expedient.

By the 60th clause the special magistrate is authorized to appoint one or more of the apprenticed labourers on each estate, with the consent of the owner or manager, to act as constable; and I am led to believe, from concurring reports, that this regulation has been attended with the best effects where it has been tried. You will therefore consult with the managers, and immediately select the men of most approved character and conduct for these situations. It is very desirable that they should be distinguished by some badge bespeaking authority, which I shall hereafter, on the permanent establishment of a district police, recommend to be uniform throughout the island; at present it ought to be something very simple, but this point you will easily arrange with the respective managers.

The Abolition Act is very clearly drawn up, and provides for every possible case of complaint that may occur between the employer and the apprenticed labourer, and invests the special justice with all necessary powers for the punishment of offenders, and for protecting the apprentice from arbitrary and unjust treatment.

It is but due to the planters or persons in charge of estates in this island, to say that the instances of unjust severity towards the apprenticed labourers when in a state of slavery, during my administration of the government, have been very few indeed. I have therefore little doubt that the apprentices will in general be found to be enjoying, to the full extent of the law, all the advantages contemplated by the late change in their condition.

It will be your duty, by a zealous and discreet exercise of the power with which you are invested, to maintain a just and reciprocal performance of the obligations imposed on either party, by which the public tranquillity and general interests of all cannot fail to be promoted. You will of course report to me, without loss of time, any extraordinary occurrence in your district, or anything wherein you may find support to your authority necessary.

W. D. M'Intosh, Esq.,
Special Magistrate.

I have, &c.
(signed) H. C. Darling,
Lieut. Governor.

Enclosure 7, in No. 408.

DUPLICATE JOURNAL of COMPLAINTS before A. B., Special Justice for District No. —, between the 1st of — and the 31st of —, showing how disposed of.

Date of Complaint.	Names of Complainants.	Substance of Complaint.	Names of Witnesses.	Substance of Evidence.	Decision.
1834: October 10	Cato, pr. ap. Whim estate.	-- That he has received no salt fish for three weeks, and been punished for demanding it.	Sam, pr. ap. - Ben, ditto. Jacob Headman. Andrews, overseer.	-- Has received fish with the rest of the apprentices until last week, when there was none on the estate. Fish has now been procured, and arrears will be issued tomorrow. Did not make any complaint to manager or overseer; has not been punished.	-- Complaint in part false. Manager admonished to have a substitute prepared in case of failure of fish in future. Complainant to work an extra hour for five days for falsehood.
Ditto -	W. Scott, manager, Adelphi estate.	- Complains that David, pr. ap. was absent three whole days last week from work, and was taken up on Providence estate.	Mr. Crispin, overseer. Stephen, constable. Julius, ditto. Providence estate.	-- David was absent at the calling of the list on Monday morning, and from all work on the estate till Wednesday night, when he was apprehended at Providence estate.	-- Has infringed the 65th clause of the Abolition Law by being found beyond the limits of the estate without a pass, and 21st clause by being absent more than two days in one week. A bad character; sentenced to receive 20 stripes.

A B S T R A C T.

Names of Estates.	Number of Complaints.	HOW DISPOSED OF.					TOTAL.
		By Whipping.	Estate Work.	Hard Labour or Tread-mill.	Solitary Confinement.	Dismissed.	
Concordia -	4	1	2	1	- -	- -	4
Adelphi -	3	- -	- -	3	- -	- -	3
Belmont -	1	- -	- -	- -	1	- -	1
Cradley -	2	1	1	- -	- -	- -	2
Whim -	2	- -	2	- -	- -	- -	2
Total -	12	2	5	4	1	- -	12

A. B., Special Justice.

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— No. 409. —

No. 409.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, 15 Sept. 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit enclosed a letter addressed to your Lordship, by Lieutenant-governor Darling, forwarding two of the returns called for by your Lordship's circular despatch of the 18th June last.

The other two returns required by that despatch I had the honour to forward with my letter of the 20th ultimo, Tobago.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Enclosures in No. 409.

My Lord,

Government House, Tobago, 24 August 1835.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 18th of June, to which I have already had the honour to reply in part, I do not see how I can more properly comply with the spirit of your Lordship's demand for "a Return of the Number and Nature of the Punishments inflicted on the Apprenticed Labourers in each Colony by the Special or Stipendiary Magistrates, specifying the Offences for which they were inflicted," than by transmitting the identical reports that have been made to me at the end of each quarter, since the 1st of August 1834, which your Lordship will receive herewith.

The reports are accompanied by abstracts, showing "the Number and Nature of the Punishments inflicted;" while the reports themselves give a summary of the complaints, and of their investigation.

As these documents (at the first view) will not be found to agree, it is necessary, to their being clearly understood, that I should explain the reason of the discrepancy.

In every case where a complaint has been entered in the magistrate's reports, as against two, three or more apprentices, I have put it down as one complaint and one punishment, unless the delinquents have been both male and female, when the punishments are entered as one, two or three, as the case may be; that is (possibly) the male offender by whipping, the females by extra labour, or one by extra labour, one by confinement. Wherever hard labour is awarded, it means work on the tread-mill, which is generally by spells of from five to eight or ten minutes in the hour.

I know not whether the aggregate number of these complaints and punishments may or may not be considered many or few, or how they may appear comparatively with those of other islands, having reference to relative population; but if the details are closely examined, and the trifling disputes between the employers and non-prædials, arising out of the non-payment of wages by those apprentices who are allowed to find work for themselves; the complaints against domestics for neglect of duty and other offences, which never come under the cognizance of the magistrate in England; the disturbances occasioned by quarrels (not very frequent) amongst the apprentices on the estates, and some offences which ought properly to have been considered out of the jurisdiction of the special magistrate; if the complaints under these different heads are extracted from the general mass, the number of complaints against and punishment of the prædial (sugar-working) labourers will, I think, appear very moderate.

There will be found occasional complaints against the whole of the first or second gang for neglect or indolent performance of their work; but the interference of the magistrate has, on every occasion of this kind, proved immediately effectual in restoring order; and in these cases (I think I am justified in saying it), there has generally been some mismanagement on the part of the employer. While on this subject it is perhaps not improper to draw your Lordship's attention to the fact, that, by the last registration of slaves in this island, there were 1,000 females more than males; there must consequently be a considerable number of women having claims to indulgence on account of their infants, in which respect the magistrates have very generally been kind and indulgent.

Misunderstandings, however, as to the claims of the employers to the labour of the nurses, under the Abolition Act, did at first prove a fruitful source of dispute and complaint, but the doubt is now pretty generally removed.

Under the former Slave Act in this island, females having six children alive could not be required to perform any work whatever; but on the change of system, when the estates became altogether deprived of the services of the children under six years of age, the proprietors considered themselves as having a fair claim to the labour of the mothers, in many instances young and able women.

It will be seen by the reports, that in the course of the year three or four prosecutions by indictment were entered against overseers for breach of the Abolition Law, in beating or ill-using apprentices; but I regret to say the bills were in every instance thrown out by the grand jury.

Having

24 August 1835.

No. 408.

Enclosures in
No. 409.These Reports being
very voluminous,
abstracts are only
given.Abstracts, No. 1,
(A) to (E).

Having, in my despatches of the 22d August and 31st December 1834, to His Majesty's Secretary of State, represented the conduct of the negroes generally in favourable terms, and bearing in mind how differently two persons may judge of the same act, I beg leave to accompany these returns with the weekly reports that were made to me in general terms up to 18th of October, whereon my reports were founded.

I have further the honour to transmit, agreeably to your Lordship's commands in the same despatch, a Return of "the Names and Number of Apprenticed Labourers who have purchased the unexpired Term of their Apprenticeship, and the several Sums paid for the same," as far as such Return can be made out; but the law of this island not requiring the interference of the magistrates, except where the parties cannot agree, I am afraid it will not be so correct as I could wish, having reason to believe that there have been some sales amongst the non-prædials belonging to free coloured people, which cannot be satisfactorily ascertained.

Vide Papers laid before Parliament, respecting Abolition of Slavery, 1833-35, part 2, pp. 177, 181.

These documents being very voluminous are not printed.

No. 2.

I have, &c.

Lord Glenelg, &c. &c.

(signed) *Henry C. Darling,*
Lieutenant-Governor.

No. 1 (A.)

ABSTRACT of COMPLAINTS brought before the Special Magistrates in the Island of *Tobago*, between the 1st August and 31st October 1834, showing how they have been disposed of.

No. of District.	NAMES MAGISTRATES.	Number of Complaints.	HOW DISPOSED OF.						TOTAL.	
			MALE.				FEMALE.			
			By Whipping.	Extra Labour.	Hard Labour.	Confinement.	Confinement.	Extra Labour.		Hard Labour.
1	J. Kirk and F. Clarke	20	9	4	1	-	1	5	-	20
2	H. Hamilton - -	21	8	3	-	2	3	5	-	21
3	J. Kirk and F. Clarke	40	22	5	-	1	6	6	-	40
4	Robert Mitchell -	19	11	1	-	1	-	4	2	19
5	Thomas Wyllie -	25	12	10	-	1	-	2	-	25
6	Samuel M'Eachnie -	23	12	5	-	2	3	1	-	23
7	John Stewart - -	36	10	10	3	1	3	9	-	36
8	James Johnston -	28	7	2	7	2	-	3	7	28
9	W. Nicholson - -	26	18	5	-	-	2	1	-	26
10	John Baird - -	26	9	2	3	-	7	3	2	26
	Total - -	264	118	47	14	10	25	39	11	264

Tobago, 17 Aug. 1835.

(signed) *H. C. Darling,* Lieut.-Governor.

TOBAGO.

No. 1 (B.)

ABSTRACT of COMPLAINTS brought before the Special Magistrates in the Island of *Tobago*, between the 1st November and 31st December 1834, showing how they have been disposed of.

No. of District.	NAMES of MAGISTRATES.	Number of Complaints.	HOW DISPOSED OF.						TOTAL.	
			MALES.				FEMALES.			
			By Whipping.	Extra Labour.	Hard Labour.	Confinement.	Confinement.	Extra Labour.		Hard Labour.
1	Frederick Clarke -	10	6	-	-	-	3	1	-	10
2	Henry R. Hamilton -	16	6	3	-	2	4	1	-	16
3	James Kirk -	25	14	3	2	-	3	3	-	25
4	Robert Mitchell -	11	2	6	-	1	-	2	-	11
5	William D. M'Intosh -	34	8	17	-	-	-	9	-	34
6	Samuel M'Eachnie -	9	6	1	-	1	-	1	-	9
7	John Stewart -	12	4	5	-	-	2	1	-	12
8	James Johnston -	17	10	2	2	-	-	2	1	17
9	William T. Nicholson -	9	7	1	-	-	-	1	-	9
10	John Baird -	28	20	1	3	-	2	1	1	28
	Total -	171	83	39	7	4	14	22	2	171

Tobago, 17 Aug. 1835.

(signed) *Henry C. Darling*, Lieut.-Governor.

No. 1 (C.)

ABSTRACT of COMPLAINTS brought before the Special Magistrates in the Island of *Tobago*, between the 1st January and 31st March 1835, showing how they have been disposed of.

No. of District.	NAMES of MAGISTRATES.	Number of Complaints.	HOW DISPOSED OF.						TOTAL.	
			MALES.				FEMALES.			
			By Whipping.	Extra Labour.	Hard Labour.	Confinement.	Confinement.	Extra Labour.		Hard Labour.
1	Frederick Clarke -	17	12	1	-	-	3	-	1	17
2	Henry Hamilton -	16	4	5	2	-	1	2	2	16
3	James Kirk -	24	14	-	-	1	1	8	-	24
4	Robert Mitchell -	21	14	3	1	-	1	2	-	21
5	James Wyllie -	32	9	11	-	1	-	7	4	32
6	Samuel M'Eachnie -	14	6	4	1	-	1	-	2	14
7	John Stewart -	26	12	8	1	-	-	3	2	26
8	James Johnston -	35	15	8	4	1	1	2	4	35
9	W. T. Nicholson -	19	11	4	-	-	1	3	-	19
10	John Baird -	8	5	-	-	-	3	-	-	8
	Total -	212	102	44	9	3	12	27	15	212

Tobago, 17 Aug. 1835.

(signed) *Henry C. Darling*, Lieut.-Governor.

No. 1 (D.)

ABSTRACT of COMPLAINTS brought before the Special Magistrates in the Island of *Tobago*, between the 1st April and 30th June 1835, showing how they have been disposed of.

No. of District.	NAMES of MAGISTRATES.	Number of Complaints.	HOW DISPOSED OF.							TOTAL.
			MALES.				FEMALES.			
			By Whipping.	Extra Labour.	Hard Labour.	Confinement.	Confinement.	Extra Labour.	Hard Labour.	
1	F. Clarke - -	16	6	7	-	-	-	2	1	16
2	Henry Hamilton - -	9	2	4	-	-	2	1	-	9
3	James Kirk - -	41	28	8	-	-	1	3	1	41
4	Robert Mitchell - -	25	8	5	-	2	1	8	1	25
5	James Wyllie - -	37	8	14	1	3	3	6	2	37
6	Samuel M'Eachnie - -	13	4	4	1	1	-	1	2	13
7	John Stewart - -	19	5	6	-	-	2	5	1	19
8	James Johnston - -	43	20	8	6	-	1	7	1	43
9	W. T. Nicholson - -	16	3	5	1	-	2	5	-	16
10	John Baird - -	14	11	-	-	1	1	-	1	14
	Total - - -	233	95	61	9	7	13	38	10	233

Tobago, 17 August 1835.

Henry C. Darling, Lieut.-Governor.

No. 1 (E.)

GENERAL ABSTRACT of COMPLAINTS brought before the Special Magistrates in the Island of *Tobago*, between the 1st August 1834 and 30th June 1835, showing how they have been disposed of.

	Number of Complaints.	HOW DISPOSED OF.							TOTAL.
		MALES.				FEMALES.			
		By Whipping.	Extra Labour.	Hard Labour.	Confinement.	Confinement.	Extra Labour.	Hard Labour.	
From 1st August to 31st October 1834 - - -	264	118	47	14	10	25	39	11	264
From 1st November to 31st December 1834 - - -	171	83	39	7	4	14	22	2	171
From 1st January to 31st March 1835 - - -	212	102	44	9	3	12	27	15	212
From 1st April to 30th June 1835 - - -	233	95	61	9	7	13	38	10	233
Total - - -	880	398	191	39	24	64	126	38	880

TOBAGO.

No. 2.

RETURN of APPRENTICED LABOURERS who have Purchased the Unexpired Term of their Apprenticeship in the Island of Tobago, from 1st of August 1834 to August 1835, with the different Sums paid.

Names of Estates.	Names of Apprenticed Labourers.	Number.	Sums Paid.		
			£.	s.	d.
Sluivan - - - -	Margaret - - - -	1	20	-	-
Golden Grove - - - -	Felicity and Owen - - - -	2	75	-	-
Buccoo - - - -	Robert - - - -	1	6	18	8
Mary's Hill - - - -	Fanny - - - -	1	27	10	-
Auchenskeoch - - - -	William - - - -	1	15	-	-
Studly Park - - - -	Charlotte - - - -	1	14	-	-
Scarborough - - - -	Henry - - - -	1	25	-	-
Franklyn's - - - -	Catherine - - - -	1	27	10	-
Harmony Hall - - - -	Betsy - - - -	1	20	-	-
Betsy's Hope - - - -	Mary Ann - - - -	1	45	-	-
Ditto - - - -	Kitty - - - -	1	27	10	-
Richmond - - - -	Robert - - - -	1	67	-	-
Ditto - - - -	Fortune - - - -	1	40	10	-
Goldsborough - - - -	Annie - - - -	1	30	-	-
Ditto - - - -	Marianne - - - -	1	10	5	-
Total - - - -		16	451	3	8

Henry Darling, Lieut.-Governor.

— No. 410. —

No. 410.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, 15 Sept. 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit inclosed a letter addressed to your Lordship by Lieutenant-Governor Darling, reporting his opinions and those entertained by the principal agriculturists of the island upon the various topics embraced in Mr. Spring Rice's circular despatch of the 30th September 1834.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

25 August 1835.
2.
Vide Papers presented to Parliament relating to the Abolition of Slavery, part 2, 1833-5, p. 7.

Enclosure 1, in No. 410.

My Lord,

Tobago, Government House, 25 August 1835.

Enclosure 1,
in No. 410.

I REGRET that so long a period as nearly a twelvemonth should have elapsed, from the receipt of Mr. Spring Rice's despatch of the 30th September 1834, without that answer being returned which the importance of the communication demanded.

It is that importance, however, that has occasioned the delay in eliciting the answer which I have now the honour to submit.

I was unwilling to offer my own sentiments on the interesting questions contained in this despatch, without previously ascertaining the opinions of practical and experienced persons in the island. I therefore gave every publicity to the subject by publication in the newspapers of the colony; inviting communications from any person who might feel disposed to address me, and by requesting the Agricultural Society would report thereon.

I have lately received a communication from a select committee of that society, of which I have now the honour to enclose a copy, and beg leave to accompany it by some observations from myself.

I agree with the committee in the propriety of the course they have adopted, of not swelling their report beyond the limits necessary to show how far the measures which are brought under consideration are capable of practical application to this island.

The Agricultural Society being composed of almost all the practical planters in the island, ought to be the most correct source of information as to the quantity of produce that has been manufactured in any one or in any number of years, and ought to be the best informed as to the proportion such produce has hitherto borne to the quantity of labour by which it has been produced.

I can only say the export returns from the colony for some years past, as compared with the number of registered slaves, do not show so great an average as one hogshead of sugar and one puncheon of rum and molasses per head.

It

It is, I am afraid, not to be doubted that the diminished quantity of labour on the estates by the increase of time granted to the labourer, and the total abstraction of the work performed by children, will eventually prove seriously detrimental to the production of the staple commodity.

It may not be irrelevant to remark here, that the time allotted to the labourer for the cultivation of his ground is infinitely greater than what is required for the avowed purpose; while the quantity of uncultivated and ungranted land, in the immediate neighbourhood of many of the estates, holds out to him strong inducements to refuse to labour on the estate for his employer, when he has hopes of turning his industry to more profitable account by a species of labour more agreeable to his taste.

This island, indeed, and others where there is a great proportion of virgin soil unoccupied in the mountains, will be exposed to many serious disadvantages with respect to labour at the expiration of the apprenticeship system, which will not be experienced in Barbadoes, Antigua, or those colonies where all the soil fit for cultivation is occupied, and where the free negro cannot, of course, have the same facilities of maintaining himself by independent labour.

A clause exists, in the Abolition Act of Tobago, to prevent apprentices from taking possession of ungranted lands, and forming settlements thereon; but it will be extremely difficult to prevent this in a state of general freedom.

It is not unreasonable, moreover, to suppose that the negro will prefer any sort of labour for a maintenance to that which is connected with the bitter recollections of past suffering; and as the planter will not be able to afford him a remuneration for his labour equal to what he will be able to extract from the soil by labour for himself, it is much to be feared that sugar manufacture will receive a severe check.

To remedy this evil, and as a substitute for the diminished quantity of native labour, the committee would recommend the introduction of European emigrants. On this point I am decidedly at issue with the Agricultural Society, and respectfully beg leave to refer your Lordship to the despatch which I had the honour to address to Mr. Spring Rice, on the 25th November 1834, to which I will now add that no considerations have since presented themselves to my mind to induce me to offer the slightest modification of the opinion I then expressed.

It may here indeed be proper to advert to the circumstance, that, by several legislative enactments (not less than six or seven at different periods), encouragement has been held out to emigrants to come to Tobago, till at last a premium of 25 *l.* per head induced a party of 40 persons from Scotland to seek their fortunes in this island.

What was the result? The very vessel that brought out these unfortunate people, carried back, on her return voyage, after a short stay here, the effects of 16 of them, who fell victims to the climate and the habits into which all Europeans of the lower class immediately fall on their arrival in this country.

These people, moreover, were not labourers, but came out with somewhat higher views, and were not necessarily exposed in the same degree. Four of these, I believe, now survive.

If, after all, the measure of emigrating to this island should be determined on, I most earnestly and respectfully submit, that it should be under the strictest regulations, requiring the parties by whom the emigrants may be introduced to provide previously for their accommodation, and certain necessary comforts, from the very moment of their arrival.

Any general importation of European labourers, with a view to seek for employment on their arrival, will, I fear, be attended with no certain result, but that of a fearful mortality.

This is not the country, my Lord, where the white man may expect to earn a living or even to preserve life, by manual labour in the field.

Nature is against it, while the demoralizing habits of those under whom the emigrants must necessarily serve, would set a deplorable example to the females of their families.

Having thus expressed my dissent from the Agricultural Society, on the abstract question of introducing European labourers, I most cordially express my concurrence with them, as to the indispensable necessity of extending our establishment of schools, and disseminating, to the utmost practicable extent, moral and religious instruction; without this, I entertain strong doubts of the beneficial results that may be expected from the abolition of slavery.

On this deeply interesting subject I will confine myself to the observation, that there is but one clergyman of the Established Church in the island, who has the duty to perform in Scarborough, with the troops in garrison at Fort King George, and at Goldsborough and Courland; the former twelve and the latter five miles from the seat of government.

Since my arrival in the island I have made the services of a gentleman, who came out with me as chaplain and tutor to my sons, available to the church, as far as has been consistent with his other avocations.

He has most willingly devoted his services to the benefit of the colony, and is now about succeeding to the living, when the former incumbent will remove to another island.

I despair of any farther assistance through the Lord Bishop of the diocese, to whom I shall nevertheless repeat my application made some time ago.

A Presbyterian clergyman came here in December last; but did not survive more than three months.

If an addition to our church establishment is unhappily impracticable, catechists and schoolmasters would do much good.

TOBAGO.

I pass on to that part of the report which states, that from the low ebb to which "all West India property has been reduced, the pecuniary means of the planter are so limited that he is afraid to venture on any experimental undertaking."

I agree with the committee in the truth of this unfavourable picture, and regret its correctness.

I have no doubt that, "so long as sugar cultivation continues at all profitable, so long will it remain the staple article of produce;" but there is no reason why the cultivation of other profitable productions, requiring less severity of labour, should not be attempted.

I am indeed satisfied that it will, to some extent, be tried.

The island produces pimento in great abundance, and other spices in smaller proportions.

I have this day had a communication with one gentleman, to whom a tract of wild land was granted some months ago, and he informs me that, with ten free labourers, whom he has with him, he has already cleared several acres of wild land of weeds and underbrush, leaving a plantation of young pimento, with several trees just now coming into full bearing, from which he expects to reap a small crop this year.

As he is an intelligent and enterprising young man, I have little doubt of his success.

In another quarter, an old and respectable inhabitant informs me, that on his estate some years ago cinnamon was growing in great abundance, but that it has died out through neglect; while, within a short distance from Government House, there is an estate called Nutmeg Grove, where the wild nutmeg was rooted out, and within a quarter of a mile of my door is Cinnamon Hill.

From this brief outline of the natural productions of the island, which, when duly cultivated, have proved in other places the source of much wealth, it cannot be said that the soil holds out no encouragement, that the island possesses no capability but for the manufacture of sugar.

No other pursuit may promise such a profitable return for labour, nor will any other, I am afraid, be attempted under the persons representing property, nor until sugar fails.

The seas abound in fish in every direction, yet so little is the spirit of enterprise, that our markets are scantily supplied; and although a very profitable trade, to a limited extent, might be carried on in turtle shell, yet turtle by the pound, as an article of food, is never to be purchased.

I imagine your Lordship will not wish this communication to be extended to greater length.

The enlightened views of the Secretary of State, as detailed in the despatch to which I have now the honour to reply, are in many particulars beyond our comprehension, or at least beyond all probability of being acted upon in Tobago, where I would recommend that the first step to the improvement of our fortunes, should be the amendment of our morals and way of life; but while the proprietors evince not the slightest interest in the general benefit of the colony, its state of society, or the habitual immorality of the persons who represent them, (who receive the same salaries, the same indulgences, without reference to character or conduct, provided they attend to the pockets of their principals,) I must fear that any expectation of improvement in the moral or physical resources of the island will prove visionary.

Lord Glenelg, &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Hen. C. Darling*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Enclosure 2, in No. 410.

Enclosure 2,
in No. 410.

REPORT of Select Committee of the Agricultural Society, appointed to take into consideration the Despatch, dated 30th September 1834, of the Right honourable *T. Spring Rice*, His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

THE Committee find that the comprehensive nature of the subjects of inquiry set forth in the despatch will not allow them to go further into detail of the reasons which have prompted the observations and suggestions which they now humbly submit on the different points which form the heads of inquiry, or use any arguments in their support, further than will briefly suffice to show that the measures which are recommended (whether as remedies to be applied to any existing obstacles to the promotion of industry, or as measures necessary in themselves to be established for any specified object) are capable of practical application, and available if resorted to.

The committee, in answer to the first object of inquiry which presents itself, viz., "the present state of productive industry, distinguishing the articles raised for consumption in the colony from exported produce," beg to state that cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, &c., and ground provisions of various kinds, and likewise a little coffee, are raised for consumption, and that sugar, rum and molasses are raised and manufactured for exportation, and that, till the 1st August 1834, the productive rate of industry was at the average of nearly one hogs-head of sugar and one puncheon of rum or molasses to every slave.

In answer to the second question, "the possible changes which the Act for the Abolition of Slavery may produce on the agricultural, manufacturing and commercial system," the committee are enabled to state decisively from experience, that the present system will tend to diminish very materially the production of the staple articles; arising principally from the
diminution

diminution of labourers upon the generality of properties, the abridgment of the hours of labour, the extra and unnecessary periods given to the apprentices for the cultivation of their grounds, and a general disinclination on their part to work in their own time for reasonable wages.

Connected with the foregoing, the committee must observe the lamentable state into which this great change has involved a considerable and most important portion of the community: the Abolition Act having freed nearly one-fifth part of the negro population from all obligation to be employed in the various kinds of labour suited to their years, which would have had the effect of early initiating them to habits of industry; for every parent is now found tenaciously restraining their children from entering into any useful occupation, however light the labour required, leaving them without counsel or restraint (except on the part of the parents, who are totally unfit to guard such a responsible charge) to pass in idleness, and in the contraction of every vice, those years which ought to be employed in endeavouring to give them a just estimate of that state to which they have attained, by instilling into their youthful minds, while capable of receiving lasting impressions, the knowledge of those duties which will be expected to be performed by them on arriving at maturity, thereby preparing them to become the useful members of a future industrious and enlightened community. The committee must further observe, that unless the erroneous and fallacious ideas at present entertained by the negroes of an uncontrolled state of freedom can be connected before the expiration of the present probationary state, little or no dependence need be placed on their applying themselves with that steadiness and diligence to the various kinds of agricultural labour which is absolutely necessary to carry on the cultivation and manufacture of the staple articles. From the foregoing observations it may be inferred, that the effects a state of freedom are likely to have on the powers of production are by no means favourable, and on this basis entirely depends the prosperity of the commercial system. In the opinion of the committee the only effective means which can be employed to produce a favourable change in the ideas of the negroes, thereby arresting the present evils and warding off those of greater magnitude, would be that of placing before them the example of those of our own colour, who, it is anticipated, would perform steadily and contentedly the labour assigned them for a daily hire, and who would be solely dependent on their bodily exertions for their support; thereby convincing them, by the force of example, that it is no degradation for free persons to earn a livelihood by labour in the field, and likewise establishing schools, on liberal and comprehensive principles, for the dissemination of moral and religious instruction, as promised by Lord Althorp when Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The committee are therefore of opinion, that emigrants from Europe and from the more populous West India islands might be introduced with benefit on many situations; upwards of three-fourths of the island being at present unoccupied and uncultivated for want of a labouring population. The committee beg leave to suggest that all Crown lands, and other lots having no legal claimant resident in the island, ought on no consideration to be allowed to be taken possession of without proper authority: they are informed, from one of their own members, that this encroachment has gone on to some extent in the windward parishes. It is evident, if this be allowed, it will cause great discontent amongst the apprentices at the end of the present system, who will naturally look forward to the same indulgence being extended to them, and which, if complied with, the committee have no hesitation in saying that the cultivation of the present articles would cease on three-fourths of the estates.

The introduction of European labourers might also be expected to have the beneficial effect of bringing into practice a better system of cultivation and greater economy of labour, by the use of instruments better adapted to the purposes for which they would be employed than those at present in use, and to the adoption of a more careful method in the breeding, rearing and general treatment of stock. In one district (Sandy Point) every facility is afforded to the introduction, with advantage, of those implements of husbandry which would lessen, to a great extent, the employment of manual labour, and would thus afford the means, if required, of extending the cultivation in that district, or of furnishing additional power to carry on with greater advantage the cultivation in the more mountainous districts, where manual labour is at present principally depended on.

Besides emigration from Europe and the sister isles, this want might be supplied through other means. If Government would alter its present system in regard to the captures frequently made in its endeavours to suppress the slave trade, instead of allowing foreign colonies to reap the benefit of that heavy expense incurred by the mother country in support of an establishment for the suppression of that unnatural traffic, our own West India colonies might be made the receptacle of those unfortunate beings, where, from the laws that prevail, they would at once be free, and by their means the pursuits of profitable industry might be extended to those parts of the island at present lying waste and neglected.

In answer to the inquiry, "whether capital is likely to be directed into new channels or to be applied to the more extended production of articles at present known in the markets," the committee are of opinion, that if certain measures were enforced by Government to facilitate this object, that capital would be applied to the production of articles, both of agriculture and manufacture, which are not at present cultivated in the island, but known in the home markets; but from the low ebb to which all West India property has been reduced, the pecuniary means of the planter are so limited that he is afraid to venture on any experimental undertaking in case of failure in the attempt, which would be attended

with

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with irretrievable ruin ; and as long as sugar cultivation continues at all profitable, so long will it remain the staple article of produce ; and, as a financial remedy, the committee would suggest the establishment of banks, whereby advances might be made, upon proper security, to persons embarking in any undertaking likely to be advantageous to the colony, and which would also have the effect of improving the currency and giving greater facility to commercial transactions.

With these observations, the committee beg to sum up their report into abstract answers to the different heads, as laid down in the Right honourable Secretary's Despatch ; viz. :

1st. That the stock (before enumerated) with ground provisions and a little coffee, are the only articles raised for consumption in the island, while sugar, rum and molasses are raised and manufactured for exportation ; that, till the 1st August 1834, the average power of production to every slave was nearly one hogshead of sugar and one puncheon of rum or molasses.

2d. That the effect of the Abolition Act will diminish the production of the staple articles nearly one-third ; and on the profitable production of which the prosperity of the commercial system entirely depends.

The obstacles which present themselves to the committee as likely to impede the powers of production are,

1st. The want of a more extensive labouring population.

2d. The unnecessary time at present allowed to the labourer.

3d. A general disinclination on the part of the labourers to work during their own time for reasonable wages.

4th. The positive refusal of the labourers to allow their free children to work for any consideration ; and

5th. The almost total want of places for divine worship, and the total want of schools.

The legislative remedies which the committee beg to recommend are,

1st. The encouragement of emigration from Europe and the more populous West India islands, and likewise making our own West India colonies the receptacle for all slaves rescued from foreign powers.

2d. The erection of churches and schools with proper masters and teachers.

3d. A vagrant Act, preventing all idle vagrants from settling upon lands to which they have neither right or title, and obliging every free person to show some honest means of gaining a livelihood, and preventing, under a penalty or punishment, all estate labourers from harbouring persons who cannot comply with the above requisition ; and

4th. As a financial remedy, the establishment of banks under the protection and patronage of Government.

(signed) *Henry Yeates*, President.

(Extracted from the minutes.)

(signed) *J. W. M. D. Murray*, Secretary,
22 July 1835.

To his Excellency Major-General Darling,
Lieutenant-Governor.

— No. 411. —

No. 411.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, 16 Nov. 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith Tables (A.) and (B.) for the month of September last, together with a report from the Lieutenant-governor accompanying those tables.

Vide Table (B.)
P. 432.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Enclosure in No. 411.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Darling* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Tobago, Government House, 24 October 1835.

Enclosures in
No. 411.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of Tables (A.) and (B.), showing the number of punishments inflicted on the apprenticed labourers in this island during the month of September.

I regret exceedingly that the aggregate should appear so large, compared with the number of apprentices ; but the magistrates' reports being made on oath, no complaint, however trifling, is omitted, and where several individuals are included in one complaint, as in the case of a gang (say 30 persons) turning out late to work, if they are ordered to perform any extra labour, it is entered as so many separate punishments inflicted. This I have already had the honour to state to your Lordship.

There is one extraordinary instance, in explanation of this point, in the case of the Adelphi, a small estate, not far from Government House, having only 57 apprenticed labourers, in which there are 63 punishments returned as being inflicted in the course of the month. Of these I find one case to have comprised 21 individuals, with whom there was some misunderstanding about a particular day to be allowed on one occasion in lieu of Saturday ;

in another, 33 apprentices are complained of as not having done a sufficiency of work, and their conduct appearing reprehensible, they were ordered to make up their lost time, which is entered as 33 punishments.

It is not improper here to remark, that I have had more complaints brought to me against the manager of this estate, and another (of which the manager is also attorney, and likewise attorney for the Adelphi), than all the rest of the estates in the island.

