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**P A P E R S**

PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT, BY

HER MAJESTY'S COMMAND,

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

FOR GIVING EFFECT TO THE ACT

FOR THE

**ABOLITION OF SLAVERY**

THROUGHOUT THE BRITISH COLONIES.

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**PART IV.**

**(1.)**

*(In Continuation of the Papers presented in 1835 and 1836, Nos. 177, 278 of 1835,  
and 166.—I. & II. of 1836.)*

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**JAMAICA.  
BARBADOS.—BRITISH GUIANA.**

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**1837.**

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
14 July 1837.*

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## SCHEDULE.

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- No. 648.—Copy of a Despatch from Lord Glenelg to Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., dated Downing-street, 29 October 1836 - - - - - p. 473
- No. 649.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 22 December 1836 - - - - - p. 473
- No. 650.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 13 February 1837; (with Enclosure) - - - - - p. 474
- No. 651.—Copy of a Despatch from Lord Glenelg to Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., dated Downing-street, 13 April 1837 - - - - - p. 474
- No. 652.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 1 September 1836 - - - - - p. 475
- No. 653.—Copy of a Despatch from Lord Glenelg to Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., dated Downing-street, 8 November 1836 - - - - - p. 475
- No. 654.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 17 September 1836; (with Enclosure) - - - - - p. 475
- No. 655.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 29 September 1836; (with two Enclosures) - - - - - p. 488
- No. 656.—Copy of a Despatch from Lord Glenelg to Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., dated Downing-street, 27 November 1836 - - - - - p. 489
- No. 657.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 24 October 1836; (with Enclosure) - - - - - p. 489
- No. 658.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 6 November 1836; (with ten Enclosures) - - - - - p. 502
- No. 659.—Copy of a Despatch from Lord Glenelg to Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., dated Downing-street, 31 January 1837 - - - - - p. 504
- No. 660.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 9 November 1836; (with Enclosure) - - - - - p. 504
- No. 661.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 14 December 1836; (with Enclosure) - - - - - p. 517
- No. 662.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 11 January 1837; (with Enclosure) - - - - - p. 530
- No. 663.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 11 January 1837; (with Enclosure) - - - - - p. 543
- No. 664.—Copy of a Despatch from Lord Glenelg to Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., dated Downing-street, 27 February 1837 - - - - - p. 543
- No. 665.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 18 January 1837; (with Enclosure) - - - - - p. 543
- No. 666.—Copy of a Despatch from Lord Glenelg to Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., dated Downing-street, 30 March 1837 - - - - - p. 544
- No. 667.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 5 June 1837 - - - - - p. 545
- No. 668.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 8 February 1837; (with eleven Enclosures) - - - - - p. 545
- No. 669.—Copy of a Despatch from Lord Glenelg to Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., dated Downing-street, 12 April 1837 - - - - - p. 550
- No. 670.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 17 February 1837; (with Enclosure) - - - - - p. 550
- No. 671.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 18 February 1837; (with two Enclosures) - - - - - p. 563
- No. 672.—Copy of a Despatch from Lord Glenelg to Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., dated Downing-street, 13 April 1837 - - - - - p. 564



SCHEDULE—continued.

No. 673.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 26 March 1837; (with Enclosure)	- - -	p. 564
No. 674.—Copy of a Despatch from Lord Glenelg to Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., dated Downing-street, 25 May 1837	- - -	p. 565
No. 675.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 1 April 1837; (with Enclosure)	- - -	p. 565
No. 676.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 19 April 1837; (with Enclosure)	- - -	p. 578
No. 677.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 23 April 1837; (with ten Enclosures)	- - -	p. 579
No. 678.—Copy of a Despatch from Lord Glenelg to Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., dated Downing-street, 30 June 1837	- - -	p. 581
No. 679.—Copy of a Despatch from Lord Glenelg to Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., dated Downing-street, 10 March 1837	- - -	p. 581
No. 680.—Copy of a Despatch from Lord Glenelg to Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., dated Downing-street, 17 March 1837	- - -	p. 581
No. 681.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 12 May 1837	- - -	p. 582
No. 682.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 17 June 1837; (with Enclosure)	- - -	p. 582
No. 683.—Copy of a Despatch from Lord Glenelg to Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., dated Downing-street, 20 July 1837	- - -	p. 583
No. 684.—Copy of a Despatch from Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord Glenelg, dated Camp House, Demerara, 13 May 1837; (with three Enclosures)	- - -	p. 583
No. 685.—Copy of a Despatch from Lord Glenelg to Governor Sir J. C. Smyth, Bart., K. C. B., dated Downing-street, 28 June 1837	- - -	p. 585

TABLE (B.)

Return of Punishments from 1 June 1836 to 31 May 1837	- - -	p. 585
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## P A P E R S

RELATING TO THE

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

SCHEDULE of INSTRUCTIONS addressed by Lord *Glenelg* to the Officers administering the Governments in Her Majesty's Possessions in the West Indies, &c.

(R.)

COPY of a CIRCULAR DESPATCH addressed by Lord *Glenelg* to the Governors of the West India Colonies, &c.

Sir,

Downing-street, 15 July 1836.

Despatch  
(R.)

In addition to the monthly reports of crimes and punishments comprised in Tables (A.) and (B.), it has been the practice of late in Jamaica and in British Guiana to transmit from time to time general reports from the special magistrates on the state of their districts. These reports have supplied me with much valuable information, and enabled me to form a more just and comprehensive estimate of the working of the apprenticeship system, and of the actual condition of the apprenticed population, than mere tabular statements can convey. *Wishing, therefore, to be furnished with similar information respecting the other colonies in which this important experiment is in progress, I have the honour to subjoin a set of questions to be submitted to the special magistrates. You will have the goodness to add to them any others which your experience may suggest as important, and to transmit a copy of them to each of the special magistrates under your government, requesting him to furnish you with a report upon them at the end of every month. You will then send the whole to me, accompanied with any observations of your own which you may think fit to make.*

1. What has been the general conduct of the apprentices in your district since your last report?
2. Is there any want of good feeling between them and their employers; and, if so, to what cause do you attribute it?
3. Do they perform their work willingly; and, if not, to what do you ascribe it?
4. What are the working hours generally in use in your district? Are any, and what, intervals of relaxation allowed to the apprentices during the working hours?
5. Is task-work generally resorted to in your district? If not, does the objection lie with the masters or the apprentices?
6. Is it usual for the apprentices to work in their own time for money wages? If so, what is the ordinary rate of wages; and how are they paid? If not, have they been offered?
7. Are any indulgences withheld, which it was usual during slavery for the estate to supply?
8. What is the condition of the free children; and how are they supported?
9. What facilities does your district supply for education and religious instruction? Is the attendance at church and in the schools equal to the accommodation?
10. Is there a general desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge? How many discharges have been effected since your last report?

Despatch  
(R.)

11. To what kinds of employment do those who have obtained their discharge usually betake themselves ?

12. What are the prospects of the ensuing crop ; and what the general state of cultivation ? Has the season been favourable, or otherwise ?

13. Have you any suggestions to make, or any practical measure to recommend ?

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

(S.)

COPY of a CIRCULAR DESPATCH addressed by Lord *Glenelg* to the Governors of the West India Colonies, &c.

Sir,

Downing-street, 4 November 1836.

HIS Majesty's Government being desirous of discountenancing any impression which might possibly exist in the colonies which come under the operation of the Slavery Abolition Act, that the stipendiary magistrates appointed under that Act are to be indemnified at the public expense for the costs attending any actions at law in which they might be involved, arising from their conduct as special magistrates, I have to apprise you, that under no circumstances is any such indemnification to be granted without express previous authority from His Majesty's Government.

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

(T.)

COPY of a CIRCULAR DESPATCH addressed by Lord *Glenelg* to the Governors of the West India Colonies, &c.

Downing-street, 23 February 1837.

I HAVE the honour to introduce to you the bearer of this despatch, Mr. C. J. Latrobe, who has been appointed to inspect the schools\* in the West Indies, in pursuance of the arrangements for carrying into effect the intentions of Parliament in respect of the appropriation of the grants voted in 1835 and 1836 for negro education, as explained to you in my circular despatch of the 16th of November 1835.

I have to request that you will afford Mr. Latrobe every facility and assistance in your power ; and that you will furnish him with such local information as may be necessary for the due fulfilment of the duties with which he is charged.

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

Enclosure in (T.)

COPY of the INSTRUCTIONS addressed to the INSPECTOR appointed to visit the Schools in the *West Indies*, which have received a Share of the Parliamentary Grants of 1835 and 1836 for Negro Education.

COPY of a LETTER from Sir *George Grey* to *C. J. Latrobe*, Esq.

Sir,

Downing-street, 23 February 1837.

I AM directed by Lord *Glenelg* to inform you that, in connexion with the arrangements for carrying into effect the intentions of Parliament in respect to the appropriation of the grants voted in 1835 and 1836 for negro education, his Lordship is desirous of availing himself of your services, for the immediate inspection of all the schools in the West India Colonies, on account of which any share of the Parliamentary grants for negro education has been applied.

With reference to this object, I am to transmit to you the enclosed printed copy of a correspondence on the subject of the appropriation of these grants, together with a Schedule, containing a list of all the schools in the West Indies which have received any assistance from the Parliamentary funds, whether towards the expense of the buildings or the maintenance of schoolmasters.

It

ordered to be printed  
The House of Com-  
mons, 7 Aug. 1835,  
p. 481, p. 6 & 7.

ordered to be printed  
The House of Com-  
mons, 27 April 1836,  
p. 211.

It is Lord Glenelg's wish that you should proceed by an early opportunity to the West Indies, in order to make one complete tour of inspection of these schools. The object of such inspection will be, to enable you to report to the Secretary of State upon the condition and efficiency of each school. Your report will communicate such particulars respecting the site and dimensions of the school-houses, the number and attendance of the scholars, the time during which the school is open for instruction, and the superintendence under which it is placed, as will satisfy His Majesty's Government as to the due application of the money advanced for this purpose.

Enclosure in (T.)

It is not intended that you should exercise any control over the religious instruction given in the schools, for the character of which the principles of the respective societies will be considered a sufficient guarantee. You will, however, be expected to ascertain that each school is conducted on the principles and plan sanctioned by the rules and constitution of the society upon whose application the grant has been made, and that it is under the control or direction of some superintending individual or body in the colony in connexion with the society. You will also be expected to add such particular information, with reference to the various schools, as may appear to you of importance, bearing in mind that the great object contemplated by the outlay of the money voted by Parliament for these schools is the moral and religious education and improvement of the negro population. Keeping in view the liberal and comprehensive principles upon which His Majesty's Government, in accordance with the expressed intentions of the Legislature, have availed themselves of the agency of the different religious bodies previously engaged in promoting education in the colonies, it will be your duty to maintain a strictly impartial bearing towards the various institutions in the West Indies, whose schools you will visit, and carefully to avoid any proceeding which may be calculated to excite a feeling of jealousy or the apprehension of undue interference in their respective systems.

In those instances in which the schools aided by Parliament may not have been yet opened, you will report upon the state and progress of the building, and of the arrangements for its opening, together with such other particulars as may be necessary to satisfy His Majesty's Government that no avoidable delay has taken place in making every portion of the Parliamentary fund practically subservient to the end for which it was voted.

It will be your further duty to furnish His Majesty's Government with any general remarks and recommendations on the subject of education throughout these colonies, which your personal and local experience may suggest to you as useful, in furtherance of the great object in view; and for this end you will endeavour to ascertain the actual number of negro children in attendance upon schools of any description in each colony, and the extent of the existing means of education with reference to the negro population.

As a very large proportion of the schools to be inspected are in the island of Jamaica, Lord Glenelg thinks it desirable that you should commence your duties in that colony. Your subsequent route will be regulated by the facilities which may offer for your passage to the respective colonies which you will have to visit. You will keep a record of your proceedings, and you will transmit to the Secretary of State your report on each colony separately, so soon as you shall have completed the inspection of the schools within its limits.

I am to transmit to you the accompanying letters of introduction to the governors of the various colonies which you will visit, requesting those officers to afford you every facility and assistance in the discharge of your duties, and to furnish you with such local information as you may require.

As the schools in connexion with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel are all under the superintendence of the bishops of Jamaica and Barbadoes, and their respective clergy, I further transmit to you the enclosed letters of introduction to these prelates; and you will also be furnished with letters to the local agents or representatives of the various other societies through whose agency any of the schools have been established.

You will be allowed the amount of all travelling and other necessary expenses connected with the execution of your duties, calculated on a reasonable and economical scale. A detailed account of all such expenses will have to be submitted to the Secretary of State. You will be further remunerated by a salary at the rate of 300*L.* a year during the period for which your engagement may last, to commence from your embarkation. The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have been requested to issue to you, immediately on your application, 150*L.* on account of this arrangement.

It is impossible to calculate with accuracy the time which may be required for a complete tour of inspection of all these schools; it is, however, desirable that it should be accomplished with as little delay as is consistent with an efficient performance of the duty.

I have, &c.

(signed) *George Grey.*

## SCHEDULE (A.)

SHOWING the Appropriation in Detail of the respective Sums of £.25,000 each, voted by Parliament in the Sessions of 1835 and 1836, for the Promotion of Negro Education.

COLONY AND STATION.	Dimensions.	To hold	Estimated Cost.	Portion defrayed by Parliament.
<b>SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL.</b>				
Jamaica:		<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Scholars.</i>	<i>£.</i>
St. Catherine	- Spanish Town	50 × 30	200	450
St. Ann's	- St. Ann's Bay	35 × 22	100	300
Kingston	- Kingston	36 × 25	120	450
St. Thomas in the East	Morant Bay	45 × 23	180	200
St. David's	- Yallahs	32 × 20	90	200
St. George's	- Annotta Bay	30 × 20	80	200
Westmorland	- Savanna la Mar	45 × 23	180	350
St. Elizabeth	- Black River	45 × 23	180	350
Hanover	- Lucea	45 × 23	180	350
St. James's	- Montego Bay	50 × 30	200	350
Trelawney	- Falmouth	36 × 25	125	300
St. Andrew's	Mountain District	42 × 22	160	250
St. John's	- Lindas	35 × 22	100	225
St. Dorothy	- Old Harbour	35 × 22	100	225
St. Thomas in the Vale	-	30 × 20	80	180
Clarendon	- Chapelton	35 × 22	100	225
Vere	-	35 × 22	100	225
St. Mary's	- Manning's Town	32 × 20	90	200
St. Mary's	- Boylands	32 × 20	90	200
St. Ann's	- Brown's Town	32 × 20	90	200
Manchester	-	30 × 20	80	180
Kingston	-	36 × 25	120	250
Port Royal	-	35 × 22	110	225
St. George's	- Hope Bay	30 × 20	80	180
Ditto	- Buff Bay	30 × 20	80	180
Trelawney	- Stewart Town	30 × 20	80	180
Ditto	- Rio Bueno	30 × 20	80	180
Portland	- near Port Antonio	32 × 20	90	180
Caymana Islands	-	35 × 22	110	225
Bahamas:				
Harbour Island	-	30 × 20	80	250
Furk's Island	-	30 × 20	80	200
Honduras:				
Near Belize	-	30 × 20	80	180
Barbadoes:				
St. Michael's	-	40 × 25	140	225
Christ Church	-	40 × 25	140	180
St. Philip's	Fowl Bay District	40 × 25	140	150
St. Joseph's	-	40 × 25	140	225
St. Andrew's	-	40 × 25	140	225
St. Lucy's	-	40 × 25	140	225
St. Peter's	-	40 × 25	140	180
St. Thomas's	-	50 × 22	160	150
St. Paul's	-	40 × 25	140	200
St. Matthew's	-	40 × 25	140	150
Christ Church	-	40 × 25	140	225
St. Thomas's	-	40 × 25	140	225
Tobago:				
St. David's	-	40 × 25	140	225
St. Lucia:				
Castries	-	40 × 25	140	400
Grenada:				
St. George's	-	45 × 20	130	225
Cariacou	-	57 × 24	200	210
Charlotte Town	-	50 × 23	160	250
British Guiana:				
Essequibo	- St. John's	40 × 25	140	200
Ditto	- Trinity	75 × 30	320	100
Demerara	- St. Matthew's	69 × 30	250	200
Ditto	- St. George's	40 × 25	140	100
Berbice	- New Amsterdam	40 × 25	140	200
Demerara, on Cumingsberg Canal	-	40 × 25	140	350
Ditto	- St. Swithin's	40 × 25	140	350
Essequibo	- Tiger Island	40 × 25	140	250
Ditto	- Hog Island	40 × 25	140	250
Ditto	- St. Luke's	40 × 25	140	350

From Grant for 1835-6.

From Grant for 1836-7.

From Grant for 1835-6.

From Grant of 1836-7.

From Grant of 1835-6.

From Grant of 1836-7.

From Grant of 1835-6.

From Grant of 1836-7.

From Grant of 1835-6.

From Grant of 1836-7.

COLONY AND STATION.	Dimensions.	To hold	Estimated Cost.	Portion defrayed by Parliament.
<b>SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL—continued.</b>				
	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Scholars.</i>	<i>£.</i>	
Antigua:				
St. Paul's - English Harbour	40 × 25	140	400	From Grant of 1835-6.
St. Mary's - - - - -	40 × 25	140	180	
St. Peter's - - - - -	40 × 25	140	180	
St. George's - - - - -	40 × 25	140	100	
St. Philip's - - - - -	51 × 25	180	100	
St. Stephen's - - - - -	40 × 25	140	180	
Central School - - - - -	40 × 25	140	300	
St. Luke's - - - - -	40 × 25	140	225	
Falmouth - - - - -	40 × 25	140	225	
Valley Chapel - - - - -	40 × 25	140	225	
At Watson's, St. Philip's parish	35 × 22	100	100	
Room's - - - - -	35 × 22	100	100	
Eliot's - - - - -	35 × 22	100	100	
Archibald's - - - - -	35 × 22	100	100	
Meyer's - St. Paul's	35 × 22	100	100	
Falmouth - - - - -	35 × 22	100	100	
Bodkin's - - - - -	35 × 22	100	100	
Osborne's pasture, St. John's	35 × 22	100	100	
St. Luke's - - - - -	35 × 22	100	100	
Five Islands - St. Mary's	35 × 22	100	100	
Valley Chapel - - - - -	35 × 22	100	100	
Russell's - - - - -	35 × 22	100	100	
New Division St. Peter's	35 × 22	100	100	
Duer's - - - - -	35 × 22	100	100	
Cocoa-nut Hall - - - - -	35 × 22	100	100	
Cotton New Work, St. George's	35 × 22	100	100	
Weir's - - - - -	35 × 22	100	100	
Sir George Thomas's - - - - -	35 × 22	100	100	
	For Infant Schools.			From Grant of 1836-7.
Montserrat:				
St. Peter's - North-east Quarter	40 × 25	140	225	
St. Patrick's - - - - -	40 × 25	140	200	
Barbuda - - - - -	40 × 25	140	200	
St. Christopher's:				
Basseterre - - - - -	40 × 25	140	200	
St. Anna's - - - - -	40 × 25	140	150	
Nevis:				
Newcastle - - - - -	40 × 25	140	150	
St. Paul's - - - - -	40 × 25	140	150	
Anguilla - - - - -	40 × 25	140	200	
Virgin Islands, Virgin Gorda	40 × 25	140	140	
Dominica - St. Patrick's	40 × 25	140	200	
- St. Joseph -	40 × 25	140	300	
Bermudas:				
Pembroke - - - - -	40 × 25	140	225	
- - - - -	40 × 25	140	225	
- - - - -	40 × 25	140	225	
Sandys - - - - -	40 × 25	140	225	
Warwick - - - - -	40 × 25	140	225	
Devonshire - - - - -	40 × 25	140	225	
Mauritius:				
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	250	
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	250	
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	250	
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	250	
		£.	22,240	- - - £. 14,660.
<b>CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.</b>				
Jamaica:				
St. Thomas in the East, Port Morant	- - - - -	100	250	From Grant of 1835-6, 2,500 £
Ditto - Long Bay	- - - - -	100	250	
St. George's - Birnam Wood	- - - - -	100	250	
Hanover - Phoenix	- - - - -	100	250	
St. Elizabeth's - Bona Vista	- - - - -	100	250	
Ditto - Appleton's	- - - - -	100	250	
Manchester - Elstree	- - - - -	100	250	
Ditto - Pratville	- - - - -	100	250	
- - - - -	- - - - -	100	250	
Trinidad:				
Naparima, South - San Fernando	- - - - -	100	250	
Ditto ditto - Savanna Grande	- - - - -	100	250	

(continued.)

Enclosure in (T.)

COLONY AND STATION.	Dimensions.	To hold	Estimated Cost.	Portion defrayed by Parliament.
<b>CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY—continued.</b>				
British Guiana :		<i>Scholars.</i>	<i>£.</i>	
Demerara - - - St. Matthew's	- - -	100	250	} From Grant of 1835-6, 2,500 <i>l.</i>
Ditto - - - Ditto	- - -	100	250	
Berbice, near Achlyne, on the East Coast - - -	- - -	100	250	
Ditto - - - Ditto	- - -	100	250	
Jamaica :				
- - - - -	- - - - -	100	250	} From Grant of 1836-7, 2,694 <i>l.</i>
- - - - -	- - - - -	100	250	
- - - - -	- - - - -	100	250	
- - - - -	- - - - -	100	250	
- - - - -	- - - - -	100	250	
- - - - -	- - - - -	100	250	
- - - - -	- - - - -	100	250	
Trinidad :				
- - - - -	- - - - -	100	250	
- - - - -	- - - - -	100	250	
		<i>£.</i>	6,000	- - - - - <i>£.</i> 3,994
				To which add - 1,200,
				to be applied to the maintenance of schoolmasters, in a proportion not exceeding one-third in each case. ———
				<b>TOTAL - - <i>£.</i> 5,194</b>
<b>WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.</b>				
Antigua :				
Parham - - - - -	- - - - -	- - -	600	} From Grants for 1835-6, and 1837; the lists for the respective years not being distinguished.
St. John's - - - - -	- - - - -	- - -	500	
Lion's Hill - - - - -	- - - - -	- - -	200	
Dominica - Grand Bay - - - - -	- - - - -	- - -	300	
Montserrat - - - - -	- - - - -	- - -	120	
Nevis - - - - -	- - - - -	- - -	300	
St. Christopher : Halfway Tree	- - - - -	- - -	250	
Bermuda - - - - -	- - - - -	- - -	200	
St. Vincent - Kingstown - - - - -	- - - - -	- - -	400	
Grenada - - - - -	- - - - -	- - -	} 400	
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - -		
Demerara - - - - -	- - - - -	- - -	325	
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - -	325	
Barbadoes - Speight's Town	- - - - -	- - -	200	
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - -	210	
Jamaica - Kingston - - - - -	- - - - -	- - -	650	
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - -	390	
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - -	160	
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - -	250	
- - - - -	- - - - -	- - -	300	
Bath and Morant Bay	- - - - -	- - -	500	
Falmouth and Duncan's	- - - - -	- - -	350	
Ramble - - - - -	- - - - -	- - -	320	
New Sheffield	- - - - -	- - -	250	
		<i>£.</i>	7,500	- - - - - <i>£.</i> 5,000
<b>MORAVIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.</b>				
Tobago :				
St. Patrick's - Montgomery	- - - - -	200	300	} From Grant of 1835-6 - - - <i>£.</i> 1,500
Barbadoes :				
St. Thomas's - Sharon	- - - - -	200	150	
St. John's - Mount Tabor	- - - - -	200	300	
St. Christopher :				
St. George's - Basseterre	- - - - -	500	450	
Antigua :				
St. Mary's - Grace Bay	- - - - -	150	240	
Jamaica :				
Manchester - Fairfield	- - - - -	200	360	} From Grant of 1836-7 - - - <i>£.</i> 1,200
St. Elizabeth - N. Fulnec	- - - - -	150	270	
Ditto - N. Eden	- - - - -	100	180	
Bethany, in Mile Gully	- - - - -	200	270	
N. Bethlehem	- - - - -	150	240	
Irvin Hall	- - - - -	120	210	
N. Beaufort	- - - - -	100	180	
St. Christopher :				
Bethesda - - - - -	- - - - -	300	360	

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COLONY AND STATION.	Dimensions.	To hold	Estimated Cost.	Portion defrayed by Parliament.
<b>MORAVIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY</b> — <i>continued.</i>				
Barbadoes :	<i>Fect.</i>	<i>Scholars.</i>	<i>£.</i>	} From Grant of 1836-7 - - - £. 1,200
Bridgetown - - - -	- -	300	390	
Antigua :	- -	100	150	
Five Islands - - - -	- -		<i>£.</i> 4,050	<i>£.</i> 2,700
<b>BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.</b>				
Jamaica :				} From Grant of 1835-6 - - - £. 1,100
Montego Bay - -	40 × 38	150	770	
Mount Carey - -	60 × 25	200	700	
Trelawney - Falmouth - -	45 × 35	220	600	
Ditto - Wilberforce - -	- -	200	300	
			900	} From Grant of 1836-7 - - - £. 1,100
			900	
St. James's - - - -	60 × 30	200	950	
			<i>£.</i> 5,120	<i>£.</i> 2,200
<b>LADIES' NEGRO EDUCATION SOCIETY.</b>				
Antigua :				<i>£. s. d.</i>
St. John's Rectory - Infant School-house - - - -	- -	- -	335	From Grant of 1835-6 - - - 120 --
Jamaica :				From ditto of 1836-7 - - - 100 --
Fairfield - Refuge School-house - - - -	- -	- -	600	<i>£.</i> 220 --
			<i>£.</i> 935	
				To which add
				for the salary of Schoolmasters, to be applied in a proportion not exceeding one-third of such expense in each case - - - - - } 150 --
<b>LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.</b>				
Jamaica :				<b>TOTAL - £ 370 --</b>
Eight school-houses; stations not yet specified - - - -				<i>£. s. d.</i>
British Guiana :				} From Grant of 1835-6 - - - 3,000 --
Demerara - Three school-houses -	- -	- -	4,533	
Berbice - Five ditto - - - -	- -	- -		} From Grant of 1836-7 - - - 4,533 6 8
Jamaica - - - Four schools	- -	- -	2,450	
British Guiana - Five schools	- -	- -	4,675	
Cape of Good Hope - Nine schools - - - -	- -	- -		<b>TOTAL - £ 7,533 6 8</b>
<b>SCOTTISH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.</b>				
Jamaica :				<i>£. s. d.</i>
Hanover - - - Lucea - - - -	- -	- -	- -	} From Grant of 1836-7 - - - 1,500 --
Ditto - - - Green Island - - -	- -	- -	- -	
St. James's - - - Easthams - - -	- -	- -	- -	
Ditto - Eastern part of Mr. Waddell's district - - - -	- -	- -	- -	
Hampden - - - On the borders of Trelawney - - - -	- -	- -	2,250	
In a populous district to the north of Hampden - - - -	- -	- -	- -	
St. Mary's - - - Port Maria - - -	- -	- -	- -	
In the country part of same district Carron Hall, about 12 miles from Port Maria - - - -	- -	- -	- -	
In the same district - - - -	- -	- -	- -	
<b>THE GOVERNOR OF TRINIDAD.</b>				
(a) To be applied in aid of voluntary subscriptions, or grants of the colonial legislature for building school-houses. <i>Vide</i> Note to printed Schedule (B.)* - - - -	- -	- -	- -	(a) 500 <i>l.</i> from Grant of 1835-6.
<b>THE GOVERNOR OF BARBADOES.</b>				
(b) To be applied in aid of voluntary subscriptions, or grants of the local legislatures in the Islands of Grenada and St. Vincent's - - - -	- -	- -	- -	(b) 400 <i>l.</i> from Grant of 1836-7.

\* *Vide* Paper No. 211, ordered to be printed by The House of Commons, 27 April 1836, p. 2.



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COLONY AND STATION.	Dimensions.	To hold	Estimated Cost.	Portion defrayed by Parliament.
	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Scholars.</i>	<i>£.</i>	
<b>THE GOVERNOR OF JAMAICA.</b>				
Jamaica Metropolitan School, in connexion with the British and Foreign School Society, and to be conducted on their plan and principles	To contain two school-rooms, 60 x 30 ft. each	- -	1,350	500 l. from Grant of 1835-6, for Normal schools.
<b>THE GOVERNOR OF THE BAHAMAS.</b>				
The Normal School at Nassau, under Mr. M'Swincy ( <i>vide</i> Note to printed Schedule (B.); and 6l. 19s. 4d. from Grant of 1836-7, to make up salary to Mr. M'Swincy for one year)	- -	- -	- -	700 l. from Grant of 1835-6, for Normal schools; and 6l. 19s. 4d. from Grant of 1836-7.
<b>THE TRUSTEES OF THE MICO CHARITY.</b>				
Jamaica - 44 schools.—Sum expended, 13,690l.	- -	- -	- -	From Grant of 1835-6 - -
Antigua - - - - -	- -	- -	- -	
Mauritius - 6 schools.—Sum expended, 1,112l.	- -	- -	- -	
Ditto - - - - -	- -	- -	- -	1,000
Jamaica - (c) To be applied, at the discretion of the Trustees, in aid of their funds in any of these Colonies to the purposes of Negro Education.	- -	- -	- -	} (c) £.4,000 from Grant of 1836-7.
Mauritius	- -	- -	- -	
Trinidad	- -	- -	- -	
Barbadoes	- -	- -	- -	
St. Lucia	- -	- -	- -	
Dominica	- -	- -	- -	780
Dominica	- -	- -	- -	Sum expended, 1,000l.

## RECAPITULATION to SCHEDULE (A.)

Of the Appropriation of the Sums of 25,000l. each, voted by Parliament in the Years 1835 and 1836, for the Promotion of Negro Education.

NAME OF SOCIETY OR AGENCY.	Sums granted from Parliamentary Vote of 1835.			Sums granted from Parliamentary Vote of 1836.			Total Amount granted from Votes of 1835 and 1836.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel	7,500	-	-	7,160	-	-	14,660	-	-
Church Missionary Society	2,500	-	-	2,694	-	-	5,194	-	-
Wesleyan ditto - ditto	3,000	-	-	2,000	-	-	5,000	-	-
Moravian ditto - ditto	1,500	-	-	1,200	-	-	2,700	-	-
Baptist ditto - ditto	1,100	-	-	1,100	-	-	2,200	-	-
Ladies' Negro Education Society	120	-	-	250	-	-	370	-	-
London Missionary Society	3,000	-	-	4,533	6	8	7,533	6	8
Trustees of the Mico Charity	4,580	-	-	4,000	-	-	8,580	-	-
The Governor of the Bahamas	700	-	-	6	19	4	706	19	4
The Governor of Jamaica	500	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	-
The Governor of Barbadoes	-	-	-	400	-	-	400	-	-
The Scottish Missionary Society	-	-	-	1,500	-	-	1,500	-	-
The Governor of Trinidad	500	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	-
	£.	25,000	- -	24,844	6	-	49,844	6	-
				Balance unappropriated	-	£.	155	14	-
				Total Sum voted	- - -	£.	50,000	-	-

\* *Vide* Paper, No. 211, ordered to be printed by The House of Commons, 27 April 1836, p. 2.

*Note.*— Since the drawing up of the printed Schedule (B.),\* herein referred to, some of the Societies have requested permission to make slight modifications in the details of the arrangements originally proposed and agreed to. A comparison of the two Schedules will exhibit the few instances of alterations which have thus been proposed and adopted, with the sanction of His Majesty's Government.

(U.)

COPY of a CIRCULAR DESPATCH addressed by Lord *Glenelg* to the Governors of the West India Colonies, &c.

Despatch  
(U.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 13 March 1837.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, for your information, copy of an Order passed by His Majesty in Council, on the 1st instant, to confirm, subject to the exceptions therein mentioned, an ordinance, entitled "An Ordinance for the better regulation and enforcement of the relative duties of Masters and Employers, and Articled Servants, Tradesmen and Labourers, in British Guiana;" and I am to desire that you will cause this Order in Council to be made known throughout your government.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

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AT THE COURT OF ST. JAMES'S, 1 MARCH 1837.

Present,

The King's most Excellent Majesty, in Council.

WHEREAS, on the 22d day of June 1836, a certain ordinance was enacted by the Lieutenant-governor of British Guiana, by and with the advice of the Court of Policy of British Guiana, entitled "An Ordinance for the better regulation and enforcement of the relative duties of Masters and Employers, and Articled Servants, Tradesmen and Labourers, in British Guiana," which ordinance was in the following words; (that is to say,)

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Whereas it is expedient that provision should be made for the more speedy and effectual administration of justice, in all cases of contracts made for the performance of agricultural, manufacturing, or any other description of labour or service, handicraft or otherwise, and for enforcing the performance of the respective duties of persons standing to each other in the relation of masters or employers, and articled servants, tradesmen or labourers, when such relation has been created by the voluntary act of such parties, or by the act of the parents or legal guardians or other competent authority, in respect of infants under the age of 15 years:

1. Be it therefore, and it is hereby enacted, by his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, by and with the advice of the honourable the Court of Policy, that all persons who have been or shall be bound to other persons, for the performance in this colony of any agricultural, manufacturing, handicraft or other description of labour or service whatsoever, by any indenture of apprenticeship, bond of service, agreement or other instrument of any kind in writing, whether the same be made or entered into in this colony or elsewhere, whether in or out of his Majesty's dominions, with or without stamp, shall be and be considered as articled servants, tradesmen or labourers within the meaning and for the purposes of this ordinance; and the person or persons to whom such articled servants, tradesmen or labourers shall be so bound, shall be and be considered as the masters or employers of such articled servants, tradesmen or labourers, for all the purposes of this ordinance.

2. Be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for any sheriff or justice of the peace within this colony, and they are hereby required to take cognizance of any complaint of any articled servant, tradesman or labourer, against his or her master or employer, or the agent, manager or overseer of such master or employer, for ill-usage or ill-treatment of any such complainant by such master or employer, agent, manager or overseer, or for the non-performance by such master or employer, agent, manager or overseer, of any stipulation or covenant, for the benefit of such complainant, contained in any articles of agreement, indenture, bond of service or other written instrument, entered into by or on behalf of such master or employer; and if it shall be made to appear to such sheriff or justice, on his own view, or on confession of the party accused, or by satisfactory evidence on oath, that any such master or employer, agent, manager, overseer or any person by the authority of any of them, has ill-used or mal-treated such complainant, or that such complainant has been unlawfully deprived, by any such master or employer, or his or her agent, manager or overseer, of any benefit, privilege or advantage to which such complainant is or may be entitled, or that such master or employer, or his or her agent, has unlawfully withheld any wages due to such complainant, or has failed to perform or fulfil any covenant, matter or thing whatsoever, for the benefit or advantage of such articled servant, tradesman or labourer, contained in any agreement, indenture or bond of service, or other written instrument, entered into by or on behalf of such master or employer, it shall and may be lawful for such sheriff or justice of the peace to hear and determine such complaint in a summary manner, and to adjudge such master or employer, agent, manager or overseer, to pay to such complainant the wages that may appear

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to be due, or to adjudge such master or employer, agent, manager or overseer, to pay a fine of such sum, and in case of non-payment to imprisonment, solitary or otherwise, with or without hard labour, for such period as may appear to such court, sheriff or justice to meet the justice of the case; such award of wages, fine and imprisonment, not to exceed the amount and extent of the several jurisdictions hereinafter granted to such sheriff or justice respectively for the purposes of this ordinance.

3. Be it further enacted, and it shall and may be lawful for any sheriff or justice of the peace in this colony, and they are hereby required to take cognizance of any complaint of a master or employer, or the agent, manager or overseer of such master or employer, against any articed servant, tradesman or labourer, for unlawful absence from the service of such master or employer, or for the neglect, non-performance or improper or insufficient performance of the duties or services which such articed servant, tradesman or labourer is or may be bound to perform and fulfil to such master or employer; and if it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of such sheriff or justice, on his own view, or on confession of the party accused, or by satisfactory evidence on oath, that any such articed servant, tradesman or labourer has wilfully neglected, or has improperly or insufficiently performed any such duty or service as aforesaid, or that he or she has unlawfully absented himself or herself from the duty or service of such master or employer, or that he or she has contumaciously disobeyed any lawful command of such master or employer, agent, manager or overseer, or that he or she has made use of any insulting or threatening language to such master or employer, or the agent or manager of such master or employer, or that he or she has entered into any combination with any other person or persons whomsoever, or instigated or induced any other articed servant, tradesman or labourer, or other persons, to disobey any lawful commands of any such master, employer, agent, manager or overseer, or that he or she hath wilfully spoiled or destroyed any property, tools or other articles intrusted to his or her care, or has by wilful neglect or carelessness caused the loss or injury of any property intrusted to his or her charge, or has endangered any property by the careless use of fire, or has rendered himself or herself incapable, by intoxication or other improper means, of performing his or her work or duty to his or her master or employer, or has in any other respect been guilty of any breach of the duty which he or she owes to such master or employer, then and in every such case it shall and may be lawful for such sheriff or justice to hear and determine such complaint in a summary manner, and to adjudge such articed servant, tradesman or labourer, for every day that he or she shall have been unlawfully absent from or neglected to perform the work or service due to his or her master or employer, to forfeit and pay for the use and benefit of such master or employer two days' wages; and for any other offence hereinbefore enumerated, to adjudge such articed servant, tradesman or labourer to pay such fine, and in case of non-payment to suffer such imprisonment, solitary or otherwise, with or without hard labour, for such period as such justice or sheriff are hereinafter declared to have power respectively to award or adjudge.

4. Be it further enacted, that if any such justice shall find the demand of wages or forfeiture of wages, or damages claimed by any party complaining as aforesaid, to exceed the sum which such justice is by this ordinance authorized to award, or shall deem the party accused to be deserving of a more severe or heavier penalty than he is by this ordinance authorized to adjudge, such justice shall, instead of determining the case, refer the same to the sheriff of his district, and shall cause the complainant and defendant to appear before such sheriff; and it shall be lawful for any such sheriff, if he see fit, to hear and determine the case in a summary manner, or if he deems such complaint, or any other such complaint that may have originated before him, to call for the award of a larger sum of money, or the infliction of a heavier penalty than he is, under this ordinance, authorized to adjudge, he shall, in every such case, refer such complaint to any inferior court of criminal justice of the district, or to the supreme court of criminal justice, as the case may require, and may commit the accused for trial before such court, or take bail for his or her appearance thereat to answer the complaint; and it shall be lawful for any inferior court to hear and adjudge all such cases as shall be brought before it, whether for the payment or forfeiture of wages, recovery of damages, or other penalty, to the extent of the jurisdiction hereinafter assigned to such court for the purposes of this ordinance, and otherwise to proceed, according to the ordinance (No. 41), for the establishment of, and manner of proceeding to be observed by, inferior courts of criminal justice within this colony.

5. Be it further enacted, that, for the purposes of this ordinance, the jurisdiction and authority of a justice of the peace shall extend and be confined and limited to awarding the payment or forfeiture of a sum not exceeding two pounds sterling, or twenty-eight guilders, or to imprisonment with or without hard labour or solitary confinement, for a period not exceeding three days; and that the jurisdiction and authority of a sheriff shall extend and be confined and limited to awarding the payment or forfeiture of four pounds sterling, or fifty-six guilders, or to imprisonment as aforesaid for a period not exceeding six days; and that the jurisdiction and authority of an inferior court of criminal justice shall extend and be confined and limited to the sum of twenty pounds sterling, or two hundred and eighty guilders, and to imprisonment as aforesaid for any period not exceeding one calendar month: provided always, that if it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of any such inferior court of criminal justice that any master or employer, or other person, with the authority, knowledge or connivance of such master or employer, has been guilty of any gross ill-usage of any articed servant, tradesman or labourer, bound to such master or employer, or of continued and wilful neglect of the terms of the indenture or agreement entered into between any such master or employer and his or her articed servant, labourer

or tradesman, it shall and may be lawful for such inferior court of criminal justice to cancel the indenture of apprenticeship, bond of service or other written agreement entered into between any such articted servant, tradesman or labourer, and his or her master or employer; and thereupon such indenture, bond of service or other written agreement shall be, and the same is hereby declared to be, cancelled and made void to all intents and purposes.

6. Be it further enacted, that whenever any such articted servant, tradesman or labourer shall, by sentence of any court of justice of this colony, be adjudged to imprisonment for any offence by him or her committed, by means whereof the master or employer of such articted servant, tradesman or labourer may have been deprived of his or her services during the term of such imprisonment; and in all cases where any such articted servant, tradesman or labourer shall have been convicted before any such court of unlawfully absenting himself or herself from the services of such master or employer, such articted servant, tradesman or labourer shall be bound to serve his master or employer for as long a time after the period when the term of service would have been otherwise determined as such master or employer has been deprived of, by reason of such imprisonment or such unlawful absence from his or her master's service; and in all such cases the indenture of apprenticeship, bond of service or other written instrument of such articted servant, tradesman or labourer, to his or her master or employer, shall be continued, and shall be taken to be and be continued in full force, until the expiration of the further period for which such articted servant, tradesman or labourer is bound to serve as aforesaid.

7. Be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful to and for any minor above the age of fifteen years, notwithstanding his or her minority, to enter into and make and execute any indenture of apprenticeship, bond of service or other instrument in writing, for the performance of any agricultural, manufacturing or other labour or service, of whatsoever description, whether handicraft or otherwise; and such indenture, bond or written instrument, or other contract, whether stamped or not, shall be and be taken to be as good, valid and effectual to all intents and purposes as if the party so making the same were of the full age of majority.

8. Be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the parent, or in default of any such parent, for the guardian or next of kin of any person under the age of fifteen years, and of the full age of nine years, or for the boards of church and poor's fund of the district of Demerary and Essequibo, and of the district of Berbice respectively, in all cases in which such minor has become chargeable on the funds of such board, to enter into, make and execute, for or on behalf and in the name of such minor, any such indenture of apprenticeship, bond of service or other written instrument of agreement, for the performance of any agricultural, manufacturing or other labour or service, whether handicraft or otherwise, which shall be binding on the minor, for and on behalf of whom the same is so made and executed, notwithstanding his or her minority, and be as good, valid and effectual to all intents and purposes as if such minor had made or executed the same, being of the full age of majority: provided always, that in case any indenture, bond or other written instrument of agreement or contract shall be so made and entered into in this colony, for and in respect of any such person under the age of fifteen years as aforesaid, by any other person than the father or surviving parent of such minor, the same shall be made and entered into and executed with the consent, approbation and in the presence of a justice of the peace of this colony, whose duty it shall be to examine the parties, and ascertain, as far as he is able, that it will be advantageous to the party in whose name such indenture of apprenticeship, bond of service or other written instrument of agreement or contract is to be made, that the same should be entered into and executed in his or her behalf, and such justice shall affix his signature thereto, in token of his consent and approbation thereof; and also provided always, that no such indenture, bond or other written instrument as aforesaid, so to be made and entered into on behalf of any person under the age of fifteen years, shall be valid and effectual, unless the same contains such covenants, stipulations and agreements on the part and behalf of the party to whom such minor is so engaged or bound, as are contained in the form of indenture of apprenticeship set forth in the Schedule hereunto annexed, marked (A.)

9. Be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for any person to whom any other person shall be bound or engaged by any such indenture of apprenticeship, bond of service or other written instrument, for the purpose of any agricultural, manufacturing or other labour or service of any description, with the consent of such articted servant, tradesman or labourer, and the permission and approbation of any sheriff of the colony, and not otherwise, to assign or make over to any other person or persons whomsoever such indenture of apprenticeship, bond of service or other written instrument as aforesaid; and the consent of such articted servant, and the approbation of such sheriff, shall be recorded thereon in presence of such sheriff, and his signature attached thereto; and thereupon the articted servant, tradesman or labourer or person so bound and engaged, shall become and be considered to be the articted servant, tradesman or labourer of the person to whom or in whose favour such assignment is made, in the same manner as if he or she had been originally bound or engaged to such person: provided always, that in case the articted servant, tradesman or labourer shall have been bound for the purpose of learning any trade or business, he or she shall be assigned over to some other master or employer of the same trade, or capable of instructing him or her in the same business.

10. Be it enacted, that no indenture of apprenticeship, bond of service or other written instrument, by which any person shall be bound for the performance of any agricultural, manufacturing

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manufacturing or other labour or service in the said colony, shall be and continue in force for any period of time exceeding seven years from the commencement thereof: provided always, that the term of any such indenture of apprenticeship, bond of service or other written instrument may be continued beyond the said term of seven years from the commencement thereof, for the causes and in the manner provided in the sixth clause of this ordinance, and not otherwise.

11. Be it further enacted, that any person who shall harbour, conceal or employ, or who shall knowingly and wilfully entice away, or solicit or endeavour to persuade any artiched servant, tradesman or labourer, or other person bound to any other persons by any indenture of apprenticeship, bond of service or other instrument in writing, for the performance of any work or service whatsoever, to quit or remain absent from the employment or service of the person or persons to whom he or she may be so bound or engaged, shall for every such offence forfeit and pay a fine not exceeding twenty pounds sterling, or two hundred and eighty guilders, and shall, over and above such penalty, be bound to pay to the master or employer, or other person or persons to whom such artiched servant, tradesman or labourer, or other person is bound or engaged, damages at the rate of ten shillings sterling, or seven guilders, for every day that such artiched servant, tradesman or labourer shall have been so harboured, concealed or employed; or in default of payment of such penalty and damages, and of such costs as may have been incurred in consequence thereof, shall be imprisoned for any time not exceeding the limitation of the jurisdiction of the court before which the case has been tried and adjudged.

12. Be it further enacted, that no such artiched servant, tradesman, labourer or other person as hereinbefore mentioned, shall quit the colony, except he shall be furnished with a passport from the lieutenant-governor, obtained in the usual manner; and that every such artiched servant, tradesman or labourer quitting or attempting to quit the colony without such passport, shall, on conviction before any competent court as aforesaid, be liable to imprisonment, with or without hard labour or solitary confinement, for any time not exceeding three calendar months.

13. Be it further enacted, that all persons knowingly removing or assisting to remove any such artiched servant, tradesman or labourer from the colony, without a passport from the lieutenant-governor, shall, upon summary conviction before any such competent court as aforesaid, be liable to and adjudged to pay a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds sterling, or two hundred and eighty guilders; and it shall be lawful for such court to adjudge such person to be imprisoned until such penalty is paid, such imprisonment not to exceed three calendar months: provided nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall be held or construed to deprive the party or parties, or employer or employers, of any remedy he, she or they may have, by action or suit at law, for the loss he, she or they may have sustained, against the person removing or assisting in the removal of any artiched servant, tradesman or labourer as aforesaid.

14. Be it further enacted, that any person knowingly removing or assisting to remove any such artiched servant, tradesman or labourer as aforesaid, from the district in which he or she is under engagement, to render his or her services to any other part of the colony, without the permission in writing of the master or employer of such artiched servants, tradesmen or labourers, or the manager or overseer of the estate or plantation on which such artiched servant, tradesman or labourer is employed, or of some justice of the peace in the district from which such artiched servant, tradesman or labourer is removed, shall, upon conviction before any such competent court as aforesaid, be liable to and incur a penalty not exceeding five pounds sterling, or seventy guilders; or, in default of payment thereof, such offenders shall be liable to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any period not exceeding one calendar month.

15. Be it further enacted, that every importer of artiched servants, tradesmen or labourers, at the time of such importation, and before such artiched servant, tradesman or labourer shall be permitted to land, shall be bound, under a penalty of five pounds sterling, or seventy guilders, for every person so imported, in respect of whom the regulations herein contained shall not be observed, to lodge with the high sheriff in Demérary, or with the sheriff in Berbice, as the case may be, the indenture of apprenticeship, bond of service or other written instrument, under which such artiched servant, tradesman or labourer have engaged themselves to serve; and the sheriff shall thereupon grant a permission in writing for the landing of such artiched servants, tradesmen or labourers, and shall, if he shall see fit, require such importer to produce such artiched servants, tradesmen or labourers at his office, immediately on their being landed; and such indenture, bond of service or written instrument as aforesaid, shall, moreover, be exhibited by such importer to the registrar of the district in which such importer or employer shall reside, together with a copy thereof, which copy shall, by the said registrar or sworn clerk, be certified to be a true copy of the original indenture, bond of service or other written instrument to be exhibited as aforesaid; and such copy, duly authenticated by the said registrar or sworn clerk, shall remain deposited in the office of the said registrar, and shall, for the purposes of this Act, be equally admissible in evidence in any court in this colony as the original instrument; and for the performance of such duty, the registrars of the respective districts shall be entitled to charge, for each such artiched servant, tradesman or labourer, one guilder, and no more.

16. Be it further enacted, that whenever any artiched servant shall be desirous of quitting the colony, and shall be able to adduce sufficient reasons to satisfy the sheriff of the district in which such artiched servant may reside, that it is reasonable that liberty should be given to such artiched servant to quit the colony, it shall be lawful for the sheriff, after hearing the

the parties, to cancel the indentures or other written agreement existing between such articulated servant and his or her master or employer, on payment by such articulated servant, to the master or employer, of such sum of money as such sheriff of the district may deem just and reasonable; and it shall not be lawful for the master or employer of any articulated servant, labourer or tradesman, who may have been brought or imported into this colony under articles of agreement, to cancel the indenture, bond of service or other written instrument of agreement existing between any such master or employer and such articulated servant, labourer or tradesman, until such master or employer has executed, in favour of the board of poor's fund of the district in which such master or employer may reside, a good and sufficient bond, under a penalty of twenty pounds sterling, or two hundred and eighty guilders, that such articulated servant, tradesman or labourer shall not become chargeable for his or her maintenance on the poor's fund.

17. Be it further enacted, that during the period such articulated servants, tradesmen or labourers continue under the control of the person or persons who by virtue of their agreement may be entitled to their services, they shall not be required to take out any ticket of residence, nor to serve in the militia: provided nevertheless, that at the expiration of the term of service for which they may have been respectively bound, they shall, on a certificate of the sheriff of the district in which they respectively reside, that they have faithfully fulfilled their term of service, be entitled to receive tickets of residence gratis, by the possession of which they are placed on a footing with all other inhabitants of the colony.

18. Be it further enacted, that in taking cognizance of and for the hearing and determining any complaints or cases under the provisions of this ordinance, all courts, sheriffs and justices of the peace as aforesaid shall have authority to make and issue all such summonses, warrants, arrests, commitments of parties and witnesses, and to take all such bails, bonds and recognizances, and, as nearly as may be, in the same manner and form as in cases wherein any such court, sheriff or justice might take cognizance or have jurisdiction by the laws in force in this colony.

19. Be it further enacted, that no summons, warrant, order, conviction, execution or other proceedings under this ordinance, shall be set aside or annulled for want of form, and that no person acting under the authority of any such warrant, order, conviction or other proceeding, shall be deemed a wrong-doer or trespasser, by reason of any defect of form therein; nor shall any such person be deemed a trespasser or wrong-doer, by reason of any irregularity in the carrying into execution any sentence, conviction, levy, order for sale, or other proceedings under the authority of this ordinance; but the person aggrieved by any such irregularity shall and may recover full satisfaction for any special damages, if any, which he or she may have thereby sustained by an action, before any court of competent jurisdiction; but no plaintiff shall recover in any action for such irregularity, if tender of sufficient amends shall or may have been made by or on behalf of the defendant before such action brought.

20. Be it further enacted, that if any suit or action shall be prosecuted against any magistrate, justice of the peace, constable or police officer, for any thing done in pursuance of this ordinance, such defendant may plead the general issue, and, under such plea, may give this ordinance and the special matter in evidence at the hearing or trial thereof, and that the same was done by the authority of this ordinance; and if a judgment should pass for the defendant, or plaintiff shall withdraw or otherwise discontinue such suit or action, or that the same be dismissed, or judgment shall be otherwise given against the plaintiff therein, the defendant shall recover double costs, and have the like remedy for the same that any defendant hath by law in other cases, unless the court should certify it necessary, for the purposes of justice, that such costs should not be allowed: provided nevertheless, that no action shall be brought or sustained against any magistrate, constable or police officer, or other person or persons, for any thing done in pursuance of this Act, unless such action be commenced within six calendar months next after the cause of action shall have accrued.

21. Be it further enacted, that the informer in any of the cases aforesaid shall be, and shall be deemed and taken to be, a good and competent witness in law, notwithstanding he shall be entitled to a part of any of the penalties mentioned in this ordinance.

22. Be it further enacted, that all fines incurred and received under this ordinance shall be awarded and paid to the joint use and benefit of the persons informing and prosecuting for the same, and of the respective boards of church and poor's fund of the district, as the case may be, in such proportions as the court of justice, before which the case has been tried, shall award and determine.

23. Be it further enacted, that nothing in this ordinance contained shall be taken or construed to hinder or preclude any person from his or her remedy by civil action, before any court of civil justice of competent jurisdiction: provided also, that nothing in this ordinance contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to persons described and classed as apprenticed labourers, under the Act of the 3d & 4th of William the Fourth, c. 73, or to the persons designated as liberated and indented Africans, under the ordinance, No. 68, for this colony.

And that no ignorance shall be pretended of this our ordinance, these presents shall be printed and published in the customary manner.

Enclosure in (U.)

## SCHEDULE (A.)

## BRITISH GUIANA.

## District

This Indenture, made the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the years of our Lord between A. B. in the said district (the parent, guardian, or next of kin C. D., or between the president and members of the board of church and poor's fund of the district of Demerary and Essequibo, or of Berbice, as the case may be), for and on behalf of C. D., an infant, aged \_\_\_\_\_; the said A. B. acting herein with the authority, approbation and consent of E. F., one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said district, of the one part, and G. H., the master or employer of the said C. D., of the other part: Whereas the said G. H. has, in the presence, and with the authority, approbation and consent of the said E. F., testified by his signature, hereto agreed with the said A. B. (the father, guardian or next of kin C. D., or with the president or members of the board of church and poor's fund of the district of Demerary and Essequibo, or of Berbice, as the case may be) to take the said C. D. (the infant) as his apprentice for the term of \_\_\_\_\_ years, to be taught or instructed, or employed in the trade or business of \_\_\_\_\_, in consideration and subject to the terms and conditions hereinafter contained.

Now, this indenture witnesseth that, in pursuance of the said agreement, and in virtue of the ordinance in this case made and provided, he the said G. H. (the master or employer) doth hereby, for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators, covenant, promise and agree to and with the said A. B. (the father, &c., as the case may be) in the manner following; that is to say, That he the said G. H. (the master or employer) shall and will, during the term of \_\_\_\_\_ years, according to the best of his skill and knowledge, teach and instruct, or cause to be taught and instructed, the said C. D. (the infant) in the trade or business of \_\_\_\_\_, and all and every the matters and things whatsoever incident or relating thereto.

And also shall and will, during the said term, find and provide the said C. D. (the infant) with suitable and sufficient diet, clothing, lodging and medical attendance. And shall and will also allow to the said C. D. (the infant) such reasonable time and opportunity for education and religious instruction as shall be appointed or assigned by a justice of the peace of the district in which the said C. D. shall reside.

And in consideration of the covenants and agreements hereinbefore contained, on the part of G. H. the master or employer, he the said A. B. (the father, &c.), with the authority, approbation and consent of the said E. F. (the justice), hath placed and bound, and by these presents doth place and bind the said C. D. (the infant) unto and with the said G. H. for the said term of \_\_\_\_\_ years, to be computed from the date of these presents, and doth hereby covenant, promise and agree that he the said C. D. shall and will, during all and every part of the said term of \_\_\_\_\_ years, truly and faithfully serve the said G. H. in the said business or employment of \_\_\_\_\_, and diligently attend to and employ himself in the business and concerns thereof, according to the rules, regulations or laws now or hereafter to be in force in the colony of and concerning apprentices.

In witness whereof, they the said A. B. (the father, &c.), for and on behalf of the said C. D. (the infant), and the said G. H. (the master and employer), have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written, before and in the presence of the said E. F. (the justice); and the said E. F., in testimony that the same has been made and entered into in his presence, and by and with his authority and approbation, hath also hereto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

And whereas it is expedient that, subject to the exceptions, and with the amendments hereinafter mentioned, the said ordinance should be confirmed by His Majesty, it is therefore ordered by His Majesty, by and with the advice of his Privy Council, that no person who hath been or who shall be bound to any other person for the performance, in British Guiana, of any agricultural, manufacturing, handicraft, or other description of labour or service whatsoever, by any indenture of apprenticeship, bond of service, agreement or other instrument of any kind in writing, shall, by force and virtue of the said ordinance, be articulated servants, tradesmen or labourers within the meaning or for the purposes thereof, after the expiration of three years from the date of such indenture, bond, agreement or instrument.

And be it further ordered, that if any such indenture, bond, agreement or instrument, hath been or shall be made or entered into on the continent of Africa, or in any of the adjacent islands inhabited wholly or in part by the negro race, the same shall be absolutely null and void, and of no effect.

And be it further ordered, that no such indenture of apprenticeship, bond of service, agreement or other instrument, as aforesaid, if made or entered into at any place beyond the limits of the said colony of British Guiana, shall be of any force or effect within the said colony unless the same shall be so entered into in writing, in the presence of two or more justices of the peace, or magistrates of the colony, territory or place in which the proposed articulated servant, tradesman or labourer was resident at the day of the date thereof, nor unless such justices of the peace, or magistrates, shall have subscribed a certificate, under their respective hands and seals, subjoined to such indenture, bond, agreement or instrument,

ment, declaring that such proposed articed servant, tradesman or labourer had appeared before them the said justices or magistrates, and, having by them been duly examined, had appeared fully to understand the terms and nature of such proposed engagement, and had freely and voluntarily entered into the same.

And be it further ordered, that no such indentures of apprenticeship, bond of service, agreement or other instrument which hath been or which shall be entered into beyond the limits of the said colony of British Guiana, with any person who is or hath been an apprenticed labourer, within the meaning of the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of Slavery in His Majesty's dominions, shall be of any force, virtue or effect for more than twelve months from the day of the date thereof, and for such additional period as shall actually have been employed by any such person in any voyage by him or her made in pursuance thereof to the said colony of British Guiana; and every such indenture, bond, agreement or instrument shall, also, at any time within the said period of one year, become liable to defeasance, and to be set aside, on payment or tender, by any such articed servant, tradesman or labourer to his or her master or employer, of the costs and charges of and attendant upon any such voyage.

And be it further ordered, that the powers by the said ordinance vested in any sheriff or justice of the peace within the said colony shall be and the same are hereby transferred to and vested exclusively in the special justices appointed and authorized to act under and in pursuance of the said recited Act.

And be it further ordered, that at the termination or other lawful avoidance of any such indenture, bond, agreement or other instrument aforesaid, it shall be lawful for any such servant, tradesman or labourer to quit the said colony of British Guiana at his or her pleasure, subject only to such regulations as attach to and affect any other person or persons proposing or about to quit the same.

And be it further ordered, that the said ordinance shall cease and determine upon and from the 1st day of August 1840, save only in so far as respects any act done in pursuance thereof antecedently to that day.

And be it further ordered, that so much of the said ordinance as is in any manner repugnant or opposed to the provisions aforesaid, or any of them, shall be and the same is hereby disallowed, and that, save as aforesaid, the said ordinance is hereby confirmed and allowed, and finally enacted.

And the Right honourable the Lord Glenelg, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, is to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

(signed) *W. L. Bathurst.*

(V.)

COPY of a CIRCULAR DESPATCH addressed by Lord *Glenelg* to the Governors of the West India Colonies, &c.

Sir,

Downing-street, 25 May 1837.

THE attention of the Legislatures in the West Indian Colonies having been recently directed to the improvement of prison discipline, it appears to me desirable to take an early opportunity of pointing out to you the extreme evils and inconveniences which result from the system of transportation so frequently resorted to in the colonies for the punishment of offences.

It has been repeatedly brought to my knowledge that, as applied to the negro race, this mode of punishment fails to possess most of the essential qualities of efficient secondary punishment.

But besides this decisive objection in principle, it has frequently happened, owing to difficulties which have either been actually experienced, or have been supposed to exist, in effecting the removal of convicts sentenced to transportation, convicts have been detained in prison for several years before their sentences were carried into execution. Cases have also occurred in which sentences thus pronounced have been found, on investigation, to be altogether illegal; in consequence of which a necessity has arisen for granting His Majesty's free pardon, and for providing for the expense of sending such persons back to the colony from whence they came.

Independently, however, of considerations of this nature, the introduction of negro convicts into the Australian Colonies is a practice which his Majesty's Government have resolved shall be discontinued. The interest of those possessions requires that the present system of transportation should at least undergo considerable modification, with a view to the reduction of the number of convicts annually sent there, and the substitution of some other and more efficient punishment.

For these reasons I have to desire that, at the same time that you bring under the consideration of the Legislature of the subject of prison



Despatch  
(V.)

prison discipline, you will invite their attention to a revision of those laws by which the punishment of transportation is sanctioned, and recommend the adoption of such measures as may be requisite for the purpose of substituting in its place some other secondary punishment. You will, of course, consult with the judges of the colony under your government, and co-operate with them in the consideration of this subject. In the meantime, and until such laws are passed as are necessary for the change, you will be pleased, in any case in which the sentence of transportation has been pronounced, to commute it for a reasonable length of imprisonment, or such other punishment as, according to the law of the colony, may be practicable.

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

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(W.)

COPY of a CIRCULAR DESPATCH addressed by Lord *Glenelg* to the Governors of the West India Colonies, &c.

Despatch  
(W.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 5 July 1837.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the copy of a letter addressed to one of my Under Secretaries of State by the Secretary to the Committee of the Prison Discipline Society in this country, relating to the state of the gaols and prison discipline in the colonies, and containing much useful information on that subject.

I likewise enclose a copy of the Rules adopted by the lieutenant-governor of the Bahamas for the management of the gaols in those islands, which Rules have been approved of by the Society above named. I also enclose nine copies of the Gaols' Returns, to be substituted for those which are attached to the Blue Books for the years 1836, 1837 and 1838; and as the Blue Book for 1836 will, in all probability, have been sent to me before you receive this despatch, you will lose no time in returning me the original and duplicate copies of the Gaols' Returns for 1836, with the answers to the questions thereto attached, accurately filled up.

In conclusion, I have to desire that you will use your best endeavours to give effect to the suggestions of the Committee of Prison Discipline, so far as local circumstances will admit, in the colony under your government.

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

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Enclosure 1, in (W.)

COPY of a LETTER from *Samuel Hoare*, Chairman to the Committee of the Prison Discipline Society, to Sir *George Grey*, Bart., &c. &c.

Sir,

18, Aldermanbury, 23 March 1837.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your three letters, dated January 19th and 21st, and February 9th, with the accompanying Papers, relative to the state of the prisons in the colonies; and, in compliance with the request of Lord *Glenelg*, I have submitted the same to the Committee of the Prison Discipline Society, for their consideration.

In looking over the various reports, it is highly gratifying to find that improvements are in progress in several of the colonial gaols, by the introduction of laws and regulations for their internal government and discipline. Some of these papers, however, are by no means of recent date, and it cannot therefore be ascertained how far the spirit of improvement has generally prevailed.

The committee are desirous to call the attention of Lord *Glenelg* to the annexed paper of "Remarks," as to the defects which appear to exist in many of the prisons in the colonies; and, with a view to remedy some of the evils, particularly as to the state of the buildings, I beg to suggest that the plans of all the gaols, &c., should be obtained, in order that the benefits resulting from an improved system of construction and arrangement may be pointed out, in reference to such new buildings as it may be found necessary to erect, or alterations to be made in the old gaols.

I have also to submit to his lordship, that an enlarged form of Returns (agreeably to the one annexed) should be sent to each colony, with a view to obtain more detailed information on certain points than is already possessed; and that the answers to such inquiries should in all cases be accompanied by copies of the laws and regulations which have been or are about to be established in each colony.

The committee wish me to urge the necessity of local inspectors being appointed, to visit the

Enclosure 1,  
in (W.)

23 March.

9.

the prisons at frequent intervals (as suggested in my former letter to Lord Glenelg), a measure which, it is considered, would greatly facilitate the establishment of an effective system of discipline.

I return herewith all the original papers which you forwarded to me on this subject, and also send you, by request of the committee, a packet containing four books of prison plans, twelve copies of rules for gaols, and twelve descriptions of the tread-mill.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Samuel Hoare*,  
Chairman of the Committee.

P. S.—There is another subject to which I beg to call your attention, viz. that a list of questions be forwarded to New South Wales, similar to that which was prepared for Van Diemen's Land, and sent to the Colonial Office in August last.

#### REMARKS ON THE COLONIAL PRISONS.

THE official reports which have been recently received from the West Indies state, that new prison buildings are about to be erected at Jamaica, Barbadoes, Demerara, Tobago, Nevis, Dominica, &c. It is therefore considered desirable that a plan of each prison should be forwarded to the Colonial Office; also plans of any new prisons which are about to be erected, and of any alterations or additions to be made in the present gaols.

In Lower Canada new prisons are proposed to be constructed on the Auburn plan (of association at labour in silence), which has been recommended by a committee appointed to consider the penitentiary system of the United States, in preference to the solitary or separate system enforced at Pennsylvania.

The prisons in the colonies appear to be very defective in construction and arrangement, there being generally no separate day-rooms for the proper classification of offenders, no sleeping-cells for the individual separation of prisoners at night, no hospital for the sick or for lunatics, and (with some few exceptions) no suitable chapel for religious services. Some of the gaols have no yard or court, and others have only one yard, in which the prisoners associate together indiscriminately; but at several places the enclosure of the yard is stated to be so insecure, that the prisoners are not allowed to take exercise therein.

#### *As to the Regulations in Force.*

There appears to be a great want of uniformity, even in those which have been recently established, particularly in the West India Islands; for instance, at Jamaica, where there are 18 prisons, for nearly all of which new regulations have been framed, yet not more than two or three of these codes are alike, on account of the gaols being under different local authorities; and this island contains some of the most important prisons, the gaol at Clarendon having had not less than 10,966 persons committed to it during the year 1835.

With the exception of the tread-mill, which has been introduced as a means of compulsory labour, there appears to be scarcely any regular employment in the prisons. At several places the convicted are employed *out* of the prison on public works, repairing the roads, cleaning the streets, &c., in gangs, and wearing shackles; negroes under sentence are also let out for hire, to dig cane-holes, &c.; all which practices must be considered as highly objectionable.

The allowance of food differs materially; at some gaols each prisoner has only one pound of bread daily, but at others a pound and half of bread or biscuit, together with two pounds of potatoes; the cost of maintenance also varying from 4*d.* to 1*s.* 11*d.* (at St. Vincent's). Debtors have no allowance at several prisons; at others they receive more than criminals. Clothing and bedding are not always allowed, and when so, only to the convicted.

In consequence of chaplains not being generally appointed, some prisons are without any religious service; but in many cases it is performed gratuitously by the parochial clergyman: dissenting ministers are also allowed free access to the prisoners. No provision is made for the instruction of the ignorant.

There appears to be a neglect of frequent periodical visitation by the magistrates or other authorities. In only one instance (at Honduras) it is stated that a local inspector has been appointed.

The regulations most recently framed, and which appear highly deserving of imitation by other colonies, are those for the Bahamas, established in September last, by direction of Lieut.-col. Colebrooke.