I find the same to have been pretty nearly the case in the time of my predecessor, while I understand, that when the same gang (of the Adelphi) were under a different manager, a few years ago, punishments were very rare.

Your Lordship will observe, that the number of punishments by whipping, during the month, is very small. I am extremely desirous of abolishing the practice altogether, but I can scarcely hope to accomplish it entirely, as there will always be found some few desperate characters who will despise the lighter kinds of punishment.

I beg to submit a remark which I cannot but consider as illustrative, in some degree, of the different systems of management in the island: there are 38 estates on which there were no complaints whatever last month; 12 on which there were only one each, and the same number presenting only two each; while, in one instance, as I have already had the honour to lay before your Lordship, on one of the smallest estates in the island, there were 63, exceeding the number of apprentices by six.

I regret to say that I am still without a third stipendiary magistrate.

I heard of the arrival of Mr. Bradfield at Barbadoes a fortnight ago, and have reason to apprehend that the vessel which was to have dropped him here, on her way to Trinidad, has passed the island. He will now be obliged to find his way *viâ* Barbadoes.

— No. 412. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 412.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, 25 Nov. 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of a letter from Lieutenant-governor Darling, giving cover to a despatch addressed by him to your Lordship, on the subject of the children of the apprenticed population who became free on the 1st of August last year, being under six years of age.

I have already brought this subject under the consideration of His Majesty's Government, as regarded that part of the population in this island (Barbadoes); but it was the opinion of your Lordship's predecessor that the provisions of the Imperial Abolition Act on this head were sufficient. In the present instance it of course rests with your Lordship to determine whether any further legislative measures on the subject should be attempted or not.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Enclosure 1, in No. 412.

Sir,

Government House, Tobago, 30 October 1835.

I BEG leave to transmit, under cover to your Excellency, a letter with enclosures, which I have been induced to address to the Secretary of State, on certain points on which I have deemed it of importance to obtain information for myself, and have thought the same might be acceptable to His Majesty's Government.

Should your Excellency be of opinion that it is not material to trouble Government with reports of this nature, from so insignificant a colony as Tobago, I request you will do me the favour to suppress the letter, as I cannot doubt of information, pretty much to the same effect, being received from more important places.

I cannot help, however, considering the case of the free children as deserving the most serious consideration. By corresponding accounts from all quarters of the island, I have reason to believe them to be in a most deplorable state of destitution and neglect.

For the first year of the abolition I heard very little on the subject; the mothers on many estates agreed to give a few days' labour as an equivalent for medicine, medical treatment and the ordinary allowances, but kept their engagements in very few instances. In other cases these indulgences were continued to the children without any stipulation, nor do I believe there would be much objection on the part of the proprietors to follow the example generally, but from the pernicious tendency it would have on the habits of the children, who, if their actual wants were in this way provided for, would be trained up in systematic idleness, and become a growing and pernicious burthen to the colony.

I await the steps to be taken by the Legislature, to whom I have referred the subject, before I proceed further myself; but in the meantime I should be happy to receive any opinion which your Excellency may be disposed to favour me with, as to the least objectionable course of proceeding, with any prospect of a beneficial effect.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry C. Darling*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

His Excellency
Sir Lionel Smith, K. C. B., &c. &c.

Enclosure 1,
in No. 412.

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Enclosure 2, in No. 412.

Enclosure 2,
in No. 412.

My Lord,

Government House, Tobago, 26 October 1835.

BEING desirous that your Lordship should be in possession of every information connected with the conduct of the apprenticed labourers in this island, and the opinion entertained of the future effects of the abolition on the negro, when in a state of unrestrained freedom, as respects the application of his industry to the cultivation of the staple commodity, and the consequent interest of the planter, I take the liberty of submitting copies of two reports addressed to me by the stipendiary magistrates having charge of the windward and leeward divisions of the island, in answer to certain queries lately put to them.

These inquiries have not been extended to the four local magistrates having the present charge of the other districts, from an unwillingness to put upon them any duty that can be dispensed with.

The information, however, conveyed in Mr. M'Intosh's and Mr. Child's reports, may, I am persuaded, be taken as a fair representation of the general state and circumstances of the island, in the particulars of which they treat. I shall be glad if the information they convey be found at all acceptable; and I trust that in thus gratuitously laying it before your Lordship, I am not exceeding the line of my duty.

I am not aware that I need add to what is contained in these reports, except as respects the free children, on whose conduct and utility, at a future period, the prosperity of this colony (in common, I presume, with that of all the rest) must in a great degree depend. The conduct of the mothers, in the treatment and training of these children, is of a nature almost alarming. The unwillingness evinced by them, in many instances, to let the children be even seen by the managers, is incredible. They fear that any kindness, in the way of medical treatment or other indulgence, may be supposed to establish a claim on the part of the estate to their future services, and therefore keep them out of sight. This has been carried, in one recent instance, to such a length as to have been attended with the death of the child, who was destroyed by the yaws, under circumstances of criminal neglect on the part of the mother, whom I have ordered to be prosecuted for this offence against nature and society.

By a clause in the Abolition Act of the island, the special justice is authorized to bind apprentice any free child under 12 years of age, whom he shall find "unprovided with an adequate maintenance;" but the difficulty is to get a sight of the children, who, in many cases, are conveyed off the estate, for the reason just assigned.

The Legislature being now in session, I have suggested to them, that power be given to the magistrates to compel the mothers to produce their free children for the inspection of the special magistrates, when there may be reason to suspect they are materially neglected.

I do not know how far a compulsory enactment of the kind may be approved, but as the evil complained of is general, and as it is calculated to affect materially the future labouring population of the island, it becomes of the highest importance, as well on the score of policy as humanity, that effective measures be taken to check it, and to protect the helpless children from the dire effects to be apprehended from the unnatural conduct of their parents, who will neither work for their support, nor apply for medical assistance in case of sickness, which, I believe, would, in few instances, be refused them.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry C. Darling,*
Lieutenant-Governor.

Lord Glenelg, &c. &c.

Enclosure 3, in No. 412.

Sir,

Signal Hill, 3 October 1835.

Enclosure 3,
in No. 412.

IN a circular letter of instruction, addressed to the special magistrates on the 25th July last, his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor called upon them to supply him with information on certain points connected with the working of the apprenticeship system in their several districts. In compliance with his Excellency's desire, I have now to submit the result of my inquiries on the particular topics to which the circular refers.

In answer to the first and second queries, "Has the late crop been greater or less than that of last year, and in what proportion?" "And to what cause is the difference attributed?"—I have to state that on nearly all the estates in the district under my superintendance the late crop was less than that of last year, but in what proportion I am unable to say. The deficiency is generally attributed to the drought which prevailed, a cause which for the last three or four years has operated more or less to the disadvantage of the planter in the Sandy Point division of the island.

I have no reason to believe that the abridgment of the hours of labour effected by the Abolition Act is supposed to have had any influence in producing the deficiency; indeed the circumstance of there being one or two estates (not so much exposed, from the marshy nature of the soil, to the operation of the evil generally assigned for the diminution) on which the late crop was greater than that of last year, affords proof of the correctness of the conclusion that it is attributable to the drought alone.

Query 3. "Are the apprenticed labourers considered as having done a fair proportion of work through the year, from August 1834 to August 1835?"

It is generally considered that as much work has been done by the apprenticed labourers since

since August 1834 as at any period anterior to that date; this is to be understood relatively to the hours of labour. On one estate in my district there is as much work actually performed now as then.

In a population of nearly 4,000, it cannot be supposed that there are not many idle and discontented persons; but a vast majority are well conducted and laborious, and no discontent appears to exist amongst them. This embraces an answer to the 4th query.

Query 5. "On what terms generally did they agree with the managers for their extra labour during crop time?"

On most of the estates they gave their labour during crop-time in consideration of certain indulgences which they had formerly been in the habit of receiving, such as hot liquor from the boiling-house, sugar and rum; in many cases they received an allowance of biscuit and rice; in a few they stipulate for a small pecuniary remuneration, not exceeding, in any instance that I have heard of, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* an hour.

Query 6. "Have the mothers of the young children shown any disposition to bind them apprentices? In how many instances?"

They have shown the greatest repugnance to binding their children. I believe that there has not been a single instance in which it was done. The existence of such a feeling, if it arose from parental regard, would be a subject of rejoicing; but I am sorry to say, if my information be correct, their conduct in other respects goes to prove that they either disregard the true interests of their children, or do not understand in what they consist, or how to promote them. On some of the estates in my district, the managers, actuated solely, I believe, by a desire that the children should begin early to acquire habits of industry, have held out to the parents every inducement to allow them to be employed in light occupations, but without avail. The nature of those occupations has been explained to me, and there is nothing in them which could prove in any way injurious to young children, while the encouragement held out would seem ample. The state of those children appears to me to claim consideration, for on the measures which may be adopted with regard to them in the course of the next five years will greatly depend the future condition of this colony.

Query 7. "Has the general conduct of the apprentices during the 12 months from August 1834, both as respects their labour in the field and their general behaviour, been such as to have produced any decided opinion on the part of the proprietors and managers as to any particular result that may be expected at the end of the system affecting the future operations of sugar cultivation and manufacture?"

All the attorneys and managers whose opinions I have asked on this subject are unanimous as to the impracticability of carrying on the cultivation of sugar (at least to any extent) under a free-labour system; this opinion, they state, they have not formed from anything that has appeared in the conduct of the apprenticed labourers since the 1st of August 1834, but from their intimate knowledge of the character of the negro and his habits, who, they think, will not work when released from the constraint to which he is now subject.

This seems to be an universal opinion amongst planters in my district; how far they can reconcile the fact which I have already stated, of many apprenticed labourers, already provided with all that is necessary to supply their bare wants, having voluntarily extended their daily hours of labour from nine to 12 during crop-time, for the most trifling considerations, with the opinion that they will not be induced to work under a free system, I cannot say; but I think the fact which I have alluded to is of some weight in drawing to the conclusion that the same principles are in existence here as elsewhere, that wherever industry meets its reward it is sure to be excited.

Query 8. "Whether the managers have already entered into calculations as to the rate of wages they will probably be able to afford for free labour?"

No calculations that can be depended upon have been made.

It is generally considered that free labour (however moderate the rate of wages) will be a more expensive system than the present. I am unable to state on what foundation such an opinion rests.

I am unacquainted with the amount of that part of the estate's expenditure which goes to the maintenance of the apprenticed labourers at present, and I do not know to what extent the capital and intelligence of the planter can hereafter be made available in economizing labour. In fact there are no materials for forming a comparative estimate of the two systems; therefore it cannot be calculated how much more or how much less than what is now expended in the maintenance of the apprenticed labourers can be afforded by the planter in the shape of wages to such a number of free labourers as he may have occasion to employ.

I should not however suppose that, by means of an improved machinery, by a more general use of the plough, by making proper inclosures, which would do away with the necessity of employing a number of persons to tend cattle, and by the adoption of other methods, the planter in this part of the island might so reduce the quantity of labour required for carrying on the cultivation of his estate that he would be able to afford a high rate of wages for what labour might still be necessary.

Query 9. "What is the opinion of the majority of attorneys and managers as to the introduction of European labourers, with a view to partaking in the labour of sugar cultivation, not only as respects field labour, but the other operations connected with that manufacture?"

A majority of attorneys and managers are favourable to the introduction of European labourers. They do not coincide in opinion as to the extent to which the constitution of Europeans would admit of their being employed in this climate. It is generally believed that their labour could not (except in very few cases) be extended to the cultivation of the soil; but they consider it desirable that Europeans should be introduced in the capacity of domestics

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domestics and mechanics, and to take a part in all the operations connected with the manufacture.

The great advantage which they expect will result from European labourers settling in the colony, consists in the effects of an example of their industry on the character and feelings of the negro, in whose mind, it is said, is associated with the idea of labour a sense of degradation.

Edward Darling, Esq.,
Private Secretary.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Wm. D. M'Intosh*,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

Sir,

Scarborough, 28 October 1835.

I HAVE the honour to send you annexed the several rates agreed on at a public meeting of attorneys and managers, held a few days ago in my district, as a consideration to be given to the apprenticed labourers for their extra labour during the approaching crop-time.

These rates may be considered as a general rule; should there be any instance of a departure from it, when all the agreements shall have been completed, I shall communicate how far and in what instances such deviations from the established rates have been made.

E. L. Darling, Esq.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Wm. D. M'Intosh*.

Rates of wages to be paid to apprenticed labourers, in the Sandy Point District, for their extra labour during the ensuing crop-time:

	£.	s.	d.
Head driver - - - - -	1	8	-
Head boilerman - - - - -	1	8	-
Mill boatswain - - - - -	1	8	-
Mill-feeders - - - - -	1	-	-
Magass haulers - - - - -	-	16	-
Cane carriers - - - - -	-	16	-
Magass carriers - - - - -	-	12	-
Firemen - - - - -	1	-	-
Stiller women - - - - -	-	12	-
Cartmen - - - - -	1	-	-
Cart leaders - - - - -	-	8	-
Magass creoles - - - - -	-	8	-
Second boilerman - - - - -	1	-	-

Enclosure 4, in No. 412.

Sir,

Spey Side, 1 October 1835.

Enclosure 4,
in No. 412.

IN your Excellency's despatch of 25th July, you express your desire that, along with my duplicate journal for September, I should transmit answers to certain questions therein stated.

I beg to submit the following report, framed from the written and verbal communications of the various managers in this district:

Question 1. "Has the late crop been greater or less than that of the last year, and in what proportion?"

The aggregate of the late crop appears to be nearly equal to that of the previous year; but I have no means of correctly ascertaining the exact amount.

On the following plantations the relative results of the two crops appear to be these, viz.:

Belle Garden, an increase of 20 per cent.
Richmond - - ditto - 20 - -
Spey Side - - ditto - 10 - -
Trois Rivières - ditto - 10 - -
Rendal - - - ditto - 5½ - -
Roxburgh - - ditto - 4 - -
Lure, a small increase.

On the following plantations the crops of the two years are nearly equal, viz.:

King's Bay.
Inverawe.
Betsey's Hope.

On the following estates there has been a falling off, viz.:

Pembroke, a diminution of 50 per cent.
Glanmorgan - ditto - 33 - -
Merchiston - ditto - 30 - -
Goldsboro' } a falling-off on each.
Telescope } a falling-off on each.
Hermitage }

I have no information as to the crops of Unity, Argyle and Charlotte Ville.

Q. 2. "To what cause is the difference attributed?"

Every instance of difference (whether of increase or diminution) has been attributed by the planters to the influence of season, and local causes unconnected with the labour of cultivation.

They are precisely similar to what have taken place in former years.

It is to be kept in view, however, that the canes which constitute the crop were planted and cultivated prior to 1st August 1834, and that the season was, on most estates, favourable in their growth.

Q. 3. "Are the apprenticed labourers considered as having done a fair proportion of labour through the year, allowing from 1st August 1834 to 1835?"

With few exceptions, the planters are agreed that a fair proportion of work has been done. I have ascertained also, that the usual quantity of ground is under canes for next crop.

The plantations where a less quantity of work has been done than the managers think themselves entitled to look for, are,

Inverawe.
Richmond.
Hermitage.
Lure.

On Inverawe, however, the late crop was equal to that of the previous year; and as the manager states that he left canes uncut, which he could have taken off but for the loss of days now given to the apprentice, it is possible that, in calculating the work expected from the gang, it may have been overlooked that the master is now only entitled to a proportion of their labour.

Richmond and Hermitage have generally been understood to possess rather indifferent apprentices.

With regard to the apprentices on the Lure, as I find that their own grounds are disgracefully kept, it is probable they are not over diligent in working those of their master.

With these exceptions, which cannot be said to arise from a change of condition, the apprenticed labourers have undeniably done a fair proportion of work.

Q. 4. "Have they in general worked cheerfully, or has any particular discontent been manifest?"

It is the opinion of all the planters, with the exception of the Lure and Richmond, that the apprentices have worked with perfect cheerfulness, and that no discontent has been manifest.

Q. 5. "On what terms generally did they agree with the managers for their extra labour during crop-time?"

The managers agreed to pay a certain sum for the whole crop to persons performing extra labour.

The general terms for the season were,

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Head men - - - -	2	-	-			
Boilermen - - - from	1	-	-	to	1	12
Firemen - - - from	-	16	-	to	1	12
Mill-feeders - - - from	-	16	-	to	1	12
Carters - - - from	-	12	-	to	1	12
Mule boys - - - from	-	12	-	to	1	-
Mill-gang, working breakfast } and noon-time - - - }	-	-	-	each	-	8

These engagements were entered on in the commencement of the crop, when it was impossible to say whether the sum fixed on should prove more or less than adequate to the extra labour that might be found requisite.

Accordingly, on some estates, the manager now asserts he has given too much, and on others the apprentice complains that he has been paid too little. I consider it would be more intelligible, and therefore more satisfactory to both parties, were they to agree for the crop at certain rates for each extra hour actually required.

Q. 6. "Have the mothers of the young children shown any disposition to bind them apprentices. In how many instances has this been done in your district?"

Not one instance has occurred of a free child being indented within my district. So far from the mothers showing any disposition to do so, it is asserted on almost every estate that the children of five or six years old are, in most instances, sent off the plantation, lest the manager should endeavour to get them bound apprentices.

Q. 7. "Has the general conduct of the apprentices during the 12 months from the 1st August 1834, both as respects their labour in the field and their general behaviour, been such as to have produced any decided opinion on the part of the proprietors or managers as to any particular result that may be expected at the end of the apprenticeship system, affecting the future operations of sugar cultivation and manufacture?"

The general conduct of the apprentices has induced the planters in my district to form opinions which are much more in unison with each other than might have been expected.

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It appears to be their general opinion,

1st. That there is a general desire among the apprentices to remove to the neighbourhood of Scarborough, when they shall have become their own masters.

2d. That after 1840, if the emancipated population can make a livelihood, or, in respect to many of them, if they can even procure a bare subsistence by any other means, they will not cultivate canes for any reasonable wages.

3d. That supposing they are compelled by necessity, or any other cause, to work for a livelihood, the greater part will readily hire their labour to the planters.

4th. That the cultivation of canes will nevertheless greatly diminish. Plantations near Scarborough, fertile and easily worked estates, and such as will admit of being worked wholly or partially by the plough, may be expected to fall off but little, if at all, in their production.

On the other hand, poor soils, (especially if at a distance from town,) and those which are laborious to work, will probably suffer materially, either from the impossibility of their being profitably cultivated, or from the people preferring to labour on easier worked estates.

As to this, however, it has been suggested, that when labour comes to be hired and paid for, it is probable that economical arrangements, and a more general as well as more skilful use of the plough, will enable the planter to do with fewer hands than at present he considers necessary. Moreover that the proprietors of fertile estates will, in most instances, have sufficient labour from their own emancipated dependents; and as they will naturally give these a preference, the labourers born on estates less favoured by nature must be content to gain their livelihood at home.

It ought also to be kept in mind that most negroes have a powerful attachment to the place of their birth, especially if it contain the graves of their parents or other relations; and although they might relinquish their homes for a life of idleness elsewhere, yet, if work they must, they would rather work on their own than on any other estate. Accordingly, several respectable planters are of opinion, that by judicious regulations anticipating the close of the apprenticeship system, although the amount of each labourer's work will probably in general fall off, yet, on the whole, the diminution of sugar cultivation may be of small amount.

5. It appears to be the unanimous opinion of the planters, that to induce the freed population to become useful working members of society, and so to effect the results contemplated in the preceding paragraph, the Government must give its assistance, by declining (except in very peculiar cases) to make any gratuitous grants of Crown lands, and by rigidly preventing unqualified persons from locating themselves in the woods.

That, in the next place, a law must be enacted which shall compel every able-bodied person, not only to earn his own livelihood, but to have a visible means of subsistence. It is generally admitted that this measure must be accompanied by a poor-law, throwing on the proprietors of the several parishes the burthen of supporting their paupers.

These measures, however, will do no more than prolong sugar cultivation for a few years, unless immediate steps be taken to train the free children to moral and industrious habits. These children, it is asserted by all, are growing in uncontrolled habits of ignorance and idleness, and will soon acquire such an aversion to labour, and such a disregard for any enjoyment beyond that of indolent existence, that no power will be able to make them useful or even harmless members of society.

Before finally quitting this question, I beg leave to quote what appears to me a judicious suggestion of Mr. M'Donald, the manager at Belle Garden: "I consider it would be advisable among the planters to engage their labourers during the last year of their apprenticeship in exactly the same terms as they could afford to give for the ensuing year; and by paying them their yearly wages a few weeks or days before the period of their freedom, it would, in my humble opinion, go a far length to secure their services for the future, and on the same terms."

Q. 8. "If the managers have already entered into calculations as to the rate of wages, they will probably be able to afford for free labour, be pleased to state the average rate in your district for the different classes of mechanics and labourers."

The calculation generally made in my district is, that at the present average price of sugar, say 5s. per cwt., and with the present amount of local taxes, &c., the planter could afford to give to each able field labourer 1 s. per working day, without allowances, or 8 d. per day with a cottage and grounds, and perhaps a small allowance of salt fish; children and old persons in proportion.

The wages of headsmen might be stated at double that of ordinary labourers, or even more, according to their usefulness. Superior tradesmen, it is thought, will generally be hired by the job. Those hired by the year, such as coopers, smiths, &c., will probably be paid at the rate of 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. per working day, with house, ground, &c.

Q. 9. "What is the opinion of the majority of proprietors and managers in your district as to the introduction of European labourers, with a view to their partaking in the labour of sugar cultivation, not only as respects field labour, but the other operations connected with manufacture? Is it desirable or otherwise?"

The proprietors and managers in my district are almost unanimously of opinion that Europeans could not, in this climate, undergo the fatigue of field labour, except, perhaps, where employed as ploughmen or carters. In the cultivation of the sugar-canes, therefore, the planters do not look for any direct assistance from European immigration. Europeans, however,

however, might be safely and usefully employed in the manufacture of sugar, and in all other in-door occupations.

The planters consider the introduction of European labourers as highly desirable, provided they be employed in such occupations as shall not, by destroying their constitution, render them or their families a burden on the community. Independent of other considerations, such immigrants would improve the usefulness of the black population, by the gradual influence of European example, and by the introduction of more perfect modes of labour.

But the planters much fear that emigrants from Europe will seldom repair to the West Indies, so long as they can obtain at least as good wages, and as valuable possessions, in other countries more congenial to their constitutions.

I have now stated the general sentiments of the planters of this district in regard to the subject of your Excellency's inquiry.

The written communications which I have received from the planters themselves I shall feel much pleasure in laying before your Excellency, if wished for.

His Excellency Major-gen. Darling,
Lieutenant-governor.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. A. Childs, S. M.*

TOBAGO.

— No. 413. —

No. 413.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 20 January 1836.

I HAVE received your despatch, dated the 25th November, marked Tobago.

You will convey to Lieutenant-governor Darling my thanks for the trouble he has taken in the investigation and pursuit of an object of no light importance to the welfare of the entire population of apprenticed labourers in the island under his government; and you will assure him that I shall receive with much interest the report which he may have to make of the success of his endeavours to protect the children of that colony against the dangers to which he considers them exposed. It would be premature to express any opinion upon the plan which he has suggested to the local Legislature, until I shall have learnt the result of their deliberations.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 414. —

No. 414.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, 7 Dec. 1835.

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit a letter addressed to your Lordship by the Lieutenant-governor of Tobago, enclosing Tables (A.) and (B.) for the month of October last.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

*Vide Table (B.)
p. 432.*

Enclosure in No. 414.

My Lord,

Tobago, Government House, 11 Nov. 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Tables (A.) and (B.) for the month of October, showing the number of punishments inflicted on the apprenticed labourers in this island during that period.

As these returns, when compared with those of the preceding month, show a remarkable diminution of punishments, the aggregate for October not being quite one-fourth of that for September, it may be satisfactory that I should account for the difference.

This is simply occasioned by an instruction which I issued to the magistrates, not to entertain complaints against whole gangs, in general terms, in which the innocent must often suffer with the guilty; besides that, complaints of this kind are frequently for very trifling irregularities, and were becoming very common.

The managers may express some dissatisfaction; but finding that they will be required, nevertheless, to comply with the regulation, they will have to be more particular in their accusations and complaints.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry C. Darling,*
Lieutenant-Governor.

Lord Glenelg, &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in
No. 414.

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— No. 415. —

No. 415.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, 19 Jan. 1836.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, enclosed, copy of a letter from the Lieutenant-governor of Tobago, forwarding Tables (A.) and (B.) for the month of November last.

*Vide Table (B.)
p. 432.*

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith.*

Enclosure in No. 415.

Enclosure in
No. 415.

Sir,

Government House, Tobago, 26 December 1835.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency, for transmission to His Majesty's Government, Tables (A.) and (B.), showing the number of punishments inflicted on apprenticed labourers in this island for the month of November.

I regret that the aggregate should appear so large; but, as I have before had the honour to state, the magistrates being required to give in their returns upon oath, the smallest complaint is committed to paper, and the managers and overseers sometimes show such a want of discretion and forbearance, that the reports are actually swelled with trifles.

I do not believe that an offence of a serious nature has been committed during the month, the general complaint being of a want of sufficient exertion on the part of the apprentices to satisfy the managers.

Three-fourths of the punishments in these returns have been occasioned by complaints from three estates, in which the magistrates generally sentenced the offenders to extra labour.

His Excellency
Major-General Sir *Lionel Smith*,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry C. Darling*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

— No. 416. —

No. 416.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, 21 Jan. 1836.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for His Majesty's gracious allowance, the transcripts of two Acts of the Legislature of Tobago, one (No. 295) for amending the Slavery Abolition Act, and the other (No. 296) for establishing a rural police, and building places of confinement and punishment.

I beg at the same time to transmit copies of the Lieutenant-governor's reports on these Acts, pointing out certain objections, and of my reply, directing him to assent to them.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith.*

*Printed in the Ap-
pendix, No. 155.
Printed in the Ap-
pendix, No. 156.
9 November 1835.
12 November 1835.
14 December 1835.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 416.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Darling*, addressed to his Excellency Major-General Sir *Lionel Smith*; dated Government House, Tobago, 9 Nov. 1835.

Enclosure 1,
in No. 416.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency for consideration the transcript of a Bill passed by the Council and Assembly of this island, with a view to meet the objections made by Lord Aberdeen in his despatch of the 1st of April last to the Abolition Bill, which has already received the Royal Assent.

The House of Assembly made no difficulty whatever in coming into the views of his Lordship, and have accordingly omitted the objectionable clauses in the original Act, and have made such alterations as appeared necessary, where any defect in the former existed.

It is material to observe, that no provision is made in either this or the Abolition Act for the establishment of a police in aid of the stipendiary magistrates, who are greatly embarrassed in the performance of their duty from the want of assistance, having no persons whatever at their disposal.

By the 55th clause of the Abolition Act it was provided that 12 constables should be employed for the service, but without any specification as to salary, or the footing on which they were to be placed; consequently no appointments have been made.

This defect I pointed out to the Assembly in my speech to the Legislature on the 9th of September.

A Bill has since been brought in for the erection of prisons in proper situations, and for the employment of six constables to be attached to the special magistrates, which, though a small force, will, I think, be sufficient for all necessary purposes.

It is, however, to be observed, that no money Bill has yet been prepared to provide for the payment of the constables; while the amount derived from the tonnage duty is set apart for the erection of the buildings.

Enclosure 2, in No. 416.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Darling*, addressed to his Excellency Major-General Sir *Lionel Smith*; dated Government House, Tobago, 12 Nov. 1835.

WITH this letter I have the honour to transmit, for your Excellency's consideration, a Bill passed by the Council and Assembly for building places of confinement and punishment, and to establish a police force in the island.

This Bill is intended as an addition to the Abolition Act, the police being for the purpose of assisting the special magistrates in the execution of their duty.

The only observations I have to offer to your Excellency are the following:

With reference to the 5th clause, it appears to me that it would be prudent to make the acceptance of the terms for the erection of the buildings, and the plan on which they are to be constructed, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-governor.

By the 14th and 15th clauses, it is provided that the money arising from the tonnage duty shall be appropriated to the construction of the prisons and other buildings; but no provision is made for the payment or maintenance of the police; and I very much doubt whether any money Bill will be brought in by the Assembly for this purpose.

Not to press further upon your Excellency's time, I shall conclude this despatch; venturing to express my hope (though being unwilling to injure the proprietors) that the island will not be declared entitled to its compensation until that part of the abolition system which requires the establishment of a police in aid of the special magistracy be settled on a permanent footing for the full period of its probable duration.

Enclosure 2,
in No. 416.

Enclosure 3, in No. 416.

Sir,

Government House, Barbadoes, 14 December 1835.

HAVING had under consideration the Acts transmitted with your Excellency's letters of the 9th and 12th ultimo, the one for amending the Abolition Act of Tobago, and the other for providing for the building of places of punishment and confinement, and for establishing a police, &c., I have to authorize your Excellency to assent to the same.

In coming to this decision, I have not been unmindful of the remarks contained in your Excellency's letters upon the propriety of making the terms of the contracts and the plans of the buildings subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-governor, and upon the absence of any permanent provision for the payment of the constables to be attached as a police force to the special magistrates.

On the first of these points, however, it has already been decided by the Secretary of State, that "whatever relates to the cost of the police settlements, the charge of purchasing arms, clothing and rations for the police, and the erection and repair of station-houses, gaols and other buildings of the same kind," may very properly be placed under the control of a committee, consisting of members of Council and Assembly; and I do not, therefore, think it advisable to reject the Bill merely because the plans of the buildings are not made subject to the approval of the executive, being willing to hope that every useful purpose may be attained by your Excellency's influence with the gentlemen who may be placed on the commission, and by their own sense of the propriety of giving due consideration to your Excellency's opinion upon a point so intimately connected with the efficient working of the Abolition Act.

As respects a provision for the pay of the constables, I apprehend that it should form a part of the annual Supply Bill; and the Legislature, by enacting that such a force shall be created, are as much pledged to its maintenance, and to the pay of the individuals composing it, as they are to the remuneration and support of other public officers and establishments.

Lieutenant-Governor *Darling*, &c. &c. &c.
Tobago.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Enclosure 3,
in No. 416.

— No. 417. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*.

No. 417.

Sir,

Downing-street, 23 April 1836.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 21st January last, transmitting two Acts which have been passed by the Legislature of Tobago, for giving effect to the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery, accompanied by copies of the correspondence which passed between yourself and the Lieutenant-governor upon certain provisions contained in them.

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I have

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I have much satisfaction in transmitting an order passed by His Majesty in Council on the 13th instant, leaving these Acts to their operation; and likewise an order, declaring that adequate and satisfactory provision hath been made by the Legislature of Tobago, for giving effect by law in that island to the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery; and I feel confident that the House of Assembly will not delay to provide the necessary funds for the proper remuneration of the constables who are to be appointed under the provisions of the Police Act.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

Order in Council,
printed in the Ap-
pendix, No. 157.

— No. 418. —

No. 418. EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*, K. C. B., to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government House, Barbadoes, 11 April 1836.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch from the Lieutenant-governor of Tobago, reporting that the Legislature had commenced their session, and enclosing copies of the messages which he sent to the Council and Assembly, and of the replies of those bodies.

Enclosure 1, in No. 418.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor *Darling* to Sir *Lionel Smith*; dated Government House, Tobago, 12 March 1836.

Enclosure 1,
in No. 418.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that the Legislature of this island met, agreeably to prorogation, on Tuesday, the 8th instant, the day appointed by law for that purpose.

Enclosure 2, in No. 418.

EXTRACT from the ADDRESS of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to the Legislative Council at the opening of the Session of the Legislature, 8 March 1836.

The Honourable the President and Members of the Legislative Council.

Enclosure 2,
in No. 418.

THE Lieutenant-governor has the honour to lay before the Board of Legislative Council the copies of several important communications received from His Majesty's Secretary of State, which he recommends to their immediate attention.

The Lieutenant-governor has the satisfaction of acquainting the Board that some progress has already been made towards the promotion of schools for the education of the negro population by the exertions of the rector, who has obtained from the lord bishop of the diocese a sum of money to be applied to this purpose. Gratuitous offers of land have been made for the erection of the buildings that are necessary, and promises of contributions in labour and the carriage of materials. These favourable beginnings have induced the Lieutenant-governor to recommend to the House of General Assembly a legislative grant in aid of this important object. In the copy of the circular despatch of the 18th of November, the Council will perceive that the attention of His Majesty's Government has lately been given in a special manner to the subject of prison discipline. Voluminous reports which accompanied this despatch, affording much interesting and useful information, have been placed in the hands of the commissioners whom the Lieutenant-governor has appointed under the Act for building prisons in this island. He recommends the subject in a very especial manner to the attention of the legislature, as he considers this a most proper period (when additional prisons are about to be erected) for revising the gaol laws of the island, which, although embracing many excellent regulations, will admit of amendments, particularly with a view to enforcing more effectually the system of solitary confinement, for which indeed the gaol in Scarborough is not at all adapted.

Government House, 8 March 1836.

(signed) *Henry C. Darling,*
Lieutenant-Governor.

Enclosure 3, in No. 418.

EXTRACT from the ADDRESS of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to the House of General Assembly at the opening of the Session of the Legislature, 8 March 1836.

The Honourable the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly.

Enclosure 3,
in No. 418.