#### *As to the Returns.*

The printed tabular form of Annual Returns is considered to be incomplete in some important particulars. It does not state the number and description of persons in confinement at any one time, but only the whole number during the year. It also appears desirable to have a return made of the greatest number in prison at one time, and to distinguish whites from blacks and coloured persons; also, that males and females should be separated (agreeably to the form, No. 1 and 2, which is now submitted). The printed forms of Annual Returns, recently framed by the Inspectors of Prisons in England, may also furnish some further suggestions on this subject.

## Enclosure 2, in (W.)

## BAHAMA ISLANDS.

Enclosure 2,  
in (W.)RULES and REGULATIONS for PRISONS and WORKHOUSES in the *Bahamas*.*Duties of the Keeper.*

1. THE keeper of every prison or workhouse shall be at least 25 years of age; he shall reside within the limits of the building; he shall not be engaged in any manual occupation or trade whatsoever; he shall not sell or traffic, nor derive any benefit or advantage, directly or indirectly, from the sale or contract, or agreement for the supply of any article whatever to any prisoner.

2. A matron (the wife of the keeper to be preferred) shall be appointed for each prison and workhouse, and it shall be her duty constantly to superintend the female prisoners.

3. The keeper shall be bound to examine every male criminal prisoner, and to cause the matron to do the same to every female criminal prisoner, on his or her entrance into the building, and to search their persons and clothes, and shall remove and take into his or her possession all knives, razors, files and other instruments, or articles which may be considered likely to facilitate escape or to destroy life, giving a receipt for the articles so seized. The keeper shall enjoin each prisoner to preserve perfect silence, and warn him or her of the punishment attached to the infringement of that regulation. The keeper shall, so far as practicable, visit every ward, and see every prisoner (the matron visiting the females), and inspect every cell once at least in every 12 hours; when the keeper or any other officer shall visit the female prisoners, he shall be accompanied by the matron.

4. The keeper shall provide a journal, in which he shall record all punishments inflicted by his authority, and all other occurrences within the prison; which journal shall be open to the examination of the provost marshal, and then laid before the general board of superintendence, or other visitors, at every monthly meeting, to be signed by the members, in proof of the same having been then produced.

5. Upon the death of a prisoner, notice thereof shall be given by the keeper forthwith to one of the members of the board, or to a visitor, as well as to the coroner of the district, and to the nearest relative of the deceased, where practicable.

6. The keeper or matron shall not demand, take or receive, nor permit any money or other article to be demanded or received, under the name of garnish, gaol fees or other gratuity whatsoever, from any prisoner on his or her entrance into the prison, or discharge therefrom, under any pretence whatsoever.

7. The keeper shall not permit to be sold, used, lent or given away, or brought into the prison for the use of any convict, any wine, spirituous or fermented liquors, except by a written order from the surgeon, specifying the quantity, and for whose use.—[See Rule 31.]

8. The keeper of every prison or workhouse shall have power, and he is hereby authorized to hear and determine all complaints touching the following offences:

- I. Disobedience of any of the rules of the place.
- II. Infringement of the law of silence and cleanliness, the observance of which is strictly enjoined, and to be enforced.
- III. Assaults by one prisoner on another, or on any officer of the establishment, where no dangerous wound or bruise is given.
- IV. Profane cursing and swearing.
- V. Idleness or neglect of work, or wilful mismanagement of instruments or tools, if committed by any prisoner under charge or conviction of any kind.

9. The keeper may examine any persons touching such offences, and may punish all such offences, by ordering any offender into close confinement and silence in the refractory or solitary cells or stocks, and keeping such offenders there until he shall have reported the same to the provost marshal, which he, the keeper, shall be bound to do within two hours, if possible.

10. The provost marshal to punish such offenders by imprisonment in the solitary cells or stocks for any term not exceeding three days. The keeper shall, in case of urgent and absolute necessity only, put any prisoner in irons, and shall not continue the use of irons on any prisoner longer than he shall have reported the same to the provost marshal, which he shall do as soon as possible.

11. If any criminal prisoner shall be guilty of any greater offence than the keeper is empowered to punish, the provost marshal, with any two members of the board, one of whom shall be a magistrate, may inquire, upon oath, and determine concerning the matter, and may order the offender to be punished by solitary confinement for any period not exceeding seven days, in addition to any previous sentence; and the keeper shall report the circumstance as above provided.

12. The keeper shall, if required, afford assistance to any prisoner desirous of presenting a petition to the court, or other competent authority.

13. The keeper shall see that the walls and ceilings of the wards, cells, rooms and passages used by the prisoners shall be scraped and lime-washed at least once in every month; the day-rooms, work-rooms, passages and sleeping-cells shall be washed and cleansed once a week, or oftener if requisite; he shall set apart some convenient place for the prisoners to wash themselves, with an adequate allowance of soap, towels and combs.

14. The keeper shall not permit any gaming, and he shall seize and destroy all dice, cards or other instruments of gaming. No smoking shall be permitted.

15. The keeper may, with the consent of the provost marshal, or any member of the board, employ any prisoner in the performance of any menial office or occupation within the prison or workhouse.

16. The keeper shall, at each meeting of the board or of the visitors, produce every prisoner in his custody before the members, to be examined if requisite, and to prefer any complaints which he or she may have to make against any officer of the gaol or workhouse.

17. The keeper shall allow all prisoners as much air and exercise as may be deemed proper for the preservation of their health, except those in solitary confinement.

#### *Keeper's Reports and Returns.*

18. The keeper shall, subject to the examination of the provost marshal, once a week, or oftener if required, frame a report in writing, according to the annexed forms (A.) and (B.), of all prisoners under charge, with the date of entry and discharge, the cause of commitment, and any general remarks which may be requisite; which report he shall transmit to the governor or lieutenant-governor, and also to the acting magistrate, for their information.

19. The keeper shall make a similar report for crimes and misdemeanors, to be laid before the judges of the general court, on the first day of every assize or gaol delivery, to be holden in and for these islands; which return is to be kept and filed, by the proper officer, among the records of the court, or otherwise disposed of as the justice may think necessary.

#### *Classification of Prisoners.*

20. The male and female prisoners shall be confined in separate parts of the prison or workhouse, so as to prevent them from seeing, conversing or holding any intercourse with each other.

21. The prisoners of each sex shall, if practicable, be divided into distinct classes, according to the 12th section of the Colonial Act, &c.

#### *Time and Description of Labour.*

22. That all prisoners sentenced to hard labour shall, unless prevented by sickness, commence their labour at sunrise in the morning, and be allowed one half hour for breakfast; they shall then recommence work, and terminate at sunset in the evening; one hour in the interval, after breakfast, being allowed for dinner. No prisoner shall be put to hard labour on Sunday, Christmas-day, Good Friday, the birthdays of the King and Queen, or on any days appointed by public authority for fasting or thanksgiving.

23. A list of tools and materials requisite for the working prisoners, with suggestions as to the value of the labour most beneficial, shall be prepared by the keeper and submitted to the board of superintendence or the visitors, for their inspection and approval, and the cost thereof to be provided by the colony.

24. That the proceeds of the labour and industry, if sold, of each prisoner shall be to the use of the gaol, under the direction of the board—male adults quarrying stone, working on the roads, or other public works without the walls of the establishment; within the walls, grinding corn, breaking stone and drawing water: female prisoners and juvenile male convicts, within the walls of the establishment, picking oakum, cotton or the like, grinding or shelling corn, washing, weeding and clearing up the prison-yards, needle-work, plating and drawing water. The provost marshal from time to time to purchase materials authorized by the board, for the purpose of keeping prisoners employed, in conformity to the above regulations.

#### *Medical Attendance.*

25. The governor or officer administering the government shall appoint a fit and proper person as surgeon to each of the prisons or workhouses within the colony.

26. Every such surgeon shall and is hereby required to visit every prison and workhouse once at least in every day, and oftener, if necessary, and to see every prisoner confined therein, whether criminal or debtor, and to report monthly to the board and visitors the condition of the prison, and the state of the prisoners under his care; and he shall further keep a journal, in which he shall enter the date of every attendance on the performance of his duty, with any prescriptions which he may think fit to order, and any observations which may occur to him in the execution thereof, and shall sign the same with his name; and such journal shall be kept in the gaol, which journal shall be signed by the members of the board, or by the visitor, at the stated monthly meeting; and to order any diet.

27. The surgeon shall examine every prisoner who shall be brought into the prison or workhouse before he or she should be passed into the proper ward; and no prisoner shall be discharged from prison or the workhouse, if labouring under any acute or dangerous distemper, nor until, in the opinion of the surgeon, such discharge is safe, unless such prisoner shall require to be discharged, or, if an apprenticed labourer, until notice has been given to a special magistrate, or his sanction obtained for the discharge.

28. The surgeon shall provide a chest, containing the ordinary medicines and other materials which are most commonly used, and as may be requisite for the preservation of the health of the prisoners: the key of the medicine chest to be deposited with the keeper.

Enclosure 2,  
in (W.)

*Dietary.*

29. Every prisoner maintained at the expense of the colony shall be allowed a sufficient quantity of plain and wholesome food, to be regulated by the board or visitors, regard being had (so far as may relate to convicted prisoners) to the nature of the labour required from or performed by such prisoners, so that the allowance of food may be duly apportioned thereto; viz. to those performing hard labour, one quart of clean grits, or one pound and a half of bread, at the discretion of the provost marshal; and an allowance of fish, not exceeding 2 *d.* to those prisoners employed without the walls, to be discontinued in case of misbehaviour. Women and convicts sentenced to imprisonment without hard labour to have one quart of unground Indian corn, or one pound of bread; unconvicted prisoners to be allowed food to the value of 1 *s.* per diem.

30. The diet of prisoners in solitary confinement to be three-fourths of a quart of corn daily.

31. That prisoners under the care of the surgeon shall be allowed such diet as he may direct.

32. That the keeper shall be authorized to advertise for tenders for supplying the prisoners with provisions for not less than six months, with security for the due performance; the lowest tender, if satisfactory, to be preferred and taken by the board or visitors; that care be taken that all provisions be of proper quality and weight; and scales and legal weights and measures shall be provided, open to the use of any prisoner, under such restrictions as shall be made by the regulations of each prison or workhouse.

33. No prisoner who is confined under any sentence of court, nor any person confined in pursuance of any conviction before a justice, shall receive any food, clothing or necessaries other than the gaol allowance, except under such regulations and restrictions as to the board or visitors may appear expedient, with reference to the several classes of prisoners, or under special circumstances.

34. Every prisoner shall be provided with suitable bedding, and every male prisoner with a separate bed, hammock or cot, either in a separate cell, or in a cell with not more than four other male prisoners in the workhouse and six in the gaol.

35. Prisoners, whether confined for contempt or debt, or before trial, or for any supposed crime or offence, shall be allowed to procure provisions for themselves at their own expense, and to receive at proper hours any food, bedding, clothing or other necessaries, subject to a strict examination, and under such limitation and restriction as may be reasonable and expedient to prevent extravagance and luxury within the walls of a prison; and which indulgence is to be withdrawn in case of abuse; all articles of clothing and bedding shall be examined, in order that it may be ascertained that such articles are not likely to communicate infection or facilitate escape.

*Distinguishing Dress.*

36. That prisoners' clothing or party-coloured dresses shall be provided for the different classes of prisoners, and to be of such pattern and colour as may be deemed proper by the board or visitors; that all prisoners sentenced to hard labour shall be compelled to wear a party-coloured prison dress; but no prisoner before trial shall be compelled to wear a prison dress unless his or her clothes be deemed insufficient or improper, or necessary to be preserved for the purposes and ends of justice; but in all such cases the prison dress shall be plain.

*Religious Instruction.*

37. Divine service, by any chaplain appointed by the lieutenant-governor, shall be performed at least every Sunday, or, in his unavoidable absence, the keeper or some other person duly authorized by the governor; the chaplain or any person performing such service to enter his name in a book to be kept in the gaol for that purpose: provided, however, that nothing in this regulation shall prevent any religious teacher or other competent person from administering religious instruction at any time to the prisoners, with the authority of the governor.

38. All prisoners shall attend divine service on Sundays and on other days when service is performed, unless prevented by sickness or by any other reasonable cause, to be allowed by the keeper.

39. The general board of superintendence or visitors may, at their discretion, authorize the employment of any prisoner for the purpose of instructing the prisoners.

Approved and confirmed.

(signed) *W. M. G. Colebrooke,*

Government House, 3 September 1836.

FORM (A.)  
RETURN of PRISONERS in the Gaol and Workhouse of

183 .

No.	Name.	Sex.		Age.	Labourer.	Seaman.	Domestic.	Trade.	When Admitted, 183 .	Offence.	Date of Condemnation, 183 .	By whom.	Sentence.	When Discharged, 183 .	
		Male.	Female.												



RETURN of the GAOLS and HOUSES of CORRECTION, &c.—continued.

Enclosure 3,  
in (W.)

Name of the Prison, and where situated.	6. Total Number of Prisoners committed in the course of the Year.				7. Number of Prisoners who have been committed before.			8. Number of Prisoners employed in the course of the Year.				9. Punishments for Offences within the Prison during the Year.				10. Cases of Sickness.				11. Deaths during the Year.			
	Whites.		Blacks or Coloured Persons.		Once.	Twice.	Three times or more.	At Hard Labour in the Prison.	At Hard Labour out of the Prison.	At Em- ployments not Hard Labour.	Not em- ployed.	Whip- ping.	Irona.	Solitary Confinement.	Other Punish- ments.	Greatest Number of Sick at one time.		Total Cases of Sickness during the Year.		Whites.	Blacks or Coloured Persons.		
	Number under 18 Years of Age.	Number who cannot Read.	Number under 18 Years of Age.	Number who cannot Read.												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.
<b>TOTALS -</b>																							



Enclosure 3,  
in (W.)

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RETURN of the GAOLS and HOUSES OF CORRECTION, &c.—*continued.*

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QUESTIONS.

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ANSWERS.

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1. General description of the prison; whether common gaol, house of correction, or otherwise? (To be accompanied by a ground-plan of the buildings, &c.)

2. Under whose jurisdiction and superintendence; and what measures are adopted for securing the visitation of the prison by the local magistrates or other authorities? (A copy of the rules and regulations to be forwarded with the return.)

3. Number of officers, and how appointed? Do all the officers reside in the prison? Are female prisoners attended by female officers exclusively?

4. Number of classes, divisions or wards, day-rooms, work-rooms and airing-yards (with reference to plan); and whether the same can be extended or increased?

5. Number of sleeping cells, solitary or dark cells, &c.; and if any are below ground?

6. Dietary or weekly allowance, and weekly cost per head, for the different descriptions of prisoners?

7. Allowance of clothing and bedding, and cost per head?

8. Hours of labour and exercise?

9. Description of employment and hard labour?

10. Amount of earnings, and how applied; in what proportion to the prisoners, to the officers, or to the fund for the maintenance of the prison?

11. Whether the classification directed by the Colonial Act has been observed; if not, for what reasons; and what measures have been taken to remedy this defect?

12. Are convicted prisoners prohibited from receiving visits or letters, or any articles of food or clothing, from their relatives or friends; if not, under what restrictions?

## QUESTIONS.

## ANSWERS.

13. Is there a chapel in the prison, or suitable apartment for the performance of religious services? How are the prisoners separated therein?

14. What duties are performed by the chaplain? What provision is made for the instruction of the prisoners; and are they supplied with Bibles and other suitable books?

15. Are dissenting ministers allowed to have access to the prisoners; and, if so, at what times and under what restrictions?

16. What duties are performed by the surgeon? Are separate buildings or apartments provided for the sick?

17. What diseases have been most prevalent during the year (in reference to columns 10 and 11, Return No. 1)?

18. Reasons for non-employment of prisoners (in reference to column 8)?

19. Reasons for punishments, by whipping, irons, solitary confinement, or otherwise?

20. Is there any insane person in confinement? State his or her name and age, and for what offence committed? How long has he or she been in confinement; and is such person separated from the other prisoners?

21. Are any, and what, fees demanded of debtors, or of any other prisoners, either at their admission to or discharge from the gaol?

22. General observations.

## J A M A I C A.

— No. 508. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*.JAMAICA.  
—  
No. 508.

My Lord, The King's House, St. Jago de la Vega, 9 April 1836.

I HAVE the honour to send to you herewith a letter and some other enclosures, sent to me by Major Baines, the special justice of St. Thomas in the East, Morant Point District, giving an account of his committal of certain women belonging to Leith Hall to the house of correction at Morant Bay, and the consequent death of one of them. I also enclose the minutes of the coroner's inquest, which appears to me to have been a most insufficient examination; and that where it appeared that every person who was on the tread-mill had been hurt, a little more trouble ought to have been taken to ascertain the reasons. Some other circumstances having, however, come to my knowledge, to the disadvantage of the system pursued in that establishment, I have written to the custos to request that a formal inquiry may be made by the magistrates of the district. An inquest, which appears this day in the Watchman newspaper, fully justifies the inquiry I have directed to be made.

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

Enclosure 1, in No. 508.

COPY of a LETTER from *Thomas J. Baines*, Special Justice, to his Excellency the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Unity, 9 February 1836.

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 508.

IN making my report this week to your Excellency, I regret it is not so favourable as I could wish.—Leith Hall (Mr. George Taylor attorney, Mr. Stuart overseer). The female apprentices on the estate have evinced a very bad and determined feeling; on the 13th and 14th July 1835 the same existed, and I placed 15 women in a penal gang; from which period till the 4th instant, I have had little or no trouble; indeed, I may say, fewer complaints on either side than on any other estate. I visited the property on the 3d instant, went through the works, spoke to the people, and had not a single complaint made to me. On my return from Lyssons on the next day, 4th, I met a messenger from Mr. Stuart, requiring my presence. Catherine Stanford and Diana Clarke were brought before me, for informing the overseer that they would not continue any longer to work on so poor an estate; and upon my remonstrating with them, and pointing out the kindness of the attorney in giving all the allowances, &c., nine other women came forward, and stated in the most violent manner that they would not cut another cane; that they would die on the tread-mill first. I informed them, that the attorney, Mr. George Taylor, would be there in the morning; that I should send five of the worst to the tread-mill for 10 days, and that I should place the remainder in confinement, and that I hoped in the morning they would be better disposed; they all insisted upon going to the tread-mill, but I determined that they should not; I, with a great deal of difficulty, separated the five, sent them off to Morant Bay, also a requisition for a detachment of police; the remaining seven were placed in confinement. Captain Brown, of the Ellen, and Captain Leutch, a planter from Manchioneal, were present, and assured me they had never seen any thing so determinedly bad in the island. Not feeling comfortable from the state of things upon the property, I again returned to the estate after I had dined; and, previous to my going up to the overseer's house, where I intended sleeping, I rode round the works, and the first thing I observed was some trash on fire, on a large heap of wet trash that had been made in the day, and not removed from the stoke-hole. I had it extinguished as soon as possible, but I must say it was not done so readily as it ought to have been. On instituting an inquiry into the cause, the head boiler-man admitted that he had done it accidentally when lighting the lamp, and, being on wet trash, that it could not do any harm; however, I strongly blamed his carelessness, as the wind might have carried it away to the dry trash; but, as I found that I could gain no more light upon the point, I considered it better to let it pass as an act of inadvertency, lest it might cause a sensation on the other estates, which might be attended with injury. On the police coming at near twelve o'clock, I placed them on the property, and, upon Mr. Taylor's arrival, I had the remaining seven delinquents brought before me; the same obstinate determination neither to complain or to work existed; I ordered the police to take them to the cane-piece to work, but the serjeant came back, and reported that they all sat down, and did so in defiance of any entreaty or remonstrance of his. I felt the hardship of sending so many able hands from the estate, by no means strong, but finding that nothing else was left for me but sending them to the tread-mill (in which Mr. G. Taylor fully agreed), I made out their committal for ten days. I am happy to say, not one of the men, or any other individual, seemed

seemed to take any part in this shameful business, and they have been working quite to the satisfaction of the overseer. On Sunday, 7th, I received the accompanying letters, and sent off a messenger to Dr. Cooke, stating that the first thing in the morning I would leave for the Bay; arrived there about ten o'clock, and proceeded with Dr. Cooke to the house of correction. Had Mr. Thompson and Mr. Ewart been there, I should have requested their attendance. The inquest had taken place on Sunday, and a verdict returned, "That Louisa Beveridge, an apprentice to Leith Hall, had come by her death from apoplexy, while undergoing her punishment on the tread-mill." I inquired particularly into the mode that these unfortunate delinquents were tied on the wheel, and found it was by cords round their arms; I do not certainly think it a proper plan, as the circulation may, by their determined resistance, be diverted into another channel, which in this and other instances has proved fatal. The doctor agreed with my view of the case, and Mr. Thompson has left for Kingston to see the plan adopted there. I sent for these unfortunate women, and found that they had so injured themselves from hanging by the rail by the cords, that they were not in a state to continue their punishment; they seemed to have lost all their former insolent determination, and expressed themselves sorry for their conduct. I would have released them altogether, but was fearful of the effect it might have upon the estates in this district if such resistance to the laws could be looked over, upon the apprentices, in defiance of law, injuring themselves; I therefore ordered the remainder of their time to be solitary confinement, which I trust will be of service to them, and give them the advantage of daily attendance from the medical gentlemen attached to the establishment, to get cured of the wounds upon their hands that the cords had made. Two of them, Letitia Gordon and Nancy Palmer, I found, had behaved very well indeed; from the time they entered the house of correction had never required coercion in any way, and expressed themselves contrite. I, therefore, to make a distinction, and I hope an impression, have pardoned them; and, I am happy to say, the first thing they did on returning to Leith Hall was to express their regret to the overseer. I was compelled, from bodily fatigue to myself and horses, to remain at the Bay all night, and, on my way home, visited Leith Hall, and found every thing going on well. These are circumstances, my Lord, in a population of this nature, that must now and then occur, without being able to find out a cause, but the effect, if not repressed, might be attended with much injury. I have never seen any thing but kindness on the part of the overseer, and Mr. George Taylor states the same; they have received all the old allowances, worked cheerfully under the same agreement that all the estates to the Bay agreed to for upwards of six weeks. I trust, my Lord, I shall have a more agreeable report to make next week. The other properties are doing well, and Peru much better; that estate made more sugar during the time the eight women were on the tread-mill than during the time previously. I am sorry to trouble your lordship with so long a statement, but, considering it my duty, hope to be excused.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Thomas J. Baines*, Special Justice.

Had the honour of receiving, on 26th July 1835, his Excellency's approbation on the steps I took at Leith Hall on 13th, and 14th July 1835.

*T. J. B.*

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COPY of a LETTER from *William Gibson*, Esq. Supervisor, to Major *J. Baines*, Special Justice.

Sir,

Morant Bay, House of Correction, 6 February 1836.

DR. COOKE, on visiting the house of correction, desired that the following report be made to you, and begs to state that he will feel obliged by your meeting him here at as early a period as possible, you stating the day and hour.

"REPORT.—Catherine Stanford, Christian Gordon, Diana Clarke, Elizabeth Dennis, Eleanor Speckleford, Louisa Dick and Gracy James, all apprentices to Leith Hall Estate.

These women above-named are in perfect health, but evince such a determination to injure themselves on the tread-mill, that I consider it necessary that the committing magistrate should see them at work, and participate with me in the responsibility of continuing their punishment.

(signed) *Andrew Cooke*.

I remain, &c.

(signed) *William Gibson*, Supervisor.

P. S.—The woman named Louisa Beveridge died on the tread-mill this morning.

*W. G.*

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COPY of a LETTER from *Andrew Cooke*, Esq. to Major *J. Baines*, Special Justice.

My dear Major,

Shady Spring, Saturday, 6 February 1836.

ON visiting the house of correction this forenoon, I found that one of the women who were sent in yesterday from Leith Hall had died. It appears that she, as well as others

## JAMAICA.

sent in by you from that place, refused to step the wheel, and was in consequence tied by the arms to the hand-rail.

I saw the woman yesterday in perfect health; I am now going to dissect the body, and will attend the inquest to-morrow.

The other women I have directed to have their punishment discontinued, and my remarks in the sick-book have been forwarded to you, with a request that you would, at as early a day as convenient, visit the house of correction, where I will meet you; let me now repeat this request, for although I cannot see how any blame can attach to any quarter, except to the unfortunate woman herself, yet it is proper and necessary that we take all the pains in our power to discover the real cause of such a lamentable accident, and, if possible, to prevent a recurrence of such.

Yours, &c.

*Andrew Cooke.*

Enclosure 2, in No. 508.

COPY of a LETTER from *Hugh Paterson*, Esq., to *W. G. Nunes*, Esq.

Sir,

Morant Bay, 6 April 1836.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 508.

His honor the custos has requested me to send you the proceedings of an inquest held on Louisa Beveridge, in February last, for the information of his Excellency the Governor; I now enclose a statement of the proceedings as well as the inquisition, embodying the verdict of the jury.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Hugh Paterson.*

Sunday, 7 February.

*George Knighton* sworn.—Is overseer of the tread-mill; Louisa Beveridge was sent into the workhouse on Thursday, with four others belonging to Leith Hall, by Major Baines, to be worked two days on the tread-mill; that they were all very violent, and some refused to work; that they were tied on to the mill, among whom was Louisa; that they continued to tie them all Friday and till Saturday morning, about ten o'clock, when she died.

*Dr. Cooke* sworn.—Deposes that he visited the workhouse yesterday, and found a woman had died on the tread-mill; that he opened the body and dissected the head, where he found a determination of blood, occasioned by excitement and irritation, which brought on apoplexy and caused her death.

Jamaica ss.

St. Thomas in the East and St. David's.

An inquisition taken for our Sovereign Lord the King, at the house of correction of Morant Bay, on Sunday, 7th day of February 1836, before Hugh Paterson, Esquire, one of His Majesty's justices of the peace for the parish and precinct aforesaid, in the absence of John Drysdale, Esquire, coroner, on view of the body of a negro woman named Louisa Beveridge, then and there lying dead, upon the oaths of John Martin, Andrew Mitchel, Richard Harris, Richard Blakely, James Forsyth, John Grant, John Crump, Thomas Milne, William Nairne, R. G. Marshall, David Roach and James Farrel, twelve good and lawful men duly sworn, to inquire how or in what manner the said negro woman named Louisa Beveridge came by her death; the said jurors do upon their oaths say, that the said negro woman named Louisa Beveridge came by her death by dying of apoplexy, whilst undergoing the punishment on tread-mill, and not otherwise. In witness whereof the said jurors, as well as the said justice, have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year above written.

	<i>John Martin</i> , Foreman. (L. s.)	<i>John Crump</i> . (L. s.)
	<i>Andrew Mitchel</i> . (L. s.)	<i>Thomas Milne</i> . (L. s.)
	<i>Richard Harris</i> . (L. s.)	<i>William Nairne</i> . (L. s.)
<i>Hugh Paterson</i> . (L. s.)	<i>Richard Blakely</i> . (L. s.)	<i>R. G. Marshall</i> . (L. s.)
	<i>James Forsyth</i> . (L. s.)	<i>David Roach</i> . (L. s.)
	<i>John Grant</i> . (L. s.)	<i>James Farrel</i> . (L. s.)

—No. 509.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

No. 509.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 11 June 1836.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch of the 9th April last, enclosing a letter and its enclosures from Major Baines, the special magistrate at St. Thomas in the East, giving an account of the committal of some female apprentices to the house of correction at Morant Bay, and of the death of one of them, after having been tied upon the tread-mill.

I am glad to find that your lordship has, with your usual promptitude, directed a further inquiry into this case, which appears to me to have most urgently called for

for such an additional investigation. I trust that the proposed inquiry will embrace, not merely the particular case of Louisa Beveridge, the woman who died, but the general system of management in the Morant Bay workhouse, where it appears, from the testimony afforded at the inquest, that the women who refused to work in the tread-mill were fastened to it by ligatures round the arms for twenty-four successive hours, in such a manner as to endanger the lives of all, and actually to occasion the death of one of them. I have to request that your Lordship will transmit to me, at as early a period as possible, the result of the proposed inquiry.

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

—No. 510.—

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*.

The King's House, St. Jago de la Vega,  
9 April 1836.

My Lord,

No. 510.

I HAVE the honour to enclose you herewith a copy of a report made to me by Major Baines, the special justice of Morant Point District, in St. Thomas in the East, detailing the particulars of an act of gross cruelty and oppression committed by an overseer of the name of Loughlin. I also enclose you a copy of some notes taken by Mr. Lyon, at the trial at the Morant quarter sessions held this last week. Your Lordship will be as gratified, no doubt, as I am, to see the view taken by the magistrates on that occasion, and the just punishment they have inflicted. Their faith in their ultimate impunity has caused the commission of most of these offences by the overseers, but this decision of the court of quarter sessions, the greater part of the magistrates who sat at it being of their own class, or, at all events, residents in the parish, will have a better effect than all the fines which the special justices could inflict, and will, I am confident, be advantageously felt all over the island. Though I cannot doubt but that cruelties, whenever discovered in Jamaica in former times, were punished, I cannot but contrast this decision with that last year, in the case of Mr. Mouchett, in St. James's parish, for a very much more cruel offence, to the great credit of the inhabitants of St. Thomas in the East. The inference I draw is, that a very improved spirit and feeling now exists in this island.

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

Enclosure 1, in No. 510.

COPY of a LETTER from *Thomas J. Baines*, Esq. Special Justice, to his Excellency the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Retreat, St. Thomas in the East, 29 March 1836.

In making my brief report this week, it is my painful duty to state to your Lordship a circumstance which, if proved, is so revolting to human nature and degrading to the feelings of man, that, not having been contemplated by the framers of our laws, perhaps may not meet with an adequate punishment.

A complaint has been made to me by an apprentice, a cattleman belonging to Cardiff estate, against Mr. Jockin, the overseer of that property, as follows:—Two steers died, the one on the Friday, the other on the Sunday following. On Saturday the complainant, agreeable to orders, cut up and burnt the one that died on the previous day, and being called upon to perform the same unpleasant duty on Monday, refused to do so, stating, that having burnt the one on Saturday, he thought some other person should do so: he was placed in confinement for this disobedience, but no intimation given to me of the circumstance. On the Tuesday the overseer ordered the constable to release the complainant, and take him to the pen, and if he did not cut up and burn the steer, the constable should do so; the complainant and constable, on arriving at the pen, found the carcass so offensive, decomposition having taken place, the vermin and John-crows having also devoured a part, that the complainant again, for that reason, refused; they both then returned to the overseer, who took a cord, which he gave to the constable, with orders, if he again refused, to tie the complainant to the carcass; he did refuse, and was tied to the horns of the steer: a book-keeper was looking on seeing this brutal act performed. In this state he was left; the book-keeper to go about his other business, the constable to report to his employer that he had executed his orders, and to know what was next to be done; he was ordered to release him, and conjointly to burn the carcass, which they did by placing faggots over it, without cutting it up. The complainant states that he was left in that state for an hour and a half. The time might have appeared long to him. Upon receiving this statement, my feelings

JAMAICA.

feelings were excited beyond what I have power to express, and I felt assured, by acting as a special justice under the 49th clause, I could not mark the crime by a paltry fine of 5*l.* I wished it to go to the highest court, and determined that a jury should decide, and if proved, that he might get that meed of punishment such an act deserved; on the other hand, if innocent, that he might have an opportunity of proving it thus publicly in the face of the country, and showing that no man calling himself an Englishman could be guilty of such an act; I also hope this may be the case for the sake of human nature. I am happy to have the power of stating that two opinions hardly exist as to the detestation of the crime, which never was known even in the worst times of slavery. In conjunction with Mr. Thompson, of Morant Bay, we, as local magistrates, took the deposition of the complainant, the constable and book-keeper; the two first proved the order being given, as also the rope by Mr. Jockin; the latter the execution of that order; but the book-keeper states that the carcass was not offensive to him, although a hole had been eaten in it, and vermin were crowding about it; but from the time the steer had died, from the disease and its exposure, it must have been offensive. I stated, my Lord, that I wished it to have gone to the assize court at Kingston, but my brother magistrate differing, it was referred to the clerk of the peace, Mr. Harris, and I have the honour of enclosing the letters upon the subject. Mr. Jockin is now bound over to take his trial at the quarter sessions the first Tuesday in next month (April), and sincerely do I hope he may be able to disprove such a charge. Feeling that I should not have performed my duty to the public by acting as a special magistrate under such circumstances, with power of punishment only extending to 5*l.*, and also feeling that such a court was not sufficiently open for so grave a charge, I have resisted every application on that head, and, if honoured with your Lordship's sanction for my conduct on that point, I shall feel perfectly satisfied.

As the depositions, of course, are *ex parte*, in charity we must suppose Mr. Jockin innocent till he should be proved otherwise. I have taken no notice of this circumstance in my general report, and have taken the liberty of addressing this privately to your Lordship, thus leaving it to your Excellency's better judgment to do what you may consider will best aid the cause of justice.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Thomas J. Baines*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 2, in No. 510.

Quarter Sessions, 5 April 1836.

*Wm. Taggart*, an Apprentice to Cardiff Estate, v. ——— *Loghlin*, Overseer, Cardiff.  
Assault and False Imprisonment.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 510.

*Wm. Taggart* sworn.—Busha sent constable to put him in dark hole on Monday; let me out on Tuesday morning, and told constable to tell me to burn cow; the cow stunk; got some bush, and covered cow; busha told me to cut up cow; I said I could not do it; then constable took me to busha; he said I must burn it, and if I did not, constable was to tie me to the cow. Book-keeper was present when constable asked what he was to do; book-keeper said, obey busha's orders. Constable then tied me to the cow; busha gave constable sash-cord to tie me to cow; flies blew upon me; constable came with fire; he then loosed me, and burnt the cow; at night, constable put me in dark hole; in the morning was sent to field; was in dark hole four nights; cow died on Sunday; was tied to him on Tuesday morning; busha told constable to tie him to the horns; the cow died from disease; was quite spoilt when tied to it; vermin was upon it; carrion had been eating cow; was tied about an hour and a half to the cow; the attorney, Mr. Blakely, was on the property at the time; had no orders on Sunday to burn cow; book-keeper's horse was missing on Sunday evening, and he said I must find it; I went to look for it, and brought it in on Monday; in the afternoon, constable came and put me in dark hole; was not ordered on Sunday to burn steer; was not told to do so until Tuesday.

*David Richards*, constable, sworn.—A steer died on Cardiff estate on Sunday; on Tuesday, busha told me to take Taggart to burn the steer, and gave me some sash-cord to tie him, if he did not do it, on the cow; busha said, if I did not make Taggart do it, he would make me do it myself; the cow was very offensive. When Taggart said he would not burn the cow, I asked book-keeper what I should do; he said, tie him, to be sure. I asked if I was to tie him to cow; he said, yes, obey busha's orders. Busha told me I was to tie him to the cow's nose; I tied him to the horns; his hands were tied behind him. Book-keeper told me to cut the ends of the cord, that no one might let him loose. We came away, and left him alone, tied to the cow. I came to busha, and told him; he said, I must go back and loose him; I was away about an hour and a half. Taggart did not refuse to burn the cow when I took him there on Tuesday, but book-keeper said he was to cut it up into mince-meat; he said he could not do that, because it stunk. The steer had a hole in the fore-leg, and was very offensive; it was full of vermin. I was told to put Taggart in the cell on Tuesday.

*Andrew Mayne*, book-keeper, sworn.—The steer died on Sunday afternoon; I told Taggart he would have to burn him on Monday; he told me that he had burned one yesterday, and that he would not do so again. On Monday was ordered to make him do it. Went to the pasture where the cattle were; could not find him; reported it to the overseer; did not know where he was. On Sunday night I said my horse was out, and that he must look for him; he came in the cattle-pen on Monday night with the horse. I did not tell the overseer; he was sent to look for the horse. I saw the steer on Sunday and Monday; it did not smell; I went

I went close to it. I saw some crows about the steer; I saw a hole in it, a small one, not quite the size of the crown of a hat; when I first saw it, it was my impression that it was cut out; there were vermin in it; was present when Taggart was tied to the steer; do not know by whose orders; constable and Taggart were both standing up; I asked Taggart if he was going to cut up the cow; he said he would not; I told the constable to do what the overseer ordered him; I went away after he was tied; I do not know how long he was tied; I went to the works. I do not recollect the words Taggart used when he said he would not burn the steer; the meaning was, it was too offensive. He was put into the cell on Monday night, on Tuesday night, and at shell-blow on Wednesday.

## In Defence.

*George Kinghorn*, head driver, sworn.—The steer died on Sunday, about three o'clock. Busha gave me orders, on Sunday morning, to have the cow burnt when he was dead; he was driving at that time. I saw Taggart on Sunday night; he said he had orders already; he was sent in dark hole on Monday night.

*Mr. Blakely*, the attorney.—Spoke to character; said the overseer had been eight or nine years on estate; had not heard of any inhuman act committed by him till the present; do not think he would commit such an act.

*Dr. Bell*.—Is medical attendant on Cardiff. *Mr. Loghlin* is far from being inhuman; he has always been kind to the sick, giving them whatever I ordered.

Verdict—Guilty, and strongly recommended to mercy.

Sentence—To be imprisoned in the county gaol three months, and to pay a fine of 100*L.*, and be imprisoned until such fine be paid.

Special Justice Lyon, soon after August 1834, fined this overseer for laying down one of the house girls, and flogging her; and Special Justice Blake, I believe, fined him twice.

(signed) *E. B. L.*

## — No. 511.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 12 June 1836.

No. 511.

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch of the 9th of April last, enclosing a copy of a report from Major Baines, the special magistrate, detailing the particulars of an act of gross cruelty and oppression committed by an overseer of the Morant Bay district.

I have attentively perused this document, and I entirely concur in the satisfaction which has been experienced by your Lordship at the contrast which is exhibited by the trial and conviction of this person to the former case to which you have referred, and at the determination which I trust it evinces, on the part of the magistracy of Jamaica, to visit with adequate punishment cruelty inflicted upon the apprenticed labourers by their employers. I anticipate the most salutary results from such a proof of the improved state of public feeling on the subject.

In the evidence in this case which you have transmitted, I remark that the overseer had, for four successive nights, committed the apprenticed labourer, William Taggart, to solitary confinement on the estate, without the previous authority or subsequent sanction of the special justice. The magistrates throughout the island cannot be too strongly admonished to exercise the greatest vigilance in the prevention or punishment of a practice of this nature, which would virtually re-establish the power of inflicting a summary and indefinite punishment, at the will of the employer.

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

## — No. 512.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Highgate, Jamaica, 15 May 1836.

No. 512.

I HAVE the honour to state, in reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 7th March, wherein you call my particular attention to a letter of Mr. Marlton's of the 22d of December 1835, relative to the habit of working publicly in chains females sentenced to a few days' punishment for a trivial absence or minor offences, that I have addressed to all the special justices and custodes the circulars enclosed; I have therein made no particular distinction as to the sexes, as the above prevails nearly as much with regard to males as females, adding,

The Correspondence referred to is herewith annexed: vide Despatches (A.) & (B.) pages 37 and 38.



JAMAICA.

adding, at the pleasure of the supervisor, and under the plea of any bye-law of the institution, to the sentence of the special justice; the evil as to the females will be obviated, I trust, by this expedient; if not, I will make more particular allusion to that sex; in the mean time, I hope that by these letters I shall, in a great degree, effect the humane purpose of your Lordship's despatch. I cannot, however, say that I anticipate an universal attention to that request; I do not think that any desire exists among the magistracy of this colony at all to alleviate the condition of those of their apprentices who are suffering punishment; frequent entreaties are made to the magistrates to apply corporal punishment instead of any kind of confinement, and though I have used my utmost exertion to substitute other punishments for that most degrading, corporal pain, and hope to be able, if it shall be my destiny to remain here, presiding over the administration of the laws, for a short time longer, to abolish it entirely, I am bound to say, that simple confinement is not at all the same punishment to a negro that it is to an inhabitant of a colder climate; they do not feel so acutely the deprivation of society; even solitary confinement is here a very inferior mode of punishment; and confinement in the workhouses, unless accompanied by diminution of food or hard labour, possesses no horrors for them. In some of the workhouses they have no means of giving them hard labour; at all events it is much more profitable to the parish to employ them jobbing for hire on the different estates around; I therefore anticipate some opposition, but will endeavour to effect your Lordship's purpose by enforcing a strict obedience to the sentences of the special justices, and by recommending to them to be cautious in their sentences on females.

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

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Enclosure 1, in No. 512.

COPY of a LETTER from *W. G. Nunes, Esq.* Secretary, to the Special Justices.  
(No. 2,963.)

Sir,

The King's House, 10 May 1836.

THE attention of his Excellency the Governor has often been engaged in attempting to devise a proper mode of classification of prisoners committed in the gaols or houses of correction; and he has recently received a communication from the Secretary of State on the subject.

In many instances he believes that, when the sentence is simply committed for a certain time, hard labour, either on the tread-mill or out of the institution, is added by the supervisor. It becomes necessary that you should in your sentence define, as clearly as possible, the punishment you intend the parties to undergo. Labour out of the institution is frequently objectionable, for this reason, that it is customary for the parties to be chained; it may happen that, from the smallness of the number, a person, for the minor offence of having absented himself from his master's work, may be chained to a convict under sentence for life for some very serious crime. Hard labour on the tread-wheel may therefore be a better sentence. Breaking stones for the roads, which may be done within the walls, would also be a wholesome species of labour.

Having, however, directed the most scrupulous definition of the punishment you intend, you will take care that it be not exceeded or deviated from in any particular, and of course it will be your duty to report any abuse you may detect to his Excellency the Governor.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *W. G. Nunes, Secy.*

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COPY of a LETTER from *W. G. Nunes, Esq.* Secretary, to the Custos or Senior Magistrate.

Sir,

The King's House, 11 May 1836.

HIS Excellency the Governor thinks it proper to put you in possession of a communication made to the several special magistrates, that you may be aware of his sentiments on the subject, and to request that you will give orders to the supervisor of the house of correction in your parish to abide strictly by the sentence which any special magistrate may award in the commitment of prisoners to that institution.

He desires me to observe that no bye-law of any institution can justify the supervisor in giving any sort of punishment to any culprit not convicted of an offence, or in exceeding by a single point the sentence of the special justice, as this being would nullify the Abolition Act, and as such is not justified in the Gaol Act.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *W. G. Nunes, Secy.*

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Enclosure

Enclosure 2, in No. 512.

JAMAICA.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 512.

CORRESPONDENCE referred to in the foregoing Despatch.

(A.)

COPY of a LETTER from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Highgate, Jamaica, 3 January 1836.

HAVING received the letter, of which a copy is sent enclosed, from Mr. Marlton, the special justice for the north-west division of St. Mary's parish, I caused a circular to be sent to the different custodes, calling their attention to the necessity of a better classification of the prisoners; I fear, however, from what I know personally of the houses of correction in this island, that a proper classification, even of males and females, will be very difficult to be accomplished: a copy of that circular I have the honour to enclose, and hope it will meet with your approbation.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Sligo*.COPY of a LETTER from *Wm. Marlton*, Esq. Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

New Ramble, St. Mary's, 22 Dec. 1835.

I CONSIDER it my duty to make the following representation, with the hope that it may be in your Excellency's power to approve my view of the case, and to apply a remedy for the evil.

An Act was passed in July 1834, called "An Act for making further provision for the building, repairing and regulating of Gaols, &c. &c." In the third clause of that Act are enumerated certain rules and regulations, as far as they can be applied. The sixth rule provides for the classification of prisoners in houses of correction; I consider, my Lord, this rule should be strictly enforced; to say the least, it should be attempted. In St. Mary's house of correction no such thing is done: convicts for life, runaways, thieves, men and women sentenced to hard labour for neglect of duty, insolence, &c., are all herded together under the name of being in the penal gang. Surely, my Lord, a female sentenced to seven days' hard labour in the house of correction, one hour daily on the tread-mill, should not have a chain and collar put on her neck, and turned into a gang to dig cane-holes with convicts. It is customary to chain all persons who are sent to the house of correction, whatever the cause may be, as under sentence or for security. My object is to make the apprenticeship system a remedial measure and one of instruction, which, in my opinion, is best attained by showing the apprentices the value of good conduct, only to be forced on their attention by the classification of punishment for misconduct. I cannot conceive that the original Abolition Act contemplated apprentices being placed in chains with the worst characters, for the offence of impertinence to a manager; but your Lordship is aware that the special justice has often no alternative, there being no place of confinement on many estates. The period of apprenticeship, which is one of preparation for absolute freedom, will be of no value to either party if allowed to pass without entirely departing from the old system. Punishment may be sufficiently severe without adhering to old views; and truly, my Lord, as far as I can judge, not any attempt has been made to accommodate the new law to the discipline of St. Mary's house of correction. Should your Lordship consider this representation worth notice, I shall feel gratified by its receiving your Lordship's consideration.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Wm. Marlton*, Special Justice.COPY of a LETTER from *W. G. Nunes*, Esq. to the Custos or Senior Magistrate.

Sir,

King's House, 1 January 1836.

HIS Excellency the Governor is apprehensive, in consequence of some circumstances which have been communicated to him, that the sixth regulation of the third clause of the Act passed in July 1834, regarding gaols, houses of correction, &c., may, through inadvertence, have not been sufficiently attended to; I annex, by his desire, the copy of that portion to which his Excellency alludes, and he requests that you will direct the supervisor in your parish to pay particular attention to the classification laid down, according to the offences for which the prisoners may be committed to that institution.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *W. G. Nunes*.

EXTRACT, directing that the Prisoners or Inmates of the following classes do not intermix with each other.

IN houses of correction: first, prisoners convicted of felony; second, prisoners convicted of misdemeanors; third, prisoners committed on charge or suspicion of felony; fourth, prisoners committed on charge or suspicion of misdemeanors; fifth, vagrants. Such persons as are intended to be examined as witnesses on behalf of the Crown in any prosecution shall also be kept separate in all gaols and houses of correction.

JAMAICA.

(B.)

Copy of a LETTER from Lord *Glenelg* to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 7 March 1836.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 3d January last, enclosing the circular letter of the 1st of that month, which you addressed to the custodes of the several parishes of Jamaica, on the subject of the enforcement of the law of that island of July 1834, for the classification of prisoners in houses of correction.

I entirely approve that circular; but at the same time I must think that, of the abuses to which, in his letter of the 22d December, Mr. Marlton called your Lordship's attention, some more distinct and urgent notice is absolutely necessary. The practice of publicly working in chains, amongst convicts of both sexes, and of the most debased characters, females committed for a few days for no offence more serious than that of some neglect of plantation discipline, is an abuse in the real existence of which I am unwilling to believe on any light authority; and as your Lordship does not directly confirm this statement, I trust that you have reasons for discrediting it. If, however, such practices should really prevail, and should be found to admit of no other prevention or remedy, I think that the occasion would justify a prompt exercise of his Majesty's prerogative of pardon, in order to rescue any female from sufferings so disproportioned to the magnitude of the offence, and so injurious to the character of those by whom they are endured.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 513. —

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

No. 513.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 30 July 1836.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 15th May, enclosing copies of circulars which you have addressed to the special justices and custodes in Jamaica, in compliance with the instructions conveyed to your Lordship in my despatch of the 7th March, and I have to acquaint you, in reply, that these letters meet with my approval.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 514. —

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 514.

My Lord,

Highgate, Jamaica, 18 May 1836.

HAVING had it intimated to me that an unusual number of deaths had occurred in Morant Bay workhouse, I requested the custos of the parish to direct an inquiry to be made as to the causes of them. The enclosed does not, in my opinion, afford any satisfactory information on the subject. It is my intention, therefore, to call for the inquests, and if they do not throw some light on the subject, to devise some other means; the result, if any, I will take care to communicate to your Lordship; in the mean time I would be obliged by your Lordship's suggestions as to what steps can be taken properly when individuals, sentenced to the tread-mill, refuse to submit to the punishment; they have latterly been fastened by straps to the hand-rail, but many throw themselves off, and, hanging by their wrists, get seriously injured by the revolving wheel; one female, I fear, died of the consequences before the mill could be stopped. This mode of punishment is most efficacious with the negroes, and most people are now afraid to use it; I am, therefore, desirous of receiving your Lordship's instructions as to what steps it is considered that the supervisors can properly take to enforce these sentences.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Sligo*.

Enclosure

Enclosure 1, in No. 514.

JAMAICA.

RETURN of INQUESTS taken at the HOUSE of CORRECTION for *St. Thomas in the East*, between the 1st day of January 1835, and the 7th day of February 1836.

Enclosure 1, in No. 514.

DATE.	Name of the Deceased.	Name of Person by whom taken.	VERDICT.
1835:			
April - 4	Thomas Gale Morant.	Coroner, John Drysdale	Visitation of God.
July - 1	David Grant - -	ditto - ditto - -	ditto.
August 13	George Williams -	ditto - ditto - -	ditto.
Sept. - 8	Peter Henry - -	ditto - ditto - -	ditto.
Oct. - 14	Alick Williams -	ditto - ditto - -	ditto.
- -	Robert Hinchelwood.	ditto - ditto - -	-- In consequence of his leg coming in contact with the machinery of the tread-mill.
Dec. - 14	David Clarke -	ditto - ditto -	Visitation of God.
1836:			
Jan. - 10	Edward Gregory -	ditto - ditto -	-- Came to his death by his struggles on the tread-mill, which was accelerated thereby. He was previously diseased.
Jan. - 31	Catherine Broughton.	Magistrate, Thomas Thompson.	Visitation of God.
Feb. - 2	Francis Whittle -	Coroner, John Drysdale	- - ditto.
Feb. - 7	Louisa Beveridge -	Magistrate, Hugh Paterson.	-- These proceedings being before his Excellency the Governor, I have no means of returning the verdict.

Taken from the Coroner's returns to the office.

(signed) *George Harris*, Clerk of the Peace.

Enclosure 2, in No. 514.

Enclosure 2, in No. 514.

Sir,

Golden Grove, Port Morant, 10 May 1836.

I HAVE now the honour to enclose, for the information of the Governor, the examinations taken by the magistrates at the investigation which I ordered to be made at the house of correction on Monday last, and I hope they will be satisfactory to his Excellency.

As I had postponed the investigation on account of Dr. Cooke's absence, I enclose the letter, which accounts for his not being able to attend, although he would not have been able to get over Morant River, even if he had not been called away from the parish.

I also enclose Mr. Thompson's letter, as he was the magistrate who presided at the investigation.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Thomas M<sup>c</sup>Cormack*, Custos.

JAMAICA ss.—St. Thomas in the East.

At a meeting of the justices, convened this day, by order of his honor the custos, at the house of correction of this parish, to inquire into the state of that institution, and the cause of the deaths that have recently occurred thereat:—

Present,

Thomas Thompson, Esq.  
Dominick Loague, Esq.

John Renwick, Esq.  
Thomas Joseph Baines, Esq.

*William Gibson*, supervisor, sworn; states, That the medical gentleman's attendance at the institution is daily, generally, and oftener, if required. The persons confined in the house of correction have medicines and every nourishment that is ordered. Whenever persons on the mill complain, they are taken off, until the doctor sees them and reports; with respect to food, the prisoners are regularly given the full allowance, according to the rules and regulations of the institution. No punishments are permitted, and are never inflicted, but by the order of the special justices. Clothing is always amply supplied whenever required and applied for. Recollects Louisa Beveridge coming into the house of correction; she was very violent and obstinate; he never before saw any person so violent; she positively refused to submit to the punishment. He has been supervisor since March 1834; that

JAMAICA.

that no collars have been riveted since he has been supervisor; those who have riveted collars on are Joseph Allen, William Bryan, Joannah Law, Sam Geohegan and Richard Cross. It has always been customary, when convicts are sentenced to the house of correction for life, to rivet the collars put on their necks, they being generally riotous and very violent characters. The above-named persons were so sentenced, with the exception of Richard Cross, who was sentenced to be transported for life. The reason of such persons having riveted collars put on them is to prevent them from taking them off, as has been known to be done, and to mark them as such characters. That no deaths have ever occurred on the tread-mill but those occasioned by the violence and obstinacy of the parties themselves.

(signed) *W<sup>m</sup> Gibson.*

*George Knighton*, superintendent of the tread-mill, and dispenser of medicines, sworn; states, That the medical gentleman attends daily at the house of correction. He is well furnished with medicines, and whatever medicines are ordered by the doctor for the people are given. He fully corroborates the evidence of the last witness in every respect; he has witnessed the violence and obstinacy of persons on the tread-mill, who pretend sickness, and positively refuse to go on the mill. *Louisa Beveridge*, although very well able, was most violent, and would not submit to her punishment; she would climb up the mill to the top, and throw herself off. There has been a determined resistance to undergo the punishment on the tread-mill generally; but more particularly by the people of *Leith Hall* and *Arcadia*; that the conduct of the woman, *Louisa Beveridge*, was the most outrageous he ever witnessed; he knows that these people were seen by the doctor, and by him pronounced as quite able to undergo the punishment on the tread-mill; that leather straps are in use to strap obstinate people on the mill when necessary.

(signed) *Geo. Knighton.*

*Elizabeth Davies*, matron, sworn; states, That the doctor attends at the house of correction daily; in general saw the women that came in from *Arcadia*, but she had nothing to do with them; always provides for invalids whatever nourishment is ordered by the doctor. No punishment is inflicted on the women but such as is ordered by the special magistrates.

(signed) *Elizabeth Davies*, her  $\times$  mark.

*William Gibson* recalled; further states, That after the great number of convicts that were pardoned by Lord Mulgrave and his Excellency the present Governor, those that remain in the house of correction are of the worst and most dangerous and desperate characters.

(signed) *William Gibson.*

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COPY of a LETTER from *A. Cooke*, Esq.

My dear Sir,

Shady Spring, 8 May 1836.

I HAVE just had an express, informing me that my father-in-law is in a state of extreme illness. I must go to see him.

This will prevent my fulfilling my duty in attending the committee of magistrates tomorrow; and I beg that you will state to the gentlemen the cause of my absence.

I have left a document at the house of correction, in the shape of a list of all the inmates of the institution, their condition, and the work which they are capable of performing; this may be of some use to the committee.

I much regret not being able to attend.

I am, &c.

(signed) *A. Cooke.*

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COPY of a LETTER from *Thomas Thompson*, Esq.

My dear Sir,

Morant Bay, 9 May 1836.

SUCH has been the inclemency of the weather and the state of the rivers, that I scarcely expected the attendance of any of the magistrates at the committee appointed for this day, to investigate the state of the house of correction. However, Mr. Lodge, Mr. Renwick and Major Baines having attended, we proceeded to the investigation agreeably to your desire; and the clerk of the peace will forward you the examinations on oath. The letter from Dr. Cooke will speak for itself; though, had it been otherwise, the state of the river would have prevented his attendance. I feel confident that nothing could be more satisfactory to the committee than the clean and comfortable appearance of every thing connected with the institution; and the frank, candid evidence of the officers of it satisfied me in the opinion I had already given you, that there was not any just cause of complaint.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Thos. Thompson.*

*P. S.*—I am informed, and have reason to believe, that any insinuations respecting improper treatment in our house of correction proceeded from the malice of a man who was some months ago dismissed from his situation in it, for laziness and improper conduct.

(signed) *Thos. Thompson.*

—No. 515.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 31 August 1836.

No. 515.

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch of the 18th May, enclosing the report of a committee of magistrates appointed to inquire into the causes of certain deaths which have recently occurred in the Morant Bay workhouse; together with a return of the inquests taken there between the 1st January 1835 and the 7th February 1836.

I concur with your Lordship in thinking the information unsatisfactory, and that it was necessary to call for the particulars of the inquests. It appears that out of 11 deaths which have occurred in that workhouse since January 1835, three were confessedly owing to injuries received on the tread-mill; and the remaining eight are ascribed to the visitation of God; under which general description, it is obvious that many cases may have been included in which the death of the prisoner was not unconnected with the treatment which he had previously undergone. These facts cannot but awaken suspicions, which are not at all removed by general assurances that the regulations of the place are strictly complied with; that "whenever prisoners on the tread-mill complain, they are taken off until the doctor sees them and reports;" or, "that no deaths have occurred but those occasioned by the violence and obstinacy of the parties themselves." It is admitted that the regulations of the workhouse do not prevent prisoners confined there for life from having iron collars riveted round their necks, and they may authorize other modes of punishment equally objectionable.

I am not indeed unaware either of the necessity or of the difficulty of compelling prisoners to submit to punishment on the tread-wheel; nor am I prepared to give any definite instructions on that head without a revision of the whole system of prison discipline, a subject which is now under consideration.

In the mean time, however, I have no hesitation in declaring, that any mode of compelling prisoners to submit to the discipline of the workhouse, by which their lives are endangered, is absolutely unallowable. The proper course to be adopted with prisoners who will not submit to one kind of punishment is to substitute for it some other which is found by experience to be less tolerable.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

—No. 516.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

King's House, St. Jago de la Vega, 4 June 1836.

No. 516.

I HAVE the honour to call your attention to a case of cutting off the hair of a female apprentice in the house of correction of St. Mary's, when committed for a few days' confinement only.

No. 1 is the memorial of the sister of Mary Hennessey, praying for relief from the oppression of her master and mistress, and mentioning the fact of the hair having been cut off; the special magistrate having jurisdiction on the oppression, the only matter with which I have now to do is the cutting off the hair, after my remonstrance made against this illegal punishment by your Lordship's directions—that remonstrance which I alluded to in my proroguing speech last February, and which they have alluded to, or rather their agent has, in his protest.

Having referred the memorial to Mr. Davies, special justice for the district, I received from him in reply, No. 2. Considering that he had, in a manner, authorized the cutting off of the woman's hair, I caused the letter, No. 4, to be written to him, and No. 3. to Mr. Hodgson, the custos, with a view of procuring his interference to prevent the custom being persevered in. No. 5 is Mr. Davies's answer; and No. 6 is Mr. Marlton's report to me of what took place at the meeting of magistrates, held to take my communication into consideration. Thinking this a fit case for prosecution, I have sent a letter to the Attorney-general, with directions to him to take such legal proceedings with respect to the conduct of the magistrates as he might consider expedient,

JAMAICA.

founded on the resolutions of the magistrates, No. 7, and the letter of Mr. Marlton, No. 6.

Another circumstance occurred at the same time nearly, which I have also caused to be the subject of a Crown prosecution: two females, non-prædial apprentices, named Cecilia Palmer and Maria Dacres, were brought before Mr. Marlton for neglecting their duty, and sentenced by him to six days' solitary confinement, and in his sentence he directed that their hair should not be cut off. It appears that in despite of this order it was cut off; I immediately ordered Mr. Marlton to swear informations of the fact, and cause the supervisor of the workhouse to be called upon to enter bail for the offence; it will be tried at the next grand court, unless the man traverses. It is alleged that the practice of cutting off the hair of the female apprentices is merely for the sake of cleanliness, but as it never was done during slavery, when the proprietors were possessed of a much deeper interest in the health of the slaves than they are now in that of their apprentices, and as it is continued in spite of the official remonstrances made on the subject, I have come to the painful conclusion, that it is done on purpose to annoy the apprentices, whose punishments are generally considered here to be very much too lenient, under the sentences of the special justices. This I consider to be as decidedly trying to obstruct the working of the Abolition Law as any measure that could be brought forward, as far as the happiness of the apprentices is concerned, as I am assured that they would rather submit to corporal punishment than the deprivation of the diligently-nursed locks, which, after much time and trouble, they have succeeded in establishing in their peculiar and very short hair. It is to be remarked, also, that though, in compliance with the law, they have established rules and regulations, many of which are salutary in many cases, they are utterly neglected. From the nature of the places of confinement, effectual classification is out of the question in many of them; in others, no attention is paid to the rules; for example, in the house of correction of St. Mary's, now under observation, a copy of which you have already received, rules Nos. 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 12 and 14, are not at all attended to; No. 5 is not attended to, when they are at work; that No. 1, of the prisoners' rules is rigidly attended to, with the exception of the most important part, the bathing.

Gaol Regulations, printed in the Appendix to the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Negro Apprenticeship, 1836, No. 560, p. 106.

There is also an additional and most illegal rule made there lately, that every person committed for hard labour shall be placed for one hour daily on the tread-wheel; this is inhuman as well as illegal, because it varies the punishment, and in some cases very materially increases what has been ordered by the special justice, who alone can pronounce sentence: inhuman, because it may subject a person to a species of punishment for which he or she is physically unfit. This I consider to be another act of obstruction to the Abolition Law, as it is an attempt at evading it. As soon as the trials shall have taken place, I will have the honour of communicating the result to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(signed)

Sligo.

#### Enclosures in No. 516.

Jamaica ss.

(No. 1.)

PETITION from *Eliza Stewart* to his Excellency the Most Noble *Howe Peter*, Marquis of *Sligo*, K. S. P., Governor of Jamaica, &c. &c. &c.

THE humble Petition of *Eliza Stewart*, of the parish of St. Catherine, county of Middlesex and Island aforesaid, for and on the part and behalf of *Mary Anderson*, a mulatto apprentice to *Carlton Estate*, in the parish of St. Mary, the sister of your petitioner:

Humbly sheweth,

That your petitioner has been informed by her brother, also of the said estate, that her sister, the said *Mary Anderson*, has been taken before the stipendiary magistrate for the said parish, charged, as your petitioner has been informed, for absenting herself from house duty for two days, and sentenced to the house of correction, in which institution she has had her hair entirely cut off her head, but whether by the sentence of the court, or otherwise, is not known to your petitioner.

That your petitioner hath been informed, and verily believes to be true, that previous to the said *Mary Anderson* being taken before the stipendiary magistrate, she had on several occasions been severely ill-treated by the overseer, Mr. Allworthy, and his wife, although the said *Mary Anderson* did not complain to any authority for redress.

That your petitioner firmly believes that the absence from work of the said *Mary Anderson* arose from the ill-treatment by the said Mr. Allworthy and his wife.

Enclosures in No. 516.

Your

Your petitioner, therefore, humbly prays your Excellency to cause such inquiry to be made respecting the said ill-treatment of the said Mary Anderson, by the said Mr. Allworthy and his wife, as to your Excellency may seem meet and proper.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will every pray.

(signed) *Eliza Stewart*, her ✕ mark.

(No. 2.)

COPY of a LETTER from *Thomas Davies*, Esq. Special Justice, to *Richard Hill*, Esq., Secretary to the King's House.

Sir,

Highgate, St. Mary's, 29 April 1836.

I BEG leave to state to you, for the information of his Excellency, and in answer to yours of the 23d instant, No. 2,505, that I yesterday went to Carlton, and took the evidence of *Mary Hennessey*, apprentice to that estate, and which was given with extreme reluctance.

*Mary Hennessey*, an apprentice, Carlton, sworn.—Complains she does not get day; things broken in the house, Mr. and Mrs. Allworthy say she must pay for; and she gets no cloth; sometimes master and mistress beat her; and has no evidence she wishes to bring forward.

Further states, she got, when in the house of correction, Port Maria, two plantains per day only, with cold water; sometimes not boiled, and given her but once a day, that is, in the 24 hours, and had her hair cut from her head with a pair of scissors.

*Richard Allworthy*, attorney and overseer, Carlton, sworn.—With regard to statement respecting days, has not had them regular, but when that was the case, she was fed out of the house; respecting clothing, has had more than an equivalent; was fined by Mr. Thomas, special justice, for once giving her a slap, and never touched her since; has been repeatedly pardoned for her misdeeds, and was sentenced by Mr. Thomas to the workhouse, but refrained from carrying it in execution as an inducement to better conduct; was sworn at his own request.

Mrs. Allworthy says she has given her a quantity of clothes, and the other day three yards of check, which her mother had; and that she is on all opportunities stealing from her and destroying her property; but never beat her.

I beg to state, complainant is a non-prædial, aged 22 years, and on my visiting Carlton, Mr. and Mrs. Allworthy have frequently complained against her for wilfully destroying property in the house; and that I was at Port Maria on the 19th instant to qualify as a local magistrate, being the day of quarter sessions. Mr. Hendrick, supervisor of the workhouse, told me he had a note from Mrs. Allworthy, begging him to release the said *Mary Hennessey*, and not to cut her hair off on any account, as she was her maid; my reply was, it was not in my power to commute her sentence, and it would be out before I could consult the executive. All prisoners to be treated alike; was not sentenced by me to have her hair cut off; and a copy of his instructions, which I now enclose. At the same time I must say, I have seen the same instructions pasted up on different estates when I first came to this parish, and naturally concluded it was sanctioned by the executive.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Thos. Davies*, Special Justice.

COPY of a LETTER from *R. H. Allworthy*, Esq. to *Thomas Davies*, Esq., Special Justice.

Sir,

Carlton, 16 April 1836.

I HAVE received your note of to-day's date, and from the impression you seem to be under, it must occur to you the necessity of visiting the property as soon as possible, to inquire into the complaints you have heard before you partially determine upon them. I am induced to make these remarks, because your note carries upon the face of it censure, which you must withhold till circumstances are investigated.

I beg to remain, &c.

(signed) *R. H. Allworthy*.

(No. 3.)

COPY of a LETTER from *W. G. Nunes*, Esq., to the Honourable *Abraham Hodgson*.

(No. 2,697.)

Sir,

The King's House, 2 May 1836.

A COMPLAINT having been made to his Excellency the Governor respecting the conduct of the supervisor of the house of correction in St. Mary's, towards *Mary Hennessey*, who, it appears, was committed to that institution on 14th April, by Mr. Davies, the special magistrate, to undergo ten days' solitary confinement, in addition to which the whole of her hair was cut off her head; and as it appears to be one of the rules of that institution that all persons committed for any offence are to have the hair cut off the whole head as close as possible; his Excellency the Governor considers it necessary to communicate with you on the subject, for the purpose of bringing to your notice a regulation so apparently cruel and oppressive.

His Excellency had long since found that such a practice did occasionally prevail in the gaols and houses of correction, and when it first came to his knowledge he desired me to communicate to the several custodes his sentiments, with a view to prevent the continuance or the abuse; at the same time he referred to his Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.



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Colonies. To this communication he received instructions, that if his remonstrance had failed in its object, he should endeavour to persuade the Assembly, by some legislative enactment, to rescind all rules authorizing the cutting off of hair as a punishment, together with other suggestions. His Excellency, on the 17th day of November last, sent a message to the house of assembly in accordance therewith, but, although referred to a select committee, does not appear to have been acted on.

His Excellency, therefore, now appeals to you as custos of the parish, in the hope that, if you view (which he cannot doubt) in the same light as himself and the colonial secretary, the indecorum and injustice of such regulation, upon which Lord Glenelg has expressed himself in the strongest terms, you will adopt measures for reporting what must be considered as an abuse, and entirely contrary to that spirit in which the law for the Abolition of Slavery was enacted in England, and adopted by the colonial legislature.

The present case is one of more than ordinary injustice, as it appears that Mrs. Allworthy, the mistress, expressed a desire, when Mary Hennessey was committed to the house of correction, that the cutting off the hair, under the rule which Mrs. Allworthy seemed to know existed in that establishment, might not be done.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *W. G. Nunes, Sec.*

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(No. 4.)

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Hill, Esq.*, Assistant Secretary, to *T. Davies, Esq.*  
(No. 2,704.)

Sir,

The King's House, 3 May 1836.

His Excellency the Governor having examined into the facts of the case of Mary Hennessey, sentenced by you to the house of correction at Port Maria, and subjected, while there, to the degrading treatment of having the hair of her head entirely cut off, has directed me to remark to you, that your statement shows you to have been culpably inattentive to your duty in not prohibiting any infliction of punishment on the female prisoner which made no part of the sentence; when the mistress herself solicited the degradation of Mary Hennessey, by cutting off the hair of her head (notwithstanding a part of the gaol discipline), might be remitted in her case, it was obvious that this abuse, if unknown to you before, was fairly brought within your remonstrance, and an express prohibition against its infliction, at the peril of the keeper of the house of correction, should have been made by you; instead of this plain line of duty, you represent yourself as saying, that "all prisoners were to be treated alike." By this remark you countenanced and supported an act, against which his Excellency had expressly remonstrated to the house of assembly, declaring it at variance with the wise and humane regulations of the law for the Abolition of Slavery, and as a practice which should be discontinued. His Excellency directs me to observe, that your remark, that "all prisoners should be treated alike," is good in principle, when the regulations do not oppose the spirit of the law; but there are shades of difference in delinquencies which render it a duty on your part to restrict the discipline of the gaol to the just measure of punishment with which the offence should be visited, if that discipline tends to increase the severity of your sentence. In conclusion, his Excellency commands me to state, that he views the present case with so much reprehension, that he shall consider it his duty to report it to the Colonial Office.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. Hill, Assist. Sec.*

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(No. 5.)

COPY of a LETTER from *Thomas Davies, Esq.* to *Richard Hill, Esq.*

Sir,

Highgate, St. Mary's, 9 May 1836.

I BEG to state, in answer to your letter of 3d instant, No. 2,704, and have to remark, that when the overseer of the house of correction at Port Maria told me the mistress of Mary Hennessey, an apprentice, Carlton, had written to him not to cut the girl's hair off, it was simply because she was her waiting-maid, and not out of any compassion to the individual; and on all occasions on my visiting Carlton, Mary Hennessey was always brought forward for some delinquency or other, and I sentenced her to 10 days' solitary confinement, as being the least degrading.

I had not then qualified as a local magistrate, and was then, as now, under the impression that that part of the gaol discipline of cutting off the girl's hair had been carried into effect, and that I was not authorized to interfere with the rules of the establishment, having been in use before my coming to the parish, and of course known to the executive; and with regard to my supporting and countenancing an act, against which his Excellency had expressly remonstrated with the house of assembly, I was not aware of it, and the only possible way it could have come under my observation must have been from the public prints, with which I have nothing to do; and provided I feel internally satisfied that I have faithfully discharged my duty, I am indifferent to the opinion of a newspaper.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Thos. Davies.*

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(No. 6.)

(No. 6.)

COPY of a LETTER from *William Marlton*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

New Ramble, St. Mary's, 22 May 1836.

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that I attended a meeting of magistrates at Port Maria, on Wednesday 18th inst., called by his honor the custos, to take into consideration your Lordship's letter relative to Mary Hennessey, of Carlton, and the practice of cutting the hair from the head of persons sent to the house of correction. I suppose Mr. Hodgson will forward to your Lordship the proceedings and decision of the board of magistrates. I consider it my duty to state that I endeavoured to prevail on them to rescind the order for cutting the hair, but failed; and as I could not obtain any support, I had my name struck out of the list of magistrates forming the board. I informed them I should take proceedings against the superintendent for disobeying my committal, and they said they would defend him. I beg respectfully to state, should your Lordship agree with me in opinion, that I can readily put a stop to the practice, by either fining the supervisor for an assault, under the Abolition Law, or take informations against him, and bring the matter before the grand court. On the 14th May I committed Cecilia Palmer and Maria Dacres, non-prædial apprentices, to Doctor Innerarity, of Manning's Town, for six days' solitary confinement in the house of correction, expressly stating in the committal, that their hair was not to be cut off. The hair was cut off in defiance of my committal; and the practice continues. The board of magistrates decided that the subject was matter for the consideration of the house of assembly. Mr. Hodgson and Mr. Cox, members of assembly and magistrates of the board, naturally led the other few magistrates present, as usual.

Your Lordship's letter to the custos, enclosing the circular sent to the special justices, was also taken into consideration, having been by the custos brought to the notice of the board; it struck me, the letter to the custos, requesting his orders to the superintendent to have the sentences of the special justices strictly enforced, was no matter for the consideration of any other than the chief of the local authorities; but being submitted by the custos to the board, of course he was supported, and your Lordship's official letter in that way got rid of. The local authorities appear determined to have their view of the Abolition Law, and to reject every well-meant communication for the good working of the new law, and the happiness of the labouring population. I deeply regret such conduct, for it cannot induce either confidence or regard from the apprentices towards their masters. The apprentices have heard of Mary Hennessey's appeal to your Lordship, and of the endeavour to stay the practice. For their own interest, the planters should have complied with your Lordship's application. I saw in solitary confinement a female sent in by Mr. Walsh, her hair cut off. The superintendent informed me it was done previous to her coming to the house of correction, and that it was not the first instance of that sort; rather than submit to it as a punishment, the head was shorn before leaving home. The information made a strong impression on me. If the sentence of the special justice, expressed in the committal, is to be defied in the house of correction, the apprentices will soon lose respect for the law; yet the masters who set the examples of opposition require the special justice to punish the apprentice for a like opposition. I trust your Lordship will inform me if I should be justified, under the law, fining the superintendent for an assault in cutting the hair of an apprentice; if it could be considered as a wrong, injury or injustice done to the person of an apprentice by the person entitled to his or her service; if not so under the Abolition Law, can I proceed against the superintendent for assaulting Cecilia Palmer and Maria Dacres, contrary to my committal, and bring him into the grand court?

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Wm. Marlton*, Special Justice.

(No. 7.)

At a meeting of the Magistrates convened by his honor the Custos, at the Court-house, Manning's Town, in the parish of St. Mary, on Wednesday the 18th day of May 1836, to take into consideration the subject of a circular from the King's House, No. 2,697, dated 2d May 1836. The following magistrates were present:

His honor the Custos,

Henry Cox,  
William Peterswald,  
George Vidal,William Heslop,  
and  
Charles Stewart.

The said circular was then read.

William Hendrick, supervisor of the house of correction, being sworn, and afterwards being asked, if it was on the day of the commitment of Mary Hennessey that her hair was cut off, or afterwards, declares that it was on the 14th, the day she came in, immediately she was brought in, according to the rules of the institution; then Mr. Hendrick produced to the board a letter, dated Carlton, 16th April 1836, as follows: "Dear Sir,—If you have not already shaved the head of Mary Hennessey, Mrs. Allworthy would be glad if that part of it were dispensed with, being her waiting-maid. I remain, &c. *R. H. Allworthy*.—To Mr. Hendrick."

To which Mr. Hendrick replied, it has been already clipped off, and if it had not, he could not comply with his request. Then Mr. Hendrick produced a note he received the following

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following day, also dated 16th, as follows: "Mrs. Allworthy's compliments to Mr. Hendrick, and will feel obliged by his releasing Mary Hennessey from the cells, as Mrs. H. hopes the punishment she has already received will be of service to her. Carlton, April 16th." Mr. Hendrick proceeded to state, "The special justice, Mr. Davis, was at my house next day; I showed him the note I received from Mrs. Allworthy; he asked me what I had done with Mary Hennessey; I told him she was still in the cells, I cannot release her without your orders." He said to me, "Have nothing to do with the note; if you attend to such notes, you will have enough to do; I do not seek for culprits, but if they bring them to me and lodge complaints, I am in duty bound to punish them if such complaints are substantiated." In regard to that part of the circular respecting the rules and regulations for the government of the supervisor of the house of correction, this board is not disposed at present to make any alteration, particularly as it is informed by the circular, that his Excellency the Governor did, on the 17th November last, send a message to the house of assembly on that subject, and that the house appointed a select committee to take the same into consideration, to which the committee were not able to make a report; it is therefore to be presumed that the house, when again in session, will give due consideration to the subject.

His honor the custos having submitted to the board a circular from the King's House, of date 11th May 1835, No. 2,978, the board, after giving the same due consideration, came to the following conclusion: "That the laws are sufficiently explicit and binding, and that they should be left to their own operation."

(signed) *Abraham Hodgson*, Chairman.

— No. 517. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 517.

My Lord, The King's House, St. Jago de la Vega, 7 June 1836.

I HAVE the honour to enclose to your Lordship the bill of costs of the solicitors of the Crown for the prosecution of Mr. *Sloly*, the supervisor of the house of correction of Falmouth, for flogging of females on the tread-mill at that place. The death of Mr. *Sloly*, since his conviction, has prevented his undergoing his sentence when called up for judgment, as was proposed to be done at the next assize court: I am sorry to say that recent inquiries have shown to me that this illegal practice has not ceased. I have this day ordered the prosecution of the supervisor and boatswain of Kingston house of correction for a similar offence, committed not more than ten days ago; and a bill has been found, as your Lordship is aware, against one of the authorities of St. Andrew's house of correction for the same offence. I trust that your Lordship will authorize me to pay to Mr. *Aikman* the amount, together with that for the defence of Mr. *White*, which is enclosed in another despatch.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Sligo*.

Enclosure in No. 517.

Enclosure  
in No. 517.

BILL of Costs on the Prosecution of Mr. *John William Sloly*, directed by his Excellency the Governor.

1835: August.		£.	s.	d.
	Having received directions from his Excellency the Governor to institute proceedings against Mr. J. W. <i>Sloly</i> —honorary fee, indictment	5	—	—
	Attending at the house of correction in the town of Falmouth, with Mr. <i>Kelly</i> , Mr. <i>Davis</i> and Mr. <i>Roger Harris</i> , magistrates, to obtain the deposition of the driver, which took up all day	5	—	—
	Drawing indictment on 12 sheets	6	—	—
	Fair copy	3	—	—
	Attending Mr. Attorney-general with same for settlement	1	5	—
	Fee paid him	5	6	8
	Engrossing same	3	15	—
	Attending Mr. Attorney-general, procuring his signature thereto	1	5	—
	Fee paid him	5	6	8
	Attending Clerk of the Crown to send in bill, and fee paid him	6	11	8
	Subpœna, and two copies for <i>John Kelly</i> and <i>F. Davis</i>	—	15	10

Attending

1835 : August.		£.	s.	d.
	Attending at the residence of Mr. William Knibb ; procuring a witness, Elizabeth Holder, to enter into recognizance, and drawing up same - - - - -	2	10	-
	Attending with the affidavit of Elizabeth Holder and Mr. Atherton before Mr. Justice Kelly, before whom their affidavits had been sworn, requiring him to issue his warrant to take Mr. Sloly into custody - - - - -	1	5	-
	Drawing and engrossing recognizance - - - - -	2	10	-
	Attendance ; delivering the same to constable for execution - - - - -	1	5	-
	Subpœna and copy for Paul Patterson - - - - -	-	13	4
	The like for Robert Cadenhead - - - - -	-	13	4
	Attendance in court with witnesses, and getting them sworn to go before the Grand Jury - - - - -	1	5	-
	Attending in court with witnesses when bill found and proclaimed - - - - -	1	5	-
	The defendant having pleaded Not Guilty, and traverse ; attending with him and surety, and the several witnesses, to enter into recognizance - - - - -	1	5	-
	Paid Clerk Crown taking six recognizances - - - - -	8	-	-
	Drawing brief, 16 sheets - - - - -	8	-	-
	Making fair copy - - - - -	4	-	-
	Attending Mr. Attorney-general, and fee paid him - - - - -	6	11	8
	Subpœna and copy for R. Cadenhead, to produce E. Pew and G. Pew - - - - -	-	13	4
1836 : March.	Attending court at the trial - - - - -	2	10	-
	Paid Clerk Court taxing the bill, and attendance - - - - -	1	5	-
		£.	86	17 6

I allow, as taxed costs, the sum of Eighty-six pounds seventeen shillings and sixpence.

(signed) *H. M. Nepean*, Clerk of the Crown.

— No. 518.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 29. August 1836.

No. 518.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's despatch of the 7th June last, enclosing the bill of costs of the Crown solicitor of Jamaica for the prosecution of Mr. Sloly, the supervisor of the house of correction at Falmouth, for flogging females on the tread-mill at that place. Your Lordship requests that authority should be given to you to pay these expenses ; you have not stated whether you wished to make such payment by drawing on the Treasury for the amount ; I am led, however, to presume that such would be the course which you would adopt ; on this supposition, I beg to acquaint your Lordship that I do not think this the proper arrangement. It appears to me that the question that these expenses be liquidated should first be submitted to the house of assembly. It is not to be supposed that that body will refuse to provide for an expenditure so properly incurred by you for the purpose of vindicating the authority of the colonial laws. You will accordingly make the application to the house, and report to me the result.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 519.—

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

My Lord,

The King's House, 4 April 1837.

No. 519.

I HAVE the honour to report, that I laid before the house of assembly a copy of your Lordship's despatch of the 29th August 1836, to the Marquis of Sligo, on the subject of the expenses attending the prosecution of Mr. Sloly, the supervisor

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visor of the house of correction at Falmouth, for flogging females on the treadmill, but I have received no reply to my message to the house, nor has the expense been provided for in any of the money bills of the year.

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

## — No. 520. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated The King's House, St. Jago de la Vega, 15 June 1836.

No. 520.

THE session having been closed by me this day with a proroguing speech, of which I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy, I think it advisable to give your Lordship a short *précis* of what has been done during its continuance; the Act in aid received my assent on the 30th ultimo, having been passed in the shape of a short Act, renewing the former one.

Wide Appendix,  
No. 180.

\* \* \* \* \*

I sent over the messages ordered by your Lordship, respecting additional protection for the special magistracy, and the payment of Mr. Lyon's expenses as a witness, and they were barely noticed, more than by casting ridicule on them. Mr. Lyon's claim was only 6*l.* 10*s.*, but it was quite scouted.

## Enclosure in No. 520.

EXTRACT from the Marquis of *Sligo's* Speech on proroguing the Legislature of Jamaica, on the 15th June 1836.

Enclosure in  
No. 520.

Gentlemen of the Council.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Assembly.

THE business of the session having been brought to a termination, I lose no time in liberating you from your attendance in this town for legislative purposes, thereby enabling you to return to your respective domestic occupations.

That the crop of this year will, from various causes, be below the average, I feel quite convinced, but with the increased prices in the home market, I anticipate it will afford a return equal to any of those which may of late be considered as prosperous years.

I am rejoiced in being able to state, from the accounts I have received, that the plant for next year's crop has been so extensively established, that unless any unforeseen calamity arises, a reasonable hope may prevail of more than the usual average crop being effected in the year 1837.

The perfect tranquillity which now prevails in the island, and the abundant proof I have of the increasing desire of the negroes in most places to work for hire, gives me a confident expectation that my anticipations in this respect will not be disappointed.

I do now, in His Majesty's name, prorogue this general assembly until Tuesday the 19th day of July next, and it is hereby prorogued accordingly.

## — No. 521. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated The King's House, St. Jago de la Vega, 17 June 1836.

No. 521.

I HAVE the honour to enclose to you a memorandum of a speech in the house of assembly of Mr. Batty, respecting an old Act of this island for the suppression of vagrancy: it is the 32 Geo. 3, c. 11. Your Lordship will see that one of the parts of this Act the most worthy of notice, in his opinion, is the want of jurisdiction of the special magistrates in this case; this is mentioned as a reason for their being pleased with the change, and loss of the old vagrant law. I will, however, submit it to the Attorney-general, and transmit to you his opinion of the manner in which it will work.

I confess myself to be alarmed at the power over the apprentices which will thereby be acquired by the local magistracy; your Lordship, perhaps, will be kind enough to instruct me how I am to act in this matter. This law is very loosely worded, and was passed at a time when there was no necessity for such caution as is now requisite. It never contemplated any application to those who are now apprentices, but they clearly, at present, come under the provisions of the Act.

Enclosure

Enclosure in No. 521.

JAMAICA.

EXTRACT from Mr. *Batty's* Speech.

32 G. 3. c. 2.

MR. BATTY, in consequence of the disallowance of the Vagrant Act, cited an Act of the island, which met with the concurrence of the Crown, by which free persons may be apprehended, under certain circumstances, as rogues and vagabonds, and punished accordingly. The honourable gentleman observed, that every man was now subject to the laws of free persons, and if any conviction took place under this Act, the interference of the special magistrates could not take place; the parties aggrieved would have redress, if any was required, either by an appeal to the quarter sessions, or by a writ of certiorari in the grand court.

—No. 522.—

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

Sir,

Downing-street, 28 Nov. 1836.

No. 522.

I HAVE received, and have had under my consideration, a despatch from your predecessor, under date of the 17th June last, containing a memorandum respecting the operation upon the apprenticed labourers of the Island Act, 32 Geo. 3, c. 2, for the suppression of vagrancy.

From this memorandum it appears that Mr. Batty, a member of assembly, and a gentleman of legal acquirements, had expressed an opinion that the provisions of the Act in question were applicable not only to free persons, according to the acceptance of the term at the time the Act was passed, but to the apprenticed labourers, and that if any conviction took place under the Act, the interference of the special magistrate could not take place, but that the parties aggrieved would have redress, either by appeal to the quarter sessions, or by a writ of certiorari in the grand court.

Lord Sligo expressed serious apprehensions as to the effect which this opinion of an influential member of the legislature might produce, and he promised that he would consult the Attorney-general on the subject, and furnish me with his opinion. I accordingly deferred my acknowledgment of his Lordship's despatch until I should receive this promised report. Not having heard what may have been the result of the reference to the Attorney-general, I am unwilling that the question should be overlooked, and have thought it proper to direct your attention to it.

It appears to me very doubtful whether the statute 32 Geo. 3, c. 2, could lawfully be applied to the case of apprenticed labourers, it being evident that it was enacted in reference to the whites and free coloured inhabitants as a distinct and privileged class; and although the words, if construed with grammatical and literal exactness, might reach the case of apprenticed labourers, yet I apprehend that such a construction would give to the law a sense and an effect, not only beyond, but opposed to the design of its authors. You will, however, refer this question to the Attorney-general for his opinion, and should that officer report that the law extends to apprenticed labourers, you will recommend the council and assembly to exempt that class of persons from the operation of the statute, as being manifestly inapplicable to their condition.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

—No. 523.—

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

My Lord,

The King's House, 4 April 1837.

No. 523.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, enclosed for your Lordship's information, with reference to your despatch of the 28th Nov. 1836, a copy of the report which I have received from the Attorney-general, upon the operation of the Island Act, 32 Geo. 3, c. 2, for the suppression of vagrancy.

521.

Your

11 March 1837.

JAMAICA.

Your Lordship will observe, that the Attorney-general is of opinion, that this Act does not apply to the apprenticed labourers, but that the chief justice has frequently promulgated a contrary opinion from the bench.

I have, therefore, to request your Lordship's instructions, whether, under these circumstances, I am to make a reference to the legislature on the subject of this Act; your Lordship having only directed that such a course should be adopted, in the event of the Attorney-general being of opinion that apprentices were subject to its operation.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith.*

## Enclosure in No. 523.

COPY of a LETTER from *Dowell O'Reilly, Esq.*, to *C. H. Darling, Esq.*

Sir,

11 March 1837.

Enclosure in  
No. 523.

IN answer to yours of the 4th instant, I have to state, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that the 32 Geo. 3, c. 2, was enacted, first with reference to the then persons absolutely free, and next to the then slave population (now apprenticed labourers): the former are styled white persons and free negroes and mulattoes, and the latter are styled idle and runaway negroes, and other slaves.

Now the present apprenticed labourers were not free, according to the acceptation of that word, at the time of the enactment of 32 Geo. 3, c. 2, neither are they now slaves; they are a peculiar class of persons, subject to peculiar laws, and free, so far as such freedom militates not with these laws, but do not enjoy such freedom as was enjoyed by free negroes at the time of the Act stated; they are a class of persons certainly not contemplated by the legislators who framed that Act. In the Abolition Act I find appropriate punishments of the apprenticed labourers when guilty of offences for which they would have been punishable under the 32 Geo. 3, c. 2. I find also, in the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, "that it shall not be lawful for any person or persons other than such justices of the peace holding special commissions as aforesaid, to punish any such apprenticed labourer for any offence by him or her committed, by the whipping, beating or imprisonment of his or her person, or by any other personal or other correction or punishment whatsoever." There is a saving for the rights of the superior courts of civil and criminal justice, and one which provides that they (apprenticed labourers) shall not by the said Act be exempted from the operation of any law or police regulation for the prosecution or punishment of any offence which is or shall hereafter be in force in Jamaica, in respect to all other persons of free condition. Upon the whole of the case, I am of opinion that the law, 32 Geo. 3, c. 2, was not intended to be applied to apprenticed labourers, that it is not now applicable to them, inasmuch as they were not within its contemplation originally, and next, that they are already subject to peculiar punishments under a law made, and which was expressly enacted for them, and that for the same offences as are enumerated in the 32 Geo. 3, c. 2. Further, I am of opinion that the machinery of this Act is quite inapplicable to apprenticed labourers, who, in my mind, can only be punished by the agency of the special justices of the peace or of the superior courts of criminal justice. I deem it, however, proper to apprise his Excellency, that as to this latter opinion of mine, it is at variance with the present chief justice's, who has frequently promulgated a contrary one from the bench.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Dowell O'Reilly.*

## — No. 524.—

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

Sir,

Downing-street, 25 May 1837.

No. 524.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your despatch of the 14th April, transmitting the report which you have received from the Attorney-general of Jamaica, relative to the operation of the Island Act, 32 Geo. 3, c. 2, for the suppression of vagrancy.

The opinion of the Attorney-general is, that the Act is inapplicable to the apprenticed labourers; but in this opinion he states that he is at issue with the chief justice, who, on several occasions, has promulgated a contrary opinion from the bench.

Acting

Acting in conformity with the terms of the instruction which you had received, you did right in deferring any reference to the legislature of Jamaica on the subject of this Act until you had heard further from home. I am clearly of opinion, from what has now been stated, that such a reference should be made to the legislature, for the purpose of placing the point in discussion beyond doubt or dispute.

In declaring that the adoption of that measure should depend on the result of the Attorney-general's report, I assumed that it would not be possible to obtain a more authentic exposition of the law; but as the chief justice has delivered his opinion on the subject, the necessity for legislative interference is clear.

I am not competent to weigh the conflicting opinions which may be offered as to the construction of the law; neither do I consider that it is material that such a point should be further discussed. It is sufficient for me to know, that the practical effect of the opinion entertained by the chief justice is to ensure such an administration of the Vagrancy Law, as regards the apprenticed population, as it would be the object of His Majesty's Government to avoid. You will therefore take the earliest opportunity of recommending to the council and assembly that the apprentices should, by special enactment, be declared exempt from the operation of the Island Act, 32 Geo. 3, c. 2.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 525. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg.*

No. 525.

My Lord,

Highgate, Jamaica, 29 June 1836.

IN reference to your despatch of the 28th April, relative to the diminution of the visits of the special magistrates, wherein you express a doubt as to the effect on the security of the apprentices, which your acceding to my proposal would occasion, I have the honour to state, that in my opinion that apprehension does not deserve the weight which your Lordship attaches to it. My reasons I will endeavour to explain.

Correspondence referred to is here-with annexed: *vide* Despatches (A.) and (B.) pages 52 and 53.

Practically speaking, few complaints are made by the apprentices on the estates. On many occasions, where I have reprobated the special justices for giving it to me as a reason why they have not visited certain properties, that they had met the managers, who said they had no complaints; and reminded them, that there was another party whose injuries they were as well compelled to redress; they have, in defence, represented to me that very rarely indeed are any complaints made on the estates; that they prefer first coming to the magistrate to ask his opinion, before they make it openly, for fear of their making one which may be deemed frivolous, and therefore subject themselves to punishment, either direct or indirect. In some cases, however, they do make the complaints at once, where either the case is very bad, or they have, from incidental circumstances, been prevented from previously consulting the special justice. These cases, however, are so few that a monthly visit would be quite sufficient for all practical purposes. I am bound, however, to mention to your Lordship any facts which bear on the other side of the question; it was confidentially represented to me that the overseers in a particular district had made arrangements to have the apprentices employed at such a distance from the works as to prevent them having an opportunity of knowing when the special justice was on the estate, had they any complaints to make. Some negroes had complained to the individual who brought the matter under my observation, that they were often more than a month without seeing the special justice at all; in consequence, I gave an order, that the special justice should always show himself to the gang, in order that they may know when he is on the estate. In reply to this order, some of the magistrates informed me, that they made it a point to do so on all possible occasions; others, that if they were compelled to do so, they would not get through the number of visits appointed by law, as the apprentices were often employed working three or four miles of unrideable roads from the works; others have made no specific replies, and I am confident have paid no attention whatever



JAMAICA.

to those orders. In some other places, more particularly in St. Thomas in the Vale, the overseers and proprietors have, with hardly an exception, refused permission to the magistrates either to visit the gang or inspect the hospitals. The effects of the trial of *Mason v. Oldrey* is visible here; the assertion, then, that no special justice has a right to ask questions has caused this opposition. Much indignation is expressed here at my assertion, that obstacles are thrown in the way of the working of the Abolition Law, but I submit that this is an undeniable proof of the fact; in order, however, to bring the matter to issue, I directed Mr. Harris, one of the special magistrates, to have himself forcibly obstructed, which has been done in an amicable manner, in order to try the point of law. The bills were sent up before the grand jury, and they threw them out; the Attorney-general, in consequence, immediately filed a criminal information against Mr. Lowndes, the obstructor; this will, I trust, be got forward at the next court, and the matter will be decided. All those whom I have consulted on the question, and who are known to me as friends of the apprentices, have agreed with me, that the advantage to the island would be very great, of the apprentices being gradually accustomed to the absence of the special justices; I am inclined very much to agree with them, and the manner in which I would propose to do it, when it shall meet with your approbation, would be to inform the special justices that I should not watch very closely the number of their visits to each estate, so that every one was once visited, but that in such case I should expect them to go whenever sent for, at once; I do really, on mature consideration, think that this would be a most advantageous plan. At the same time I will continue, as ordered, the present system, until the time shall arrive when your Lordship shall be convinced that this change may with propriety be adopted. I should remark, that it would rest with the executive here to recall that permission, in case experience should show that there was any danger in it.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Sligo.*


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 Enclosure in No. 525.

CORRESPONDENCE referred to in the foregoing DESPATCH.

(A.)

COPY of a LETTER from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Highgate, Jamaica, 9 March 1836.

Enclosure in  
No. 525.

THOUGH the 54th clause of the Abolition Law provides for the regular visitation, once a fortnight, of a special justice on each estate in the island, and that I have, with much difficulty, brought this to be nearly the case where illness does not prevent it, and though I am aware that those visits are most useful, I think that the time is almost if not already come, when a certain alteration in this system would be very advantageous. Your Lordship has already stated to me your intention of keeping here, after the termination of the apprenticeship term in 1840, a certain proportion of special magistrates, a measure absolutely necessary, in my opinion; but I think that, in addition to that, it would be highly expedient that I should be allowed to inform the special magistrates, that I shall not very closely examine their monthly returns, and that if they shall have visited once in each month the estate in their respective districts, besides attending wherever called upon, I shall not make any remark on the subject, as I do now whenever the requisite number of visits are not paid, and no adequate excuse offered; my reason for proposing this to your Lordship is, that the law is now better understood, and that the minds of the negroes will be, by less frequent reference to the special magistrate, better prepared for the time when no such officer will be in the island. Should your Lordship accede to my opinions, it will be necessary that it should be done gradually and discreetly; but I think that it would be very advantageous, not only on the account above mentioned, but because the time which would elapse between the visits would, I am confident, prevent many complaints being brought forward, and therefore produce a much better feeling on both sides; it would also enable me gradually to reduce the number of special magistrates, keeping a few to fill up the vacancies, which must be expected to be continually occurring in this climate from the illness or death of the specials. Under these considerations, I have felt it my duty to submit the matter to your Lordship.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Sligo.*


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 (B.)—COPY

(B.)

COPY of a LETTER from Lord *Glenelg* to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 28 April 1836.

I have received your Lordship's despatch of the 9th March, in which you submit to me the expediency of sanctioning some alteration in the rule which requires that the special justices shall visit each estate once a fortnight; I am fully sensible of the reasons which your Lordship has adduced in favour of the proposal, and I have the most entire confidence, justified by the whole tenor of your labours in the direction of the magistracy, that no recommendation would be made by you from which you conceived that the rights and interests of the apprentices would be in any degree compromised. I entertain, however, some doubt, whether the laudable jealousy felt by some persons of any departure from the strict letter of the law in a matter of this nature, might not raise some objections to a relaxation of the rule in question, as having a tendency to lessen the security which it affords to the investigation of every well-founded complaint on the part of the apprenticed labourers. For this reason, I am disposed to think that, for the present at least, the practice should continue on the same footing as hitherto. Although it would doubtless be satisfactory to find that your Lordship was enabled to reduce the number of special justices without impairing the efficiency of the system, I have no reason to imagine that any disinclination will exist in Parliament to continue the present number, so long as the duties required of them do not admit of a diminution.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 526. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 30 August 1836.

No. 526.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 29th of June last, referring to the correspondence which has passed on the subject of the diminution of the visits of the special magistrates to the estates, and explaining the reasons which induced you to believe that such a relaxation of the present practice would not be prejudicial to the security of the apprentices.

As I should not think it right to oppose my opinion or surmise to the decided judgment of your Lordship, so repeatedly expressed, on a question on which you possess such peculiar means of forming an accurate conclusion, I will refer to your Lordship's discretion in what manner the services of the special magistrates can be best made available for the effective protection of the apprenticed labourers, and for enforcing the due observance of the law on that subject.

I would, however, suggest that if the number of the visits of the special magistrates to the estates should be diminished, the reduction would best be made cautiously, and, as an experiment, in a few districts at first, rather than as a change extending at once to the whole island.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 527. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*,  
dated Highgate, Jamaica, 1 July 1836.

THE very recent departure of the last packet leaves me little to communicate to you on the present occasion, on the general state of the island; to add to which, the next packet will convey to your Lordship the usual quarterly reports of the special justices, a part of which have only reached me by this post. I shall, therefore, merely say, that nothing can be more favourable than all the accounts I have received. I will, then, merely allude to some of the documents which, as usual, I have put by, since the sailing of the last packet, to forward to your Lordship. Mr. Daughtrey's report of the quiet manner the classification has gone on is fully confirmed in all quarters.

No. 527.

JAMAICA.

Enclosures  
in No. 527.

## Enclosures in No. 527.

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS, &amp;c.

- No. 1.—Mr. *Daughtrey's* Report of the quiet manner in which the Classification has gone on.
- No. 2.—Mr. *Nolan's* Report of the great extent of stealing of Produce, and in praise of the Police.  
[It is not doubted but that formerly this vice was even more common than at present, but that there was no efficient force to prevent it, and detect the offenders.—Note by the Marquis of *Sligo*.]
- No. 3.—Return of the Number of Miles travelled, Estates visited, &c. &c., by Special Magistrates in June 1836.

No. 1.—Mr. *Daughtrey's* Report of the quiet manner in which the Classification has gone on.

My Lord,

St. Elizabeth's, 21 June 1836.

THE classification, as far as it has proceeded in this district, has been not only unattended with any of the predicted evils, but has in fact had an opposite tendency. A very few plain words have been sufficient to make the people quite aware of the design of the measure, and to divest it of all possible mystery.

Having made them understand the reason of the thing, I have turned the occasion to account, by occupying a few minutes in pointing out to them the proof it affords, if a doubt on the subject could remain, that the apprenticeship would certainly come to an end at the exact time promised, to the very day. That, as surely as when they see the sun set on an evening, they know it will rise again on the following morning, so certainly, on the arriving of the 1st August 1840, will their entire freedom come. But since the time is so rapidly drawing on—since only about four years of the term now remains, and that upon the conduct they maintain, and the character they acquire as apprentices, will in a great measure depend their future well-doing,—it is of the utmost importance to themselves that every one should set about the work of his own amendment; that honest and industrious persons, whether men or women, will be sure to meet with encouragement, either from their own master or some other; but that the time will be bad for the idle and worthless, whom nobody will then be troubled with.

I have never seen them listen with more interest, or apparently more impressed by anything I have addressed to them.

Whatever the race of old planters may say to the contrary (who seldom tried it), the people always appear gratified by having their understandings appealed to, and their rationality admitted. Their intelligence grows, of course, in proportion as it is exercised.

I feel a strong hope, indeed am persuaded, that the directions given to their thoughts by this brief appeal will have a salutary influence upon the conduct of many of them.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *John Daughtrey*.The Marquis of Sligo,  
&c. &c. &c.

No. 2.—Mr. *Nolan's* Report of the great extent of stealing of Produce, and in praise of the Police.

My Lord,

Olive Park, Vere, 22 June 1836.

I HAVE the honour to enclose my weekly diary; also a classification of the apprentices attached to Parker's Wharf, Salt River. I beg to state, for the information of your Excellency, that, although still refused, I still entertain hopes of being allowed to class the apprentices on some of the estates in this district.

I regret being obliged to inform your Excellency, that the stealing of produce has latterly been carried on to a considerable extent in this parish; 2,288 pounds of sugar and 30 gallons of rum have been seized by the police. I cannot bestow sufficient praise on the police force; their conduct on all occasions is most praiseworthy, and whenever called upon to act, they discharge their duty in a manner that does credit to themselves.

I shall feel obliged by your Excellency's informing me how I am to dispose of the produce so taken, and to whom shall the amount of sales be paid. The police, of course, will receive the amount of fines they are entitled to by law.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *James Nolan*.The Marquis of Sligo,  
&c. &c. &c.



JAMAICA.

—No. 528.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Highgate, Jamaica, 9 July 1836.

No. 528.

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith the usual quarterly reports of the special justices in original; the most striking feature contained in the majority of them is the increased kindness of the managers to the apprentices; they have, in fact, found from experience that the most advantageous manner of managing them is by conciliation; while, however, this is distinctly stated in several cases, I am sorry to say that it is not universal. I know several attornies who continue their old system of exacting the pound of flesh, which I unhesitatingly pronounce to be the worst possible policy, and that many a proprietor in England will deeply suffer if they do not throw on one side all the nonsense which is so prevalent about the negro character not being known. I have watched these people now for more than two years with the closest attention; I find their “proverbial indolence” to be nothing more than could be discovered in the Englishman, if compelled to labour without any personal payment or advantage, except what the negroes have here, and be liable, besides, to corporal punishment if the quantum of labour done does not please the proprietor. How much work does your Lordship think that you would get on such terms from the majority of the white people in England? in my opinion not half as much as is now given by the negro. It is asserted that they tell lies; I have heard it remarked, that though they certainly do merit this accusation, that when put to their oaths they are exceedingly cautious, and instances of perjury are most rare; at all events it is a disease attendant on slavery, and the want of education. If the proprietors suffer from it now, it is reaping the fruits of their former conduct to them. It is said that they are in the habit of petty stealing; much more is now detected in consequence of the extraordinary vigilance of the police; but besides that, it must be recollected that formerly no person objected to the slaves taking certain proportions of liquor or of sugar; it was done openly, and if not so, there was no one to detect it; on suspicion, the infliction of the cart-whip might in some instances have been inflicted, but, in truth, my conviction is that these appropriations were never thought worth noticing. Now, the desire to annoy the people has much ceased, though it exists in some places still. At first, however, I am quite certain that several of the lowest sorts of book-keepers and overseers have, out of spite to the Bill which set the slave free, determined to annoy them; this of course did much harm, and I the more rejoice at the report that this feeling seems to have rapidly passed away. These people have, in many instances, had all their former allowances of food and indulgences stopped from them, and for some unwillingness to labour, or some reason, whether deservedly or not, so their Saturdays are often taken from them; how then are they to exist but by theft? These cases, however, are not very general, and some bright examples of kind and good conduct are to be seen in all parts. I would particularly call your attention to the beneficial effects of the humane system of management exemplified in Mr. Baynes’s report of the parish of St. John’s, where Spring Vale, under the management of Mr. James Wright Turner, exhibits an absence of complaint which is quite extraordinary. The most curious part of the case is, however, the effect of his management on the negroes he has recently hired from Dr. Loane, the member for that parish; they were proverbially, previously, the worst conditioned negroes in the parish; since they have been there, they are reported to have acted in the most correct manner, and no fault whatever has been attributed to them. If such facts as these do not open the eyes of the absentee proprietors, and induce them to send out peremptory orders to their agents here to adopt that sort of conciliatory system, they will deeply repent of it after 1840. The attornies who pursue the system of Messrs. Turner, Lockburn & Farquharson will have labour in abundance, and at a cheap rate, while others whom I could name, but whom it would be invidious in me to particularize, will be without a labourer. The attorney who produces the largest crop during the apprenticeship, I consider as far from the one most likely to do so after 1840. Now is the time, by moderation, to conciliate their affections, and when that is not done, the result will be fatal to the interests of the proprietor. I would venture to call your Lordship’s attention more particularly to the reports of Messrs. Baynes, Hill, Higgins, Pryce and Ramsay.

Some

Some have not yet reached me, but may, probably, before this despatch leaves Jamaica. The recent appointments of Messrs. Bedford, Brownson, Palmer and Bennett are the causes of their reports not having come in; Colonel Gregg's from severe illness.

JAMAICA.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Sligo*.

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Enclosure 1, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *W. H. Alley*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Mile Gully, 6 July 1836.

IN obedience to Mr. Secretary Nunes' circular of the 1st ultimo, calling for the report required to be made to you by the 27th rule of my instructions, I have the honour to subjoin the following remarks.

It gives me pleasure to be able to state to your Lordship, that the apprentices in my district generally behave themselves in the most proper manner; that they are obedient to their masters, who, generally speaking, are kind and indulgent to them, and are industrious in their habits.

The majority of properties are in high order, and, with one or two exceptions, are as forward as at this time last year.

I have observed with great satisfaction a growing confidence between master and man; the apprentices, where they have the indulgences, such as salt and herrings, are certainly more willing labourers; they appear most anxious for instruction, and very generally attend the different houses of worship.

My Lord, I feel great pleasure in stating that on all the great estates I have had no complaints.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *W. H. Alley*, Special Justice.Enclosure 1,  
in No. 528.

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Enclosure 2, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *T. J. Baines*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Retreat, St. Thomas in the East, 1 July 1836.

IN making my quarterly report agreeably to a letter from the King's House of 1st June, No. 3,433, I have the honour to state that my district has been tranquil for the last quarter; that complaints have considerably diminished, and frivolous ones hardly ever brought by the master or apprentice; a much better feeling exists, and the law is better understood, and trifles are easily adjusted by the parties themselves. I am also happy to state that the apprentice receives every kind of protection, and the free children assistance, upon every estate in my district; the work is more cheerfully performed; I lament much that the free children are brought up in idleness and filth. The overseers have always rendered me, most cheerfully, their assistance in performing my duty, and attended to any suggestion I have made for the advantage of the apprentice; and the attorneys have been liberal in the allowances; the negro-houses are in good order; the provision grounds most abundant; the state of cultivation depends in a great degree upon the facility of disposing of their superabundant quantity of provisions at a convenient market.

No state of society can be perfect, and in some cases the apprentices have combined for the purpose of doing little or no work; but the law has been proved strong enough to punish and protect all interests, except in some cases when women have been ordered hard labour on the tread-mill, where the most determined resistance has been evinced, to the injury of themselves, endangering their lives and setting the laws at defiance; but from long experience I may confidently assert, that, considering the character and extent of population, fewer crimes and fewer punishments take place in this country than is deemed necessary in England to keep the same proportion of apprentices from drunkenness and disobedience to their masters. The crops are very light, but the managers are making strong preparations for next year by putting in a large proportion of plant; the cane-pieces and pastures are in a much more forward healthy state, and the produce will be taken off in good time. It is to be lamented that machinery is not more generally used, labour would be so considerably reduced, the destruction of cattle avoided, and a much better return made to the proprietors; I have been informed by practical gentlemen, that, from the saving in stock and manual labour, the expense would be covered in two years.

In conclusion, I trust your Lordship will excuse me for remarking that penal gangs on properties, under the strict orders of the special magistrates, was one of the best modes of punishment, particularly for refractory women.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Thomas J. Baines*, Special Justice.Enclosure 2,  
in No. 528.

JAMAICA.

Enclosure 3, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *Edward Dacres Baynes*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

Enclosure 3,  
in No. 528.

My Lord,

Aylmers, St. John's, 30 June 1836.

IN compliance with your Excellency's directions of the 1st instant, requiring a return of the state of this district, pursuant to the 27th rule of our instructions, I have to state, that although the apprentices on several properties still continue moody and self-willed, rather choosing to be amerced in time by the special justice than to afford willingly to their employer a due proportion of labour, they are in general fully aware of their position, and fulfil the conditions of the Abolition Act, continuing, if not cheerfully, yet without murmuring, to work as well for their master as can in reason and justice be expected from people receiving so inadequate a return for their labour. At Spring Vale the same industry and good behaviour still subsist. This property, of which Mr. Turner is the attorney and Mr. Burke the manager, deserves to be held out as an example to the whole island. Two years have elapsed without a single complaint from either master or apprentice. Twenty-five labourers from Spring Mount, the property of Dr. Loane, have lately been hired to work at Spring Vale by the year. I do not hesitate to say that they were the very worst negroes in the parish, idle, insolent, disaffected, and continually under sentence; yet Mr. Burke now tells me that he could not wish negroes to behave better; such is the good effect of a mild, reasonable and conciliatory management.

I have in all my former reports lamented the deplorable result arising from the want of uniformity in the management of the different properties in this district, and have attributed to it the ill-will so visible in many instances between master and apprentice. Whilst on one estate the negro enjoys every advantage and indulgence granted to him under the old system, on the neighbouring property every article beyond the very scanty provision ordered by the law is rigidly withheld. Is it natural that the apprentice should work as well and contentedly in the latter as in the former case? Is it probable that after the apprenticeship he will retain a good feeling towards the severe master, and not prefer offering his services to the more humane and indulgent employer? It requires no great sagacity to perceive that persons acting in this manner are obstinately and blindly sacrificing the interests of themselves or of their constituents, and destroying every prospect of securing hereafter the services of their present dependents. They are eating down in the grass the hopes of their harvest, or uprooting the tree to save the trouble of cultivating it. The present saving is contemptible; the loss in prospective incalculable. With what face will their former master ask the new freemen in 1840 to do any thing for him, who has never done any thing for them?

When I say that the state of the parish is tranquil and subordinate; that the apprentices work adequately; that cultivation is carried on well; that a much greater quantity of produce has been manufactured than the most sanguine anticipated, from the reduced hours of labour; that this district has averaged as large annual returns as during the latter years of the old system; and that the apprentice now purchases the four years to run of the system often at a greater price than was formerly considered a full life value of the young and healthy slave; I have stated signal facts, and have exhausted every topic on the commendatory side. The reverse is by no means encouraging. If the negro works well, it does not, on most estates, proceed from any good-will towards his employer, but from the fear of punishment, the reflection that his task is almost done, and that the happy moment of freedom is fast approaching, which he is perhaps fearful may be deferred by misconduct or insubordination on his part; hence the apprentices are in the aggregate orderly, obedient, and even industrious; but the exceptions, as your Excellency will have perceived, are numerous. I cannot but observe, that since the commencement of the present year, crimes of magnitude have increased; within the last two months I have committed more offenders for trial at the superior courts than in the whole preceding period since the 1st August 1834. Thefts of provisions from the grounds and canes from the field are of constant occurrence, yet I have reason to think that not one-fifth of them come before me; managers preferring to overlook the offence to incurring the trouble and expense, with the loss of time and labour, consequent on the case being referred to the quarter sessions. In justice, however, to the majority of the parishioners of St. John's, I must remark, that from its central situation, its proximity to the towns of St. Jago on one side, and of Esquivel on the other, its vicinity to the coast, its almost impassable roads, its partial cultivation, its extensive forests, and its great proportion of free negro settlers, who encourage and harbour fugitives, it is peculiarly adapted for the refuge and concealment of bad characters of all descriptions. The district in particular, called the Red Hills, is infested with runaways. I have caused the apprehension of 20 within the last few days.

The demeanor of the negro towards his master is less respectful than formerly; he is still but imperfectly acquainted with his moral obligations and religious duties, and is as gross and licentious in his private and domestic habits as ever; indeed, as far as he has come under my observation, he has not hitherto made a corresponding progress towards fitness for taking upon himself the duties of a free agent and citizen, if I except alone an anticipatory spirit of independence, arising naturally from the consciousness of approaching freedom; but this is perhaps in itself *instar omnia*; for it is scarcely just to hold the negro blamable for remaining stationary. Two years, a whole third of the apprenticeship, have passed over without one efficient effort having been made to develop or ameliorate his moral faculties. No one has come forward, not a hand has been raised, to point out to him the way; not  
a mouth

a mouth has been opened to instruct or improve him ; he has been totally left to his own unassisted and imperfect lights. Altogether the schools in this district do not give instruction to more than 80 persons, if we except the Sunday institutions, out of a population of 6,000 souls. The parish church will not contain a fortieth part of the inhabitants of the parish. I see no natural inferiority on the part of the negro ; I am persuaded that none exists. Give him the advantages of the European, there is no reasonable ground to suppose that he will not equal him ; but if he is still to be left to himself, as he is at present, he may continue the bodily exertions daily required of him by his taskmaster, but it is preposterous to expect moral progress. Unless the most laborious and unremitting efforts be made to repair lost time ; unless the evil tendencies in his character be restrained, and the good encouraged ; unless, in fine, he be taught forthwith his duties, religious, civil and social, his approaching emancipation will prove pernicious to others, without being profitable to himself.

Before concluding this report, I beg to submit to your Excellency the state of utter destitution which will in all probability be the lot of the aged and infirm who have long been incapable of labour, and whom, in consequence, the 4th clause of the Abolition Act declares to be non-prædials after the 1st August 1838. These faithful servants, who have spent their whole lives, sacrificing youth, health and vigour to maintain an absent master in luxury, some of them verging on the age of 100 years, who have outlived every member of their family, without a friend to administer to their necessities or to supply their wants, will, perhaps, at the expiration of the apprenticeship, or before, unless some law, required by every feeling of humanity and sense of justice, be enacted to compel the property to maintain them, be ejected from their homes, and left to perish in the woods and waste lands by starvation.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Edward Dacres Baynes, s. m.*

Enclosure 4, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *W. H. Bell, Esq.*, Special Magistrate, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Pullet Hall, St. Elizabeth's, 5 July 1836.

I HAVE the honour to enclose you my weekly report, also the monthly list of properties visited, and the quarterly valuation return, as directed by your Lordship. This district is, as usual, quiet and orderly, and the weather has been fine for the last week.

Enclosure 4,  
in No. 528.

As your Lordship requires rather a more general report, this period being the end of the quarter, I have to inform your Lordship that the crops on the sugar estates in my district are now finished, with the exception, perhaps, of one or so, and though not, perhaps from the nature of the soil, the best sugar district in Jamaica, nor even nearly so, I am happy to inform you that we have succeeded this year in increasing the crops on every estate excepting two, and on those there will be an increase next year at any rate. Your Lordship is aware that I have 14 sugar estates in my district ; one of these, though small, has quadrupled its last year's crop, others have doubled it, and the remainder have made from five to 20 hogsheads more, with every appearance of continuing this improvement next crop.

Offences have generally decreased, though they fluctuate ; one month there is much to do, and another month nothing. I consider that, excepting petty larceny and the usual crimes committed by peasantry in all countries, that the complaints of insufficiency of work, or lateness in attending it, which are the chief offences, would be entirely done away with by a regulated task-work, which would obviate the old slavish custom of watching or waiting for the shells, whether doing a sufficiency or an over-sufficiency of work. It would also give a good chance to the industrious to earn money, as they might do the week's task in three days ; and let the inducement for them to do so be, the being to be paid for the other two. Their receiving and spending so much money would create artificial wants, one of the first steps to civilization. In former days some of them possessed or earned money under the rose, they were therefore forced to spend it in the same manner, for fear, though perhaps without foundation, that they should be circumscribed in the means of earning it. The task-work must be by some legislative enactment, as the managers here seem to have no wish nor no inducement to try any thing new ; whether from the state of the attorneyship system or not, I am not prepared to say, but it appears to me there are too many masters, as, when you have convinced one of the propriety of a thing, you have still got his employer to convince, and as he does not live perhaps on the property, but all over the country, there are great difficulties in the way of effecting this improvement of task-work.

I do not consider, from observation and inquiry, that their grounds have been this last year cultivated to such an extent, or with that attention by the apprentices as formerly ; the reason of this I believe to be the facility of supplying the very few wants they have at present in their simple and uncivilized state, by being able in their extra time to gain a shilling or two by jobbing for one person or another, which is an easier thing than going a distance to their grounds, and having the labour of working them, and of carrying the provisions to market ; in fact, I should consider it much better for them and for the properties not to allow them to cultivate any ground at all, but for the property to cultivate the provisions in the four and a half hours with the gang, to give allowances and task-work. The time is lost in going to their ground ; it would take, of course, some time to effect this change, but it would be extremely beneficial to all parties if forced upon them.



## JAMAICA.

The fields on all the properties are in the usual state of cleanliness, &c., where the people are well managed, and by those a little more enlightened than others.

I trust the attention of the Government will be immediately turned to the promoting of industry among the children of the apprentices, and who are not themselves apprentices; their idleness and appearance at times causes a dissatisfaction among other children; some very mild legislative enactment would be sufficient for this, either on the plan of the St. Domingo rural code, or any other the wisdom of Government may approve of, combined with moral and religious education.

I hope and trust that the complete regeneration of these poor people will not be left to the operation of the Abolition Bill alone, but that progressive improvements, laws and attentions will be given to this colony.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *W. H. Bell*, Special Magistrate.

## Enclosure 5, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *Stephen Bourne*, Esq., to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Gnevin Royal, St. Andrew's, 9 June 1836.

Enclosure 5,  
in No. 528.

THERE is little new to remark as to the state of this district.

There have been what are called fine seasons in these mountains, and there appears to me to be a good prospect of crops, both in the coffee plantations and the negro grounds.

Education goes on but very slowly. I hear much talk of schools, but none have been established. The Parliamentary grants have not as yet been applied to the formation of schools where most needed, that is, on the mountains and in the interior of the country. If schools were established on sound principles and well attended to, I have no doubt that they would be productive of the greatest conceivable benefits. I do not find any want of inclination to assist in their support on the part of the magistrates, proprietors or overseers, nor any repugnance on that of the apprentices to send their children to them wherever it is possible. An excellent clergyman from the Church Missionary Society near me (Mr. Hunsell), has a good Sunday and evening school at Prospect Hill; and that on this pen (referred to in my last report) continues to be well attended, at least better than I could have anticipated (although I am greatly in want of a skilful teacher for the week-day school), but otherwise I do not hear of any schools in my district, although the population can scarcely be less than 3,000. It is rare to find an apprentice who can read a chapter in the New Testament, and if they cannot read, how can they instruct their children? If no schools are established for them, what can be expected from their children, either for themselves, their parents, their employers, or the country?

I venture to press this subject on the attention of your Excellency and the Home Government, because I feel its importance in reference to the present, and, far more, the final prosperity of the country. If the people are left in their present state of ignorance, what can be expected from them? I confess that their intelligence and good conduct, considering the want of elementary instruction and good example, surprise me.

Marriages are very much on the increase amongst the apprentices, but I seldom hear of an overseer's getting married. The proprietors do not encourage marriage, and the habit of dismissing an overseer at a few days' notice is by no means favourable to marriage. What can a man do with a family when continuance in his station depends on caprice?

If the proprietors of the soil would encourage schools and marriages, not only amongst the apprentices, but overseers and book-keepers, they would most effectually promote their true interests.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Ste. Bourne*.

## Enclosure 6, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Chamberlaine*, Esq., to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Lime Savanna, Clarendon, 6 July 1836.

Enclosure 6,  
in No. 528.

THE time has again come round when it becomes necessary for me to address your Lordship at greater length than usual upon the subject of that great moral and political revolution, which in its past and present operation has been attended with good, and which is now being conducted to a successful termination, promising in its issue to be alike important and advantageous to the social regeneration of a large number of mankind, as also of consequence to the stability and happiness of the country.

The present operation of the system of apprenticeship and its probable consequences, it more particularly behoves me to confine myself to; and the observations which I shall here make shall be limited to facts, divested as much as possible of theoretical or speculative opinions.

And first, as to the conduct of the apprentices: instead of being intoxicated with the many privileges that have been conceded, the people in the district which has been intrusted to my superintendence (with a population of about 6,000) are behaving themselves, as a body, alike creditable to themselves as satisfactorily to their employers. The offences which are reported in my weekly journals, are of that nature which have always sprung out of the social relations and dependencies of mankind; wonderful it is that, with the innumerable disadvantages

disadvantages of slavery, even these complaints should be so few; in fact, confined to misdemeanors of more frequent occurrence in more advanced and civilized communities, and inseparably connected with frail and imperfect humanity.

The proprietors generally complain of the disinclination of the apprentices to indent their children, as permitted by the 18th clause of the Abolition Act. The anxiety thus manifested is doubtless suggested by the desire to keep up the strength and cultivation of their properties at the cheapest rate after unrestricted freedom shall be proclaimed. The apprentices, so far from being blamable for this unwillingness, deserve great credit; it is characteristic of their foresight, and incontestably proves that they are inferior to none in the value and importance which they attach to freedom. The law enforces obedience and respect from the apprentice to the manager who is placed over him. A manager's conduct, though not strictly illegal, is frequently repugnant to the people, and, however vexatious that conduct may be, the apprentice is made to serve him, under severe penalties. It is human nature, when these people are released from their obligatory dependence, if they seek other employers whose dispositions and habits are more congenial. The strong feelings of attachment which the negroes have for their children would not allow them to leave the property on which they may be domiciled or bound to serve; thus they would see the shadow, but be unable to enjoy the substance of freedom. When the people are unshackled by apprenticeship, they may find it of advantage to their pecuniary or other interests to locate themselves on a different property, or in a different parish; here again they would be prevented, as they would make any sacrifice rather than leave their family behind. The apprentice's circumstances might be such as to make him desirous of locating himself and his children on a farm of his own; if his children are respectable and industrious people, he would be unable to procure their redemption, for already are the people taxed in proportion to their moral fitness and ability to perform creditably the duties of free citizens. There are many other reasons that could be adduced in favour of the stand the apprentices have so universally made against this measure, which, if adopted, would in effect be a new system of slavery.

The apprentices cheerfully work for wages in their own time, when their grounds are not so prolific as to make an equivalent return to the time that may be employed in cultivating them. Whenever the people have declined, or have been unwilling to work for hire on their own days, they have grounds in a high state of cultivation, and a day employed on those grounds not unfrequently realizes them three times as much as the rate of wages generally granted to agricultural labourers in this country. They refuse to work for hire when they can employ their time more profitably to their pecuniary advancements and comforts; for this, no reasonable man can blame the people. They do not neglect their provision grounds, but, on the contrary, pay as much if not more attention to them than they have hitherto done.

The thirst for christian instruction continues to increase; the chapels and churches are better attended; there is still, however, a wide field for missionary exertions, and, as an eye-witness of the improvement and advancement of the people under properly qualified christian pastors, I have no hesitation in saying that such instruction, properly directed, is of the greatest moment and consequence to the future quiet and prosperity of the country.

Obstacles are thrown in the way of, and every argument is used to dissuade the apprentices from emancipating themselves.

I have never known or heard of a case where the people who have emancipated themselves have not been industriously or profitably employed.

That the people will work after 1840 I have no doubt; that that work will be of equal advantage to the present proprietors is not likely; the system heretofore has been the confining of the people to sweat, not so much for their own interests as for the interests of the few. Hence the many enjoyed but the common and indispensable necessities of life, whilst the few reaped the advantage of their people's labour, and aggrandize themselves.

The establishment of that new system which could no longer have been delayed; the good conduct of the people generally throughout, and the resigned and increasing reconciled spirit of the managers to the altered state of affairs; all lead me to anticipate every possible good and advantage to the country under a state of unqualified freedom.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. Chamberlaine.*

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Enclosure 7, in No. 528.

Copy of a LETTER from *William Carnaby, Esq.*, Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Montego Bay, Parish of St. James, 5 July 1836.

SINCE I had the honour, on 29th March last, of forwarding your Excellency's quarterly report upon the state of this district, very little change, one way or the other, has taken place, so that I may refer generally to the statements then made, as applicable to the condition of the district at the present time.

The crop is now finished, and, as expected, is somewhat deficient; but, from present appearances, a very considerable increase may be looked for next year, if the seasons prove at all favourable. The canes have been taken off the ground considerably earlier than last year, and without any stoppage on the part of the apprentices.

From recent inquiries, I think I am warranted in saying, that upon an average, on the different properties under my charge, the new plant in the ground this year nearly doubles that of last.

## JAMAICA.

The cane-fields are in good order, and the work of cleaning, with scarcely an exception, proceeds without interruption. Generally the apprentices are working well, and the district is both peaceable and orderly.

I regret that I cannot report a decrease of complaints, though, as regards the management of the estates, they have not augmented. Petty thefts among the apprentices themselves are of frequent occurrence, particularly the robbing of provision grounds; and it is worthy of remark, that almost all my awards of corporal punishment, have been for offences of this latter description.

Upon many of the properties masters and apprentices go on smoothly, and evince towards each other good feeling, and upon all, the different parties are now fully acquainted with their several rights, and do not hesitate to have them enforced.

The negro grounds generally are now in as good order as in 1832, and though the idle and worthless are neglecting this part of their duty, still I am of opinion that the great majority of apprentices pay every attention to and cultivate their provision grounds. All have ample ground allotted them for this purpose.

I have still to deplore the want of any system of education for the young in my district, though very lately steps have been taken to open one or two schools for all classes. I hope this may be extended; but in the mean time the fact cannot be disguised, that, generally speaking, the free children are neglected both as regards education and habits of industry.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *William Carnaby*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 8, in No. 528.

SPECIAL JUSTICE *Cocking's* Quarterly REPORT, June 1836, St. James's.

Enclosure 8,  
in No. 528.

THE undersigned regrets very much that his report for this quarter is not equally favourable with the last. The crime of theft has greatly increased; numerous complaints are daily made by the well-disposed apprentices of the alarming losses they sustain by robbery; their provision grounds and gardens are shamefully plundered, and their houses broken open and robbed in the broad day. Provisions are very scarce in consequence; these serious evils depress the minds of the apprentices very much, especially such as are anxious of performing their duty, and amassing a sufficiency of money for the purchasing of the remainder of their apprenticeship; nor are the apprentices themselves the only sufferers, the masters and managers also complain very much of the pilfering of rum and sugar; the latter circumstance, together with the assistance that must, at such an exigency, of course be rendered the apprentice for his maintenance (by the purchasing of flour, &c. &c.) will affect the master's pecuniary resources very much. It is to be hoped, however, that when these depredators are detected, and proper examples made, a reaction will take place, and all again be right.

Crop is nearly finished; one-third less than last year will be realized, and the appearance for next crop is favourable; but of course no estimate can be given until the beginning of November; should the seasons fail in the months of August, September and October, the crops must also fail. Every possible attention has been paid to cultivation; the plants are increased and well manured, and the ratoons properly taken care of. The apprentices dislike very much to trash canes, or turn trash and mould canes in their own time, even at the high rate of 2s. 6d. per day; this is a serious evil, as it is work of the greatest consequence to an estate; some will not even dig cane-holes during their own time for their masters, but prefer going to work on other estates, for the same rate of hire; this displays a bad feeling, and is not such a return as might have been expected, considering the attention and kindnesses they receive.

The estates have lost a vast deal of labour, owing to a severe epidemic (the measles) that has been raging, and many have suffered much by deaths.

The masters and managers continue to pay every attention to the happiness and comforts of the apprentices.

(signed) *R. Cocking*, s. m.

## Enclosure 9, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *R. S. Cooper*, Esq., to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

New Green Island, 5 July 1836.

Enclosure 9,  
in No. 528.

SINCE I last had the honour of submitting to your Excellency my remarks on the state of this district, a slow but steady improvement has manifested itself in the social as well as moral character of the apprentices, and I may add that a correspondent melioration is likewise perceptible in many of those who lately ranked among their most rigorous managers. The special justice is now rarely insulted by being requested to make "examples;" and I am truly gratified in being able to assure your Excellency, that for some time past the managers of considerable estates have in many instances deprecated punishment of any kind, and requested me to employ remonstrance alone in recalling the negligent or refractory to their duty; nor has their lenity missed its object, for in every or nearly every such case, I have afterwards been told by the manager, "Your lecture has done a great deal of good." I dwell on

on this subject the more fondly, because it shows that the bigoted admirers of slavery are wrong in asserting that fear is the only stimulant that will induce the negro to labour.

The number of complaints now brought forward is extremely small in proportion to the vast number of apprentices among whom they arise; the most serious are against entire gangs for insufficiency of labour, and occur immediately on the change from the task-work of crop to the more continuous, and probably more difficult, labour of cleaning and moulding, or, as it is called, "going through" the canes.

Ground provisions are very scarce and dear, a circumstance which may be ascribed in a great measure to the apprentices devoting so much of their time to labour for hire, to the prejudice of their provision grounds; the negro yam crop, to which they are eagerly looking forward, will, I fear, afford but a temporary relief.

The heavy rains having now subsided, the preparations for next crop are progressing favourably; the anxiety to get in "a large plant" is so great that 3s. 4d. and even 3s. 9d. per day is offered for jobbers. The astonishing growth of grass during the rainy weather is another cause of the great demand for labour.

To return to the apprentices: there is a great improvement in their habits; marriages are frequent; and persons of all ages flock to the school opened at Rockspring, under the auspices of the Church Missionary Society, and which may be termed the only efficient establishment of the kind in the district. Theft is less common than it was a short time ago, and, upon the whole, the apprentices begin to form tolerably clear notions of the nature and operation of the laws which more immediately bear upon their condition.

I have, &c.  
(signed) R. S. Cooper.

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Enclosure 10, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *Thomas Davies, Esq.*, Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord Marquis,

Highgate, St. Mary's, 1 July 1836.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency, in answer to letter No. 3,458, June 1, and pursuant to the 27th rule:—

In the first place, the sugar crop of this year will fall short of last, and is more backward, but to what amount that may be, I cannot say. The cultivation of the cane-field is more promising for next year, in consequence of labour being given in that way from the shortness of this year's crop.

There is an apathy on the part of managers to complain, although aware things are going wrong at times; and it has been frequently mentioned to me that the apprentices return to their respective estates from the different workhouses they may have been sentenced for, in a more insubordinate state than when sent there; also, the constables on properties complain to me of their frequently being threatened if they support the white people, or those in authority over them.

I consider the crime of theft is on the increase; two cases of sheep-stealing and one of stealing a young heifer; the bones, with the offal, were dug up near a watchman's hut at Islington; this has recently taken place in the neighbourhood; and plundering from each other is common among the apprentices.

In many places means are taken and in progress for the education of children, but, unless that is founded on a moral and religious principle, instead of becoming a blessing, it would in the end turn out a curse to the poor and the country. I have frequently been told of parents prohibiting their children from attending schools, from the impression that they would be made to work a part of their time towards its support. I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the endeavours of Messrs. Mitchells of London, and proprietors of Esher estate, who have erected a school on that property on an extensive scale, which is conducted on good principles, and, I am happy to observe, well attended; the respectability of the tutor and influence on this estate is, in my opinion, of essential service.

I cannot report to your Excellency a favourable account of the good feeling between master and apprentices; the apprentices, I observe, continue to show a feeling of distrust and suspicion; whatever proposals are made by the master, if even for their benefit, would be sooner objected to by them than receive even a fair trial; when such is the case, the master feels a reluctance in deviating from any method of management he may hitherto have adopted with any kind of success.

Negro grounds are much as usual with respect to cultivation, but the whole of their spare time is not given to that business.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Thomas Davies*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 11, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *H. Wm. Danson, Esq.*, Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Kingsland, Manchester, 30 June 1836.

IN obedience to your Lordship's instructions, contained in the circular to special magistrates, No. 3,457, I shall endeavour to convey to your Lordship the state of the district under my care, as much as my short residence in it can enable me to form an opinion. I have

## JAMAICA.

have had but few complaints preferred by the masters or overseers against the apprenticed labourers that called for very strong measures, or much restriction on their personal liberty, and the lash has been resorted to but seldom; and I must say this has been in a great measure owing to the humanity of their masters, who, in many instances, have been satisfied with my reprimanding, instead of going the length the law would have permitted me in punishing refractory apprentices; but few complaints have been made by the apprentices against their masters, and amongst each other I hear of but few outrages committed; still, my Lord, the proprietors say, the apprentices do not work as they ought to work, and that much more labour is due from them than performed.

I am sorry to say that I find on almost all the properties I visit a number of apprentices not able to work, owing to inveterate sores or disorders, beyond the reach of medicine; these disorders are not confined to the native of Africa or the aged creole, but general, and the number of young people so afflicted is almost as great as among the old.

I can form no opinion as to the labour to be expected from the negroes when free; the houses and provision grounds now held by them will, in some measure, keep them to the estates, but there are numbers, I believe, on every large property, without grounds in cultivation, being too idle to work at any time, except under coercion; it will require strong regulations to keep this description of persons in any kind of order at the expiration of the apprenticeship.

It would be of advantage to the rising generation in Jamaica to have some uniform language or mode to express their wants and wishes; at present, I hardly know what dialect to call that spoken by the negroes in my district; and where they do know a little English, they deliver it with a foreign accent, I think a Spanish pronunciation; how this desirable end is to be obtained, I know not; many of the schoolmasters now engaged in teaching in this neighbourhood are from Germany; this may tend to counteract the Spanish pronunciation, but I doubt if the language of the people will be much improved.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *H. Wm. Danson*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 12, in No. 528.

SPECIAL MAGISTRATE'S REPORT for the District of Manchioneal,  
St. Thomas in the East, 1 July 1836.

It affords me much pleasure to state that the apprentices in this district are quiet.

There is a great difference in their conduct since Christmas, marked by their not working so cheerfully, and only performing as much labour as keeps them from being deprived, by the special magistrate, of the days allowed them by law. The negroes are perfectly aware of the minimum of work required, and they are very careful not to exceed it.

The apprentices do not cultivate their grounds, of which they have abundance, so well as formerly; this is evinced by the great scarcity of provisions which exists. The necessary consequence is, that robberies are more frequent, but few of the perpetrators are detected.

The crops are falling off very considerably, even from last year's short return. This result is attributable chiefly to the heavy weather during the spring of 1835. The prospects for next year are much more favourable.

Great exertions are being made for the religious improvement and instruction of apprentices and others of free condition, none of whom seem anxious to avail themselves of so inestimable a benefit, except in so far as attending divine worship on Sundays.

It is incumbent upon me to mention the deplorable state of those children who were under six years of age on the 1st of August 1834, as well as those since born, many of whom are communicating some of the loathsome African diseases to the apprentices; and although their parents work readily for wages, yet they will in no one instance allow their free children to be employed in any field labour, even for hire, neither do they let them cultivate their own provision grounds.

(signed) *J. Kennet Dawson*, Stipendiary Special Justice.