THE Lieutenant-governor has the honour to lay before the House of General Assembly copies of several communications received from His Majesty's Government, the whole of which

which he recommends to their immediate consideration, as applying, in an essential degree, to interests of great importance to the colonies under their present circumstances.

As relating to the first of these documents, 16th November 1835, with its enclosures, and to that of the 25th November, the Lieutenant-governor has much satisfaction in acquainting the House of Assembly that through the exertions of the rector of the island, considerable contributions towards the establishment of schools have already been obtained, as well by offers of land for the erection of the necessary buildings, as promises of manual labour and conveyance of materials. The lord bishop of the diocese has moreover placed at the disposal of the rector a sum of money in furtherance of the undertaking, to which the Lieutenant-governor does not doubt that such legislative aid will be voluntarily contributed as may be consistent with the financial circumstances of the colony.

In the first enclosure, dated the 21st of July, the views of His Majesty's Government are explained as to the essential object of providing a sufficiency of native teachers for the schools to be established in the colonies, which it is proposed to obtain by the formation of normal schools; of these, two are to be formed in the West Indies.

The circular despatch of the 18th November treats of the very important subject of prison discipline, to which the attention of the Imperial Parliament has lately been in a special manner directed.

This despatch was accompanied by voluminous reports of a Committee of the House of Lords, before whom extensive and deeply-interesting information was given, with respect to the state of the principal prisons of the United Kingdom, and their system of discipline.

These documents have been placed by the Lieutenant-governor in the hands of the commissioners, who, in virtue of the Act for building prisons in this island, he has appointed by warrant for this purpose.

Although the Lieutenant-governor has reason to be satisfied with the general good state of the gaol in Scarborough, there will, nevertheless, be found many defects in the system, particularly as to the means of enforcing solitary confinement, of which the gaol is almost entirely destitute. A special provision for this improvement and other objects connected with that establishment, which have already been frequently represented as of pressing necessity, the Lieutenant-governor recommends as deserving the particular attention of the Assembly.

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Vide Papers presented to Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery, part 3, 1836, pp. 6 & 9.

To His Excellency Major-General *Darling*, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of *Tobago* and its Dependencies.

THE House of General Assembly have to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's message of yesterday's date, and in reply, beg to state that the subjects therein referred to shall receive their earliest consideration; at the same time, the House have to request your Excellency will be pleased to lay before them the Report of the Committee of the House of Lords on the state of the prisons of the United Kingdom.

(signed)

James Johnston, Speaker.

House of General Assembly,
10 March 1836.

— No. 419. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 419.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, 13 April 1836.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter from Lieutenant-governor *Darling*, forwarding Tables (A.) and (B.) for the month of February last.

Vide Table (B.)
p. 432.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Enclosure in No. 419.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Lieutenant-Governor *Darling* to Sir *Lionel Smith*, dated Government House, Tobago, 12 March 1836.

Enclosure in
No. 419.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith Tables (A.) and (B.) for the month of February.

That for District No. 3, under the superintendence of Mr. M'Intosh, presents an appearance of such extraordinary misconduct on the part of the apprenticed labourers in that district, that I feel the propriety of accompanying the report by an explanation.

Of the 122 punishments inflicted in the course of the month in that district, 99 occurred on Great Courland estate, under the management of Mr. Alexander M'Dougall.

In my despatch of the 24th of October to Lord *Glenelg*, when noticing the extraordinary number of punishments on the small estate of the *Adelphi*, for which Mr. M'Dougall was
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then attorney, I had occasion to allude to the number of complaints that were brought from this (Great Courland) estate, also under his charge, and I think the following statement will in some degree justify the opinion I have entertained, that the apparent misconduct on those two estates was to be attributed to the attorney and manager, rather than to the evil disposition of the apprentices.

In September, the number of punishments at the Adelphi was 63, being seven more than the number of labourers on the estate. The month of October, in consequence of the severity having occasioned remark, passed over with only one. In November we had 26. The son of the proprietor arrived from England about this time, and removed Mr. M'Dougall from the attorneyship. The punishments have since been, in December, one; in January, six; February, two; complaints made to me, none.

At the last Court of King's Bench, the manager of the Adelphi was convicted of personally ill-using an apprenticed labourer, and fined. At the next court, Mr. M'Dougall and his overseer are both under recognizance to answer to similar charges.

Although the number of punishments awarded appears appalling, they have been in their nature trifling; chiefly extra labour, in consequence of the gang at Courland appearing determined not to exert themselves under the manager.

In District No. 4 there has also been some trouble on one estate, Les Coteaux, where the women, 170 in number, (of whom 15 are amongst the 23 punished) have been somewhat refractory. I am surprised, upon the whole, that the women generally are not more troublesome, considering the constant discussions arising out of the state of the free children.

— No. 420. —

No. 420.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government House, Grenada, 3 May 1836.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a letter from Lieutenant-governor Darling, forwarding Tables (A.) and (B.) for the month of March last.

*Vide Table (B.)
p. 432.*

I have, &c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Enclosure in No. 420.

Enclosure in
No. 420.

Sir,

Government House, Tobago, 19 April 1836.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency Tables (A.) and (B.) for three of the four districts of this island for the month of March last.

I am sorry to report to your Excellency that Mr. Bradfield has been so seriously ill since the middle of March, that he has been totally incapable of any sort of duty, or of making up his report to the date of his illness.

It affords me satisfaction to say that although no magistrate has been employed in Mr. Bradfield's district for upwards of a month, no complaints or reports of any irregularity requiring the presence of a magistrate have reached me.

I have at the same time to observe that the reports which I have now the honour to forward, comprise those estates on which the greatest number of complaints have lately been made. In that of Great Courland there will be found only three, though showing 99 for the preceding month. I cannot very satisfactorily account for this agreeable change, which I should be glad to be justified in considering as a presage of future improvement in the conduct and management of the parties concerned.

It affords me, however, much satisfaction to say that everything appears to be going on very quietly in the island, and that the planters, with very few exceptions, are reaping the most abundant crop with which they have been favoured for many years. The promise of the next crop also, as respects the present growth of young plants, is most encouraging.

I have, &c.

His Excellency
Major-General Sir Lionel Smith, K. C. B.,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Henry C. Darling*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

— No. 421. —

No. 421.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government House, Grenada, 20 May 1836.

I DO myself the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a letter from Lieutenant-governor Darling, in reference to your Lordship's despatch

30 April 1836.

despatch of the 20th January last, Tobago, reporting that he sees no prospect of any further legislative measures being adopted for the more effectual protection of the children of the apprenticed population.

TOBAGO.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith.*

Enclosure in No. 421.

Sir,
HAVING reference to the letter which I had the honour to address to the Governor in Chief on the 30th October 1835, relative to the state of the free children of apprenticed labourers in this island, and its enclosures of the 26th of that month to the Secretary of State, as well as to his Lordship's despatch of the 20th January last in reply, I am sorry to report that the present session of the Legislature is drawing to a close without the hope of any additional legal provision being made for the better protection of those children than what is contained in the Abolition Act, as already explained in my letter above referred to.

Enclosure in
No. 421.

The attention of the Assembly was drawn to the subject by the Solicitor-general, who argued strenuously in support of the question, which, after much discussion, was ultimately lost, on the plea, I believe, that almost all the managers have received instructions from their principals to extend medical treatment to the free children (as well as to those who are under apprenticeship) without conditions, which I am informed is now pretty generally the case throughout the island.

The special magistrates have my orders to inquire from time to time as to their treatment, and I am informed that the mothers have in many instances shown an improved feeling as to the state of their offspring, since they find that the doctor's advice and the gift of a little medicine do not establish a claim to their future services, while they unhappily are too little disposed to repay kindness of this sort by their own labour. Upon the whole, I am afraid that not much has been done to better the condition of the children; but I am not altogether without hope that the advice and exertions of the magistrates may ultimately be attended with beneficial effects.

C. H. Darling, Esq.
Private Secretary.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry Darling,*
Lieutenant-Governor.

— No. 422. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 422.

My Lord,
I HAVE the honour to transmit enclosed, copy of a letter from Lieutenant-governor Darling, forwarding Tables (A.) and (B.) for the month of April last.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lionel Smith.*

Vide Table (B.)
P. 432.

Enclosure in No. 422.

Sir,
I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency Tables (A.) and (B.) for the month of April, but comprising only the reports of three districts, Mr. Bradfield having continued in a state of debility after his illness, totally incapacitating him from the performance of any duty.

Enclosure in
No. 422.

The district over which he presided continued for a period of six weeks and upwards without the interference of any magistrate between the apprenticed labourer and his employer, with only one solitary complaint reaching me.

I am informed that there are a few subjects prepared for the investigation of the magistrate whom I have appointed to act in Mr. Bradfield's place, but I have reason to believe they are of an unimportant nature, such as not to have interrupted the general business of the season.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry C. Darling,*
Lieutenant-Governor.

His Excellency Major-General
Sir Lionel Smith, K.C.B.

TOBAGO.

— No. 423. —

No. 423.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, 29 June 1836.

I HAVE the honour to transmit enclosed, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter from Lieutenant-governor Darling, forwarding Tables (A.) and (B.) for the month of May last.

Vide Table (B.)
below.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Enclosure in No. 423.

Sir,

Government House, Tobago, 13 June 1836.

Enclosure in
No. 423.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency Tables (A.) and (B.) for the month of May last.

In district No. 2, the number of punishments inflicted during the month will be found to exceed, by a great deal, those of any other district, which is probably owing to the apprentices in that quarter having been for so long a time without a special magistrate superintending, during the serious illness of Mr. Bradfield.

The complaints in general have been of the ordinary nature—remissness in turning out to work, and neglect of cattle.

Considering the very great exertions that have been required on every estate to get off the present abundant crop, it is matter of surprise that the complaints have been so few, while it is very gratifying to hear that the planters generally are of opinion that they get as much work performed, and as well, as heretofore.

The island is in every respect in a perfect state of tranquillity, a mutual good feeling between all classes appearing to prevail.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry C. Darling*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

TABLE (B.)

RETURN of the Number and Effect of the RETURNS of PUNISHMENTS, received by the Governor of *Tobago* from the Special Magistrates, from 1 August 1835 to 31 May 1836.

Colony.	Date.	Total Number of Apprentices throughout the Island, Province or Government	Total Number of Punishments inflicted under the authority of Special Magistrates throughout the same.	Proportion per cent. of Punishments to Apprentices.	Total Number of Males Punished.		Total Number of Females punished.	The Average Number of Stripes inflicted in Cases of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum Number of Stripes inflicted in any one Case of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum of Severity in any one Case of Punishment by Confinement.	The Maximum of Severity in any other Mode of Punishment.
					By Whipping.	Otherwise than by Whipping.					
TOBAGO.	1835:										
	August -	9,883	342	3½	52	126	164	12	39	- 3 weeks solitary confinement.	10 days tread-mill.
	September	9,871	292	3	18	135	139	11	15	- 14 days and nights.	3 months tread-mill.
	October -	9,855	72	¾	16	34	22	9	30	3 weeks -	3 weeks tread-mill.
	November	9,860	216	2½	19	90	107	11	25	8 nights -	15 days tread-mill.
	December	9,465	73	¾	20	31	22	14	30	- 6 days stocks.	- - To serve 12 calendar months after the expiration of apprenticeship.
	1836:										
	January -	9,805	136	1½	32	38	66	13	39	1 month -	Ditto - ditto.
	February	9,781	221	2¼	30	76	115	16	30	- 1 month on estate.	14 days tread-mill.
	March -	* 6,907	56	¾	19	15	22	15	30	- 14 nights in the stocks.	4 days tread-mill.
	April -	* 7,007	65	¾	10	33	22	13	20	- 2 weeks solitary confinement.	2 weeks hard labour.
	May -	9,501	110	1¼	22	43	45	12	30	- 2 months at night.	- - 21 days hard labour on tread-mill

* The months of March and April comprise the results of three districts only, no return having been received from the fourth magistrate, in consequence of severe illness.

T R I N I D A D.

— No. 424. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.,
to the Secretary of State.

No. 424.

Sir,

Trinidad, 26 January 1835.

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit for approval transcript of an ordinance that has been passed by the Council of Government; viz.

No. 8.—For the more speedy administration of justice in cases of contracts for the performance of labour, and of apprenticeships and contracts of the nature thereof, and to regulate the formation of apprenticeship, and to prevent and punish the harbouring of runaway apprentices.

Vide App. No. 158.

I have caused this ordinance to be promulgated, it being urgently required.

This law is passed for the regulation of voluntary contracts for labour within the colony, as also the apprenticing of European emigrants who had been engaged, and were expected from Fayal and Madeira under indentures, and are since arrived.

I trust the reasons herein assigned for the immediate promulgation of this ordinance will be deemed sufficient.

I have, &c.
(signed) *G. F. Hill*.

— No. 425. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart., dated
Downing-street, 12 October 1835.

No. 425.

HIS Majesty is graciously pleased to confirm and allow the ordinance “For the more speedy administration of justice in cases of contracts for the performance of labour, and of apprenticeships and contracts of the nature thereof, and to regulate the formation of apprenticeships, and to prevent and punish the harbouring of runaway apprentices.”

— No. 426. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart., to
the Earl of *Aberdeen*.

No. 426.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 27 April 1835.

IN obedience to a resolution of the Commons of the United Kingdom, communicated to me in your Lordship's circular despatch, dated the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to forward the enclosed return.

In making this return I beg permission to observe that all, except the two last named therein, were gazetted on the 29th July, on which day only one special magistrate had arrived from England, Mr. Mackenzie; a second (Captain Hay) arrived on the 1st of August. He died shortly afterwards; and from that time until the 1st of November, when Captain Murray, R. N., Lieutenant Strugnell, R. N., and Mr. Fernandez had arrived, and were gazetted, the laws regulating the respective duties of employer and apprentice were adjudged and executed throughout all the rural districts by the locally appointed special magistrates. Mr. Mackenzie, the sole stipendiary magistrate, acting as chief superintending justice over the Port of Spain district, and resident therein.

With reference to the class of society from which these magistrates were selected, none of sufficient respectability were to be found unconnected with colonial property.

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perty. No case has been reported of any of them having presumed to act in a case of their own, and their duties appear to have been well performed.

Exclusive of the local magistrates (commandants and adjoint commandants) who were appointed special, there were others also named who have acted.

It is my intention, however, forthwith to reduce the number very considerably, and in those I retain to include the most intelligent.

The peculiar localities of this island render the execution of the apprentice law impracticable by the stipendiary magistrates alone. The colony is divided into nine districts, and I am of opinion that from two to three special unpaid magistrates for each district will still be required, exclusive of the six stipendiaries, which will leave the establishment of unpaid special magistrates at most 27.

I have, &c.
(signed) *G. F. Hill.*

Enclosure in No. 426.

Enclosure in
No. 426.

TRINIDAD:—RETURN of LOCAL MAGISTRATES of said Island who have been appointed SPECIAL MAGISTRATES.

Name of Local Magistrate who has been appointed Special Magistrate.	Time of their Appointment.	By whom Appointed.	Whether Planter, Attorney or in any way connected with Colonial Property.
Henry Murray - - -	29 July 1834	Lieutenant-Governor	Proprietor.
John Boissiere - - -	—		- ditto.
Louis Lapeyrouse - - -	—		- ditto.
J. A. Guiseppi - - -	—		- ditto.
J. B. Condon - - -	—		- ditto.
D. Hart - - -	—		- ditto.
B. Prieto - - -	—		- ditto.
M. Sorzano - - -	—		Corregidor of Indian Mission.
W. Gillman - - -	—		Proprietor.
J. G. Worthington - - -	—		Planter.
L. Lee - - -	—		- ditto.
R. Guignet - - -	—		Proprietor.
J. Ligoure - - -	—		- ditto.
J. Peschier - - -	—		- ditto.
H. Johnston - - -	—		Planter.
R. Gray - - -	—		Proprietor.
R. Coppinger - - -	—		- ditto.
J. Miller - - -	—		Planter.
J. Taylor - - -	—		Proprietor.
F. J. Danglade - - -	—		- ditto.
D. Fabien - - -	—		- ditto.
Thomas White - - -	—		- ditto.
H. Farley - - -	—		- ditto.
H. N. Huggins - - -	—	Proprietor.	
F. Besson - - -	—	- ditto.	
A. Vassal - - -	—	- ditto.	
Thomas Agge - - -	—	Planter.	
L. Rochard - - -	3 Aug. 1834	Proprietor.	
F. C. Bowen - - -	7 Nov. 1834	- ditto.	

Trinidad, 27 April 1835.

(signed) *G. F. Hill.*

— No. 427. —

No. 427.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 15 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 inhabitants, residing in a central situation, to be the acting superintendent special justices

justices 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 to 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. 428. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.,
to Lord *Glenelg.*

No. 428.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 18 July 1835.

IN obedience to your Lordship's despatch, dated 15th ult., 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 29. My despatch of 24th 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 27.

I trust this explanation may be satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(signed) *G. F. Hill.*

— No. 429. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.,
to Lord *Glenelg.*

No. 429.

Sir

Trinidad, 4 June 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of a proclamation, which I issued on the 30th ult., to cancel the commissions of the special justices whom I had appointed on the 1st of August last, the number being fortunately greater than is necessary.

This step will enable me to select the number I reported by my despatch of the 27th April as essential to the administration of justice between the employers and the apprentices.

I have, &c.
(signed) *G. F. Hill.*

Enclosure in No. 429.

By His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir *George Fitzgerald Hill*, Bart., &c. &c.

(L.S.) *G. F. HILL.*

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the special justices who have hitherto assisted the stipendiary magistrates in administering the laws which appoint and regulate the respective duties to be observed between

Enclosure in
No. 429.

Vide Papers relative to the Abolition of Slavery, 1833-35, part 2 (continued), p. 198.

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between employer and apprentice, have entitled themselves generally to my sincere acknowledgments and thanks for an efficiency and impartiality of conduct which have given satisfaction to the employer and inspired the apprentice with respect and confidence.

The number of special justices heretofore appointed may now, therefore, be diminished without detriment to the public service.

I do consequently hereby declare and proclaim, that all commissions heretofore issued appointing superintending or other special justices, are (save and except those to the stipendiary magistrates) hereby revoked and cancelled from and after Wednesday the 17th day of June next, when a fresh commission shall be issued, appointing the gentlemen who are to be assistant special justices.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Island, at Government House, in the town of Port of Spain, this 30th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1835.

By his Excellency's Command,

Lewis Pantin,
Act. Col. Sec.

— No. 430. —

No. 430.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart., to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 27 June 1835.

By my despatch dated the 27th of April last, I had proposed to reduce the number of unpaid special justices to 27.

After a careful scrutiny of the numbers required in the respective districts, I found they amounted to 32.

I have appointed and gazetted them, as appears by the list of their names and districts in the enclosed gazette paper.

The former appointments were cancelled, as appears by the enclosed proclamation.

I have, &c.

(signed) *G. F. Hill*.

Enclosure in No. 430.

Government House, 18 June 1835.

Enclosure in
No. 430.

His Excellency, the Lieutenant-governor has this day been pleased to appoint the following gentlemen to be special justices in the districts set opposite to their names; viz.

John Boissierre, Samuel Samuel and Thomas B. Barracott, esqrs., Port of Spain District.

F. C. Bowen and P. Condon, esqrs., Western District.

James Portel, L. Lapeyrouse and J. A. Guiseppi, esqrs., St. Joseph's District.

L. Lee, J. T. Worthington and Martin Sorzano, esqrs., Tacarigua District.

C. Libert, P. Vessing, Thomas Stone, W. H. Outten, Thomas Agge and Leo Dessources, esqrs., Southern District.

H. N. Huggins, W. Metiver, esqrs., and Lieutenant-colonel Warner, South Naparima District.

James Taylor, Desir Fabien, Thomas White, F. J. Danglade and G. Vonweiller, esqrs., North Naparima District.

Honourable J. Peschier, R. Coppinger, A. Jack, J. Bell, H. Johnson, and John Smith, esqrs., Carapichaima District.

George Massy, esq., Eastern District.

By command,
(signed)

Lewis Pantin,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

— No. 431. —

No. 431.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 12 August 1835.

I HAVE received your despatch dated 27th June last, enclosing the gazette which contains the list of the names and districts of certain newly appointed special justices, and the proclamation by which the former appointments were cancelled.

On

On this subject I have only to refer you, for your information and guidance, to my circular despatch dated 15th June last, the instructions contained in which render it unnecessary for me to make any further remark.

TRINIDAD.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 432. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.,
to Lord *Glenelg.*

No. 432.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 11 September 1835.

MR. SPRING RICE addressed a despatch to me on the 30th September last, inviting my attention to different points suggested by him for inquiry, in consequence of the great change effected in the condition of the negro population, and requesting my opinions thereupon.

I felt the importance of the subject, and was most ready to apply myself diligently to comply with the object of Mr. Rice's despatch, which, however, included so extensive a field for investigation, that I soon became persuaded no satisfactory communication could be made in reply until after the lapse of at least many months, with all the information which could be acquired in that time by the experience of others, and from constant observation and extensive inquiry by myself.

Twelve months have passed since the all-important measure of British abolition of slavery has been accomplished, yet even now it is almost presumption to attempt a report in fulfilment of the investigation into the topics proposed by Mr. Rice's despatch.

I find no parallel case in history, nothing analogous to guide the mind, unless so far as the example of St. Domingo may be supposed to bear upon it, which, however, relying on better results, I do not permit myself to draw into comparison.

In seeking information from practical men, who might be supposed to afford the best, I find the greater part of the community consists of persons prejudiced from their disappointments and diminished means of gain, and amongst the remainder, some who speculate on and expect an improved state of things; therefore, any conclusions I draw from the opinions, reasonings or even evidence of these men may fall far short of or much exceed future results.

The prediction of to-day may be falsified by the occurrences of this day six months, and those again may be very much changed at the end of a year.

Thus, I shall offer my suggestions on the subjects submitted to me by Mr. Rice according to my own experience, aided by careful inquiry, and along with them transmit to you answers I have received to five queries I put to eight intelligent gentlemen.

I now proceed to observe, that the effects and probable results of emancipation upon the apprentices, particularly with reference to what may be their disposition to continue after 1840 labour in the production of the staple commodities of the colony, develop themselves hitherto slowly and imperfectly.

It is observable, however, that they still suffer delusion as to the term of their service, and require to be disabused of the expectation that their King intends to shorten it.

Pains have been taken to induce them to believe that when the compensation shall be paid, the King thereby will have purchased for them the remainder of their service; it is my duty on this point to undeceive them.

What may be their state at the end of that period, whether improved, and to what extent, must depend upon the mode of treating them and dealing with them in the next five years. At present we have only the experience of one crop.

Little or no pains had been taken hitherto during the existence of slavery to improve their condition morally or religiously, or to give them any instruction whatever beyond the cultivation of the cane and the manufacture of sugar; but I observe with much pleasure, that on some estates they are hiring their extra time by doing task-work, and in proportion as eagerness for gain by such employment increases, I indulge the expectation that they will improve as members of the community. But to this end I must make occasional and careful inquiry that faith is kept with them and punctual payment made, which ought to be in money (for this object an increased

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increased and convenient circulating medium is required) and not by truck, which I am quite sure would eventually destroy confidence between employer and labourer; provided also that the means are facilitated to them of giving some education to their children.

On a few estates the apprentices have already expressed anxiety to have their children and young people receive school instruction, and have in two districts subscribed towards building a place of worship.

If, by improved habits and increased wants, the negro shall be induced at the end of the apprenticeship to cultivate the cane for wages, Trinidad as a sugar colony may still thrive, contrary to the forebodings of the gentlemen interrogated; but being apprehensive none except the negroes can sustain the severity of cane labour, I have therefore considered the continued production of sugar after 1840 to depend on them.

We have, it is true, a few Spanish peons occasionally employed, but they cannot be calculated on as likely to add largely to the labouring population, nor will they now undertake the weeding part of sugar cultivation. The peon will handle the cutlass and the hatchet, but will not touch the hoe with which the canes are weeded, a work the peon cannot endure on account of the prickles on the leaves, which fret the skin; yet he will execute the dangerous and more laborious task of felling trees in the forest. He will seldom work for daily wages. His services cannot be depended on for any length of time; he will seldom engage for a fixed period. He is fond of rum, and his usual practice is to quit you after earning a little money, with which he withdraws from your work to enjoy and spend it in idleness, when he again returns. He hires his labour generally by contract; his prices vary of course according to the apparent severity of the work to be done.

I instance the case of the Spanish peon and the hitherto unsuccessful attempt to supply cane culture by the labour of European emigrants, to justify my opinion that for that culture the chief dependence must rest upon the negroes.

If that opinion is correct, then the effect which free labour will have upon the pursuits of profitable industry, or, in other words, upon the staple productions of the colony, must, as I have before hinted, depend upon such a system of treatment of the apprentice as shall induce him to remain with his employer after 1840.

His employer at present is obliged to hire labour to supply the diminished hours of work of his apprentice: the more he procures that supply from his apprentice for wages, the better the prospect of improving the condition of the negro. At the same time, let him induce attachment to his cottage by increasing his comforts therein, but without giving him as much land as would enable him to live without earning wages. No doubt free labour ministers to the idle propensities of the negro; due efforts must be made to alter those propensities within the next five years.

Three remarkable instances exist in this island to prove the effects of tropical climate and productive soil towards inducing indolence.

The American refugees located at Savannah Grande, with a grant of five quarrees of land.

The settlers from the 3d West India regiment, stationed at Mauzanilla, Caure and Tourure on allotments of land, and the four Indian missions at Arima, Savannah Grande, Toco and Ciparia also provided with land. Very few, if any, of these give their labour for hire.

They prefer and are contented with the rice and yams they grow; they sell what they do not themselves consume, and drink the price they get; this is the general habit of these people.

They have been inconceivably neglected, but I look forward to approbation for projected improvement I hope to make in their condition.

I could not omit this notice of these people, marking so strongly what the condition of the apprentice might become after 1840, unless judicious treatment and management of him shall be previously adopted to stimulate his industry; and I feel confident industry would not be promoted by encouraging petty settlers on the unoccupied lands.

Your Lordship will, I trust, excuse me for introducing in this place the observation, that the policy of His Majesty's Government in transferring captured Africans to this island, in order to prove good, must, in my humble opinion, depend upon the provisions of an ordinance I had passed for indenting them, subject of course to such alterations or additions as His Majesty may be advised to make therein.

But

But to me the necessity is obvious of providing by ordinance, or Order in Council, for the regulation of captured Africans on arrival.

My observations have been hitherto chiefly confined to the consideration of whether sugar was likely to continue to be the staple product of Trinidad, and, in my view, every effort ought to be made towards effecting that result, as best calculated to secure the future prosperity of this colony, for if sugar fails, capital will be withdrawn, no other cultivation yielding a return to encourage the employment of large capital, or to justify the rate of wages demanded and paid; and in the event of capital being withdrawn, I should dread the dispersion of the negroes into small settlements like those of St. Domingo, without the code rural of that island, which has established a coercion irreconcilable to the British principles.

Within these two months a number of estates, four by one gentleman of great experience, have been purchased, besides some others.

Thus, judging from these and some minor but similar occurrences, hope is excited that capital will not be withdrawn.

I have well weighed a measure, and consulted upon it, that, if approved by Government, would retain and enlarge capital here, relieve the planter, and secure the continued culture of sugar.

Authorize the Lords of the Treasury to pay off the debt for which each estate is mortgaged, upon a transfer to them of the mortgage as a debt to His Majesty at six per cent. per annum interest, to be collected by the custom department here, with summary power of recovery. This mode would avoid the expense of appointing a person or persons specially for the purpose.

The planter by this scheme would obtain a relief of at least 20 per cent. per annum upon his concerns.

I have called for a return of the estates by name which stand mortgaged, the amount for which each is liable, and the names of mortgagor and mortgagee.

I cannot have this return in detail as required in time for this despatch, but the number of mortgages does not exceed 100, nor does the amount exceed 800,000*l.*

I annex a Table, stating the prices of labour generally throughout the colony, and particularly in Chaguanas, an important district.

I have, &c.
(signed) *G. F. Hill.*

STATEMENT of the Prices of AGRICULTURAL LABOUR in the Quarter of *Chaguanas*.

Day Labourer :

Cutting and planting canes, and cutlassing grass (task-work)	- -	4 bits.
Hauling dirt or round ridging with the hoe, on a road (task 100 feet in length)	- - - - -	4 —
Hauling dirt in a cane piece on a bed of 25 feet wide (task 150 feet)	- - - - -	4 —
Cutting a chord of wood (task 6 feet by 6 feet)	- - - - -	5 —
Axe work in general (not tasked)	- - - - -	5 —

Job Work :

Felling wood and cutting canes, from \$ 16 to \$ 32.
Cutlassing grass, \$ 12.

Note of WAGES generally paid throughout the Colony :

In Town :

Servants:—From \$6 to \$8 per month, generally with food and clothing.
Labourers:—From 4 to 6 bits per diem, without food.

In the country :

Labourers:—From 4 to 5 bits for a day's task; varies according to district; not procured with facility.
Mechanics:—From \$ 12 to \$ 16 per month, with rations; when hired by the day 6 to 8 bits per diem, without food.
Porters on Ship-board:—Nine bits per diem, with rations.
Spanish Peons:—These people will not work for daily wages, at all events not generally; their services cannot be depended upon. They will not work with the hoe to weed the canes; they undertake contracts to throw down wood, cutlass cocoa cultivation, plant and cut canes. The rates depend upon the nature of the wood, strength of grass in cocoa cultivation, and the weight of the canes. They are very uncertain people, and are much addicted to use ardent spirits.

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Throwing wood, from	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 16	to	\$32	per	quarree.
Cutlassing grass	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	10	-	-
Cleaning land and planting canes	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	-	80	-	-
Planting canes in cleared land	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	24	-	-
Cutting canes	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	-	40	-	-

Enclosure in No. 432.

*Queries.*Enclosure in
No. 432.

1. WHAT effects are likely to be produced on the pursuits of profitable industry in this colony by free labour and the system of apprenticeship?
2. Is free labour likely to be applied profitably to the production of any new articles of agriculture or manufacture?
3. Is the production of sugar likely to be affected by free labour?
4. Is capital likely to be diverted into any and what new channels, or to be withdrawn or applied to the more extended production of articles already known in the markets?
5. Do any obstacles exist to such a change, or to such an extension; if so, what may they be, and how may they be remedied or removed.

I have submitted these queries to eight intelligent gentlemen, whose answers are set out in the following document given separately to each query, and numbered from 1 to 8, to each of the five queries.

(signed) *G. F. Hill.*

1st Query.—What effects are likely to be produced on the pursuits of profitable industry by free labour, and the system of apprenticeship?

Answers to 1st Query.

No. 1. The effects of a system of labouring apprenticeship, if intended for any other purpose than the encouragement of capitalists to introduce an immigrant population intended to be made free in a short period of time, or for the temporary education and civilization of Africans, must be considered as unprofitable, and its adoption unadvisable.

Whether free labour will be ultimately productive of profitable industry in the colony of Trinidad, will entirely depend upon the wisdom of the legislative measures pursued with respect to the Crown lands, as well as the private grants and occupancies of which so large a proportion still remains waste and uncultivated.

No. 2. There cannot be the least doubt but that the pursuits of profitable industry by the system of free labour and apprenticeship will be considerably less in this island than when the labouring population were in a state of slavery, for the following reasons:

As regards apprentices, they are so much addicted to idleness, during their own time, that already in several instances they have refused to work at the staple commodities of sugar, coffee and cocoa, during their own hours, at a rate of wages such as a planter would be enabled to pay, and obtain a fair profitable return from his soil, and, in some cases, at a higher rate of wages than the price of the above-named staples, or any other commodities would warrant.

In a state of freedom this will be felt in a greater degree, because the wants of the labouring population are few and easy of acquirement, as, with some exceptions, they have no desire for luxuries; and as long as by one day's work in the week, or two at most, they can procure sufficient food of an unexpensive nature, and sufficient clothing to keep them from going naked, they will not work during the remainder of their time at any price that could be afforded by the sale of any commodity to be grown or manufactured in the island. It is true, they are, in general, fond of certain amusements, particularly dancing and drinking, and if possible many would dance some part of every night of their lives, but as they are quite satisfied to dance out of doors, if the weather be fine, to the sound of a drum made and beat by themselves, without being dressed, and spirits being excessively cheap, these pleasures to them are of easy procurement, and not expensive.

No. 3. It is impossible to form any estimate of the profits to be derived by the employment of free labour before some regular system can be adopted so as to induce the very few free labourers who are now to be found within this colony to perform field work with any degree of constancy.

The cultivation of the sugar cane (the first article of consideration) is one which the free labourers are by no means partial to; however, if free labourers could be obtained, and to a sufficient extent, and who would apply themselves steadily to field labour, I am of opinion that the cultivation of sugar carried on by persons who have sugar estates already established, could be so conducted as to moderately reward the owners of such estates, and enable them to pay reasonable wages to their labourers.

The second article of any value at present extensively cultivated is cocoa; the labour of its cultivation being light, persons are readily met with who engage to work on a cocoa estate on very reasonable terms, particularly as the present price of that article enables the cultivator to pay them; but its cultivation is not likely to be extended beyond the present establishments,

ishments, it requiring six years before any cocoa (of good quality) can be reaped from its first being planted; and it cannot be expected that any individual, in the present state of the West Indies, would embark in a new establishment, looking to so distant a period for its returns. The price of cocoa is also very uncertain, and when it is known that foreign cocoa, raised by slave labour, has a preference in His Majesty's ships and garrisons, because it can be produced cheaper, it is not likely that the cultivation of free labour cocoa, raised in the British islands, will be followed up with much spirit. It is but reasonable to expect, that whilst labour can be procured, that the cultivation of sugar will be preferred, as it yields a return in 14 months; however, it is evident that in a very short time all the small sugar estates, particularly those whose owners have not a command of money to pay labourers, will merge into the larger estates, as the extensive establishments, during the existence of the apprenticed labour, can manufacture reasonably large crops, by dividing their gangs into two parties, and working each seven and a half hours each day, which gives 15 hours' manufacturing labour (being more than sufficient), and where this can be accomplished, sugar estates will, during the apprenticeship, leave a profitable return.

No. 4. This question has two parts; 1st. The effect of apprenticeship; and, 2d. The effect of free labour on profitable industry.

Apprenticeship is temporary and finite, and the result of my observation for the last six months is, that the subjects of it have from necessity, and from necessity only, consented to submit to it. It has been among them a most unpopular and ill-understood measure.

They perceive that they are well watched, and that the superintending magistrates have resolutely done their duty.

In this colony, therefore, I see no other effect upon profitable industry from apprenticeship, than a deduction from it of the value of the time taken from the master by the rules now in force, and given to the apprentice; for were that time applied to any beneficial end by the apprentice, it would be but a transfer to him of profitable industry from the master. I have constantly asked the latter, "What does the apprentice do with his extra time thus lately obtained?" The answer is, "He idles it." I therefore think, the apprentice only wastes this portion of time, because it is all that he dare waste, and that he is looking forward to the time when he may waste a great deal more with impunity.

Where any fact has occurred, prognosticative in its appearance, it is useful to quote it. About the 1st of August, the slaves upon many estates pulled or rooted up the provisions in their grounds, and let the plants die. This was under an idea that they were free, because they had not then been made to listen to apprenticeship. Now, to whatever extent extravagant conduct may be excusable on such an occasion, this was strongly indicative of a disposition not to have a settled home, and the general bad state of provision grounds throughout the island at this moment rather proves that disposition to continue.

This view of apprenticeship is a bad promise for the state of free labour, but it is to be observed, that in six years much of the generation of manumitted slaves, at least of the old and incorrigible part of it, will have passed away, and it is to be hoped their places will be taken by a set of better beings, and it will then come more nearly to a question of supply and demand, with a certain drawback always to be allowed for the native of the Tropics' innate disinclination to labour. This is a fact borne out by the whole of my experience; it is common to all colours, and greater the farther the colour is removed from white.

There is an obstacle in the paucity of our population in proportion to our extent of soil; but of this further on; meantime, I think from the causes above quoted that the effect of apprenticeship for the next five years and a half upon profitable industry, may be stated almost in figures, at so much per cent., and the loss to it from free labour will be at first as great; but, I believe, will diminish year by year, particularly if the Government be strict in its police, chary of its land, (upon which I wish to see a high price set), and that it be careful to put down every mode of living except that of honest industry.

When that state of things arrives, I think this colony will fare as well as any other of equal population per square mile.

No. 5. As far as my experience serves, the instances of industry having been hitherto turned to much profitable account in agricultural pursuits have been but few indeed.

The continued agitation and uncertainty which has been so pertinaciously stirred up in the minds of all parties by Orders in Council, proclamations, orders of Government, &c. has completely unhinged all the operations of the planter, and deterred him from following up those plans of improvement and extended cultivation which would have resulted in making his industry and capital profitable, instead of finding that both are now, I fear, irrevocably lost. From the increased number of free labourers employed on plantations during crop, (arising from a smaller quantity of labour being performed by the apprentices), expenses are increased and increasing.

The labour of apprentices, I believe, is generally more indifferently performed; this is an admission which I make with much reluctance, feeling persuaded that the agriculturists have submitted to this careless performance of labour rather than give trouble and annoyance to those persons who have so generously taken upon themselves the vexatious duties of "special, not stipendiary justices;" yet it affords me (as superintending justice) the greatest pleasure to give my most cordial approbation to the cheerfulness and alacrity with which the gentlemen who have so kindly undertaken this harassing duty, have invariably devoted themselves to its careful performance.

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No. 6. The present state of productive industry, as it has existed for several years past, cannot be said as yet to have sustained any very sensible change, either in the staple commodities raised for exportation, or in articles raised for consumption, by reason of the abolition of slavery, so as to warrant me in saying that an absolute loss has been already incurred, although certainly it is beginning to be felt from the various circumstances hereinafter mentioned, and can very easily be ascertained when the crop of this year shall be taken off.

No. 7. From the known indolence of the negro, I am of opinion, the present state of the labouring population will diminish profitable industry.

Even the high rate of wages now offered by planters cannot secure the labour of the apprentice during his own time.

Rather than hire himself to his employer, after having performed his task of seven hours and a half labour per diem, he will prefer either going to his own grounds, or idling away his time about his hut, or in sleep or dancing.

No. 8. I am very apprehensive that the period which terminates the apprenticeship of non-prædials, will produce great dissatisfaction amongst the labouring classes who are required to serve two years longer. That the difficulties which had to be encountered as the first effects of emancipation, which no doubt has caused, and will continue to cause, diminished crops, will be increased in so great a degree from the discontent resulting from the partial emancipation (*in toto*), that little produce will be obtained from their industry during those years, or after freedom, until the delusion shall subside, which, I fear, is general, that as freedom means that they are no longer obliged to work, so there will be no longer any occasion to do so. Necessity and wise regulations may remove this false impression; soonest in the old islands, where the soil is exhausted and labourers numerous. Trinidad, from the fertility of the land, and thinness of population, is in the most precarious situation, and, I fear, will suffer a great and continued decline in productiveness for some years after 1838.

The greatest apprehension I have is of desertion from estates. Plantations once abandoned are difficult to be restored to profitable cultivation, and the demand by the labourers for their services, where they will consent to field labour, may be so high as to cause abandonment.

For this, therefore, I humbly conceive some remedy should be devised and applied at the earliest possible period, not only to regulate the price of labour, but also to continue the labourer in employment as heretofore.

Second Query.—Is free labour likely to be applied profitably to the production of any new articles of agriculture or manufacture?

Answers to Second Query.

No. 1. Manufactures, beyond what is necessary to prepare a raw article for exportation, can never be profitably carried on where lands are fertile and superabundant, and to encourage them would be to sin against the first principles of political economy.

It is doubtful whether any new products of agricultural industry could be raised to any extent in Trinidad; possibly, under a system of free labour and low wages, indigo might be added to the number of exports, and for internal consumption the inhabitants would no doubt become gradually less dependent upon foreign supplies of provisions.

No. 2. I am not aware of the production of any new articles of agriculture or of manufacture which would pay the hire that would be expected to produce them by our present population when free. Spices and arrow-root could be grown in this island, but not profitably with free labour; even with slave labour these articles have not been cultivated.

No. 3. This island (at least several districts of it) is capable of producing tobacco, greatly surpassing in quality any of the growth of the United States. Some tracts have produced tobacco equal in quality to the celebrated Varinas; its cultivation is easy, and its returns, if very close attention be paid to it, are very great.

Coffee, cotton and rice, if labour was moderate, could be cultivated so as to make those articles an object of considerable importance.

Antigua, St. Kitts, Montserrat, Nevis, and several other islands, depend entirely on the United States for corn-meal to feed their labourers. Corn, if attended to in this island, would produce more than would supply every British settlement in the West Indies, and consequently enable those planters to be independent of the United States for an article so essential to their very existence.

No. 4. The island does not produce food for its own inhabitants. The town of Port of Spain, which contains almost a fourth of the population of the whole island, is supplied with vegetable provisions from the Spanish Main; it is to be presumed that even were the staple articles of colonial produce to fall off, the difference of labour would in the first instance go to articles of necessity and daily consumption, until at least those who supply across the sea were undersold.

If any new article of agriculture or manufactures should be produced in this colony, it will not be a consequence of either apprenticeship or free labour, but of some particular event in Europe, such as a chemical or other discovery, by which some article at present little

little used may suddenly come into great demand, or by changes in duties or other modes of affecting the relationship between countries.

If it be objected to this opinion, that in Cuba many articles are grown and made sources of profit, which are not known here, the reply is, that in Cuba the whites are in great numerical superiority. Let us turn our eyes to St. Domingo, where there are no whites at all, and see what is thence exported; a little coffee remaining since the days of the extirpated whites, and mahogany, planted by the hand of nature.

Even when the planter could command labour and borrow capital, both of which are at best problematical for the future, there was one great bar to the cultivation of any new articles in the mortgages which they were nearly all under, from which unfortunately emancipation is no discharge. By these mortgages they were compelled to cultivate sugar, as giving the best interest to the mortgage. They could not heretofore, and probably will not in future, get money on any other terms. Sufficient reasons, I fear, why we may not expect any new productions in agriculture or manufactures, as the consequence of free labour or apprenticeship.

No. 5. I am of opinion that sufficient time has not yet elapsed to answer this question. Much difficulty, I know, exists in getting free labourers to undertake the weeding and cultivation of the cane.

From some little experience and considerable opportunity of observation, I am almost warranted in coming to the conclusion, that there is either a very strong prejudice or an equally powerful indisposition to this description of labour by free persons as to be next to insurmountable. I have no hesitation in admitting that the practical planter must experience much difficulty and great expense to enable him to turn out the same quantity of produce as heretofore; hence the effects likely to be produced upon the pursuits of industry (I omit profitable) by the existing system must be disastrous.

No. 6. An immediate reduction, both in the agricultural and manufacturing system of the staple commodities, but more especially in the quantity of sugar, without any increased value, for the following reasons:

1st. The East India planter not having been interfered with in the system of slave labour, as carried on in the East Indies, in the production and manufacture of sugar, will be enabled, from the dense population of that country, where labour is so cheap at all times, successfully to compete with the West India sugar planter; and if the East India sugar is introduced into England (as appears likely to be the case) upon the same duty as that of West India sugar, the West India planter can never bear up against such an act or recover the loss he must inevitably sustain from that cause.

2d. In the diminution of the work and labour of the prædial apprenticed labourers as heretofore and now performed. By the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, the hours of labour are limited to 40½ hours per week, in and out of crop, whereas heretofore they were 72 hours per week in crop time, and 54 hours per week out of crop, independent of which the labour that is now performed is not the steady continuance and willing labour as was formerly the case, and as neither the apprenticed labourers during their extra time, nor the absolute free people are inclined to labour in cane cultivation, even for money wages, the sugar crop must, from these causes, be greatly reduced. The cocoa and coffee crops will, from the same causes, be also reduced, without the least possibility, even remotely, of a change happening for the better; and even if the labour could be procured, the rate of wages being higher than the present and late prices of sugar can bear, few proprietors would be able to pay for it.

3d. The commercial system must also, if not in this, yet in another year, feel the want of productive labour in the staple commodities in the decreased quantity of shipping, a reduced demand for merchandize, supplies and machinery applicable to the cultivation and manufacture of the staple commodities; in a reduced rate of freight, from the inability of the planter to pay even what may be considered a fair rate, and, by reason of the quantity of shipping that will come for cargoes, a further reduction of freight and in the amount of charters must take place from the difficulty there will be of obtaining cargoes as heretofore.

No. 7. Free labour is not likely to be employed profitably as above. If any articles not hitherto produced could have been cultivated with a prospect of a remunerating return, doubtless the attention of the capitalists would have been directed thereto when slave labour was available.

No. 8. In the colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad, by the culture of rice and tobacco; beyond this, the attempt at anything else will, I fear, be only experimental, and not produce any beneficial results.

Third Query.—Is the production of sugar likely to be affected by free labour?

Answers to Third Query.

No. 1. If free labourers work for wages instead of cultivating the ground for subsistence, the production of sugar, which is apparently the article best adapted to the soil and climate of Trinidad, would no doubt increase in proportion to the number of immigrant labourers.

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No. 2. There cannot be the slightest doubt but that this will be the case, not so much during the period of apprenticeship as after the 1st August 1840.

No. 3. If a great increase of free labourers is not procured, and a regular system adopted to govern them in their workings, this island will rapidly decline in its returns, the cultivation of sugar will in all probability be abandoned when the apprenticeship expires; for although the seven and a half hours' field labour, which is now compulsory, is sufficient to keep up the cultivation of the cane, without any material diminution, it is however evident that when the negro is released from all control, that sugar cultivation, if it does not entirely cease, will be so diminished as to be no longer of any value.

No. 4. I certainly fear that the production of sugar will be very much affected by the want of compulsory labour, and this effect will fall first on the large estates, to conduct which more hands and greater combination and punctuality are required. The planter on a small scale may keep his mill in motion with few workmen, and if he cannot get them on every, he will have them on many days; but the estate on a large scale must have a large number of labourers, and if he has not that large number, any smaller number is not only of no use, but is a positive loss. There are many causes why free labour is likely to affect the cultivation of sugar. Among them are,

The severity of the labour, both in planting and manufacturing, which will make the labourer give the preference to working at coffee or cocoa.

The want of any means to control that indisposition to work with the punctuality and continuance which the process of sugar making requires.

The difficulty which I fear planters will encounter in procuring the support of monied men, they being generally persons of no capital at first, and sugar planting being a very expensive pursuit.

I know but of one possible reason why the growth of sugar may not be affected by the change from compulsory to free labour, namely, that the price of the article in Europe may enable the estate owner in the colonies to pay the labourer an extra price for planting it.

This, however, is a most improbable event, and it is not reasonable to suppose that the European consumer would submit to such heavy taxation as that would require, for an object in which he must feel so little interest; and could all this take place, it is known that in all circumstances, whenever wages are highest, work is least.

No. 5. I am not aware of any article, either of manufacture or agriculture, which can have the happy effect of stimulating the natural indolence of the inhabitants of these climes to active industry, the more especially as so much care has been taken elsewhere (if it becomes me not to be more particular) to encourage the most opposite feeling. It is also proper to state, that when salt fish, clothing, &c., furnished by estates, cannot be obtained from the apprenticed labourers by the free population at so easy a rate as that untaxed race have hitherto enjoyed these advantages, necessity may compel them to perform a little more work, and perhaps draw their attention to the production of other articles. Let Government establish a proper system of education, so as to train up the rising generation in habits of industry and application, for it is idle to hope that men will labour for more than a scanty existence in an enervating climate, where the blow of the hammer is so rapidly followed by the sweat of the brow, unless a judicious system is instantly adopted for the proper education and instruction of the rising generation. The authority of the master being no longer acknowledged, delay in instituting an extended system of education will leave the rising generation to become a more lawless and profligate race than their African progenitors.

No. 6. Some of the obstacles are enumerated in the answer to the second query, in addition to which are the following:

1st. That no monied person in England or elsewhere will now advance any money to the agriculturists of Trinidad, if it is to be secured on West India property, whether for the purchase of property within the island, the necessary machinery and stock, the repairing or rebuilding of works, the extended cultivation of the estates, or for any general improvements; owing, it may confidently be said, to the general insecurity of West India property, caused principally by the acts of His Majesty's Government, inasmuch as the rights of property have been invaded, and the West India proprietors under the late Act for the Abolition of Slavery having been arbitrarily deprived of their property, without having received full remuneration, contrary to the law and practice as observed in the mother country in similar cases of public urgency or expediency.

2d. The present state of taxation in this colony, which has been for years past complained of, until it now exceeds all bounds of moderation, the expenditure being at present 40,000*l.* sterling and upwards per annum, while in Grenada and St. Vincent, with similar populations in numbers to Trinidad, one-third suffices for the annual expenditure of these islands: it is confidently asserted by the writer, that the expenditure of this island might, without doing harm to any person, be reduced to 18,000*l.* sterling per annum.

3d. The present system of Spanish laws which are yet in force in this island, although it capitulated to His Majesty's arms in 1797, the imperfect knowledge of those laws, their ill adaption to English people as a commercial nation, and the thorough dread that every English merchant or creditor has of lending his money, or of encountering a lawsuit in Trinidad for the recovery of his property.

4th. The cane cultivation, in the opinion of the most experienced planters, must necessarily, by reason of the diminution of labour alone, without reference to the present imperfect and unwilling manner in which it is performed, continue to decrease every year; and it is the further opinion of those who are most qualified to judge, added to the expressions continually

tinually used by the apprenticed labourers themselves, that after the month of August 1840 they will not continue the cultivation of the cane plantations, which they have always been averse to, and should that unfortunately be the case, the loss in the extensive and valuable sugar-works, buildings, machinery, stock and property generally, can with difficulty be estimated.

No. 7. Most certainly the production will decrease; such decrease will be gradual during the apprenticeship; but when the negro will be in a state of perfect freedom, I much fear the production of sugar in these islands will cease altogether.

Vide Answer to Query 5.

No. 8. Materially, and for the reasons assigned in answer to the first query; but as I apprehend a gradual decline for some years, so do I also hope, by wise enactments, judiciously carried into effect, that a change for the better will take place.

Fourth Query.—Is capital likely to be diverted into any and what new channels, or to be withdrawn, or applied to the more extended production of articles already known in the markets?

Answers to Fourth Query.

No. 1. Without labour for wages no capital can find employment; in proportion, therefore, to the increase or diminution of the former, the latter will flow in or be withdrawn from the colony; and no extension of marketable produce can be expected to take place without augmented capital.

No. 2. Certainly neither. The proof is, that property in this island has fallen fully 50 per cent. in value, and in some instances much more, since the Emancipation Act, as no one will risk capital to be laid out in the island.

No. 3. I do not think that capital is likely to be embarked in any new undertaking; neither do I think it probable that any individual who could withdraw his means would permit them to be embarked again in this island; more particularly as those who may feel disposed to devote themselves to West India agriculture have such encouragement held out to them in the Spanish and Portuguese settlements.

No. 4. The soil will be cultivated in this, as in all countries, proportionately to the number of hands applied thereto; and money, directed by mind, will command that physical force as far as it will go. The question is, therefore, whether the amount of money so employed is likely to be greater or less than it has been. It could be more easily answered by a mortgagee in England than by me.

As to withdrawing capital; whence is it to be withdrawn? An enormous property in amount (slave property) has ceased to exist, and none other has taken its place, or can take it.

Ex nihilo nihil fit; they can withdraw none where none exists to be withdrawn.

Now leaving that which is already sunk, suppose a man to arrive in this colony with a large sum of money, destined for investment, what is there in which he can invest it? Land and buildings only; lands which derive their whole value from the hands that are ready to cultivate them (for no man would take the timber-encumbered forest as a gift), and buildings which are mostly but accessories to land, and derive their value from it.

There are no manufacturers, no joint-stock companies, no projects of any description that can serve for investment; the agriculture of the colony will exist alone for the employment of money; and unless a large additional population be provided, I fear it will sink into the hands of those who live from day to day only, and the name of capitalist become almost unknown.

No. 5. My answer to the first question seems in some measure to have anticipated the answer required here. The circumstance of the anticipated compensation money having been so readily grasped at by many of the money changers in the old country, shows that they considered their profitable transactions with these colonies at an end. I am of opinion, that not a few, after having submitted to great bodily and much mental suffering, will be compelled to abandon their properties, and seek for profitable employment elsewhere; and instead of the colony exhibiting wide-spread fields, covered with the productions of the active and enterprising energy of man, weeds and the spontaneous growth of nature must assume the ascendancy, and the fertile valleys and cultivated plains of Trinidad become a waste and a wilderness.

I am not of opinion that there is any likelihood of capital being directed into new channels so long as a difficulty exists in procuring labourers at a saving rate, to enable those persons having capital already invested to receive any return, save disappointment. The credit of the West India Islands may be said to have been so completely annihilated by the many recent changes, that I am persuaded every one who has capital at stake here would be glad to realize at a sacrifice of one-third, or perhaps even a half of their advance.

No. 6. Answer to this, the 4th query, given with answer to 5th query, by N. O.

No. 7. I am decidedly of opinion that whatever capital there is in these colonies will be withdrawn as speedily as possible; the reason is obvious. No capitalist in his senses will

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embark his capital in an island of fearful experiment, when the foreign colonial possessions offer so much greater security, by reason that their prosperity will increase as the British colonies will cease to produce the staple commodity.

No. 8. I fear the probability of capital being withdrawn, unless, as I have said in answer to the last query, "that wise regulations, judiciously carried into effect," shall, as explained in query 1, "not only regulate the price of labour, but continue the labourer in employment as heretofore."

In the West Indies experiments are seldom made, and never extensively; and if capital cannot be profitably employed in what are considered the staple commodities as heretofore, it will be withdrawn. I do fear in such case that it may be applied "to the more extended production of articles already known in the market;" the coast of South America presents a field for this, where sugar-cane thrives luxuriantly, and the slave trade, however illegally, still exists.

A protecting duty seems the only safeguard; and if the West India cultivator by free labour shall find this, twofold will be the advantages; first, it will be ruinous to the producers by slave labour, and destroy that iniquitous system; secondly, it will give employment to the free labourer, with all the advantages of employment in a moral point of view, in contrast with the results from apathy and indolence.

Fifth Query.—Do any obstacles exist to such a change, or to such an extension? If so, what may they be, and how may they be remedied or removed?

Answers to Fifth Query.

No. 1. The obstacle to such extension arises from the circumstance, that until proper legislative measures are framed with respect to Crown lands and private lands, no introduction of free labour would be productive of labour for wages; which obstacle can only be remedied and removed by passing such Acts as a clear-sighted view of the state of the colony, after due and deliberate inquiry, may point out to be necessary.

No. 2. The greatest obstacle to the extension of industry in this island in raising produce of any description will primarily be the want of a numerous labouring population; but for the reasons before stated, a great extension of industry under any circumstances could not be expected from a free black population of any number, unless forced to labour by some law for the purpose, taking into consideration the immense extent of fertile uncultivated ground, sufficient, if all was in a state of cultivation, to feed probably a million of people. No doubt if a large African or other negro population could be introduced into the colony, and be prevented from occupying the waste lands of the island, an extension of industry might be expected, or at all events the present cultivation might be kept up; as in such case the labouring part of the population would have to work or to starve. But it is a question whether the cost of a police force, sufficient to prevent the occupation of the waste soil of the island, would not be greater than the colony could afford to keep up. As regards the cultivation of the soil by Europeans, the heat of the climate, the lassitude created thereby, the excitement to drink, the diseases prevalent, and more particularly amongst the lower orders of them, in this climate, will always be a bar to any extension of industry by that description of people. Even peons, the free natives of the neighbouring South American Continent, cannot be depended upon for continuous labour, or any kind of industry, more than sufficient to keep them above bare want.

No. 3. The chief obstacle which must exist against the introduction of European capital (admitting that a settled system of labour was once established) will be found in the continuance of the present (Spanish) laws and their administration. The iniquity of the system is too notorious; and the facility which they afford to fraud, as well as the multiplicity of interpretations which the court has it in its power to adopt, must destroy all hope of the further introduction of European capital; indeed, I do not think that an agent could be found so base, or so ignorant, as to recommend under such circumstances the advance of one dollar being made to a planter.

No. 4. There is but one motive which will make that class of persons work whom nature destined to till the earth—necessity. That necessity can never exist in a population of 20 to the square mile, as ours is, in a rich soil and a tropical climate.

We lack population; and for this reason, and this only, the change may prove ruinous to one island, as Trinidad, and beneficial to another, as Barbadoes; so different are the circumstances of two colonies thus near to each other, but between which no difference was made in legislation.

The only remedy I can see for this evil is population. I think, in proportion as this island obtains it or lacks it, will it flourish or languish.

In the two states of New York and Pennsylvania, the progress of population caused slavery to die a natural death; and no man thought of compensation.

Thus it might have died through proper encouragement of emigration to the British West India colonies, had that course been pursued.

I think emigration, or more properly immigration, can alone effect the improvements of which Trinidad is capable; and by it the system of apprenticeship will assume another form, and instead of what it is now, become an advantage.

No. 5. The grand obstacle is the indisposition to labour, and the unsuccessful issue which has unfortunately attended the labour of the preceding and the present cultivators of the soil, holding out no encouragement to induce others to enter upon a field which they cannot fail to have observed has been unprofitable to the original possessors; and so many difficulties, disappointments and losses have been experienced by those who have invested capital, that that man is not readily to be met with who would advance his money, at least on any ordinary security which the West Indies can now offer.

The system must have longer time to develop its perfections and imperfections ere an answer can be given to the last part of this question. I believe it to be admitted that the naturally slow progress of profitable industry is rendered more slow by the perpetual inclination of those in authority to direct industry from its natural and profitable channels; and perhaps the answer made by a committee of merchants to the prime minister of France, when asked by him what measure government could adopt to promote the interests of commerce, they replied, "Let us alone, permit us quietly to manage our own business," might not be unapplicable in the present posture of affairs. I may add, that the want of confidence in the continuance even of the present system, the continued depreciation of colonial produce, the heavy amount of duties and taxes, and the indisposition of capitalists to make further advances (or rather their inclination to foreclose), may be stated as a few of the obstacles which require to be removed as impeding the extension of industry.

No. 6. 1st. A total change of the present laws of Trinidad by the immediate introduction of the English laws and constitution, as the same exist in the other English islands, with one paid judge, (and not three, as is now the case, the salaries of whom amount to 5,000 *l.* sterling). The judge should always be a barrister-at-law.

2d. The immediate reduction of the taxes of the colony, as also of the expenditure, by the total abolition of many useless offices and establishments.

3d. With reference to the vicinity of Trinidad to the Spanish continent, and its contiguity to that vast river the Orinoco, whose mouths, and consequently its extensive trade, it completely commands, and with a view of procuring a very large portion of its commerce, and of concentrating the same in this island, it is proposed, that the island of Trinidad should be declared a free port in the most comprehensive meaning of that term, similar to the free port of Saint Thomas's. That the importation and exportation of all goods, wares and merchandize of every kind and description, and in the vessels of every nation, be permitted; but with the view of protecting the trade of the United Kingdom, it is proposed that no duty shall be exacted on the importation of any goods from the United Kingdom into Trinidad, nor on the exportation of any from Trinidad in British vessels that may be legally imported into the United Kingdom or her possessions. That on the importation of linens, cottons and cloths from foreign countries and in foreign vessels a larger duty be paid than on any other description of goods, so that those goods of English manufacture should have a fair chance in the market. That an *ad valorem* duty be paid on all goods, wares and merchandize, and all other articles imported into and exported from Trinidad in foreign vessels from and to every other part of the world, except as aforesaid, and to and from the Spanish continent, in which last case a lesser duty should be exacted. That the colonial duty on all produce made in and exported from the island in British bottoms be abolished, but that a duty shall be exacted on the export thereof in foreign vessels to foreign ports. By these means it is presumed the agriculturists will be relieved from the colonial tax on the importation of supplies, merchandize, machinery and live stock for the cultivation and support of their estates; they will be enabled to procure them at a cheaper rate, and the price of produce will necessarily rise. It is also confidently expected that a revenue will thus be raised which will more than pay all the expenditure of the island, and afford ample means for ensuring its internal defence, the general improvement of the island by the erection of all necessary public buildings, of which it is entirely deficient, and the opening of roads into the interior.

In a commercial point of view, such a plan offers more advantages than can possibly be conceived, would cause a large consumption of British manufactures, not only throughout a large extent of that continent, from the exporters being able to procure in Trinidad all the articles they could possibly want, but also vast imports of goods from Europe and other places for consumption on the Spanish continent, and in the West Indies; this island might then also be able to supply all the other islands with mules, cattle and horses, independent of its being the general market by which their wants could with ease and little navigation be supplied.

4th. This boon might be conceded to Trinidad in particular, by reason of the immense losses and sacrifices that have been sustained by the agriculturists in carrying into effect all the Orders in Council that have been from time to time promulgated in Trinidad, subsequent to March 1824, in respect of the slaves, and also from a very large annual expenditure in erecting and keeping up police establishments by reason of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, to insure in some degree the continuance of the cultivation of the estates during the period of apprenticeship, and preserving the general peace and tranquillity of the island.

5th. It may also be considered that by making Trinidad a free port, there must naturally be a great influx of foreigners. These people will soon discover the fertility and variety of its soil, will appreciate the value of its pitch-lake, alum, mines and clays, the latter of which are admirably adapted for the manufactory of all kinds of pottery, porcelain, tiles and bricks. These and many other advantages which Trinidad possesses would no doubt in time lead to immigration from the continent of Europe of a class of persons who might be disposed to gain their livelihood by other means than that of cultivating the staple commodities only, or establishing

TRINIDAD.

establishing various kinds of manufactories; or their attention might be led to the cultivation of the tea-plant, nutmegs, cloves, spices, ginger, pimento, indigo and tobacco, all of which thrive well in Trinidad, and to a variety of other tropical cultivations that are strongly recommended by a late writer, Mr. Porter, to be cultivated in the West India islands.

6th. If Trinidad was made a free port, a large majority of the exports of the products of the Spanish continent, from the Bocas to Santa Martha, that are now shipped to the island of Saint Thomas, would, it is anticipated, be sent to this island, for a variety of reasons which could be detailed; and the trade in the raw materials from that country to Trinidad would amount to an immense sum annually. The trade between the Main and the United States would in a great measure be drawn to Trinidad were it a free port, as the inhabitants of the Main, who in a regular course pay duties, would naturally come to Trinidad, and continue that system of contraband trade on their own continent which has heretofore enriched Trinidad.

7th. It may also be said, that by immigration we may be able to procure an extensive population; but I am of opinion that no persons except Africans can ever be depended upon as labourers for continuing the cane cultivation, it being well known that no European or other white person can ever be able to labour in that cultivation in this climate, proved as it has been in the first settlement of Barbadoes; and it can only be by obtaining a dense population of proper subjects, and the determination of His Majesty's Government not to permit the cultivation of the Crown lands by the apprenticed labourers after they attain their absolute freedom, thereby obliging them to gain their livelihood by working for wages on the estates in the several districts of the island to which they are now attached; for if once they are permitted to cultivate Crown lands, they will never for any consideration cultivate the staple commodities, for this very cogent reason, that two days' work will amply suffice for maintenance for a week; and it is difficult indeed to say what inducement they can have, with their habits of idleness and laziness, to labour longer than is necessary for that object.

8th. I would most strongly recommend and urge upon the attention of the Government, the passing of a law, to be promulgated before August 1840, by which the present apprenticed labourers, after that period, should be declared to be for ever located in the districts in which they might then be, and prohibited from leaving the same, in accordance with the present law as in force at St. Domingo under the "code rural." In that island all the labouring classes are compelled to labour for wages in their respective districts. This measure, together with a strong vagrant law, will prevent the abandonment by the labourers of the estates in the several districts in which they now are, or may be then located.

9th. It would be a wise and politic measure, on every account, whether as conducive to the cause of humanity or otherwise, for His Majesty's Government to send to this island, not only all the captured Africans as soon as they are condemned (and for the first two years without reference to an equality of sexes), but also all of the Africans that are now located at Sierra Leone, who, by the late Parliamentary papers, it appears are as useless to themselves as they are to the Government, the latter deriving no possible advantage from such a large population; but if located in Trinidad it would not only be to the advantage of these people, but the Government would soon receive from the additional labour an increased revenue, by an extended production of the staple commodities.

10th. In conclusion, I have further to submit for the consideration of His Majesty's Government, whether, in the event of its declining to send to Trinidad the African population of Sierra Leone, it would not be expedient to authorize, by some legislative enactment, the proprietors of estates in Trinidad to import from Africa, on their own account, the natives of Africa to serve as indented apprentices for a term of apprenticeship not exceeding six years.

No. 7. The principal obstacles are, the inadequacy of the supply of labour, which gives pretensions to high wages, the labourer claiming more than the produce will meet.

The facility in procuring land, which secures to the labourer, with little labour, the means of gratifying his natural habits of indolence, to the inevitable ruin of the planter.

The remedies I think are,

1st. The prohibition of land (query, Crown or both Crown and individual property) being either sold or hired to the labourer.

2d. The introduction of at least as many labourers as are here now. The island could bear the introduction of ten times their number.

The above prohibition will make it imperative upon the labourer to seek employment although the labourer cannot be depended upon for continuous labour; still, by a considerable increase in the number, the proprietor will have the means of supplying vacancies.

3d. Laws to suppress vagrancy will of course be essentially necessary to give even a chance of success, as well as others to preserve due subordination; not such as would be sufficient for Europeans, the code must be framed for people in a savage state.

4th. The introduction of capital through the medium of Government; having stated, in reply to query 4, my fears that the parties whose means are invested here, will withdraw it as speedily as possible.

It cannot be denied that the planter will be exposed to greater expense in the cultivation of his lands than hitherto; from whence is he to draw the means? Not from the present mortgagees, whose rapacity is evident in appropriating to themselves the whole of the compensation, without abating one fraction of the enormous and ruinous burthens that the staple article, sugar, is exposed to.

The mortgagee charges the mortgagor six per cent. upon the debt, charters ships at 3 s. and 3 s. 6 d. per ton; no charge to him for the hold, outward. But he debits the mortgagor freight upon his supplies, and an increase upon his own responsibility for homeward freight of

of from 1s. to 1s. 6d. sterling per cwt. In addition to the above, various charges are made for expenses not incurred, of which the most glaring is, interest upon duty from the time of landing, which is only paid at the date of sale.