## Enclosure 13, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *J. A. Dillon*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

Retirement, Great House, Parish of St. Ann,  
Jamaica, 30 June 1836.

My Lord,

ACCORDING to rule 27 in your Excellency's instructions, I have the honour to transmit my quarterly summary, although, in the short period that has intervened, it will manifest little else than obedience to your Lordship's instructions.

The coffee crop now maturing in this district I anticipate will be deficient, owing to the incessant rains of May and June, which produces a tendency in the plant to form more timber than fruit; hence the shoot is luxuriant and the berry scant. This observation does not apply to short or cultivated coffee, which exhibits an abundance detrimental to the plant; but this mode of pruning is not generally adopted in this district, owing to the comparative sterility of the soil. Managers still continue to complain of inertness in the apprentice; nevertheless the crop has been quite an average one, and has, with a few exceptions (I trust), reached its destination by this date. Nor can I help thinking, if there was

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as much willingness to stimulate and reward as there is power to coerce, that this "inertness" would diminish in a comparative ratio. Complaints against managers are so rare, and corporal punishments so few, that with our present code of laws, judicial and moral, they cannot be expected to decrease even at the termination of the apprenticeship; the latter certainly do not average two in a hundred.

Although writing from a sick couch, which renders the task one of mental and bodily fatigue, I cannot omit this opportunity of calling your Excellency's attention to the deplorable condition of apprenticed mothers and their free offspring, who are afflicted with yaws; in better health, I should have pressed a series of detail on your Lordship's consideration, to show the necessity, policy and humanity of erecting district asylums for their reception. This loathsome epidemic, I regret to add, is on the increase, occasioned (possibly) by the abridged interest which the owner has in the apprentice, and certainly from the increased facility which two days and a half in every week gives the afflicted of communicating the disease, as formerly they were kept under very strict sanatory discipline; as an antidote, I would beg leave to suggest the necessity of erecting district hospitals, of humble pretensions and little cost; making it imperative on every manager to send those afflicted with the disease to the nearest asylum, under a penalty fixed by the legislature. The adoption of this plan would, in twelve months, totally eradicate a disease, which, if not checked before the termination of the apprenticeship, will prove to be a curse on the land.

Children mothers are also a class well worthy the attention of Parliament, who possibly are not so much the victims of their own passions as lust in the other sex; during the sickly season of gestation, there is but little allowance made for the consequent debility of their state; late turning out, deficient labour, must be made good to the estate; her seducer or reputed husband will yield her neither assistance or sympathy, and the property cannot, in reason or conscience, be expected to sustain a loss through the agency of a man belonging to another or different owner. The mother is usually obliged to support the child or children, and the magistrate can yield her but little redress. Could not the English law, my Lord, which compels a father to support his offspring, be so modified or suited to our position as to give relief to the female of this class? It would, I apprehend, be received as an act of humanity towards the mother and child, and justice towards the proprietor.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. A. Dillon*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 14, in No. 528.

Copy of a LETTER from *John Daughtrey*, Esq., to the Marquis of Sligo.

My Lord,

St. Elizabeth's, 12 July 1836.

Enclosure 14  
in No. 528.

EVERY thing proceeds here as usual, with a gradual tendency towards improvement in every way. The measles are passing away. It has been gratifying to observe that, upon this occasion of such prevalent sickness, the free children have in general received attention and medicine in common with others. But for this care, many must have been lost, for mothers trained in slavery, never having been obliged to learn how to treat their children or themselves under any serious malady, are, I perceive, helpless, almost beyond conception.

I consider it but justice to the master to report this fact, and it is with pleasure I add, that apprentice parents, aware that there was no absolute obligation on the master to show his kindness, have evinced their proper sense of it by suitable expressions of gratitude.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Jno. Daughtrey*.

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Enclosure 15, in No. 528.

Copy of a LETTER from *Patrick Dunne*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of Sligo.

My Lord,

St. David's, 29 June 1836.

Enclosure 15,  
in No. 528.

IN having the honour to make my special report of the state of this district to your Excellency, it affords me much satisfaction to be able to say, that the apprentices are orderly, industrious and well-conducted. Complaints against them are still declining, and such as occur are in general of a trivial nature. The people are extremely anxious about their provision grounds, and attentive to the cultivation of them; but are not unwilling, when they can spare time, to work for a fair remuneration on their own days. When the negroes are treated with a proper consideration, which is not often the case, a good understanding invariably prevails between them and their overseers; they are fully aware of their rights, and tenacious in upholding them; it is surprising, debarred as they have been, with but few exceptions, of the blessings of education, to see how acute and sensible they are. Quarrelling, rioting or drunkenness are of rare occurrence amongst the peasantry. The "head people" are intelligent and trustworthy. On two estates, Belle Clare and Fair Prospect, the overseers are black men; on the latter property, which belongs to Alderman Tyrrell, of Kingston, the overseer, James Tyrie, was manumitted by his master on leaving the island a short time back, and placed in charge; on the former estate, which is the property of Mr. Leslie, one of the members of the house of assembly for this parish, the man in care, William Leslie, is still an apprentice. I mention these circumstances to show the estimation in which the competency of this class of persons is held, and the confidence reposed in their discretion.

JAMAICA.

The affection and care manifested by the women in attending to their "pickaninnies," under the peculiar difficulties which they labour, are highly commendable in maternal solicitude; I believe they are not surpassed by the women of any other country.

The sugar crop is not yet quite over; it will exceed last year's; Norris's and Albion estates making about 80 hogsheads more than last year. From the addition made by putting in new plants, and from the appearance of the cane-fields, I have no doubt but next year's crop will far exceed this. The coffee-fields look well, and promise an abundant crop.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Patrick Dunne*, Special Justice.

Since writing the above, I have visited Albion estate, which has finished crop; it has made 302 hogsheads of sugar of the largest size, being an increase of 52 hogsheads this year. The overseer, Mr. M'Pherson, has sent in to Mr. George Taylor, the attorney, an estimate for the next year's crop, showing an expected increase of 70 additional hogsheads; there has not been any jobbing. I do not recollect that any person has been flogged on the property for the last six or eight months.

(signed) *Patrick Dunne*, s. j.

## Enclosure 16, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *D. Ewart*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.Enclosure 16,  
in No. 528.

My Lord,

Friendship, 29 June 1836.

WHEN I had the honour to transmit my last special report to your Lordship, I informed your Lordship of the circumstances which then precluded me from forming any opinion as to the favourable or unfavourable result of the crops, and prepared your Lordship to expect from this report all the information that I could collect relative to the crops that might be of interest to your Lordship or his Majesty's Government.

Of the two estates that have finished crop in my district, one has made a larger crop this year than has been made on it during the last eight years, and the other has made as good crop this year as it did last year. Of the other sugar estates, there are three or four which it is said will not make average crops this year; and the small crops, in these instances, are accounted for, partly on the legal diminution of labour, partly on the badness of the seasons and the defective labour of the apprentices; but the amount of this alleged defective labour, and the influence which it has exercised on the result of the crops, is not indicated by any calculation approaching to any thing like exactness. I feel assured that the different managers in my district have given me a faithful account of the crops, and am certain that they have made use of their experience to afford the information requisite to form an estimate of the decrease of the crops, and the causes to which such decrease is to be attributed. At the same time I must confess, that although I cannot illustrate practically the course of inquiry which ought to be pursued when it is desired to arrive at a fair estimate of the industry of the apprentices, yet if their industry is compared (as it is, I believe, in most cases) to any standard derived from slave-labour, that such a standard must be fundamentally inapplicable for all practical purposes.

History has recorded, and the statistics of nations have confirmed the exactness of the record, that the flush or glare of opulence which marked the progress of slave communities owed its origin to human labour, coerced almost beyond the limits of endurance; and facts scattered throughout all the notices which the public possess, relative to slavery in His Majesty's West India colonies, present sufficient authority for concluding that this colony was not less prodigal than others in the exercise of such engines of coercion as were considered adequate to the enforcement of human labour, when the circumstances which govern labour in free communities were not in operation. A people toiling under the scourge of slavery might, for a short time, be compelled to yield an extraordinary quantity of labour; but slave-labour has no capacity of reproduction; the germs of its destruction are enclosed within its horrors, and while the slave sinks into disease or death, the flush of opulence, of which he was made the unwilling agent, follows him to the grave.

It cannot therefore be supposed that the labour of the apprentice, exacted by authorized and requisite punishment, can be fairly contrasted with the labour of the slave, forced and stretched by irresponsible power. The superiority of labour in the former case will be seen in its steady and uniform application, in its influence on population, and the occurrence of motives to increased industry.

In reference to all the other particulars which are required from me in my quarterly reports, I have the honour to refer your Lordship to my report for the preceding quarter, and assure your Lordship, that nothing has occurred since to induce me to qualify the information which I then had the honour to forward to your Lordship.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *D. Ewart*, s. m.

## Enclosure 17, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *Walter Finlayson*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.Enclosure 17,  
in No. 528.

My Lord,

Montego Bay, 5 July 1836.

IN obedience to your Excellency's circular letter of the 1st ultimo, No. 3,453, I humbly offer the following report:—

In

In my district, the apprentices have been in general industrious and well-behaved. Upon one estate considerable dissatisfaction prevails, in consequence of the managers continuing to work the people for eight hours a day, thereby depriving them of the half Fridays.

Some of the estates in my district have recently finished crop; and I regret to say that there has been a material deficiency in the number of hogsheads, as compared with last year's crop. But the labour upon the estates is in a greatly more advanced state than it was at the same time last year; and the preparations for next crop are upon a far more extensive scale.

The provision grounds of the apprentices are generally in good order. But upon some properties near town the apprentices were formerly allowed to cut and sell grass and wood, upon the proceeds of which they depended for the purchase of food, and their grounds were consequently neglected.

During the last three months, complaints, especially those in town, have rather increased.

In most cases, the managers act with kindness to those under their care; though there are occasionally instances of strictness and severity which create discontent upon the part of the apprentices, and an unwillingness to work cheerfully.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Walter Finlayson*, Spec. Just.

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Enclosure 18, in No. 528.

Copy of a LETTER from *R. B. Facey*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Montego Bay, 5 July 1836.

In obedience to your Lordship's desire to be furnished with a report on the state of my district, I take leave to state—

Enclosure 18,  
in No. 528.

That there does not appear to be, nor have I any reason to believe there is, any material change, either in the "disposition, industry or behaviour of the apprentices" since my last report; they continue, as usual, to labour cheerfully, more particularly when there is the slightest disposition manifested by the master or manager to encourage them, either by kind treatment or a fair remuneration for their services when employed in their own time, to forward the estate's cultivation.

That although complaints have not decreased against the apprentices, they are by no means of such a nature as to warrant an apprehension that time, together with the means of religious instruction now so rapidly progressing, may not be the means of removing.

Your Lordship will have observed the increased number of complaints, as well as the unusual amount of fines on the managers in this district; for this I have no other means of accounting than what must suggest itself to the mind of the most careless observer, nor can I recommend a better remedy than will be found in a more careful selection of persons to superintend the management of estates under the present system.

It may not be unimportant to acquaint your Lordship, that in a few instances where a fine has been imposed on the manager, he disposes of the herrings or fish intended as supplies for the people, and applies the proceeds of such sale to the payment of the fine, thereby depriving the people of an old-established usage because of his illegal act; in other instances where they have not been sold, they have been stopped for a considerable time.

I shall not be able to report to your Lordship correctly the state of the crop in this district, the Montpeliers not having quite finished; there is, however, every reason to expect that if it does not equal the last, the deficiency will be very inconsiderable.

Calculating on the unusual number of well-planted cane-fields, the attention paid to them and their very healthy appearance, the next year's crop will, if the seasons permit, yield a much more considerable return than the present.

With regard to the negro grounds, I am glad to be able to state that, notwithstanding they have suffered considerably by the trespassing of cattle, and about the neighbourhood of Seaford Town by the depredations of the German emigrants, the people have, with a degree of perseverance highly creditable, continued to clean and keep them in a high state of cultivation.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. B. Facey*, s. j.

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Enclosure 19, in No. 528.

Copy of a LETTER from *E. E. Fishbourne*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Dover House, St. George's, 30 June 1836.

Enclosure 19,  
in No. 528.

In submitting to your Excellency a report of the state of my district, in compliance with the letter bearing date of 1st instant, No. 3,452, I regret that I should be under the necessity of stating, that the prospects held out in my last report, respecting the quantity of sugar expected to be made, will not, in my opinion, be realized.

Certainly the falling off that is now apprehended cannot, with any degree of fairness, be attributed to the working of the people, for it is acknowledged by all the managers in my district, that the apprentices have done their duty, and that their fields are in a very reasonable state of cultivation. Some ascribe it to bad yielding, and others to cutting canes before they are ripe. The season, although most favourable for advancing the crop of next year,



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year, has not been either sufficiently hot or dry to ripen the canes for this; and, in consequence of the prevalence of rain and deficiency of sun, a continual growth has been kept up in the canes; from these causes, I am told that, where yielding is large, the quantity of sugar produced is not at all in proportion.

The appearance of the crops in the commencement of the year encouraged some gentlemen in command of estates to anticipate and promise that they would be able to make large shipments of produce before the 1st August next. These promises cannot now be fulfilled unless by cutting canes that are not fully ripe, which, if suffered to remain longer on the ground, would give a larger return. To this system many of the most experienced planters attribute a part of the expected falling off.

Great damage was done to canes in the early part of the year by cattle; and stealing canes from the field has latterly become a very common offence.

Provisions are plenty almost every where; none but the habitual runaways and indolent people, who never cultivated grounds regularly, can complain of any deficiency of food. Even these people, by working on Saturday, can, from the present price of provisions, earn as much as will purchase a good supply for a week; so that they need not want, if they will only work.

I am convinced that, in many important points, the negroes, as a body, have advanced rapidly, and are still improving. No people can be more respectful, or less inclined to riot or insubordination. In my opinion, much depends upon managers. I have observed that upon estates where the people are treated with kindness and liberality, where they are given their former allowances, and minor offences are passed over, there they generally conduct themselves best, they appear most healthy, and the special justice is least required; but on estates where a different system is pursued, where the allowances are still withheld, and a determination to pass over nothing rigidly acted on, there the people conduct themselves worst, frequent the hospital most, and appear least comfortable, healthy or respectable.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. E. Fishbourne*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 20, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *George Gordon*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

Enclosure 20,  
in No. 528.

My Lord,

Upper District, Clarendon, 6 July 1836.

In obedience to your Excellency's circular of 1st June, No. 3,415, I now beg leave to hand your Lordship a report of the state of my district for the last three months. Complaints have, as far as regards the working of the apprentices, diminished, although, I am sorry to say, numerous robberies and petty thefts have been committed, unprecedented in the annals of this parish; to such an extent have these depredations been carried on, that waggons returning from the wharf have been plundered on the road; stores have been broken into, salt provisions stolen in quantity, and petty thefts are carried on to an excess hitherto unknown. Another great cause of complaint against the apprentices in this district is, the way in which they lay out their provision grounds; for, although large tracts of land are allowed for this purpose, yet there is scarcely a grass-piece in which you will not find provision grounds not fenced; the consequence is, trespasses from estate's cattle are numerous.

The crops in this quarter are nearly finished, but, I am sorry to say, with a greater falling off from what was at first expected; but this is wholly to be attributed to the excessive heavy rains in this parish during the months of May and June. The young canes are looking very well, and, I am told, that, unless some unforeseen circumstances occur, there is every probability of a good crop next year.

I must again call your Lordship's attention to the almost total dearth of religious instruction in the upper part of this extensive and populous parish. Schools are very much wanted, and, until this great error is rectified, the moral manners of the apprentice can never be amended.

I have, &c.

(signed) *George Gordon*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 21, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *J. W. Grant*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

Enclosure 21,  
in No. 528.

My Lord,

Mandeville District, Manchester, 6 July 1836.

I HAVE now the honour to comply with Mr. Secretary Nunes' circular of the 1st ultimo, calling for the report required to be made to your Lordship by the 27th rule of my instructions.

Since I last made a similar one, I have been appointed to this district, the most extensive and valuable in the parish.

It affords me the greatest pleasure to bear testimony to the good conduct and industry of the apprentices; and I am happy on this occasion to have the managers of the three largest properties in the district going along with me to prove the truth of this assertion.

I will first give an extract from a letter written to me by Mr. Lewis, a gentleman extensively connected with properties in the parish, and managing one with, I believe, nearly 300 apprentices:

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" I am happy to state that the apprentices under my charge have behaved themselves well, and have performed their work willingly and well for the given number of hours they are obliged to labour, ever since the 9th of October 1834. I am also glad to say, that I had no case of insolence from any of the apprentices under my charge since the commencement of the apprenticeship system."

The second is from the manager of Bull Dead, a large property through which I lately rode to see a beautiful field, containing 295 acres of coffee without a single weed :

" In reply to your letter of yesterday, making inquiries with regard to the state of this property, and the forwardness of the work in comparison with last year, and a few years previous, I beg to state that, in my opinion, it is now as forward as it was at this time last year, and, on an average, for a number of years.

" I have great satisfaction in stating that the apprentices have every disposition to work, and have latterly done as well as I can reasonably desire. I pointed out to you the other day, on riding over the property, a field of 295 acres of coffee without a weed ; this speaks well for the state the property is now in, and at the same time for the work of the apprentices."

The third is from Mr. Wheatle, of Knock Patrick, and its contents speak well for the work of the apprentices belonging to that property :

" In reply to your request to know how the apprenticeship system has worked on this property, I feel much pleasure to state that it has exceeded my expectations, which the following remarks will show.

" When I first took possession of this property, 12 years ago, we had then a field of old coffee, containing 212 acres ; at that period we were in the habit, and previous to that, of having the assistance of the Government negroes (a property belonging to the same concern) to work here.

" We have now a new field of coffee, containing 260 acres, to take care of, being one-fifth more than the quantity I took possession of ; this field is in high cultivation, as may be seen at any time. Ever since the commencement of the apprenticeship, we have not had a single hand from Government to assist in the work, nor from any where else ; and the present crop of coffee has been taken off, and sent to market, with only an additional expense of 3*l.* paid for extra labour to the head man on the barbican.

" I have only had occasion to complain of six individuals to the special magistrate during a period of 22 months, and one case only for neglect of work ; I therefore expect, under steady management, we may reasonably hope the remainder of the apprenticeship will work out, not only satisfactorily to the special magistrates, but beneficially to those concerned.

" We have here upwards of 100 Africans, most of whom are about 50 years of age ; so that, taking this into consideration, you will join with me in saying that some merit is due to the apprentices in carrying on so extensive a cultivation."

I believe the crops and work usual for this time of the year are as forward as, on an average, for a number of years. Some properties are backward, from the continued heavy rains we have had.

There had been no magistrate on many of the properties for three or four months previous to my writing ; I had, in consequence, some trouble in hearing the number of complaints for offences committed during that period. All that trouble has now vanished ; for, during the last month, out of 63 properties visited, there were 60 on which no complaints were preferred, and the sentences passed did not amount in all to 30 days in the house of correction.

What inference is to be drawn from the fact, that one individual, having, I may say, the sole jurisdiction and power of punishment over a population of upwards of 5,000 apprentices, scattered over an extensive tract of country, should be able to keep that country in the order which, I am proud to say, my district is now in ? The inference to be drawn, and for the correctness of which I contend, is, that in no part of the world can a peasantry be found more quiet, peaceable and obedient to the laws.

The great point, in my opinion, at which every special magistrate should aim, is the creation of a good feeling between the masters or managers and the apprentices ; to the good and kind feeling which (with a few exceptions) at the present moment exists between those parties in my district do I in a great measure attribute its flourishing state, and that confidence in each other which every day increases between the kind, conciliatory master and the good apprentice. The bad policy of withholding the allowance they were accustomed to receive in the time of slavery is not known ; and, on my last visit to Bloomfield, I saw the proprietor of that property serve out to all the free children the same quantity of clothing that the young apprentices got ; such acts tend to make the people happy and contented, and give them a greater impulse to do their duty than the fear of the most degrading and cruel punishments.

When his own interest is likely to be affected, it is astonishing to observe the fund of ingenuity and intelligence which the negro can call to his aid and display.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. W. Grant*, Special Justice.

JAMAICA.

Enclosure 22, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *John Gurley, Esq.*, Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.Enclosure 22,  
in No. 528.

My Lord,

Stoney Hill, St. Andrew's, 30 June 1836.

HAVING but lately arrived in this parish, I cannot as yet speak from experience as to the information required under the 27th section of your Lordship's instructions. I have, however, endeavoured to make the best use of the short time I have been here in getting acquainted with the district now under my superintendence; and if I might be allowed to judge from the few and very trifling complaints that have come before me on either side, and the general satisfaction expressed by those in charge of properties, with regard to the proportion of labour done by the apprentices, that the system in this district is working as well as its most sanguine supporters could desire.

The law seems now to be so well understood on all sides, for protecting the apprentices from ill-treatment and securing to them their allowances, that complaints of that nature are become very limited.

As far as I have been able to ascertain, the cultivation is as forward as usual at this time of the year.

With respect to the negro grounds, I have lately observed that the people have become far more industrious, and in several instances I have heard complaints of their having too much land in cultivation.

Complaints, I am happy to say, are decidedly on the decline.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *John Gurley, Special Justice.*

I take this opportunity of informing your Lordship, that most of the properties having consented to the classification, as directed in circular, No. 3,054, I hope to get through the greater part of that duty during the ensuing week.

Enclosure 23, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *Richard Hill, Esq.*, Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.Enclosure 23,  
in No. 528.

My Lord,

Spanish Town, 4 July 1836.

MY occupation in the secretaryship for the special justice department restricting my magisterial duties exclusively to the town, my quarterly report will necessarily be confined to the influence produced by the law on the character and conduct of that part of the emancipated slaves who fill the situation of domestic servants. The moral evils of slavery stamp their strongest character on the inhabitants of cities. The existence devoid of hope, the merit without distinction, the qualities that only enhanced the price, and rendered the prospect of emancipation from bondage more distant and improbable, all had a tendency to fix the character of those who were under the obligations of slavery at the lowest possible standard; while the allurements of vice in dense communities, and the thoughtless leisure of domestic slaves in towns, served to feed the excitements of passion, and to gratify its appetites. If the freedom conferred by the Act, which substitutes apprenticeship for a more indefinite bond-service, has not been accompanied by an elevation of character, which may seem proportionate to what is to be expected from the change in the law, the fault is in the indelible moral stain which slavery has left behind it, and which must continue to affect a more perfect state of freedom, and even for a time to give to liberty in many respects the character of licentiousness. While I endeavour to show what may be the worst anticipations which must attend this important change in the institutions of colonial society, I am happy to say that I observe many incidents in the feelings and sentiments of the community which give confidence of improvement for the future. The law is now for the first time felt to be a protection, and in proportion as the weak rely upon it, against the aggressions of those who have not been tutored to feel the full importance of their social relations, the power of those rendered irreclaimably mischievous by the schooling of bondage will be checked, and, under a better system of prison discipline than that which prevails, all the further evil influence of the one state of slavery will be arrested in its progress for ever. Not from its capability, then, of elevating the demoralized out of their debasement, so much as from its power to rescue the yet uncorrupted, and to secure for them a proper tuition for the duties of life, is the blessing of enfranchisement to be estimated. There are many who happily experience that the good character they maintained in a state of bondage has a high value in a competition for employment; and already the community possesses a large body of persons depending on menial service for subsistence, whose characters for fidelity and diligence work beneficially for the moral vigour of a free state of society.

Among the wealthier classes there are but few—it might be said, no, complaints of the master against the servant, or the servant against the master. The law has cancelled the irresponsible domestic authority in the former state of things, and both parties have resorted to those common grounds of interest and convenience which are found in a state of mutual confidence and reciprocal respect.

Among the humbler classes of the community, there are those who depend on the labour of their servants to realize, by a periodical payment of wages, the means of subsistence; with these the bond of social duty is deplorably weak. The prospect of a cessation to this dependence, by the termination of the apprenticeship, increases the avidity of the master; whilst the sort of trust which he is obliged to repose in the servant, who has to make for him-

self,

self, as well as for his former owner, the most of his hire, is a fertile source of magisterial interference. Like all instances of overstrained trust, it is abused; and as the regard of the master for the ease and comfort of the servant is not induced by any of those feelings of mutual obligation, kindness and dependence, which exist in a more intimate relation of service, the bond of duty is only kept close by the vigilance and the coercion of the law. Hence it is, that charges of neglect in sickness and infirmity are made on the one hand, and the responsibilities of the 57th clause of the Island Act are invoked on the other, and punishment avoided for breaches of duty, by pecuniary compensation being made for the time lost, through the faithlessness rather than the indolence of the servant.

Where the moral corruptions of slavery have left traces of the deepest debasement, I have found indifference to all instruction and improvement to have so grossly prevailed, that in a community abundantly provided with the means of religious knowledge, the parties have not even cared to acquire the nominal distinction of Christians. A recklessness of character is impressed on all the habits of these persons. As they do not try to cloak their indifference to all moral obligations under any sort of religious profession, they are invariably persons under the correction of the police. As their numbers, however, have considerably decreased since the Sabbath was rescued by the law from desecration, the feature of one day in the week dedicated to rest and Christian instruction, which society has exhibited since the people were declared free, has produced the beneficial effect of a decrease of their numbers. Where one spark of moral feeling has existed, where its perceptions have not been wholly extinguished, the opportunity of learning their social duty, through the precepts of Christianity, has at least diminished the numbers of avowed heathens, and, it is to be hoped, increased those of more than merely professing Christians.

It is consolatory to turn from this picture of the evils of slavery on the generation born and bred within its corruption, to the prospect of those now growing up, to whom its name and its remembrance will be only a tradition. The schools which have been organized every where, especially the infant schools, will eventually banish the grossness of African ignorance, and animate society with excitements that must work well for developing the people's energies and the country's resources. The exhibition of the 600 children composing the scholars of the Metropolitan School in this town, 450 of whom are said to have been the children of persons under the obligations of service as non-prædial apprentices, which was made at the half year's recess on the 1st of this month; their cleanly appearance, their decent attire, their well-regulated manners, exhilarated by the enthusiasm of a first display of intellectual improvement, all showed the new energies that are destined in a few years to invigorate colonial society, and to produce results which no previous history of these islands has yet disclosed. It is in these instances that we see that freedom leads us into no false calculations of interest, and that, politically, the abolition of slavery is not even a sacrifice of the advantage of the present for reversionary blessings in the future.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Richard Hill*, Special Justice,  
and Assist<sup>t</sup> Sec<sup>y</sup> for the Special Justice Dept.

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Enclosure 24, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *C. Hamilton, Esq.*, Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Lower Lucky Valley, Port Royal, 30 June 1836.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in Mr. Secretary Nunes' circular, No. 3,439, of date the 1st instant, I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency that the apprentices in this district generally are as well disposed as any in the island; and I have no hesitation in asserting, that they labour willingly, and have considerably improved since my report in March last.

I am happy in being able to state that the managers and apprentices are now quite conversant with the law and its consequences, and more kind feeling appears to be manifested between them; complaints have decreased considerably; the apprentices are not much disposed to prefer frivolous complaints; their cause of complaints is chiefly confined to themselves, stealing from each other's grounds; and complaints generally on the part of the managers and overseers are principally against women not turning out to field labour at shell-blow, and women sitting down in a state of pregnancy, some three and four months.

The crops on almost every estate are finished, with the exception of three; being short-handed, they are now busily engaged picking and sending to market. The quantity and quality, on an average, will be equal to many estates for the last two years, and on others the diminution of crop must consequently be greater, owing, no doubt, to the soil being considerably worn out; but I am apprehensive the quotations from the English market prices current of produce will make up all deficiency.

The prospects for the next year's crop, from my own observations, and the information I have received from experienced planters in this district, will far exceed those of the last year, owing to the late fine seasons, and the healthy, rich and luxuriant appearance of the canes and coffee trees throughout the district.

As a proof of the working of the system, combined with the fine seasons, the following properties have very recently supplied new plants:

Lower Lucky Valley (sugar estate) has planted about six additional acres of canes; the average return will treble those of two or three years ago, without the assistance of jobbing labour.

JAMAICA.

Dallas Castle (sugar estate, coffee, &c.) was about being thrown up; but the cane-fields having been recently revived by a few acres of new plants, the prospects will be considerably greater than the last year.

Penhill coffee plantation, a short-handed property, has put in about 28 acres of new coffee plants, with the addition of some trifling jobbing labour. The fields throughout the parish are in a high state of cultivation.

The free children, I regret to state, are brought up in a state of absolute idleness; they are neither of use to themselves nor their parents. A school in the lower district is very much required; it would tend materially to benefit their morals, and in bringing them up to habits of industry.

I have, &c.  
C. Hamilton, Special Justice.

Enclosure 25, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *James Harris*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

St. Thomas in the Vale, Jamaica, Charlton, 30 June 1836.

Enclosure 25,  
in No. 528.

I HAVE the honour of submitting to your Lordship a special report on the state of my district. The industry of the apprentices has my first attention; in this respect I must confirm my last previous special report; they have been pursuing their daily labour with quietness, and I should say, from the small number of complaints for insufficient work during the past three months, that they have given general satisfaction to the planters; although to ask these gentlemen their opinion on this point, they would be certain to declare, from what motives I will not pretend to judge, that the labourers do little or no work; yet the strong fact speaks for itself, that they are content; they know that eight hours can never produce the quantum of labour that ten or eleven did. Some of the overseers have very recently declared to me, that the apprentices were turning out well to their work, and working pretty fairly; not much reason to find fault, and so forth; in some cases this declaration has been, no doubt, honestly and intendedly made; in others, incautiously so; there being a general disinclination to admit that the system can work or is at all working well. There is still, however, great room for improvement in the industry of the apprentices during the legal number of hours for labour, and which I am satisfied would be attained were the system more generously treated. It strikes me, were the owners, attornies and managers cordially to join, and supply all the deficiencies and imperfections of the Abolition Law, *inter alia*, continuing in their fullest extent all indulgences granted under the old system, such as nurses for the children, cooks, water-carriers, usual allowances of salt things and all other indulgences, giving them the alternate Friday, &c., that the cheerful and willing industry of the apprentices will be ensured; otherwise a ground of complaint of insufficient work will always exist.

Such offences and complaints as are cognizable by a special justice have for the last three months certainly been on the decrease (however the contrary may be asserted by those opposed to the system) within my district, which my weekly reports will corroborate; the usual character of such offences continues the same as formerly reported,—late in commencing labour of a day, particularly in the morning; insufficiency of labour; absences, &c. &c.; there are, however, many and repeated cases of petit thefts, which, if cognizable by a special magistrate, would seriously enlarge the number of offences and complaints.

I have no reason to deviate from my previous reports of the kind treatment of the masters and managers of the apprentices; there are many whose philanthropy calls forth my warmest praise; there are others again not quite so generously disposed; could the deep-rooted prejudices of by-gone days be entirely eradicated, and the labourers considered in their proper light, as brother freemen, a happy state of things would be produced.

As to the state of the cultivation of the negro provision grounds, I am sorry to say that latterly they have been visibly neglected: complaints of which are frequently made, but no attempts to put a check to this growing evil have been met with the co-operation of the employers; the 38th section of the Abolition Law is declared solely for the benefit of the master, if he chooses to avail himself of its provisions. The statements that the apprentices have grounds to cultivate, and abundance of time, and that it is their own fault to run out of provisions, seem to satisfy the generality of individuals in charge of apprentices; but the fact of their having abundance of time is liable to be questioned. The eight hours' system is pernicious, and directly contrary to the spirit, true intention and meaning of the British Abolition Act; the four and a half extra hours per week for the cultivation of their grounds are entirely lost to the apprentices for such purpose, being given in the middle of the working days of the week, when the apprentices cannot go to their grounds; the working nine hours a day would remove this difficulty, and the people, having the half of every Friday, or the whole of every alternate one, would have no excuse for not labouring in their grounds; the Saturday should be free to take the fruits of their labour to market, or to cultivate the land, at their option; the Sunday to religious improvement. With one or two exceptions, the properties in my district are upon the eight hours' system, to which they appear determined to adhere. A determination on the part of the magistrate not to take away (but as seldom as possible) the Saturday for insufficiency of labour, only causing such insufficiency to be made up during the working days out of the apprentices' time, not exceeding ten hours per week, would, in my opinion, be a salutary as well as a legal and justifiable opposition to the eight hours' system. So long as any opposition is given to the present system, and to the full, free and liberal working thereof, so long will there be a source of murmur and discontent.

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The state of cultivation of the different properties at the present time, as far as I have been enabled to ascertain, is alleged to be much more backward than this time last year, and the reason assigned is, that the ratoons have been neglected and will fail; that they have not been able to pay attention to them; but it is at the same time admitted, that every property, confidence being greater, has in a larger quantity of plants than last year; the crops are finished; and the result of my inquiry is, that generally there has been a falling off from the amount of last year's crops. On some properties pretty fair crops have been made; but, my Lord, my sources of information on this point have necessarily (from the apparent unwillingness to admit that the system can work) been scanty and unsatisfactory, the almost certain universal crying out against the system being the consequence of any inquiry which is necessary to be made relative hereto; however, I believe all the planters are sanguine, from the larger establishment of plants, that, with favourable seasons, which as yet they have not been disappointed in, next year's crops will be large.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Jas. Harris*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 26, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *C. Hawkins*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Aberdeen, Rio Bueno, P. O., 28 June 1836.

Enclosure 26,  
in No. 528.

In compliance with your Excellency's letter of the 1st instant, to send a return agreeable to the 27th clause of our instructions, as to the industry, increase or decrease of crimes, offences generally, the good or bad feelings between master and apprentice, state of negro grounds, whether complaints have increased or diminished, in what state labour is more or less forward than last year, and average returns of crop:—

I beg leave to inform your Excellency, that, with one exception, the apprentices are willing and eager to work for hire, and, if not hired on their own properties, hire themselves to work on others.

I have remarked their anxiety to be employed, that jobbers may not be called in.

Most happy am I to state that crimes have much decreased since my last report to your Excellency, and those that have been brought before me not of any serious nature.

Of late I have perceived some degree of discontent among the apprentices, but not of that magnitude as to call for corporal punishment; and have only on one estate been obliged to pass sentence; I trust that, by my pointing out to them their error, I shall not have any occasion to again find fault with them.

The state of feelings between master and apprentice, and, from the observation I have made, the few complaints on either side, I am justified in saying that the feelings from the master to the apprentice are generally kind and considerate, the apprentices respectful and attentive, on most of the properties in my district.

The negro grounds are not kept in that state of cultivation they were previously; provisions are scarce, and high prices; I account for this, that, during crop and Saturdays, the apprentices hire themselves on estates.

Several estates have finished crop, and from every information, the whole will have finished by the 1st of August.

Complaints have much decreased on both sides since I had the honour to report last to your Excellency.

The crop for the present year has fallen far short of the estimates; in general, a short crop has been taken off; the average I should suppose about from five to eight per cent.

From a much larger quantity of land having been put into cultivation for canes this year than last, there is every prospect of an increase of crop for the year 1837; on some estates 50 acres, others 10, 20 and 30 acres have been planted. The seasons have been extremely good, and the general expectation of a good return for next year.

I beg leave to state to your Excellency, that in this populous parish there is not to my knowledge more than one public school for the education either of the free or apprentices; there is one branch at Rio Bueno, and one at Stewart Town; there is much need of one in my district, as I have every reason to believe, was there one, it would be well attended. Mrs. Pine kept one while in this neighbourhood; had about 40 young people, free and apprentices; but from their parents' inability to pay an amount equal to the teacher's demand (little as that is), I believe to be the occasion their young children cannot get that education so much desired, as to make them good and useful citizens hereafter.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. Hawkins*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 27, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *George Ouseley Higgins*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Spanish Town, 30 June 1836.

Enclosure 27,  
in No. 528.

In obedience to the directions contained in your Excellency's circular of the 1st ult., No. 3,442, I have now the honour to forward such observations on the state of this district as my experience in it has enabled me to form.

Having been now acting as special justice in St. Catherine's for five months, and having acquired a knowledge of the peasantry and the proprietors generally by my experience as

JAMAICA.

special justice in other parts of the island, I have, I think, the means of estimating the character of those of this district. I regret that I cannot give your Lordship the assurance that the great political change which the law has effected in the condition of the negro has been met with that corresponding good feeling on the part of the masters, which, while it should increase the confidence of the apprentice in the person he serves, should ultimately supersede the vigilance of the magistrate. Due protection and impartial justice towards him in the discharge of his duty is all that he requires from either.

Whilst, however, I make this remark, I am happy to say, that the reliance which the apprentices place in the power which the law possesses to maintain their interests, and the confidence they repose in those appointed to administer it (when these act faithfully and impartially), is daily working the greatest change in characters. I have it therefore in my power to commend them generally for conducting themselves in an orderly, industrious and decorous manner; they are obedient, submissive and respectful to persons in public authority, and would not be wanting in an equal degree of confidence in their employers, if any anxiety was shown to acquire it from them. In making this statement, I consider myself bound to put your Excellency in possession of some of the general facts from which I draw these conclusions.

I find the proprietors, managers and overseers in this district (with few exceptions) much more firmly wedded to the former plantation discipline than they are in the other parts of the island where I have had the same opportunities of judging. There is no parish in the island, I am of opinion, in which greater reluctance is shown to carry into effect the liberal spirit of the law, and no parish in which stronger disposition is manifested for the degrading and debasing punishments of the old system. Their manner of speaking to the apprentices is still marked with haughtiness and contempt, and their demeanor towards them still indicates the idea of negro inferiority, engendered by the habits and recollections of slavery.

In proportion as these things induce, on the part of the apprentices of this district, a diminution of confidence in their masters, in the same proportion they increase their confidence in the authority of the law; if, therefore, they have sought a public occasion to give expression to this confidence, and to mingle their feelings with the enthusiasm of those who have thought that your Excellency's administration of the government has served to augment this dependence on the law, and thus to foster in them sentiments of patriotism and obedience to the law, it has resulted from the state of things which I have endeavoured to show in this report; their position in this parish, under the daily inspection of the government, and their means of judging for themselves, render this so natural a consequence, that it is less to be wondered at, that, on the recent occasion of a public address to your Excellency, they should have pressed forward amongst those who desired to see your Lordship still at the head of the government, than that they should have remained indifferent spectators or regardless hearers of the report that your Excellency was about to relinquish the government of this island. I have felt myself called on to advert to this subject, as, since it has been so prominently brought forward in the political discussions of the country, I should lay myself open to a charge of inattention to the occurrences of my district, and to a proper watchfulness over the progress of that great measure of humanity, the Abolition of Slavery, if I did not allude to it in the report of this quarter, and give it a place in that report as one of the most decisive indications of the effects of that great measure which it has fallen to the lot of any of the special justices in the island to have noticed in the duties of his office.

With respect to the agricultural condition of the district, I feel pleasure in being able to state, that on the pens and plantations of which this district is principally composed, the usual diligence is manifested amongst the apprentices; and if the sugar crops in it should turn out this year below an average, it is more to be attributed, I consider, to the extreme weather, both dry and wet, which has prevailed to an unusual degree this season, than to any want of application on the part of those on whom the cultivation of the soil depends.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Geo. Ouseley Higgins*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 28, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *William Hewitt*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

St. George's, 1 July 1836.

I HAVE much gratification in being able to continue to make to your Lordship a favourable report of the apprentices and properties in my district.

The apprentices have conducted themselves with the greatest propriety during a period of nearly three months, when I was confined to the house by indisposition; and though I held a court at home twice a week, no business was brought before me. I have now resumed my duties, and find, on visiting the estates, that there is scarcely one complaint either by the managers or apprentices, though some of these properties have not been visited by a special justice for 14 weeks. This proves how completely all excitement has subsided.

The estates are generally looking well, and will, it is expected, make an average crop. There will be a slight deficiency on one or two, which will be made up by the surplus on others. The preparations for next crop are forward, and we may confidently expect that it will be larger than that of the present year.

The

Enclosure 28,  
in No. 528.

The value of landed property in this parish continues to increase; every thing which is brought into the market is eagerly bought up. I am personally aware of the value of a small property having risen very nearly fifty per cent. since the month of March last year.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *William Hewitt*, Special Justice.

JAMAICA.

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Enclosure 29, in No. 528.

REPORT of District from *John R. Hulme*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

THE appearances of this district generally are decidedly of a much more favourable nature than I have yet seen at this period of the year. The preparations for next crop are, I may say, without exception, on a more extensive scale, and on those properties that finished crop early the cane-fields are in a forward state of cultivation. On some weak-handed estates, and those who were late with the crop, the field labour is backward. The apprentices vary much in their quantity of work; complaints latterly have been for insufficiency of work, but they are not so numerous as formerly, and I have rarely had occasion to order corporal punishment. Since crop, the apprentices have received their regular supply of clothing, and the usual indulgences. On many estates they have worked freely for wages in their own time, and on others they have refused; among the latter, there are many who cultivate extensive provision grounds, and carry a great quantity of provisions to market. I have no hesitation in saying, that in this district, if the seasons continue favourable, and a fair proportion of work is done, that there will be a considerable increase in the quantity of produce manufactured next year.

(signed) *John R. Hulme*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 29,  
in No. 528.

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Enclosure 30, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *T. Watkin Jones*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Rio Magno, St. Thomas in the Vale, 13 July 1836.

HAVING been called upon by your Lordship for a special report, I beg leave to make the following observations as to the state of my district. As to the appearance of the apprentices, it is extremely healthy, and they seem perfectly contented, which plainly shows that they are well provided for by their masters, and not distressed during the working hours; still I think they are not increasing in industry; nor has there been an increasing willingness on their part to work in their own time for wages, for I have known some reject to work for 2s. 4d. per diem, for falling woodland for the purpose of planting coffee upon one property, although, having earned that sum each, when the day of reckoning came they created a disturbance, and it required some trouble to arrange the matter amicably. The pimento has this season blossomed most luxuriantly, and every planter was certain, in his own mind, of making a large crop, but down poured the May rains in torrents, accompanied with storms, the influence of which divested the trees of almost leaf as well as fruit, and there is now scarcely a berry to be seen. The falling off of the crop is estimated at two-thirds. As to coffee, the crop will be an average one, although, having suffered much from the rains, the trees and grass growing so quickly, the former running all to wood, the latter growing almost as high as the trees; however, another blossom now appeared, which will add much to the fruit already formed, as the planters, from the present serenity of the weather, say there is no chance of a second blight. On most sugar properties, the crops are nearly if not wholly over; the sugar made is beautiful, good grained and fair; the crop is an average one, but more so, if we take into consideration how much higher sugar sold for this year than last; and the preparations for next year's crop certainly on a larger scale than that of last. Coffee properties may be averaged, as to preparations, with that of last year. The feeling of the masters and managers is very kind and indulgent; the apprentices have received their clothing allowances, medical care and attention, and indeed, on most properties, more than the law allows. They have their grounds and provisions in abundance; some two or three horses to carry their provisions to market. Very few, indeed, are without donkeys, all of which are allowed to run and feed on the employers' pastures. They have likewise dogs, goats and poultry to an unlimited extent. The negro, if it be not his own fault, can be the happiest of all working peasantry, living in a climate where clothing is almost superfluous; working but 40½ hours during the week; his master obliged by law to find him in all the necessaries of life; the multiplicity of cooling nutritious fruits and wild vegetables, which abound in this country, gives him an opportunity of living for six months without the slightest exertion on his part to cultivate them. No tax-collector waits at his door; no sheriff to arrest him for debt; no wood-ranger to prevent his collecting as much fuel as he pleases; all that is asked from him is, to work diligently for his master, and steer clear of theft; yet I am sorry to say that crime is on the increase, there having been no less than five felonies committed in this district (principally breaking into stores belonging to properties) since my last report; and I would humbly submit to your Excellency, that every vigilance and exertion should be used to put an end to a crime so baneful to the interests and peace of the colony.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. Watkin Jones*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 30,  
in No. 528.



JAMAICA.

Enclosure 31, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *Daniel Winder Kelly*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.Enclosure 31,  
in No. 528.

My Lord,

Allowe, Robin's River, P. O.

Parish of Westmoreland, 30 June 1836.

AGREABLY to the instructions contained in your Excellency's circular, under date of the 1st June, No. 3,666, I have much pleasure in reporting to your Lordship that the apprentices in my district are in general giving satisfaction to their several employers, and, with few exceptions, continue to conduct themselves with much propriety.

There appears to me to be a kind feeling existing between the master and the apprentice, and, from what I can observe, the apprentices are treated well.

In general the offences that are brought under my notice are of a trivial description; and, taking every thing into consideration, I think the apprentices in this district may be considered as peaceable, obedient, and in most places contented.

On some properties the apprentices work for hire, but, I regret to say, not as general as I would wish.

With regard to the sugar estates, I beg leave to state to your Excellency that there are only four in my district.

On Windsor Forest estate the crop has been taken off well, and has exceeded the last return, and there is also a good prospect for the ensuing crop.

On Lennox estate the crop has also been taken off, and has exceeded the last return by many hogsheads. On this estate, also, the overseer tells me there is a good appearance for next year's crop.

On Grandvale estate there will be also an increase of produce; the crop will be finished in a few days.

On the Bog estate alone there has been a decrease of produce, in consequence of the scarcity of canes this year, and which, I understand, is to be attributed to the indifferent working of the apprentices last season. However, the overseer now tells me, that from the appearance of the canes he expects to make a good crop next year. The apprentices on this estate are at present working well.

The ginger crops in this quarter have been in most places good, and the apprentices used every exertion to get this article of produce manufactured in proper time.

The apprentices are zealous in their attendance at the different places of worship, and at the schools, when they can with any convenience attend.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Daniel Winder Kelly*, Special Magistrate.

Enclosure 32, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *H. Kent*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.Enclosure 32,  
in No. 528.

My Lord,

Chester Vale, Port Royal Mountains, 28 June 1836.

IN conformity with the 27th rule of the instructions issued by your Excellency for the guidance of the special magistrates, I beg to state that the apprentices throughout this district continue to conduct themselves peaceably and orderly. Complaints have not increased since I had the honour of making my last report.

The coffee crop has fallen much below what I was led to expect in making my former report. I stated the deficiency would be about one-third of last year's, whereas, on an average, it has not equalled one-half.

Should favourable weather follow these heavy rains, it is probable a fine blossom will be thrown out, and a good bearing of coffee follow, which is generally looked for every alternate year.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *H. Kent*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 33, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *Henry Laidlaw*, Esq., to the Marquis of *Sligo*.Enclosure 33,  
in No. 528.

My Lord,

Moneague, 5 July 1836.

IN compliance with Mr. Hill's circular of the 1st of June last, I have the honour of submitting to your Excellency the following report on the general state of this district.

It affords me sincere gratification to have it in my power to inform your Excellency, that the relation between master and apprentice seems to be now on a much more satisfactory footing than at any former period of the apprenticeship, and no disposition is evinced on either side to prefer complaints of a frivolous nature for the purpose of mutual annoyance.

The cases to be adjudicated are in a great measure confined to the smaller properties, and very few instances now occur of complaints against whole gangs for deficiency of labour, thus affording the strongest evidence of the satisfaction of the managers with the work actually performed. The general demeanor of the people is civil and obliging, and they appear to be becoming gradually more fitted for the proper use of that entire freedom to the enjoyment of which they are now so rapidly approaching.

Very

Very little extra labour is at any time required in this district, but I believe no difficulty has been experienced in procuring it where a fair and adequate remuneration has been offered. The provision grounds of the apprentices are generally in good order, and the managers, with few exceptions, have shown every disposition to encourage industrious habits by working the people four days and a half in the week in the place of five, as in some parishes, thus affording ample time for the cultivation of the negro grounds. It is, however, to be regretted that thefts from provision grounds cannot now be punished in a summary manner, as there are always some worthless characters on every property who prey upon their neighbours. A great many valuations have taken place within the last quarter, principally of females, and in the greater proportion of cases the amount of the valuation has been paid.

I have still to lament the total absence of the means of education for the children who have already become free, without which, it is to be feared that they will be but ill prepared for the enjoyment of liberty. I regret to observe, that their parents take very little pains to accustom them to habits of industry, and most of them are sitting down in perfect idleness.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Laidlaw.*

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Enclosure 34, in No. 528.

Copy of a LETTER from *Edmund B. Lyon, Esq.*, Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

Palmetto River, Blue Mountain District,  
St. Thomas in the East, 30 June 1836.

Enclosure 34,  
in No. 528.

My Lord,

WHEN it is considered that the abolition of slavery, coupled as it was with the precautionary measure of apprenticeship, created only an appellat jurisdiction in the special justice, but did not change the obligation of the same servant to devote himself to the same master that he served when a slave, it cannot be expected that much change can have occurred in the feelings and opinions under which both act. I am, therefore, induced to trust the conclusion which my two years' experience in the duties of my district have led me to form, that the change at this time has effected as much for the master and the servant as this imperfect condition of liberty can ever accomplish. I see no difference in the people or their employers, and begin to fear that this compulsory labour system can never be better; neither party submit to the change with entire cordiality of feeling. The obedience yielded to compulsion in the one case cannot have much of the cheerful acquiescence of the free-man, and the authority exercised in the other gives so few opportunities for modifying the habits of the ancient slave master, that both opinion and feeling are not favourable to a better development of motives to fit one for service, and the other for command, than that which the protection and authority of the law have already created. As I cannot be accused of over-estimating the zeal of the labourer, I trust I shall not be condemned for an undue disparagement of the master; both are but the creatures of circumstances.

My motive for putting this view so prominently in my report at this period of the measure is to check all erroneous anticipations in public opinion, and to show that as there can be nothing now for hope, so there can be nothing to induce a sentiment of disappointment, if neither complaints nor punishments should lessen with the shortening of the term of apprenticeship.

I look upon the releases which have been already effected, and which are daily increasing, as the truest evidence of the beneficial progress of freedom. The disadvantage which the negro's position obviously has under this compulsory labour system leads him to effect his release from his trammels, regardless of the cost. The proper object to which the magistrate must direct his attention is the prudent use which he makes of his emancipation. The numbers of these released persons are not yet so great as to show prominently, but if they advance at the rate at which they are moving on to the termination of the apprenticeship, they must determine the public feeling of the peasantry, and fix his idea of the uses and the advantage of freedom.

The sugar crop has not quite terminated in this district, but is sufficiently advanced to enable a correct opinion to be formed of the result, which, I am happy to say, does not exhibit the deficiency so very apparent in other parts of this parish. The number of estates that have made an increase on last years' produce is equal to those that have unfortunately decreased. One effect of sanguine feeling is, I think, unwise in policy. Nearly every estate has made extreme exertion, and with success, to establish a greater number of plants this season than usual; with diminished means, prudence would dictate the propriety of a contraction of surface, and a more scientific mode of cultivation. The present monotonous treatment of soils essentially various, and oftentimes chemically opposite, must have a sensible effect on the quantity and quality of the cane-juice, and not unfrequently disappoint the expectations of the planter.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Edmund B. Lyon, Special Justice.*

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## Enclosure 35, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Sydney Lambert, Esq.*, Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.Enclosure 35,  
in No. 528.

My Lord,

S. E. Division, St. Mary's, 30 June 1836.

IN obedience to your Lordship's directions issued through Mr. Secretary Nunes' circular of the 1st instant, No. 3,447, I have the honour to report that the general state of the district under my immediate charge may be considered as satisfactory, which is much strengthened by the fact of the progressive diminution in the number of complaints presented for adjudication, the majority of which, free from any serious feature, arise more from indolence and inattention to ordinary duties than from wilful opposition to the law. Throughout the past quarter only one instance of bad feeling (and that of a very transitory nature, arising from a long-accustomed course of unsettlement, "a change of overseer,") has occurred.

The industrious habits of the negro seem in this quarter to keep pace with the opportunities offered him of improving his own condition; a visible improvement has taken place in their inclination to work in their own time for wages, and when paid in proportion to the work done, the quantity performed fully demonstrates their powerful abilities to execute with ordinary exertion far more than is expected from the ablest persons when employed at task-work.

The greatest attention is paid by the apprentices to their provision grounds, with which they are abundantly supplied, and which are every where kept in a state of high cultivation.

As regards the state of labour, a comparison with last year shows an evident improvement in the present state of cultivation, dependent in degree on the systems of "managing the people," as has been forcibly displayed on "Lewisberg" estate, now and for about three months under the direction of John Douglass, esq., planting attorney and resident overseer, where the work of the estate is performed to his perfect satisfaction, without any reference to a magistrate, whose attendance there now is a complete matter of form (whereas, previous to this gentleman's taking charge, the people were the most troublesome in the district), and where the crop is expected to be double that of preceding years.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *R. Sydney Lambert, Special Justice.*

## Enclosure 36, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *Samuel Lloyd, Esq.*, Special Magistrate, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.Enclosure 36,  
in No. 528.

My Lord,

Chapelton District, Clarendon, 1 July 1836.

IN obedience to your Excellency's commands, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship what I conceive the state of the district committed to my jurisdiction since my last general report.

Your Lordship will, I trust, not expect a general report of my present district, having been but a few days here. I shall therefore enter into detail only as regards that district of St. Andrew's, where within a few days I was officially connected; and where I beg to assure your Excellency the greatest order and regularity prevailed. The estates were well worked, and every property in the highest state of cultivation, with an improvement in both morals and habits of the apprentices, surpassing the most sanguine expectations; schools were erecting on the properties at the expense of the proprietor, and an anxiety evinced to encourage and enlighten the rising generation; and here I beg leave to quote a passage expressed by the gentry of that district, at a meeting of the parishioners convened by the custos on the 8th ult.: "Industry has been encouraged, obedience enforced, and good humour engendered on the part of the apprentices;" which passage, my Lord, speaks much, coming as it did from persons who were not altogether friendly to the new system at its commencement. I trust ere long that such a passage may be applicable to this district.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Samuel Lloyd, Special Magistrate.*

## Enclosure 37, in No. 528.

SPECIAL REPORT from *Alexander N. Macleod, Esq.*, Special Magistrate, 1 July 1836.

Old Harbour Market, 6 July 1836.

Enclosure 37,  
in No. 528.

THE present report can consist of little beyond a repetition of that which was given in January last.

The general conduct and behaviour of the negroes display a considerable improvement on their part in industry and moral feeling. The proof of this averment is found in the following circumstances, which, though specified in the last report, I shall here again enumerate.

The number of complaints against the negroes is less considerable, and they are of a less serious character than towards the commencement of the apprenticeship. I must nevertheless admit, that in my district the complaints, in the half year just ended, are somewhat more numerous than in the six months immediately preceding.

They perform a much greater quantity of work within a given time than they used to accomplish in the same space of time before the commencement of the apprenticeship.

Their

Their own grounds are, generally speaking, in a higher state of cultivation than they ever were at any former period.

The negroes, absent from their masters as runaways, scarcely form a sixth part of the number that were in the habit of absconding before the 1st of August; and the practice of obtaining admission into estates' hospitals, upon false pretences of sickness, is become infinitely less common than during the time of slavery.

Negroes of both sexes evince a considerable desire to marry, and many hundreds of couples who had long lived in a state of concubinage have recently had themselves united in wedlock. In general, too, they manifest the utmost anxiety to receive the inestimable benefits of education and moral instruction.

In respect to the conduct of the planters, I am happy to have to state, that in my district the number of complaints by apprentices against masters has gone on diminishing since the time of my last report, although at that period the number of their complaints was greatly less, as is mentioned in that report, than towards the commencement of the apprenticeship. It is now more than a twelvemonth since I have had occasion to impose a single fine for the ill-treatment of an apprentice by his master; and the conduct of managers in general towards those placed under them is marked by temper and discretion, and in numerous instances by kindness and indulgence; a circumstance for which particular considerations will show them to be deserving of the highest praise. I mentioned in my last report the impression generally prevailing among the planters, that the year 1840 must bring with it the almost entire extinction of sugar property in Jamaica. This impression is now still more general than it was six months ago; and it is my own humble opinion, that without extraordinary exertions, and some sacrifices on the part of the mother country, the fears of the planters are likely to be realized. The population of Jamaica is so extremely scanty in comparison with the vast extent and almost incredible fertility of the uncultivated land in the island, that, reasoning from the first principles of political economy, we cannot doubt that, on the establishment of perfect freedom, the wages of labour must rise to a height at which it will be impossible to carry on the cultivation of sugar under existing circumstances. The probability, or rather the certainty of the anticipated rise, may be inferred, as it appears to me, from these three circumstances alone; viz. the present pay and appointments of the police, the rate of hire for jobbing gangs, and the fact, that, from one end of Jamaica to the other, not a single free person is to be seen working in the field for wages. These considerations, among many others, lead me to concur with the planters in the view they take of their present situation; and I am decidedly of opinion, that without considerable exertions and sacrifices on the part of the mother country, such as an immense immigration by Parliamentary aid, and a material reduction in the duties in the principal articles of colonial produce, the landed proprietors and planters of Jamaica are threatened, at the termination of the apprenticeship, with general ruin. But, as I have already observed in my last report, whether the views and anticipations I have here mentioned be correct or incorrect, certain it is, that they are really and truly entertained by the planters of Jamaica; and, under these circumstances, the temper and discretion, and, in numerous instances, the kindness and indulgence which they show to the apprentices, entitle them, as a body, to the highest praise.

In regard to the future progress of the apprenticeship, and the manner in which it may continue to work, I stated in my last report, that, viewing the immense abstraction of labour decreed by the Abolition Act, it would be vain, even with the best conduct on the part of the apprentices, to expect the same returns from the land as were obtained in the time of slavery. Since writing that report, I have seen reason to form the opinion, that even during the apprenticeship the produce of the island must annually diminish; but this diminution will be the effect of the falling off in the ratoons of canes planted by slave labour, and, consequently, will in no way be imputable to the working of the apprenticeship system, in respect to which I shall repeat my firm conviction, that between the present moment and the year 1840, a much greater produce will be obtained than was ever realized in an equal space of labouring time at any former period of the history of Jamaica.

(signed) *Alexander N. Macleod*, Special Magistrate.

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Enclosure 38, in No. 528.

Copy of a LETTER from *William Marilton*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of Sligo.

My Lord,

New Ramble, St. Mary's, 1 July 1836.

I HAVE the honour to forward my special report, in obedience to your Lordship's commands.

Since making my last report, the conduct of the apprenticed labourers has been most satisfactory. They have been industrious and cheerful at their labour, apparently waiting patiently for their ultimate freedom. I am happy to say, I consider the feeling between the masters and apprentices, at present, to be good. The managers find it their interest to conciliate, and the apprentices see the advantage of the same course. The consequence is, extra labour is procured without difficulty, and at a moderate cost; the apprentices work well, and are happy in their old allowances of fish, &c. &c. The nine hour system is general in this district, which gives so much satisfaction to the negroes, that they labour for ten hours in place of nine on most properties in the long days. I do not observe much variation in the

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increase or decrease of offences since my last report; trespassing on cane and corn pieces, occasional absence from work, and impertinence to constables, are those delinquencies which occur in all times and countries, but bear no proportion to the population here. I think the negroes, generally, are exemplary in their conduct, and that their managers are satisfied this is the case. The negro grounds and gardens are well cultivated, and the apprentices are eager to obtain money as wages. The cane-fields are clean, the crop going on favourably, and the expectation for next year abundant. The working of the abolition measure appears to me to be in that settled and regular state, that a few words will convey to your Lordship my report of the state of the district. I am sorry to say, that the present appears to occupy more of the attention of the planters than the future; they have not vigorously entered into the question of education, and preparation for freedom in 1840. They expect the special justice will keep the apprentices up to their work; but, unfortunately, the planters have not done much to assist in cultivating those qualities in the apprentices on which must depend the prosperity of Jamaica when the apprenticeship ceases.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *W. Marlton*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 39, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *H. Moresby*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

Enclosure 39,  
in No. 528.

My Lord, Kingston, 1 July 1836.  
I HAVE the honour to forward, according to your Lordship's request, a quarterly report of the state of my district; I have much pleasure, my Lord, in stating, that I find a gradual improvement in the feelings and treatment of the owners towards their quondam slaves, and the consequent improved conduct of the apprentices towards their owners.

I am still of opinion that the apprentices, as a body, and amongst the class of domestics, are almost worthless, but which fact must in a great measure be attributed to the total want of education and utter absence from all proper restraint they, as slaves, have so long experienced.

The apprentices, as domestics, have been really taught nothing, and have evidently been allowed to follow the bent of their own inclination whenever it did not clash with the interest and feeling of their owners; it surely, therefore, cannot be expected that two short years can change them from the sleepy and indifferent attendants which they have been, and in most numerous cases now are, to the active and zealous servant in an English establishment at home.

Much good, my Lord, may be expected from the extended system of education which is now in progress through Kingston, and the anxious desire of the parents of the rising generation that their children should be educated, which is confined at present, in their ideas, to the capability of reading and writing.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *H. Moresby*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 40, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *James Nolan*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

Enclosure 40,  
in No. 528.

My Lord, Olive Park, Vere, 1 July 1836.  
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's circular of date 1st June, No. 3,423.

In reply thereto, I have much gratification in stating, for the information of your Excellency, that the crops are all off in this district, with a few exceptions; the reason of the delay on these estates is to be attributed to the circumstance of the properties manufacturing between 40 and 50 hogsheads more than last year. The average crop has been made throughout, and on many estates, as above mentioned, even exceed. The quality of the sugar is of the very best description. I am also happy to observe, that the present appearance of the cane-fields looks highly promising for next year's crops, and, aided by the usual seasons, I confidently hope, my Lord, a considerable increase of sugar may be expected throughout the parish of Vere.

I am glad to state that the conduct of the apprentices in this parish gives general satisfaction; this reflects credit not only on themselves, but on their masters and managers, whose treatment of them meets on all occasions with my approbation. As a mark of satisfaction with the improved conduct of the apprentices, they have been served out at each crop-over with ample allowances.

Stealing of produce, however, has been unfortunately revived in this parish; this I chiefly attribute to the facility afforded by the free population to the apprentices of disposing of stolen produce; I must, however, remark, my Lord, that there are only a few concerned in this stealing system, and that I cannot with justice pronounce it to be a general fault amongst the apprentices.

The benign fruits of education, although yet in its cradle, are beginning already to be visible in the negro character. The good example of the more enlightened works forcibly on the less so. There appears to be a spirit of laudable emulation in the improvement of their

their morals, and even now marriage, so little known before, is daily becoming more in use amongst them. This, my Lord, is pleasing to see, and it tends greatly to corroborate the opinion I always entertained, that the new system will work from year to year better until the year 40 arrives; and I am confident that the negro, enjoying liberty, will become a better man, and prove, by his conduct, to the world that the predictions of many, foreboding misery to the country after the year 1840, are totally ungrounded.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *James Nolan*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 41, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *John Odell*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Haughton Grove, Western Interior District, 30 June 1836.

I HAVE the honour to state that, since the transmission of my last quarterly report, the peace of the district has been uninterrupted.

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in No. 528.

I also conceive that I shall be justified in saying, of the majority of offences committed by apprentices which have come under my cognizance for the last three months, that they have been by no means of a serious character. In support of this assertion, I cannot well adduce a more pleasing and at the same time a more convincing proof than the fact of my having been able, in almost all cases during the time mentioned, to dispense with the degrading punishment of flogging.

Of the preparations and prospects for next year's crop, I should be glad to have it in my power to make a more favourable report than the result of my inquiries leads me to do. I find that two causes (one of them beyond the power of human control) have concurred to prevent, on most properties, the hope of realizing more than, if as much as, an average crop. About four months back this district was visited by the measles, which, spreading to an extent before unknown, filled the plantation hospitals with persons of all ages and sexes, and thereby so materially checked agricultural labour for many weeks, that, as far as the ensuing crop is concerned, the result produced will, in my opinion, be perfectly irretrievable. The other cause, to which a deficiency may be attributed, appears to rest with the planters themselves.

Last year it will be recollected, that, whether from supineness on their parts, or from a want of confidence in the working of the new system, and the latter I am inclined to think is the more probable reason, a very insufficient quantity of plant canes was, technically speaking, put in; as a natural consequence, a great deficiency, say 12 hogsheads in the hundred, has taken place in the crop now concluded. In endeavouring, as relates to the ensuing crop, to remedy the fatal mistake which unsound views led them to commit in reference to the former one, I fear that, whenever the result of that crop can be ascertained, it will prove how injudicious has been the mode adopted by them to effect their object. Generally speaking, every exertion has been directed to establish a large supply of plant canes, while the cleaning of whole fields of ratoons has been neglected; so much so, that I am credibly informed by a most experienced party, that the amount of the latter description of cane rendered useless will more than counterbalance any good results which might have been anticipated from the extended cultivation of the former.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *John Odell*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 42, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *Thomas M. Oliver*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Hertford House, 4 July 1836.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting my report for the last quarter, and have much satisfaction in stating, for your Excellency's information, that the district under my charge I have every reason to speak well of, both as to the industry of the apprentices and general kind treatment of their managers, and to that I must attribute the good feeling that appears to exist, as the apprentice begins to understand that it is both to his interest and comfort to attend to his duties; complaints become less frequent, and it is a thing of rare occurrence, a negro complaining against those placed in the management of them, which evidently speaks favourably for both; there are some few cases occasionally that call for corporal punishment, but to a very great extent less than heretofore, and I believe as much wished by the gentlemen in charge to be done away with as possible, but never resorted to, except in cases of actual necessity. The negroes continue to cultivate abundant provisions, and earn considerable money in many instances by hiring in their free time; some of the properties have put in a large plant for next year, and, with a suitable season, will considerably increase the amount of produce made this, and which somewhat exceeds last year's, on some properties particularly.

Enclosure 42,  
in No. 528.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Thomas M. Oliver*, Special Justice.

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## Enclosure 43, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *E. D. Philp*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.Enclosure 43,  
in No. 528.

My Lord, Leeward District, Westmoreland, 5 July 1836.

I HAVE now the honour of making a return to your Excellency of the state of my district, and it is with much satisfaction I can acquaint your Excellency, the apprentices are giving general satisfaction to their masters and managers; their labour they pursue with much cheerfulness, and their demeanor in every way most respectful. I have also to inform your Excellency, the negro grounds are in a good state of cultivation. With respect to the masters' treatment towards the apprentices, I beg to assure your Lordship they receive many indulgences, and every opportunity afforded them to hire for liberal wages. It is with additional pleasure I can state, crime has considerably decreased, consequently corporal punishment is rarely inflicted.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. D. Philp*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 44, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *S. Pryce*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.Enclosure 44,  
in No. 528.

My Lord, Trelawny, Jamaica, 30 June 1836.

IN reporting to your Excellency the state of this district for the past quarter, I crave reference to my report to your Lordship, dated 31st March last, and which I have now the honour most fully to confirm.

Continued and uninterrupted tranquillity pervades the whole of this populous and extensive beat, so far as the apprentices are concerned, and I have reason to have every faith in a continuance of so valuable a state of society.

Where the state of their grounds admits of it, the apprentices are working readily in their own time for money, and on several estates they work the whole of Friday (in place of drawing off at half-past ten o'clock) for a dozen herrings, and have done their work satisfactorily; indeed, my Lord, the conduct of the apprentices, generally, has been such as to give me much satisfaction; there has been only one instance where I have had to call in the aid of the police, viz. at the Covey, and there they had only exercised a passive resistance, for, from the circumstance of their numerical and physical strength, they had not been required to work extra time in taking off the crop, a privilege enjoyed by most of their neighbours.