These several impositions return to the mortgagee at least 20 per cent. for his capital, oppress the mortgagor, and, in fine, paralyse his endeavours to struggle with his difficulties, that are now rather likely to increase than to decrease, more particularly for limited means.

Much relief would be experienced, and encouragement given, if the Government were to purchase the existing mortgages, which might be effected at 50 per cent. discount.

The Government could raise money at 3l. per cent., and charge the mortgagor with 6l. per cent., of which the one-half would be applicable to liquidation of annual interest, and the other, if invested and allowed to accumulate, would, in the course of a few years, extinguish the responsibility of the planter, by the redemption of the loan.

Such a measure would be real relief. The planter would be unshackled, and so desirable an object would be accomplished merely by the responsibility and agency of the Government, without one shilling of advance.

No. 8. The answers to the second query and the last will apply to this.

— No. 433. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir G. F. Hill, Bart.,
to Lord Glenelg.

No. 433.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 13 November 1835.

IN conformity with your Lordship's circular despatch, dated 18th June last, I have the honour to transmit herewith the several returns thereby called for, to be laid before the House of Commons; viz.

Vide Papers relative to the Abolition of Slavery, 1836, part 3, p. 5.

1. Return of the Names of all Special or Stipendiary Magistrates who have been removed from or resigned their Office, specifying the Reasons for the same, so far as the same can be communicated.

2. Return of the Number and Nature of the Punishments inflicted on the Apprenticed Labourers in this Colony by the Special or Stipendiary Magistrates, specifying the Offences for which they were inflicted, separating Males from Females.

3. Return of the Names and Numbers of Apprenticed Labourers who have purchased the unexpired Term of their Apprenticeship, and the several Sums paid for the same.

4. Copy of Instructions given to the Special or Stipendiary Magistrates as to the Extent and Performance of their Duties.

I have, &c.
(signed) G. F. Hill.

Enclosures in No. 433.

(No. 1.)

TRINIDAD.—RETURN of the NAMES of all SPECIAL or STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES who have been removed from or resigned their Office, specifying the Reasons for the same, so far as the same can be communicated.

Enclosures in
No. 433.

NAME OF OFFICER.	DATE OF RESIGNATION.	CAUSE.
Alastair Mackenzie - - - -	4 May 1835 -	- Ill health.

13 November 1835.

(signed) G. F. Hill.

(No. 2.)

TRINIDAD.—RETURN of the NUMBER and NATURE of the PUNISHMENTS inflicted on the APPRENTICED

OFFENCES.

PORT OF SPAIN and WESTERN DISTRICTS, at present united under one Stipendiary Magistrate.	Absence from Employer's Service.				Contumacious Disobedience.				Insolence, Insubordination, Drunkness or Fighting.									
	NUMBER AND NATURE OF PUNISHMENTS INFLICTED.																	
	Whip- ping.	Stocks.	Hard Labour.		Extra Labour.		Whip- ping.	Stocks.	Hard Labour.		Extra Labour.		Whip- ping.	Stocks.	Hard Labour.		Extra Labour.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
August - - 1834	36	14	4	8	1	2	4	1	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	
September - -	3	5	4	3	4	-	8	-	7	1	-	-	-	-	2	-		
October - - -	4	4	7	7	4	-	8	2	2	3	7	-	3	1	-	2		
November - - -	8	6	4	4	-	1	5	3	1	3	-	-	1	-	1	1		
December - - -	3	24*	6	2	-	-	8	5	-	1	62†	-	1	-	-	-		
January - - 1835	3	2	5	4	-	-	7	6	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	-		
February - - -	8	-	1	2	-	-	5	1	3	4	-	-	5	4	-	4		
March - - - -	9	4	1	6	-	-	5	1	1	2	-	-	2	2	-	2		
April - - - -	3	-	1	2	-	1	4	-	2	4	-	-	1	-	-	2		
May - - - - -	8	-	-	3	-	-	6	3	1	6	-	-	2	-	-	1		
June - - - - -	10	-	1	8	-	-	5	-	-	8	-	-	1	1	-	1		
TOTAL - - -	95	59	34	49	9	4	65	22	18	39	71	-	16	8	4	14	1	1
ST. JOSEPH'S DISTRICT.																		
August - - 1834	8	-	-	3	1	9	32	-	-	15	-	8	-	1	-	-		
September † - -	4	1	1	6	-	-	2	1	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	2		
October - - - -	2	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1		
November - - -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
December - - -	2	1	-	-	2	-	3	9	-	-	2	14	1	-	-	-		
January - - 1835	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-		
February - - -	1	2	-	1	2	-	3	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-		
March - - - - -	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-		
April - - - - -	1	-	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-		
May - - - - -	4	-	1	1	-	1	5	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-		
June - - - - -	4	-	-	-	1	-	5	1	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	1		
TOTAL - - -	26	5	6	14	7	10	58	15	5	21	4	26	4	3	-	4	1	-

* Twenty-two women, on the same day, came to Port of Spain without a pass, and were sentenced, by the chief

† In the month of December, 60 of the gang belonging to the River Estate refused to work, and were sentenced to the same punishment.

‡ In the month of September 1834, the entire gang of the La Pastora Estate absented themselves for six hours without

(No. 2.)

LABOURERS; specifying the OFFENCES for which they were Inflicted, from the 1st August 1834 to the 30th June 1835.

OFFENCES.

Performing Work indolently, negligently or carelessly.	Wantonly injuring, or wilful endangering Employer's Property.	Open Resistance to the lawful Commands of Employer.	Preferring frivolous, vexatious or malicious Complaint.
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NUMBER AND NATURE OF PUNISHMENTS INFLECTED.

TOTAL POPULATION.

Whipping.	Stocks.	Hard Labour.		Extra Labour.		Whipping.	Stocks.	Hard Labour.		Extra Labour.		Whipping.	Stocks.	Hard Labour.		Extra Labour.		Whipping.	Stocks.	Hard Labour.		Extra Labour.		
		M.	F.	M.	F.			M.	F.	M.	F.			M.	F.	M.	F.			M.	F.	M.	F.	
2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	3	13	8	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Males, 1,805.
2	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Females, 2,300.
-	-	-	-	3	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	2	-	9	13	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	1	-	-	-	5	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
9	-	5	2	19	49	11	-	-	2	3	1	10	4	13	14	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	24	2	-	1	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	Males, 921.
5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	Females, 913.
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
12	-	1	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	11	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
21	-	3	2	10	4	11	1	-	-	-	-	38	4	11	22	7	22	1	-	-	-	-	-	

superintending special justice to two weeks' hard labour and four days' stocks.
 15 hours' extra labour. On the same day the entire gang of the adjoining estate likewise refused to work, and were
 any reasonable cause; they were sentenced to bring up double the time they were away.

OFFENCES.

		Absence from Employer's Service.				Contumacious Disobedience.				Insolence, Insurbordination, Drunkenness or Fighting.							
		NUMBER AND NATURE OF PUNISHMENTS INFLICTED.															
TACARIGUA DISTRICT.		Whip-ping.		Stocks.		Hard Labour.		Extra Labour.		Whip-ping.		Stocks.		Hard Labour.		Extra Labour.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
August - - 1834	63	1	9	34	6	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
September - - -	1	1	-	2	-	3	7	-	-	7	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
October - - -	3	-	1	-	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	5	-	-	1	-	-
November - - -	7	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	3	-	1	-
December - - -	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	1	3	1	1	-	-
January - - 1835	3	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	2	1	2
February - - -	1	-	-	1	-	-	18	1	4	2	2	3	1	2	-	-	-
March - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	7	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
April - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-
May - - -	4	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	3	-
June - - -	2	-	-	-	-	-	25	14	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
TOTAL - -	86	3	12	37	6	14	70	31	5	10	4	13	18	8	4	7	2
EASTERN DISTRICT.																	
August - - 1834	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
September - - -	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
October - - -	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
November - - -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
December - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
January - - 1835	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
February - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
March - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
April - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
May - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
June - - -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL - -	7	-	-	1	-	1	11	-	-	9	-	-	1	-	-	1	-

GENERAL ABSTRACT.

Port of Spain and Western Districts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Joseph's District	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tacarigua District	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern District	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TOTAL

OFFENCES.

Performing Work indolently, negligently or carelessly.	Wantonly injuring, or wilful endangering Employer's Property.	Open Resistance to the lawful Commands of Employer.	Preferring frivolous, vexatious or malicious Complaint.
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NUMBER AND NATURE OF PUNISHMENTS INFLICTED.

Whipping.		Stocks.		Hard Labour.		Extra Labour.		Whipping.		Stocks.		Hard Labour.		Extra Labour.		Whipping.		Stocks.		Hard Labour.		Extra Labour.		TOTAL POPULATION.
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
-	-	-	-	55	22	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Females, 745.
-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-	-	1	-	5	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
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1	-	-	-	15	16	2	-	-	-	-	-	9	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

GENERAL ABSTRACT.

Whipping.	Stocks.	Hard Labour.		Extra Labour.		Population.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
206	93	74	120	106	55	1,805	2,300
159	28	25	63	29	62	921	913
190	44	22	55	94	77	844	745
31	25	-	11	15	17	295	256
586	190	121	249	244	211	3,865	4,214

(signed) *William Lloyd Peacocke,*
Chief Superintending Special Justice.

TRINIDAD.

RETURN of the NUMBER and NATURE of the PUNISHMENTS inflicted on the APPRENTICED LABOURERS; specifying the OFFENCES for which they were inflicted, between 1 April 1835 and 30 June 1835, in the North Naparima District, South Naparima District, Carapachima District and Southern District.

	Total Number punished.		Flogged.		Flogged, with Hard Labour.		Extra Labour.		Confined, with Hard Labour.		Number punished for Absence.		For Running Away.		For Insolence.		For Cruelty to Animals.		For Injury to Property.		For Disobedience.		For Riotous Conduct.		For Drunkenness.		For Neglect.		POPULATION.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
North Naparima District	47	36	34	-	9	15	4	21	5	1	7	1	6	5	1	1	1	10	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	14	1,372	1,337
South Naparima Ditto	4	31	27	-	6	18	8	13	8	3	5	4	3	1	-	1	13	7	4	1	3	2	4	10	1,166	1,035				
Carapachima - Ditto	24	25	15	-	2	6	7	19	1	1	2	6	1	5	2	1	7	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	10	7	1,231	1,037		
Southern - - Ditto	18	22	9	-	6	12	3	10	2	3	3	-	3	2	4	1	2	3	3	4	-	1	5	4	750	602				
TOTALS	93	114	85	-	23	51	22	63	16	8	17	11	5	17	8	7	8	32	16	8	5	5	28	35	4,519	3,991				

(signed) J. H. Murray,
C. S. S. Justice.

I do hereby declare, that I am unable to make any return of the punishments inflicted on the apprenticed labourers under my superintendance for any period anterior to the 1st April 1835, by reason of my having been wrecked on my passage to Port of Spain in the month of April last, when all my official documents, original and duplicate, were lost.

(signed) J. H. Murray,
C. S. S. Justice.

Port of Spain, 7 September 1835.

(No. 3.)

TRINIDAD.—RETURN of the NUMBER and NAMES of the APPRENTICED LABOURERS who have purchased the Unexpired Term of their Apprenticeship, and the several SUMS paid for the same, in the Port of Spain, Western, St. Joseph, Tacarigua, and Eastern Districts, from the 1st August 1834 to 30th June 1835.

NAMES.	Quality.	Number.	Sums paid, Currency.			Sums paid, Sterling.		
			£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Cupidon Muzet - - - - -	P. A.	1	75	-	-	32	10	-
Jean Baptiste Neilson - - - - -	P. A.	1	100	-	-	43	6	8
Philis Paul - - - - -	P. A.	1	80	-	-	34	13	4
Solitude Seven, <i>alias</i> Donac - - - - -	N. P.	1	100	-	-	43	6	8
Jean Charles Beatrix - - - - -	N. P.	1	150	-	-	65	-	-
Maria Candida Bucare - - - - -	P. A.	1	150	-	-	65	-	-
Etienne Arsenne - - - - -	P. A.	1	188	-	-	81	9	4
Augustine - - - - -	P. A.	1	18	9	-	7	19	10 ³ / ₄
Maria Rosaris Saimple - - - - -	P. A.	1	100	-	-	43	6	8
Elize Zabeth - - - - -	P. A.	1	36	-	-	15	12	-
Joseph Grégoire - - - - -	P. A.	1	150	-	-	65	-	-
St. Rose Cypas - - - - -	P. A.	1	150	-	-	65	-	-
Betsey Malsac - - - - -	N. P.	1	90	-	-	39	-	-
Daphene Brun - - - - -	N. P.	1	17	10	-	7	11	8
Andrew Good - - - - -	N. P.	1	25	-	-	10	16	8
Louise Justine - - - - -	N. P.	1	100	-	-	43	6	8
Jean Hebé - - - - -	N. P.	1	90	-	-	39	-	-
Marie Victoire, <i>alias</i> Cap - - - - -	N. P.	1	100	-	-	43	6	8
Chéris Lubis - - - - -	P. A.	1	100	-	-	43	6	8
Jean Baptiste - - - - -	N. P.	1	50	-	-	21	13	4
Salvanet Angel - - - - -	N. P.	1	100	-	-	43	6	8
Julienne - - - - -	N. P.	1	100	-	-	43	6	8
Thomas Edwards - - - - -	N. P.	1	87	10	-	37	18	4
Margaret - - - - -	N. P.	1	48	-	-	20	16	-
Louise Ive - - - - -	N. P.	1	27	-	-	11	14	-
Nickey Ryan - - - - -	P. A.	1	250	-	-	108	6	8
Maria Louise Antoine - - - - -	P. A.	1	112	10	-	48	15	-
Julie Antoine - - - - -	P. A.	1	112	10	-	48	15	-
Margaret Catherine - - - - -	P. A.	1	70	-	-	30	6	8
Bridget - - - - -	P. A.	1	100	-	-	43	6	8
Celestine Louis - - - - -	P. A.	1	75	-	-	32	10	-
TOTAL Apprentices - - - - -		31	2,952	9	-	1,279	7	10

William Lloyd Peacocke,
Chief S. S. Justice.

RETURN of the NAMES and NUMBER of APPRENTICED LABOURERS who have purchased the Unexpired Term of their Apprenticeship, and the several SUMS paid for the same, from August 1834 to August 1835; Southern Districts.

Number.	NAMES.	Amount in Currency.			Amount in Sterling.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1	Tony Murray - - - - -	125	-	-	54	3	4
1	Pero Cicero - - - - -	175	-	-	75	16	8
1	Augustine Letite - - - - -	100	-	-	43	6	8
1	Sally Murray - - - - -	150	-	-	65	-	-
1	Marie Louise Fox - - - - -	165	-	-	71	10	-
1	Hannah Atkins - - - - -	127	10	-	55	4	4
1	Sarah Atkins - - - - -	127	10	-	55	4	4
1	Celeste - - - - -	120	-	-	52	-	-
1	Margaret Rose - - - - -	100	-	-	43	6	8
9	TOTAL AMOUNT - - - - -	1,190	-	-	515	12	-

J. H. Murray,
Chief S. S. Justice of the Carapachiana,
No. and So. Naparima and Southern Districts.

COPY of INSTRUCTIONS given to the SPECIAL or STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES as to the Extent and Performance of their Duties, required by Address of the House of Commons, dated 1 June 1835.

RULES and REGULATIONS established by the Lieutenant-governor, by and with the advice of the Legislative Council, under the 18th clause of the 1st chapter of the Order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 5th day of June 1834, for the Regulation of the Police Establishments.

1st. The police force for the colony shall consist of such a number of men, not exceeding 84, as the Governor or Lieutenant-governor shall appoint, of whom 11 shall be sergeants, and they shall be distributed amongst the several districts in such manner as the Governor or Lieutenant-governor shall direct; provided, however, that not less than one sergeant and five privates be stationed at each police settlement.

2d. The pay of the sergeants shall not exceed 10s. currency per diem each, and that of the privates 5s. currency per diem each, which shall be paid monthly by the colonial treasurer on the order of the Governor or Lieutenant-governor.

3d. The members of the police force shall be clothed in such uniform as shall from time to time be directed by the Governor or Lieutenant-governor; and for the purpose of providing such uniform, the colonial treasurer shall, on the order of the Governor or Lieutenant-governor, pay any sum not exceeding 150*l.* sterling per annum.

4th. The members of the police force shall be armed and accoutred in such manner as the Governor or Lieutenant-governor shall from time to time direct; and the colonial treasurer shall, on the order of the Governor or Lieutenant-governor, pay any sum not exceeding 100*l.* sterling per annum for providing such arms and accoutrements.

5th. The members of the police force shall be bound to keep their uniform, arms and accoutrements clean, and in good and serviceable order and condition, and in case of default it shall be lawful for the special justice to impose on the offender a penalty not exceeding 10s. currency, which shall be stopped out of the pay due or to become due to him.

6th. Where any article of clothing, arms or ammunition so to be furnished as aforesaid, shall be lost or damaged, through the neglect or misconduct of any policeman, it shall be the duty of the special justice of the district, and he is hereby authorized to cause the article so damaged or lost to be repaired or replaced, and to stop the pay of such policeman until the expense incurred thereby shall be fully satisfied.

7th. Any member of such police force being convicted by the special justice of the district of drunkenness, neglect of duty, breach of these regulations, or any other rules established for the regulation of the police settlement, contumacious disobedience of the lawful commands of any person in authority over him, or oppression or unreasonable severity towards any prisoner, shall either forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding one week's pay, or be imprisoned in the house of correction of the district, with or without hard labour or solitary confinement, for any period not exceeding one week.

8th. The employer of every apprenticed labourer who shall be confined at the police-station shall pay to the special justice the sum of 1s. currency per diem for the expense of feeding such apprenticed labourer, for every day during which such apprenticed labourer shall be so confined, such sum to be paid on the Saturday of every week during which or any part of which such apprenticed labourer may have been confined; and in default of payment such special justice shall and may award execution against such employer, and issue an attachment against the goods and chattels of such employer, which shall be executed in the manner provided in the 10th clause, 6th chapter of the Royal Order of His Majesty in Council, of the 5th day of June 1834.

9th. Each prisoner shall be furnished daily with a quarter of a pound of salt fish, and six full-grown plantains, or one pound of prepared farine, or with such quantity of ground provisions or farinaceous food equivalent thereto, as shall be specially directed by the special justice, such provisions to be of sound, good and wholesome quality.

10th. Prisoners sentenced to solitary confinement, or to imprisonment in the stocks, shall receive the above quantity of plantains, farine or other ground provisions or farinaceous food, but no salt fish during the term of such confinement.

11th. No food of any other description than the above prison allowance shall be permitted to be introduced into the house of correction, or furnished to any prisoner without the permission of the special justice, or the order of a medical practitioner.

12th. No person shall be permitted to visit or converse with any prisoner without the permission of the special justice.

13th. No gaming shall be permitted in any police settlement, either by or amongst the prisoners or the policemen, and the special justice shall seize and destroy, or cause to be seized and destroyed, all dice, cards or other instruments of gaming.

14th. No spirituous or fermented liquor shall be brought into the police settlement without the express permission of the special justice; and if any of the policemen shall carry or bring, or knowingly suffer to be carried or brought into any police settlement, or to be given to or received by any prisoner, any spirituous or fermented liquor without such permission, he shall, on conviction before the special justice, be liable to a penalty not exceeding 10s. currency, or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour or solitary confinement, for any time not exceeding seven days, and the pay of such policeman shall be stopped until any fine so imposed is paid.

15th. Any

15th. Any prisoner fighting or conducting himself in an insolent manner towards the special justice, or any member of the police of the district, or being guilty of any breach of these regulations, or any other rules which may be hereafter established for the regulation of police settlements, or disobeying any lawful command, or performing his work indolently, carelessly or negligently, or refusing to perform the same, shall, on conviction by the special justice of the district, or any other special justice, be adjudged to solitary confinement not exceeding 14 days, or to confinement in the stocks for any period not exceeding six days, or if a male, to whipping not exceeding 25 stripes; or in case of repeated or aggravated offence, to any two of these punishments. Provided always, that no person shall be confined in the stocks between sunset and sunrise, or for more than eight hours in the whole in any one day, or for more than two days consecutively.

16th. The house of correction, and every part thereof, shall be kept always clean, and every apartment therein shall be washed every Wednesday and Saturday, and as much oftener as occasion shall require, and whitewashed on the first Monday in every month.

17th. If any prisoner shall escape, or attempt to escape, or shall aid any other prisoner in escaping or attempting to escape, such prisoner shall, on conviction by the special justice, be adjudged, if a male, to whipping not exceeding 30 stripes; and if a female, to confinement in the stocks not exceeding six days, or to solitary confinement not exceeding six days. And the special justice may, if he shall think proper, direct any prisoner who shall have escaped, or attempted to escape, to work in chains during the remainder of the term of his imprisonment.

18th. The prisoners of the different sexes shall at all times be kept separate and apart, and not on any pretence be allowed to communicate with each other.

19th. The prisoners sentenced to hard labour shall be compelled to work for 10 hours per day, between the hours of six A. M., and six P. M., on every day in the week, (Sunday, Corpus Christi, Christmas-day and Good Friday always excepted), and silence shall be observed by the prisoners while at work.

20th. Such work shall consist of cleaning and whitewashing the walls of the house of correction, breaking stones, repairing the public roads and streets, and the roads and paths of the police establishment; in the cultivation of the lands of the police establishment, or in any other public work, at the direction of the special justice of the district.

21st. The prisoners shall be locked up every evening by six o'clock.

22d. No prisoner shall be allowed to smoke.

23d. Divine service shall be performed at each police settlement, once at least on every Sunday, at which every policeman and every prisoner shall be present, unless he shall show good reason to the contrary to the satisfaction of the special justice.

24th. A medical attendant shall be engaged to visit each police settlement, in such his medical capacity, once at least in every week, and as much oftener as the sickness of any policeman or prisoner shall require. And his Excellency is hereby authorized, out of the colonial funds, to remunerate such medical attendant, at a rate not to exceed 40 *l.* currency per annum for each settlement, and to pay for such medicines as may be requisite for the supply of each establishment.

25th. The special justice at each police settlement shall keep two books, one as a diary, the other as a registry: that the diary shall contain a note of the employment of the penal gang during the day, the visits of the medical attendant, any deaths which may have happened and all other occurrences relating to the police settlement. In the registry shall be entered the name of each prisoner, the day of his commitment, his description, whether prædial attached, or prædial unattached, or non-prædial, the name of his employer, the time for which he is sentenced, the offence for which he is imprisoned, the day of his release, the punishment inflicted, the amount received and expended for his support.

26th. A copy of these rules and all other rules established for the regulation of the police establishments shall be framed and hung up at each police settlement.

— No. 434. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.,
to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 434.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 14 November 1835.

It is with much real pleasure that I am enabled to forward to your Lordship the enclosed Letter and Report, which I have received from Captain Peacocke, the chief superintending special justice of the northern division of this island; and I feel persuaded that your Lordship will be as much gratified as I am at the diminution of punishment which appears thereby, as compared with former returns. It is a marked proof, not only of the improvement in the conduct of the apprentices, but also of the prudent and conciliatory maxims that are adopted by those who are in authority over them.

I have, &c.
(signed) *G. F. Hill*.

TRINIDAD.

Enclosure 1, in No. 434.

Enclosures in
No. 434.

Sir,

Port of Spain, 4 November 1835.

I HAVE the honour to forward for his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor's inspection, the journals of the last quarter, ending the 30th September last, of the five districts; viz. Port of Spain, Western, St. Joseph's, Tacarigua and Eastern, placed under my superintendence. I likewise beg leave to enclose, for his Excellency's information, a Return of the number of apprenticed labourers brought to trial, and their respective punishments, on the three largest estates in the five above-mentioned districts, by which his Excellency will observe the great diminution of crime which has manifested itself, compared with the last quarterly report.

To Lewis Pantin,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. L. Peacocke*,
Chief S. S. Justice.

Enclosure 2, in No. 434.

TRINIDAD.—RETURN of the Number of FIELD NEGROES brought to Trial before the Special Justices on the largest and most populous Estates in the under-mentioned Districts, between 1 July and 30 September 1835.

PROPRIETORS.	ESTATES.	Number of Negroes.	Corporal Punishment	Imprisonment.		Stocks.	Extra Labour.	Tenor of Crimes.	Total Number of Trials.
				With Hard Labour.	Without Hard Labour.				
PORT OF SPAIN DISTRICT:									
Mr. Boué - -	Mocha - -	119	1	-	-	-	-	insolence, absence or fighting	1
Hon. H. Murray - -	Woodbrook - -	100	-	1	-	1	-		2
John Boissiere - -	Champ Elysée	82	-	1	-	-	-		1
TOTAL - - -		301	1	2	-	1	-	-	4
WESTERN DISTRICT:									
G. Armstrong - -	Prospect - -	152	2	-	1	-	-	negligence, drunkenness, insolence, disobedience	3
Hon. H. Fuller - -	Belle Vue - -	114	1	-	-	-	-		1
J. Lamont - -	River - -	90	1	2	-	-	1		4
TOTAL - - -		356	4	2	1	-	1	-	8
ST. JOSEPH DISTRICT:									
Heirs of Laforest - -	Aranguéz - -	87	1	-	7	-	-	absence, disobedience, carelessness	8
Mr. Dutesta - -	St. Domingo - -	81	-	3	-	-	-		3
- Condon - -	Curepe - -	77	-	-	-	-	1		1
TOTAL - - -		245	1	3	7	-	1	-	12
TACARIGUA DISTRICT:									
Hon. W. H. Burnley	Orange Grove	197	6	4	-	4	-	disobedience, insolence, absence	14
Heirs of Sperrn - -	Paradise - -	167	-	-	-	-	-		-
Heirs of Nihell - -	Eldorado - -	107	1	-	-	1	6		8
TOTAL - - -		471	7	4	-	5	6	-	22
EASTERN DISTRICT:									
L. F. Lafourcade - -	Malgretout - -	79	1	-	-	-	-	drunkenness, negligence, fighting	1
F. Mathieu - -	Mayaro - -	69	-	-	-	1	-		1
Hon. P. Gantaume - -	Beausejour - -	68	-	-	-	-	-		-
TOTAL - - -		216	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
GRAND TOTAL - - -		1,589	14	11	8	7	8	-	48

(signed) *William Lloyd Peacocke*, Chief S. S. Justice.

— No. 435. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.,
to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 435.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 15 November 1835.

IN obedience to the 18th clause, cap. 1, of the Royal Order in Council of the 5th day of June 1834, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship, for His Majesty's approbation, the accompanying rules and regulations for the internal discipline of the police settlements, which have been passed by myself with the consent and advice of the Council of Government of this island, together with a proclamation which I issued on the 19th ult., "Dividing the island into 11 districts."

I have, &c.

(signed) *G. F. Hill*.

The Rules and Regulations for the internal discipline of the Police Settlements already printed, *vide* Enclosure No. 4. in Sir *G. Hill's* Despatch, 13 Nov. 1835.

Enclosure in No. 435.

TRINIDAD.—By his Excellency the Right honourable Sir George Fitzgerald Hill, baronet, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the said Island and its Dependencies, Vice-Admiral thereof, &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in
No. 435.(L. s.) *G. F. Hill*.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS by the arrival of a number of stipendiary magistrates, appointed by His Majesty, sufficient to give full effect to the 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," and to all laws which have been or may hereafter be made for giving more complete effect thereto, his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor is enabled to relieve from further duty those gentlemen who, in obedience to a commission from his Excellency, bearing date the 18th of June 1835, have rendered such cheerful and valuable assistance to the stipendiary magistrates, who, by reason of the smallness of their number, were unable, unassisted, to perform throughout the whole island the duties annexed to their offices:

Now, therefore, I, the said Lieutenant-governor, do hereby return to those gentlemen my acknowledgments for the benefits they have conferred upon this island, by the efficient and impartial assistance so readily afforded; and I do hereby revoke and cancel, from and after the 24th day of October instant, all the commissions and appointments of special justices made by me on the said 18th day of June last.

And whereas, by the Royal Order of His Majesty in Council, of the 5th day of June 1834, it was provided that the colony of Trinidad should be divided into judicial districts, and that the Lieutenant-governor should, by proclamation, define and (as occasion should require) alter the limits of such districts:

Now, therefore, I, the said Lieutenant-governor, in pursuance of the powers so vested in me, do hereby order and proclaim, that the colony of Trinidad shall be divided into eleven 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. Anne's, Maraval, Mucurapo, Tragarete, La Ventille and Cimaronero:

That the second district shall be called "The Western District," and shall comprise the quarters of Diego Martin, Carenage and Cuesa, Chaguaramas and Bocas:

That the third district shall be called "The St. Joseph District," and shall comprise the quarters of Aricagua, the town of San Juan, the quarters of Santa Cruz, Las Cuevas and Maraccas, Maraccas 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, Arouca, Caura, Arima, the town of Arima, and the quarters of Guanapo, North 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 Chaguanas District," and shall comprise the quarters of Chaguanas and Carapichaima:

That the seventh district shall be called "The Point-à-Pierre District," and shall comprise the quarters of Point-à-Pierre and Savonetta.

That the eighth district shall be called "The North Naparima District," and shall comprise the quarters of North Naparima, Savanna Grande and Moruga, and the town of San Fernando:

That the ninth district shall be called "The South Naparima District," and comprise the quarter of South Naparima:

TRINIDAD.

That the tenth district shall be called "The La Brea District," and shall comprise the quarters of South Oropouche, La Brea and Guapo:

That the eleventh district shall be called "The Cedros District," and comprise the quarters of Irois, Cedros, Hicacos and Erin.

Given under my hand and the seal of the island, at Government House, in the town of Port of Spain, this 19th day of October, in the year of our Lord 1835.

By his Excellency's command,

Thomas F. Johnston, Asst. Col. Sec.

— No. 436. —

No. 436.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 29 January 1836.

I HAVE received your despatch, dated the 15th November last, enclosing a copy of certain rules and regulations made by yourself, with the advice of the Council of Government of Trinidad, for the regulation of police establishments in that island, and a proclamation issued by yourself, dated the 19th October last, for dividing the colony into judicial districts, for the purpose of the Slavery Abolition Act.

His Majesty is pleased to approve and confirm both those rules and regulations and that proclamation.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 437. —

No. 437.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *George F. Hill* to Lord *Glenelg*; dated Trinidad, 23 November 1835.

I HAVE herewith the honour to forward for approval the following ordinances, which have been passed by myself, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government; viz.

No. 4. For establishing an Effective System of Police within the Town of Port of Spain.

No. 6. To explain and amend an Ordinance, intituled, 'An Ordinance for establishing an Effective System of Police within the Town of Port of Spain.'

Vide App. No. 159.

Vide App. No. 160.

— No. 438. —

No. 438.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.; dated Downing-street, 1 February 1836.

The ordinances Nos. 4 & 6, relating to the police of the town of Port of Spain, are to continue in force only to the end of the year 1837. It has not appeared to me necessary to advise the King to make any positive order respecting them. They will have their operation for the time for which they have been passed, without being expressly confirmed by His Majesty. During the experimental period you will have acquired such an acquaintance with the effects of the new system of municipal police as will enable you, before the arrival of the ordinances, to report with confidence your opinion respecting their probable effects on the peace and good order of society.

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— No. 439. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir G. F. Hill, Bart.,
to Lord Glenelg.

No. 439.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 7 December 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's circular despatch of the 12th July last, requiring certain "returns of the punishments inflicted upon the apprentices to be forwarded to you monthly, and directing me to call upon the stipendiary magistrates for the record of their proceedings in each case brought before them, every month, in order that I may be enabled to exercise the most complete superintendence over those officers, and forwarding to me a specimen of the record so required."

Vide Papers respecting the Abolition of Slavery, 1833-35, part 2, p. 9.

In reply thereto, I have to acquaint your Lordship, that proper attention shall be paid to the punctual transmission of the returns required, which I shall be able to do, having now the whole of the stipendiary magistrates assigned to this colony located in their respective districts.

With respect to the record, I herewith enclose the form of journal hitherto received from each magistrate once in every quarter, which I consider to contain sufficient record to enable me to exercise the desired superintendence. I have, in compliance with your Lordship's instructions, given directions to each of those officers, to furnish me with it in future within one week after the expiration of each month.

I have, &c.
(signed) G. F. Hill.

Enclosure in No. 439.

Enclosure in
No. 439.

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District, _____ 183 .

COMPLAINANT.		DEFENDANT.
Substance of Complaint.		Substance of Defence.
Substance of Evidence for Complaint.		Substance of Evidence for Defence.
Time, Manner and Place of Execution of Sentence.	Opinion and Sentence.	Remarks.

— No. 440. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir G. F. Hill, Bart.,
to Lord Glenelg.

No. 440.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 7 December 1835.

I HAD the honour, on the 22d ult., to receive your Lordship's circular despatch of the 12th of October, and I laid it before the Council of Government on the 25th ult.

Vide Papers relative to the Abolition of Slavery, 1836, part 3, p. 5.

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The board resolved, "that the Lieutenant-governor be requested to have an ordinance prepared for the consideration of the Council, to give effect to the suggestions of the said circular despatch."

An ordinance was accordingly prepared (copy herewith), submitted to the Council on the 5th instant, read a first time, printed, and set down for further consideration on Saturday next, the 12th instant.

I cannot anticipate that the ordinance will be passed in its present form and shape, nor yet what alterations it may undergo. At present, however, I am enabled to state that a strong opinion prevails amongst the intelligent part of the community, that it is an interference with the fair and justifiable speculation of parties.

My own opinion I humbly state to be, that where misrepresentation, imposition or fraud shall have been applied to induce the sale of compensation claims, measures ought to be provided to relieve parties suffering injury by such means.

It is observable, that by the Spanish law any contract is null and void where a party receives less than half the value of the thing sold.

I have, &c.
(signed) G. F. Hill.

Enclosure in No. 440.

Enclosure in
No. 440.

THE following is the draft of an ordinance prepared on the subject of Lord Glenelg's circular despatch, relating to the sale and purchase of compensation claims:

WHEREAS many persons in this colony, through ignorance or by fraudulent representations or otherwise, have been induced, for inadequate considerations, to assign over their share and interest in the fund or sum of 20,000,000 *l.*, granted by 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, 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 all such and the like assignments are opposed to public policy, and to the spirit and true intent of the said Act of Parliament, be it therefore and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by his Excellency the Right honourable Sir George Fitzgerald Hill, bart., Lieutenant-governor and Commander-in-chief in and over the said island, &c. &c., by and with the advice and consent of the Council thereof, that all deeds, assignments, transfers, powers of attorney, contracts or agreements whatsoever, whereby any interest, share or portion of any person whatsoever (of or in the said fund or sum of 20,000,000 *l.*), was or was intended to be, or shall hereafter be, or be intended to be, assigned, conveyed, sold or delivered, shall stand and operate as securities only to insure to the assignee or purchasers of such interest, share or portion, the repayment to them of the principal sums of money actually paid or advanced as and for the consideration for all such deeds, assignments, transfers, powers of attorney, contracts or agreements, together with interest upon such consideration money, at and after the rate of six per cent. per annum; and also all sums of money that may have been properly expended by such assignee or purchaser in prosecuting the claim to such interest, portion or share, and in receiving the money payable in respect thereof, and for no other purpose whatsoever; and every such assignee or purchaser is hereby authorized and required, immediately upon the receipt by him of the compensation money purchased by or assigned to him, to retain to his own use the principal sum so advanced or paid by him, together with interest and expenses as aforesaid, and to pay over the balance that shall remain, after deducting such principal sum, interest and expenses, to the person or persons who would have been entitled to the compensation money, in case such assignment had not been effected.

And be it further enacted, that in every case where a purchaser, receiving any such compensation money, shall not pay over the balance as aforesaid to the person or persons entitled thereto, it shall be lawful for such person or persons to present a petition to the chief judge of the colony, stating his complaint, and praying such relief as the nature of the case may require; and it shall be lawful for the said chief judge, and he is hereby required to hear such petition in a summary way, to examine, if he shall think necessary, the petitioner, the party complained against, their or either of their agents or attorneys in the effecting any such assignment, and all other persons whomsoever, and, upon affidavits or *viva voce* or such other evidence as shall be produced upon such hearing, either to adjourn hearing of or to determine the petition, and to make such order therein, and with respect to the costs of such application as to him shall seem just.

And be it further enacted, that the said judge shall possess and exercise all such powers and authorities, in compelling the attendance of witnesses, and in carrying into execution and enforcing obedience to any such order as aforesaid, or in any other matter relating to such petition, the subject matter of it, or the hearing thereof, as the Court of First Instance of Civil Jurisdiction, or the judges thereof, would possess or exercise in any action or suit pending in the said court.

And be it further enacted, that if any person, in taking any oath or making any affidavit or deposition, or giving any evidence under or in pursuance of this ordinance, shall wilfully and

and corruptly swear to any matter or thing which shall be false or untrue, such person so offending, and being thereof duly convicted, shall be and is hereby declared to be subject and liable to all the pains and penalties of persons convicted of wilful and corrupt perjury by any law in force at the time of such perjury committed.

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— No. 441. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.,
to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 441.

My Lord,

Trinidad, 9 January 1836.

I HAVE herewith the honour to transmit for His Majesty's approval, transcript of an ordinance, No. 8, intituled, "An Ordinance for the Protection and Relief of Persons who have transferred or may hereafter transfer their Claims on the Compensation Fund," which was passed by myself, with the advice and consent of the Council of Government of this island, on the 19th ult.

Vide App. No. 161.

I have, &c.
(signed) *G. F. Hill*.

— No. 442. —

EXTRACTS of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.,
to Lord *Glenelg*; dated Trinidad, 11 January 1836.

No. 442.

I HAD the honour, by despatch, dated the 7th of last month, to state to your Lordship that I had an ordinance prepared and laid before Council pursuant to the suggestions of your circular despatch, on the sale and transfer of compensation claims, a copy of which I then transmitted.

By this packet your Lordship will receive a copy of that ordinance, as it has finally passed into law.

Vide App. No. 161.

In the course of discussion upon it in Council it underwent some alterations; and for your satisfaction I enclose herewith the Minutes of Council, made on the different days it was debated, accompanied by two protests, one from the chief justice, against the third and fifth clauses. I do not concur with his Honour in his objections to the third clause: seeing that the measure in itself is a strong interference with contracts which have actually been made, and operates as an *ex post facto* law, I am of opinion that those who wish to avail themselves of it ought to proceed within 12 months to do so.

The same reasoning induced me to give the casting vote (*see Minutes*, p. 465) against an amendment that would have kept open the power to minors of proceeding, on coming of age, under this ordinance.

The objections of the chief justice to the fifth clause I shall leave to the impression they may make on your Lordship's judgment. He urges, that you should disallow it. It was moved by the Solicitor-general on the third reading, and carried by votes, seven to three (*see Minutes*, p. 465). Neither the Attorney-general or Mr. Fuller have, as notified, sent in any protest.

* * * * *

The second protest is from the Solicitor-general against the whole measure, which you will perceive by the minutes he took every means of defeating. I have made one note on his protest at page 467.

Enclosure in No. 442.

EXTRACTS from the Minutes of the Council of Government, dated the 25th November, 5th, 12th, 15th and 19th December 1835, upon the discussion of the Ordinance for the protection and relief of Persons who have transferred or may hereafter transfer their Claims on the Compensation Fund.

Enclosure in
No. 442.

Wednesday, 25th November 1835.

His Excellency stated, that he had received by the last packet a circular despatch from the Secretary of State, Lord *Glenelg*, dated the 12th of October 1835, which he considered to

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to be of such importance that he had caused the same to be printed and furnished to members, and moved that it be now read.

The despatch was read.

His Excellency moved the following resolution:—"Resolved, that his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor be requested, and he is hereby requested to have an ordinance prepared for the consideration of the Council, to give effect to the suggestions of a circular despatch, dated the 12th October 1835, signed by His Majesty's Secretary of State Lord Glenelg."

Resolution adopted.

Saturday, 5th December 1835.

The Honourable the Attorney-general moved that the ordinance prepared pursuant to the resolution of the board at its last meeting, for the protection and relief of persons who have transferred or may hereafter transfer their claims on the Compensation Fund be read a first time.

Seconded by the Honourable the Comptroller, and unanimously adopted.

The ordinance was read a first time.

His Excellency moved, that the second reading of this ordinance be taken into consideration on Saturday next, the 12th inst.

Motion unanimously adopted.

Saturday, 12th December 1835.

His Excellency moved, that the consideration of the second reading of the ordinance for the protection and relief of persons who have transferred or may hereafter transfer their claims on the Compensation Fund, be postponed until Tuesday next.

Motion unanimously adopted.

Tuesday, 15th December 1835.

The Honourable the Attorney-general moved, that the ordinance for the protection and relief of persons who have transferred or may hereafter transfer their claims on the Compensation Fund, be now read a second time.

Seconded by the Honourable the Comptroller.

Votes: for, 6; against, 5.

The Honourable the Solicitor-general gave notice that he would enter a protest against the second reading of this ordinance.

The ordinance was then read a second time, and referred to committee.

The first clause being read;

The Honourable the Solicitor-general moved, that the reading of this ordinance in committee be postponed; and that the Council do, at its next meeting, resolve itself into a committee of the whole board, to inquire into the circumstances under which the assignments of compensation monies in this colony have generally been made, and as to the existing law as affecting such contracts, and of the individual costs attending any suits which may be necessary to recover such compensation monies in which contracts for their transfers may be null and void under the laws now in force.

This motion not being seconded, was lost.

The Honourable the Solicitor-general moved that the words "or otherwise," in the second line of the first clause, be omitted.

Seconded by the Honourable Mr. Neilson.

Votes: for, 3; against, 6.

The Honourable Mr. Fuller moved, that the word "properly," in the 24th line, be omitted, and the words "actually and *bonâ fide*" inserted.

Seconded by the Honourable the Solicitor-general.

Votes: for, 5; against, 4.

The Honourable Mr. Fuller moved, that in the 25th line, after the words "respect thereof," there be inserted the following words "and also a commission of five per cent. on the amount of the compensation money so transferred."

Seconded by the Honourable the Solicitor-general.

Votes: for, 8; against, 1.

The 2d clause was read.

The Honourable the Solicitor-general moved, that the 2d clause be omitted, and the following inserted in lieu thereof; viz.

2d. That in every case where a purchaser receiving any such compensation-money, shall not pay over the balance as aforesaid to the person or persons entitled thereto, it shall be lawful for such person or persons to recover such balance in an action in any court of competent jurisdiction for money had and received to and for the use of such person; and in all such actions instituted in the Court of First Instance of Civil Jurisdiction, the costs of such actions shall be taxed and allowed as if such action was instituted for a sum under 120*l.* currency, whatever be the amount therein demanded.

This motion not being seconded, was lost.

The Honourable the Attorney-general moved, that the following be substituted as the 2d clause; viz.

2d. And be it further enacted, that in every case where a purchaser, having received any

any such compensation-money, shall not pay over the balance as aforesaid to the person or persons entitled thereto, it shall be lawful for such person or persons to apply to the Court of First Instance of Civil Jurisdiction, stating his or their complaint, and praying such relief as the nature of the case may require; and it shall be lawful for the judges of the said court, and they are hereby required to hear such application by way of motion in a summary way; to examine, if they shall think necessary, the applicant, the party complained against, their or either of their agents or attorneys in the effecting any such assignment, and all other persons whomsoever, and upon affidavits, or *vivâ voce* or such other evidence as shall be produced upon such hearing, either to adjourn the hearing of or to determine the application, and to make such order therein, and with respect to the costs of such application, as to the judges of the said court shall seem just; which order shall be enforced by way of attachment or execution against any party refusing to comply with the same.

Seconded by the Honourable the Chief Justice.

Votes: for, 7; against, 1.

The Honourable the Solicitor-general gave notice that he would protest against the adoption of the foregoing clause.

The 3d clause was read and adopted, the Honourable the Solicitor-general dissenting.

His Excellency moved, that this ordinance, as amended, be reprinted.

Motion unanimously adopted.

His Excellency moved, that the third reading of this ordinance be taken into consideration on Saturday next.

Motion unanimously adopted.

Saturday, 19th December 1835.

The Honourable the Attorney-general moved, that the ordinance for the protection and relief of persons who have transferred or may hereafter transfer their claims on the Compensation Fund be now read a third time.

Seconded by the Honourable Mr. Roxburgh, and unanimously adopted.

The Honourable the Attorney-General moved that in the 19th line, after the word "portion," all the words to the word "advanced" in the 20th line, be struck out, and the following words inserted: "The repayment or receipt of the value of the money or other consideration truly and really paid, advanced, allowed or taken."

Seconded by the Honourable the Chief Justice, and unanimously adopted.

The Honourable Mr. Neilson moved, that after the second clause the following clause be inserted; viz.

3d. And be it enacted, that all such applications as are hereinbefore mentioned, and all actions and other proceedings under and by virtue of this ordinance, for the recovery of any such balance or compensation monies as aforesaid, shall be brought within twelve calendar months after the time when notice in writing of the actual receipt of such compensation monies shall be given by the party who has received the same to the party who shall or may be entitled to such balance or compensation money as aforesaid, and not afterwards.

Seconded by the Honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Honourable the Chief Justice moved, as an amendment, that the words "two years" be substituted for the words "twelve calendar months," in the foregoing motion.

Seconded by the Honourable the Solicitor-general.

Votes: for, 4; against, 6.

The votes were then taken on the Honourable Mr. Neilson's motion:

Votes: for, 7; against, 3.

The Honourable the Chief Justice moved, as an amendment on the Honourable Mr. Neilson's motion, that after the word "party" these words be inserted, "being of full age."

Seconded by the Honourable Mr. Fuller.

	For.	Against.
Votes - - - -	5	5
His Excellency - -	-	1
	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 6

The Honourables the Chief Justice and Attorney-general gave notice that they would enter their protests against the rejection of the foregoing amendment.

The Honourable the Solicitor-general moved as a fifth clause; viz.

5th. Provided always, that nothing in this ordinance contained shall apply to any case in which the net amount of the compensation monies actually received under and by virtue of any such transfer, assignment, contract, power of attorney as aforesaid, after deducting all expenses actually paid in the recovery thereof, shall not exceed by one-fourth the amount of the consideration money actually paid, given or allowed by the purchaser or assignee thereof, unless such purchaser or assignee shall be proved to have been guilty of some imposition or fraudulent misrepresentation in respect of such transfer.

Seconded by the Honourable Mr. Bland.

Votes: for, 7; against, 3.

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The Honourables the Chief Justice, Attorney-general and Mr. Fuller gave notice that they would protest against the adoption of the foregoing motion.

The Honourable the Attorney-general moved, as a sixth clause, 6th. And be it enacted, that this ordinance shall take effect from and immediately after the promulgation thereof.

Seconded by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, and unanimously adopted.

His Excellency moved, that this ordinance, as amended, be now read a third time.

Votes : for, 6 ; against, 3.

The ordinance was read a third time.

His Excellency moved, that this ordinance do pass.

Votes : for, 6 ; against, 4.

The Honourable the Solicitor-general gave notice he would enter his protest to the passing of this ordinance.

The Honourable the Attorney-general moved the following resolution :

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this Board of Council that it would be productive of serious inconvenience to this colony to delay the promulgation of this ordinance until the pleasure of His Majesty be known thereon, and that it is the advice and opinion of the board that the same should be immediately promulgated.

Seconded by his Excellency, and unanimously adopted.

(signed) *Thomas F. Johnston,*
Clerk of Council.

PROTEST of the CHIEF JUSTICE.

THE undersigned senior member of the Council of Government protests against the fifth and third sections of the ordinance, intituled, " For the Protection and Relief of Persons who have transferred, or may hereafter transfer their Claims on the Compensation Fund," for the following causes :

First. Because the said fifth section is altogether opposed to the spirit of the wise, just and humane measure recommended by His Majesty's Secretary of State, Lord Glenelg, in his despatch to the Lieutenant-governor, dated the 12th day of October 1835, (which was unanimously approved of by this board in its resolution passed on the 25th day of November last, and was also fully adopted in the first section of the ordinance itself,) and will have the effect, unless His Majesty should be graciously pleased to disallow such fifth section, of defeating, in the great majority of cases, the advantages of the whole measure.

Secondly. Because the said fifth section is totally inconsistent with the provisions of the first section ; and is so devised as not only to introduce confusion and embarrassment into the present enactment, but also to unsettle some important principles of law regulating contracts ; and in particular it is directly opposed to the established law of usury, inasmuch as it openly and boldly endeavours to sanction the taking the enormous interest of at least 25 per cent. on loans of money in cases where the lender incurs not the smallest risk of losing any part of his principal ; an unconscionable and illegal rate of profit, and oppressive towards the unfortunate persons whom it is the object of the first section of the ordinance to relieve.

Thirdly. Because the said fifth section, the obvious scope of which is to cripple the ordinance and to render it as nearly as possible inoperative, and which was moved and mainly carried against the humane and just recommendation of His Majesty's Government, by members of this board holding official situations under His Majesty, and their connexions, was suddenly, at the end of the discussion upon the last reading, proposed, and at the moment when the ordinance in its genuine state was supposed to be about to pass, so that sufficient time was not allowed to impartial members, who had no personal interest in the question, for giving a fair and full consideration to the nature and probable consequences of the said fifth section.

Lastly. Because, as to the third section, the period of limitation of action fixed in that section is too short, and also because the adopting a restrictive measure as to time, of the nature proposed by that section, without introducing a provision saving the right of minors and other persons lying under temporary disabilities, establishes a vicious precedent in legislation.

26 December 1835.

(signed) *George Scotland.*

PROTEST against the passing of the Ordinance, intituled, " An Ordinance for the Protection and Relief of Persons who have transferred, or may hereafter transfer their Claims on the Compensation Fund."

BECAUSE this ordinance, inasmuch as it will rescind all contracts for the transfer of compensation monies, which may prove to a certain extent advantageous to the purchasers, however fair and reasonable such contracts were at the time they were made, is in its principle essentially unjust. Even if it were true that all such transfers were opposed to public policy, this would be a proper reason for prohibiting them in future, but could never constitute a just ground for rescinding them, *ex post facto*. In truth, however, such transfers are

are not opposed to public policy, but on the contrary, unless accompanied by such circumstances of fraud, imposition or gross inadequacy of consideration, as would render them invalid under the existing laws, are mutually beneficial to both contracting parties, and advantageous to the community in general.

Because, inasmuch as the amount of the compensation money, and the time of payment depended entirely on uncertain contingencies, they naturally and fairly became the subject of speculation. The former was contingent on the number of slaves, and the actual value for which they were transferred within a limited period in this colony, as compared with similar facts in all the other slave colonies of Great Britain; now, even as respects this colony, the best informed resident could scarcely have predicted the result of the inquiry so as to ascertain its effects on the division of the Compensation Fund, within 30 or 40 per cent., and as respected the other colonies, including Jamaica, the Cape of Good Hope and the Mauritius, where the result would make a difference of 100 to 150 per cent. on the compensation money payable here, the calculation must have been founded on mere conjecture. Even at the present moment, six or eight months after the inter-colonial apportionment of the 20 millions has been made, there is still an uncertainty respecting the compensation money payable to individuals in Trinidad, depending on the decision of the commissioners, amounting to one-ninth, or 11 per cent. on the whole amount receivable by them. The rate of exchange at which the currency of the island is reduced into sterling money, in which the compensation money is payable, has fallen within the last four months from 250 to 225 per cent., and when to these causes are added the necessary fluctuations in the value of all Government securities, to which a fund like the compensation money is particularly liable, and which were of course materially increased by the knowledge that a motion was to be made by the leader of a powerful party in the House of Commons to postpone its payment indefinitely, it will be apparent that great uncertainty must have necessarily existed as to the value of the interest which each proprietor of each slave in this colony had in the Compensation Fund, and that this value must have varied from time to time as the elements of the calculation of its amount became better ascertained, and this quite independent of all unreasonable distrust of the good faith or punctuality of the Government. It is very questionable if it would have been politic to have prevented all speculations on this uncertainty, by originally making the compensation monies untransferrable, since there must always be individuals whose interest it suits to reduce their expectations into certainty, and others whom it equally suits to enter into and abide by the result of such speculations; and such transfers were most certainly, to the extent of many thousands of pounds, made by men of education, intelligence and independent fortune, who may perhaps consider it dishonest to avail themselves of the opportunity which the Legislature has given them of rescinding the engagements so made; but as such transfers were not prohibited before, they certainly should not have been annulled after they were made.

Because the only justification of such a legislative measure as this ordinance would have been the production of conclusive evidence, showing that all contracts for the transfer of compensation monies had been made under circumstances which rendered them illegal or inequitable. Whereas the Council have refused to make any inquiry on the subject, and at the present moment not merely is there no proof before the board to negative the assertion that has been made, that, with few exceptions, the transfers of compensation monies have been made for fair, just and equitable considerations,* but not even a tittle of evidence* has been produced to establish the existence of one single contract made under different circumstances.

Because, although such a legislative measure might be required in colonies under English laws, to provide a speedy and cheap remedy for the benefit of persons who, from the circumstances under which their compensation monies were transferred, might be entitled to relief in a court of equity, which they could not afford to claim, yet this was not, in any degree, the case in Trinidad. All contracts founded on fraud and imposition, and those in which the inadequacy of consideration amounts to more than one-half, are, by the Spanish law, absolutely null and void; and the difference may be recovered in the simplest form of action, with all the advantages of an examination of the defendant on oath, and compelling him to produce his books and papers; and under this proceeding (inasmuch as both the practice of the court and costs of suit have been reformed within a very late period), it is fair to presume, and it is certainly true, that the relief demanded is obtained as cheaply as possible, and as speedily as is consistent with the fair administration of justice between the litigant parties. Indeed, unless new rules of practice are adopted in the court for these particular cases, it will be very questionable whether an action will not be a cheaper and speedier remedy than the proceeding by motion given by the ordinance. For these reasons it appears, that as it applies to contracts for the transfer of compensation monies which, under the existing laws and the established principles of equity, are invalid, the ordinance is unnecessary; as it applies to such contracts as, without it, would have been valid and binding, it is unjust, and therefore impolitic.

(signed) *Edward Jackson.*

24 December 1835.

* *Note by the Lieutenant-governor.*—Testimony was borne by various members of Council, nay, by Mr. Jackson himself, that it was notorious that small proprietors had been induced, to a large extent, to sell their compensation claims at a large undervalue.

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— No. 443. —

No. 443.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-Governor
Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 29 February 1836.

I HAVE received your despatches, dated the 9th of January and the 11th of January, enclosing an ordinance passed by you, with the advice and the consent of the Legislative Council of Trinidad, dated the 19th of December, and intituled, "An Ordinance for the Protection and Relief of Persons who have transferred, or may hereafter transfer their Claims on the Compensation Fund."

I have perused the minutes of the Council, and especially the protests of the Chief Justice and the Solicitor-general on this occasion, with the attention which is so peculiarly due to their opinions on such questions as those to which this ordinance gave rise. It is a source of just satisfaction to perceive, that upon a subject of permanent and general policy, the public officers of Trinidad, in their places in the Council, vote and act with such freedom and independence of opinion as effectually to repel the imputation which has been made of their entire subserviency to the Governor of the colony.

The Solicitor-general's protest against this ordinance proceeds, first, on the ground that no proof has been given of the existence of the abuse which it is designed to redress. You have remarked, that the notoriety of the fact superseded the necessity for such evidence. It may perhaps be a better answer, that if the claims on the Compensation Fund have not been really bought up at an exorbitant discount, the law may indeed be unnecessary, but will at least be innoxious.

Secondly. The Solicitor-general contends, that the law of Spain, as it prevails in Trinidad, has already made adequate provision for this case, by declaring the invalidity of sales in which the price paid does not exceed one-half of the value of the commodity purchased. I express no opinion on the wisdom of this law, but would observe only that it is a law made for ordinary times, and not for extraordinary contingencies. Assuming it to be right, that contracts should not be generally vitiated for defect of price, unless amounting to 50 per cent., there is no inconsistency in applying a different rule in a case in which almost every proprietor in the whole society became suddenly possessed of property readily convertible into money, and yet liable to depreciation to an indefinite extent by the influence of popular illusion. Here was an occasion on which the fabricators of false intelligence had a direct interest in the panic they produced, and in which the ignorant and helpless part of society became the inevitable victims of the artifices of those who possessed better intelligence. So very extraordinary an occasion may well justify some departure from ordinary rules.

But the case is understated when viewed only in its relation to the conflicting claims of individuals, buyers and sellers. The public at large has a very deep interest in securing the enjoyment of the compensation money to the persons for whose benefit it was really granted.

Thirdly. The Solicitor-general contradicts the statement, that the purchasers of claims incurred no risk, asserting that neither party knew what would be the amount of the compensation awarded to the island, or what would ultimately prove the value of the claim bought and sold. It is perfectly true that the purchaser took the risk of obtaining more or less from the compensation commissioners; and if the Solicitor-general had alleged and proved, or had even asserted his belief of the existence of a single case in which this uncertainty had been advantageous to the claimant and injurious to the purchaser, I should admit that he had raised a considerable objection to the principle of this law. But the mere supposition of imaginary and possible cases cannot prevail over the certain conviction that they have no real existence. We run no risk of committing injustice by taking it for granted, that in the dealings between the monied men of Trinidad and the necessitous holders of slaves, the miscalculation of the amount of the future award was invariably unfavourable to those whose necessities or alarms urged them into these premature sales.

The Chief Justice, adverting to the opposite view of the general question, objects, first, to the limitation of 12 months as the period within which the demand for restitution must be made. I agree that the time is short, but it is of so much

public

public importance that these contentions should be terminated, that I do not consider myself at liberty to advise His Majesty to interpose his authority for the enlargement of this period.

For the same reason I think it right to acquiesce in the omission of any clause reserving to infants, and others labouring under disabilities, an opportunity of advancing their claims when those disabilities shall be removed. Such cases can be but very rare, and a right which is at once so recent, so notorious and so easily established will not readily be overlooked or neglected by guardians and others authorized to act for the benefit of this class of persons.

The objection made by the Chief Justice to the 5th clause seems to me, however, conclusive. It is repugnant to the general principle of the ordinance. I can discover no reason why a contract is to be protected if the purchaser should obtain a benefit of 25 per cent. or less, while it is to be rescinded if the benefit shall exceed that proportion. The simple and intelligible principle is that of converting the sale into a pledge. The 5th clause would fix an arbitrary rule, for which no justification is assigned, and of which none has occurred to myself.

I have humbly submitted this ordinance to the King, with the preceding remarks upon it, and I have received His Majesty's commands to signify to you his approbation and allowance of this law, with the exception of the 5th clause already noticed, which His Majesty is pleased to disallow.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 444 —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *G. F. Hill*, Bart.,
to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Trinidad, 9 January 1836.

No. 444.

YOUR Lordship will receive herewith a report from the chief of police of the good order that prevailed during the late holidays.

Enclosure in No. 444.

Police Office, Port of Spain, 7 January 1836.

THE chief of police, in obedience to his Excellency's command, has the honour to lay before his Excellency a report of the state of the town and suburbs during the late Christmas holidays, as relating to the conduct of the apprentices and the inhabitants in general, domiciled in the town and suburbs. The behaviour of the former class was exceedingly quiet and orderly, and far more so than has been the case for many years previous. The conduct of the latter class, a great proportion of whom are embodied in the militia, was quiet and orderly; and no disturbance took place during the usual merry-making of the season. The chief of police has particularly to remark the good effect produced by the new Police Bill or Ordinance.

Enclosure in
No. 444.

(signed) *Benjamin Hughes*,
Chief of Police.

To his Excellency Sir *G. F. Hill*, bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

— No. 445. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-Governor Sir
G. F. Hill, Bart., dated Downing-street, 27 February 1836.

No. 445.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 9th January, and I have had great satisfaction in finding that the chief of the police had been enabled to make so favourable a report of the conduct both of the apprentices and of the other inhabitants of Port of Spain and its suburbs during the Christmas holidays, and of the good effects of the new police ordinance.

TABLE (B.)

RETURN of the Number and Effect of the RETURNS OF PUNISHMENTS, received by the Lieut.-Governor of *Trinidad*, from the Special Magistrates, from 1 November 1835 to 31 May 1836.

Colony.	Date.	Total Number of Apprentices throughout the Island, Province or Government	Total Number of Punishments inflicted under the Authority of Special Magistrates throughout the same.	Proportion per cent. of Punishments to Apprentices.	Total Number of Males Punished.		Total Number of Females punished.	The Average Number of Stripes inflicted in Cases of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum Number of Stripes inflicted in any one Case of Punishment by Whipping.	The Maximum of Severity in any one Case of Punishment by Confinement.	The Maximum of Severity in any other Mode of Punishment.
					By Whipping.	Otherwise than by Whipping.					
TRINIDAD:	1835: November -	15,878	176	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	60	42	74	21	30	- 4 months' hard labour.	- To return 230 days' service.
	December -	15,878	224	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	50	76	98	17	22	- 1 month's hard labour.	- 1 month's hard labour.
	1836: January -	15,985	202	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	50	44	108	21	39	3 months	- 3 weeks' extra labour.
	February -	15,814	152	1	55	26	71	19	25	3 months	- 30 days' extra labour.
	March -	16,030	190	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	49	45	96	15	3	1 month -	- To return 17 months' labour, having been absent without legal cause.
	April -	15,939	159	1	47	25	87	17	30	1 month -	- 1 month's hard labour.
	May -	16,834	267	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	68	52	147	18	30	1 month -	- To return 3 years' labour for absence from employer's service.

ST. LUCIA.

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— No. 446. —

No. 446. EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Dudley Hill*, K.C.B., to the Earl of *Aberdeen*, dated Government Office, St. Lucia, 5 Feb. 1835.

For Proclamation,
vide App. No. 162.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the following proclamation, changing the public market-day from Monday to Saturday in each week, for reasons assigned in the accompanying letter.

Enclosure in No. 446.

(Circular.)

Sir,

Government Office, St. Lucia, 3 February 1835.

Enclosure in
No. 446.

I HAVE had urgent representations from several influential members of the community, to the effect that it would be more advantageous to the interests of the planter and to the health of the apprentice, were the latter to resume his weekly labour immediately after a day which should be passed in repose, rather than after the Monday which is now occupied in journeying to and from the market, and in attendance there.

The inconvenience, and particularly during crop-time, of causing a cessation of labour for two days in the week, as at present, viz., by the apprentice frequenting the market on one day and his superintendents on another, has been also pointed out to me; and taking these circumstances into consideration, but most especially with a view to insure a more hallowed observance of the Sabbath, I have thought it fit to issue a proclamation directing that, for the future, and commencing with Saturday next, the day for the holding markets at all places within the colony, at which it has heretofore been customary to hold markets on Monday, shall be Saturday.

I have

I have to request you will cause this change to be made known and observed throughout your district, and I sincerely trust it will be productive of each of the several benefits to the attainment of which my efforts have been directed.

ST. LUCIA.

To the Special Justices and
Justices of the Peace, &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Dudley Hill*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

— No. 447. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Dudley Hill*, K.C.B.,
to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 447.

My Lord,
I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an ordinance, No. 8, enacted by the Legislative Council of this colony, for punishing persons employing and harbouring runaway apprenticed labourers, which I request your Lordship will be pleased to submit for His Majesty's approval.

For Ordinance,
No. 8, *vide* Appen-
dix, No. 163.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Dudley Hill*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

— No. 448. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-Governor
Sir *Dudley Hill*, K.C.B.

No. 448.

Sir,
I HAVE received your despatch, dated the 8th of July last, enclosing an ordinance enacted by yourself and the Legislative Council of St. Lucia, for punishing persons employing and harbouring runaway apprenticed labourers.
I have received His Majesty's commands to acquaint you, that he has been graciously pleased to confirm and allow this ordinance.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 449. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Dudley Hill*, K.C.B.,
to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government Office, Castries, 4 August 1835.

No. 449.

ONE year's trial of the new measure having now satisfied me, by its successful operation, that a partial reduction might be effected, it affords me much satisfaction to announce to your Lordship, that at the expiration of the first year of emancipation, I caused 3 serjeants and 15 men to be struck off the police force, thereby creating a saving to the colony of 1,000*l.* a year.

This measure has not been effected without much consideration and previous arrangement, and I have urged on the stipendiary magistrates, as well as the planters themselves, the great advantages which will accrue to the colony generally, by having the duties of constables more extensively performed by the best and most intelligent apprentices on their estates.

I do not think I can better put your Lordship in possession of the manner in which I have recommended the adoption of this plan, than by sending a copy of my circular letter which appears in the gazette of this island, and which, I trust, will meet with your Lordship's approbation.

Enclosure in No. 449.

(Circular.)

Sir,
ONE year has nearly elapsed since the Act for the Abolition of Slavery was put in force in this colony.
166.—II.

Government Office, Castries, 23 July 1835.

Enclosure in
No. 449.

For

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For the better carrying into effect the provisions ordained by His Majesty's Order in Council, relating to this most important measure, it was necessary to organize and establish an effective police force, which fortunately, under the prudent directions of the magistracy, has, through its efficiency, preserved the island of St. Lucia in as peaceable a state as under existing circumstances, and in a period of no small anxiety, could be expected.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, ever anxious to relieve the colony from the weight of expenditure that so heavily presses on its inhabitants, is now induced, in consequence of the present tranquillity which pervades the whole of the districts, and in consideration of the planters having finished getting in their crops, to make a partial reduction in the police force hereinbefore mentioned. The manner proposed by his Excellency to effect this object is to reduce one station in each district; and those to remain undisturbed he has selected, after mature deliberation, not only with reference to their local positions, and the number of estates contiguous, but from a consideration that the existing stations will enable the magistrates more conveniently to carry on the public service, and also that the force thus distributed will be better adapted to the protection of the colony at large.

The police force, according to the new arrangement, will be stationed as follows, and will consist of one serjeant and five policemen at each station:

1st District:—	1st Station	-	-	-	-	Gros Ilet.
	2d Station	-	-	-	-	Anse des Roseaux.
2d District:—	1st Station	-	-	-	-	Saufriere.
	2d Station	-	-	-	-	Choiseul.
3d District:—	1st Station	-	-	-	-	Vieuxfort.
	2d Station	-	-	-	-	Micond.