The confidence in the probationary state, as latterly evinced by the planters, is manifest by the continued and increased exertions and extended cultivation all round this district, much land having been well established for the ensuing year's returns.

I regret that an equal confidence is not so apparent in the free labour system, from the general feeling to make the most of the apprenticeship, without reference to their ultimate interests, which, I humbly submit, equally applies to the proprietor and the apprentices, for the well-being of the one must be consequent on the success and happiness of the other; and I am fearful that, collectively, the planters are not looking beyond the 1st August 1840, to meet which crisis, I regret to say, I do not perceive any particularly valuable or praiseworthy preparation, excepting in some few instances.

My Lord, the crops are closed, and are closing, tolerably satisfactory; the quality of the produce has been exceedingly good every where; and though this year's returns have been decidedly much below the usual average, arising from natural causes, which I have already had the honour to explain to your Excellency, I cannot help feeling that it might be considered as a "political crop," or the "forlorn hope" of the probationary state.

On several estates they have exceeded the last year's returns, though many, I regret to say, have fallen sadly short of the crops of previous years.

We have been blessed with delightful seasons for the ensuing year's returns, for which the prospects generally are highly flattering; indeed, my Lord, the face of the country now, compared with a corresponding period last year, admits of no doubt of the thriving state of the cultivation of this district generally.

My Lord, with reference to the Act in aid, which the legislative assembly were compelled to pass without alteration, I very humbly beg to submit to your Excellency, that with respect to the fifth and sixth clauses, as the rising and setting of the sun regulates the commencement and termination of labour, the shells should regulate the cessation middle day, and those hours be distinctly named to prevent complaints or abuses creeping into the system. My Lord, I submit to your Excellency, that it is of great consideration to prevent, if possible, the apprentices from a suspicion even of their being wronged. My Lord, the apprentices must be taught to respect the shell, and not be permitted to make laws for themselves, which has been too much the case with them and the managers on some estates.

My Lord, I also beg leave to state to your Excellency, that with reference to the eighth clause, that "sanatory restraint" ought to be particularly defined, to prevent misunderstanding or disputes, where a difference of opinion might arise between the medical practitioners and the special justice, I submit an extract from an hospital book, in this parish, for your Excellency's information:

"Keep all those people with small sores in the stocks; give them an hour at breakfast-time, and another in the evening."

My

My Lord, I entertain the highest respect for the faculty, but your Lordship will agree that the medical practitioners are employed and paid by the proprietors.

My Lord, I consider it my duty to point out to your Excellency, that with regard to the 39th clause of the Abolition Act, authorizing the apprentices who "commit any offence" to be locked up, is subject to much abuse, and that an offence should be distinctly defined.

My Lord, I submit that it is cruelty and wrong to lock up an apprentice for alleged insolence alone, and that without food or water!

My Lord, with respect to estates' constables, I very humbly submit to your Excellency, that being principally head men, they should not be subject to be put to common field labour at the whim or caprice of the manager, if even that power can be exercised after an appeal and trial before the special magistrate on his decision. I also beg to inform your Excellency, that it is the practice of this district, when the crops are finished, to put the coopers to field labour; and other mechanics have also been ordered to the field on giving any displeasure to the managers. This privilege the planters claim as their undoubted right; and as I differ with them in opinion, I deem it my duty to notice the circumstance for your Excellency's consideration, conceiving it to be, as I do, a severe punishment on a valuable mechanic to be subjected to common field labour, and as such, I respectfully submit, never was the custom of the old times.

I beg to repeat to your Excellency the assurance of my continued and best exertions in furtherance of your Lordship's orders in my district, for the good and well-being of the apprentices and proprietors, with a view to the benefit of the island generally.

I have, &c.

(signed) S. Pryce, Special Justice.

EXTRACT from a LETTER received from Mr. Pryce, dated 12 July 1836. No. 6,985.

My Lord, my attention was called to the medical order by Mr. Joseph Bridge, the resident attorney and overseer on Gale's Valley, who informed me that it was in the handwriting of Mr. Peter M'Laren, one of the assistants of Dr. Thomas Willis. On examining the hospital, I found no person in confinement, and Mr. Bridge intimated his disapproval of the measure, and that there were no stocks in the hospital.

I stated to Mr. Bridge that I held him responsible to the law, and if that order was obeyed, I should sentence him to pay a price of 5*l*.

Enclosure 45, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from William Ramsay, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of Sligo.

My Lord,

Spanish Town, 3 July 1836.

In conformity with the 27th article of the printed instructions to the special justices, I have now the honour to transmit my report to your Excellency, for the quarter ending the 30th June.

Not having been absent, except on a tour of police inspection through part of the county of Middlesex at the commencement of the quarter, my present report must be confined to those facts which have come to my knowledge in the performance of my duties in this town.

I have the satisfaction to report that the apprentices continue industrious, and are improving in their condition, behaving themselves respectably and well; they have a confidence in the law, and are satisfied that they receive its protection.

Complainants are confined to those persons who allow their apprentices to hire themselves out for wages, which they do not always punctually pay; the only remedy in these cases is to sentence the apprentice either to serve his employer after the expiration of the apprenticeship, or to make immediate satisfaction for the loss of time sustained by their absence; when an explanation to this effect is given, the apprentice, I find, generally manages to pay the full amount due rather than lengthen the duration of servitude. These cases form no proof of a disinclination to labour on their part, but a mere disinclination to labour wholly for another's benefit.

I regret to state, that several serious assaults have lately been committed on apprentices; two have come under my immediate cognizance which were committed by persons not entitled to their services, and in both these cases the master endeavoured to screen the aggressor by pleading that such cases were not cognizable by a special magistrate, whose jurisdiction, under the 20th clause of the Abolition Law, they contended, was exclusively over offences committed by apprentices or by their employer, in such their relation to each other. I however felt it my duty instantly to issue my warrant against the parties on the affidavits of the complainants, and, as a local magistrate associated with another, tried the cases under the Act for holding petty sessions, and the parties were fined.

My personal observation on the present existing state of a school in this town enables me to report to your Lordship, that out of near 600 pupils present at an examination at the metropolitan school (established on the principle of the British and Foreign School Society in England), there were upwards of 400 the offspring of apprentices of this parish; thus verifying the opinion, that the non-apprenticing of their children by the apprentices arises



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from their power to support them, and, I may add, educate them, as the exhibition on this occasion proved the existing state of information on the part of these children to be far beyond what I expected to find, and ever was enabled to notice in any former report to your Excellency.

I cannot conclude this report without expressing it to be my firm conviction that the grand cause of the present difficulties of the island is owing to the little interest the overseer possesses in the property he directs. As matters stand at present, they (in immediate connexion with the apprentices, removable at pleasure, and altogether dependent on the temporary interest and caprice of the attorneys, the representatives of absentees) have but that fleeting interest which is altogether inconsistent with the future and permanent welfare of the country. Their becoming the lessees of estates with prospective interests could not fail to alleviate or altogether remove many difficulties; as lessees, their interest would then lie in consulting (as dependent on their own future welfare) the interest of the apprentices, and therefore the good of the country at large; whereas now, they only consult the interest of those who temporarily employ them.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *William Ramsay*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 46, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *Stanley Rawlinson*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of Sligo.

Enclosure 46,  
in No. 528.

My Lord,

Brownstown, 2 July 1836.

IN answer to letter of 1st ult. No. 3,414, referring to 27th rule, I beg to state, with reference to the industry of the apprentices, the prevailing and general complaint of proprietors and overseers continues the same as in my last report; viz. that the apprentices do not work cheerfully and well during the short time they are engaged; and that they might, with the greatest ease, get through much more work than they do at present. Offences consist chiefly of apprentices absenting themselves; of insolence, more particularly from women, and watchmen (a very general complaint) neglecting their duty. No complaints against their masters or overseers, on the part of apprentices, since my last report. There being only seven estates in this district, the majority having reduced their cane-pieces, the crop will be less than last year; the remainder, consisting of pen and pimento, is kept in tolerably good order.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Stanley Rawlinson*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 47, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *J. Reynolds*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to the Marquis of Sligo.

Enclosure 47,  
in No. 528.

My Lord,

Torrington, Goshen, 5 July 1836.

IN obedience to your Excellency's commands, I have the honour to report to your Excellency, that my district is in a perfect state of tranquillity; and I feel much pleasure to state to your Excellency, that there exists a good feeling on the part of the overseers throughout my district towards the apprentices; with regard to the apprentices in my district, I beg to state to your Lordship, that they are anxious to labour in their own time for wages; and when so employed, I have never had a single complaint from those gentlemen who employed them.

With regard to the grounds allotted the negroes for the cultivation of provisions, they are very ample, and in general, the apprentices of my district have abundance of provisions; and I know that many of them take to market quantities of provision for sale. I only make one exception; I allude to a Mr. ———, of a place called ———, who is the owner of a large gang of jobbers, and their grounds appeared sadly neglected; on inquiry, I was informed that the apprentices were jobbed far from ———, and therefore had not time to pay proper attention to their grounds.

With regard to the appearance of the coming crop, the planters appear apprehensive, as there has been no rain for nearly three weeks. Complaints have diminished in my district since my former report. I have remarked lately that there appears in many places a wish amongst the apprentices to purchase their freedom.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. Reynolds*, Special Magistrate.

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Enclosure 48, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *Richard St. John*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of Sligo.

Enclosure 48,  
in No. 528.

My Lord,

Mount Holstein, St. George's, 30 June 1836.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter, dated 1st June, No. 3,412; and I am happy to state that the complaints in this district have considerably diminished since my last quarterly report; the prevailing complaints are chiefly for acts of neglect where there are no immediate superintendents over the apprentices, such as odd jobs,

jobs, watchmen and cattle minders, &c. The apprentices' grounds are generally in good order, and there appears a friendly understanding between them and their managers. Working for wages is now better understood, and there is no lack of encouragement by the proprietors, as large sums are weekly expended in this district, not alone in keeping up the usual state of cultivation, but in considerably extending it.

The properties are generally in good order, but, as far as I can understand, the appearances for next crop of coffee are by no means favourable; this is chiefly attributed to the almost unprecedented continuation of wet weather, there having been scarcely three dry days in succession since the beginning of the year.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Richard St. John*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 49, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *W. H. Sowley*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

St. Ann's, 30 June 1836.

Enclosure 49,  
in No. 528.

THE different estates in this district have been making sugar, and of a very superior description in general. The cane-fields are all in good order. Good crops will be made; at least there will be no diminution this year. The seasons of late have been very unfavourable to planting, and unless the district is visited with good rains shortly, very serious apprehensions may be entertained of the fate of the young canes for next year's crop.

The pimento crops will not be so general; there will be at least one-third less than last year; there was a good prospect at first, but a great quantity withered.

The apprentices continue to behave themselves to the satisfaction of their masters and managers. With very few exceptions, crimes have considerably decreased, and complaints are fewer. Those of particular moment are chiefly confined to the watchmen at the provision grounds, who either themselves plunder them, or neglect them most shamefully; the apprentices making repeated complaints; and very many of their grounds have been destroyed by this system of abuse; and, I regret to state, that in many instances the apprentices have sold themselves out of provisions, and I am afraid they will shortly feel the inconvenience of this.

On one estate in this district, the parents of the free children have sanctioned their coming to the works when the mill has been about, for the purpose of doing any light duty that may be required of them, and are recompensed by any little trifle out of the house. This is to be attributed to the mild and conciliating conduct of the overseer in his management of the apprentices under his charge.

(signed) *W. H. Sowley*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 50, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *Joseph Rawlins Thomas*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Falmouth, Trelawny, 30 June 1836; 4 July 1836.

Enclosure 50,  
in No. 528.

I HAVE the honour at the present date to make to your Lordship a special report of the state of the district delegated to my superintendence in the parish of Trelawny; and it is with extreme satisfaction I am enabled to state, that in every quarter of my beat the utmost measure of tractability, peace and good order discover themselves among the apprentices.

The apprentices afford their masters and employers general satisfaction, and the latter are relentless in the way of kindness, consideration and indulgence, even to the most unworthy of their separate gangs. Complaints against the apprentices are decidedly on the decrease, and the principal discrepancies among the people confined only to the very worst of them, and in whose nature the propensity appears inherent, are running away, and general skulking from their work. The industry of the apprentices is alive; but I am sorry to say some complaints have been made of the cultivation of the apprentices, provision grounds having in a degree fallen off, arising from their increasing avidity to work in their own time for hire on their properties.

Your Lordship may rely, I shall enforce the accustomed cultivation of the apprentices' grounds on all occasions of finding them neglected or falling off.

The labour usual for this time of the year is forward, and, from seasonable weather last month, the prospects of the ensuing crop are most cheering; but rain is now in crying requisition in every quarter to ensure such prospects.

Many of the estates in this district have finished crop, and doubtless all will have, in 14 days more. The loss generally is averaged a full third; but the produce is proverbially excellent.

I regret to be obliged to close this communication to your Excellency with the observation, that religious disputes and controversies are occasionally taking place between Baptists and Wesleyans, and, unless energetically treated both by the special magistrate and the separate pastors, they may fearfully increase.

My part shall be done, my Lord, be assured, in the mildest, yet most effectual treatment I can adopt.

JAMAICA.

I am not aware of any points of moment further to bring before your Lordship; thus will do myself the honour to subscribe myself, my Lord,

Yours, &c.  
(signed) *Joseph Rawlins Thomas*,  
Lieutenant R. N. and Special Justice.

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Enclosure 51, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *Robert Thompson*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

Enclosure 51,  
in No 528.

My Lord,  
Black River, 27 June 1836.  
YOUR Excellency having called for a special report of the state of my district, according to rule 27th of our instructions, I have the honour to comply with your Excellency's order. From the particular locality of my district being laid out principally in pens and small settlements, and consequently no crops raised, excepting corn or provisions, I cannot report generally of the quality or forwardness of the crops. The only estate in my district I reported last quarter as being rather backward in the taking off of its crop, from the death of the overseer, who had long managed it, and other peculiar circumstances; and the same causes have still kept it behind, aided by very wet weather, which prevented the mill from working. Every exertion, however, is making by the present overseer for next year's crop, seeing it impossible to make any thing more of the past.

The past wet weather has been peculiarly favourable to the pens in producing a great abundance of grass every where, except along the plains of Pedro and the adjoining pens, which have felt the effects of the last two weeks' heat, and the parching of the hot sea-breezes.

That there has been a great diminution of complaints will be seen from the cases reported in my weekly reports; and I feel not a little proud in stating that many of the managers of my district are becoming, week after week, less desirous of punishments. A scold, an advice, or, in particular cases, a lecture, is almost all that is asked. The same feeling prevails among many of the apprentices towards their managers; and were it not for a growing propensity to theft (increased by runaways and vagrants from other quarters, who come to secrete themselves in the rocks, dells and bushes of the savannahs, and lower declivities of the Santa Creux mountains), I could report not a little favourably of their conduct; but the frequent occurrence of plunderings and thefts in that quarter are not a little grievous. The negro grounds are now in pretty good order, as far as I have been able to examine, being much busied by classification; and the whole of my district is in as great a state of peace and prosperity as could well be expected.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Robert Thompson*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 52, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *Henry Waddington*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

Enclosure 52,  
in No. 528.

My Lord,  
Port Antonio, Portland, 30 June 1836.  
In compliance with your Lordship's commands conveyed in Mr. Secretary Nunes' letter, No. 3,409, and date 1st June, I have the honour to transmit my quarterly report ending 30th June.

As I was only in this district a few days before the close of the last quarter, it is not in my power to inform your Lordship whether the apprentices are more or less inclined to industrious habits; their disposition is in general very respectful, but it does not appear to me that they have lately shown much inclination to labour; indeed, the complaints lately preferred against them for neglect and insufficiency of work convinces me of this. Three shillings and four-pence currency is paid for digging 80 cane-holes; this work can be performed before eleven in the forenoon. On some few properties they have worked for money; the apprentices belonging to those estates in the vicinity of the bay or town of Port Antonio, they prefer attending the market on Saturdays; and many pass the day in idleness; they are perfectly aware of and comprehend the nature of their situation, and understand fully the duty they should perform; but lately, as I have already observed, they have not behaved in the way they ought to have done; they have certainly taken the advantage of the want of a magistrate. I being myself confined for some days by illness, and my predecessor having resigned, some properties had not been visited for a period of two months; the consequence of this has been the disgusting necessity I have been forced to, of awarding severe punishments, but with the most sanguine hopes that this timely severity will prevent many punishments in future. I have invariably found the proprietors and overseers to be men of humanity and feeling in their treatment of the apprentices. With the exception of two trifling instances, I do not know of a single cause of complaint. They have excellent grounds; some will clear ten shillings at market on Saturdays.

On those properties where they work nine hours, including Friday, they receive all the indulgences which were allowed in former times; but where they only work eight hours, salt or herrings are not issued.

With respect to the morals of the apprentices, I do not know whether they have improved; they certainly are not quarrelsome. I have never seen an instance of an apprentice being intoxicated;

intoxicated; but they still retain the pilfering habits of stealing canes, corn, and sometimes provisions, from the grounds belonging to other apprentices. A large proportion of the congregation at church on Sundays is composed of apprentices; and weddings are getting very frequent among them.

At seven properties, complaints have been made for neglect and insufficiency of work since the 1st of April; these are the principal offences; on three properties no complaint has ever been preferred; and on the remaining ten, the complaints have been of different descriptions. The quantity of sugar expected to be made this year, it is supposed, will not exceed 800 hogsheads in this district, with the three new properties, Fairy Hill, Beston and Castle Comfort, lately added.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Henry Waddington*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 53, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *Henry Walsh*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Windsor, 29 June 1836, Salt Gut, P. O.

Enclosure 53,  
in No. 528.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency a general report of the state of my district; and in submitting a correct statement of facts to your Lordship, it gives me particular pleasure to state, that from 18 months' experience, in my magisterial capacity, between the masters and apprentices, that I am now enabled to report favourably of the unanimity and equality at present finding its way by stealth, on both sides, in some instances; a circumstance so beneficial to the future safety and happiness of this beautiful island.

I will pass over the many and harassing annoyances that I have received from some, as I am confident that the more enlightened inhabitants of Jamaica disapprove of so unjust a course towards the Act of Parliament; and when they consider the capital and confidence that is daily finding its current into this colony, supported by the merchants of England—men as noble for their foresight as well as that of their christianity—this of itself, my Lord, will cheer up the desponding mind, and will turn its talents to the path of virtue. No man in Jamaica can ever want, and I may safely say that it is the poor man's home. I am happy to acquaint your Excellency, that the apprentices have far surpassed any expectation that could have at first presented itself from the situation of slavery. Your Excellency's superior knowledge must admit, that the grand tact of slavery was ignorance, and a total abolition of God's word, without which, however educated, we must be slaves to Satan for his evil purposes. England's humanity raised the slaves of this island, and I can only inform your Lordship, that a better-disposed peasantry would rarely be met with; I only regret that we have not more of them; the apprentices display very great signs of industry, and are every day becoming more moral; their grounds are in a high state of cultivation; crime does not exist more in Jamaica than amongst the peasantry of other countries; as far as relates to my duties between the masters and apprentices, both parties seem more appeased than when I had last the honour of forwarding your Excellency my general report.

I do not anticipate any very great decrease of the produce of this island this year, and things will improve; but it is as well to remark here, that from the arrowing of the canes, a circumstance to be attributed to some unaccountable causes, the estates will, and have suffered; but this lamentable fact could not be remedied by any system or any labour; it has puzzled the most experienced amongst the planters; to this calamity only may any very great deficiency be attributed; in my opinion, it was occasioned by the cold and wet weather of the months of February and March.

I am anxious to bring under your Excellency's notice the difficulty that the absentee will have to encounter after the final term of apprenticeship, and however feelingly, it is my painful and imperative duty to do so at once, that they may have some idea to guard against the future; I am inclined to come to this conclusion from the unhappiness of many of the apprenticed labourers on the absentees' estates, that at the final term of apprenticeship, the labourers will locate with the most benevolent landlords; and the only preservative to so injurious a proceeding is for the absentees to come out and win the peasantry, or to dismiss every tyrannical attorney who does not meet emancipation with friendship. They are in duty bound, for their own interests, to appoint benevolent men in so responsible a trust; we should now civilize, and learn that the art of governing free peasantry is by setting them a loyal example towards the King and his ministers.

I am anxious to bring under your Excellency's favourable notice three benevolent attorneys in my district, the Honourable Henry Cox, and a large proprietor, James Cockburn, esquire, of Kingston, and John Oldham, esquire, of St. Mary's.

It is with pleasure that I acquaint your Excellency, that all classes of society seem more circumspect on the Sabbath day of late.

In conclusion, my Lord, I entertain no doubt of the continued peace and happiness of this island, and I do not entertain the slightest fear but that the produce of Jamaica will flourish after the final termination of the apprenticeship; and I sincerely trust that a peculiar class of society will get sense, and lend your Excellency's cordial support in the obedience of our Monarch. Wishing your Lordship health and happiness in your arduous and many difficulties in your government in Jamaica.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Henry Walsh*, Special Justice, St. Mary's.

JAMAICA.

Enclosure 54, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *Arthur Welsh*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.Enclosure 54,  
in No. 528.

My Lord Marquis,

Manchester, Warwick, 29 June 1836.

I HAVE the honour to subjoin the following report, as required by your Excellency.

In this district every thing is progressing satisfactorily, and I consider matters so settled down, and so perfectly understood as regards the apprenticeship system, that any further remark would be supererogatory; in fact, the thing is for that period clearly defined on all sides.

It is, however, much to be deplored, that as yet the necessity of man's earning his bread by the sweat of his brow is by no means instilled into the mind of the rising generation.

Mothers bringing their children to the field, or leaving them in swarms naked and idle in the negro-houses, indicates little prospect of their being hereafter useful or industrious members of society. Be it remembered, that children six years of age at the period of emancipation will be twelve years old at the termination of the apprenticeship, without having ever experienced the necessity of earning a subsistence, and consequently, having been all their life idle, will be very much inclined to remain so. The parents seem blind to their personal interests in not compelling them to work for hire, and it is to be feared their eyes will not be opened till they find them plundering themselves, and possibly burning their houses; there is certainly a strange fatuity on this point, which demands deep and immediate consideration.

The education of the children, also, is by no means as general as it should be, nor can it be so until some system, on a much larger scale than any thing I see at present in contemplation, be adopted.

Satisfied as I am that much has been done, yet much remains to do. There ought to be a sort of hedge school at the junction of every four or five properties, and the free children made to perform a certain quantity of agricultural labour, according to their abilities, on each property, to pay for their tuition.

Though the present state of the island presents an unparalleled feature of tranquillity, it is by no means safe to slumber on a volcano; it will therefore be wise to consult the oracle of probability as regards the future. Some people write that the compensation-money was given to "ensure freedom, not to continue the cultivation of sugar." If by freedom is meant a cessation of industry, and the indulging in every idle propensity, let agriculture cease; but if it mean the liberty of the subject, agreeably to the institutions of civilized society and the laws of the country, I know no country on the face of this globe—I know of none where it is so fully and perfectly enjoyed; therefore, if the revenue this country yields is worth the attention of Great Britain, the sooner decisive steps are taken to ensure a continuance of agricultural labour after 1840, the better and more conducive to the interests of all parties will it be. It is a matter of much congratulation to the inhabitants of Jamaica, that confidence in the stability of West India property has gained such an ascendancy as to induce the monied interest at home to establish a Banking System and a Steam Navigation Company for the colonies, than which no measures could be more beneficial to both the proprietors and the public. For myself, I do not despair of seeing a West India Steam Company extending its commercial relations to the very shores of China.

In 1840 we may expect that a large portion of the negro labourers with their families will leave the smaller islands to windward, and repair hither, where they can acquire better lands, and get higher wages; we may also expect to locate a considerable number of the captured Africans.

To counteract the increase in the colonial population, and make assurance doubly sure, thereby suppressing the possibility of any faction gaining an ascendancy that would subvert the prevailing order of society here, has induced me already to suggest to your Excellency the propriety of forming a colonial corps, to be organized and officered in Great Britain, as a substitute for a police and military force, to be permanently stationed in these islands; of course it will be advisable to unite therewith all the officers and men at present enlisted in the police of the island.

A force so constituted could be distributed over the face of the country, and would be a great advantage to society, inasmuch as both officers and men being residents would become settled with their families, and thus answer all the purposes projected by European emigration. The expense would be less to the Crown, as the island would at once see the policy of finding them quarters, and supplying the commissariat; let the mother country have the control of them, and pay them. As to the defence of the island against an external foe, the militia have already proved their efficiency, and no other force could be so advantageously employed.

Again, the parishes of the island require to be subdivided; they are far too large, and the interests of different parties frequently come into collision.

Establish, my Lord, a rural code, compelling all to labour for hire (at a certain rate of wages, of which a scale should at once be struck) who are not possessed of the visible means of procuring an honest subsistence. This will be very desirable when you have the means of carrying it into effect. It will be hailed by the good negroes as a boon, and will only be an act of justice to the bad, saving them from the certain results of idle and profligate habits.

I would further, my Lord, recommend a survey of the island, to divide it into small districts; the establishment of turnpike roads every where, and a police barrier at each, and for a certain time. As the law should equally apply to all parties, no person whatever to be allowed to pass from barrier to barrier without a dated passport, like a turnpike ticket at home.

The state of this island undergoing and still having to undergo a change unprecedented in the annals of history, measures must be adopted to meet its exigencies.

My

My Lord, let not mistaken philanthropy, or the republican spirit of the age, counteract them. Many may cavil at any thing like compulsion, but it will only be mercy in the end to guide and control, for their own benefit, an inexperienced multitude in positive infancy, as regards any general knowledge of the relations of society. Thus may this magnificent colony be delivered from the possibility of anarchy; and dismantled slavery, gradually merging into civilization and industry, remain a monument "*ære perennius*," that might not make right, and that justice alone can establish a nation's welfare.

So may the statesman that contemplated and carried into effect the stupendous measure of good-will towards man proudly stand forward when the crisis arrives, and, pointing to Jamaica, say to an admiring world, "*Finis coronat opus*."

May no want of foresight produce the dreadful and dreaded alternative; but Jamaica must say to the colonial minister, with the resignation of the inspired Psalmist to his Creator, "My times are in thy hand."

I have, &c.

(signed) *Arthur Welch*, Special Justice.

I should observe, to show how badly the apprenticeship system works, that this year 8,000 tierces (and many of them very large) have this year been shipped, or are ready for shipping, at Alligator Pond Wharf. The largest quantity ever sent from thence was 10,000 in 1824.

A. W.

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Enclosure 55, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *George Willis*, jun., Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Bath, St. Thomas in the East, 28 June 1836.

I HAVE much pleasure in reporting to your Lordship, in answer to letter, No. 3,402, dated 1st June, that the whole of this populous district is in excellent order; the apprentices are behaving respectfully to their masters, and I am happy to say there is a good understanding between them; as a proof, complaints against the apprentices have greatly diminished, and a complaint against the master I seldom hear of. I am occasionally called upon to enforce the law in cases of late turning out and insufficient work, but offences of a serious nature are much upon the decline; consequently, I have had little occasion for corporal punishment.

This district, as regards cultivation, looks well, but the few estates finished crop have fallen off in the quantity of produce, compared with that of last year. The provision grounds are in good order; the state of labour same as usual for this time of the year; some few properties more forward; but in consequence of additional strength, the plant, I am happy to say, is generally well established.

I have, &c.

(signed) *George Willis*, jun., Special Justice.

Enclosure 55,  
in No. 528.

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Enclosure 56, in No. 528.

COPY of a LETTER from *J. Woolfrys*, Esq., Special Justice, to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Kingston, 30 June 1836.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that since my last special report, under date of the 31st March last, there has been very little variation in the state of my district; the apprentices on most of the properties continue to demean themselves with propriety, and have not relaxed in their habit of industry.

On a few of the plantations, from a want of proper system of management, the work does not go on so satisfactorily.

Many of the owners and managers continue to manifest a good feeling towards their dependents, and only a few are desirous that corporal punishment should be inflicted on the apprentices for almost every offence.

The sugar crop on the four estates in my district will fully realize the expectation I have previously held out, and present appearance of the canes recently planted is favourable.

Although the pimento properties have been lately visited by strong and sudden gusts of wind, which have partially destroyed the blossom on some plantations, yet I anticipate a very fair average return may be calculated upon this year, under the now present state of the weather.

The eight hour system of working is still a source of discontent to the apprentices on those properties where it is carried on. Up to the period when I left the district (by your Lordship's permission, for the restoration of my health) in the early part of this month, offences committed by apprentices had not increased; there have been a few cases of assaults committed by the owners and managers on apprentices, for which fines have been inflicted, and one case of an aggravated nature has been referred to the court of quarter session for more exemplary punishment than is vested in the special justice under the Abolition Act.

The negro grounds are much in the same state as they were represented by me in my last special report.

The complaints made against the apprentices are chiefly for not turning out early to work, losing 10 to 30 minutes occasionally in the mornings; and sometimes for insolence in some shape.

The pens and pastures are in as good state of cultivation as they were when I transmitted my last quarterly report.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Woolfrys*, Special Justice

Enclosure 56,  
in No. 528.

## JAMAICA.

— No. 529. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Highgate, Jamaica, 9th July 1836.

No. 529.

For Jamaica Act,  
vide Papers relative  
to the Abolition of  
Slavery, Part I.  
p. 280.

UNDER the strong impression that the 54th clause of the Island Act for the Abolition of Slavery confers the right of entry in all parts of all properties, between sunrise and sunset, to all the special justices, I have directed the point of law to be tried. The parish of St. Thomas in the Vale being the only one where these obstructions seem to have been reduced to system, I directed a prosecution to be instituted against Mr. Lowndes of that parish, for an obstruction to Mr. Harris. This obstruction was given in an amicable manner for the purpose, and the right would therefore be tried without any asperity of feeling. The grand jury, however, have thrown out the bill; I shall direct the Attorney-general to file an information, if he can with propriety do so. Should this measure prove the right, as I have a strong impression that it will, there would be no necessity for attempting to procure any legislative enactment on the subject; if it does not, I will turn my mind to the consideration of a remedy.

— No. 530 (A.) —

EXTRACTS of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Highgate, Jamaica, 1st August 1836.

No. 530 (A.)

Vide Parliamentary  
Papers relating to  
the Abolition of  
Slavery, 1836,  
Part III.-1, p. 306.

YOUR LORDSHIP having been pleased in your despatches of the 24th April and of the 14th June, to direct me to turn my attention to some enactments to remedy the deficiencies in the abolition law, for the purpose of preventing the perpetration of such cruelties as are therein alluded to, I have the honour to state, and I do so with much pain, that the necessity for such enactments becomes every day more and more apparent to me, and that the hope I entertained of the existence generally of ameliorated feelings, though justified in many instances, is not universal. I must however remark, that the prevalence of such system, as I must consider to be objectionable, is in particular districts only; still they must be provided against, and though much blame has attached itself to me for having used on a former occasion the same language, I again say, advisedly, that the remedy must come from home. I appeal to facts, and fearlessly ask your Lordship whether the result has not shown the truth of that assertion?

It remains for me to suggest a remedy: I think it may easily be devised, and though I feel it likely, that that which I shall propose may not be such as, constitutionally speaking, your Lordship may deem it right to propose to the Imperial Parliament, I will name my plans, in the hope that some one more talented and more versed in legislation may found on those hints some enactment which may produce some, if not all the benefits that I contemplate.

I think that no person in a workhouse should be put in chains without the order, for cause shown, of a special justice, such cause being violence, or escape, or attempt at escape; certainly no untried person should be so.

Every one now, the moment they are put in, are chained two and two together, round the neck by a collar, and are never separated till released; many a runaway, so supposed, who has afterwards turned out to be a free person, has been worked publicly in the streets in chains. Refusing to work on the tread-mill might be another cause for such coercion as the chain gang. It should be made criminal, with summary jurisdiction to the special justice to fine the supervisor, for beating a prisoner, shaving a head, or admitting any prisoner apprentice without the warrant or rather the committal of a special justice. It should be criminal and punishable in a summary manner, likewise, not to classify the prisoners; hardly an attempt at doing so is made in some workhouses. In fact, the punishment of all the apprentices in these establishments should be exclusively under the direction of the special justices. No local magistrate ought to have any jurisdiction in any case where an apprentice is concerned.

With regard to hospitals, the remedy would be to place the sanatory restraint of the medical man under the sanction of the special justice, and to give him an unquestionable right, with summary jurisdiction, to enter into and upon all parts of

of every estate, buildings, fields, hospitals, to summon all apprentices, and to see all plantation books as he may call for. Of all things the use of bilboes, which cannot possibly be of a sanatory effect, ought to be made highly criminal.

Such are the heads of what I would propose to remedy these evils; but as His Majesty has been pleased to accept my resignation, I shall not be here to propose them to the Assembly; I will therefore leave a note for my successor, calling his attention to these two despatches, and to this letter, recommending him to address the Assembly on this subject; perhaps your Lordship would please to communicate to him such instructions on the point as may seem expedient to you. In justice however to him, I think it right to assure your Lordship of my conviction, that no amelioratory measure of at all that tendency will be passed by the House. And as it is to be recollected, that another year of the apprenticeship will soon pass over, I hope that such preparation will be made as will enable your Lordship, in the event of no satisfactory enactments passing the Jamaica legislature, to bring in one early next session, so as to save these poor people from the gross oppression they are now labouring under.

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— No. 530 (B.) —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Major-General Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 26 October 1836.

I HAVE received Lord Sligo's despatch of the 1st of August last, in answer to those which I had addressed to him of the 24th of April and 14th of June, relative to the enactments which appeared to his Lordship to be necessary to remedy deficiencies in the Jamaica apprentice laws.

I confine myself to a simple acknowledgment of this communication from your predecessor in the government, considering that it would be more convenient to defer entering further into the questions to which it refers, until I shall have learned from yourself the result of the reference which is to be made to the colonial legislature on the subject of the improvements which are required in the law.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

No. 530 (B.)  
*Vide* Parliamentary  
 Papers relating to  
 the Abolition of  
 Slavery, 1836,  
 Part III.—1, p. 306.

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— No. 531. —

EXTRACTS of a DESPATCH from Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated the King's House, 13 March 1837.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's despatch of the 26th of October last, in which you call my attention to a correspondence between yourself and the Marquis of Sligo, relative to certain enactments which had appeared to his Lordship necessary to remedy deficiencies in the Jamaica apprentice laws.

Upon first perusing your Lordship's despatch, I was under the impression that the subject had actually been brought under the consideration of the legislature by Lord Sligo; but having had occasion to recur to the subject, I perceived that the reference was to be made by me, and I accordingly sent down to the House a message, of which I have the honour to enclose a copy.

It is with regret I acquaint your Lordship that the House of Assembly have declined to entertain the subject for the present, for the reasons contained in the enclosed report of a committee of the House, which was agreed to by the House, and transmitted to me by message.

In the only instance which has come to my knowledge, since my administration, of the use of bilboes and stocks, the overseer was fined by a special justice, having been previously warned that such would be the result of any attempt to resort to this mode of sanatory restraint. An appeal was made to me for a remission of the fine, on the plea that the order was given by the medical attendant; but this was, of course, perfectly inadmissible. I have no doubt, that by the uniform adoption of a similar course on the part of the special justices,

No. 531.

No 530 (B.) *supra*.

No. 1.

No. 2.



JAMAICA.

justices, the evils resulting from the vagueness of the law in this respect will be materially diminished, and your Lordship may be assured that no instance of the kind which may become known to me, shall be suffered to remain unnoticed.

## Enclosures in No. 531.

(No. 1.)

Mr. Speaker,

I AM commanded by his Excellency the Governor to lay before the honourable House the copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State, directing his Excellency's attention to a correspondence which has taken place between his Lordship and the Marquis of Sligo, on the subject of certain improvements in the laws affecting apprenticed labourers, which are considered by His Majesty's Government essential to rendering those enactments more conformable to the spirit of the British Abolition Act.

Upon perusing the correspondence in question, it becomes his Excellency's duty to invite the consideration of the honourable House to those clauses of the laws regulating gaols and houses of correction, which give to the supervisors and subordinate officers of such establishments the power to inflict punishment in certain cases, and also to the clause of the Act in Aid, conferring upon the medical attendants of estates the power of placing apprentices under sanatory restraint at their discretion. Upon the first point the Secretary of State has directed, that it should be proposed to the honourable House to enact a law, which, whatever other reforms it may comprise, shall at least deprive the officers of workhouses and other places of confinement of the power of punishment, otherwise than under the written authority of a magistrate, and in the case of apprentices, of a special magistrate previously obtained in each case, and defining the nature and extent of the punishment authorized.

The Secretary of State expresses his trust, "that the Colonial Legislature will listen to such a proposal and pass the necessary enactment;" and observes, that "such an enactment would seem, indeed, to be absolutely necessary, in order to enable the special magistrates to carry the Abolition Act into execution, without exposing the apprentices, whom they commit to prison, to treatment which it could not be the intention of Parliament that they should undergo."

Upon the subject of sanatory restraint, it is considered by His Majesty's Government advisable, with a view to the prevention of those abuses which might result from the discretionary power vested in the medical attendants of estates, that the special magistrates should be authorized to visit and inspect, at all hours of the day, all buildings, cells and hospitals upon plantations.

In connexion with this subject his Excellency has further to suggest to the House, that it would be a most acceptable compliance with the sentiments expressed by his Majesty's Government throughout the whole correspondence referred to, and highly expedient, as tending to remove the possibility of any improper exercise of the power reposed in the medical attendants of estates, to which the Secretary of State more particularly adverts, if the honourable House should in its wisdom pass an enactment declaring bilboes and stocks to be illegal instruments of the sanatory restraint and control contemplated by the 8th clause of the Act in Aid, or that, in cases where it may be deemed absolutely necessary to resort to the use of them, the authority of the special justice should be previously obtained.

21 February 1837.

(No. 2.)

Mr. Speaker,

YOUR Committee, to whom was referred his Excellency the Governor's first message of the 21st of February, have given their consideration to the same and the documents thereunto annexed, and recommend to the House to agree to the following Report:

If the House were at all cognizant of the existence of abuses in the gaols and houses of correction, which required legislative interference, they would most readily go into a revision of the laws which regulate these establishments; but without such facts before them, impressed as they are with the belief that the Marquis of Sligo was much misled, that the representations put forward by him of workhouse punishments were greatly exaggerated, and that the existing laws, if duly enforced and fairly acted upon, are sufficient to prevent abuses, the House deem it unnecessary to deal with the subject at present, particularly as the session is so near at a close.

The House cannot for a moment entertain the accusation brought against the medical practitioners on the plantations, of exercising an oppressive power over the apprentice class under the 8th clause of the Act in Aid, unsupported as it is by any proof to cast even a suspicion of blame on the members of that liberal profession. No obstruction, it is believed, is ever offered to special justices wishing to visit the plantation hospitals, or cells used for the reception or confinement of apprentices.

The House cannot but express their great surprise that objections should be made to an enactment which they were instructed by the late Governor to re-enact without the altera-  
tion

tion of a single word, and which the Colonial Secretary himself introduced into the British Parliament, and caused to be passed into a law, in utter violation of the long-respected rights of this ancient and loyal colony.

The House can perceive no good reason why apprenticed labourers, sent into public houses of correction for punishment, should not be liable to precisely the same regulations as apply to all other persons, without distinction of class.

The House beg to assure his Excellency, that if any abuses in the gaols or houses of correction, of a character requiring legislative interposition, shall come to his Excellency's knowledge, the House at their next meeting will be ready, on having the facts laid before them, to apply the necessary remedy.

2 March 1837.

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— No. 532. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Major-General Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 29 April 1837.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 13th of March, stating the result of the measures which you had adopted in pursuance of my directions relative to certain alleged deficiencies in the Jamaica apprentice law. I have to convey to you my approbation of the message which you sent to the House of Assembly on this subject, and it is with regret I learn that the House did not think fit to entertain the question during their late session. I am happy, however, to find, from the report of the committee to whom your message was referred, that the right of the special justices to visit the plantations, hospitals and cells is not disputed, and I feel that I may confidently rely on you for enforcing the strict and regular performance of this important branch of their duty. I also trust that a vigilant execution of the law by the special magistrates, with reference to the other points noticed in the previous correspondence on this subject, aided by the publicity which has been given to the complaints preferred, will have a powerful tendency to diminish the evils, for the entire removal of which the law does not appear to have provided with sufficient distinctness. In the interval which must elapse before the consideration of this subject can be resumed by the Jamaica legislature, you will not fail to advert to the opinion expressed in my despatch of the 14th of June last, as to the course which it would probably be expedient to adopt with respect to the committal of apprenticed labourers to any workhouse in which the power of punishment is exercised by the supervisor or his subordinate officer, without the written authority of a special magistrate.

No. 532.  
No. 531, p. 91.

*Vide Parliamentary Papers relating to the Abolition of Slavery, 1836, Part III.-1, p. 306.*

I am, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

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— No. 533. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Highgate, Jamaica, 15 July 1836.

I THINK it right to enclose to your Lordship a correspondence and set of valuations which I consider call loudly for some intervention. Your Lordship will see that the document No. 1. contains the principal heads of the complaint; Documents Nos. 2, 3, and 4, are Mr. Lamonius's valuations, of which Mr. Hawkins and I complain; Nos. 7, 8, and 9, are the valuations subsequently made by another valuator, clearly showing the mistakes of the first.

No. 533.

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Enclosures in No. 533.

(No. 1.)

My Lord,

Aberdeen, Rio Bueno, P. O., June 1836.

I BEG leave to call your Excellency's attention to the valuations taken at Aberdeen on the 20th inst. George Marrett, esq., attorney for Arcadia, appointed on Monday, the 6th instant, James Murray, esq., as his justice, who requested me to ascertain from your Excellency whether washerwomen were prædials or non-prædials.

On Monday, Mr. Marrett appointed William Lamonius, esq., as his justice; we requested that Mr. Samuels should be called in, on proceeding to the valuation of the same apprentices that Mr. Murray requested to ask of your Excellency the class.

Enclosures in  
No. 533.

Mr.

JAMAICA.

Mr. Lamonijs commenced valuing them as prædials. I then called his attention to the letter I had written to your Excellency at the request of Mr. Murray, also your Excellency's reply to that letter, wherein you had decided that washerwomen are classed as non-prædials; Mr. Lamonijs still persisted in valuing them as prædials, not paying any respect to your Excellency's decision on that subject.

I have to call your attention to the valuations of Frances Donovan, of Arcadia estate, who was proved by Mr. Marrett, the attorney, to have been a house servant ever since he knew her; valued as a prædial by Mr. Lamonijs; her sister was valued about 12 months before for 30 l. 18 s. 10 d.

If such valuations as above be pursued, no apprentices can be enabled to purchase the remainder of their apprenticeship.

The Marquis of Sligo,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,  
(signed) C. Hawkins, Special Justice.

## VALUATION RETURN.

Aberdeen, 20 June 1836.

NAME of APPRENTICE.	Age.	Health.	CLASS.
Frances Donovan, Arcadia estate -	38	good - -	Non-prædial; house-servant.

William Lamonijs, esq. { Associating }  
J. B. Samuels, esq. { Justices. } C. Hawkins, Special Justice.

Witness for estate:—George Marrett, esq., says she has always been a house-servant.

Witness for apprentice:—None.

	£.	s.	d.
Mr. Lamonijs, against the evidence of George Marrett, esq., the attorney, values her as a prædial at - - - - -	66	-	-
Mr. Samuels as a non-prædial - - - - -	41	13	4
Mr. Hawkins, two years and one month - - - - -	62	10	-
Deduct one-third - - - - -	£.	20	16 8
Net sum awarded - - - - -	£.	41	13 4

Not paid.

(signed) C. Hawkins, Special Justice.

(Note by the Marquis of Sligo.)

This woman has been given her freedom by Mr. Marrett, the attorney, for 32 l., a proof of the erroneous valuation of Mr. Lamonijs.

(No. 2.)

## VALUATION RETURN.

Aberdeen, 20 June 1836.

NAME of APPRENTICE.	Age.	Health.	CLASS.
Eleanor Barnett, Arcadia estate -	33	good - -	Non-prædial.

William Lamonijs, esq. { Associating }  
John B. Samuels, esq. { Justices. } C. Hawkins, Special Justice.

Witness for estate:—George Marrett, esq., says she is a washerwoman, but does not consider her a non-prædial.

Witness for apprentice:—None.

	£.	s.	d.
Mr. W. Lamonijs values her at - - - - -	66	-	-
Refuses to value her as a non-prædial.			
Mr. Samuels, at - - - - -	49	12	6
Mr. Hawkins, at - - - - -	50	-	-
24 l. per annum, two years and one month.			
Deduct one-third - - - - -	£.	16	13 4
Net sum awarded - - - - -	£.	33	6 8

Sum not paid. Apprentice conceives she is valued too high by Mr. Lamonijs.

(signed) C. Hawkins.

VALUATION RETURN.

NAME of APPRENTICE.	Age.	Health.	C L A S S.
Loshin Cross, Arcadia estate -	18	good - -	prædial; field-labourer.

*William Lamoni*us, esq. { Associating }  
*J. B. Samuels*, esq. { Justices. } *C. Hawkins*, Special Justice.

Witness for estate :—George Marrett, esq., says she is in the first gang.

Witness for apprentice :—None.

Mr. Lamoni	us values at	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£.	s.	d.							
Mr. Samuels	values at	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£.	43	17 11							
Mr. Hawkins	at 16 l. per annum, four years and one month	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£.	65	6 8							
										Deduct one-third	-	-	-	-	-	£.	21	8 0
										Net sum awarded	-	-	-	-	-	£.	43	17 11

Not paid.

(signed) *C. Hawkins*.

(No. 3.)

VALUATION RETURN.

NAME of APPRENTICE.	Age.	Health.	C L A S S.
Frances Christie, Arcadia - -	11	good - -	non-prædial; employed at Great House.

*William Lamoni*us, esq. { Associating }  
*J. B. Samuels*, esq. { Justices. } *C. Hawkins*, Special Justice.

Witness for estate :—George Marrett, esq., says she has always been about the Great House.

Witness for apprentice :—Eleanor Barnett, mother, says she has never been in field, but employed about Great House.

Mr. Lamoni	us values her, as a prædial, at	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£.	s.	d.							
Mr. Samuels	- - - non-prædial	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£.	32	- -							
Mr. Hawkins	- - - non-prædial, two years and one month, at	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£.	32	16 8							
16 l. per annum	- - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£.	10	18 10							
										Deduct one-third	-	-	-	-	-	£.	21	17 10
										Divide among the net sum as agreed	-	-	-	-	-	£.	26	13 4

(signed) *C. Hawkins*.

(Note by the Marquis of Sligo.)—It seems difficult to know why Mr. Lamoni

(No. 4.)

VALUATION RETURN.

20 June 1836.

NAME of APPRENTICE.	Age.	Health.	C L A S S.
Eliza Ainsworth, Georgia estate -	27	good - -	non-prædial; washerwoman.

*William Lamoni*us, esq. { Associating }  
*J. B. Samuels*, esq. { Justices. } *C. Hawkins*, Special Justice.

JAMAICA.

Witness for estate, sworn 6th June :—Thomas Kitman, overseer of Georgia, on Monday stated her value to the estate worth 16 *l.* per annum clear.

Witness for apprentice :—None.

Mr. Lamonijs refuses to value her as a non-prædial. Mr. Lamonijs objects to the evidence which I have given. Mr. Kitman not being present this day, Mr. Kitman's evidence was taken in the presence of James Murray, esq.

	£.	s.	d.
Mr. Lamonijs values, prædial - - - - -	66	-	-
Mr. Samuel - - non-prædial - - - - -	33	6	8
Mr. Hawkins - - non-prædial, two years and one month - - -	50	-	-
Deduct one-third - - - - -	£.	16	13 4
Net sum awarded - - - - -	£.	33	6 8

Not paid ; says her valuation is illegal.

(signed) *C. Hawkins.*

(No. 5.)

My Lord,

Aberdeen, 28 June 1836.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 24th instant, No. 4029, enclosing a slip.

I beg leave to state, that I did not sign any valuations with Mr. Lamonijs as agreeing with him ; but distinctly stated, that I could not agree with him, and should submit the case to your Excellency. Most of the valuations now taking place are nearly double to what they were 12 months ago.

The Marquis of Sligo,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *C. Hawkins, Special Justice.*

(No. 6.)

My Lord,

Aberdeen, 5 July 1836.

HAVING mentioned to George Marrett, esq., your Excellency's remarks as to the valuations of Mr. Lamonijs, he immediately said, he should have no objection in doing away with that valuation, and appointing Mr. Murray to be the valuator, and yesterday Mr. Murray came to Aberdeen ; not being enabled to procure another magistrate, it was consented that Mr. Murray and myself should proceed with the valuations. I beg leave to enclose them. Your Excellency will see the difference in the price between magistrates. Mr. Murray also stated, that he could not account for the manner of valuations in this part of the parish, as in Falmouth there is but little difference in all valuations.

The Marquis of Sligo,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *C. Hawkins.*

I have just learnt, that George Marrett, esq., has allowed Frances Donovan of Arcadia, valued by Mr. Lamonijs for 66 *l.*, to pay him 32 *l.* for the remainder of her apprenticeship, conceiving her a non-prædial.

(signed) *C. Hawkins.*

(No. 7.)

VALUATION RETURN.

Aberdeen, 4 July 1836.

NAME of APPRENTICE.	Age.	Health.	CLASS.
Eleanor Barnett, Arcadia estate -	33	good -	Non-prædial ; washerwoman.

*James Murray, esq., Associate Justice.*  
*C. Hawkins, Special Justice.*

Witness for estate :—Paul King, overseer, says she is worth 16 *l.* per annum to the estate.

Witness for apprentice :—None.

	£.	s.	d.
To two years and one month - - - - -	33	5	-
Deduct one-third - - - - -	11	1	8
Net sum awarded - - - - -	£.	22	3 4

Not paid.  
Not agreed to.

(signed) *C. Hawkins, Special Justice.*

(No. 8.)

VALUATION RETURN.

Aberdeen, 4 July 1836.

NAME of APPRENTICE.	Age.	Health.	CLASS.
Frances Christie, Arcadia estate -	11	good -	Non-prædial ; house-girl.

*James Murray, esq.*, Associate Justice.  
*C. Hawkins*, Special Justice.

Witness for estate :—Paul King, overseer, says she is a house-girl for Great House.

Witness for apprentice :—None.

Valued without any deduction at - - - - - £. 10 8 4

Not agreed to.

(signed) *C. Hawkins*, Special Justice.

(No. 9.)

VALUATION RETURN.

Aberdeen, 4 July 1836.

NAME of APPRENTICE.	Age.	Health.	CLASS.
Eliza Ainsworth, Georgia estate -	27	good -	Non-prædial ; washerwoman.

*James Murray, esq.*, Associate Justice.  
*C. Hawkins*, Special Justice.

Witness for estate :—Thomas Kitman, overseer of Georgia, says that he considers her worth to the estate 16 *l.* per annum.

Witness for apprentice :—None.

To two years and one month - - - - -	£.	s.	d.
	33	5	-
Deduct one-third - - - - -	11	1	8
Net sum awarded - - - - -	£.	22	3 4

Not paid.  
Not agreed to.

(signed) *C. Hawkins*, Special Justice.

(No. 10.)

Sir,

Retirement, Rio Bueno, 12 July 1836.

I BEG leave to acknowledge the receipt, on the 9th, of your letter No. 4144 of the 1st instant, in which you call upon me to state, for his Excellency the Governor's information, the grounds upon which I fixed a valuation of the remainder of the apprenticeship of Loshin Crow, Eleanor Barrett, Frances Donovan and Eliza Ainsworth, belonging to Arcadia estate, and in answer to state that, in valuing any apprentice's remaining services, I am solely guided by the law, my conscience, and that the third justice confirmed my valuation.

See names in Return, p. 94-5.

The 2d clause of the 4 Will. 4, c. 42, guarantees the services of the apprenticed labourer to the person entitled thereto, and in appraising such services under clause 8, it is my principle that the latter party ought not to be damaged in the least degree, but that such a sum should be awarded as will enable him to hire a labourer in the place of the one withdrawing himself from his services voluntarily.

I have, &c.

W. G. Nunes, Esq., &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *W. Lemonius*.

JAMAICA.

— No. 534. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Major-General Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 534.

My Lord,

The King's House, Jamaica, 23 November 1836.

*Vide* Parliamentary  
Papers respecting  
the Abolition of  
Slavery, 1836,  
Part III.—1, p. 395.

HAVING laid before the House of Assembly your Lordship's despatch of the 11th of July last, respecting the valuation of the unexpired period of apprenticeship, I have this day received from the House the accompanying message, desiring to be furnished with some of Lord Sligo's despatches to your Lordship, and other documents on which your Lordship founded the opinions you have expressed on this subject.

I shall of course decline furnishing the documents called for, on the ground of official practice; and shall apprise the House, that I have referred the matter for your Lordship's special instructions.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

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Enclosure in No. 534.

May it please your Excellency,

WE are ordered by the House to wait on your Excellency, and to inform you that they have taken into their consideration your Excellency's third message of the 7th instant, laying before them the Colonial Secretary's despatch relative to apprenticeship valuations. In that despatch a variety of documents are referred to, "as affording proofs and illustrations of the unfairness with which certain valuations have been made of the services of apprenticed labourers seeking to purchase their discharge." The House much regret that the Colonial Secretary should have been led to entertain conclusions so injurious to the character of the House, and of the magistracy of the colony. If the House could believe that so serious an abuse existed, they would cheerfully and readily apply themselves to its remedy; but believing as they do that these valuations have been far more frequently under than over the value proved in evidence, they feel themselves unable to proceed in the course recommended to them, unless your Excellency would be pleased to lay before them copies of the several despatches and other documents mentioned by the Colonial Secretary as having been transmitted to him by the Marquis of Sligo and the Church Missionary Society. If these documents are submitted to the House, and found upon investigation to contain proofs of excessive valuations, the House will take into their consideration the expediency of altering the law; but in the absence of evidence to guide them, they cannot be expected to act upon vague and general representations.

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— No. 535. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Major-General Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 28 January 1837.

No. 535.

I HAVE received your despatch, dated the 23d of November, enclosing a message which you had received from the House of Assembly of Jamaica, desiring to be furnished with some of the despatches from the Marquis of Sligo to myself, and other documents on which I had founded the opinions expressed in my despatch of the 11th of July last, respecting the valuation of the unexpired period of apprenticeship. You state that you should decline furnishing the documents called for, on the ground of official practice; and that you should inform the House that you had referred the matter for my special instructions.

I can have no hesitation in authorizing you at once to accede to the request of the Assembly. Indeed I confidently anticipate that the information for which they have asked has already been communicated to them, as it is comprised in the last volume of the series of Parliamentary Papers relative to the abolition of slavery, of which two copies were transmitted to you by the mail of the 2d, and one by that of the 15th of January. The documents referred to in my despatch of the 11th July 1836, to Lord Sligo, are all contained in that volume, with the exception, I think, of one short paper containing a report of the two valuations of Ann Monteith, and another woman adverted to in the 6th paragraph of that despatch. That report formed one of the enclosures of Lord Sligo's despatch of the 8th of July, and you will of course not hesitate to add a copy of it to the other documents laid before the Assembly.

I earnestly

I earnestly hope that the consideration of this subject, to which not only His Majesty's Government, but also the Committee of the House of Commons on the working of the Apprenticeship System, attach great importance, may not be postponed beyond the present session of the legislature of Jamaica.

JAMAICA.

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

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— No. 536. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Major-General Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg.*

My Lord,

The King's House, 4 April 1837.

It is with great regret, I acquaint your Lordship, that not having received your despatch of the 28th January last, until after the prorogation of the legislature, it will not be in my power to bring the subject of the present mode of valuation of unexpired periods of apprenticeship again under its consideration, until the latter end of the present year.

No. 536.

Had I been in possession of the printed volume of Parliamentary Papers alluded to in your Lordship's despatch, which contains the documents called for by the Assembly, I should have had no hesitation in granting copies of papers which had been thus made public; but not being aware that such was the case, I did not consider myself at liberty to furnish copies of reports made by my predecessor to your Lordship, without your sanction previously obtained.

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

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— No. 537. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Highgate, Jamaica, 15th July 1836.

I HAVE the honour to make to you my usual report on the general state of the island, and in doing so, have nothing to add to that of my despatch by the last packet. I enclose to your Lordship several documents to which I beg to call your attention.

No. 537.

The crops are going on, in some places terminated, in others delayed on account of the heavy May seasons; but the conduct of the apprentices, I am happy to say, bears everywhere the best stamp.

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Enclosure in No. 537.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS.

Enclosures in  
No. 537.

1. RETURN of visits paid, those omitted, and the total which ought to have been paid by the special magistrates of Jamaica, during the first five months of 1836, in reference to Lord *Sligo's* despatch, 29th June 1836.

For despatch  
21 June, *vide*  
No. 525, p. 51.

2. List of fines on overseers and others.

3. Mr. Hawkins, reporting the excellent conduct of the apprentices at Stewart Castle estate.

4. Case of Eliza Carr, which was thrown out, and which was not before reported to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

5. List of estates where the classification has been effected in the most agreeable manner, and generally admitted to be of advantage.

6. Curious instance of the want of confidence in a negro, showing their feeling as to even temporary servitude.

7. Copy of a new instruction to be sent to the special justices, rendered necessary in the opinion of the Marquis of *Sligo*, by the prevalent habit of depriving the apprentices of their Saturdays, and forcing them thereby either to work on Sundays, or to be in great distress for provisions.

8. Major Baines, on state of district.

9. Mr. W. H. Lawley, reporting favourably of the state of his district.

10. Quarterly return of valuations between 1st April and 30th June 1836 inclusive.

11. Extract from the calendar of sentences passed at July Cornwall assizes, 1836.





(No. 2.)

LIST of FINES on Overseers and others, in June 1836, under the Abolition Act; extracted from Special Magistrates' Reports.

DATE.	P L A C E.	N A M E of Magistrate.	Complainant.	Defendant.	C O M P L A I N T.	Sentence.	PARISH.
June 19	Kingston	H. Moresby	Nancy Bennett	Miss Miranda	ill-treatment	Fined : £. s. d.	Kingston.
-	Ditto	- ditto	Jessy	Mary White	assault	2 - -	- ditto.
- 13	Police-station	J. Nolan	Queen	John Collins	for confining in stocks	1 - -	Clarendon.
- 8	Wales	S. Pryce	J. Goodwin, app.	Thos. Jones	insulting and assaulting him	2 10 -	Trelawny.
- 13	Prospect Pen	H. Walsh	Nelly Taylor	Jn. C. Lucant	for assault and battery	1 - -	St. Mary's.
-	Ditto	- ditto	- ditto	- ditto	- - for confining plaintiff in a wounded state.	3 - -	- ditto.
- 17	Aylmers	E. D. Baynes	Robert Tollens	John Barker	assault	3 - -	- ditto.
-	Ditto	- ditto	Eliz. Francis	Eliza O'Brien	assault	13 4 -	St. John's.
- 16	Seven Rivers	W. Finlayson	The great gang	Mr. Maine	- - working more than nine hours a day.	5 - -	St. James's.
- 17	Hazelymph	- ditto	- ditto	Mr. Groves	- ditto	5 - -	- ditto.
-	New Montpelier	- ditto	G. Ellis et al.	Mr. Adams	- - for working 16 hours per day, without agreement or pay.	5 - -	- ditto.
-	Ditto	- ditto	Thomas Walker	- ditto	breaking open his house	3 - -	- ditto.
- 15	Newport	R. S. Lambert	George Ellis	George Hulme	- - assault, and want of attention in hospital.	1 - -	St. Mary's.
- 17	Caswell Hill	James Nolan	James Grace	Peter Chisholm	- - for having in a frolicsome mood taken away his clothes whilst bathing.	2 - -	St. Andrew's.
- 15	Content	John Odell	E. James & Seven	Mr. Murphy	- - for detaining them in field after shell-blow.	1 - -	St. James's.
- 20	Carlton	W. H. Sawley	Jane Howard	Hen. Cox, jun.	for illegal confinement	5 - -	St. Ann's.
-	Ditto	- ditto	Sarah Clarke	- ditto	- ditto	5 - -	- ditto.
- 20	Court	J. R. Thomas	Maria James	Jane Scott	for an assault	3 - -	Trelawny.
- 27	Fairfield	W. Carnaby	Daniel M'Lean	Mr. Henderson	for not paying for extra time	1 - -	St. James's.
-	Hazelymph	R. B. Facey	- J. Grant et al., (12 in number).	Hen. Groves	- - for imposing task-work, contrary to the 51st clause of the Abolition Act; fined 20s. on each case.	12 - -	- ditto.
-	Montpelier	- ditto	Thomas Hill	George Adams	- - for refusing to pay for extra time, and working complainant.	3 - -	- ditto.
- 1	Vauxhall	W. A. Bell	Vauxhall gang	David Watt	- - cheating them of their time by blowing the shell unfairly.	3 - -	St. Elizabeth's.
- 4	Old Green Island	R. S. Cooper	Wm. Vassall	Wm. Taylor	assault	3 - -	Hanover.
- 1	Long Pond	G. D. Gregg	E. Lindsay	Wm. Harding	striking him	2 - -	Trelawny.
- 6	Fairy Hill	W. Hewitt	Thomas Passley	Wm. Wylie	- - assault; throwing him down and thumping him.	5 - -	Portland.
-	Ditto	- ditto	- ditto	- ditto	assault on following day	5 - -	- ditto.
- 3	Morant Bay	E. B. Lyon	John Relfoir	Wm. Johnson	assault	5 - -	St. Thomas-ye-East.
- 6	Georgia	- ditto	Cath. Mitchell	J. Jones	- - confinement, without food or water.	1 - -	- ditto.
- 8	Kingston	H. Moresby	Horatio Nelson	Mr. Maddix	assault	1 - -	Kingston.
- 6	St. Ann's Bay	W. H. Sawley	Mr. Ann Jackson	Samuel Drake	for committing an assault	5 - -	St. Ann's.
-	Ditto	- ditto	Eleanor William	G. Pountland	- ditto	5 - -	- ditto.
-	Ditto	- ditto	Eliz. Taylor	- ditto	- ditto	5 - -	- ditto.
-	Ditto	- ditto	Letitia Taylor	- ditto	- ditto	5 - -	- ditto.
-	Ditto	- ditto	A. Hodgson	- ditto	- ditto	5 - -	- ditto.
-	Ditto	- ditto	Sarah Campbell	- ditto	- ditto	5 - -	- ditto.
-	Ditto	- ditto	Susan Wilson	- ditto	- ditto	5 - -	- ditto.
-	Ditto	- ditto	- G. Mitchell, constable.	- ditto	- - for locking him up in the stocks with both legs, confining him five days.	25 - -	- ditto.
-	St. Ann's Bay	- ditto	Wm. Duke	- ditto	for committing an assault	5 - -	- ditto.
-	Ditto	- ditto	Emily Taylor	- ditto	- ditto	5 - -	- ditto.
-	Ditto	- ditto	Sarah Taylor	- ditto	- ditto	5 - -	- ditto.
- 4	Windzor	H. Walsh	Jane Anderson	Wm. Martin	- - for giving plaintiff a slap with a supple-jack.	1 - -	St. Mary's.
- 11	Montego Bay	W. Carnaby	Rach. Chambers	Mr. Brown	injury and injustice	10 - -	St. James's.
- 8	Police-station	C. Hamilton	E. Davis	J. Urquhart	injury and destroying salt provisions	1 - -	Port Royal.
- 13	Moneague	H. Laidlaw	James Dixon	Mr. J. Dixon	severely beating him	4 - -	St. Ann's.
- 8	Police-station	C. Hamilton	Juliett Willasay	J. Urquhart	for assaulting him	4 - -	Port Royal.
- 19	Mount Pleasant	E. B. Lyon	Jane Hamilton	Mary Fyfe	assault	1 - -	St. Thomas-ye-East.
- 15	Spanish Town	W. Mariton	George Viotal	Mary Vaughan	assaulting complainant	5 - -	St. Catherine's.
- 24	Rose Hill	R. S. Lambert	H. M. Faulkner	John Graham	- - want of food, and attention in hospital.	4 - -	St. Mary's.
- 28	Faith Pen	H. Laidlaw	Olive M'Kenn	Mr. Dixon	striking her	2 - -	St. Ann's.

TOTAL in each Parish

St. James	- - - -	20	Port Royal	- - - -	2
St. Ann	- - - -	15	St. Catherine	- - - -	1
St. Mary	- - - -	5	Clarendon	- - - -	1
Trelawny	- - - -	4	St. John	- - - -	2
St. Elizabeth	- - - -	1	St. Andrew	- - - -	1
Hanover	- - - -	1			
Portland	- - - -	2			
St. Thomas-ye-East	- - - -	3			
Kingston	- - - -	3			
			TOTAL	- - - -	61

(No. 3.)

JAMAICA.

My Lord,

Aberdeen, Rio Bueno, P. O., 28 June 1836.

I BEG leave to acquaint your Excellency that on Wednesday last on my arriving at Stewart Castle, I found one of the cane pieces on fire, and, as reported to me by the overseer, it originated from a spark from the steam-engine chimney. From the very great exertions of the apprentices it was stopped without doing much damage—about two acres.

I have great pleasure in informing your Excellency that not only the apprentices belonging to Stewart Castle, but those belonging to other estates people, behaved themselves highly to my satisfaction, and from their exertions was the estate saved from further devastation. It commenced about one, p. m., and was extinguished about four, p. m.

Special Justice Gregg arrived on the estate during the fire, and used every exertion in assisting me. I called on the attorney, George Murrett, esq., and mentioned to him the very praiseworthy conduct of the apprentices, and in particular the head driver and constable, whose exertions were very great.

I have, &amp;c.

To the Marquis of Sligo,  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) C. Hawkins, Special Justice.

(No. 4.)

The King  
against  
Geo. Aitcheson.  
Ignoramus. } BE it remembered, that to this court it stands presented, on the oath of  
Wellwood Hyslop, George Atkinson, John Fowles, William Christie,  
Hinton East, John Barclay, David Cohen, Charles Anderson, William  
Francis Espent, Robert Chisholme, Andrew Simpson, William Cranisie,  
John Bradfield, Daniel Morrison, George Helps, Edwin Swainsbury,  
Thomas Blacas, Lewis Lewis, George Gollen, Robert W. Bryan, Alexander Brymer,  
Phineas Bravo and Benjamin Banks, good and lawful men of the said county, then and there  
returned, sworn and charged, for and on behalf of our said Lord the King and for the body  
of the said county, the jurors for our Lord the King upon their oath present, that George  
Aitcheson, late of the parish of Kingston, in the county of Surrey, gentleman, and William  
Young, late of the same place, an apprenticed labourer, William Coffay, late of the  
same place, driver, on the third of April, in the fifth year of the reign of our  
Sovereign Lord William the Fourth, with force and arms, at the parish of Kingston, in  
the county aforesaid, in and upon one Eliza Carr, apprenticed labourer, in the peace of God  
then and there being, did make an assault, and her the said Eliza Carr then and there,  
in and upon the back, buttocks, legs and other parts of the body of her the said Eliza Carr,  
did strike and beat, giving to her the said Eliza Carr, by such striking and beating of her the  
said Eliza Carr as aforesaid, in and upon the back, buttocks, legs and other parts of the  
body of her the said Eliza Carr, divers bruises, hurts and injuries, so that her life was greatly  
despaired of, and other wrongs to the said Eliza Carr then and there did, to the great damage  
of the said Eliza Carr, and against the peace of our Lord the King, his crown and dignity.  
And the jurors aforesaid, on their oath aforesaid, do further present that the said George  
Aitcheson, the said William Young, the said Robert Young, the said William Coffay, on the  
said third day of April, in the year aforesaid, in and upon the said Eliza Carr, in the peace  
of God and our said Lord the King, then and there being, did make another assault, and  
that she the said Eliza Carr in and upon a certain tread-mill, then and there being, fixed and  
placed, which tread-mill was then and there used in the punishment of criminals, and which  
said tread-mill they the said George Aitcheson, the said William Young, the said Robert  
Young, the said William Coffay, then and there caused swiftly to revolve and turn round,  
and that they the said George Aitcheson, William Young, Robert Young and William Coffay  
her the said Eliza Carr forcibly and against the will and consent of her the said Eliza Carr, then  
and there did place and tie down, and then and there her the said Eliza Carr they the said  
George Aitcheson, William Young, Robert Young and William Coffay, forcibly and against  
her will did keep so tied as aforesaid, upon the tread-mill aforesaid, for a long space of time,  
to wit, for the space of one hour then next ensuing, whilst the mill aforesaid was swiftly  
revolving and turning round; and that they the said George Aitcheson, the said William  
Young, the said Robert Young, the said William Coffay, by the said revolving and turning  
round of the tread-mill aforesaid, maliciously, unlawfully and wilfully her the said Eliza  
Carr then and there did crush and bruise, by means of which crushing and bruising by the  
said wheel of the tread-mill aforesaid, she the said Eliza Carr was then and there greatly hurt,  
injured, wounded and bruised, so that her life was greatly despaired of, and other wrongs to  
the said Eliza Carr then and there did, to the great damage of her the said Eliza Carr, and  
against the peace of our said Lord the King, his crown and dignity. And the jurors afore-  
said, upon their oath aforesaid, do further present that the said George Aitcheson, the said  
William Young, the said Robert Young, the said William Coffay, on the said third day of  
April in the year aforesaid, with force and arms, at the said city and parish of Kingston, in  
the county aforesaid, in and upon the said Eliza Carr, in the peace of God and our Lord the  
King then and there being, did make another assault, and her the said Eliza Carr then and  
there did beat, wound and ill-treat, and other wrongs to the said Eliza Carr then and there  
did, to the great damage of the said Eliza Carr, and against the peace of our Lord the King, his  
crown and dignity; which said bill of indictment the said grand jury, to wit, Wellwood  
Hyslop and his fellows, returned "not found."

A true return.

(signed) Molyneux Hyde Nepean,  
Clerk of the Crown, Island of Jamaica.

(No. 5.)

RETURN of PROPERTIES where the CLASSIFICATION of APPRENTICES, recommended by His Excellency the Governor to be made, has been accomplished, under the sanction of the Proprietor, Attorney, or Manager.

PROPERTY.	Name of Proprietor, Attorney, or Manager.	PROPERTY.	Name of Proprietor, Attorney, or Manager.
<b>PARISH OF ST. MARY.</b>		<b>CLARENDON :</b>	
Cottage pen - - -	Mrs. Mary M'Intyre.	Bryan's Hill estate - - -	George Nott.
Decoy estate and pen - - -	J. G. Wick.	Kellitt's pen - - -	Robert Pearson.
Hazard estate - - -	John Oldham.	Low Ground estate - - -	M. Farquharson.
Gibraltar estate - - -	Thomas Leamy.	<b>ST. JOHN :</b>	
Spring Valley estate - - -	John Philpot.	Belmonte estate - - -	Charles Medley.
Cardiff estate - - -	William Hunter.	Fuller's Rest estate - - -	T. W. Barnes.
Charlottenburg estate - - -	Anthony Davis.	Mountain River estate - - -	Alexander Armstrong.
Rock River estate - - -	S. Hannaford.	Lemon Hall estate - - -	Alexander Gordon.
Smailfield estate - - -	Archdeacon Pope.	Bowerwood estate - - -	William Lord.
New Ramble estate - - -	James Cockburn.	Spring Vale estate - - -	W. Turner.
Bellfield estate - - -	Alexander Barclay.	<b>ST. ANDREW'S :</b>	
Tremolesworth estate - - -	Edward Hutton.	Clifton Mount - - -	John Stewart.
Luna estate - - -	Cockburn & Bradfield.	Healthy Valley - - -	R. W. Brien.
Paisley plantation - - -	ditto - - ditto.	<b>ST. CATHERINE :</b>	
<b>WESTMORELAND :</b>		Mount Pleasant - - -	D. P. Mendes.
Albany estate - - -	Thomas Tate.	Cedar Valley - - -	Mrs. Card.
Glasgow estate - - -	John M'Creath.	<b>ST. ELIZABETH :</b>	
Mylersfield estate - - -	Edward Smith.	Grosmond pen - - -	James Heming.
Camp Savanna estate - - -	Dun. M'Kenzie.	Hodge's pen - - -	William Tharpe.
Paul Island estate - - -	George Gordon.	Glebe pen - - -	Thomas P. Williams.
Retrieve estate - - -	Thomas Tate.	Luana pen - - -	Mrs. Williams.
Retreat estate - - -	Hon. T. M'Neel.	Delantober pen - - -	Mrs. Kennedy.
Midgham estate - - -	ditto.	Roseberry estate - - -	John M'Laurin.
Moreland estate - - -	ditto.	Saltspring pen - - -	B. M. Tenior.
Mount Eagle estate - - -	James Grant.	Fullerswood pen - - -	Edward Smith.
Museum estate - - -	Hon. T. M'Neel.	Fullerswood Park pen - - -	William Rowe.
Mint estate - - -	ditto.	Burnt Savanna - - -	Robert Malcolm.
Spring Garden estate - - -	ditto.	Burcefield pen - - -	Watt & M'Taggart.
Haddow estate - - -	Benjamin Vicker.	Thatchfield pen - - -	ditto.
Fontabelle estate - - -	Wm. Shilletto.	Hermitage pen - - -	ditto.
Drummond's lodge - - -	Thomas Drummond.	Brown Berry pen - - -	George Clarke.
Canaan estate - - -	William Carey.	Pondside pen - - -	Andrew Esson.
Orange grove - - -	M. Anglin.	Burnt Savanna - - -	Elizabeth Taylor.
Heath Hall - - -	Ann Mary Moore.	Emmaus pen - - -	John Cuff.
King's pen - - -	Robert Biggs.	Fellowship pen - - -	William K. Hewitt.
Pondicherry - - -	Aaron Delion.	Chateau pen - - -	E. F. Parris.
Ridgland estate - - -	W. H. Knott.	Stanmore Hill - - -	T. W. Parchment.
Hope estate - - -	Thomas Tate.	Darliston pen - - -	Dr. William Gordon.
Negril Spots estate - - -	P. S. Samuels.	Potsdam pen - - -	John Cameron.
New Shafton estate - - -	George Pinnock.	Island estate - - -	Thomas Higgin.
Petersville pen - - -	Peter Heron.	Appleton estate - - -	D. Sullivan.
Forest estate - - -	Martin M'Innis.	Union estate - - -	M. Newman.
Cruise pen - - -	Frederick Cooper.	Vauxhall estate - - -	David A. Watt.
Grandvale pen - - -	Donald M'Innis.	Harmony Hall estate - - -	Robert Watson.
Frome estate - - -	A. M. Storer.	Oxford estate - - -	William Robertson.
Belleisle estate - - -	ditto.	Wullingford estate - - -	William Turner.
<b>HANOVER :</b>		Northampton pen - - -	William Walker.
Content estate - - -	Henry Brockett.	Warminster estate - - -	O. Walloram.
Retrieve's new and old works - - -	Geo. Gordon.	Malvern Hill - - -	James Miller.
Paradise estate - - -	Alexander Watt.	Hill Head plantation - - -	A. H. Thompson.
Rock Spring estate - - -	John Campbell.	Newell pen - - -	William Rhodes James.
Campleton estate - - -	R. A. Feilde.	Farm pen - - -	John Wallace.
Blenheim estate - - -	Rowland M'Arthur.	Retreat pen - - -	George Dennis.
Cessnock estate - - -	John M'Creath.	Good Hope pen - - -	Robert Dunkley.
Pell River estate - - -	John Fenton.	Ridge pen - - -	John James.
Alexandria estate - - -	George Gordon.	Fyffe's pen - - -	Thomas Boyes.
Argyle estate - - -	ditto.	New Building pen - - -	Mary Dunky.
Eden estate - - -	ditto.	Lookout pen - - -	Susanna Dennis.
Argyle pen - - -	ditto.	Retreat pen - - -	Abraham Dunkly.
Knochalva plantation - - -	ditto.	Retreat pen - - -	Elizabeth Barrett.
Welcome estate - - -	Hon. J. V. Purrier.	Barton pen - - -	T. Simpson.
<b>ST. GEORGE :</b>		Tyre pen - - -	J. M'Clymont.
Kildare estate - - -	Anthony Davis.	Troy pen - - -	William Carter.
Cascade estate - - -	James Cockburn.		

(continued)

PROPERTY.	Name of Proprietor, Attorney, or Manager.	PROPERTY.	Name of Proprietor, Attorney, or Manager.
<b>ST. ELIZABETH—continued.</b>		<b>PORT ROYAL—continued.</b>	
Cabbage Valley - - -	John Ross.	Little Hope pen - - -	John Watson.
Bellmont estate - - -	A. G. Robertson.	Resource plantation - - -	James Cockburn.
Hermitage pen - - -	—	Industry plantation - - -	ditto.
Kensington pen - - -	George Creed.	Clydesdale plantation - - -	George Dixon.
Friendship pen - - -	J. R. Robertson.	Mount Hybla - - -	Andrew Simpson.
Mount Zion pen - - -	John Temple.	Mount Elizabeth - - -	Charles M'Glasham.
Micham pen - - -	Samuel Sherman.	Washington plantation - - -	J. W. Carter.
Barton Isles pen - - -	John Salmon.	Hampstead plantation - - -	Sarah M'Dermott.
Pern pen - - -	Thomas Sweetland.	Violet Bank - - -	William George Lowe.
Look-out pen - - -	Mary Wint.	Hopewell - - -	Andrew Simpson.
Corby Castle - - -	Charles M'Amoff.	Chester Vale - - -	Hinton Spalding.
Torrington plantation - - -	Hon. W. Rowe.	Westphalia - - -	John Maes.
Little Ease plantation - - -	Pat. James.	Flamstead pen - - -	Charles Fyfe.
Winduster plantation - - -	Deborah Live.	Castile Fort pen - - -	H. F. Lesjie.
Fort Hope plantation - - -	Elizabeth Crowe.		
Slips plantation - - -	Edward Russell.	<b>ST. DAVID'S:</b>	
Thatchfield Park - - -	Joseph Ray.	Whitfield Hall plantation - - -	Elin, Scott & Co.
Cherry Hill - - -	William Reid.	Epping Farm - - -	ditto.
Frenchman's plantation - - -	W. B. Banton.	Hibernia plantation - - -	Peter M'Dermott.
Thatchfield Park - - -	J. J. Ray.	Mount Tiviot - - -	John Wiles.
Franciske Valley - - -	Ann James.	Abbey Green - - -	Edward Thompson.
Musquito Grove - - -	T. J. Williams.		
Newcome Valley - - -	Richard Ebanks.	<b>TRELAWNY:</b>	
Rockfield plantation - - -	John Ebanks.	Carrick Foyle estate - - -	William Mullett.
Orange Grove - - -	Peter Sanderson.	Irving Tower estate - - -	Dawson Hislop.
Planters' plantation - - -	Richard Ebanks.	Cambridge estate - - -	S. M. Barrett.
Prospect plantation - - -	Elizabeth Booth.	Pern estate - - -	R. Heming.
Bigwood plantation - - -	A. S. Barnett.	Lansquenet estate - - -	William Tharp.
Belle Vue plantation - - -	W. Rowe.	Pern estate - - -	R. Heming.
Orange Grove - - -	Elizabeth Lennox.	Good Hope estate - - -	William Tharp.
Pleasant Field - - -	M. A. Bradford.	Coney estate - - -	ditto.
Hounslow pen - - -	Edward Nembhard.	Windsor pen estate - - -	ditto.
Arlington pen - - -	Thomas Dyer.	Pantre Pant estate - - -	ditto.
Malvern Well - - -	Isaac Isaacs.	Potosi estate - - -	ditto.
Cotton Tree Valley - - -	Margaret James.	Wales estate - - -	ditto.
Fairfield plantation - - -	Mary Lewis.	Merrywood estate - - -	ditto.
Little Ease plantation - - -	M'Mullings.	Top Hill estate - - -	ditto.
Fairfield pen - - -	John Granslon.	Lintor Park estate - - -	ditto.
Pleasant Hill - - -	N. B. Taylor.	Golden Grove estate - - -	George Gordon.
New Savanna - - -	John Sims.	Silver Grove estate - - -	ditto.
Blunter's plantation - - -	Elizabeth Ebanks.	Florence Hall - - -	J. Geddes.
Keen's Valley - - -	E. J. Keen.		
Content plantation - - -	Alexander Granslon.	<b>MANCHESTER:</b>	
		Grove Place plantation - - -	Richard Jackson.
<b>ST. ANN'S:</b>		Park Hall plantation - - -	Adam Hogg.
Blenheim and Cranbrook estates - - -	C. Burnsley.	Asia plantation - - -	Abraham South.
York Castle estate - - -	Mr. Sicard.	Java plantation - - -	J. B. Scholey.
Retreat pen - - -	Hon. S. M. Barrett.	Woodside plantation - - -	Benjamin Tamuda.
Lawrence Park - - -	Hamilton Brown.	Keynsham pen - - -	George B. Medley.
Somerset estate - - -	John Burford.	Knock Patrick plantation - - -	Thomas Wheatle.
		Donnington plantation - - -	— Adlam.
<b>ST. JAMES:</b>		Glen Head plantation - - -	W. Hobbie.
Adelphi estate - - -	J. V. Purrier.	Marshall's pen - - -	Lord Balcarras.
Industry estate - - -	J. W. M'Kenzie.	Woodlawn plantation - - -	W. Robertson.
Leogan estate - - -	Lawrence Hislop.	Newfield plantation - - -	H. Branfoot.
Dumfries estate - - -	James Dunstone.	Bloomfield plantation - - -	Adam Hogg.
Catherine Hall estate - - -	George Gordon.	Porus plantation - - -	ditto.
Garland Grove - - -	Henry Hunter.	Boxbro' plantation - - -	ditto.
Latium estate - - -	William Murray.	Mayday plantation - - -	J. M'Catty.
Purling Stream estate - - -	Henry Hunter.	George's Valley - - -	Alexander Napier.
Orange estate - - -	Samuel F. Delap.	Wickwar estate - - -	William Heath.
Amity Hall estate - - -	George Gordon.	Mount Prospect - - -	Thomas Sweetland.
Flamstead estate - - -	ditto.	Blenheim - - -	Mr. G. Brooks.
Guilbro' estate - - -	ditto.	Epping Forest plantation - - -	Hon. W. Rowe.
Mellenium Hall - - -	F. B. Gibbes.	Bull Dead plantation - - -	H. Hunter.
Windsor Lodge - - -	George Gordon.	New Hall plantation - - -	J. Stevenson.
Glasgow estate - - -	ditto.	Lochaber - - -	J. A. Britten.
Paisley estate - - -	ditto.	Chievelly plantation - - -	H. Wm. South.
Lethe estate - - -	Samuel Anderson.	Mons - - -	Herman Hendricks.
Cinnamon Hall - - -	S. M. Barrett.	Windsor Forest - - -	Mr. Reid.
Lima estate - - -	George Gordon.	Pans Lodge - - -	Thomas Wheatle.
Somerton estate - - -	M. Farquharson.	Ardenne Forest - - -	ditto.
Childermas estate - - -	George Gordon.		
Harfield estate - - -	L. Hislop.	<b>ST. DOROTHY:</b>	
Spring Garden - - -	George Gordon.	Kelly's estate - - -	Marquis of Sligo.
Iron Shore estate - - -	L. Hislop.		
		<b>PORTLAND:</b>	
<b>PORT ROYAL:</b>		Mount Pleasant - - -	John Oldham.
Strawberry Hill - - -	Richard Savage.		
		<b>VERE:</b>	
		Salt River - - -	J. W. Turner.

(No. 6.)

My Lord,

Hertford, 4 July 1836.

I HAVE the honour of forwarding my report for your Excellency's information. Many of the estates have served the usual allowance of clothing, and the apprentices seemed perfectly satisfied, as not a complaint was brought before me on either side. On one estate I would observe, where the same allowances are given to the free as well as the apprentice children, one of the negroes declined accepting any for his free child, although gratuitously given.

I have, &amp;c.

To his Excellency the Marquis of Sligo,  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Thos. M. Oliver,*  
Special Justice.

(No. 7.)

FORTY-FIFTH RULE for the Guidance of the Special Magistrates.

THE practice of making the apprentice work on the eight-hour system appearing to defeat the intention of the Abolition Act, in giving the four and a half hours per week additional for the cultivation of their grounds, although it certainly is strictly within the letter of the law, his Excellency thinks it his duty to remedy the inconvenience to the apprentices as much as possible. He therefore recommends it to you, that when the apprentices are worked on the eight-hour system, and that any application is made to you to give additional labour in exchange for any time which may have been lost by them, you will decree the repayment of such time during the four first days of the week, diminishing their breakfast and dinner hours to what is absolutely necessary, and giving the rest of the time either after or before the usual time of turning out or turning in, as the case may make it expedient to you. The too frequent sentence of giving up the Saturdays forces the apprentice, in order to raise food, to work on Sundays, in itself a most unadvisable measure. It also prevents his attending Divine worship, another most improper result. He therefore hopes that in your future decisions you will attend to this suggestion. When they are worked on the nine-hour system the case is different, there is not then sufficient time to repay the lost work in those four first days.

(No. 8.)

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Special Justice *Baines* to the Marquis of *Sligo*,  
dated Retreat, 12 July 1836.

IN making my brief report, I have the honour to state that all the crops are taken off in my district, with the exception of two estates that are delayed in consequence of having sustained considerable injury to their breeze mills early in the season, but the whole will be completed this week. The overseers seem satisfied with the conduct and exertions of the people during crop time, and have evinced that feeling by giving all the people rice, flour, sugar and rum.

(No. 9.)

St. Ann's, 12 July 1836.

THE affairs of the different properties in this district are going on as well as can possibly be expected; a number of estates are making sugar, which is of a very superior quality, and the apprentices are working cheerfully for wages, which is regularly paid them; good week's work is performed. Llandovery, with two sets of coppers, working double spell of nine hours each, has made from 19 to 23 hogsheads of sugar of a ton weight. Blenheim has made with one set of coppers, in the same time, 15 hogsheads, the same weight, per week. Banks makes 10 a week in 16 hours. Richmond, Windsor and Drax Hall also do very good weeks' work. The people on the last-named estate were at first very ill disposed to work, but from the steady persevering conduct of the present overseer, who treats his people kindly when they deserve it, they may be considered to be well behaved, and are working well. All the other estates have also considerably improved; the district looks well, but cultivation is considerably retarded, from the very severe dry weather that has set in, the young canes suffering very much, and those just planted will have to be replanted again if there is no rain shortly; this considerably affects the prospects for next year's crops; however, taking into consideration, the district has a very favourable appearance, and exhibits a marked improvement. It must be particularly gratifying to his Excellency the Governor to receive so favourable a report, and it gives me pleasure in making this statement of facts. Let the gloomy minded talk as they will, the sugar is made and the thing speaks for itself. The canes are planted, and if they do not come to perfection, it is no fault of the system.

(signed) *W. H. Sawley,* Special Justice.

(No. 10.)

QUARTERLY RETURN of VALUATIONS, effected between 1 April and 30 June 1836.

NAME of MAGISTRATE.	NAME of APPRENTICE.	ESTATE, or MASTER'S NAME.	PARISH.	CLASS.	VALUE.	If paid or not.
<b>BAYNES, E. D.:</b>					£. s. d.	
	Sarah Ann Thomas - -	Spring Mount - -	St. John - -	prædial, unat <sup>d</sup>	61 13 4	not paid.
	William Ewart - -	Clifford's - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	85 - -	ditto.
	Richard Bennet - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	70 16 8	paid.
	Elizabeth Penzelly - -	Thetford - -	ditto - -	non-prædial	28 4 -	ditto.
	Letitia - -	Rest plantation - -	ditto - -	prædial, att <sup>d</sup>	85 - -	not paid.
	Richard Valentine - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	52 10 -	ditto.
<b>BAINES, T. J.:</b>						
	Sarah Stuart - -	Air Mount - -	St. Thos.-ye-East	prædial - -	40 - -	paid.
<b>BOURNE, STEPHEN:</b>						
	Susannah Francis - -	Constitution-hill - -	St. Andrew's - -	prædial, att <sup>d</sup>	45 6 8	paid.
	Milly Wells - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	non-prædial	24 - -	ditto.
	Brown Hall - -	William Rae, esq. - -	St. David's - -	prædial, att <sup>d</sup>	44 16 -	not paid.
	Eleanor Williams - -	Charlottenburgh - -	St. Andrew's - -	ditto - -	50 8 -	paid.
	William Welch - -	Greenwich-hill - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	44 16 8	ditto.
	Jane Bogie - -	Rose-hill - -	ditto - -	non-prædial	26 8 -	ditto.
	Cecilia Davis - -	Hall's Prospect - -	ditto - -	prædial, att <sup>d</sup>	43 17 -	ditto.
	Solas Small - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	32 17 10	ditto.
	William Hall - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	constable - -	60 6 -	not paid.
	Mary Ann Dawkins - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	prædial, att <sup>d</sup>	38 5 11	ditto.
	Eliza Williams - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	49 6 8	ditto.
	Richard Steele - -	Mount Felix - -	Port Royal - -	ditto - -	28 - -	ditto.
<b>BELL, WILLIAM A.:</b>						
	Charles Smith - -	Belmore Castle - -	St. Elizabeth - -	prædial, 1st class.	58 1 8	paid.
	Francis Daly - -	Barton estate - -	ditto - -	prædial - -	28 6 8	ditto.
	Caroline Smith - -	Look-out Pen - -	ditto - -	non-prædial	16 - -	ditto.
	Thomas Smith - -	Berlin estate - -	ditto - -	prædial - -	53 6 8	ditto.
	Henrietta Williams - -	Mexico estate - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	42 13 4	not paid.
	Cecilia Berry - -	Vauxhall estate - -	ditto - -	non-prædial	30 - -	ditto.
<b>COOPER, RICHARD S.:</b>						
	John Smith - -	Orange Bay - -	Hanover - -	prædial - -	10 13 4	paid.
	Sarah Kelly - -	Haughton Hall - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	37 15 5	ditto.
	William Irvin - -	Cessnock - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	51 15 5	not paid.
	Jessy Williams - -	Jas. Graham, esq. - -	ditto - -	non-prædial	25 - 7	paid.
	Jessy Malcolm - -	Pell River estate - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	18 1 1½	ditto.
	Mary Cameron - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	25 - -	ditto.
	Elizabeth March - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	25 - -	ditto.
	Rebecca Martin - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	25 - -	not paid.
	Joseph Dias - -	Estate of P. M. Kerry, deceased.	ditto - -	ditto - -	31 1 1	ditto.
	Molly Blythe - -	John Blythe, esq. - -	ditto - -	prædial - -	23 12 1	ditto.
<b>COCKING RALPH:</b>						
	Kitty Young - -	Dumfries - -	St. James - -	non-prædial	24 8 11	paid.
	Sophia Willocks - -	Somerton - -	ditto - -	prædial - -	28 1 1½	ditto.
<b>CARNABY, WILLIAM:</b>						
	Charles Campbell - -	W. S. Grignon, esq. Montego Bay.	St. James - -	non-prædial	57 6 8	paid.
	James Reid - -	Unity Hall estate - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	50 - -	not paid.
	Isabella Galloway - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	21 8 11	paid.
	Jane Bunny - -	Irwin Castle - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	27 - -	ditto.
	Mary Keer - -	Spring Garden estate - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	19 10 -	not paid.
	William Humphry - -	Irwin estate - -	ditto - -	prædial - -	83 17 10	ditto.
	William Munro - -	Carthagina estate - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	14 - -	paid.
	Eliz. Ferguson - -	Barnstaple estate - -	Trelawny - -	non-prædial	25 12 -	
<b>CHAMBERLAIN, R.:</b>						
	Dorian Bashful - -	Sheckle's Pen - -	Clarendon - -	prædial - -	25 - -	paid.
	John Nairn - -	Cote's Pen - -	ditto - -	domestic - -	22 10 -	ditto.
	William Johnson - -	Parnassus - -	ditto - -	prædial, blacksmith.	75 - -	ditto.
	Susanna Clerke - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	non-prædial	28 - -	ditto.
	Mary Murrel - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	18 13 4	not paid.
	Richard Francis - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	carpenter - -	77 13 4	paid.
	Sarah Bayley - -	Cote's Pen - -	ditto - -	prædial - -	35 - -	ditto.
	Ann Ed. Jones - -	Mr. Henriques - -	Spanish Town - -	non-prædial	23 - -	ditto.

NAME of MAGISTRATE.	NAME of APPRENTICE.	ESTATE, or MASTER'S NAME.	PARISH.	CLASS.	VALUE.	If paid or not.
<b>DUNNE, PATRICK :</b>						
Rozanno More	-	Albion	St. David's	prædial	£ 52 - -	not paid.
Eliza Strachan	-	House of Correction, Easington.	ditto	non-prædial	31 2 3	paid.
Eleanor Grant	-	Cherry Garden	ditto	ditto	26 9 8	ditto.
George Munroe	-	Windsor Castle	ditto	prædial	75 6 10	not paid.
Henry Wiles	-	Windsor Castle	ditto	ditto	57 4 6	paid.
Eliza Gardiner	-	Richmond Vale	ditto	non-prædial	36 2 3	not paid.
Cornelia Grant	-	Swamps	ditto	ditto	24 17 6	paid.
Mitchel Francis	-	Cocoa Walk	ditto	prædial	10 17 9 ½	not paid.
Diana Scott	-	Mount Sinai	ditto	ditto	68 1 1	ditto.
Eleanor Fisher	-	Lloyd's	ditto	non-prædial	38 17 10	paid.
Henry Eady	-	River Head	ditto	prædial	68 1 1	not paid.
James Harris	-	ditto	ditto	ditto	68 1 1	ditto.
Rebecca M'Farlane	-	May Hall	ditto	non-prædial	36 2 3	paid.
<b>DAVIES, THOMAS :</b>						
Mary A. Collins	-	Tremolesworth	St. Mary's	non-prædial	24 - -	paid.
Harriett Gaskett	-	Agualta Vale estate	ditto	prædial	24 - -	ditto.
Mary Hennesy	-	Carlton estate	ditto	ditto	24 - -	ditto.
Helen Willock	-	Green Castle estate	ditto	ditto	24 - -	ditto.
Theophilus Lyons	-	John Frazier	ditto	ditto	25 - -	not paid.
Archibald Edwards	-	Nonsuch estate	ditto	ditto	33 - -	paid.
Margaret Chroeder	-	Tremolesworth estate	ditto	ditto	23 10 -	not paid.
Silvester Hare	-	Agualta Vale estate	ditto	ditto	12 - -	paid.
Latera Norton	-	Water Valley estate	ditto	prædial	10 - -	not paid.
Sarah Funderbury	-	Friendship estate	ditto	non-prædial	24 - -	paid.
Sarah Carghil	-	Claremont Pen	ditto	prædial	40 13 4	not paid.
Dorothy Williams	-	ditto	ditto	ditto	26 13 4	ditto.
John Cargill	-	ditto	ditto	ditto	53 6 8	ditto.
Alick Willock	-	Green Castle estate	ditto	non-prædial	20 - -	paid.
<b>DAWSON, JAS. K.</b>	-	No valuations to date.				
<b>DILLON, T. A. :</b>						
Francis Robertson	-	Content	St. Ann	non-prædial	27 10 -	paid.
Adam Christy	-	Cam Valley	ditto	prædial	49 16 6 ½	ditto.
Rebecca Cammell	-	Meur House	ditto	ditto	45 11 1 ½	ditto.
Julian Gray	-	Kensington	ditto	ditto	38 8 9	ditto.
Amy Dawson	-	Abauker	ditto	non-prædial	30 11 1 ½	ditto.
Eliza Calum	-	Meda	ditto	prædial	18 4 9	ditto.
<b>FACEY, R. B. :</b>						
Samuel Barrack	-	Ginger Hill	St. Elizabeth	prædial	50 - -	paid.
Sarah Green	-	ditto	ditto	ditto	39 13 4	ditto.
Mary Fennell	-	ditto	ditto	non-prædial	12 - -	ditto.
Catherine Crawford	-	ditto	ditto	prædial	10 10 -	ditto.
Francis Germain	-	ditto	St. James	non-prædial	15 - -	ditto.
Mary Field	-	ditto	ditto	prædial	22 10 -	ditto.
Georgiana Scarlett	-	Scarlett Field	Westmoreland	ditto	26 - -	ditto.
Jane M'Dougald	-	Belvidere	Hanover	non-prædial	17 15 10	ditto.
William Wigginmore	-	Floyd's Lodge	ditto	prædial	41 14 4	ditto.
Eleanor Hind	-	ditto	ditto	non-prædial	17 6 8	not paid.
<b>FISHBOURNE, E. E. :</b>						
Mary A. Horsefield	-	Fort George Pen	St. George	non-prædial	26 - -	paid.
Eliz. Morrice	-	Hill-side plantation	St. Mary's	prædial	18 6 8	ditto.
Fanny Hennett	-	ditto	ditto	ditto	10 13 4	ditto.
<b>FINLAYSON, WALTER :</b>						
Mary L. Appleton	-	Bluehole	St. James	prædial	23 2 3	paid.
Sam. Tristy	-	Spring	ditto	ditto	45 6 8	ditto.
Ann Grife	-	Providence	ditto	non-prædial	22 10 -	ditto.
Edward Brown	-	Miss Grant, Montego Bay.	ditto	ditto	52 8 8	not paid.
Ann Vidal	-	Miss Murray, ditto	ditto	ditto	45 - -	paid.
David M'Lennan	-	Miss Boyd, ditto	ditto	ditto	11 5 -	ditto.
George Miller	-	Mrs. Reddish, ditto	ditto	ditto	34 8 6	not paid.
Emilie Simpson	-	Miss M'Lean, ditto	ditto	ditto	37 11 2	ditto.
Richard Hakhison	-	Anchovey	ditto	prædial	69 8 11	ditto.
John Cremen	-	Catherine Mount	ditto	ditto	50 - -	ditto.
William Wilson	-	Success	ditto	ditto	82 13 4	ditto.
Frante Chambers	-	Cornwall	ditto	ditto	55 - -	ditto.
Edward Shergold	-	Mr. Levi, Montego Bay.	ditto	non-prædial	38 15 7	ditto.
James Watt	-	Catherine Hall	ditto	prædial	6 18 11	paid.

(continued)



NAME of MAGISTRATE.	NAME of APPRENTICE.	ESTATE, or MASTER'S NAME.	PARISH.	CLASS.	VALUE.	If paid or not.
<b>FINLAYSON, WALTER—continued.</b>						
	Rachael L. Johnstone	Williamsfield	St. James	prædial	£. s. d. 6 18 11	paid.
	Peter	M. N. Anderson, Montego Bay.	ditto	non-prædial	19 16 8	ditto.
	Richard Jackson	Mount Parnassus	ditto	prædial	47 6 8	ditto.
<b>GURLEY, JOHN :</b>						
	Psyche M'Intosh	Mount Moses	St. Andrew's	prædial	32 - -	paid.
	Mary Ann Young	Catherine Pitt	ditto	non-prædial	22 8 4	ditto.
	Penelope Brown	ditto	ditto	ditto	22 8 4	not paid.
<b>HEWITT, WILLIAM :</b>						
	Jane Williams	Shady Grove	St. George	prædial	46 - -	paid.
<b>HAMILTON, CHENEY :</b>						
	John Lowe	William George Lowe	Port Royal	prædial	55 3 8	not paid.
	Louis Jackson	Drummond Castle	ditto	ditto	27 10 -	paid.
	Cath. Whilfield	ditto	ditto	non-prædial	26 18 4	ditto.
	Eleanor M'Dermot	Castile Fort Pen	ditto	prædial	27 10 -	not paid.
	Elizabeth Stevens	ditto	ditto	ditto	38 10 -	ditto.
	George	Orchard	ditto	ditto	72 8 4	ditto.
<b>HAWKINS, CHARLES :</b>						
	Henry Clerke	Brace	Trelawny	prædial	35 - -	paid.
	David Hyslop	Brampton	ditto	ditto	70 - -	ditto.
	William Hutton	ditto	ditto	ditto	30 - -	ditto.
	Catherine Porter	Lancaster	ditto	ditto	54 16 8	ditto.
	Frances Donavan	Arcadia	ditto	non-prædial	} value to be kept for fur- ther investigation.	
	Eleanor Barrett	ditto	ditto	ditto		
	Francis Chrystie	ditto	ditto	ditto		
	Lother Cross	ditto	ditto	prædial		
	Eliza Aimworth	Georgie	ditto	non-prædial		
<b>HAWKINS, GEO. O. :</b>						
	Eliza Evans	Farm Pen	St. Catherine	prædial	12 - -	paid.
	Abelona Murphy	Twickenham Park	ditto	ditto	67 1 9	not paid.
	Cecilia Richards	Craig Ellichie	ditto	ditto	- -	the magistrates could not agree as to her value.
	Francis Spatt	Spencer's Pen	ditto	non-prædial	21 7 10	paid.
	Johanna Roberts	Taylor's Caymanas	ditto	ditto	24 14 4	not paid.
	Eliza Markland	Healthful-hill	ditto	prædial	24 4 8	ditto.
	Anne Williams	Miss Octerlony	ditto	non-prædial	24 4 8	paid.
<b>HARRIS, JAMES :</b>						
	Eleanor Clement	Sarah Byfield	St. Thomas-ye-Vale	non-prædial	59 9 -	not paid.
	Anne Birmingham	Sterling Castle	ditto	ditto	51 4 1	ditto.
	Samuel Ross	Bybrook	ditto	prædial	83 17 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	paid.
	Kitty Edwards	ditto	ditto	ditto	33 11 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	ditto.
	Joseph Brown	Mr. M'Dermott	ditto	ditto	90 17 6	not paid.
	Maria Cooper	Hog Hole	ditto	non-prædial	29 1 10	ditto.
	Jane Anne Hammond	Dove Hall	ditto	ditto	13 8 4	ditto.
	Edward Wellington	Hill-side	ditto	prædial	39 11 8	ditto.
	Aba Taylor	Harker's Hall	ditto	ditto	58 13 4	ditto.
<b>HULME, J. R. :</b>						
	Henry Miller	William Gordon, esq.	Hanover	prædial	56 - -	paid.
	Margaret Rhodes	Mrs. Brown	ditto	non-prædial	27 - -	ditto.
	Frederick Chisholm	Rose Hill	ditto	prædial	65 - -	ditto.
	Richard Chambers	Esher	ditto	ditto	83 - -	not paid.
	Samuel Blagrove	Orchard	ditto	ditto	83 - -	-
	W. C. Gillen	J. Samuels	ditto	non-prædial	80 - -	-
	T. J. Campbell	Askinish	ditto	ditto	71 - -	-
	Samuel Grant	Alexander Grant	ditto	ditto	71 - -	-
	Aaron M'Allan	Estate Alexander M'Allan.	ditto	ditto	47 10 -	paid.
	Abigail Grant	Rose Hill	ditto	prædial	82 - -	not paid.
	James M'Donald	Kew estate	ditto	ditto	68 - -	-
	Richard Bingley	Rebecca M'Allan	ditto	ditto	54 - -	-
	Isabella Campbell	Prosper	ditto	non-prædial	6 19 -	paid.
<b>HILL, RICHARD :</b>						
	William Walters	John Fletcher	St. Catherine	non-prædial	24 13 4	not paid.
	Margaret Mitchel	Sarah Jane Stanbury	ditto	ditto	19 10 -	paid.
	Isabella Burrowes	ditto	ditto	ditto	19 10 -	ditto.
	Kitty	Hog Hole Plantation	ditto	prædial	24 2 2	part paid.
	Catherine Brown	Eliz. Kelly Jackson	ditto	non-prædial	21 11 8	paid.
	Ann Barnes	Rev. W. S. Coward	ditto	ditto	34 - -	ditto.

NAME of MAGISTRATE.	NAME of APPRENTICE.	ESTATE, or MASTER'S NAME.	PARISH.	CLASS.	VALUE.	If paid or not.
<b>KELLY, DANIEL W. :</b>						
Francis Hunt - - -	Bog estate - - -	Westmoreland - -	prædial app <sup>e</sup>	£. s. d.	32 1 4	not paid.
Richard Johnston - - -	Windsor Forest estate	ditto - - -	do. carpenter	56 1 3	ditto.	
Alexander Samuels - - -	Bog - - -	ditto - - -	non-prædial	9 5 -	paid.	
William Young - - -	Haddo Pen - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	7 10 -	ditto.	
Eben. Young - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	3 - -	ditto.	
Edward Young - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	14 5 -	ditto.	
Mary Forester - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	15 10 -	ditto.	
Edward Campbell - - -	Endeavour settlement	ditto - - -	præ. carpenter	63 15 -	not paid.	
Diana Woodbine - - -	Chilton Pen - - -	ditto - - -	do. apprentice	54 2 8	ditto.	
Richard Dobson - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	prædial - - -	37 17 4	ditto.	
William Rose - - -	Petersville Pen - - -	ditto - - -	do. carpenter	62 18 4	paid.	
Thomas Hooper - - -	Clifden Pen - - -	ditto - - -	do. apprentice	55 10 -	ditto.	
<b>KENT, HENRY :</b>						
Thomas Brown - - -	Sheddon - - -	St. David's - - -	prædial - - -	76 1 10	paid.	
Thomas Duncombe - - -	Boatswain on Barbicue Pentyn estate.	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	64 16 6	ditto.	
Elizabeth Smith - - -	Whitfield Hall - - -	ditto - - -	non-prædial	31 2 5	ditto.	
Margaret Walker - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	33 4 6	ditto.	
Mary O'Hanlan - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	11 1 5	ditto.	
Sarah Leigh - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	35 8 8	ditto.	
Mary Ann Parke - - -	Westphalia - - -	Port Royal - - -	ditto - - -	39 7 3	ditto.	
Sarah Richards - - -	Epping Farm - - -	St. David's - - -	prædial - - -	49 4 6	ditto.	
Rosanna Gardiner - - -	Chester Vale - - -	Port Royal - - -	ditto - - -	20 12 3	ditto.	
Elizabeth Bull - - -	Robertsfield - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	8 13 4	ditto.	
<b>LLOYD, SAMUEL :</b>						
Joanna Wiles - - -	Bradwire - - -	St. Andrew's - - -	prædial - - -	35 - - -	paid.	
Jane Wiles - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	20 - - -	ditto.	
Alexander White - - -	Charles Shaw - - -	ditto - - -	non-prædial	32 - - -	ditto.	
Johanna Grant - - -	Sarah Palmer - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	25 - - -	ditto.	
Eleanor Fine - - -	Maverty - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	21 14 -	ditto.	
Betsy Eliston - - -	Airy Castle - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	16 - - -	ditto.	
Jane Mitchell - - -	Provost Rock River - -	Clarendon - - -	ditto - - -	35 - - -	ditto.	
<b>LAMBERT, R. S. :</b>						
Cecilia Williams - - -	Flint River - - -	St. Mary's - - -	prædial - - -	37 6 8	paid.	
M'Intosh Williams - - -	Berry Hill - - -	St. Thos.-ye-Vale	ditto - - -	16 - - -	ditto.	
John Welch - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	16 - - -	ditto.	
Hugh S. Faulknor - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	16 - - -	ditto.	
William Brown Gilzeau - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	16 - - -	ditto.	
William Henry Gilzeau - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	18 - - -	ditto.	
Eliza M'Gibbon - - -	Alippo - - -	St. Mary's - - -	ditto - - -	19 10 -	not paid.	
Bushy M'Gibbon - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	46 10 -	ditto.	
Mary Murn - - -	Essex - - -	ditto - - -	non-prædial	26 - - -	paid.	
Elizabeth Caroline - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	18 - - -	ditto.	
Bessy Smellie - - -	Platfield - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	24 10 -	ditto.	
<b>LAIDLAW, HENRY :</b>						
Mary Quin - - -	Walton - - -	St. Ann's - - -	non-prædial	26 - - -	paid.	
Henry Ratigan - - -	Amity Hall - - -	ditto - - -	prædial - - -	113 6 8	not paid.	
William Christie - - -	Pedræ's River - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	99 - - -	ditto.	
Sarah Elizabeth - - -	Retirement - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	55 6 8	paid.	
Johanna Patterson - - -	Huddon - - -	ditto - - -	non-prædial	26 - - -	paid.	
Elvidina Rose - - -	Retirement - - -	ditto - - -	prædial - - -	35 - - -	ditto.	
Ellen Garrick - - -	Belmont - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	51 6 8	ditto.	
John Black - - -	Abraham plantation - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	74 - - -	not paid.	
Thomas Pitcairn - - -	Faith Pen - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	63 5 -	paid.	
Richard Chambers - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	63 5 -	ditto.	
Elizabeth Chambers - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	49 10 -	ditto.	
Jane Maleu - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	49 10 -	ditto.	
James Laws - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	49 10 -	ditto.	
Henrietta Sinclair - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	49 10 -	not paid.	
<b>LYON, EDMUND B. :</b>						
Rosanna Robertson - - -	Dunt Robin - - -	St. Thos.-ye-East	non-prædial	20 6 8	paid.	
Jane Sherras - - -	Lyssons - - -	ditto - - -	prædial - - -	20 10 -	ditto.	
Henry Thomas - - -	Burrowfield - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	18 - - -	ditto.	
Nanny Thomas - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	10 13 4	ditto.	
Abraham Johnson - - -	Spring - - -	ditto - - -	non-prædial	16 - - -	ditto.	
Rosanna Alcock - - -	Seymour Garden - - -	St. David's - - -	prædial - - -	37 6 8	not paid.	
Bridget Wilson - - -	Montpelier - - -	St. Thos.-ye-East	ditto - - -	20 - - -	paid.	
William Howell - - -	Serge Island - - -	ditto - - -	ditto - - -	55 10 -	ditto.	
Ann Bamfylde - - -	Island Head - - -	ditto - - -	non-prædial	25 - - -	ditto.	
Robert Francis - - -	Prospect Pen - - -	ditto - - -	prædial - - -	36 - - -	ditto.	

(continued)

NAME of MAGISTRATE.	NAME of APPRENTICE.	ESTATE, or MASTER'S NAME.	PARISH.	CLASS.	VALUE.	If paid or not.
<b>LYON, EDMUND B.—continued.</b>						
	Henry Robertson	Prospect Pen	St. Thos.-ye-East	prædial	£. s. d. 17 - -	paid.
	Nelly Beckford	Boston and Buckingham	ditto	non-prædial	25 - -	ditto.
	Sarah Barnwell	Palmetto River	ditto	ditto	16 - -	ditto.
	Janette M'Pherson	Coley	ditto	ditto	10 13 4	ditto.
	William Francis	Blue Mountain	ditto	prædial	53 6 8	ditto.
	Mary A. Alpin	ditto	ditto	non-prædial	17 6 8	ditto.
<b>M'LEOD ALEX. N.</b>						
	John Willis	Stanford Hill	St. Dorothy	prædial	34 - -	paid.
<b>MORESBY, HENRY :</b>						
	William Pike	Mr. Pike	Kingston	butcher	101 3 4	paid.
	John Wilson	Catherine Seaman	ditto	domestic	36 - -	ditto.
	Robert Johnson	Mrs. Elizabeth Davis	ditto	ditto	37 10 -	ditto.
	Felice	Samuel Alleerga	ditto	ditto	31 5 -	ditto.
	Hester	Maria Bernard	ditto	ditto	39 - -	
	Francis Mowatt	Miss Booth	ditto	ditto	24 - -	
	Jane Munroe	ditto	ditto	ditto	9 - -	
	(Discharged) Adam H. Joseph	Mr. Henriques	ditto	-	16 - -	
	Peter Hibbert	Head plantation	St. Thos.-ye-East	-	25 - -	
	Eliza Brown	Juliana Askwith	Kingston	-	20 - -	
	John E. Curtis	Solomon Bennett	ditto	-	10 - -	
	William Grant	Estate of A. Donaldson	ditto	-	10 - -	
	Annette L. Crouse	Josephine Petit John	ditto	-	26 - -	
	Monomia Brown	C. Marshall	ditto	-	20 - -	
	Thomas Martin	Abraham Lazarus	ditto	-	- 5 -	- for good conduct.
	Rosanna Wilson	James Thura	ditto	-	5 6 8	ditto.
	Hugh Wilson	apprentices to James Thura.	ditto	-	16 - -	
	Morris Wilson					
	James Wilson					
	Adelina Bicca	Eleanor Hinds	-	-	- 1 -	- for good conduct.
	Charles Skerrett	Mr. Castello	-	-	- - -	ditto.
	Eliza Fyfe	Mr. Nethersole	-	-	- - -	
<b>MARLTON, W. F. :</b>						
	Eliza Lewis	Ramble	St. Mary's	præ. attached	53 1 10	not paid.
	Philip Roden	ditto	ditto	ditto	53 1 10	ditto.
	Jane Marshall	John Greenland	ditto	non-prædial	31 2 3	paid.
	Ann Dacres	Pamberton Valley	ditto	præ. attached	46 4 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	not paid.
	Peter Neil	ditto	ditto	ditto	72 4 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	ditto.
	Mary A. M'Kay	ditto	ditto	non-prædial	31 2 3	ditto.
	William Davis	Leich settlement	ditto	ditto	31 2 3	paid.
	Eliza Campbell	ditto	ditto	ditto	31 2 3	ditto.
	Elizabeth Williams	ditto	ditto	ditto	18 13 4	ditto.
	Henry Tucker	ditto	ditto	ditto	28 8 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	ditto.
	Malvina M'Pherson	Albion	ditto	ditto	18 - -	ditto.
	Regina Dias	Tryall	ditto	præ. attached	36 16 8	not paid.
	Desiah Attry	ditto	ditto	non-prædial	30 - -	ditto.
	Robert Frank	Fellowship Hall	ditto	præ. attached	48 3 4	paid.
	Mary A. Gordon	ditto	ditto	ditto	36 16 8	ditto.
	Sally Jacques	ditto	ditto	ditto	41 3 4	not paid.
	Mercella Wilson	Langley	ditto	non-prædial	23 2 3	paid.
	Nancy	E. R. Jackson	St. Catherine's	ditto	9 14 6	ditto.
	Joseph Russell	Twickenham Park	ditto	præ. attached	64 - -	not paid.
	Susan Tulloch	ditto	ditto	ditto	22 4 7	paid.
<b>NOLAN, JAMES :</b>						
	Eliza Hissom	Straton Hall	Vere	non-prædial	27 11 9	paid.
	Catherine Fitzgerald	Moreland	ditto	ditto	24 - -	ditto.
	William Roberts	Straton Hall	ditto	prædial	43 - -	not paid.
<b>OLIVER, THOMAS M. :</b>						
	Elizabeth Stone James	Carrowena	Westmoreland	non-prædial	24 - -	paid.
	Sarah M'Culloch	Basil Drummond	ditto	prædial	28 6 8	ditto.
	Eleanor Cope	Thomas Bird, esq.	ditto	non-prædial	28 17 10	ditto.
	Jane Shrangle	Mr. Shares	ditto	ditto	23 2 4	not paid.
<b>ODELL, JOHN. - No valuations to date.</b>						
<b>PRYCE, SAMUEL :</b>						
	Mary Walker	Tweed House	Trelawny	prædial	43 6 8	not paid.
	Julian Reid	Pembroke	ditto	non-prædial	24 - -	paid.
	Paul Doig	Wakefield	ditto	ditto	12 - -	not paid.

NAME of MAGISTRATE.	NAME of APPRENTICE.	ESTATE, or MASTER'S NAME.	PARISH.	CLASS.	VALUE.	If paid or not.
<b>PRYCE, SAMUEL—continued.</b>						
					£. s. d.	
	James Broderick - -	Friendship - -	Trelawny - -	prædial - -	70 - -	not paid.
	William Rosseter - -	Tweed House - -	ditto - -	non-prædial - -	36 16 2	paid.
	James Falding - -	Cambridge - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	30 - -	ditto.
	Edward Dale - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	prædial - -	75 - -	not paid.
	James Leamy - -	Merrywood - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	68 - -	ditto.
<b>PHILP, E. D. :</b>						
	William Pringle - -	Hope Wharf - -	Westmoreland - -	non-prædial - -	18 - -	not paid.
	Sarah S. Thomas - -	Theodore Stone - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	22 10 -	paid.
	George A. Richards - -	Fontabelle - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	30 - -	ditto.
	Elizabeth Chamberlaine - -	Meylersfield - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	14 8 11	ditto.
	Maria Tincano - -	Masenare - -	ditto - -	prædial - -	10 17 10	ditto.
	Georgiana Pringle - -	Mount Eagle - -	ditto - -	non-prædial - -	21 13 4	ditto.
	Hester Fisher - -	Glasgow - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	22 4 6	ditto.
<b>REYNOLDS, JOHN :</b>						
	Ann Bonnick - -	Kensington - -	St. Elizabeth - -	non-prædial - -	21 13 4	paid.
	S. Graham - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	prædial - -	15 - -	ditto.
	S. Rembhard - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	do. carpenter	52 - -	ditto.
<b>RENNELL, ROBERT :</b>						
	Elizabeth Breecher - -	Hiattsfeld - -	St. Ann's - -	præ. attached	22 4 6	paid.
<b>RAMSAY, WILLIAM : - No valuations to report.</b>						
<b>RAWLINSON, S. :</b>						
	Mary Cooper Williams - -	D. Edward Tucker - -	St. Ann - -	non-prædial - -	30 - -	paid.
	Sarah Higgin - -	Estate of David Higgin - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	24 - -	ditto.
	Ann Samuels - -	Retreat - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	29 - -	ditto.
	George Henry Warren - -	Miss Senior - -	ditto - -	prædial - -	70 16 8	ditto.
	Grace M'Kenzie - -	Knappdale - -	ditto - -	non-prædial - -	27 - -	not paid.
	Henry Lynch - -	Dunbenton - -	ditto - -	prædial - -	42 10 -	paid.
	Rose Sadler - -	Hopewell - -	ditto - -	non-prædial - -	21 13 4	ditto.
	James Brown - -	Minard - -	ditto - -	prædial - -	63 17 10	not paid.
	James Brown - -	Huntley - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	44 8 11	paid.
	Ann Vernon - -	Berridale - -	ditto - -	non-prædial - -	20 4 6	ditto.
	William Ricketts - -	Thatchfield - -	ditto - -	prædial - -	55 11 2	not paid.
	Susan Cross - -	Elizabeth Tulloch - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	35 7 10	ditto.
<b>SAWLEY, WILLIAM H. :</b>						
	Ann Davis - -	Bog plantation - -	St. Ann - -	prædial - -	43 6 8	not paid.
	Catherine James - -	Endeavour plantation - -	ditto - -	non-prædial - -	26 - -	paid.
	Caroline L. Martin - -	Sarah M. Martin - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	31 17 11	ditto.
	Esther Cohen - -	Miss O'Brien - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	12 15 2	not paid.
	John Barnett - -	Richmond Castle - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	21 10 7	paid.
	John Henry - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	prædial - -	166 2 3	not paid.
	Joe Walkis - -	Seville estate - -	ditto - -	non-prædial - -	21 10 7	paid.
	Elizabeth Thomas - -	Windsor estate - -	ditto - -	prædial - -	55 7 5	ditto.
	Samuel Mitton - -	Miss Jackson - -	ditto - -	non-prædial - -	35 11 1	not paid.
	Francis M'Cook - -	Richmond estate - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	12 - 9	paid.
	Samuel Wynder - -	New Ground estate - -	ditto - -	prædial - -	23 11 10	not paid.
<b>St. JOHN, RICHARD : - No valuations to date.</b>						
<b>St. JOHN, JAMES H. :</b>						
	Susanna Young - -	Betsy Boog - -	Port Royal - -	non-prædial - -	- - -	- not registered.
	William Moss - -					
	James Moss - -					
	Robert Moss - -	Abraham Depass - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	- - -	ditto.
	Richard Williams - -					
	Robert Campbell - -	Elizabeth Pearce - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	- - -	- good and faithful services.
	Eliza M'Coy - -					
	Sarah Fowler - -					
	Charlotte M'Coy - -					
	Harriett Fowler - -	Joseph Hely - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	- - -	ditto.
	Mary Winter - -					
	Robert Massina - -	Jacob Aloarangu - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	- - -	purchase.
	William Russell - -	Ellis Russell - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	- - -	- good and faithful services.
	Henry Pincomb - -					
	Daniel Patterson - -	L. C. Audenette - -	ditto - -	ditto - -	- - -	ditto.
	Lucy - -	Port Royal - -	ditto - -	prædial - -	- - -	- - having been advertised & not claimed.

(continued)

NAME of MAGISTRATE.	NAME of APPRENTICE.	ESTATE, or MASTER'S NAME.	PARISH.	CLASS.	VALUE.	If paid or not.
<b>ST. JOHN, JAMES H.—continued.</b>						
Rose	-	- Francis and Elizabeth Beer.	Port Royal	non-prædial	£. s. d.	good & faithful services.
Susanna Stevens	-	Green	ditto	ditto	- - -	purchase.
Olivia Roberts	-	Eliz. Lorette Chey	ditto	ditto	- - -	good & faithful services.
<b>THOMPSON, ROBERT :</b>						
Richard Davis	-	Sam. Spearman, esq.	St. Elizabeth	non-prædial	44 6 8	not paid.
Margaret Lewis	-	- Alex. Granston, S. settler.	ditto	prædial	34 6 8	paid.
Simon Lindo	-	John M'Intyre, a minor	ditto	ditto	34 6 8	ditto.
Catherine Labor	-	Estate of Pat. Lalor	ditto	non-prædial	23 10 -	ditto.
James M. Graham	-	Newell Pen	ditto	prædial	52 - -	ditto.
John Francis Baker	-	ditto	ditto	ditto	72 - -	ditto.
Eleanor Mitchel	-	Hermitage Pen	ditto	ditto	32 - -	not paid.
James Taylor	-	Susan B. Cole, S. S.	ditto	ditto	26 - -	ditto.
Cecilia Dennis	-	Salt Spring Pen	ditto	ditto	17 6 8	paid.
John Harrison	-	- Berry Hill, hired to R. Brown.	Manchester	non-prædial	21 3 -	ditto.
James Daly	-	Font Hill estate	St. Elizabeth	prædial	80 - -	not paid.
Susan Dennis, alias Cole	-	Salt Spring Pen	ditto	ditto	38 - -	paid.
<b>THOMAS, J. R. :</b>						
Anne Davis	-	Kent	Trelawny	non-prædial	20 4 4	not paid.
Joseph Morris	-	- Ann Morris, of Salt Marsh.	ditto	ditto	31 2 3	paid.
Anne Phillips	-	Eliz. H. Burrowes	ditto	ditto	15 5 7	ditto.
Isabella Crawford	-	Carrick Foyle	ditto	prædial	11 13 -	ditto.
John Harenwood	-	Oxford	ditto	ditto	45 15 7	not paid.
Robert Anderson	-	Yatman's estate	ditto	non-prædial	50 - -	paid.
Charles Wright	-	Florence Hall estate	ditto	prædial	70 16 8	not paid.
Mary Broadley	-	Eliz., Earl of Falmouth	ditto	non-prædial	15 - -	paid.
Robert Gordon	-	ditto	ditto	ditto	16 10 -	ditto.
Mary Burge	-	Tileston	ditto	ditto	22 10 -	ditto.
Catherine Davis	-	Kent estate	ditto	ditto	22 10 -	ditto.
Mary Blight	-	- Barrow Bamott, Falmouth.	ditto	ditto	22 10 -	ditto.
Frederick Lecain	-	Irving Tower	ditto	prædial	56 2 3	not paid.
Prince Hodges	-	Mrs. D. Hodgson	ditto	non-prædial	36 16 2	ditto.
Elizabeth Smith	-	Fontabelle estate	ditto	ditto	21 13 4	paid.
Ann Hudson	-	- Judith Hines, Salt Marsh.	ditto	ditto	20 4 6	not paid.
Sarah Wright	-	Eliz. Milne, Falmouth	ditto	ditto	14 3 4	paid.
Letitia Edwards	-	- Jane Meighan, Falmouth.	ditto	ditto	19 6 8	ditto.
Louisa Lilly	-	Seafield Pen	ditto	ditto	17 - -	ditto.
Mary Martin	-	- William Atterbury, Falmouth.	ditto	ditto	29 12 7	not paid.
Jane Vernon	-	- Mary A. Thompson, Rock.	ditto	ditto	3 9 6	ditto.
David Lyon	-	Fontabelle estate	ditto	prædial	24 10 -	ditto.
<b>WALSH, HENRY :</b>						
Jane Tracey	-	- Mrs. Wray, Mango Valley.	St. Mary's	prædial	62 11 10	paid.
Edward Reay	-	ditto	ditto	ditto	62 11 10	not paid.
Elizabeth Kelly	-	ditto	ditto	ditto	37 11 2 ½	ditto.
Frederick Notice	-	Gayle estate	ditto	ditto	62 11 10	ditto.
Charles Byfield	-	Breezy Hill, Mrs. Tharp	ditto	ditto	75 2 3	paid.
Milly Cox	-	Bagnall Spring	ditto	ditto	60 3 8	not paid.
George King	-	Goshen Pen	ditto	ditto	100 - -	ditto.
Jane Helnsy	-	Mango Valley	ditto	ditto	60 3 8	ditto.
Amelia Davies	-	ditto	ditto	ditto	30 1 10	ditto.
Morgiana Hamilton	-	ditto	ditto	ditto	36 2 3	ditto.
<b>WETH, ARTHUR :</b>						
Isabella Newman	-	Hartham	Manchester	præ. attached	53 6 8	not paid.
Rebecca Thompson	-	ditto	ditto	- - -	53 6 8	ditto.
<b>WOOLFRIES, JOHN :</b>						
Ann R. Coombs	-	Union Pen	St. Ann	non-prædial	36 8 11	not paid.
Sarah Wheeler	-	White River estate	ditto	ditto	36 - -	paid.
<b>WILLIS, GEORGE, junior :</b>						
John Frasier	-	Frazerfield	St. Thos.-ye-East	prædial	43 6 8	not paid.
A. R. Murray	-	Bath	ditto	non-prædial	60 - -	paid.

NAME of MAGISTRATE.	NAME of APPRENTICE.	ESTATE, or MASTER'S NAME.	PARISH.	CLASS.	VALUE.	If paid or not.
<i>WILLIS, GEORGE, jun.—continued.</i>						
	Thomas Edwards	Essex	St. Thos.-ye-East	prædial	£. s. d. 70 16 8	not paid
	Thomas M'Dermot	Green Castle	ditto	ditto	111 2 3	paid.
	Mysie Cargill	Stoak's Hall	ditto	ditto	38 13 11	ditto.
	William Cooke	Whealersfield	ditto	non-prædial	25 - -	ditto.
<i>WADDINGTON, H. :</i>						
	Charlotte Williams	Shaw Park	St. Ann	non-prædial	27 - -	not paid.
	Thomas Chambers	ditto	ditto	ditto	24 8 3	ditto.
	William Allen	ditto	ditto	ditto	28 17 10	paid.
	George M'Farlane	Seaman's Valley	Portland	prædial	32 13 4	ditto.
<i>PALMER, DR. : - No valuations to date.</i>						
<i>DAUGHTREY, JOHN :</i>						
	Ann Philpots	Y. S.	St. Elizabeth	non-prædial	26 - -	not paid.
	Frederick Williams	Spring Mount	ditto	præ. carpenter	91 - -	ditto.
	J. F. Burnthorn	Y. S.	ditto	ditto	55 - -	ditto.
	John Wallis	Woodside	ditto	prædial	50 - -	paid.
	Thomas Green	ditto	ditto	ditto	50 - -	not paid.
	Collin Innis	ditto	ditto	ditto	30 - -	paid.
	Thomas White	Bayne's Town	ditto	ditto	42 - -	ditto.
	Susan Mery	The Kepp	ditto	non-prædial	30 - -	ditto.
	Louisa Brook	Bayne's Town	ditto	ditto	30 - -	not paid.
	James M'Gavin	ditto	ditto	ditto	10 - -	paid.
	Letitia Brown	Ipswich	ditto	prædial	33 - -	ditto.
	Felicia Spence	Woodside	ditto	ditto	16 10 -	ditto.
	Edward Barley	Mr. Dobb	ditto	ditto	49 - -	not paid.
<i>GRANT, JOHN W. :</i>						
	Mary Smith	Silver Grove	Manchester	non-prædial	37 13 4	paid.
	Henry Cohen	Wilderness	ditto	præ. carpenter	136 - -	not paid.
	Ellen Gibbon	Ramble	Clarendon	non-prædial	22 4 2	paid.
	Jane Russel	Melrose	Manchester	ditto	16 13 4	ditto.
<i>GREGG, GILMORE D. :</i>						
	Catharine Bailey	Dry River	Trelawny	prædial	- - -	- - to be revalued.
	Maria Vernon	Hyde estate	ditto	ditto	56 - -	paid.
<i>EWART, DAVID :</i>						
	David Stuart	G. Turner	St. Thos.-ye-East	præ. attached	60 - -	paid.

(No. 11.)

EXTRACT from the CALENDAR of SENTENCES passed at the *Cornwall* Assizes, July 1836.

The King *against* Thomas Jenkins and others, for Maltreatment.

THAT Thomas Jenkins be and stand committed to the common gaol for the space of six months, and that John Thomas and Archibald Campbell do severally receive 39 lashes with a cat on the bare back, in the public market-place, to-morrow morning, and then be discharged.

For evidence on the trial, *vide* Parliamentary Papers relating to the Abolition of Slavery, 1836, Part III.-1, p. 301.

— No. 538. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to the Marquis of *Sligo*.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 22 July 1836.

No. 538.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a circular despatch, which I have addressed to the Governors of the several West Indian colonies, containing a series of questions to be submitted to the special magistrates.

*Vide* Lord *Glenelg's* circular despatch, 15 July 1836, R. P. 5.

I send it, however, merely for your information, as I have no wish to interfere with the arrangements which your Lordship has already made for the same object, which are calculated fully to answer the purpose which I have in view, so far as relates to Jamaica.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

JAMAICA.

— No. 539. —

EXTRACTS of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Highgate, Jamaica, 28 July 1836.

No. 539.

Vide Enclosure,  
No. 6.

So short a time, not ten days, having elapsed since I last had the honour to address you on the general state of the island, little remains for me to say, excepting that as far my knowledge of the country goes, all is going on as well as possible. Various documents are as usual enclosed herewith. To one I beg particularly to call your Lordship's attention; I allude to Mr. Daughtrey's July special quarterly report, which the rain prevented my receiving in time for the last packet. No. 3 also shows how the overseers are now commencing in St. James's to desire to make the payment of the fines inflicted on them for oppression, by the special justices, a still further oppression on the whole gang. I must, however, say that this, as yet, has only been found to prevail in the parish of St. James's.

## Enclosures in No. 539.

## LIST of DOCUMENTS.

Enclosures in  
No. 539.

1. Mr. Hawkins on the injurious effects of the eight-hour system.
2. Captain P. Brown's report of the cause of the failure of crop at Morant estate.
3. A statement made by Mr. Carnaby, a special justice of St. James's, of an overseer, declaring that he would pay the fine against himself for oppression, by stopping the herrings of the gang.
4. Mr. Lyon's report of the good conduct of the negroes in his district, evincing their confidence in him.
5. Colonel Gregg's last quarterly special report (not come in till now, in consequence of his severe illness).
6. Mr. Daughtrey's quarterly special report.
7. Mr. Lyon's report of two further instances of good conduct on the part of the apprentices, and of confidence in him.
8. Mr. Gregg, stating that Mr. Brown, overseer of Jock's Lodge, ordered his constable into the field to work with a hoe.
9. St. Catherine.—Flogging women on the tread-wheel.—Deposition of Amelia Hutchinson.
10. St. Dorothy and Vere.—Deposition of Ann Vidal Williams.
11. Mr. Hamilton, respecting the case of the negroes on Drummond Castle estate.
12. Mr. Gregg, stating that Catherine Bailey has been ordered to go into the field.

(No. 1.)

My Lord,

Aberdeen, Rio Bueno, P. O., 19 July 1836.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's circular of the 12th instant, No. 4533, containing two additional instructions, viz. 45 and 46.

I shall pay every attention to your Excellency's orders on the subject.

I consider the eight-hour system most oppressive on the apprentice, the Sunday market being ordered to be discontinued also; that the apprentices cannot by that system work their grounds and bring their produce to market on the Saturdays; in fact, my Lord, I am convinced that much less work is performed when the eight-hour system is worked than the nine; the apprentices dislike it much, and complain that they have not time to procure provisions for their immediate use; on all the properties in which the eight hours has been enforced, the complaints are more frequent, and more ill feeling between the master and the apprentice, it being considered a punishment, therefore naturally resisted by all the means in the apprentice's power; was the nine-hour system to be the only one, I have every reason to think the apprentice would work more cheerfully.

I have, &amp;c.

His Excellency the Marquis of Sligo,  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) C. Hawkins,  
Special Justice.

(No. 2.)

## FOR his Excellency's Information.

MORANT has not yet finished crop. I regret to state that with the finest prospect of a probable crop of 200 hogsheads, or an estimate of 170 on an average, it will not be possible to make more than 125 hogsheads, and not 50 puncheons of rum; the canes yield very badly, many rot on the ground, and are destroyed by rats from lying uncut so long.

Made to this date 116 hogsheads.

Morant, 20 July 1836.

Philip Browne.

(No. 3.)

My Lord,

Montego Bay, 19 July 1836.

IN my diary for this week your Excellency will observe a variety of cases from Catherine Mount estate, under date the 18th instant.

I consider it my duty to call your Excellency's notice to those of *Brown versus Reynolds*, and *Lewis versus Brown*, and with this view I have the honour to enclose to your Excellency a copy of each case as taken from my note-book.

The first case will show in what way the overseer intends to defray the fine recorded against him; and the second I leave, without a single remark, for your Excellency's directions on the subject.