By the above arrangements you will perceive it is his Excellency's intention to reduce the stations now posted at the Marquis, Laborie and Dennery.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-governor desires I would call your particular attention to the selection of those serjeants and men from the whole force under your orders at present, who, from their effective services as policemen and their creditable appearance, and, above all, their correct and sober conduct, may be considered most preferable to compose those stations to be retained; and his Excellency authorizes you, in the present instance, to make this selection, reporting the names, and any changes you may make, immediately to this office for his final approval.

As this change is to take place from the 1st August next, on which day one serjeant and five policemen of your district will be struck off your strength, and consequently not entitled to pay, you will make arrangements accordingly, and send to the Colonial Treasury for the month's pay now due, so that the policemen may be paid on being discharged.

You will also have delivered over to you the constables' staves, which are to be sent to this office as soon as convenient after the 1st August; and in acquainting those policemen that their services are no longer required, you will intimate to them that they are discharged, not from any fault of theirs, but from the necessity of reducing the establishment, and rendering it more in consonance with the financial state of the colony.

You will likewise convey to them, generally, his Excellency the Governor's approbation of their conduct for the services they have performed during a year of much anxiety in the colony.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Hanley*,
Colonial Secretary.

To the Stipendiary Magistrates.

— No. 450. —

No. 450.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-Governor
Sir Dudley Hill, K.C.B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 30 September 1835.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 4th ultimo, reporting that a considerable reduction had been made by you in the police force of St. Lucia.

This reduction, regarded merely as a question of finance, would have afforded me great satisfaction; but this feeling is much enhanced when I consider it as an evidence of the peaceable conduct of the apprenticed labourers, and of the successful operation of the new system in the colony under your government. It cannot fail to be a source of gratification to His Majesty's Government to receive from you those assurances of the tranquil state of the island, which alone could have justified the course you have adopted.

I approve of the instructions which on the diminution of the police force you issued to the special magistrates. They appear well calculated to prevent any embarrassment which might have attended this reduction.

I entirely

I entirely approve also of your recommendation to organize, more extensively, a constabulary force amongst the apprentices themselves; such a system, if properly regulated and confined to the advancement of the most deserving and intelligent of that class, would operate as a relief to the colony, and would generate among the negroes dispositions and habits from which very great advantages might be anticipated.

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I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 451. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Dudley Hill*, K. C. B.,
to Lord *Glenelg.*

No. 451.

My Lord, Government Office, St. Lucia, 6 August 1835.
I HAVE had the honour of receiving your Lordship's circular despatch of the 18th June last, calling for certain returns to be laid before the House of Commons. In consequence of the various changes of stipendiary as well as provisional stipendiary magistrates in this colony, it is impossible to procure from the gentlemen now employed the returns of punishments, &c. required; I am therefore only enabled to furnish them from the journals which I have had regularly transmitted to me, and are deposited in the Government-office, and I will, with the least possible delay, have them prepared and forwarded.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Dudley Hill*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

For Circular
18 June, *vide Papers*
relative to the Abolition
of Slavery,
1836, part 3, p. 5.

Vide No. 460.

— No. 452. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Dudley Hill*, K. C. B.,
to Lord *Glenelg.*

No. 452.

My Lord, Government Office, St. Lucia, 7 August 1835.
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's circular despatch of the 15th June last, and in referring to the subject of its contents I must solicit your Lordship's permission for entering into some explanations as far as regards the appointment of special magistrates in this colony. On my arrival in St. Lucia early in July 1834, I found that no preparation whatever had been made for carrying into effect, or even in any way providing for the great change which was about to take place. There was no police force formed, nor were there any steps taken to organize such a body; no stipendiary magistrates were appointed, nor any immediately expected; and although I had been given to understand, previous to my departure from England, that I should have 5,500*l.* at my disposal, to enable me to meet contingencies, as well as carry into operation the Order in Council for the abolition of slavery, I found that only a small proportion, viz. 1,500*l.*, had been reserved for my use.

For Circular
15 June, *vide Papers*
relative to the Abolition
of Slavery,
1833-35, part 2-1,
p. 8.

My first object was, of course, to form an efficient police force, which having accomplished, my attention was next directed to the appointment of persons who, from my partial local experience, I thought best qualified to fill the situations of provisional stipendiary magistrates, unaided, as I then was, by the assistance of any gentleman from the mother country to carry the provisions of the Abolition Act into operation, the period for which was so rapidly approaching; and my situation was not the less embarrassing when I observed the great anxiety evinced by the master, as well as the slave, at the approach of a crisis which was to cause such a change in their relative position.

I have been led to dwell on this subject, in order that your Lordship may be acquainted with the very critical position in which I was then placed, and to show the absolute necessity that existed for making those provisional appointments until the arrival of stipendiary magistrates from England, the first of whom did not reach this colony until four months after the Abolition Act had been promulgated.

From the great difficulty that existed in keeping up a communication with different parts of the country, caused by the almost impracticable state of the roads in

many

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many places, which I personally experienced in my several visits to the estates throughout the island for the purpose of explaining the nature of the changes about to take place, I saw that it was impossible for the provisional stipendiary magistrates, without assistance, to perform in an efficient and satisfactory manner the very arduous duties allotted to them, and therefore felt the necessity of appointing a few special justices to assist them; and I feel persuaded that your Lordship will see that I had no other alternative than that of acting as I had done, and that I shall be acquitted of the slightest wish or intention of infringing on the Order in Council by the temporary appointments which, under existing circumstances stated, I felt myself compelled to make.

I have now the honour to inform your Lordship that, in compliance with the directions contained in your circular despatch of 15th June 1835, I have recalled the few commissions which I had granted to special justices in the colony, and that there now remains only the three stipendiary magistrates who are solely charged with the authority over the apprentices, as granted by the Order in Council; and I consider it but an act of justice to the former gentlemen, who afforded their services gratuitously for almost a year, to declare that in no instance has it come to my knowledge that their acts and judgments have been otherwise than marked by justice and clemency.

I much fear that the duties which now devolve on the three stipendiaries will be too onerous, but I will allow a short period to elapse, for the purpose of ascertaining with more certainty whether the gentlemen now acting are adequate to the performance of them, when I shall do myself the honour of reporting accordingly.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Dudley Hill*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

— No. 453. —

No. 453.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-Governor
Sir *Dudley Hill*, K. C. B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 29 September 1835.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 7th August, reporting your receipt and execution of the instructions contained in my circular despatch of the 15th June for recalling the special unpaid commissions.

You express your doubts as to the sufficiency of three stipendiary magistrates to administer the apprentice law in St. Lucia, but defer giving a decided opinion until you should have acquired the advantage of further experience.

In dispensing with the services of the local magistracy, His Majesty's Government did not fail to anticipate and to provide for the increased demand for the services of paid magistrates which that measure would create.

Under the new apportionment one additional magistrate has been allotted to St. Lucia, making four in all. I trust that this number will be found fully adequate to an efficient administration of the law. Lieutenant John, the gentleman who has received the supplementary appointment, will probably arrive in St. Lucia previously to your receipt of my present despatch.

Before I close this communication I think it right to add, in reference to the explanations into which you have entered on the subject of the special unpaid commissions, now cancelled, that I am satisfied that in issuing those commissions you only exercised a proper and necessary discretion, and that under the urgent circumstances of the case, the course which you adopted was indispensable to the execution of the law.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 454. —

No. 454.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Dudley Hill*, K.C.B.,
to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord, Government Office, St. Lucia, 18 August 1835.

By the last mail I had the honour of acquainting your Lordship with my having recalled all commissions which were granted to special justices in this colony, and I then expressed my fears that the duties which would thereby devolve upon the three stipendiary magistrates would be too onerous for them. I have now had an opportunity of satisfying myself upon this head, and beg to observe, that I consider it absolutely necessary that some additional assistance should be granted for the adequate fulfilment of the very important duties attached to the office.

Considering the mountainous nature of the country, the rivers and ravines with which the island abounds, being, from heavy rains, frequently impassable, the great difficulty of communication at all times from the ruinous state of the roads, the very detached situation of the estates in many parts, with the necessity of their being frequently visited, I trust your Lordship will not consider it unreasonable on my part in requesting the appointment of two additional magistrates for this colony, and should the same be granted, I would take leave to recommend that, in their selection, a knowledge of the French language be considered as indispensable.

I beg also to submit to your Lordship, that in the event of any one of the three stipendiary magistrates being unable from sickness to perform his arduous duties for any time, (a circumstance not at all improbable in this fearful climate) the same must either be neglected, to the great detriment of the interests of the colony, or I must be compelled to make provisional appointments during such indisposition, a measure I am anxious to avoid, as being contrary to the spirit of the Order in Council.

It may not be unnecessary to remark, that the present application has no reference to the proposed appointment of a resident magistrate for the town of Castries, as recommended in my despatch for remodelling the judicial establishment of the colony.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Dudley Hill*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

— No. 455. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Dudley Hill*, K.C.B.

No. 455.

Sir,

Downing-street, 15 October 1835.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your despatch of the 18th August, in which you express your opinion with reference to the withdrawal of the unpaid special commissions, that two additional magistrates, making five in all, will be required for St. Lucia.

My despatch of the 29th ultimo, which you had not received at the date of your present communication, will apprise you of the allotment which I have already made of four magistrates for the island under your government. In the absence of any decided opinion from you on the subject, it appeared to me that this number bore a fair proportion to the relative wants of St. Lucia, according to the general distribution of the total number of magistrates for whose services Parliament had made provision; but as you are anxious that there should not be fewer than five in St. Lucia, I am glad to find myself enabled to apply a reserved appointment to the services of that colony.

I shall lose no time in selecting a person for this purpose duly qualified, as well in other respects as in possessing a knowledge of the French language, to the importance of which you specially call my attention; and I trust that his arrival in the island will speedily follow your receipt of this despatch.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg*.

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— No. 456. —

No. 456. COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Dudley Hill*, K. C. B., to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord, Government Office, St. Lucia, 2 September 1835.

THE Legislative Council of this colony have been for some time past employed by my directions in framing and discussing an ordinance, No. 10, for the better regulating of the police, as well as abolishing many abuses, and enacting various salutary measures which, from the progressive improvement in our social system, was imperatively called for.

For Ordinance, vide
Appendix, No. 164.

This ordinance has passed the Council by a majority of members, and I have now the honour of transmitting it, with a recommendation that it may be submitted for His Majesty's gracious approval, with the exception of one particular case, which I beg to bring under your Lordship's notice.

By that part of clause No. 7, which lays down regulations for the conduct of the police, it is enacted, that no negro drums shall be allowed to be beat in the town of Castries. This is a measure which I consider to be as unjust as it is arbitrary, and by the adoption of which no beneficial results can be derived, whilst it deprives the humbler class of society of those innocent pleasures to which I consider them to be fairly entitled, and which they have hitherto been allowed, under certain restrictions, to enjoy. I know of no amusement to which the negro of both sexes looks forward with more delight than that of dancing to the beating of the drum, (not unlike the English kettle-drum), and to deprive them of the enjoyment of this harmless recreation, would be, in my opinion, an act of uncalled-for and unmerited severity; I therefore most respectfully submit my hope, that should His Majesty be graciously pleased to give His Royal approbation to this ordinance, that part which prohibits the negroes from beating their drums in the town of Castries, may be ordered to be expunged from the clause, and that they may be permitted, as has hitherto been the case, to enjoy themselves under proper restrictions.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Dudley Hill*, Lieut.-Governor.

— No. 457. —

No. 457. COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Dudley Hill*, K. C. B.

Sir, Downing-street, 15 February 1836.

I HAVE received your despatch dated the 2d of September last, enclosing an ordinance passed by yourself and the Legislative Council of St. Lucia, on the 24th of August last, intituled "An Ordinance for providing more effectually for the general Police of the Suburbs, Town and Harbour of Castries, for constructing and repairing the Wharfs, and consolidating or amending all Laws, Ordinances and Regulations relating to the subject of this present Ordinance."

Having laid before the King this ordinance, with your remarks upon it, I have received His Majesty's commands to inform you, that in conformity with your opinion and advice His Majesty is pleased to disallow so much of the 7th clause of this ordinance as prohibits the beating of negro drums in the town of Castries. The prohibition is conceived in terms so unlimited as to amount to a virtual interdict upon an amusement which, under proper police regulation, may not only be innocent but highly useful, as tending to maintain exhilaration and cheerfulness of spirit, and to keep alive interests and pursuits of an inoffensive nature. It would be an error too obvious for formal refutation to regard the pastimes of an unlettered and dense civic population as a matter unworthy the serious attention of the Legislature. If the negroes of Castries are not allowed to dance, it may be very confidently foretold that they will betake themselves to some less harmless employment of their leisure time.

On the other hand, it must be confessed, that the habit of dancing in a large town to no other sound than that of the drums, may be a serious annoyance to those

those who do not partake of the predilection of the negroes in favour of this species of music, (if so it must be termed); nor will any objections be made to the enactment of a law which shall be properly framed for protecting society against the abuse of this indulgence.

His Majesty is graciously pleased to confirm and allow the rest of this ordinance.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

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— No. 458. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Dudley Hill*, K.C.B.,
to Lord *Glenelg.*

No. 458.

My Lord,

Government Office, St. Lucia, 3 Sept. 1835.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the following Act, passed within this government, which I request you will be pleased to submit for His Majesty's approval:

No. 11. An Ordinance, appointing a Day for the Registrar of Slaves to deliver to every employer of Apprenticed Labourers a List, for the purpose of classification.

*For Ordinance,
No. 11, vide Appendix,
No. 65.*

I have, &c.
(signed) *Dudley Hill*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

— No. 459. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-Governor
Sir *Dudley Hill*, K.C.B.

No. 459.

Sir,

Downing-street, 24 November 1835.

I HAVE received, and have laid before the King, your despatch of the 3d September last, transmitting an ordinance, passed by yourself and the Legislative Council of St. Lucia, intituled, No. 11, "An Ordinance, appointing a day for the Registrar of Slaves to deliver to every Employer of Apprenticed Labourers a List, for the purpose of classification."

I have the honour to convey to you His Majesty's gracious approval of this ordinance.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 460. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Dudley Hill*, K.C.B.,
to Lord *Glenelg.*

No. 460.

My Lord,

Government Office, St. Lucia, 15 Sept. 1835.

I now do myself the honour of forwarding the various returns called for by your Lordship's circular despatch of 18th June last, to be laid before the House of Commons.

The delay in the transmission of these returns, as I before intimated to your Lordship, has been occasioned by my being obliged to have those of the number and nature of punishments, &c., made out in this office, from the journals sent in by the different magistrates who have been so frequently changed in this colony.

I avail myself of this occasion of bringing under your Lordship's observation that, in some cases, and even for minor offences, there appears to be a difference in the punishment awarded; but having required from the respective magistrates the cause of this apparent inconsistency, I have been informed that the former good conduct of the individual has invariably been taken into consideration, and

that

*For Circular
18 June, vide Papers
relative to the Abolition
of Slavery,
1836, part 3, p. 5.*

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that they have in consequence been lenient in the punishment; whilst to the refractory and those of general bad conduct, they have considered it their duty to act with greater severity.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Dudley Hill,*
Lieutenant-Governor.

Enclosures in No. 460.

(No. 1.)

RETURN of the NAMES of all SPECIAL or STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES who have been removed from or resigned their Offices in *St. Lucia*.

Enclosures in No. 460.

NAME.	OFFICE.	REMARKS.
R. Fitzgerald - - - -	stipendy magistrate -	Removed to Jamaica. Absent, on leave, to England, for six months.
J. J. Oddy - - - -	ditto - - - -	
R. S. Robinson - - - -	special justice - -	The commissions of the special justices have been recalled, in compliance with instructions contained in a circular despatch from the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 18 June 1835.
L. Doussard - - - -	ditto - - - -	
L. de Brettes - - - -	ditto - - - -	
J. Goodman - - - -	ditto - - - -	
J. M. Alexander - - - -	ditto - - - -	
D. St. Philip - - - -	ditto - - - -	
M. Sarraute - - - -	ditto - - - -	
J. Richardson - - - -	ditto - - - -	
G. Cotter - - - -	ditto - - - -	

(signed) *Dudley Hill,* Lieut.-Governor.

(No. 2.)

RETURN of the Number and Nature of the PUNISHMENTS inflicted on the APPRENTICED LABOURERS in the Colony of *St. Lucia*, by the Special or Stipendiary Magistrates, from 1 August 1834 to 31 July 1835, inclusive.

DISTRICT.	Apprentice Population in each District.		Whipping.		Whipping and Imprisonment.		Imprisonment.		Extra Labour.		Stocks.	
	Male.	Female.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
First District - - - -	1,386	1,635	96	-	21	-	-	15	21	29	6	8
Second District - - - -	1,913	2,116	43	-	53	-	6	12	13	11	-	8
Third District - - - -	1,054	1,262	100	-	5	-	7	13	29	19	-	8
TOTAL Apprentice Population in the Three Districts - - }	4,353	5,013										
	9,366		239	-	79	-	13	40	63	59	6	24

DISTRICT.	Hard Labour.		Imprisonment and Hard Labour.		Solitary Confinement.		Pillory.		Total Punishments.		GRAND TOTAL.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M. & F.
* First District.	1	6	43	60	-	-	-	-	188	118	306
Second District.	1	4	20	52	-	-	-	-	136	87	223
Third District.	12	26	3	8	1	7	-	11	157	92	249
{ TOTAL Apprentice Population in the Three Districts.	14	36	66	120	1	7	-	11	481	297	778

(No. 3.)

ST. LUCIA.—A RETURN of all APPRENTICED LABOURERS discharged from their Apprenticeship, from 1 August 1834 to 1 August 1835.

APPRENTICED LABOURERS DISCHARGED BY CONTRACT.

No.	Names of Apprentices.	Names of late Owners or Employers.	Date of Discharge.	CONSIDERATION.
1	Pat Ewing - - -	Hon. William Muter - -	18 Sept. 1834	- - - good services.
2	August Laraisonneuse -	Hon. James Macfarlane -	2 Oct. -	- - - ditto.
3	Felicité Dereusseau -	Hon. James Macfarlane -	14 - -	- - - ditto.
4	Adrien Avril - - -	Mongés Lousteau - - -	25 - -	- - - ditto.
5	Felicité Francisque -	M ^{me} C. Mallet Paret - -	6 Nov. -	- - - ditto.
6	Garçon Leféneant - -	M ^{lle} M. A. Desource - -	20 - -	- - - ditto.
7	Charles Pompé - - -	Veuve Langelier - - -	28 - -	- - - ditto.
8	Isaac Jacques - - -	Eusebe Valmont Lauriol -	7 Dec. -	- - - ditto.
9	Jean François - - -	Placide Dubois - - -	16 - -	£. 50 12 9 sterl.
10	Rosalie Reine - - -	Delles S. & A. Ansen L'Abbé	31 - -	- - - ditto.
11	Clarice Thomas - - -	T. M. T. Babonneau - -	14 Jan. 1835	- - - ditto.
12	Eutrope Thomas - - -	Augier Frères - - -	9 Feb. -	51 1 3 sterl.
13	Jean Baptiste Juin - -	Augier Frères - - -	9 - -	51 1 3 sterl.
14	Rosiette François - -	Placide Dubois - - -	17 - -	38 5 11 sterl.
15	Nancy dite Elizabeth -	R. Z. Decade - - -	6 Mar. -	23 18 8 ½ sterl.
16	Eliza Latendresse - -	Alexander Chaumont - -	8 - -	- - - ditto.
17	Nelly Latendresse - -	Alexander Chaumont - -	8 - -	- - - ditto.
18	Elvire Lavillante - - -	Alexander Chaumont - -	8 - -	- - - ditto.
19	Emilie L'Eveillé - - -	De Laubenque Frères and A. Chaumont	8 - -	- - - ditto.
20	Denise Latendresse - -	Alexander Chaumont - -	8 - -	- - - ditto.
21	Clementine Pluvier - -	V ^e St. Romain Laporte - -	21 - -	30 12 9 sterl.
22	Elizabeth Negresse - -	Elize Mosqueron - - -	4 April -	10 10 7 ½ sterl.
23	Olimpe Yonyonne - - -	André Girard - - -	13 - -	- - - ditto.
24	François Opportune - -	A. F. Giraud - - -	27 - -	- - - ditto.
25	Goodman Buller - - -	Veuve Grant - - -	5 May - -	- - - ditto.
26	Grand Jean - - -	Philip and Ruaud - - -	27 - -	42 2 6 ½ sterl.
27	Nezyle - - -	R. L. Ceron - - -	9 June -	29 2 1 ½ sterl.
28	Nique - - -	P. T. Burin Lacorbinière -	18 - -	24 14 - sterl.
29	Stephen Boucher - - -	William T. Evans - - -	9 July - -	- - - ditto.
30	Jean Baptiste Leclair -	Calixte St. Martin - - -	31 - -	- - - ditto.
31	Victoire Cool - - -	William Muter - - -	19 Dec. 1834	47 12 4 sterl.
32	Refine Lenteur and Child St. Clair.	A. F. B. Drivon - - -	24 Mar. 1835	14 5 1 sterl.
33	Joseph Lucille - - -	Augier Frères - - -	24 - -	45 5 6 sterl.
34	Barthelemy Dandin - -	Heirs Raymond Drouilhet -	25 April -	31 18 3 ½ sterl.
35	Marie Joseph Labonne -	Widow Eugene Pierre - -	16 May - -	21 13 2 sterl.
36	Modeste Ladouceur - -	Widow Lauriol de St. Croix	7 July - -	72 6 9 ½ sterl.
37	John Roberts - - -	John T. T. Alexander - -	7 - -	45 19 1 ½ sterl.
38	Hortense Vendredi - -	Augier Frères - - -	9 - -	29 2 1 ½ sterl.
38 Apprentices: Total Amount - - £.				660 4 4

Castries, St Lucia, }
14 August 1835. }

(signed) H. H. Bretn, Registrar.

(Circular.)

(No. 4.)

28 July 1834.

Sir,
ALTHOUGH I have personally given you my instructions, and dwelt on the various subjects which I considered of most importance in the execution of your responsible duties as stipendiary magistrate, I am of opinion that these instructions, committed to writing, will often prove useful, save trouble, and when you may be far removed from the seat of Government, without the opportunity of referring to me, or receiving an answer for a long time to any communication you may make, the following observations will, by referring to them, put you in possession of my wishes relative to your conduct in the carrying into effect this all-important measure of emancipation.

1st. I must request you will visit the estates in your district as often as is practicable; the Order in Council directs at least once a fortnight; but at the commencement of the working of the new system, in order to insure more speedy success, your appearance on the estates, constantly, must do good. For if you are required to interpose your magisterial authority, your presence is timely and must be of service; but if even there is no case to be brought before

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before you, your presence will be attended with good results. The planter may thus observe, that though he no longer is possessed of the authority he formerly had over the apprentices, still the individual to whom such authority is confided, is always ready to listen to his complaints; and the apprentice is moreover inspired with confidence that justice will be done him by a magistrate wholly disinterested, and who visits the estate to see that he is properly treated, and that the change in his condition is watched over.

2d. When visiting the estates, it is my particular wish that you should go amongst the negroes when at the field-work, or wherever they may chance to be employed; encourage them to work honestly for their master, address them kindly, and observe that your visit (should this be the case) is one of a friendly nature, not compulsory. Much good amongst a gang may be effected from such practice.

3d. In investigating a complaint made by any planter, overseer or manager, I shall require the most scrupulous examination and inquiry into all facts; and the complaint must be fully proved by at least two disinterested witnesses before you should award any punishment. I am of opinion also that an open investigation, I mean allowing any of the apprentices to be present during your proceedings, would be very desirable. They will thus be able to observe with what justice, patience and forbearance you act in your official capacity, and you will create a confidence in them, and afford them a convincing proof of the fairness by which you will decide on their faults. All which must be inserted in your journal to be transmitted to me quarterly.

4th. It may sometimes occur that the apprentices will also stand in the situation of complainants, and that they may have some grievance to represent to you. Should such be the case, I feel persuaded, and it is my most urgent desire, that you will fully and minutely enter into their grievances, real or imaginary, and without distinction of persons do justice to the negro. If you find he has cause for complaint, show him that you have awarded punishment against the offender. Should, however, his employer or master prove that he has no cause, explain how and why he is not entitled to redress.

5th. It may happen also that the negroes themselves will quarrel with each other, and have their differences; much good can be done by your interference, as they will no doubt look up to your decision, and have much respect for your person and judgment; and many contests, ill-will and uneasiness on an estate may be prevented by your timely interference and kindly advice.

6th. On the subject of punishment I cannot too strongly impress on your mind my great anxiety to avoid, if possible, having recourse to harsh punishment, above all things the degrading lash, which I fear has been too unsparingly used throughout the West Indies; mild treatment and the application of the most lenient modes of punishment I am convinced will do much with the negro. You will allow occasional forgiveness for slight offences, and exacting a promise of future amendment may very often obviate the necessity of punishment. There may be, of course, some refractory characters on estates, whose delinquency it will be necessary to punish for example sake; but even with those I would strongly recommend a trial by mild measures. You must not, you cannot expect, at the commencement of a measure so anxiously looked to, and for so long a time, by the negroes, and the laws for the better regulating of which they cannot yet understand, that they will work in the field at first as laboriously as they were by compulsion obliged to do; but I have strong hopes that by degrees the emancipated apprentice will be brought to a more enlightened view of his social condition, and that, by good counsel and mild treatment he will ultimately be inclined to perform his task-work more zealously, from a feeling of right, than he was before accustomed by compulsion, and prepossessed with a feeling of an opposite tendency. If punishment (corporal, I mean) is imperatively called for, then I should recommend its not being trifled with, though I would by no means inflict the quantity of stripes allowed by the Order in Council at first; but in the manner of administering corporal punishment great effect may be produced by appearance, and dread consequently felt by observers.

7th. It has been represented to me that the females, generally speaking, in this colony, are the most difficult to manage; they are certainly the most numerous of the two sexes, but I have not, in my visits through the island, observed more refractory subjects amongst the women than the men, though I have observed that they are treated exactly in the same manner as the harder sex; that the same quantity of work is expected from them, and it sometimes must happen that a woman's constitution, even of African descent, is not equal to a man's. I should therefore recommend to your particular notice, if any case is brought against a female for non-performance of that quantity of work her employer would expect and exact, to ascertain if this female's constitution would enable her to perform tantamount to man's labour. On no account whatever is a woman of any age to receive corporal punishment; and if a sense of shame could be instilled in the sex, and feelings, from the coarse ignorant state in which they have been inured to receive punishment, in conjunction with the men, be altered and substituted by wholesome advice, the placing them in the treadmill and stocks may seldom be resorted to; for I am convinced kind treatment will be appreciated by the ignorant negro, particularly the females.

8th. The foregoing clause brings me to remark on females of an advanced age, say about 60; or women pregnant; or mothers with infants; or girls of a tender age; they cannot and must not be expected to perform the work of others who are not similarly situated. The Order in Council only expects six hours' labour from females so circumstanced; and care should always be taken that a nurse is provided for the children of a tender age, and who naturally require the attention of its parent, who is, probably, compelled to work in the field.

9th. In the inspection I have made of the hospitals on the different estates, I am by no means satisfied with their arrangements or cleanliness; and a general want of comfort is obvious. I wish you would convince the planter or manager that it is his own interest the sick should be properly treated, as with proper care they will become sooner effective in his gang. And while on this subject, I must require your particular attention to the examination of the medical attendant's report, which, according to the Order in Council, should be inserted in a book in his visits once a fortnight; but this must not preclude the necessity for his attendance on every gang when called on in cases of emergency or danger.

10th. The next object I should call your attention to, is the comfort of the apprentice as to his hut and its furniture, his bed, &c. &c., and which is described by the Order in Council (*vide* 15, cap. 4). I must request that you will go into the negro huts, and see that His Majesty's instructions in this behalf are attended to. I regret to observe, that in my inspection on several estates, I have not found that attention paid to the comfort of the negro that the owner's interest would insure him a return for; the more the apprentice's comfort is consulted by the master the greater advantage will accrue to him, not only from the healthy state of his gang, but from their zealous exertion and labour to requite him for his care and attention to their wants.

11th. On the subject of clothing you cannot be too particular. The whole of the articles enumerated the apprentices must have delivered to them at the period determined by the Order in Council. And I request you will report to me, not only any failure in this obligation of the planter, but also, if the material provided is of an inferior quality, and not such as will prove serviceable to the apprentice for the period it is supposed to last (*vide* 12, cap. 4).

12th. Wherever garden-ground is allowed in lieu of the apprentice being provided with provision, you must inspect their gardens, and see that they are not too far from the negro buildings. As to the quantity of land allotted, I have reason to believe most of the planters give their apprentices as much as they wish for, without reference to that proportion stated by the Order in Council. Your only care will be that the distance is not too great, which would materially affect the apprentices in the time wasted in going and coming from those gardens. When food is distributed, I request you will constantly examine the salt-fish and manioc, to ascertain both its quality and quantity; and should they be not such as, in your judgment, the apprentice ought to receive, you will have them provided with better, and more abundantly.

13th. During one of my visits through the colony, I have already recommended the planters to nominate two or more (according to the strength of their gangs) of their best men to act as constables of the estate, whose duty will be to assist you on your visits. It will afford me much satisfaction to learn that these men selected from their comrades will prove serviceable. They should be instructed in their duty; should be made acquainted with the authority they will possess over their companions; and which, though not permitted to be carried to too great an excess, or to acts of tyranny, will distinguish the individuals as superiors on the estates.

14th. Although the climate will not permit much clothing to be worn, nor is it so habitual amongst the negroes, especially by the working labourer in the field, still I should much wish you would impress on their minds the actual necessity of some covering being used, particularly by the females, to prevent the exposure of their persons so indecently (though, perhaps, innocently) as they do. In some of the estates in the 3d district the women were mostly naked from the waist up. A handkerchief, or some slight covering, should be introduced, and a sense of decency ought to be instilled in their minds, which would soon expand; and I would augur the very greatest advantages from this circumstance towards their progress in civilization. I fear the word "shame" is very improperly known amongst them.

15th. Having thus observed on the actual clothing or covering the body that decency requires, I should strongly recommend that the planters would encourage a taste for better raiment, particularly on Sundays, or holidays, or when at their little amusements in the evening; a desire created for those luxuries of life will naturally lead to industry and labour to procure them; and those imaginary wants will be sought after with avidity; and to obtain which, I know of no more certain mode than to get the apprentices, both male and female, to work for wages in their own time.

16th. I consider that you cannot more beneficially employ half an hour of leisure on an estate than by recommending to the negroes a due attention to religion. They are not so ignorant, even in the most remote part of the colony, that they are not aware of a Supreme Being; and when I introduced the sacred name of the Almighty in one of my addresses to them, stating, that God made us all to assist each other, and that we should work in our respective classes of society for our bread, and not be idle, like beasts of the field, I clearly saw they felt the full force of my argument; and I am persuaded, when religious instruction and education are in the course of being conveyed to the negro, he will be found willing to receive both, which is the only means by which he can be fitted for that social being it is the intention of the Legislature, by emancipating him, that he should represent. Whenever, then, a chapel or church in the neighbourhood affords an opportunity for attending Divine worship on Sundays, the apprentice should be urged, in the most impressive manner, to attend.

17th. There is, also, a most useful lesson which, I think, might, with great good effect, be impressed on the minds of the negroes, which is, a respect for persons not only in authority, but also their superiors; they should be instructed to treat with respect their masters, and all that are put in authority over them. If the negroes are informed that in England the lower orders of people invariably pay homage to the middling class, and that class to the higher

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higher or gentry, and even those most humble respect to His Majesty and Royal Family, it will open their ideas, and expand their minds towards a knowledge for respect to persons which civilized society demands.

18th. There is a subject which I am very anxious you should give your attention to, either in questioning the negroes, or receiving their evidence, which is, to caution them against lying; you should most seriously urge on them the punishment they will hereafter meet with if they are addicted to false swearing; and you must always explain to the negro, before you administer an oath, what the nature of it is, and how severely he will be punished by yourself if he or she is found out in a lie, and how the Almighty will hereafter punish him or her for so heinous a crime. I would, for example sake (if I discovered a negro falsely swearing, after being admonished by you of his duty), punish him in presence of his comrades, and have him held to derision and scorn, as being an unworthy associate, for having committed a crime so horrible. The establishing amongst the gang a desire for truth will be of the greatest importance, and which I very much regret to learn is not, by any means, a prevalent trait in the negro character; but even the extent to which lying is carried, I am of opinion, proceeds from ignorance, and can and may be checked considerably, if not altogether removed.