The other magistrates joined with me in opinion that the witness Allen, from his prevarication in giving evidence in the other cases, was unworthy of holding a commission, and he was accordingly declared no longer a constable.

I have, &amp;c.

His Excellency, the Marquis of Sligo,  
&c. &c. &c.(signed) *W. Carnaby*, Special Justice.

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CASES decided upon *Catherine Mount Estate*, by Messrs. *Cooper, Facey & Carnaby*, upon 18th July 1836.

Messrs. *Carey & Jamp*, Attorneys for the Property, and *Jonathan Brown*, Overseer.

First Complaint:—Mr. *Brown against Edward Reynolds*, apprentice.

Grounds as given by Mr. *Brown*:—"For putting mischief into the heads of the other apprentices."

*Evidence*.—*William Allen*, a constable, sworn, deposes, That last week the defendant told witness that *Busha* had given him no breakfast-time, and had not blown shell, and was rather saucy to witness; that this took place at shell-blow in the afternoon; that defendant was then going to the field, and witness told him to hold his tongue, and he would not do so, and *Busha* then told witness that he must lock up defendant, and he was then locked up till next day at shell-blow, dinner time; that defendant, when so speaking to witness, was in the field, and in the presence of the other apprentices; that he considered his manner insolent in addressing witness thus: "You man, don't bodder me."

*John Reynolds*, apprentice, sworn, deposes and corroborates last witness, but that defendant did not speak again after being told by *Allen* to be quiet, until *Busha* ordered him into custody, and when so going to be locked up, he continued to talk to constable about time. That he was locked up for talking about breakfast and dinner time.

*William Brown*, sworn, deposes, That on the occasion alluded to, defendant was behind he others in turning out at dinner time. That *Allen* challenged him for being behind, and he gave him saucy answers, and continued to do so after being told by *Allen* to shut his mouth, and then witness ordered him to be locked up for the night. That his sauce was complaining that he had got neither breakfast time nor shell-blow.

*Decision*.—Admonished and discharged, because of being previously punished by incarceration, and Mr. *Brown* fined 20 s. for the illegal confinement, who on this being announced to him remarked "that their herrings must pay for it."

*Complaint*.—*Robert Lewis*, a constable upon *Catherine Mount*, against Mr. *Brown* for putting him, from being a driver, to work in the field, on the ground, as the man alleges, that he gave evidence against *Busha*, in a case heard in the court-room, Montego Bay, upon 11th June 1836.

Mr. *Brown*, on being asked for a defence, admitted that he sent the man into the field because he did not then tell the truth, and was not attending to his work.

*Decision*.—Because of the particular and new features of the case, postponed consideration of the question of fine or other disposal of it till the case is reported to the Governor, and his Excellency's opinion is known as to Mr. *Brown's* interference with the channel of justice.

Montego Bay, 19 July 1836.

(signed) *William Carnaby*, Special Justice.

(No. 4.)

Palmetto River, St. Thomas in the East,  
20 July 1836.

My Lord,

I AM very happy I am afforded the opportunity of transmitting to your Excellency a striking instance of good feeling on the part of the apprentices of *Coley*, and of confidence in myself.

The water-wheel at *Coley* broke down repeatedly, and at last was irreparable, and considerable delay was occasioned before a new wheel could be erected; and in consequence a large portion of the crop would have been lost for this year, and much loss occasioned to the proprietor, unless the people could be induced to work all night; to effect this, the attorney applied to me to use my influence; I did so, and not only readily got their acquiescence, but



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as I was not authorized to offer any particular rate of wages, the apprentices said they would not require to be paid until they had finished crop, and would leave the settlement of their wages to me.

His Excellency the Marquis of Sligo,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Edmund B. Lyon,*  
Special Justice.

(No. 5.)

My Lord Marquis,

Trelawny, July 1836.

In laying before your Lordship such observations as I may have made upon the working of the Abolition Law, I must beg to say, that though I am no politician, still, from a desire to fulfil your Excellency's good intentions, I am in some measure compelled to take the strongest interest in, and most minutely watch the internal working of the Abolition Law, and candidly make known to your Excellency my observations thereon.

Having witnessed the noble and generous sacrifice of the British nation to complete that greatest of all human blessings, rescuing a nation from slavery, I feel myself called upon to contribute my mite, by honestly declaring and faithfully reporting what is passing under my own eyes; not caring or dreading the consequences attendant upon an expose of my opinions.

It has been loudly proclaimed that no opposition is given to the Abolition Law or its workings:—I grant the fact, for the special magistrates are kept too much on the alert by your Lordship's indefatigable mode of business; therefore, the letter of the law is in a very great measure fulfilled; but, my Lord, is the spirit of the Abolition Law complied with? Surely, there are none residing in this country that will say the spirit of the Abolition Law is fully entered into. Few, very few, can say this! Why, it is just as reasonable to expect that the London pick-pocket will leave off his old trade because the House of Commons have passed a law declaring pick-pocketing illegal, as to expect that persons, who for 50 years have governed with arbitrary power, will, because it is the law of the land, become not only mild in their government, but that they will fully enter into the spirit of the law. It is not uncommon to hear it said, whenever the special magistrate has occasion to fine for a violation of the law, that he (the person fined) will the next time take d——d good care and give the d——d black scoundrel a d——d good hiding, and then pay his 5*l.* contentedly for it. This reminds one of the story of the sailor, who was fined by a court one guinea for having knocked out a Jew's eye, who, on being informed of the sentence, threw down two, saying, There, but I must have the other eye.

There are many ways of evading the law; for, like smugglers, the greater the difficulties the more plans are laid; and, as my assertions may go for no more than such, I hope I may be permitted to point out a few of the methods used, and that too by those, generally speaking, who most loudly proclaim their desire that it may have a fair trial; before, however, I enter upon this subject, I hope I may be allowed to state that the apprentice on his part does not evince that desire to work which has been supposed by many, but will, on his part, evade the law whenever he possibly can, by every species of low cunning which a savage usually displays when he desires to gain a point. Now, whether this arises from his great ignorance, or whether it arises from a desire to oppose the master, or manager, or proprietor, or attorney, or overseer, or call them by what name you will (say master), who, as I before said, loses no opportunity of evading the spirit of the law, some better judge must decide. I shall content myself with pointing out some of the methods used.

Suppose the parents of a boy of about 12 or 13 years desire to purchase his freedom, because the master is constantly finding fault with the boy; well, the necessary steps are taken, and the master comes forward and says in evidence, Why he is a very smart boy, and gives him a good character, and though the parents may be astonished, yet they are not going to contradict what they really believe to be true, consequently the boy is valued at a price higher and perhaps beyond the reach of the parents.—Again,

An old man or woman requires to get at that haven with which for the last three quarters of a century she has by hope been led to expect she would arrive at, and after she has not only given her children, but her grand children to the estate, and after having given some fifty years of good and faithful services with not a spot or blemish upon her character during all that period, but on the contrary, as she now is unable to work, (though still in perfect health) yet from her upright conduct she is put to superintend a gang, what then is the consequence? Why, her master declares her invaluable! and mark why! because she is past the time of breeding, and because she is in charge of a gang, and because she has been an excellent woman all the days of her life, so that *bonâ fide* now all her good deeds stand in judgment against her, and because she has been a good and faithful servant, she cannot now obtain what on earth she most desires:—Again, an apprentice and master cannot agree perhaps, because the apprentice shows directly or indirectly that he is no longer a slave, and a bad feeling exists; consequently the apprentice wishes to get from under the eye of him he most fears, and therefore most hates, but has not the means of purchasing his freedom; he, however, runs to the magistrate, on whom he looks as superior to his master, and he tells the magistrate how he hates his master, or perhaps how his master hates him, and requests the magistrate to give him a paper to work out; as the magistrate cannot do this he promises to speak to his master, which he does, but no, the master, either from a wish to show the apprentice that the magistrate is not all powerful, or from a wish to annoy the apprentice, or from any other splenetic motive, meets the magistrate with the plausible argument

argument of "How, sir! do you expect me to hire out so able a hand when I am actually paying jobbers to bring up the neglected work of the apprentices?" It is by these and a thousand such oppositions that the spirit of the law as well as the true spirit of harmony which ought to exist between master and apprentice, is disturbed; the consequence is, the apprentices go to the field, not to work, but to talk over their grievances, or over politics, or over anything you please. Then the master finds a passive resistance which he cannot comprehend why it should exist, for, as he says, they have no cause of complaint, they have had their cloth, their days, their fish, their grounds, &c., &c., &c., so away he runs to his neighbour, shows the work, takes his opinion upon it, then calls in the magistrate, has his neighbour to survey, and finally takes all those steps which the law places within his reach to recover, or, as he calls it, bring back the apprentice to sense of his duty, at the same time he hesitates not to declare, "Oh! the system is not working well;" and which with him is *bonâ fide* a fact; but then comes the question, "if the master had not commenced, would the apprentice have done so?" This question, like all others respecting the negro's character, is not so easily answered, and why? because the real character of the negro is little known; and in proof of what I say, I may refer to the statements so often made during the agitation of the question of emancipation, and that too by those possessed of very great means of correct information; I allude to the declaration that the negro would never be induced to work for hire, and which now appears so unfounded that the apprentices go from estate to estate to hire themselves, with an avidity that is incredible, abandoning or neglecting their grounds to an extraordinary degree, and which is so severely felt at this present writing by those who have to send to market, that now you will get less provisions for 20s. than could formerly be had for 6s. 8d. Again comes the question, If the master had acceded to the request of allowing the apprentice to hire himself out, could not he (the master) have obtained a volunteer for the wages paid him by his apprentice, besides the very great likelihood of the apprentice himself cooling down when he found that he had to travel so much further to his grounds, or to work so much harder to obtain a hired place; for though an estate may put up with laziness on the part of their own apprentices because they cannot help themselves, yet quere, would they be inclined to pay wages to bad workmen? I think not. Therefore when this spirit of passive resistance shows itself, the master, who hates to lower his own authority in the eyes of his former vassal by the calling in a magistrate, endeavours to check that resistance by annoying the apprentice, and one of the modes of doing this is thus: generally speaking, the negro's grounds are at a very considerable distance from the works, and situated in mountainous parts, such as will not easily serve for the manufacture of colonial produce, consequently very difficult of access, say 10 or 12 miles. The master, as I before said, prefers annoying the apprentice to lowering himself, as he calls it, by calling in the magistrate. As the law now stands, the master is only compelled to give 26 whole days in the year for the cultivation of his grounds, without specifying the particular day of the week when that day or half day is to be given; and as the afternoon of Friday is the most desirable for the apprentice, in consequence of the next day being Saturday, the master informs his apprentices that they cannot have Friday afternoon, as he wants it, but will give them the Monday afternoon in lieu thereof; but of what service is Monday afternoon to the apprentices, whose grounds are distant one hour's walk to get there and one to return, and this to people already fatigued from the forenoon's work, particularly when they do not derive an immediate benefit from their exertions; what then are the natural consequences? the women go prowling about the estate for food for their hogs; the better class of men, who have a supper, sit down in their huts, and over their pipes plan some mode of annoying their master, and no doubt seldom separate without some passive resistance plan being settled upon, while those apprentices who have no supper, proceed to procure one of course at their master's expense.

There is also another plan, by working the eight-hour system.

I have now endeavoured to point out what appears to me to be the general conduct of apprentice and master; but I hope I may be permitted to state a few exceptions which exist in my district; for instance, upon Hyde-hall estate, proprietor Mr. Sherley, and overseer and attorney Mr. Bernard Scharschmidt, in conjunction with Mr. George Marrett as attorney. On this estate things are managed, as they must be after 1840, upon a liberal plan, yet at the same time strictly economical; for instance, the actual cash paid may be from 1,200 l. to 1,500 l. currency this crop, and for this the return may at the lowest calculation be some 7,000 l. or 8,000 l. sterling; added to this Mr. Scharschmidt has introduced railroads with the greatest possible success, the expense of putting up which cannot exceed 100 l. currency, which in one crop will almost be saved.

There is another point which I deem necessary to state in favour of Mr. Scharschmidt's judicious management, without meaning any disparagement to the other gentlemen who are in charge of properties, and that is, that notwithstanding the very large amount of wages he pays, I never hear the apprentices complaining that massa owe me 50 cane-holes, or massa owe me half a day, or massa owe me 5d., and which generally shows a too strict attention to economy, or perhaps I should rather say, "a penny wise and pound foolish policy," and which, when I do find, make me think something rotten in the state of Denmark; now it is very difficult for the magistrate to settle legally these trifles, and with your Excellency's permission, I intend, notwithstanding it imposes upon me an increase of duty, to write to the attorney in every such case; for I hope by this means to introduce the system of the overseer or manager listening to the complaint of the apprentice instead of sending them away, perhaps because the master has had the story already from the driver, or some other person in authority.

In the foregoing remarks I trust your Excellency will see that I am only actuated by  
a desire

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a desire of giving such information as may be useful, and which I have not been able to forward before, from a severe fit of illness.

I have, &c.

*Gilmore D'Ames Gregg*, Special Justice.

To his Excellency  
The Marquis of Sligo, &c. &c. &c.

(No. 6.)

My Lord,

St. Elizabeth's, July 1836.

HAVING in my brief weekly notices of the state of this district, glanced at nearly every point of interest and importance which has occurred under my observation, I have but little that is new to offer in the present report.

Generally, I may say that things continue to present a favourable and improving aspect; to say otherwise would not only be contrary to my conviction, but to the evidence of my senses, and to the avowed opinion of a majority of the persons who have the various properties under their charge.

Of the four sugar estates, which are all the district comprises, three have done remarkably well, having exceeded last year's crop; Holland, by nearly 50 hogsheads, and Y. S. and Ipswich united (which are under one management), to about the same extent. It is a considerable time since they made so much; Laconia has not been so successful, for which various causes might be assigned.

These results have been secured with an unusually small loss of stock, much less than the common proportion under the old system. Nor have the other interests of the respective estates been sacrificed, as many persons confidently affirmed must be the case; this kind of policy would soon make itself felt; the motives which urged it often in former days no longer exist. Those who manage the estates in question are not the men to force an extended crop for a year or two for the sake of a little temporary credit, at so serious a cost; so far from it, their plans are laid for a gradually increasing return, and which I have no doubt they will be able to make. All admit that the quality of their sugar has never been better.

The pimento crop of this district, which is now nearly finished, has been abundant. From the difficulty, in one or two instances, of procuring at the proper moment the additional labour required for its collection, a portion of it, I regret to say, has been unavoidably lost. Still there must have been large export of this article. It has the advantage of requiring no cultivation.

Ginger has also been productive, though there may have been partial failures. More was planted by some persons than there was any rational prospect of their securing when ripe, for the work connected with ginger, though easy enough, is tedious, and where the growth is extensive, the numerical strength employed upon it must of course be in proportion. The aggregate quantity must, however, have been considerable, much having been produced by free settlers, negroes and brown people, a class increasing in numbers in some of these mountains, and I am happy to add, in perseverance and industry.

Planters' stock, steers, mules, &c., are in universal demand, and I find all parties calculating upon a speedy and decided advance in price. Owing to the paralyzing influence of the opinion so many had unfortunately imbibed, that sugar estates must of necessity go down under the new system of labour; they neglected, it is said, to replenish their stock of cattle as formerly; and now that these delusions (the offspring of prejudice) have been pretty generally dissipated, efforts are being made which must of necessity lead to a large demand for working stock, and these improve the value and the prospects of pen properties.

All the ships frequenting this port have gone home this season with full-cargoes, and in some instances, to my own knowledge, parties have had difficulty to get their produce away. The collective amount of the smaller articles, the growth of the numerous free settlers before referred to, must have been one cause of this unexpected excess.

Taking the district throughout, a rather large amount of labour has been lately obtained by the hire of apprentices in their own time. The prevalence in this part of the island of the nine-hour system has been of course favourable to it. They are not disposed, however, to work at a very low rate of hire; a macaroni is refused, 2s. 1d. and 2s. 6d. is what they more generally demand. On sugar estates where the plough is not used, their services can be secured to dig cane holes at the rate of half a dollar per hundred holes, which is a good day's work; on these occasions they will sometimes make such an exertion as to finish their task by two o'clock; but the consequence is apt to be, that the Sunday is spent in lassitude at home, and the Monday in the hospital of the estate. When all their time is their own it will be their interest to be more prudent. Slavery has kept them in many respects comparatively children—children in real wisdom—not in cunning and sagacity.

It is observed, almost universally, that they prefer working for hire on other properties rather than on those to which they are fixed. The bondage in which they grew up seems to have induced a disposition to secrecy and reserve with regard to their gains and possessions; or perhaps there is a more perfect feeling of the freedom of the labour when bestowed away from the places where it has always been compulsory.

Efforts of this kind clearly prove, at any rate, that the negro is capable of being stimulated to labour by the ordinary motives which actuate our common nature.

That

That the majority of them will work at the expiration of the apprenticeship, either for themselves or others, no doubt can remain; some are already purchasing small portions of land, to turn to account in their own time, or to fall back upon, should circumstances at the end of the term incline them to do so. From four to five pounds per acre is the price usually given; they will have only what is good, indeed I may say the best, and there are no better judges of the qualities of soil and of its capabilities than they. Other things being equal, they have favourite situations. Mountain land, a social neighbourhood, and spots fitted for ginger, seem to command their preference; and the vicinity of a place of Divine worship forms an additional attraction.

The more intelligent part of them evidently begin to contemplate the final change in their civil condition as an impressive reality, and now not a very distant one. There are indications already that a considerable number have no intention of withdrawing from the properties to which they are now attached. Many are bestowing pains, never witnessed before, in repairing and improving their houses, or in constructing others upon a principle of more convenience and comfort, and in better situations. Shingled roofs, jealousies, and detached book-rooms are becoming not uncommon. This is an advance in civilization much beyond a mere taste for better dress, which preceded it. I have constantly urged the point upon their attention, but scarcely expected to see it taking effect so soon. A negro who aspires to have a good house will be ambitious to see it a little furnished; this will be the next step; and whatever involves expence becomes a stimulus to labour. The rivalry which has been seen to exist among them, as applied to dress, will now have a higher direction. When they more generally understand that their houses are their homes, secure from the intrusion of mere authority, house and home will attract a still stronger interest, and the social bond, before so loose, be drawn closer. Upon this one point, depends the existence among them of almost every other virtue. To the preparatory change in their civil relations, but still more directly and evidently to the influence of Christian instruction, must all these tendencies towards a moral elevation be ascribed.

The conclusion I have drawn from the fact above noticed is not, I think, an unreasonable one; persons do not usually bestow gratuitous labour for the benefit of others; least and last will a negro, with the habits of slavery about him, be found to do so. If, therefore, his house is seen to be the particular object of his care, it is no bad proof that he does not intend to leave it. I consider this a very hopeful symptom with reference to the cultivation of existing properties after the apprenticeship, and the proceeding itself is well known to be taking place among the people upon sugar estates as well as others. Sugar may then be yet produced in Jamaica without compulsory labour, though there are so many sage opinions to the contrary. Human nature has evidently been but little understood here; perhaps it never was in a slave colony. It is quite overlooked, that compulsion may exist without coercion, but of a rational, that is, of the highest and strongest kind, a moral compulsion arising from the pressure of felt wants, whether natural or artificial, and from the force of attachment to place and neighbourhood, of which the negro mind is keenly susceptible.

That I may not convey an erroneous impression, I beg, however, to add that this disposition to settle on the properties to which they belong is hitherto very much limited to the places where they are best treated, and to such as are least likely to change overseers. On points of this latter kind the sagacity and penetration of these people appear almost intuitive; they are seldom found to be wrong.

With respect to complaints, either on the part of the master or the apprentice, I have the satisfaction to state that they have become comparatively infrequent, and are seldom very serious. Mothers of young children, or those who expect to become such, are still the most troublesome. They are rapidly increasing in number in every direction; but little efficient and valuable labour is now obtained from women in these circumstances, and humanity often forbids any kind of positive punishment, of which they are well aware, and of course take the utmost advantage.

It will not be deemed foreign from the object of this report to mention, that the measles, which have, I believe, visited the island in general, have been in this part of it all but universal, many years having elapsed since this epidemic prevailed here before; persons of all ages have been affected by it. The instances in which it has proved fatal have happily been but few, but the interruption to labour has been rather serious; I should scarcely exceed the truth in estimating the loss of time at the average of a week for the entire people of the district. It is with pleasure I am enabled to add, that on this occasion of such general sickness among them, the free children, with but few exceptions, have received attention and care in common with others; and their parents, aware that it was a kindness, have appeared grateful for it. Negro women, who have been always employed in the field, and dependent for everything upon others (an unnatural condition), know in general as little how to treat themselves and their families in sickness, as to perform the most difficult operation in surgery; cooking, washing and a little use of the needle, are at present the extent of their domestic acquirements. Philanthropy must desire to see it otherwise.

The more enlightened and liberal part of the white residents often speak with astonishment of the improved tone of society since the abolition; although I have no means of making the comparison, I have no doubt of the fact; but there is still, as regards the negro apprentice, a very inadequate conception of the entire spirit of the change in his civil condition, and of all the social rights, especially, which that change has conferred upon him. Several recent circumstances, which have been the subjects of my official inquiry, have made this very manifest. I wish it were in my power to assure your Excellency that the remaining prejudices

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dices of the community were at the present period undergoing any very sensible abatement. I see some reasons even to fear the contrary. Certainly, at least, that against the executive of the colony, and against the humble office, which notwithstanding, I deem it an honour to hold, appears to be on the increase.

The duties of the special justice are in their nature often invidious, and though he cannot allow himself to compromise his independence, and the just claims of his station, yet, these preserved, he will feel it right, by mildness and suavity of demeanour, and the subjection of his own prejudices, if possible to disarm the prejudices of others; and where he cannot gain their esteem, at least to enforce their respect.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Daughtrey*, Special Magistrate.

(No. 7.)

Palmetto River, Blue Mountain District, St. Thomas-y'-East,  
27 July 1836.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward my diary for the past week.

I take this opportunity of recording two instances that occurred during the week, of the advantage resulting to the proprietor from the special magistrate possessing influence with the apprentices. The overseer of Buckingham wrote to me that he was anxious to have the people work on Saturday last, to plant canes, in consequence of the tops having been cut three weeks, and the risk they ran of spoiling. The apprentices had worked every Saturday during crop, which was just finished, besides turning trash and other work by contract in their own time, which made a day of great importance to them; I sent my servant to the field with a request that they would oblige their overseer by working that day, and they immediately complied. The overseer of Petersfield sent on Friday the head driver, to inform me of the quantity of canes they had lying in the yard, and the fruitless attempt that he and the overseer had been making for the last three days to persuade the people to work on the following Saturday; I visited the estate the same day, and they instantly consented.

I have, &c.

His Excellency The Marquis of Sligo,  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Edmund B. Lyon*,  
Special Justice.

(No. 8.)

My Lord Marquis,

Duncan's, P. O.

I BEG to call your attention to the trial of a constable, upon Jock's Lodge Estate, Alexander Coteral *v.* William Brown, overseer, whom I fined. He then turns round and orders the constable to take a hoe and go to the field; I told Coteral to always obey, and directed him to complain to me if so ordered; and I also told Mr. Brown, that if he ordered a constable to the field, it must be upon his own responsibility; but I could not positively decide as to the illegality. Now I am well aware that the act, though not illegal, is injudicious, as it will tend to destroy the respectability of the office. Mr. Brown then made application to the proprietor, stating he was short handed (I believe), and required a reduction of his constables, who consented. I wrote however to that gentleman, begging of him to suspend his order regarding Coteral, and have not since heard anything about it. I shall (with permission), do all in my power to prevent the constables being sent to the field, as I think the injury the country at large would suffer would be considerable.

I have, &c.

(signed) *G. D. Gregg*.

(No. 9.)

St. Catherine, ss.

AMELIA HUTCHINSON, an apprentice in the service of Mr Francis Ferrara of St. John's, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith, that some time in the month of June, last year, deponent was sentenced by Special Justice Baynes to eight days' labour on the tread-mill in the St. Catherine House of Correction, for insolence and insubordination, and that during the time of undergoing the said punishment deponent was frequently severely flogged on the wheel, her hands being at that time strapped up, and her body depending, being supported by the hands and wrists to the rail; that these punishments were inflicted by Ellis, a driver of the penal gangs, who then served as boatswain of the Milo, and frequently by a boy in the service of Mr. Burrows, the superintendent, and that in consequence of injury suffered in the small of the back by these punishments, deponent has remained an invalid till the present time, \* being afflicted by severe pains in the joints of her limbs, and that she has reason to impute all her present bodily ailments to the same distension she suffered

\* One year.

(s<sup>d</sup>) R. H., J. P.

in her limbs from these floggings inflicted while strapped to the tread-mill. Deponent further saith, that she has been about nine years a mother, that she is 30 years old.

JAMAICA.

(signed) her  
Amelia + Hutchinson.  
mark.

Sworn before me this 30th day of July 1836, being first read to deponent.

(signed) R. Hill, Special Justice.

(No. 10.)

St. Catherine, ss.

ANNE VIDAL WILLIAMS, an apprentice in the service of William Jackson, esq., of Old Harbour, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith, that now about six weeks ago, deponent was sentenced to the house of correction, by Special Justice M'Leod, on a charge of neglecting her duty, preferred against deponent by Stephen Hannaford, esq., to whom she was then hired; that the punishment inflicted on deponent included labour on the tread-wheel every day, for three times a day, during three weeks; that deponent underwent this punishment at the house of correction, Milk River, in the parish of Vere, and that during the time deponent underwent the punishment she was frequently flogged with a cat, by one Cunningham, a brown man, how officiated as boatswain of the Milo; that deponent at one time fell, and was laid insensible by the flogging, and that the attendants were obliged to restore her by throwing water upon her. That these occurrences happened as recently as in the month of June last, and the blows of the cat were inflicted on the head, on the back, on the shoulders, and on the bare legs of deponent, and that during the time the blows were struck on deponent's head, her head was quite bare, being shaved clean on her entering the house of correction; and deponent further saith, that she computes her age at 23 years at most.

Sworn before me, this 30th day of July 1836,  
the deposition being first read to deponent.  
(signed) R. Hill, J. P.

her  
Ann Vidal + Williams,  
mark.

(No. 11.)

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Mr. Special Justice *Hamilton* to the Marquis of *Sligo*, dated Lower Lucky Valley, Port Royal, 25th July 1836.

I TAKE leave most respectfully to submit for your Excellency's consideration, whether the gang of Drummond Castle can in justice be deprived of their field cooks, they having been hitherto allowed them. A portion of the gang complained to me this evening that they were deprived of their cooks, Mr. ——— having ordered them to cook their meals themselves in the half hour allowed them, and turned the cooks in the working gang, they were consequently compelled to work without their usual meals.

The sick in hospital are left to their own resources, no nourishment, although in two cases I desired the sick to be provided with everything necessary, but of no avail, in consequence of there being no responsible person on the property. Your Excellency will be pleased to favour me with such advice and instructions as the nature of the case demands.

(No. 12.)

My Lord,

Duncan's, P. O., 26 July 1836.

I BEG to state that Catherine Baily has been ordered to take a hoe and go to the field, although she is at least seventy years of age, and has been, I know not how long, driveress to the small gang.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) G. D. Gregg, Special Justice.

*Note, by the Marquis of Sligo.*—"This is the woman whose valuation has already been reported, a most cruel oppression."

*Vide Parliamentary Papers relating to the Abolition of Slavery, 1836, Part III.—1, p. 390.*

— No. 540. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Major-General Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 30 November 1836.

AMONG the enclosures to the Marquis of Sligo's despatch of the 28th July I find a report from Mr. Special Justice Carnaby, calling his Lordship's attention to the oppressive conduct of Mr. ———, overseer of ———, as exhibited in two cases brought before the special magistrates for decision on the 18th of July.

No. 540.

In the first of these cases, Mr. ——— having been sentenced to pay a fine of 20*s.* for confining an apprentice illegally, is said to have remarked, “that their herrings must pay for it.”

In the other, an apprentice named Robert Lewis complained that Mr. ——— had degraded him from his office of driver, for no fault but that of having given evidence against him in court. The magistrates, after hearing what Mr. ——— alleged in his justification, appear to have been satisfied that the complaint was well founded; but they postponed their decision, from not knowing how far their authority extended in such a case.

With regard to the first of these cases, I am disposed to think that although the law does not compel the supply of herrings, and the withholding them does not therefore constitute a specific offence cognizable by the special magistrates, the distinct avowal of the motive with which they were to be withheld, if followed by the fulfilment of the threat, does constitute an offence within the 49th section of the Abolition Act, and ought to be punished accordingly. On this point, however, it is extremely desirable that the opinion of the Attorney-general should in the first instance be taken as to the construction to be placed on the law. As to the second case, the same reasoning would, I think, apply, if it were possible to obtain conclusive evidence of the act having been done in order to pervert the course of justice. The authority of the master, however, in the distribution of employment is to a great extent incapable of being interfered with.

Where no direct remedy can be obtained in cases of this nature, I trust the evil may still be checked by a representation to the proprietor,—a course which I find has on some occasions, and I think very judiciously, been resorted to. I am persuaded that few proprietors, if the facts are brought to their knowledge, would willingly countenance so gross an abuse of the legal powers of an overseer, by permitting him to resort to such practices, and that a perseverance in them would lead to his speedy dismissal.

You will therefore direct the special magistrates to accompany the report to you of the particulars of all such cases in future, with the names of the attorney and the proprietor of the estate on which they may occur.

I have, &c.,

(signed) *Glenelg.*

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— No. 541. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Major-General Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg.*

My Lord,

The King's House, 4 May 1837.

No. 541.

I HAVE the honour to enclose for your Lordship's information the copy of an opinion of the Attorney-general upon the two points adverted to in your Lordship's despatch of the 30th November last; one respecting the withholding, on the part of the master, an allowance of herrings which he had been in the habit of granting to an apprentice, because he was fined by the special magistrate for illegally confining that apprentice, and the other relative to the degradation of an apprentice by his overseer from the office of driver, because he had given evidence against the overseer in court.

In the first case, the Attorney-general considers the apprentice to have no remedy at law; and in the second, that it is essential to prove that the degradation took place unjustly, admitting at the same time that the ceasing to employ the apprentice as a driver depends upon the pleasure of the owner. I apprehend that the extreme difficulty of proving an unjust motive will, in most cases of this nature, render nugatory any appeal on the part of the apprentice; while in the particular case in question it is unnecessary to bring the matter to trial, as the magistrates who first heard the complaint were of opinion that it was ill-founded.

With reference to the latter part of your Lordship's despatch, I have to acquaint your Lordship that I am very sensible of the advantage of bringing under the notice of the proprietors or attorneys of properties, the occasional misconduct or intemperance of their subordinate agents, and that I have never  
 appealed.

appealed to their good offices in such cases without finding a ready disposition to interpose their authority in the manner pointed out.

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I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith.*

## Enclosure in No. 541.

THE allowance of herrings not being of right, may be taken away at the pleasure of the owner, and I fear the apprentice has no remedy. As to the ceasing to employ Robert Lewis as driver, this too depends on the pleasure of the owner; but this, if unjustly done under circumstances of degradation, will subject that owner or the person who acts for him, to punishment, as for an injustice under the 49th section of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery.

11 March 1837.

(signed) *D. O'Reilly.*

## — No. 542. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Highgate, Jamaica, 14 July 1836. (Six Enclosures.)

No. 542.

My Lord,

Highgate, Jamaica, 14 July 1836.

THOUGH the absence of the Attorney-general at Montego Bay Assizes prevents me from being able to send you his opinion as to the course proper to be pursued, I think it right not to let the next packet leave this island without sending your Lordship copies of some letters just received from Mr. Baynes, the special justice of St. John's. They contain a narrative and certain evidence respecting some transactions of the most improper character which occurred in the newly-opened workhouse of that parish. I think that this is a part of a systematic attempt to resist the authority of the special justices, which is already in full play in the parish of St. Thomas in the Vale, and has been tried in St. Catherine's. I have sent to the custos for a copy of the gaol regulations under the Gaol Act, in order that I may be certain that nothing therein contained can prevent the prosecution which I feel it my duty to order to be entered into against Dr. Loane, the magistrates, and the supervisor. There is considerable doubt entertained by some law practitioners here as to the right of working penal gangs in chains. Whether that doubt can be well grounded or not, there can be none, in my opinion, of the impropriety of working in chains suspected runaways who may prove themselves subsequently to be free persons, or other accused prisoners remanded for re-examination. Dr. Loane has written to me to say that he has heard that Mr. Baynes has sent in certain charges against him, and to request copies of them. I have, however, thought it my duty to withhold them until I have the Attorney-general's opinion of the propriety of my doing so or not. Your Lordship may think that I am making a trifle a thing of too much consequence; but when I see one continuous system of opposition to the efforts of the special justices adopted in the whole of this neighbourhood, I am anxious, I confess, to "principis obsta."

Enclosures,  
Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Sligo.*

## Enclosures in No. 542.

(No. 1.)

LETTER from *E. D. Baynes*, Esq. Special Magistrate, to his Excellency the Marquis of *Sligo*, dated 29 June 1836.

Enclosures in  
No. 542.

My Lord,

Aylmer's, St. John's, 29 June 1836, Sunday evening.

I AM this instant returned from a very fatiguing day's journey far from well. I have several communications by me to which I have to return replies, but I find it impracticable to do so by this occasion, as they will require a great deal of time; and I have one report to make to your Excellency of so serious a nature, that what time I have on my hands must be exclusively devoted to it. Within these few weeks the house of correction in this parish has been opened for the reception of prisoners. I have ever observed and deprecated the savage and disgusting custom of putting the neck collar on females, and have openly expressed



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pressed my opinion thereon, long before the completion of the house of correction. On my first visit to that institution your Excellency may judge of my surprise at finding a miserable object, a female of middle age, committed by me as a runaway, whom I had positively directed in my committal to be exempted from all description of labour, and not to be put on the treadmill, being manifestly sick, and afflicted, as the supervisor afterwards informed me, with that dreadful disease the cocoa bag, loaded with a heavy chain, and secured by the neck by a collar attached to it. I immediately gave the supervisor, Mr. Patrick Thomas, orders to remove the chain and collar, not only from this individual, but from several others in the same situation,—all females. This was done, and I gave him positive directions never to put a chain on a female on any account, if an apprentice committed by me. I also directed him not to cut the hair of females, nor to put them on the treadmill, unless positively so commanded in my committal, as specified in your Excellency's instructions. I have reason to think that Mr. Thomas for some time complied with my directions. I beg your Lordship to bear in mind that I positively instructed Mr. Thomas that my orders related only to such persons as might be committed by me, observing that I left other magistrates to exercise their discretion, where apprentices were not concerned, as to such prisoners as they might commit. I regret to say that Dr. Loane, the senior magistrate of this parish, forgetting the high and responsible situation he fills, has, in manifest violation of the Abolition Law and of the undoubted privilege of the apprentices to be punished by a special magistrate only, interfered with and obstructed me in the faithful execution of my most troublesome duties, by ordering the said female apprentice to be collared and chained and put on the treadmill, previously having her hair cut, all in contempt and contradiction of the lawful authority and sentence of me, the special justice of the district, and the sole magistrate possessing any jurisdiction whatever over the said apprentices as far as regards the invasions of the Act for the abolition of slavery. I cannot perform my duty if thus thwarted and obstructed, and earnestly entreat your Excellency to send one or more special magistrates to examine into the matter, that I may not have to act alone in a matter where I am myself concerned. Dr. Loane, on whom I called this morning in consequence of this matter, said that Messrs. Coleman and Hamilton, magistrates, were also parties to this order; but no such fact has hitherto come to my knowledge. I am sorry to say Dr. Loane said it was his intention (as if he was right) to bring my conduct before the vestry for removing the chain and neck collar from the woman, though committed by me. Some of them, evidently suffering from sickness, are in a dreadful condition. It may also be as well to mention to your Excellency that he said he intended to prefer a second charge against me before the same vestry "for having fined him 20 s. some time since for confining an apprentice three nights."

I much wish your Excellency would, if possible, direct the magistrate, whose assistance I have requested, to accompany me on Saturday next, 2d July, to the vestry, which is to be held that day, as well to aid me in doing justice to the oppressed as to protect me from further obstruction and interference, which I have reason to apprehend there, for no other crime than having conscientiously and faithfully discharged my duty. I have also been informed that some of the apprentices have been beat in the house of correction, but whether male or female I cannot tell. I have summoned the supervisor to appear before me to-morrow, and shall examine minutely into the matter should the policemen intrusted with the execution of the summons find him this evening.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. D. Baynes.*

*P.S.*—This case, as well regarding the supervisor of the house of correction as Dr. Loane, not being between master and apprentice, does not come under my jurisdiction as special magistrate, and I do not think it advisable to associate any magistrate of this parish with me in the matter.

30th.—Mr. Hamilton has just called and denies all knowledge of a participation in putting the before-mentioned females in chains, as stated by Dr. Loane.

(No. 2.)

LETTER from *E. D. Baynes*, Esq. Special Magistrate, to his Excellency the Marquis of *Sligo*, dated 1 July 1836.

My Lord,

Aylmer's, 1 July 1836.

I HAVE not been able to examine Mr. Thomas, the supervisor of the house of correction, as he did not attend in obedience to my warrant, but got himself carried before Dr. Loane, who bound him over in the sum of 20*l.* to appear at the quarter sessions. He ought not to have been carried before Dr. Loane at all, who is a party concerned in the illegal proceedings complained of, and has bound him over to appear before the inferior court, and taken such inadequate bail, clearly to diminish in appearance the nature of evidence alleged. I conceive that he should be examined and bound over to appear before the Supreme Court under a heavy penalty. It is time to see whether the local magistrates have any right or authority, under the pretence of internal regulations of the parochial houses of correction, to constitute themselves judges over the special magistracy and to add severe and cruel punishment to the sentences of the latter passed on apprentices. No internal regulations of any institution can be valid against the law of the land; and the Abolition Act is not only a part of the law of the land, but a paramount law; and in Clause 21st it expressly forbids the punishment

punishment of any apprentice, as regards its provisions, except by a special magistrate. To put chains on, to put on the treadmill, or to beat an apprentice is as much an assault when committed in the house of correction, without the sanction of or in contradiction of the orders of the special magistrate, as it would be out of it. But in the instances complained of at present the case is still more aggravated, as the rules and regulations of the St. John's House of Correction make no mention of chains and collars, nor in any way bear out a local magistrate in ordering them to be put on any of the prisoners, much less on women, whom I found on visiting the institution chained by the neck in couples like so many dogs; one of them common humanity, whatever might have been her crime, ought to have revolted at the idea of loading with chains in her sickly state. I made allowance for what I conceived an error on the part of the supervisor, and ordered the chain to be removed from all the females, who, in fact, were most of them under detention not as convicts but as deserters. Yet in defiance of these directions a local magistrate orders them to be put on again, without having so much to plead in his justification as that the regulations of the Institution authorized its being done.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Special Justice.

(No. 3.)

LETTER from *E. D. Baynes*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to His Excellency the Marquis of *Sligo*, dated 4 July 1836.

My Lord,

Aylmer's, 4 July 1836.

I REGRET that a collision should have at length taken place between the local magistrates of the parish and myself. It has been owing to neither my fault or my \* I \* Blank in the original copy.

proceeded to Point Hill, to the vestry held there, on Saturday. I neither \* nor \* They chose to assume a right to examine and control my conduct as a special magistrate as regards my late proceedings in the House of Correction; this I of course strenuously resisted; but a single individual could have but little chance with a hundred others present; every one of them opposed to him by \* or supposed interests. The Magistrates were unable however to come to any decision in my presence; I clearly proved to them that they had acted illegally. The fact is, that there is no law existing at this instant in the Island of Jamaica for chaining even male prisoners before conviction. The only clause which bears at all on the point in the Act for the Regulation of Gaols and Houses of Correction is the third, provision 10, which says, a prisoner may for misconduct be put in irons. This is not a rule, but an \* exception, where there was no misconduct even alleged. They were \* to defend themselves by alleging custom; when I pointed out to them the inconsistency of pleading custom to the prejudice of the negro, whilst they refuse to admit it to his advantage. On most estates in this parish the former customary indulgences are all withheld. Whatever may have been the practice during slavery there is no law in force at present which justifies local magistrates in putting chains and collars on unconvinced apprentices, and that too when sick in hospitals, and in defiance of the directions of the special magistrate.

I have taken the depositions of the prisoners at Point Hill, and annex a statement of the irregularities in a specific form, to supersede the general complaint laid before your Excellency in my letter of the 29th June on the subject.

1. Ellinor Lorraine, committed not as a convict but as a runaway, and ordered by the special magistrate to be put to no manner of work; chained and collared when grievously sick and in the hospital for several days.
2. Ann Francis, another runaway; chained and collared; released from both by the special magistrate; was again put into chains by order of Dr. Loane.
3. Margaret Taylor, also a runaway; was not, when committed at first, put into chains, in consequence of express orders given to that purport by the special magistrate on the 10th June; collared and chained in defiance of the said orders by the authority of Dr. Loane.
4. Letitia, a runaway; same case.
5. Francis Lendo, a convict; for seven days chained and collared by order of Dr. Loane and Mr. Bell, in express contempt and disregard of the directions of the special magistrate. Got sick; had the collar and chain put on her again before she was recovered.
6. The hair of the former four cut close, in disregard of the directions of the special magistrate.
7. Working females on the road out of the walls of the institution, in contempt of my orders and the clear and explicit commands of your Excellency in your circular of 10th May 1836, No. 2899, to which I beg leave to refer.

That circular, my Lord, I read to them on Saturday, but they were pleased to say it was not law; and to show how totally they disregarded the salutary directions it contains, on leaving the vestry room, and in my absence, they proceeded, as I was informed, to hire the whole gang out to job for Mr. Bell, although some have been directed to be only put to work within the walls. I shall proceed to Point Hill to take depositions as to this fact tomorrow. I have not found that any of the females hitherto examined have been put on the tread-wheel without sentence, and I sincerely hope no instance of this kind will be proved.

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I trust your Excellency will perceive that in acting as I have done I have been actuated by no malicious motives, but with a view to further the ends of justice and to preclude any charge of inhumanity being brought against the authorities. That I have not succeeded in the latter object is owing to the hasty, unwise, and, as regards me, most unhandsome conduct of the senior magistrate, to censure me for resisting his illegal and oppressive conduct as relates to the apprentices, hoping, no doubt, to take me by surprise, and find me unprepared to vindicate my conduct.

I have to inform your Excellency that on Saturday, before leaving the institution, the supervisor refusing to remove the chains and collars illegally put on the bodies of the female prisoners, I ordered the police to take them off, which was done.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. D. Baynes.*

*P.S.*—Even in the regulations of three other houses of correction not a word is said about chains and collars.

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(No. 4.)

LETTER from *E. D. Baynes, Esq.*, Special Magistrate, to his Excellency the Marquis of *Sligo*, dated 5 July 1836.

My Lord,

Aylmer's, 5 July 1836.

I REPORTED to your Excellency seven instances of what I termed irregularity, which have lately occurred in the St. John's house of correction. What name to give to the following facts which have come out in evidence before Mr. Bedford and myself I am at a loss to conceive.

1st.—From Friday morning at eight o'clock the total quantity of food served out to the unfortunate prisoners in that house of correction, about 10 or 12 in number, until four o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, was four heads of corn, during the whole four days, and half a shad per diem. This, the entire weight of which was not perhaps more than 24 ounces, was, I repeat, the total quantity of food allowed them for four days. This is sufficiently dreadful; but what will your Excellency feel when I add that the above allowance, certainly not, if continued for eight days, sufficient to have saved these unhappy creatures from death by starvation, was apportioned out in the following manner: three heads of corn on Friday; one do. on Saturday; none at all Sunday; none on Monday until evening, when they get some cocoes. Their sufferings the deponents affirm to have been dreadful. The cause of this execrable barbarity I have not yet discovered. Though extremely unwell and greatly harassed I shall proceed to Point Hill at once to make further inquiries.

2d. Ann Francis was flogged by a Mr. Chapman with a cat, to make her go on the treadmill.

3d. Another woman, name unknown to me, committed by Mr. Harris, and with a child in arms, also appears to have been flogged.

As soon as I can find time to copy out the depositions I will forward them to your Excellency.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. D. Baynes, Special Magistrate.*

*P.S.*—I beg to submit to your Excellency that I hold, affirm, and maintain that there is no law in existence which authorizes the chaining of unconvicted apprentices, and am ready to stand the issue in a court of law, as well as for twice removing the chains from the females in my capacity of special justice, in which I assert that I have a right to enter anywhere, by force if necessary, on sufficient grounds of belief that a grievous offence under the Abolition Act has taken place.

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(No. 5.)

LETTER from *E. D. Baynes, Esq.*, Special Magistrate, to his Excellency the Marquis of *Sligo*, dated 6 July 1836.

My Lord,

Aylmer's, St. John's, 6 July 1836.

I HAVE the honour to send copies of the depositions respecting the illegal punishments which have taken place in the house of correction in this parish, heard mostly by myself, partly in conjunction with Mr. Bedford. The flogging of women to force them on the treadmill standing on the unsupported testimony of Robert Valentine, seems, I am happy to say, liable to doubt. Your Excellency will however collect from the evidence that several other gross violations of the rights of the apprentice, and of the authority of the special magistrate, besides those already reported, have taken place. Johanna Lawrence, the matron, deposes:

1st. That the gang is actually hired to Mr. Bell; and that Richard Brown, John Dawkin, John Archer, and Robert Johnson, committed by me only as runaways, and, in compliance with your Excellency's circular No. 2899, not ordered to be worked out of the institution, are among them.

2d. She

2d. She deposes that Dawkin has been put on the treadwheel. Now this was not ordered; nor do I conceive that I have any authority, when simply committing a suspected runaway for desertion, to do so.

3d. She says that Robert Johnson is also working with the gang at Mr. Bell's. Now this is a direct violation of my commitment, which distinctly specifies that he shall not be put to any kind of work out of the institution.

4th. The woman Margaret Taylor was also made to work out of the institution without legal authority.

5th. Richard Francis was, it appears, flogged with a cat on his sore foot, which in consequence got so bad that the doctor was obliged to interfere, and to exempt him both from chains and work.

Nothing can be more contrary to law and to common sense than to put an unconvicted apprentice, committed only for detention as a suspected runaway, to any kind of corporal punishment. Even after conviction the utmost extent of imprisonment at hard labour, for desertion, however long the period, amounts only to 14 days. Some of the persons committed are frequently found, after all, not to be deserters; sometimes even to be freemen; yet these innocent people, only ordered into custody on suspicion, are by this cruel and absurd practice made to suffer, at the caprice of a supervisor or the mistake of a magistrate, many times the amount of punishment that can possibly be awarded by the sentence of a lawful court after due trial and conviction. As for necessity or custom being alleged in defence of such proceedings, neither one nor the other, however they may palliate a breach of the law, can make that to be law which is not so. I do not find that the indulgences formerly given by custom to the slave are always in this parish continued to the apprentice; surely if custom be not allowed to operate to the benefit of the negro, it should not be pleaded to his prejudice.

Indeed, my lord, so fully do I feel convinced of the extreme inconvenience and hardship that may and does occur to the apprentice from this abuse, and so conscious am I that in thus throwing myself forward to stop it I have acted, not only in pursuance of the dictates of humanity and of the principles of correct reasoning, but also in strict accordance with the law, that I earnestly entreat your Excellency, should the legal authorities in this island, on being consulted, entertain the slightest doubt on the subject, to forward the whole case to England for the consideration and decision of the Colonial Office.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Special Magistrate.

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Present *E. D. Baynes*, Special Justice.

Point Hill, 2 July 1836.

*Ellinor Lorraine*, duly sworn, deposes that she is apprenticed labourer to Mr. Guy of Spanish Town. That she was taken up this day three weeks by the police in the Red Hills, and was committed by Mr. Baynes; she was up at the Red Hills for health, being afflicted with the king's evil, or cocoa bag. When she came up to the house of correction, Mr. Thomas, the supervisor, ordered her hair to be cut, and a collar, with a chain attached to it, to be put on her; the collar went round her neck, and the chain was put round her waist. Deponent told Mr. Thomas, the supervisor, that she was sick of the king's evil, and had lost the perfect use of her arms, on which he put her into a room by herself: it was the hospital. Is quite sure she had the chain and collar on when in the hospital. Deponent was not put on the treadmill, nor to any manner of work. The special justice came up some days afterwards and ordered the chains to be taken off, which was done. Does not recollect how many days she was kept with the chain on her; was not chained again after the collar and chain were removed by the special magistrate's orders. The doctor visited her, and said she had not got the king's evil.

*Ellinor Lorraine's mark.*

*Ann Francis*, apprenticed labourer to Frances Elliot, duly sworn, deposes that she was committed to the house of correction on Thursday week last; when she came up she was chained to another woman, and the collar was put round her neck; her hair was also cut. The chain and collar were removed when the special magistrate visited the house of correction; the chain was not put on again afterwards, but the collar was put on again. About a week afterwards she fell sick, and was put into the hospital; the collar was not on her neck when in the hospital. Has been employed in fetching water for the people.

*Ann Francis's mark.*

*Margaret Taylor*, apprentice to Margaret James of the Red Hills, duly sworn, deposes that she was committed to the house of correction by Mr. Baynes last week. No chain or collar was put on until Dr. Loane ordered them to be put on; has not been put on the treadmill; has been employed on the road; has been chained to two women at different times, but not to a man. Heard Dr. Loane order the chain to be put on.

*Margaret Taylor's mark.*

*Frances Lendo*, apprenticed labourer to Fuller's Rest estate, duly sworn, deposes that she was committed to the house of correction by Mr. Baynes last Thursday; she was put in chains

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chains and fastened to another woman. She was sick one morning, but the chains were put on again before she was quite well; her belly pained her, and she had a bad arm, which was cut by her being tied to the treadmill. Was not beat to be compelled to go on the treadmill; saw Mr. Chapman beat Richard Frances on his sore foot with a cat.

*Frances Lendo's mark.*

*Patrick Thomas*, supervisor of the house of correction of the parish of St. John, being duly sworn, deposes that he recollects the time that Ellinor Lorraine was brought up to the house of correction; he put the chain and collar on her in pursuance with the rules and regulations of the institution. Cannot point out under what rule or regulation he acted. Cannot remember whether the woman Ellinor Lorraine told him before or after the collar and chains were put on, that she was sick. Did not think she was in such a state as to have exempted her from having the collar and chain put on her. Was aware that according to the terms of the committal she was ordered not to be put to any kind of work. She was immediately put in the hospital, and has remained there all along. Deponent removed the chain and collar as ordered, in the presence of Mr. Baynes; did not put the chain and collar again on her. Some time afterwards Dr. Loane and Mr. Bell ordered the chains and collars to be put again on all the women, but deponent used his own discretion, and did not put them again on Ellinor Lorraine because she was sick. Frances Lendo's arm was hurt during deponent's absence, when she was put on the treadmill by Mr. Chapman, deputed to do so by deponent.

(signed) *Patrick B. Thomas.*

The foregoing depositions and examinations taken by me this 2d day of July 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Special Magistrate.

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Present, *E. D. Baynes* and *T. S. Bedford*, Special Justices.

Police Station, St. John's, 4 July 1836.

*Letitia*, apprenticed labourer to Mr. William Benden Valentine, not being a Christian, but duly cautioned to speak nothing but the truth, sayeth, that she was released from the house of correction of the parish of St. John on Saturday last. She was imprisoned there 15 days, being committed as a runaway by the special magistrate. She was put in chains and the collar as soon as she got there, by the supervisor, Mr. Thomas. Deponent was kept in chains three days, when she was attacked with fever and headache; she was put into the hospital; the long chain was taken off, but the collar left on. Was a prisoner when the special magistrate came up to visit the institution; heard the special magistrate order the supervisor to remove the chain and collar, which was done. On the Friday following Dr. Loane visited the place; saw him converse with Mr. Thomas, who soon after put the chain and collar again on deponent. They were kept there, as she stated before, till she fell sick: the collar was kept on her all the time that she was in hospital; was not put on the treadmill. When in the hospital got the same allowance as when out of it. Was sick nearly half a week, during which time the doctor never came. Was employed on the road carrying stones; heard it mentioned that the special magistrate had forbid the women to be worked out of the institution. Was still sick when the chain was put on her again. During the time she was in the institution she suffered from hunger, having on a Friday got only three heads of corn and the salt; on the Saturday she got only one head of corn; on the Sunday none at all; and nothing on Monday until four o'clock in the evening, when they gave her some cocoes; from Saturday to Monday afternoon she got nothing whatever to eat. During the remainder of her imprisonment she got four pounds of cocoes per day. She had been guilty of no bad conduct to have her food withheld.

*Letitia's mark.*

*Robert Binden Valentine*, duly sworn, deposes that he was sent to the house of correction at the same time with Letitia; recollects the whole of the prisoners in the house of correction getting but three heads of corn on the Friday at eight A. M.; one on Saturday, and none at all after that until Monday about four o'clock in the afternoon, when they got some cocoes and shad. Deponent suffered extremely from the pangs of hunger. He recollects seeing Mr. Chapman flog one Frances and another woman when on the treadwheel; he flogged them to make them get on it; their legs also were cut. A woman committed by Mr. Harris from the walks also was flogged. The women were flogged with a cat. Does not know if the special magistrate had given orders to that effect. Deponent adds, that they got their shads during the days that they got so little corn.

*R. B. Valentine's mark.*

Letitia, on being re-questioned, says that the shads were served out on the days they were short of corn.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes.*

The foregoing examinations and depositions taken by us this 4th day of July 1836.

(signed) *T. S. Bedford,*  
*E. D. Baynes,* } Special Magistrates.

Present, *E. D. Baynes*, Esq. Special Magistrate.

Point Hill, Tuesday, 5 July 1836.

*July*, apprenticed labourer on Swansea Estate, committed by Mr. Harris for turbulent conduct, and sentenced to hard labour in the penal gang for seven days, and to be put on the treadmill once a day for a quarter of an hour, duly sworn, deposes that she is put on the treadmill once a day until the glass runs out. Has a child six months of age with her; she is obliged to give the child a part of her provisions. On Saturday she was worked on the roads, throwing stones in a heap. When she came into the institution a collar was put on her.

*July's* mark.

*Ellinor Lorraine*, duly sworn, deposes that on Friday gone a week, as she believes, the people in the house of correction confined as prisoners received only three heads of corn in the morning; on Saturday a maccaroni's worth of corn was bought and divided among all the prisoners; on Sunday two bits worth of corn was bought and distributed among them. Does not know how many prisoners were then in the house of correction. On Monday got nothing at all until the bread kind came in the evening, it was cocoes, when they got the prison allowance.

*Ellinor Lorraine's* mark.

*Julian*, apprenticed labourer to Mr. Pool, committed as a runaway about three weeks since by Mr. John Thomas Bell, justice of the peace.

(signed) *E. D. B.*

*Richard Francis*, duly sworn, deposes that he saw Mr. Chapman flog David Henry when on the mill. Was flogged himself with the cat. Deponent had a sore foot, and could not walk on the treadmill, because it was very bad; Mr. Chapman beat deponent on the sore foot. Heard Francis Lindo bawl out that Mr. Chapman had no business to flog her now with a cat, but cannot say whether she was struck or not. The foot got very bad after he was beaten on it, and the doctor when he saw it ordered that deponent should not be put any more on the treadmill.

*Richard Francis's* mark.

*Margaret Taylor*, convict under sentence as a runaway, duly sworn, deposes that on Saturday gone a week corn was served out to the prisoners. They got three heads of corn served out on Saturday, and two in the evening of Saturday; thinks she got some on Sunday. From that time till Monday the prisoners got nothing, when they got the prison allowance of cocoes in the evening.

*Margaret Taylor's* mark.

*Johanna Lawrence*, duly sworn, deposes that the gang is hired to Mr. Bell; Richard Brown is one of them, and is now at work for Mr. Bell. John Dawkins, a runaway, is also at work at Mr. Bell's: Dawkins has been put on the treadmill. John Archer, also a runaway, is working at Mr. Bell's. Robert Johnson, another runaway, is also with the gang at Mr. Bell's. The house of correction has been open seven or eight weeks.

*Johanna Lawrence's* mark.

Johanna Lawrence is the matron of the institution.

The foregoing depositions and examinations taken by me this 5th day of July 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Special Magistrate.

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#### NOTES by the SPECIAL JUSTICE.

1st. Ellinor Lorraine, a runaway, ordered by the special magistrate to be put to no manner of work, was kept in chains and collar when grievously sick in the hospital.

2d. None of the foregoing female witnesses were ordered by the special magistrate to be put in chains.

3d. None of the females were sentenced to have their hair cut.

4th. None of them, in like manner, were ordered to be put to work out of the institution.

5th. None of the runaways, either male or female, were condemned by the special magistrate to work out of the institution.

6th. Dawkins was put on the treadmill without sentence.

7th. It was distinctly specified in the commitment of Robert Johnson that he should not be worked out of the institution; yet it appears, by Johanna Lawrence's evidence, that he was hired out to Mr. Bell.

8th. The special magistrate, on visiting the institution, finding several unconvicted female apprentices in chains, ordered them to be removed, as not in his commitment, and as contrary to law and to his intention.

9th. Dr. Loane ordered the chains and collars thus removed by the special magistrate to be

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be put again on the said female apprentices, to the obstruction of the said special magistrate in the execution of his duty.

10th. There is no rule or regulation, either in the general act of the Assembly or in the internal laws of the St. John's House of Correction, authorizing chains to be put on unconvicted females.

11th. That special magistrates themselves have no power to order chains to be put on apprentice prisoners sent solely to the house of correction for detention and not for trial.

12th. That all or a part of the prisoners were kept for four days without sufficient food; in fact with scarcely enough to keep them from perishing of hunger.

13th. That all of the grievances complained of are contrary to law, and to the salutary instructions of his Excellency the Governor in his circular, No. 2889, to the special magistrates.

14th. That the interference of any local magistrate, as that of Dr. Loane in the present instance, by setting aside or adding to the sentence of a special magistrate, is a gross violation of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, and more especially when exerted over apprentices unconvicted of any offence, in direct defiance and contradiction of the express directions of the special justice, the only lawful authority in such case under the law.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Special Magistrate.

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(No. 6.)

LETTERS from *E. D. Baynes*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to his Excellency the Marquis of *Sligo*, dated 10th July 1836.

My Lord,

Aylmer's, 10 July 1836.

WITH much reluctance, and urged exclusively by a sense of public duty, I enclose eight charges against Dr. Loane, senior magistrate of this parish; four for obstructing me in the lawful execution of my duties as a special magistrate; four for assaults committed by him on the bodies of certain female apprentices, prisoners confined in the house of correction. It is time to set at rest the question if the local magistrates, whether assembled in vestry, formed into committees, or otherwise, are by law authorized to exercise a paramount jurisdiction over the special justices, if, divested as they are by the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, of all authority in the first instance, they are, after due trial and sentence, entitled to exert a discretionary power tenfold still more arbitrary and severe,—if, in fine, some of the most abominable usages of slavery are to be continued under the weak and suspicious pleas of necessity and custom, and allowed to counteract, thwart and annul the most glorious and beneficent measure recorded in the annals of any nation since the creation?

I am informed, my Lord, that some of the planters, irritated by the prompt manner in which I resisted and arrested so crying an injustice, have resolved to petition your Excellency for my removal from the parish. I entreat your Excellency not to believe that I really treated them with disrespect. It is, on the contrary, I who have to complain; it is I who have been treated with disrespect; it was my authority that was despised; they were my rights which were infringed; indeed, as your Excellency will readily admit, a simple individual amidst an hundred of enemies is likely to have been "more sinned against than sinning." I feel persuaded, however, that your Excellency will not gratify the disappointed feelings of a party by a measure which they would triumphantly hail as a token of your Excellency's disapprobation of my conduct. I know that not one-third of the parish will join in the request; and it is at present, fortunately, easy to gratify the gentlemen who may disapprove of my proceedings, by consigning their properties to the jurisdiction of Mr. Bedford.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*.

My Lord,

SINCE writing the above Mr. Bedford and myself have taken further depositions. John Williams examined, and Letitia re-examined, as regards the distribution of the corn on the four days complained of. It appears that a great deal of partiality was used in the distribution; some got more, some less, but none sufficient. It also appears from these depositions, (a copy of which I forward your Excellency, keeping the original for the Attorney-general,) that during the whole time the prisoners were thus starving the supervisor was absent from his charge. It also appears that a woman was put into a dark cell for no other offence than asking, by my orders, for a little food for her suffering child. And what is a still greater outrage on the public and private rights of the apprentices, John Williams was detained at hard labour in the house of correction four days beyond the term of his sentence, on the sole authority of the supervisor.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*.

## NOTES.

JAMAICA.

1st. I submit for your Excellency's consideration that no rules of any parochial or other house of correction can supersede, set aside, add to, or in any other way alter the sentence and decision of a special justice, when in strict accordance with the law.

2d. There are no rules or regulations either in the general Act of the Assembly for the better regulation of gaols, or in the internal rules of the Saint John's House of Correction, which direct, permit, or justify the chaining and ironing of unconvicted apprentices, or the putting on of chains and irons on any apprentice, contrary to the award and sentence of the special magistrate.

3d. There is no law in existence by which an apprentice can in any way be coerced or punished, except by a special justice. Vide Clause 21st, Abolition Act.

4th. The foregoing observation is self-evident; for when an apprentice becomes amenable to a superior jurisdiction, he is, in the eye of such court or tribunal, to all intents and purposes a free man, and must be treated as such. Vide 21st Clause, Abolition Act.

5th. The provisory clause of the 21st article of the Act for the abolition of slavery does not apply in this case; it says, that no apprenticed labourer, except under the provisions of the said Act, shall be exempted from the operation of any law affecting other persons of free condition; now, as a person of free condition can never possibly be a runaway apprentice, the runaway apprentice, wherever he may be confined or imprisoned as such, is solely and exclusively under the jurisdiction of the special magistrate only, and in no case liable to any other.

6th. I submit, for the particular consideration of your Excellency and of the attorney-general, that the police regulations can never, in any instance, extend beyond simply securing in manacles or handcuffs. Irons are not chains and collars, nor did the police of any country in the world, I believe, ever secure their prisoners in such a manner.

7th. The rules and regulations of houses of correction in no way proceed or depend on those of the police; they are distinct and separate branches of penal justice.

My Lord,

Aylmer's, 10 July 1836.

I SHOULD be but ill performing my duty to the public, to your Excellency, to my brother magistrates, and to myself, after the determined and reiterated obstruction I have encountered in the faithful execution of my duties as a special justice from the senior magistrate of this parish, M. W. Loane, esq., did I not seek from the law and from your Excellency a due and adequate reparation for the illegal opposition and grievous violence offered to the pure course of justice in the person of even so humble an individual as myself. Influenced by no feelings of private hostility or public difference, but conscious of the necessity of the step, and actuated solely by what I esteem the manifest principles of impartial justice, the slightest deviation from which, in the novel and unprecedented state which the relations of society have assumed in this part of the globe, may lead to results that human sagacity, unenlightened in this instance by experience of the past, may prove unable to foresee or to remedy, I submit to your Excellency the subjoined memoranda respecting Mr. Loane, earnestly entreating your Excellency's patient attention and consideration as to the propriety and necessity of referring them to the attorney-general with a view to the final decision of the question by a verdict of the country.

1stly. I charge M. W. Loane, esq. with interfering with and obstructing me in the lawful and conscientious discharge of my duties, inasmuch as that I, in my capacity as a special justice, having on the 10th day of June last, in virtue of the jurisdiction and authority in me vested by the Act for the abolition of slavery, ordered certain heavy chains and collars to be removed from the necks and bodies of certain unconvicted female apprentices, being at the time prisoners in the house of correction, committed as suspected deserters, and then and there chained by the neck in couples, one of the said female prisoners being grievously sick at the time in the hospital of the institution, he, the said M. W. Loane, did some days afterwards in the same month of June order the said chains and collars to be put again on the necks and bodies of the said unconvicted female prisoners, who were, with the exception of one only, accordingly again chained by the neck in the manner aforesaid.

2dly. I charge M. W. Loane, esq. with interfering with and obstructing me in the lawful and conscientious discharge of my duties as a special magistrate, inasmuch as that I, on the 2d day of July instant, having, in the lawful exercise of my authority, given orders to Patrick B. Thomas, supervisor of the St. John's House of Correction, to remove certain heavy iron chains and collars from the necks and bodies of certain unconvicted female apprentices so chained and ironed in defiance and disobedience of my lawful authority, express commands, and the terms of their several commitments, he, the said M. W. Loane, did then and there order the said Patrick B. Thomas not to obey my lawful commands, but to keep the said unconvicted female apprentices still chained by the neck in the cruel manner aforesaid.

3dly. I charge M. W. Loane, esq. with interfering with and obstructing me in the lawful and conscientious discharge of my duties as a special magistrate by causing and ordering certain unconvicted female apprentices to be put to hard labour on the public roads contrary to my lawful directions and to the terms of their several commitments.



Aylmer's, 11 July 1836.

*John Williams*, apprenticed labourer to Solomon Da Silva of the Red Hills, in the parish of St. John, not being a Christian, but duly cautioned to speak nothing but the truth, sayeth, that he has been detained four days in the house of correction of the parish of St. John beyond the term of his sentence, which was 14 days' hard labour and 10 days' solitary confinement, being 24 days; whereas he was detained a prisoner in the said house of correction 28 days. After the 10 days' solitary confinement he was kept four days more grinding corn in the yard. Deponent sayeth that Mr. Thomas told him that he detained him because he had not yet paid back the mile money. About two weeks since, on a Friday, deponent does not recollect the date, he got 2 lbs. of cocoes in the morning and two heads of corn in the evening, with half a shad as usual; on Saturday morning Mrs. Lawrence made the driver serve the prisoners all round with three heads of roasted corn; in the evening deponent received about  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of boiled yam; he was at that time a prisoner in solitary confinement. On Sunday deponent got for breakfast three heads of green corn; in the evening the corn was slack, and but one head of corn was served out. On Monday they waited until between four or five p. m. without anything, when the coco came in and they got the prison allowance; they had their half shad per diem all this time. A man named Rodney, also a prisoner, was ordered by Mr. Thomas to beat deponent on his legs to make him dance on the treadmill; he got about 12 blows with the rope. Deponent knows Richard Francis, he was a prisoner also; saw Mr. Chapman beat him with a cat on his sore foot because he did not know how to dance on the mill. Did not see any women beat to make them dance on the treadmill. Heard Frances Lindo call out; saw Mr. Chapman lift a switch to strike Frances Lindo, but the switch broke in Mr. Chapman's hand. Deponent adds that Mr. Thomas was absent from the house of correction from Friday until Tuesday night.

*John Williams's mark.*

The foregoing examinations taken before us this 11th day of July 1836.

(signed)

*E. D. Baynes.*  
*T. S. Bedford.*

Aylmer's, 11 July 1836.