19th. The police force which I shall form will be entirely under your authority. For the present, I shall select a certain number of militia-men, with a non-commissioned officer, to occupy each station that I have determined as a permanent police settlement; but those militia-men will not be armed, nor are they to assume the character or appearance of any military authority whatever; they are merely selected to act provisionally, and until I shall be enabled to organize that efficient and respectable police force which is so essentially necessary for the successful working of the new system. In your visits on the estates you should be accompanied by some of this constabulary force; their presence will stamp your own appearance with authority. I am desirous that the policemen should patrol from one station to another; that chain of constant communication will be useful; information of any outrage or misdemeanor will be more speedily conveyed to you. The appearance of a police constable constantly marching from one post to another will also be attended with good effects; there will be an apparent protection afforded the country; vagrants and ill-disposed persons will not have an opportunity of committing depredation without being liable to be discovered, and the inhabitants generally will then observe they are properly defended, and with satisfaction see those conservators of the peace are constantly on the alert, and affording protection to all His Majesty's peaceable subjects. An ordinance will be passed for the better regulating the rural police, and which will more fully detail their various duties; but I must, until that appears, impress on you the imperative necessity of reporting to me all acts of disobedience, irregularity or inebriety on the part of the police, that I may instantly dismiss any delinquent, and supply his place by a better subject, as I am fully determined to have this force respectable, which I consider the sure means of enabling me to have the laws administered efficaciously in the colony. For the present, I propose to merely arm the police with constables' staves, similar to those made use of by the London police. It is a badge of office which must be respected. It shall supply the place of the sword, which I have with much regret observed in constant use by the irregular policemen now scattered through the colony; and even this simple badge of office will prove to the negro it is by mild justice he is to be governed, and not by compulsion, goaded by the sword, too often incautiously and unjustly made use of.

20th. The apprentice who may be condemned by you to hard labour can be very usefully employed, either in the towns or villages, or on the road; they should be always under the superintendence of a policeman; who is, however, not to treat them with cruelty, though he can urge them; and it will be his duty to oblige them to perform the work they are sentenced to. The hours they will have to work must be more than those allotted to the labouring apprentices; and as they will be imprisoned during the night, and will lose the advantage of their own holiday and Sunday, I am convinced they will feel and suffer more from such punishment than from the degrading lash, which, as I before observed, will only be used on a hardened or old offender, and where the urgency of the case requires.

I shall only add, in conclusion, that I have every hope the duty which you will have to perform will be met by the most sedulous attention; and you should always bear in mind that much of the future prosperity of this island, and the successful working of the present all-important measure, will depend on your zeal, your judgment and prudence, as well as by the activity you will manifest throughout the district I have appointed you to.

I have, &c.

To the Stipendiary Magistrates.

(signed) *Dudley Hill*, Lieutenant-Governor.

— No. 461. —

No. 461.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Dudley Hill*, K.C.B., to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government Office, St. Lucia, 23 Nov. 1835.

ALTHOUGH a long period has elapsed since the receipt of a despatch from the Right honourable Mr. Spring Rice, in relation to the effects which free labour on the

For Circular Despatch, 30 April 1834, vide Papers

the

the apprenticeship of the negroes is likely to produce upon the pursuits of profitable industry in His Majesty's colonies, I never lost sight of so important an inquiry, and as I flatter myself that from my local experience I shall be able to afford some accurate information on this subject, I now do myself the honour of replying to the queries proposed in the despatch alluded to:—

relative to the Abolition of Slavery, 1833-35, part 2-1, p. 7.

Q. 1. "Whether labour is likely to be applied profitably to the production of any new articles of agriculture or manufacture?"

I do not consider it at all probable that any new article of agriculture or of manufacture is likely to be introduced, nor have I discovered, after many particular inquiries, that it has ever been contemplated by those persons most interested in the colony.

Q. 2. "Whether the production of the staple articles is likely to be affected?"

I have no hesitation in declaring that I am of opinion there will be no decrease in the staple articles of the island. The present articles of produce for exportation are chiefly sugar, coffee, cocoa and dye or logwood; and those raised for consumption consist of various description of provisions, most of them indigenous to the soil, and are always in such abundance as to enable the negroes to dispose of great quantities to the small crafts trading to and from the island. There is no doubt that as the planters and proprietors generally perceive the new measure to be working well, I think I may venture to say successfully, and so very different from what they had anticipated, they will be induced to augment their estates, as far as they may be able to do so, by procuring additional labour, and I am borne out in this opinion by the fact that two of the most opulent French planters, Mr. Augier and Mr. Minvielle, are making considerable purchases, and additions to their estates, which they certainly would not do if they had doubts of not deriving corresponding advantages therefrom.

Q. 3. "Whether capital is likely to be directed into new channels, or to be applied to the more extended production of articles at present known in the markets?"

I should beg to state that as yet I do not believe it to be the intention of the resident planters to apply their capital in the production of any other exportable article than that to which it is at present appropriated. A gentleman arrived here some short time ago for the purpose collecting sulphur in the quarter of Saupiere, where there are considerable quantities, and I learn that his undertaking is likely to prove successful, the first exportation of 80 tons being now about to be made.

Q. 4. "Whether there exists any, and what obstacles which impede this change or this extension of industry, and how such obstacles, if existing, may be removed?"

In offering a reply to this query, which appears to me to be the most important, as far as this colony is concerned, I should certainly say that I do consider there are obstacles which most forcibly affect the extension of industry. St. Lucia neither possesses pecuniary means nor population in any manner equal to its extent and internal resources. The unfortunate state in which I found the colony, with an overwhelming debt, and its finances at the lowest possible ebb, the revenue being quite unequal to meet the expenditure, consequently adding annually to its pecuniary embarrassments, and leaving the public functionaries frequently unpaid, stamped the island at once as unfavourable for a capitalist to embark his means in; indeed should he be even inclined to do so, the very limited population would render such a measure abortive. The whole of the working classes do not exceed 10,000, and I know of no estate which even possesses a full complement of labourers, and the planters are always anxious to employ aliens or any persons they can procure for the cultivation of the soil.

I would therefore respectfully submit that if emigration could be introduced into this colony, there is not one of His Majesty's possessions in the West Indies where persons who may be desirous of settling themselves could be more favourably provided for, whether as hired labourers on estates or in the working of land which would be allotted to them. There is perhaps not a twentieth part of the island in cultivation, and as the soil throughout is excellent and susceptible of labour of almost every description, great benefit would be derived by the colony, as well as the mother country, should the measure of emigration now recommended be carried into effect.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Dudley Hill,*
Lieutenant-Governor.

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— No. 462. —

No. 462. COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Dudley Hill*, K.C.B., to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government House, St. Lucia, 26 Dec. 1835.

For Circular
12 October 1835,
vide Papers relative
to the Abolition of
Slavery, 1836,
part 3, p. 5.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's circular of 12th October last, and beg to say that every attention shall be paid to the subject of its contents.

It may not be improper to remark to your Lordship, that from the strictest inquiries which I have caused to be instituted, it has not come to my knowledge that in any one instance has there been unfair dealing towards the inhabitants who have claims upon the Compensation Fund, nor have I reason to entertain the slightest apprehension that any advantage will be taken by those merchants who propose paying the compensation money in this country to the minor claimants.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Dudley Hill*.

— No. 463. —

No. 463. COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Dudley Hill*, K.C.B., to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

St. Lucia, 10 December 1835.

I WAS very lately informed that a practice existed in the second district of this island, of planters sending their apprentices to a neighbouring justice of the peace, who is also a planter, requesting that a particular punishment should be inflicted on them; and this abuse was carried so far, that planters even dictated to the justices of the peace the number of stripes the accused should receive. Being thoroughly convinced of the injustice the apprenticed labourers would suffer, either from the misrepresentation of the master or from the absence of complete testimony in support of the charges preferred before a single magistrate, I considered it my duty to reiterate the orders I had hitherto given on these important points of the Abolition Act; and by a circular addressed to the local magistracy I laid down the line of conduct it was my desire they should pursue. Your Lordship will observe that by the circular I addressed to the justices of the peace, a copy of which is enclosed, my principal motive was to prevent their individually directing punishments to be inflicted on the apprentices, and that such punishments as were not enumerated in the circular in future should be awarded only by a session of justices, at which a stipendiary magistrate is directed always to attend.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Dudley Hill*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Enclosure in No. 463.

(Circular.)

Sir,

Government House, Castries, 25 November 1835.

Enclosure in
No. 463.

IT having come to my knowledge very recently that some justices of the peace have so far exceeded their authority as to order corporal punishment to be inflicted on the apprenticed labourers for offences preferred against them by their masters, I have to express my regret, and at the same time my great astonishment, that such an assumption of power should be exercised in direct contradiction to the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, so long in operation.

I should have considered it quite unnecessary to call the attention of the local magistrates to the clearly explained laws on this subject, had not the late proceedings rendered it necessary; and I now refer them to clauses 17, 18 and 19 of the Act of Parliament Will. 4, copies of which are annexed, where they will observe is studiously withheld from the local magistracy any jurisdiction over the apprentices, such being solely vested in the special or stipendiary magistrates.

The ordinary duties of justices of the peace are fully explained in the local ordinance of 23 October 1834; and their strict adherence to these several duties, without any infringement on the Act of Parliament, I shall expect and must enforce. I have therefore to hope, that after

after this intimation no local authority will interfere with the jurisdiction of the stipendiary magistrate, as provided by the Royal Order in Council.

Enumeration is made of all the offences which could be committed by apprenticed labourers towards his, her or their employers, or any person in the immediate superintendence of their labour; that is to say, absence, desertion, running away, careless or negligent performance of work, careless use of fire-arms, injuring property, ill-using cattle, contumacious disobedience, conspiring to resist lawful commands, drunkenness, fighting, insolence or insubordination.

The 16th section of the same chapter declares that all the aforesaid offences shall be inquired of by the magistrate having a special commission, and not by any other justice of the peace.

Should any offences not enumerated in the above sections be committed by the apprenticed labourer, and brought under the cognizance of the local magistracy, such offences are to be tried before the weekly court held by the justices of the peace on Saturdays, being the day appointed for that purpose throughout the colony, according to the 9th clause of the local ordinance of 23d October 1834.

In thus addressing you, Sir, I request you will consider my motive as intended to prevent much future and aggravating evils. I am responsible to my Sovereign to see the intentions of the Legislature are carried into full effect, and I therefore hope and trust I shall receive the cordial co-operation of the local magistracy to accomplish this desirable object, which is so necessary to the welfare and tranquillity of the colony.

To —, Esq., Justice of the Peace.

I have &c.
(signed) *Dudley Hill.*

Clauses 17, 18 and 19 referred to in the above Circular.

17. Provided also and be it further enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any such Governor, Council and Assembly or other colonial legislature, or for His Majesty in Council by any such Act, Ordinance or Order in Council 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 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, Ordinance or Order in Council 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 exempt any apprenticed labourer in any of the said colonies 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.

18. Provided also, and be it further 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 General Assembly, Ordinances or Orders in Council 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, Ordinances and Orders in Council to the contrary contained shall be and is hereby declared to be null and void and of no effect.

19. And it is hereby further declared and enacted, that the several justices of the peace having 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 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 any of the said respective colonies.

ST. LUCIA.

— No. 464. —

No. 464.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-Governor
Sir *Dudley Hill*, K. C. B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 1 February 1836.

I HAVE received your despatch, dated the 10th of December, enclosing a copy of the circular instructions of the 25th of November, which you addressed to the justices of the peace of St. Lucia.

You state yourself to have been very lately informed "that a practice existed in the second district of the island, of planters sending their apprentices to a neighbouring justice of peace (being also a planter) requesting that a particular punishment should be inflicted on them;" you add, that this abuse was carried so far that planters even dictated to the justices of the peace the number of stripes the accused should receive. To prevent the recurrence of this abuse, you issued your circular letter, expressing, in terms of which I fully approve, your regret and astonishment that such an assumption of power should have been made in direct contradiction to the Slavery Abolition Act. I am not quite certain that I have rightly apprehended the meaning of the last clause but one of these instructions. It seems capable of being read in such a sense, as to favour the supposition that a magistrate, though not invested with the special commission, may take cognizance at these sessions of offences committed by the apprenticed labourers in the relation borne by them to their employers, if such offences do not fall within the terms of the specific enumeration contained in one of the preceding clauses of the circular. Of course this cannot have been your real intention, because the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery has, in language the most comprehensive and precise, forbidden the creation either by Orders in Council or by local ordinances, of any jurisdiction except that of the special magistracy, in case of "offences committed or alleged to have been committed by an apprenticed labourer, or by his or her employer, in such their relation to each other, or of any question, matter or thing, incident to or arising out of the relation subsisting between them."

To prevent any possibility of mistake on a subject of so much importance, you will issue a further circular, explanatory of the first, and forbidding the interference of the magistrates not having special commissions, not merely in the cases which you have enumerated, and when acting apart from each other, but in all cases to which the 18th section of the Act of Parliament applies, and whether such justice be acting separately or in conjunction with other justices at the sessions.

As you do not report that you adopted any measures to obtain redress for the apprentices who had been illegally punished, or to censure any of the magistrates by whom acts so evidently illegal had been done, I conclude that you had sufficient motives for abstaining from that exercise of your authority. It would be satisfactory to me to know what those motives may have been.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 465. —

No. 465.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Dudley Hill*, K. C. B.,
to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government Office, St. Lucia, 28 Dec. 1835.

ON the 25th ultimo I felt it my duty to address a circular letter to the local magistrates of this colony, respecting the infliction of corporal punishment on the apprenticed labourers, wherein I endeavoured to define, as clearly as possible, the duties I considered they were called upon to perform, as well as the powers with which they were invested; and also informed them that such punishment should only be inflicted by a session of justices, at which a stipendiary magistrate was always to attend; and although I have already had the honour of forwarding a copy of the circular in question to your Lordship, I am induced from particular circumstances again to revert to the subject as one of paramount interest to the welfare of a large portion of His Majesty's subjects under my government.

The justices of the peace consider themselves aggrieved by the circular referred to,

to, and are of opinion that they have, individually, a right to punish the apprentices for crimes not enumerated in the Abolition Act, and have sent me a reply, more in the shape of a remonstrance, and couched in terms not very courteous, in which they deny having infringed on the law, and maintain their right of acting and awarding punishment at pleasure, without the assistance or interference of a stipendiary magistrate or other justice of the peace, on what I presume will not appear to be very satisfactory grounds.

My attention was first drawn to the subject, from a report having been made to me that two occurrences of the kind had actually taken place in the second district; when, having directed strict inquiries to be instituted on the subject, the facts were not denied by the magistrates who had ordered the punishments, and who persisted in declaring that they were fully justified in doing so.

When it is considered that an apprentice, if found eating a piece of sugar-cane (of which the negroes generally are very fond), is liable to be taken before a justice of the peace, who happens to be a neighbouring planter, and on the mere *ipse dixit* of another apprentice, who might probably be selected for that purpose, and induced through dread of punishment to declare that the cane had been stolen, can be sentenced to receive as much as 35 lashes, without further reference, I feel persuaded that your Lordship will admit that such an assumption of authority was never for a moment contemplated; besides, it would be impossible that the returns directed to be forwarded for the purpose of being laid before the House of Commons, could ever show the correct number of punishments inflicted if the local magistrates possessed the power of thus acting with impunity.

No injury could accrue to an estate by waiting either for the periodical visit of the stipendiary magistrate (or, should the matter require immediate investigation, sending the accused party before him,) or the day appointed to hold the weekly session; and I feel the more anxious to establish the practice of bringing all offenders before a bench of magistrates, at which a stipendiary should attend, from the conviction that such a proceeding would be most beneficial in its effects, and would not only strike a greater degree of awe on the mind of the accused, but also ensure a more fair and impartial administration of justice.

I have, in my reply to the justices of the peace, informed them that I proposed forwarding the particulars of this correspondence to your Lordship, and that I should not fail to intimate to them your Lordship's construction of the law, and the difference that might exist between their opinion and mine.

I do myself the honour of transmitting herewith certain documents containing the particulars of the two cases which I considered to have called for my interference, and shall anxiously await your Lordship's instructions for my future guidance.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Dudley Hill*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Enclosure 1, in No. 465.

Sir,

Government Office, Castries, 9 November 1835.

A REPORT, having come to the knowledge of his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, (which he cannot a moment entertain as true), that corporal punishments take place in your district without your orders, I am directed to request you will make a very minute inquiry whether a practice so contrary to law is in existence.

Every justice of the peace must be aware that he has no power whatever over the apprenticed labourers, who are solely under the protection of the special magistrates; and his Excellency would very much regret, if they so far exceeded their duty as magistrates, as to order punishment to be inflicted on any apprentice, or otherwise usurp authority with which the special magistrates are alone entrusted.

Capt. W. H. Brownson, S. S. Magistrate,
2d District.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Wm. Hanley*,
Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 2, in No. 465.

Sir,

Government Office, Castries, 16 November 1835.

I CANNOT fully express to you my surprise and astonishment, added to my great regret, to learn that in the early part of this month three negroes, at Degatiere's estate, were punished 166.—II.

Enclosure 1,
in No. 465.

Enclosure 2,
in No. 465.

ST. LUCIA.

punished with 25 stripes each; and also that some sugar-canes were tied round their necks, and they were marched home, with these appendages, by order of Mr. Devaux St. Philip.

I have been likewise informed that, very lately, some apprentices have also received corporal punishment on Mr. De Laubenque's estate; these are circumstances that could not have occurred without your knowledge, as in your regular visits to the different estates, if you inquired, as it is your duty to do, whether the apprentices had any cause to complain, they would be ever ready to state their grievances where they expected protection and redress.

It is most painful to my feelings to think that so gross a violation of the Abolition Act should have occurred in the vicinity of the station of a stipendiary magistrate, nominated by His Majesty's Government to have that Act properly put into execution, and to see justice done the negroes.

I have now to desire you will instantly proceed to the estate of Messrs. De Laubenque & Devaux St. Philip; make the most minute inquiry into the cause hereinmentioned, and should the information I have received prove correct, explain to the apprentices who have been punished the 14th clause of the 6th chapter of the Abolition Act, and should they prefer that method of receiving satisfaction, acquaint me with the same; in the event of their not selecting this mode, then you have my directions to put the law into execution, as explained in the 13th clause of the Abolition Act referred to. You will be pleased to be both circumspect and particular in your proceedings, and in the information you will transmit me in this affair, as I may probably consider it my duty to lay the whole transaction before the Right honourable the Secretary of State.

Capt. W. H. Brownson, S. S. Magistrates,
2d District.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Dudley Hill*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Enclosure 3, in No. 465.

Enclosure 3,
in No. 465.

Sir,

Soufriere, 19 November 1835.

I HAVE the honour to forward the enclosed letter, subscribed by several magistrates of this district; from its tenor, your Excellency will perceive the magistrates of the Soufriere district conceive they have followed the laws in inflicting punishments on the apprenticed labourers. I have to observe, that the gentlemen acting as local magistrates hold themselves beyond my control, and they further state that my authority does not extend to their proceedings; under these circumstances I have deemed it expedient to take your Excellency's opinion on the course I am to pursue, and that you will be pleased to state my line of conduct. I beg to state to your Excellency that I have, since my appointment as special magistrate, endeavoured to carry on the duties of the situation according to the Orders in Council; and although the magistrates have punished several of the apprenticed labourers, yet in no instance have they punished any apprenticed labourer belonging to their own estates; they still maintain they are justified in the course they have pursued, and that had I been present my authority would not have prevented the execution of their orders.

According to your Excellency's directions I repaired to the Degatiere estate, and subsequently to the Park Plantation. The number of apprenticed labourers punished was two, and not three, as stated; one of whom received 20 stripes and the other 25; the latter only (an old offender) had the canes tied round his neck.

The punishment alluded to as inflicted in Soufriere, was not by order of Mr. De Laubenque, but by that of Mr. Tisnes, whose conviction and sentence I have the honour to enclose.

I have the honour to state to your Excellency that my official duties will bring me in Castries on Saturday next, when I shall be happy to make your Excellency acquainted with any circumstances within my knowledge.

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

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Brownson*,
Special Justice, 2d District.

Enclosure 4, in No. 465.

Enclosure 4,
in No. 465.

Sir,

Soufriere, 17 November 1835.

WE, the undersigned justices of the peace in the second district, have perused with inexpressible astonishment the colonial secretary's letter of the 10th instant, addressed to you, and by you communicated to us for information on the subject.

The first paragraph of that letter states that a report has come to the knowledge of the Lieutenant-governor (which he cannot for a moment entertain as true), that corporal punishments take place in your district without your orders; and in the second it is stated, that every justice of the peace must be aware that he has no power whatever over the apprenticed labourers, who are solely under the protection of the special magistrates; adding, that his Excellency would very much regret if they so far exceeded their duty as magistrates as to order punishment to be inflicted on any apprenticed labourers, or otherwise usurp authority with which the special magistrates are alone entrusted.

As regards the first paragraph of the colonial secretary's letter, we beg leave to assure you, that such punishments as therein mentioned have taken place by our orders, and we are really surprised that a doubt could be entertained of the justices of the peace having performed the duty which devolved on them by an ordinance enacted by his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor and Legislative Council of St. Lucia on the 23d day of October 1834.

As to the second paragraph of the said official letter, it is, in our opinion, of so uncourteous a nature as puts it out of our power to enter into any detail on the subject thereof. We can, however, assure you, that we have in no instance usurped authority with which the special magistrates alone are entrusted; we have, in all cases in which apprenticed labourers have appeared before us, either as complainants or defendants, considered them as free subjects of His Majesty.

We have, &c.

(signed) *Ch. Guillard De Laubenque, J. P.*
John Goodman, J. P.
M. J. P. Alexander, J. P.
F. Tisnes, J. P.
D. St. Philipe, Juge de Paix.

Captain Brownson, Special Magistrate,
 2d District.

Enclosure 5, in No. 465.

Sir,

Soufriere, 11 November 1835.

I SEND you by the constable Joseph the apprentice Michel, for having stolen canes, and beg you will have no consideration for him; he deserves as many stripes as it is possible to inflict on him; he does not care anything about blows, nor for hard labour; he is a decided thief. It is Michel of Mr. Zenon, now an apprentice, and known from all time for a thief. I trust myself in your justice and authority.

Enclosure 5,
 in No. 465.

F. Tisnes, Esq., Justice of the Peace,
 2d District.

I remain, &c.
 (signed) *Cleo Pupin.*

I, the undersigned justice of the peace, on the complaint laid before me by Mr. Cleo Pupin against his apprentice Michel, accused of having stolen canes, the constable Joseph and accused having been heard, have condemned the said Michel to receive 25 stripes, and 10 days' hard labour.

And do hereby order the constable Jean Galfat to have the above sentence put into execution.

Soufriere, 11 Nov. 1835.

(signed) *F. Tisnes,*
 Justice of the Peace.

Enclosure 6, in No. 465.

Sir,

Government Office, Castries, 26 November 1835.

It being reported to the Lieutenant-governor that an application has been made to you, in your capacity of a justice of the peace, by Mr. Pupin, for the punishment of an apprenticed labourer on his estate, his Excellency directs me to express his unfeigned regret at learning that you have so far exceeded the authority vested in you, as to have acceded to an application of such a nature. As one of the local magistracy of this colony, you have no right whatever to interfere with the duties of the special magistrates, who have been sent from England by His Majesty's Government to have the sole jurisdiction over the apprentice population, and to whom the owners of estates are to apply in the event of having any complaint against their apprentices.

Enclosure 6,
 in No. 465.

His Excellency has felt it his duty to address a circular letter to the local magistracy of this colony on this subject, which he directs me to refer you to for your future guidance.

F. Tisnes, Esq., Justice of the Peace.

I have, &c.
 (signed) *W. Hanley, Col. Sec.*

Enclosure 7, in No. 465.

Sir,

Soufriere, 3 December 1835.

I HAVE received your letter of the 26th November, by which you inform me that his Excellency directs you to express to me his regret at learning, from a report made to him, that I have so far exceeded the authority vested in me as to have acceded to an application made to me in my capacity as justice of the peace, by Mr. Pupin, for the punishment of an apprenticed labourer on his estate; and as a local magistrate of this colony, you add, that I have no right whatever to interfere with the duties of the special magistrates, who have been sent from England by His Majesty's Government to have the sole jurisdiction over the apprentice population, and to whom the owners of estates are to apply in the event of having any complaint against their apprentices.

Enclosure 7,
 in No. 465.

ST. LUCIA.

His Excellency will permit me to explain the motives of my conduct.

I am aware that the special magistrates have sole jurisdiction over that portion of the population (at present all free) known under the denomination of apprenticed labourers; but that jurisdiction is circumscribed and defined by the Royal Order in Council of 5th June 1834, by which the said jurisdiction is confined to offences committed, or non-performance of duty on the part of the one or the other, between the employer and his apprenticed labourers, in such their relative position to each other.

But nothing in the said Order in Council extends to exempt either the employer or apprenticed labourers from their liability to the common laws of the country to which all other persons of free condition are subject and liable.

Therefore, before what magistrate could they be prosecuted for offences committed against the general laws, if it is not before the justices of the peace, for petty assaults and misdemeanors; and before the judge of police, or Royal Court, for offences of a graver nature? Such appears to me to be provided for by the local ordinance of 23d October 1834.

In the case alluded to in your letter, it would appear, at first sight, to be one between an employer and his apprentice, which is really the case, but not in such their relative position to each other, the offence not being one of those enumerated by the Order in Council for which alone the special magistrates have authority to inflict corporal punishment.

If I had refused to take cognizance of Mr. Pupin's complaint, he, by virtue of the 11th section of the local ordinance above mentioned, could have prosecuted me for damages before the Royal Court.

I therefore not only feel confident that I have in no way exceeded the authority in me vested, or interfered with the duty of the special magistrates in the exercise of their authority, but also that I could not have avoided receiving the complaint alluded to without exposing myself to be prosecuted for non-performance of my duty as justice of the peace.

Moreover, Sir, it is well known that the special magistrates in the second district, in the exercise of their duty, previous to the establishment of the office of justice of the peace, and previous to his Excellency having appointed them to that office, invariably refused to take cognizance of complaints preferred against apprenticed labourers for theft, although, in many cases, the complainant chanced to be the employer of the offender.

I have the honour to inform you, Sir, that the circular of his Excellency to the local magistrates of this colony, to which you refer me by your letter, for my future guidance, has not yet been handed to me; but this circular could only explain the local ordinance, and the Order in Council of His Majesty, and will furnish me new proofs that I have done my duty as a justice of the peace

I have, &c.
(signed) *F Tisnes*,
Justice of the Peace.

Honourable William Hanley,
Colonial Secretary.

P. S.—I have received this moment the Gazette of the 2d instant, to which the circular of his Excellency the Governor of the 25th November last was added. I see with pleasure that my anticipation contained in the last paragraph of my letter answer my expectations; the 17th section of the Act of Parliament to which the circular refers me, quotes:

“ Provided always, that nothing in this Act contained, doth or shall extend to exempt any apprenticed labourer in any of the said colonies 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.”

As justice of the peace, I would have punished any other person of free condition accused of theft, the matter being satisfactorily proved; I have awarded the same punishment to an apprentice, therefore I have only discharged my duty.

(signed) *F. T.*

— No. 466. —

No. 466.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Dudley Hill*, K. C. B.,
to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government Office, St. Lucia, 12 January 1836.

NOTWITHSTANDING my circular letter, addressed to the justices of the peace of this colony, on the subject of interfering with the apprenticed labourers, and my strict injunction that they should not individually order punishment to be inflicted on them, as that power alone belonged to the stipendiary magistrates, and notwithstanding my reply to the letter they addressed to me, in which I stated that I would refer the whole correspondence to your Lordship, as the view they took of their powers was entirely at variance with mine, I have just received a report from the special magistrate of the second district that a Mr. Goodman, one of the justices of the peace, with more presumption than prudence, and in direct opposition to my orders, has thought proper to pronounce a summary sentence on an apprenticed labourer,

labourer, and the punishment of 15 stripes to be inflicted on him by one of the rural police.

This act of open defiance and opposition to my authority, so shortly after publishing the circular letter referred to, makes it imperative on me to adopt rigid measures; and having called on Mr. Goodman to account for his conduct, and to send me a detailed statement of the circumstances, should it appear that the report is correct, I shall consider it my duty either to suspend this gentleman from his office, or erase his name altogether from the local magistracy of the colony, and I trust that your Lordship will approve of the proceeding.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Dudley Hill*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

ST. LUCIA.

— No. 467. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *Dudley Hill*, K. C. B.,
to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 467.

My Lord, Government Office, St. Lucia, 20 January 1836.

IN my despatch of the 12th instant I made your Lordship acquainted with the unwarrantable conduct of a Mr. Goodman, who, in his capacity of justice of the peace, ordered an apprenticed labourer to be publicly whipped in the market-place in the town of Soufriere, although two special magistrates were then residing on the spot.

Having minutely inquired into the circumstances connected with this case, I can come to no other conclusion than that this illegal punishment was committed in direct opposition to my authority, and with a view to impress on the minds of the negroes that the power of punishing them was still vested in the local magistracy.

Your Lordship will observe, by Mr. Goodman's letter, that he states he punished the apprentice in question on his own voluntary confession of his guilt, but by the report of the special magistrate the theft was positively denied by the prisoner.

I do not consider it necessary to encroach on your Lordship's time by further enlarging on this subject, but it may be observed that Mr. Goodman is not borne out by the authority of the ordinance; the 8th clause alluded to by him only gives power to the local magistrates in cases of police, and the preceding clause fully explains what those offences are.

I do myself the honour to forward copies of letters from Mr. Goodman and the stipendiary magistrate of the district, and to acquaint your Lordship that I have thought it expedient to suspend Mr. Goodman from his functions of justice of the peace until I receive your Lordship's instructions, and I trust that my proceedings will meet your Lordship's approbation.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Dudley Hill*,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Enclosure 1, in No. 467.

Sir, Soufriere, 7 January 1836.
I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency, that an official report was made me by the serjeant of police attached to this district, that a summary conviction of an apprenticed labourer before a single magistrate (Mr. Goodman), for the crime of cane-stealing, took place yesterday, which was followed by the punishment of 15 lashes.

Enclosure 1,
in No. 467.

The Honourable William Hanley.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William John*,
S. S. Magistrate, 2d District.

ST. LUCIA.

Enclosure 2, in No. 467.

Enclosure 2,
in No. 467.

Sir,
HAVING received your letter of the 11th instant, in reply to mine of the 9th, I now consider myself authorized to reply to your former letter of the 8th instant. I therefore beg leave to inform you, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, that the case therein alluded to was a matter of police, the particulars of which are as follow:—

A bundle of sugar-canes having been stolen by Felix Faidée, and the same found in his possession by me on the night of the 5th instant, whilst he was in the act of taking them to his residence in this town, he was on the following day put on his trial for the offence, when he voluntarily confessed having stolen the said sugar canes from Anse Mamin estate, the property of the Baron D'Yooley. I therefore, in virtue of the local ordinance of 23d October 1834, clause 8, adjudged the said Felix Faidée to 15 stripes, which punishment, in virtue of the local ordinance dated 1st December 1834, clauses 6 & 7, I ordered the policeman René to see and have inflicted.

Honourable William Hanley,
Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
(signed) *John Goodman*,
Justice of the Peace.

Enclosure 3, in No. 467.

Enclosure 3,
in No. 467.

Sir,
I AM directed by his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor to acquaint you, with reference to your report of the 17th instant, that he has directed Mr. J. Goodman to be suspended from exercising the functions of a justice of the peace in this colony.

As his Excellency considers it his duty to represent to the Right honourable the Secretary of State this manifest opposition to his circular letter lately addressed to the local magistrates, he requests you will make a most minute inquiry into this affair, and transmit a circumstantial report thereof for his information.

In making this inquiry, you will ascertain the following particulars:—

Name of the apprentice and master.

Quantity of sugar-cane found in his possession.

Where seen by Mr. Goodman.

The particulars of the examination, and where it took place.

Whether immediately sent to prison.

The evidence produced or required.

When and where the punishment was inflicted.

By whom inflicted and under whose directions, and the orders for so doing.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Hanley*,
Colonial Secretary.

William John, Esq., S. Magistrate.

Enclosure 4, in No. 467.

Enclosure 4,
in No. 467.

Sir,
IN reply to your letter of yesterday's date, I have the honour to request you will represent to his Excellency the following result of my inquiries respecting the punishment of the apprenticed labourer Felix, of the property of M. Regis Eustache, residing at this place.

The town constable, having received directions from Mr. Goodman, arrested the apprentice at 6 o'clock on the morning of the 6th ultimo, and conveyed him immediately before that gentleman at the room usually used by the justices of the peace, over the prison, for the purpose of holding their weekly session.

The prisoner was charged with having been met by Mr. Goodman himself the preceding evening, in the street of Soufriere, with a bundle of canes, five in number, on his head; and having given an unsatisfactory account of the manner in which they came into his possession, they were taken from him by Mr. Goodman, who dismissed him for the night, with an intimation that he should inquire further into the matter the following morning. The prisoner, on being arraigned, denied the charge of having stolen the canes, alleging they had been given him by a man whose name he either did not know or refused to disclose; and after undergoing an examination by Mr. Goodman, the particulars of which I could not learn with sufficient exactness to enable me to report for his Excellency's information, he was adjudged to receive 15 stripes, and to be dismissed. At the moment, as he alleges, whilst sentence was passing, René de Bernard, one of the rural police, entered the room, and was ordered by Mr. Goodman to attend the infliction of the punishment, which took place in the market-place, one of the penal gang having been selected for that purpose. His Excellency will observe that the evidence on which this apprentice was condemned was entirely presumptive, formed on the circumstance of his being unable or unwilling to disclose the name of the person by whom the canes had been given him; at the same time I think it my duty to observe, that the crime of cutting and stealing canes is one of the principal subjects of complaint brought before me, and which as yet I have been unable to repress, owing to the difficulty of discovering the perpetrators.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William John*.