*Letitia*, apprenticed labourer to William Bendon Valentine of the Red Hills, not being a Christian, but duly cautioned to speak nothing but the truth, sayeth, that she was a prisoner in the house of correction, from which she was released last Saturday week. She was chained and collared as soon as she arrived there; the chains were taken off twice; once when she was sick in the hospital of fever and headache, but the collar was left on all the time she was in the hospital. The chain and collar were both taken off when the special magistrate visited the institution, by his orders; but they were put on again by order of Dr. Loane. Deponent heard Dr. Loane tell Mr. Thomas, who is supervisor of the house of correction, to put the chain and collar on again. After Dr. Loane went away, Mr. Thomas told her that he knew as much law as the special magistrate. The chains and collar were kept on her afterwards until she was released by order of the special magistrate on Saturday week last. On Friday last fortnight from about mid-day to Monday evening, she was fed on corn, with less than half a shad a day. On Friday she got only three heads of corn during the whole day, with the same half shad; on Saturday she received only one head of corn; on Sunday she got nothing whatever for food except half a shad, not a single head of corn, or any other bread kind, neither did she get anything at all to eat after this until Monday evening, when she got the prison allowance of cocoes. Deponent suffered cruelly from hunger all the time. Had been guilty of no fault to merit this treatment. She had a child with her, who got nothing to eat from Mr. Thomas whilst deponent was in the workhouse. Heard the special magistrate order Mr. Thomas to give the children something to eat; on which, feeling weak from the preys of hunger, she asked Mr. Thomas to give her something for her child, on which he put her into a dark cell for asking him. The day after this, however, he did give her two small cocoes for the child. Saw Mr. Chapman beat Richard Francis on his sore foot when on the treadmill. Recollects Mr. Thomas being absent from the workhouse on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday; it was during his absence that they were kept with such insufficient food.

*Letitia's mark.*

*Robert Bendon Valentine* was a prisoner in the house of correction at the same time with Letitia. Recollects being kept on an insufficiency of food. On the Friday he got only three heads of corn, on Saturday one head, on Sunday none at all, and nothing on Monday till about four o'clock in the evening, when they got some cocoes. Suffered extremely from hunger; was very faint, and his eyes grew dim. Saw Mr. Chapman beat Ann Francis with a cat when on the mill, and also two men, whose names he does not know, one of whom had a sore foot. Deponent was himself struck on the hand by a man belonging to Dr. Loane who was acting as driver.

*Robert B. Valentine's mark.*

Sworn before us this 11th day of July 1836,

*E. D. Baynes,* }  
*T. S. Bedford,* } Special Magistrates.(A true Copy.) *E. D. Baynes.*

Present, *E. D. Baynes* and *T. S. Bedford*, Special Justices.

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Aylmer's, 12 July 1836.

*Frances Lindo*, apprenticed labourer on Fuller's Rest Estate, in the parish of St. John, duly sworn, deposes that she was released from the house of correction of the parish of St. John on Monday week last. On her commitment on arriving at the house of correction she was immediately chained to another woman, Margaret Taylor, and a collar put round her neck. One morning she was sick; the chain and collar were then taken off, but were put on again before she was well next morning. Deponent has a bad arm at present, which was occasioned by Mr. Chapman's tying her to the treadmill. One day when deponent did not jump upon the mill the said Mr. Chapman called out for a cat to beat deponent with; deponent then said he had no right to flog women now. She was not struck by Mr. Chapman. Recollects seeing Mr. Chapman beat Richard Francis on his sore foot; also saw him beat David Henry; he beat both of them with a cat. The doctor did not visit the institution during the whole seven days she was a prisoner in the house of correction. Mr. Thomas, the supervisor, was absent from the workhouse when she was sent there, and did not return until next day.

*Frances Lindo's mark.*

4thly. I charge M. W. Loane, Esq. with interfering with and obstructing me in the conscientious and lawful discharge of my duties as a special justice, inasmuch as that he, the said W. M. Loane, aided and abetted by certain others, did let and hire out to Mr. John Thomas Bell certain apprentices, prisoners at that time, the 2d July instant, confined in the St. John's House of Correction, to be worked out of the institution at such place and in such manner as might seem meet to the said John Thomas Bell; and the said apprenticed prisoners were accordingly in such manner worked out of the institution, in contempt and disregard of the sentence and lawful authority of me, the special magistrate of the district.

5thly. I charge M. W. Loane, Esq. with committing a grievous assault on the body of Letitia, an apprenticed labourer to Mr. William Bendon Valentine of the parish of St. John, by attaching, or ordering to be attached, a heavy iron chain and collar to the neck and body of the said Letitia, without the sentence or authority of any lawful or competent court or tribunal, she being at the time only under detention as a suspected deserter; the said chain and collar moreover having been already previously removed from the neck and body of the said Letitia by command of the special magistrate, as contrary to his intention and the terms of her commitment; the said special magistrate having, at the time the said chains were so removed by his command, strictly enjoined that the said Letitia should on no account be again so chained and ironed; notwithstanding which positive injunction and prohibition the said M. W. Loane did again chain, or order to be chained, by the neck, the said Letitia, in the cruel manner aforesaid, she being sick and ill with fever during a part of the time she was in such manner chained by the neck, and in the hospital of the institution.

6thly. *Idem*, for assaulting Ann Francis.

7thly. *Idem*, for assaulting Margaret Taylor.

8thly. *Idem*, for assaulting Frances Lindo.

I have, &amp;c.

The Marquis of Sligo.

(signed)

*E. D. Baynes*, Special Magistrate.

— No. 543. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Highgate, Jamaica, 28th July 1836.

No. 543.

"I HAVE the honour to state for your information that at the last Supreme Court here, the grand jury made a presentment to the Judges, a copy of which I transmit, complaining of the conduct of a special justice, Mr. Harris, for having committed an individual for trial before that Court for an assault. When the Chief Justice sent it to me, I called for a copy of the proceedings to which that presentment had reference. The case was that of *Sarah James v. MacClaggan*; and when your Lordship sees the evidences you will, I think, feel with me, that the presentment was unjustifiably made. This was a case of aggravated assault, and the decision of the Court itself pronouncing a heavier punishment than the Abolition Law would allow of, proves that Mr. Harris acted judiciously on the occasion. The recommendation of the Chief Justice conveyed in his letter, forwarding to me the presentment, seeming to approve it, though somewhat uncertain I must confess, in its scope, induced me to address a letter to the Chief Justice, a copy of which I have also the honour to enclose, and which I trust you will approve of."

JAMAICA.

Enclosures in  
No. 543.

Enclosures in No. 543.

(No. 1.)

EXTRACT of a LETTER from the Chief Justice to His Excellency the Governor, dated  
29 June 1836.

"I HAVE the honour to enclose a presentment of the grand jury of the county of Middlesex. The Judges of the Supreme Court fully concur in the observations made by the grand jury on the necessity of sending minor offences for trial to the Courts of Quarter Sessions."

(No. 2.)

To Sir *Joshua Rowe*, Knt., Chief Judge of the Supreme Court of Judicature in *Jamaica*, and to their Honours his Associate Judges.

May it please your Honours,

WE, the grand jurors for the county of Middlesex, beg leave respectfully to present as a very great nuisance the practice that has been followed, on the part of a stipendiary magistrate, in referring to this court the case of an apprentice who complained to him of an assault having been committed on her person; to adjudicate which the abolition law not only vests ample authority in the stipendiary magistracy, but likewise makes it imperative on them to try and determine the same.

We repudiate the line of conduct adopted in this instance, and present the same as a very great nuisance; one which if not promptly and effectually abated must, of necessity, become exceedingly onerous to the inhabitants of this island.

We regard it as an infringement on the rights of individuals, and as an inroad on the liberty of the subject.

It trenches on the rights of individuals, inasmuch as it deprives persons of their legal benefit in the services of the apprentices, whilst, on various pretences, they are summoned to attend the Grand Court, and it is an inroad on the liberty of the subject, by confining such persons unnecessarily in gaol as Crown witnesses.

(signed) *Alexander Bravo*, Cum Sociis.

(No. 3.)

EXTRACT of a LETTER from *W. G. Nunes*, Esq., Colonial Secretary, to his Honour the Chief Justice, dated the King's House, 4th July 1836.

I AM directed by his Excellency, the Governor, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, conveying the presentment of the grand jury at the late Supreme Court, and expressing the concurrence of all the judges in the views contained therein.

His Excellency wishes it to be conveyed to you, that the nuisance complained of by the grand jury does not, in his opinion, afford just grounds for that charge. There are many cases of assault of so grievous a nature that the special justice has not a sufficiently extensive jurisdiction adequately to punish them. The course, in such case, naturally and properly to be pursued is, to commit for trial. It is stated that following such a course is an infringement on the rights of individuals. With the respect his Excellency feels, and justly feels, for the high body who have made this remark, he cannot think that a reference to the highest tribunal of justice in the island for the redress of a grievance of an extent beyond the jurisdiction of an inferior one, can be looked upon in any other light than a greater caution to prevent any such infringement being made with impunity; the whole force, however, of this argument depends upon the facts of the case so referred, as there is no doubt that a vexatious abuse of that course may probably occur. His Excellency has called on the clerk of the Crown for particulars of the case alluded to.

(No. 4.)

Jamaica, ss. Middlesex.

The jurors for our Lord the King, upon their oath, present, that *Frederick MacClaggan*, late of the parish of *St. Thomas* in the *Vale*, in the county of *Middlesex*, in the said island, yeoman, on the 2d day of *June*, in the sixth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord *William IV.*, with force and arms, at the parish aforesaid, in the county aforesaid, in and upon one *Sarah James*, in the peace of God and our Lord the King then and there being, did make an assault, and her, the said *Sarah James*, then and there did beat, wound and ill treat; and that the said *Frederick MacClaggan*, with both his hands, then and there violently cast, flung and threw the said *Sarah James* to, upon and against a certain barbicue there situate, and her the said *Sarah James* in and upon the head, neck, breast, sides, back and other parts of her body with both the feet of him, the said *Frederick MacClaggan* then and there violently and grievously did kick, strike and beat, giving to the said *Sarah James*, then and there, as well by such flinging, casting and throwing of her the said *Sarah James* as also by such kicking, striking and beating of the said *Sarah James* as aforesaid, in and upon the head, neck, breast, sides, back and other parts of the body of her the said *Sarah James*, divers bruises, hurts and wounds, so that her life was greatly despaired of, and other wrongs to the said *Sarah James* then and there did, to the great damage of the said *Sarah James* and against the peace of our Lord the King, his Crown and dignity. And the jurors aforesaid, upon their oath aforesaid, do further present that the said *Frederick MacClaggan*, on the 2d day of *June*, in the year aforesaid, at the said parish of *St. Thomas* in the *Vale*, in the county of *Middlesex* and island aforesaid, in and upon one *Sarah James*, in the peace of God

God and our Lord the King then and there being, did make another assault, and her the said Sarah James then and there did beat, wound and ill treat, and other wrongs to the said Sarah James then and there did, to the great damage of the said Sarah James, and against the peace of our Lord the King, his Crown and dignity.

Appeared in court, and pleaded "Guilty."

*Molyneux Hyde Nepean*, Clerk of the Crown.

(No. 5.)

Jamaica, ss. St. Thomas in the Vale.

*Sarah James*, an apprentice attached to Recess Coffee Plantation, in the parish aforesaid, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith, that on Thursday last (the 2d of June) she was in the kitchen, ironing clothes, about four o'clock in the afternoon, when Frederick MacClaggan, a free brown man, who is in the service of my master, Mr. Gyles, and overlooks the property, came into the kitchen and said to me, "I am going to give you two suits of clothes to wash for me." Deponent answered she would wash them with all pleasure, but that she was not able. "I am troubled with my stomach." He said to me, "You are obliged to wash my clothes;" I told him "I am not obliged to wash them, and I won't wash them, because you have got a sweetheart upon the property." He said to me, "Don't give me any of your jaw, woman." I answered, "Jar hold water." Immediately he got off a table, on which he was sitting, and, with his double fists, hit me a violent blow, first on the left cheek, which made me stagger, and then he hit me a severe blow on the right cheek, which made me stagger back. I then came out of the kitchen for the purpose of going up stairs to my master to claim his protection. As I was leaving the kitchen door, he gave me a blow on the back of my head with his fist. As I was going along the barbicue, this man, Frederick, followed me, and gave me a most severe blow on the left side of my face, and a second one immediately on the back of my head, and made a kick at me. I fell down on the barbicue quite insensible. After a little while I came a little to myself, and I saw everything about me turning round. After a little I got up and went up stairs to master. I saw that Frederick had gone back in the kitchen. I tell master, who was in the long hall, "Master, you see how Frederick ill treat me." Master did not give me any answer, only that he was my son-in-law. I then went to my mistress, Mrs. Mary Gyles, in the nursery. Mistress asked me, "What your master say to you?" Me say master only tell me, "He is my son-in-law." Mistress said, "Frederick, you are very wrong." I then was going down the steps. Just as I got out upon the barbicues, Frederick, who was then in the kitchen, caught up a stick and ran after me. I then ran up stairs to mistress in the nursery. Frederick ran after me up stairs into the nursery. Seeing him coming, I ran and fell down close by mistress for protection. Frederick came up and gave me a severe blow on my head. Mistress said to him, "You are very wrong, Frederick; you should not do it." Frederick then went down stairs and went into the kitchen. I got up and went down the steps, and sat down between the barbicues and the steps. Frederick then threatened me from the kitchen, that if I came out of doors that night, he would be the death of me, he would murder me; he did not care for the consequences. Frederick afterwards went away to his house; and deponent saith that Betty Amos, an apprentice belonging to Recess, saw all that took place in the kitchen and on the barbicues; and that Eve, alias Rebecca Moulton, an apprentice also attached to Recess Plantation, was with others in the nursery, and saw all that passed there. And deponent saith that her master, to her hearing, never spoke to Frederick about his conduct. And deponent further saith, that she is under very great fear that the said Frederick MacClaggan will continue to ill use her; that he has threatened to do so; and that since she has received the beating from the said Frederick MacClaggan, she has felt herself very unwell; that all the teeth in her head shake from the severe blows; that she feels very bad about her head; and she blames Frederick for feeling so badly.

her  
Sally + James.  
mark.

Sworn before me, the same having been carefully read over to and explained to the deponent previously, this 5th day of June, 1836.

(signed) *Jas. Harris.*

— No. 544. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*, K. C. B., to Lord *Glenelg*, dated The King's House, Jamaica, 28th October 1836.

No. 544.

"HEREWITH I have the honour to lay before your Lordship the copy of a letter from the Chief Justice, enclosing a presentment of the grand jury for the county of Middlesex.

"2. The court at which the Chief Justice presided, as your Lordship will perceive, appear to have generally concurred in the several matters complained of.

"3. It can hardly be necessary for me to assure your Lordship that every suggestion therein made referable to the executive will be carefully attended to.

JAMAICA.

" 4. I do not concur with the presentment in regard to the state of crime; I question the fact of its increase; but whatever it amounts to is to be traced to the deplorably neglected state of the moral and religious condition of the negroes, in which essential means of restraint I consider them a full century behind the Windward Islands.

" 5. Another cause of crime is, every estate having got rid in various ways, by purchase or free gift of freedom, of as many of the most violent and bad characters as they could; these men, let loose upon society, riot in crimes almost with impunity; such is the defective state of the laws, and their inefficient administration.

" 6. In regard to the novel case of Mr. Special Justice Baynes being returned a nuisance, I beg to enclose a copy of a letter and affidavit which that gentleman has sent me in consequence.

" 7. In regard to the charge against Dr. Palmer, another special justice, that gentleman having been called upon to explain the conduct complained of, his explanation is enclosed.

" 8. Mr. Berry, who was foreman of the inquest and also custos of Manchester, and is considered a temperate sensible man, and a general supporter of the measures of government, first transmitted to me the accusatory letter against Dr. Palmer, which, however, I refused to act on, for the reasons stated in my reply.

" 9. I strongly urged Mr. Berry not to bring the subject before the grand jury till inquiry was made into the facts; but the moment it appeared before the public, I was then compelled to call on Dr. Palmer for his explanation."

Enclosure 2,  
17 October 1836.

Enclosure 3,  
28 October 1836.

Enclosure 4,  
13 October 1836.

Enclosure 5,  
15 October 1836.

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Enclosures in No. 544.

(No. 1.)

Enclosures in  
No. 544.

LETTER from *J. Rowe*, Chief Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq., dated 15th October 1836.

Sir,

15th October 1836.

I HAVE the honour to enclose to you a presentment made by the grand jury of this county, which you will be pleased to lay before his Excellency.

The court fully concur in the observations made respecting the alterations in the gaol, and hope that his Excellency will call the attention of the magistrates to the subject.

I explained to the grand jury that as many prisoners were in the gaols under sentence of transportation, not from any disinclination to carry into effect their sentences, but from the difficulty hitherto experienced of procuring ships to take them to England, we hope that his Excellency will call the attention of the commissioners of accounts to this subject, that tenders may be advertised for.

We also hope that his Excellency will point out to the different custodes the necessity which there exists of trying many of the cases which are sent to the Supreme Courts in the quarter sessions, by which justice will be more speedy, and expense and inconvenience saved to the public, as well as to prosecutors and witnesses.

On the subject of the special magistrates the court expressed their extreme regret that circumstances should have come under the notice of the grand jury to call for the observations they have made, but assured them that every consideration would be paid to their representations.

C. H. Darling, Esq.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(signed) *J. Rowe*, Chief Justice.

Jamaica, ss.

PRESENTMENT of the GRAND INQUEST of the County of *Middlesex*, October 1836.

May it please your Honours,

WE, the grand jury, have given every consideration to the charge your Honours addressed to us previous to our entering upon the important subjects committed to our care, and for which we thank your Honours.

We feel bound unhesitatingly to admit with your Honours that the state of the calendar but too fully indicates that crime in this county is increasing to an alarming extent, which, if not timely checked, may lead to the subversion of all order and to the defiance of all authority. Even during the sitting of the present grand court in this town, attempts have been made to obstruct the police in the execution of their duty when seizing offenders with property unlawfully acquired.

In investigating the causes which have led to this depravity we arrive at the conclusion that it is in no small degree encouraged from the security and exemption from punishment by which it is supposed it can be perpetrated; and this opinion is confirmed to delinquents by

by the circumstance of so many instances occurring where punishment is delayed to so remote a period after conviction as to hold out to them the hope that they will ultimately be pardoned. In some cases where the sentence of death has been months ago commuted to transportation, even the milder sentence remains unexecuted.

The number of criminals upon whom sentence has not been carried into execution in this town and Kingston, living at great expense to the country, amounts to 28.

Another fruitful source of the number of criminals and of the atrocity of crime has been the almost indiscriminate extension of mercy to a number of convicts of the most hardened and abandoned character, who have been turned loose upon the community. These persons, instead of appreciating this clemency on the part of the executive, and returning to habits of honest industry, have, in almost every instance, as partly shown by the present calendar, resumed their former malpractices with increased turpitude. These, we humbly submit, should have been sent out of the country, distant from the place of their degradation. It were then, we conceive, more likely that they would have reformed, and certainly this community would have been freed from their baneful influence and example. Fully convinced as we are that a prompt and decisive administration of the law, by speedily punishing the commission of crime, and thereby vindicating justice, would deter from the perpetration of offences, we cannot refrain from expressing a hope that the powers of the local courts may be extended, or that district courts may be established, in order that offences now sent to the superior courts, occasioning thereby delay, expense, and inconvenience, may be disposed of and summarily punished, for there is great reason to apprehend that unless predatory practices are subdued we must abandon the hope that a majority of the apprentices, after they have served the probationary period of the apprenticeship, will resort to that voluntary labour and effective industry so essentially necessary to the prosperity of the country. And when capital convictions take place, we are of opinion it would have a salutary effect if the sentence were carried into execution on the spot where the crime was committed.

The crime of rape, the most appalling to civilized society, and until recently of rare occurrence here, is well worthy the consideration of our legislature; and we trust that during the ensuing sessions of Assembly measures will be taken to afford this colony the advantages of the new law in England relating to that offence.

While we willingly admit that there are many honourable exceptions, we cannot avoid attributing considerable blame to some of the stipendiary magistrates for the maladministration of the law, thereby unhinging the minds of our peasantry, and indirectly encouraging crime. To such conduct do we ascribe the acts of insubordination that have been committed in some parts of the island, more especially in St. Thomas in the Vale. We cannot better substantiate this than by contrasting it with those quiet districts where the special magistrates have not by obtruding their injudicious opinions, stirred up strife and raised animosities between the apprentices and their managers; where they have dealt out even-handed justice to all by making the law their guide; and when they have perceived any ebullition of feeling evincing itself, they have resorted to conciliatory measures, the latter admitted by us all to be the best calculated to secure a good understanding, and the most likely to preserve the peace and harmony of the country, by the means most congenial to our own feelings.

We, the grand inquest, have inspected the county gaol, and have found it in a clean and orderly condition, but recommend that a chevaux-de-frize be placed in the north-west corner, extending 100 feet on each side from the angle, as persons have escaped there. We further recommend, in consequence of the great number of crown witnesses, for whom there is no accommodation without placing them in the criminal side, that one of the buildings, at present used for debtors, should be raised, and the additional story appropriated for their accommodation, and the lower part reserved for the crown witnesses.

We think it also necessary to say, that the roads throughout the county over which the jurors and others have recently travelled are in a very bad state. From the late rains this may in some degree be accounted for, but we still think there is great neglect, particularly near the town, in not repairing them properly. We hope the legislature when it meets will endeavour to improve our road legislation, as it seems they are becoming worse, although there is an enormous tax annually raised, which, if judiciously applied, ought to keep them in a much better state.

We had resolved to limit our presentment to the foregoing remarks, but circumstances have since come to our knowledge which we cannot reconcile to our consciences to pass over in silence. We have ascertained, from evidence which has been brought before us, that Mr. Special Justice Baynes of St. John's has instigated negroes to complain of the quantity of food allowed them in the St. John's workhouse, which those negroes have since avowed themselves in our presence to have been previously perfectly satisfied with. We submit that if culprits in any similar establishment in any part of the world had been so tampered with, they would find or invent grievances against those placed in authority over them. We are of opinion that the magistracy of St. John's have been, in this instance, unjustly slandered; that the said special magistrate has been using the cloak of his authority to avenge his private grievances; and we present such conduct as a general nuisance.

Our foreman, in his capacity as custos of Manchester, has received a letter from a magistrate in that parish, informing him, upon unquestionable authority, that at a party of stipendiary magistrates Mr. Special Justice Palmer had boasted that his district was in a state of the highest excitement, and taken credit to himself for its being so. We ask your Honours if it is strange that crime should be on the increase among the apprentices when their feelings and passions are thus worked upon, thus wound up to the pitch that leads them to despise the laws

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laws, when those very magistrates that are appointed by the Crown to preserve peace and check any disposition to disturbance are using the language and acting in the spirit of seditious agitators, and openly avowing it; and we implore your Honours, as a duty you owe to the country you live in and the community over which you so worthily preside, to use the influence in the proper quarter which your high station and talents confer upon you, to put a stop to conduct which is a reproach to the government that permits it, and which must have its natural consequence, the effect of greatly injuring the cultivation of the island in the meantime, and of raising a spirit of strife between the proprietors and the apprentices which will ruin it when the apprenticeship ceases. If our language should be thought strong, we entreat your Honours to remember that the prosperity of our country is at stake,—that the avowed object of the British government in enacting the apprenticeship system was to give time for angry feelings to subside,—that we are most anxious to avail ourselves of this time for that purpose, and that our object is defeated by some of the very men who ought most effectually to assist us in it, who have ceased to be impartial judges, and have become political partisans.

(signed) C. P. Berry, Foreman.

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No. 2.

LETTER from *E. D. Baynes*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq., dated 17th October 1836.

Sir,

Spanish Town, 17th October 1836.

I HAVE the honour to enclose an Affidavit to be laid before his Excellency, whom I humbly request to forward the same to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, for my exculpation from the odious and unjust imputation cast upon me by the presentment of the late grand jury.

C. H. Darling, Esq.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(signed) *Ed. Dacres Baynes*.

P.S.—A certificate from Sub-inspector Dunne accompanies the affidavit.

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(Copy.)

Jamaica, ss.

PERSONALLY appeared before me Edward Dacres Baynes, a justice of the peace for the precinct of St. Catherine, and a special magistrate, who maketh oath and saith, that he hath been most falsely and unjustly presented by the grand inquest for the county of Middlesex as having tampered with certain witnesses for the Crown in the cases *Rex versus Loane, Chapman and Thomas*, from motives of personal resentment; the whole of which allegation deponent sweareth, so help him God, is utterly false and untrue. Deponent hath never had any private conversation whatever either with the said or any other witnesses in the matter. Deponent further saith, that when he took the depositions of the parties signified, another special justice, Thomas St. John Bedford, sat with him, took part in the proceedings, and did not leave the room except with deponent. Sub-inspectors Adams and Dunne, of the police force, were also there, a certificate from the latter of whom deponent sendeth herewith, and will by next packet forward affidavits, when he shall have seen the parties.

Deponent further saith, that even were most of the allegations set forth in said presentment true, which they are not, they would in no manner amount to tampering with the witnesses. Deponent made and was making these very inquiries by the express command of his Excellency the late Governor, who directed him to take depositions as to all the irregularities committed in the St. John's house of correction, and to forward the same to his Excellency, which orders it was deponent's duty to comply with; moreover, both as a local and a special justice of the peace, deponent was and is bound to inquire into the treatment and usage of the prisoners confined in the house of correction, as well as regards their food as other particulars, and his failing to do so would very properly subject him to punishment for grossly neglecting his duty.

The certificate of Sub-inspector Dunne, deponent trusteth, will fully exonerate him from the odious, false, and scandalously unjust charge made in the presentment of the grand jury, whose unfounded assumption of facts is manifested in their rash and prejudiced imputation of the proceedings of deponent to motives of personal resentment, which did not and could not possibly come under the cognizance of the said jury, nor be grounded on the evidence of any of the witnesses brought before them, who are all perfect strangers to deponent, and with whom deponent never had any other than official communications, and in the presence of several other persons.

Deponent further sweareth, that he attributeth this hostility on the part of the grand jury to his activity in bringing to light, and to his exertions (unhappily rendered nugatory, for the present, by the said grand jury having, as deponent hath shown in affidavits delivered to his Excellency the Governor, contrary to the weight of evidence submitted to them, ignored the indictments against the parties,) to bring to justice the senior magistrate

of.

of the parish of St. John, Mr. W. Loane, and his abettors in the many revolting cruelties by them practised in the house of correction of the said parish.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Special Justice.

Sworn before me, the 17th October 1836, at Jago de la Vega,  
in the parish of St. Catherine.

(signed) *William Thomas March*,  
Justice of Peace for St. Catherine.

I, the undersigned, certify, that on the 4th day of July last Mr. Special Justice Baynes came to this police station, by requisition of the inspector general, for the purpose of attending a police court, accompanied by Mr. Bedford, another special justice. The police court being deferred, Mr. Baynes desired that two apprentices, named Robert Bendon Valentine and Letitia (both belonging to the property on which the station house is situated) be brought before him for examination.

I further certify, that neither of the special justices left the court during the time of examination, nor did they endeavour to elicit more from the above-named apprentices than what they voluntarily gave on oath regarding the treatment they received in the house of correction, both testifying positively that they received four heads of corn and a small piece of shad on a Friday morning, which was the "ne plus ultra" of share each for subsistence until the Monday evening following.

(signed) *James Dunne*,  
Sub-Inspector of Police.

St. John's Police Station,  
16th October 1836.

(No. 3.)

LETTER from *A. L. Palmer*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq., dated  
25th October 1836.

Sir,

St. Thomas in the Vale, 25th October 1836.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 17th instant, (No. 149,) covering copy of a letter of a Mr. Davy to Mr. Berry, the custos of Manchester, and forwarded to his Excellency by the latter gentleman, in his capacity of foreman of the grand inquest at the late session of the Supreme Court.

It appears to me somewhat singular that my position in the colony should be deemed of sufficient importance to render it necessary that any idle report of words attributed to me should be made the subject of grave representation to the executive, particularly from so distant a part of the island as the parish of Manchester, and by persons with whom I have not the remotest connection or any sort of acquaintance.

If so trivial an incident as this is thrust forward for the purpose of eking out a general charge against my principles, it only shows how frail and unsound must be that cause which is driven to such remote and indirect resources for its support.

It is my duty, however, to make the required explanation:—

I have an indistinct recollection of the circumstance alluded to; it occurred, I believe, so long ago as the 23d of August, on the occasion of the special justices assembling in Kingston, for the purpose of voting an address to the Marquis of Sligo.

At the meeting, while standing in the balcony, a group of gentlemen, of whom Mr. Pringle might have been one, were in conversation; and some of them were speaking in terms of self gratulation of the quiescent state of their respective districts. I, having reason to believe that some of them deserved but little credit for the boasted state of quietude, observed, in a half jeering manner, and in a tone of good-humoured irony, "Well, gentlemen, you may boast of the quietness of your districts, but I can boast that no district in the island is in such a delightful state of excitement as mine;" and, if I remember rightly, I went on to speak sneeringly of a furious tirade which had appeared in that morning's paper against me on that subject; and I spoke also of some threats of personal violence which had been held out against me by persons in the parish; and, if I mistake not, Mr. Ramsay, in a similar tone, offered me the loan of a brace of pistols to defend myself.

Mr. Pringle is represented to have "left the table in disgust."

Mr. Pringle's virtuous indignation, even had it been exhibited, which it was not, would have been somewhat out of place; no one present could possibly have misunderstood the application of the word "excitement," and that it referred solely to the feelings of irritation and annoyance on the part of the planters towards me, and not in the remotest degree to any excitement amongst the apprentices, which, in point of fact, had no existence.

Such is a plain statement of the affair, so far as my memory bears me out, and I must leave it to my opponents to exert their ingenuity in torturing my words so as to bear a seditious tendency.

If Mr. Pringle made it a practice of speaking disparagingly of me amongst the planters, I have no doubt that he at least will soon secure a large share of popular favour; and if his popularity be drawn from no other source, I shall be well content to remain the permanent sacrifice.

With regard to the presentment of the grand jury, in the latter part of which I am honoured with such especial notice, I have no hesitation in avowing that the expression of such



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such sentiments has made not the slightest impression on my mind. Under ordinary circumstances a presentment of such a character might have been painful and distressing to my feelings; but in the present state of public morals, when party spirit runs riot, when all the better feelings are absorbed in the vortex of intemperate passion, and even the most sacred duties sacrificed to the purpose of political faction, we must expect that he who runs counter to the stream will be marked out as a victim for persecution. But so long as I have the consolation of an approving conscience, void of offence, and so long as I can retain the confidence of His Majesty's Government by the faithful and fearless, but at the same time prudent and cautious, discharge of the duties of my office, I shall feel quite indifferent to any language of censure that may be levelled at me by a body of men composed of such materials as was the late grand inquest of this county.

In looking over the document referred to, I find a mass of gratuitous assumptions, unsupported by reference to a single fact; it is a tissue of mere idle declamation, a bold attempt to impose on public credulity and create alarm, both here and elsewhere; and though I am persuaded it is done with a covert design of obstructing the advancement of social reform in the condition of our apprentice population, the whole scope of the planters' policy at the present moment embraces this object:—Let them, by the incessant repetition of their watchword, "insubordination and rebellion," succeed in raising a general panic, and they effectually stifle all inquiry into abuses, they scare the upright magistrate from the honest performance of his duty, and thus retain in their own hands that measure of power which has been and still is so flagitiously abused, and which it was the direct object of the British Parliament to restrain within fixed and clearly defined limits.

It would have been well if the grand jury, in charging on me any share in the production of the alleged "increase of crime," had shown by reference to some known circumstance that crime in this parish has increased; they should have shown that disturbance does prevail, that the passions of the labouring class are worked upon, and that they do despise the laws.

It was surely incumbent on those gentlemen to afford some data for their solemn denunciations on points of such importance.

I beg leave once more to impress upon his Excellency's mind, in the most emphatic manner, that the vague rumours afloat for some time past of disorder prevailing amongst the apprentices of this district are utterly void of foundation; there is no disturbance whatever, nor any tendency thereto; even when goaded on by every species of provocation and injury, the people continue in the faithful and efficient performance of their legal obligations to their masters.

I consider that the special magistrates have some reason to complain of the very marked and peculiar tone of the chief justice's reply to the presentment of the grand jury. I respectfully submit that his Honour has too palpably adopted the unsupported and indeed groundless assumptions contained in the address, and that in adopting those premises he has been led to indulge in a train of reflections which, in effect, convey so strong a censure on a portion of our body as cannot fail to be most painful and humiliating to their personal feelings, and at the same time likely to prove most detrimental to the interests of the public service.

The special magistrates have already quite sufficient to contend with; but if the weight and influence of the highest legal functionary in the island be thrown in the scale against them, it is high time that their painful and hazardous position should be made known to His Majesty's Government.

In conclusion, I venture to express the hope that his Excellency the Governor will be pleased to direct that the correspondence on this subject be transmitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, as I am particularly desirous that the whole of my conduct should be fully laid open for the consideration of His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.,

(signed) *A. L. Palmer*, Special Justice.

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(No. 4.)

LETTER from *C. P. Berry*, Esq. to Sir *Lionel Smith*, K.C.B., dated 13th October 1836.

May it please your Excellency,

Grand Jury Room, 13 Oct. 1836.

I SHOULD neither be doing justice to your Excellency or the country were I to delay one moment in placing before your Excellency a copy of a letter I have this day received by post from a gentleman of the highest respectability in Manchester.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. P. Berry*.

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Dear Sir,

Manchester, 11 October 1836.

A CIRCUMSTANCE has been related to me which, as I hold a commission of the peace, I think it my duty to make known to you as the head of the magistracy of this parish. It is this:—Dr. Palmer is stated to have said at a dinner table, where were several gentlemen holding special commissions, "Gentlemen, you talk of your districts; I am proud to say that mine is in a greater state of excitement than any in the island, and I think I have reason to boast of it."

This .

This information was given to Mr. Grant by Mr. Pringle, special magistrate, residing at Vere, who says he heard it, and was so impressed with the impropriety of it that he left the table.

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C. P. Berry, Esq.

I remain, &c.  
(signed) *James L. Davy.*

(No. 5.)

LETTER from Sir *Lionel Smith*, K.C.B., to *C. P. Berry*, Esq. dated 15 October 1836.

My dear Sir,

The King's House, 15 October 1836.

I HAD the pleasure of receiving your letter respecting a conversation between Dr. Palmer and other special magistrates.

I am a great deal too proud a man to entertain any criminal accusation against any gentleman originating in private conversation; no man is safe in society where such a practice is tolerated.

If an affidavit is sent in that Dr. Palmer absolutely used such language, then the subject could be legitimately tangible; but I could not call for it on the present ground of complaint.

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

— No. 545. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*, K.C.B., dated Downing-street, 16th January 1837.

No. 545.

Sir,

Downing-street, 16 Jan. 1837.

I HAVE received your despatch dated 28th October, No. 13, enclosing a presentment from the grand jury of the county of Middlesex in Jamaica.

It does not appear to me convenient that I should in this place follow the grand jury through the various subjects of their presentment, and thus blend together in one despatch the discussion of questions between which there exists no necessary connexion.

Other and more convenient occasions will arise for expressing my opinions on the probable causes of the increase or apparent increase of crime in Jamaica; on the remedy for that evil, which is to be found in a diligent attention to the moral and religious culture of the people; on the system of transportation, as it affects the colonies from which convicts have hitherto been sent, and still more as it affects those in which they have hitherto been received; and on the general efficiency of the stipendiary magistracy of Jamaica.

But while, for the present, I pass over these topics, I cannot postpone the notice of another, which is pressed upon my attention both by the presentment of the grand jury, and by your despatch.

I refer to the imputations cast by that body upon the two special justices, Mr. Baynes and Dr. Palmer. Mr. Baynes is accused of having instigated negroes to complain of the quantity of food allowed in the St. John's workhouse. The magistrate is declared a slanderer, and is denounced as having "used the cloak of his authority to avenge his private grievances." On the authority of a letter addressed to the foreman, Dr. Palmer is represented as having at a social meeting uttered certain improper expressions; and then, assuming the truth of all that is said by the unnamed writer of this letter, the grand jury proceed to found upon it a very strong denunciation of the conduct of Mr. Palmer.

It is, I am aware, difficult or impossible to define precisely the boundaries of the power of Grand Juries in bringing under the notice of the Court whatever they may regard as a violation of the law; we can look only to usage and to the immutable principle of justice; and I must avow the difficulty which I find to reconcile the proceedings on this occasion with either.

As to usage, so far as my information extends, no grand jury in this country has ever attempted to convert its presentments into a vehicle for impugning the conduct of individuals either in their public capacity or in private life, except when such charges have been relevant to the matter of some indictment to be preferred against the parties so accused. Neither am I aware that any grand jury in England has ever drawn up such accusations in the controversial and reproachful style employed in this presentment. Still less can I suppose that

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grand juries are accustomed to found such heavy imputations upon the mere quotation to them, by one of their own number, of a letter received by him from some unnamed correspondent.

As to the justice of this proceeding, it is obvious that no reputation is safe if any body of gentlemen are at liberty thus to promulgate charges of which the accused party has no notice, and which it is impossible for him to bring to the test of a judicial inquiry. Messrs. Baynes and Palmer had it not in their power to insist upon indictments being framed upon the presentments against them, because the imputed offences, however grave, were not of an indictable nature. Neither could they bring actions for defamation against their accusers, because the grand jury are of course privileged against any such responsibility. Thus these gentlemen could have no resource except in an appeal to the public journals, a remedy to which it is scarcely reasonable that any of the King's subjects should be left.

Nor can I perceive any necessity for such a mode of bringing forward any charge against a public officer. If any party had a reasonable ground of complaint against a special magistrate, that complaint might without difficulty be preferred to the Governor, by whom such an investigation could be directed as he might think it his duty to institute, with a view to that redress which he has in such case the power of applying.

As to the truth of the charges it is my duty to offer some observations.

Mr. Baynes has adduced, in refutation of the charges affecting him, such evidence as I am bound to declare not only satisfactory, but complete. Whether it is possible to repel the force of his proof by any counter testimony I am of course unable to determine; but, confining myself to the documents before me, I must regard this gentleman as having been subjected to an imputation as unfounded as it is serious.

With respect to Dr. Palmer, whatever views I may entertain of his conduct as exhibited in other parts of your correspondence, and admitting that some want of caution was evinced by him on the occasion in question, I am constrained to admit that he has refuted the substance of the charge made against him by the grand jury, by showing that the words spoken by him do not require or admit the construction which they have received.

Yet both Mr. Baynes and Dr. Palmer remain burthened with these disgraceful imputations before the public at large; nor do I know how they can be fully relieved from the effect of these imputations. It is however but due to them that publicity should be given to the sentiments which I have felt it my duty to address to you with reference to this case.

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

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— No. 546. —

No. 546. Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*, K.C.B. to Lord *Glenelg.*  
(Two Enclosures.)

My Lord,

The King's House, Jamaica, 28 October 1836.

I BEG leave to request your Lordship's instructions on the cases referred to in the enclosed papers, being copies of representations from Special Justices Palmer and Harris, and Special Justice Baynes, of the conduct of the grand jury at the late assize court of Middlesex, in throwing out bills of indictment which were preferred at the instance of those magistrates, notwithstanding that very strong evidence was brought before the jury in support of the indictments.

The magistrates have since applied to the Attorney-general to proceed by *ex-officio* information, but that officer has declined to do so without an express authority from the Government. As the time which must elapse before the next sessions of the court affords me the opportunity of referring to your Lordship's superior authority, I avail myself of it, in order that I may not only receive your Lordship's instructions with regard to the particular cases now submitted, but that I may be favoured with your Lordship's opinion as to the general policy of resorting to *ex-officio* informations; and one circumstance should be remembered in considering the question, viz. that in the present state of colonial society

Enclosure 1.  
14 October 1836.

Enclosure 2.  
17 October 1836.

society it may almost be assumed as a certainty that a verdict will not be obtained by the Crown in cases where the bills were in the first instance ignored by the grand jury.

JAMAICA.

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

(Enclosures in No. 546.)

(No. 1.)

REPRESENTATIONS from *A. L. Palmer, Esq. and James Harris, Esq.* Special Justices, Enclosures in 546.  
dated 14th October 1836.

Sir,

Spanish Town, 14 October 1836.

WE deem it necessary to bring under the notice of his Excellency the Governor a circumstance which occurred this day.

Some time ago, whilst in the execution of our official duties, we were violently obstructed and personally assaulted by Mr. Gyles of St. Thomas in the Vale.

The Marquis of Sligo, on the facts being laid before him, directed the Attorney-general to institute legal proceedings against Mr. Gyles. Two bills of indictment were this day laid before the grand inquest, and we were both examined on oath before the jury, and, being the only witnesses examined, we are enabled to speak positively as to the extent and bearing of the facts on which those gentlemen grounded their decision.

Our evidence went to prove that on the 10th of August last, by the express directions of the late Governor, we proceeded together to Recess Plantation, both to hold a court for the adjudication of complaints between Mr. Gyles and his apprentices, and more particularly for the purpose of inspecting the hospital and dungeon on Recess, against which serious complaints had been laid before us by various apprentices; that the hospital and dungeon were represented to be one and the same place; that it was a cellar under ground, neither floored nor terraced, without window, without bed-place, and affording nothing but the bare ground to sleep on, and that the place was unprovided with a privy; and futhermore, that the room contained a place of torture, called a coffin case, together with stocks and other usual emblems of slavery, although not in use since the 1st of August 1834.

We explained, that after adjudicating on several cases, we told Mr. Gyles that we intended to inspect his hospital and dungeon; that he immediately declared he would obstruct us; that we then desired a person in his employ to show us the way to the place, when Mr. Gyles said, "I will show you the place," and forthwith led the way down to the cellars under the dwelling-house; that on arriving at one of the cellar-doors Mr. Gyles stopped and said, "There, Sir, and I will not allow you to inspect my premises;" that Dr. Palmer, who was first, attempted to pass into the building, when Mr. Gyles in a violent manner seized him by the breast of his coat with both his hands, and forcibly dashed him backwards, and he fell against Mr. Harris, who was close behind; that the shock caused Mr. Harris to stagger back a pace, and when he recovered he also attempted to enter the cellar-door; that Mr. Gyles then laid hold of him by the collar, and again laid hold of Dr. Palmer by the breast of his coat, and violently thrust both of us back; that the force used by Mr. Gyles was quite sufficient, and would inevitably have laid Dr. Palmer prostrate on his back had he not come in contact with Mr. Harris.

Such was the evidence given before the grand jury on the charge against Mr. Gyles, of obstructing and assaulting two magistrates in the lawful execution of their duty; and on such evidence the grand jury considered it their duty to ignore the bill.

Another bill of indictment was at the same time preferred against John Ferrier, overseer of Rose Hall, for obstructing Mr. Harris in the performance of his duty.

Mr. Harris directly proved the facts of the case, and Dr. Palmer proved Mr. Ferrier's admission of those facts, on oath, before the commissioners of inquiry at Rodney Hall. It was proved that a complaint was laid before Mr. Harris by a female apprentice of Rose Hall, of having been assaulted, by one of the constables of the estate, while at work in the field; that Mr. Harris, on his next visit to the estate, required the overseer to send for the complainant and defendant from the field, in order that the matter might be investigated; that Ferrier not only refused to send, but expressed his determination not to allow the parties to come; and when Mr. Harris directed one of the constables to summon the parties before him, he, Mr. Ferrier, threatened the constable with punishment if he dared to obey Mr. Harris's order; that Mr. Ferrier contemptuously denied the right of Mr. Harris to entertain the complaints of apprentices against each other, in the estate's time, although this was a complaint clearly arising out of and connected with the estate's duties. That Mr. Harris eventually adjudicated on the complaint and convicted the defendant.

This bill, supported by the foregoing evidence, was also thrown out by the grand jury.

During our examination before the jury some extraordinary questions were asked, and some extraordinary opinions were offered, by several of the jurors, all clearly showing that those gentlemen had predetermined to decide, less on the facts laid before them than on their peculiar and preconceived notions of the extent of a magistrate's authority in the execution of his duty.

We were asked, what right had we to take with us two policemen when visiting Recess? what right had we to inspect the dungeon and hospital? We were told that Mr. Gyles was perfectly right in preventing us from inspecting any of his premises; that when he told us he would

JAMAICA.

would obstruct us, we had no right to attempt to force our way; that we had no right to demand inspection of those places; that if we desired information about the hospital, we should have applied to the medical attendant. In the case of "Rose Hall," Mr. Harris was told by a juror that Mr. Ferrier was perfectly right in what he did, and he hoped every overseer in the island would do the same; that the law gave the proprietor only 40½ hours' labour, and the apprentice had no right to take any part of it to make a complaint; that they should take their own time; that Mr. Harris knew that the constables were sworn in to obey the overseer's orders, and he had no right to go on the property and give contrary orders to those of the overseer, and that such was setting a bad example of disobedience to the apprentices.

There is another peculiar feature in this case, which we feel it necessary to point out. Mr. Gyles formed one of the grand jury, but during our examination he retired to another room; but shortly after we had given our evidence, and before the grand jury had returned the bills into court, Mr. Gyles, apparently as if summoned by some or other of the jurors, joined his colleagues in the grand-jury room, and there remained till we left the premises.

On learning the fate of the bills we applied to the Attorney-general as to what further steps could be taken to give us the fair protection of the law, and secure future respect for our legal authority in the execution of our judicial functions; and we are told that he would not feel authorized, after the decision of the grand jury, in proceeding by criminal or *ex officio* information, unless under the direct precept of his Excellency the Governor.

We therefore consider it due to ourselves personally, due to the responsible office we hold, and due to the principles of justice, respectfully to submit to his Excellency whether this be not a case in which the strongest powers of the law should be invoked for the purpose of arresting the evils which are obviously involved in the questions at issue. We submit, that if this decision of the grand jury were to be considered final, it would, in effect, give impunity to any and every act of lawless violence and outrage that might in future be perpetrated on the person of a special magistrate. We submit, that by the intervention of the grand jury, we have been deprived of that fair measure of protection to which the meanest of his Majesty's subjects is entitled, and in all ordinary cases receives.

We will not advert to the obvious tendency which such a decision must necessarily have in strengthening the hands of those who are opposed to the impartial administration of the law; but his Excellency will be enabled to appreciate the extreme difficulties with which a conscientious magistrate is surrounded in the honest performance of his duty, and will perhaps agree with us, that it would be extremely unsafe to leave persons so directly interested in the result as the grand jury, to define, in so arbitrary a manner, the exact extent of jurisdiction and legal authority of a special justice in the administration of an unpopular enactment.

We have, &c.

(signed) A. L. Palmer, }  
James Harris, } Special Justices.

Referred to his Majesty's Attorney-general, with a request that he will report what further steps he can recommend to afford Messrs. Palmer and Harris a better chance of justice.

By command.

15 Oct. 1836.

(signed) C. H. Darling.

In my opinion, on these facts, an *ex officio* information may be filed; thus, at least, the circumstances will be made public, and the grossly illegal conduct of the parties accused be brought before a court and jury. At the same time I must say that, in the present excited state of the colony, I have but small hope of convicting the parties, even though I should prove all that Messrs. Palmer and Harris allege.

17 Oct. 1836.

(signed) D. O'Reilly.

(No. 2.)

LETTER from E. D. Baynes, Esq., Special Justice, to his Excellency Sir L. Smith, K.C.B., dated 17th October 1836.

Sir,

Spanish Town, 17 October 1836.

His Excellency the Marquis of Sligo, late governor, having given directions to his Honour the Attorney-general to prosecute Mr. W. Loane, senior magistrate of the parish of St. John's, Patrick Brown Thomas, supervisor of the St. John's House of Correction, and George Chapman, a person employed in the same, for divers assaults, acts of grievous cruelty and great oppression, such as chaining female apprentices unconvicted of any offence, but merely detained in custody in the said house of correction as suspected runaways, by the neck, when dangerously sick, in the hospital of the institution; detaining a prisoner beyond the term prescribed in his sentence; savagely beating one of them, and that on his diseased leg; keeping the prisoners on such insignificant and improper food as scarcely sufficient to keep them from perishing; and beating and falsely imprisoning them; indictments, drawn out from affidavits to these facts, were preferred before the grand jury, who ignored them in the teeth of an overwhelming weight of evidence present for examination. One or more of the indictments were ignored without the grand jury taking a single deposition in support of it, and finally the whole thrown out; the jury, out of 13 witnesses for the Crown,

Crown, duly named on the back of the indictment, and all in attendance, having only examined six; neglecting or refusing, as I have affidavits to prove, to hear the other seven.

I have in consequence applied to his honour, the Attorney-general, to file criminal informations against the parties guilty of such atrocious outrages, who, from the partiality and neglect of the grand inquest, have hitherto remained unpunished. The Attorney-general has, however, declined doing so without receiving your Excellency's concurrence to that effect, which I hereby respectfully entreat and solicit your Excellency to grant.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. Dacres Baynes*, Special Justice.

Witnesses for the Crown in attendance on the 13th October 1836, examined or not examined by the grand jury on the cases *Rex v. Loane, Chapman and Thomas*.

Eleanor Lorraine	- examined.	John Archer	- - not examined.
Ann Francis	- - examined.	David Henry	- not examined.
Margaret Taylor	- examined.	Francis Lindo	- not examined.
Richard Francis	- examined.	Robert Johnson	- not examined.
Letitia	- - - examined.	Hannah Williams	not examined.
Robert B. Valentine	examined.	John Edwards	- not examined.
		John William	- not examined.

Personally appeared before me, E. D. Baynes, Esq., one of his Majesty's justices of the peace for the precinct of St. Catherine, Eleanor Lorraine, who maketh oath and saith, that she was a witness for the Crown in the cases *Rex v. Loane, Chapman and Thomas*; that she was examined by the grand jury, now sitting, on Thursday last, 13th October instant, and that she deposed that on a Saturday morning, when a prisoner confined in the St. John's House of Correction—she did not recollect how long ago this happened, but said she thought more than three months—she received only three heads of corn and one quarter of a shad for her subsistence during the whole day; on the Sunday morning she received two heads of corn and one in the evening; she did not recollect that she got any shad on the Sunday; on Monday deponent said she got no provisions whatever, until about eight o'clock in the evening, when some cocoas, which the matron, Miss Lawrence, said were 4lbs., were served out. Deponent further saith, that she deposed in evidence before the grand jury, that she was kept with the chain and collar on her when sick in the hospital, which were removed by order of the special magistrate when he visited the institution; they were not put on again for some time, until a vestry took place, when the collar was put on her again. She also informed the grand jury that she was turned out of the hospital, when some militiamen were brought up to the house of correction, to make room for their accommodation, not being at the time recovered from her sickness. Deponent also said in evidence that sometimes for four, five and six days together, the prisoners in the St. John's house of correction got no salt provisions whatever.

(signed) *Eleanor + Lorraine*.  
her  
mark.

Sworn before me this 15th day of October 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Justice of the Peace.

Personally appeared before me, E. D. Baynes, one of His Majesty's justices of the peace for the precinct of St. Catherine, Ann Francis, who maketh oath and saith, that she was a witness for the Crown in the cases *Rex v. Loane, Chapman and Thomas*; that she was examined before the grand jury on Thursday, 13th October instant, and that she deposed before it that she was chained and had a collar put on her when a prisoner in the house of correction; that the special magistrate ordered the chain and collar to be removed; about a week afterwards Dr. Loane came with some other gentlemen, and ordered them to be put on again, which was done, and she was kept so chained until she was discharged. Deponent sayeth further, that she told the grand jury that she was worked out of the institution, at Mr. Bell's, carrying shingles, also at Mr. Nash's, picking pimento. Whilst in the house of correction, more than three months ago, she received on a Friday morning for her daily allowance three heads of corn, with a quarter of a shad; on Saturday evening she got for that day's allowance three heads of corn, with the same quantity of shad; on Sunday morning two heads of corn, and in the evening one head. Deponent further informed the grand jury that for three weeks, whilst working out at Mr. Bell's, she got no salt provisions at all, except only one day, when Mr. Bell gave four shads amongst eight people. She also deposed that one day when at Mr. Nash's she had a quart of served out to her, but could get neither fire nor water to cook it, so could not eat it.

(signed) *Ann + Francis*.  
her  
mark.

Sworn before me this 15th day of October 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Justice of Peace.

JAMAICA.

Personally appeared before me, E. D. Baynes, one of His Majesty's justices of the peace for the precinct of St. Catherine, Margaret Taylor, who maketh oath and saith, that she was a witness for the Crown in the cases *Rex v. Loane, Chapman and Thomas*, and that she was examined before the grand jury on Thursday, 13th October instant, and that she was asked by them how long she had the chains on her; she told them that she had no chain or collar put on her until Dr. Loane ordered them to be put on her. The grand jury did not make any other questions.

Sworn before me this 15th day of October 1836.  
 (signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Justice of Peace.

her  
 (signed) *Margaret + Taylor*.  
 mark.

Personally appeared before me, E. D. Baynes, Esq., one of His Majesty's justices of the peace for the precinct of St. Catherine, Richard Francis, apprenticed labourer on Belmont Estate, St. John's, and late a prisoner in the St. John's house of correction, who maketh oath and saith, that he was a witness for the Crown in the cases *Rex v. Loane, Chapman and Thomas*; he was examined before the grand jury on Thursday, 13th October, and that he deposed before them that he was a prisoner in the St. John's house of correction, and that having a sore foot he was unable to dance on the treadmill, on which Mr. Chapman took a cat and beat him severely with it on the sore foot, in consequence of which the foot got worse. On his showing it to the doctor, he gave orders that deponent should not be put any more on the treadwheel, and that the chain should be taken off. Deponent further said that his foot had been worse ever since. Deponent said nothing further before the grand jury.

Sworn before me this 15th October 1836.  
 (signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Justice of Peace.

his  
 (signed) *Richard + Francis*.  
 mark.

Personally appeared before me, E. D. Baynes, Esq., justice of the peace for the precinct of St. Catherine, Letitia, an apprenticed labourer to William B. Valentine, who, not being a Christian, but duly cautioned to speak nothing but the truth, saith, that she was a witness for the Crown in the cases *Rex v. Loane, Chapman and Thomas*, and that she was examined before the grand jury on Thursday, 13th day of October instant, and that she deposed before them, that about three months ago, or more, she received, on a Saturday morning, three heads of corn and about a quarter of a shad for her entire subsistence during the day; on the Sunday also that she got three heads of corn and the salt fish; on the Monday nothing until three o'clock, when some cocoes were served out. She also deposed that she was sick when in the house of correction; the collar was kept on her all the time she was unwell, but the chain was taken off. During the time she was ill, she deposed that a doctor never came to the house of correction. She also further deposes, that she told the grand jury that the special magistrate ordered the collar and chain to be removed from her; but Dr. Loane directed them to be put on again, and they were accordingly put on again.

Sworn before me this 15th day of October 1836.  
 (signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Justice of Peace.

her  
 (signed) *Letitia +*  
 mark.

Personally appeared before me, E. D. Baynes, justice of the peace for the parish of Saint Catherine, Robert Bendon Valentine, apprenticed labourer to William Bendon Valentine, who maketh oath and saith, that he was a witness for the Crown in the cases *Rex v. Loane, Chapman and Thomas*, and was examined before the grand jury on Thursday, 13th October instant, and that he deposed before them, that on a Friday, he did not recollect how long ago, thinks about three months, he got for his day's allowance, as a prisoner in the St. John's house of correction, three heads of corn only; the same on Saturday; on Sunday two heads of corn, and on Monday nothing at all until four o'clock in the afternoon, when the prisoners were served with cocoes. During the whole of that time he got only one quarter of a shad daily for salt provisions, and suffered extremely from hunger. Deposed to nothing else before the grand jury.

Sworn before me this 15th day of October 1836.  
 (signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Justice of Peace.

his  
 (signed) *Robert Bendon + Valentine*.  
 mark.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Justice of Peace.

Personally

Personally appeared before me, E. D. Baynes, Esq., justice of the peace for the precinct of St. Catherine, John Archer, who maketh oath and saith, that he was a witness for the Crown in the cases *Rex v. Loane*, Chapman and Thomas, and that he was not called at all before the grand jury.

Sworn before me this 15th day of October 1836. (signed) <sup>his</sup> *John + Archer.*  
 (signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Justice of Peace. mark.

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Personally appeared before me, E. D. Baynes, Esq., justice of the peace for the precinct of St. Catherine, David Henry, apprenticed labourer on Belmont Estate, St. John's, who maketh oath and saith, that he was a witness for the Crown in the cases *Rex v. Loane*, Chapman and Thomas, and that he was not called or examined before the grand jury at all.

Sworn before me this 15th day of October 1836. (signed) <sup>his</sup> *David + Henry.*  
 (signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Justice of Peace. mark.

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Personally appeared before me, E. D. Baynes, Esq., one of His Majesty's justices of the peace for the precinct of St. Catherine, Francis Lindo, who maketh oath and saith, that she was a witness for the Crown in the cases *Rex v. Loane*, Chapman and Thomas, and that she was not called at all before the grand jury.

Sworn before me this 15th day of October 1836. (signed) <sup>her</sup> *Frances + Lindo.*  
 (signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Justice of Peace. mark.

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Personally appeared before me, E. D. Baynes, Esq., one of His Majesty's justices of the peace for the precinct of St. Catherine, Robert Johnson, who maketh oath and saith, that he was a witness for the Crown in the cases *Rex v. Loane*, Chapman and Thomas, and that he was not called or examined before the grand jury.

Sworn before me this 15th day of October 1836. (signed) <sup>his</sup> *Robert + Johnson.*  
 (signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Justice of Peace. mark.

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Personally appeared before me Hannah Williams, apprenticed labourer, who maketh oath and saith, that she was a witness for the Crown in the different cases *Rex v. Loane*, Chapman and Thomas; she was not called at all before the grand jury.

Sworn before me this 15th day of October 1836. (signed) <sup>her</sup> *Hannah + Williams.*  
 (signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Justice of Peace. mark.

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Personally appeared before me, E. D. Baynes, Esq., one of His Majesty's justices of the peace for the precinct of St. Catherine, John Edwards, who maketh oath and saith, that he was a witness for the Crown in the cases *Rex v. Loane*, Chapman and Thomas, and that he was not called before the grand jury.

Sworn before me this 15th day of October 1836. (signed) <sup>his</sup> *John + Edwards,*  
 (signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Justice of Peace. mark.

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Personally appeared before me, E. D. Baynes, Esq., justice of the peace for the parish of St. Catherine, John William, apprenticed labourer to Mr. Greves of Content or Bahama Hall, in the Red Hills, who maketh oath and saith, that he was a witness for the Crown in the cases *Rex v. Loane*, Chapman, and Thomas, and that he was not called or examined at all before the grand jury.

Sworn before me this 15th day of October 1836. (signed) <sup>his</sup> *John + William.*  
 (signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Justice of Peace. mark.  
 Personally



JAMAICA.

Personally appeared before me E. D. Baynes, one of His Majesty's justices of the peace for the precinct of St. Catherine, who maketh oath and saith, that to the best of his knowledge and belief, and as he is verily persuaded, the grand inquest for the county of Middlesex, lately sitting in the town of St. Jago de la Vega, have acted most partially and unjustly in having, without proper regard to the weight of evidence submitted to them, on the 13th day of October instant, in the cases *Rex v. Loane and Thomas*, *Rex v. Loane and Thomas*, *Rex v. P. B. Thomas*, *Rex v. P. B. Thomas*, *Rex v. P. P. Thomas*, and *Rex v. George Chapman*, thrown out and ignored the indictments sent into them in said cases; also, as he is verily persuaded, in throwing out one or more of the aforesaid bills without taking a single deposition or examining any witnesses as to the matter charged in the indictment; and again, as deponent verily believeth, in examining six only of the 13 witnesses in attendance in support of said indictments, and neglecting or refusing to hear the other seven; all being to the grievous wrong and injustice of the unhappy apprentices who have suffered so many cruel injuries in the St. John's house of correction, and have thus been deprived of redress.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Justice of Peace.

Sworn before me this 17th day of October 1836.

(signed) *Richard Hill*, Justice of Peace.

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— No. 547. —

No. 547. COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*, K.C.B., dated 13th January 1837.

Sir,

Downing-street, 13 January 1837.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 28th October, No. 15, on the subject of the rejection by the grand jury of the county of Middlesex, in the Island of Jamaica, of certain bills of indictment sent up to them at the instance of three of the special magistrates of the island, and I have to return the following answer to the general question which you have proposed for my decision in that despatch.

A grand jury is a body acting in secret, and exempt from all responsibility to any human authority; for which reason, as I conceive, it is that the law and constitution authorize the King's Attorney-general to exhibit informations, *ex officio*, in cases of misdemeanor, whenever there may be reason to suppose that the grand jury are accessible to any sinister influence. In the cases to which your despatch refers it appears to me impossible, upon the documents which you have transmitted, to doubt that there was such evidence as ought to have induced the grand jury to place the accused parties upon their trial. Those documents may of course be imperfect and fallacious. I therefore do not venture to found any positive opinion upon them. I limit myself to the instruction that you should call upon the Attorney-general to report to you, in reference to each case, whether he thinks the evidence is such as ought to induce a conviction. In any case in which he shall return an affirmative answer to that question you will direct him to exhibit a criminal information. You observe, indeed, that "in the present state of colonial society it may almost be assumed as a certainty that a verdict will not be obtained for the Crown in cases where the bills were in the first instance ignored by the grand jury." If compelled to adopt this unfavourable opinion of the petit juries of Jamaica, I should find in that circumstance a motive, not against, but in favour of the course which I propose to adopt; because the only prospect of obtaining justice would consist in giving to the denial of it such publicity as would either prevent the recurrence of the abuse, or justify the adoption of such measures as so extraordinary an exigency would demand.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

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— No. 548. —

No. 548. COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *L. Smith*, K.C.B., dated Downing-street, 6th February 1837.

Sir,

Downing-street, 6 Feb. 1837.

I HAVE received a letter from Mr. E. D. Baynes, dated the 4th December, enclosing another dated the 21st November, in which he vindicates himself against the aspersions thrown on him by the grand inquest of Middlesex, and  
appeals

appeals to a variety of documents, therewith transmitted, in proof of what he asserts.

I learn by an extract which Mr. Baynes quotes from a letter addressed to him by your secretary on the 23d of November, that these enclosures were communicated to you for transmission to me, but that you refused to transmit them. I cannot but regret this decision. I acknowledge the duty incumbent on me, of bringing under his Majesty's notice every complaint for the redress of any real or supposed grievance which any of the King's subjects may be desirous to prefer. In directing that the Governor should be the channel of such communication it was never intended to abridge this right of the King's subjects, but the reverse. The single motive of that general instruction was to expedite the decision of all such questions, by preventing the delay incident to the reference of them back to the colony in which they originated, for the Governor's report. It must be understood that the Governor has no discretion to exercise respecting the transmission of any petition, memorial, or letter placed in his hands for that purpose. In the present case the grounds of the refusal appear to me to have been inadequate. The fact of the case having been already communicated to me in a brief and imperfect form could afford no reason why the supplementary information tendered by the magistrate should be suppressed. The fact that the magistrate had in the strongest terms publicly contradicted the severe and injurious imputations of the grand jury could be no reason why he was to be prevented from sending to his Majesty's Government the proofs which he has collected of his own innocence. You appear to have acted under the impression that the depositions transmitted in your despatch, No. 15, of the 28th October, contained in themselves as much proof as was necessary of the injustice of themselves to satisfy me that Mr. Baynes's character had been unjustly assailed, they bear only indirectly and partially on his case, and do not by any means contain all that he has to say in his justification. The documents enclosed in his letter, with one or two exceptions, are now submitted to me for the first time; they are calculated to meet the charges which have been made against him in every point, and fully to justify the language of his affidavit.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

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Enclosures in No. 548.

LETTER from *E. D. Baynes*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to Lord *Glenelg*, dated 4th December 1836.

Enclosures in  
No. 548.

My Lord,

St. John's, Jamaica, 4th December 1836.

THE accompanying statement and documents were submitted to his Excellency the lieutenant-governor, for the purpose of being forwarded to your Lordship; but his Excellency having, for the reasons given in the subjoined extract of a letter from Mr. Darling, declined transmitting the same to your Lordship, I am under the necessity of sending them direct myself, it being impossible that your Lordship should be able to collect from the very imperfect and insufficient account yet sent home full and satisfactory information respecting the matter, and especially of that part which regards the intemperate and unjustifiable attack made on me in my capacity of special justice by the grand inquest of the country, in their presentment to the judges of the supreme court of judicature. The following is the extract of the letter from Mr. Darling, dated 23d November 1836.

"You are perfectly aware that your case, in having had your bill thrown out and severe reflections cast on you by the grand jury of Middlesex, has been sent home to the Secretary of State, to know whether his Lordship approved of your prosecuting *ex officio*, and would provide for the expense, or what other course he would advise.

"His Excellency must decline forwarding your further appeal to Lord Glenelg on the subject enclosed in your letter of the 21st inst. to Mr. Hill, not only because it has been already acted on, but because you thought proper to address a letter yourself, through the public prints of the island, direct to the foreman and grand jury.

"On these grounds his Excellency declines forwarding any further representation of your case with the grand jury; and your letter to Lord Glenelg is therefore returned herewith."

With reference to the foregoing extract I beg your Lordship's permission to remark that no defence or exculpatory statement whatever on my part, against the odious imputations of the grand jury, has gone home. I have in fact sent nothing but a mere affidavit, containing a general denial of the charges advanced against me. I had not at the moment, believing the mail about to be made up, time to take any further step in my justification. Surely then I should not be debarred from making use of the facts by which alone the matter set

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forth in the affidavit can be explained or even understood. The affidavit is a simple assertion, of which the present documents contain the substance and the proof.

Your Lordship will observe that the other ground on which his Excellency declines forwarding the papers in question, is my having addressed a letter on the subject, through the public prints, to the foreman and members of the grand jury. I entreat your Lordship to recollect the virulent and disgraceful aspersions thrown on me by these gentlemen; that they have designated me as an instigator of groundless complaints, as a tamperer with evidence, as a slanderer, and as a general nuisance; and all this without so much as a shadow of proof. Would not these very gentlemen have triumphantly construed my silence into an admission of the truth of their charges? and would not the whole island have been justified in holding as proved what was not so much as denied? I cannot perceive how my publicly repelling a foul charge, publicly brought against me, can affect the merits of the case when submitted to the higher authorities; not, it must be observed, with a view of obtaining any reparation or satisfaction from the offending parties,—for that circumstances put entirely out of the question,—but solely for the purpose of clearing my character, and justifying my conduct in the eyes of those superiors. The body which inflicted this cruel wrong on me is no longer in existence; they have returned into the stream of society from which they were only temporarily segregated; nor can they be now made to answer individually for any errors they may have committed in their corporate capacity. Neither his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor nor the British Government itself can afford me any other satisfaction, as regards the injuries inflicted on me by the late grand jury, than by hearing me in refutation and disapproval of their charges, and by admitting that I have successfully and effectually vindicated my character from the unjust and odious accusations brought against me.

I humbly submit to your Lordship that I have all along been proceeding in the straightforward path of public duty, and that I have been influenced by no motives of a private or personal nature. My statement, as your Lordship will perceive, is justificatory and exculpatory, not vindictive or accusatory. I am ready to sacrifice all individual feeling in the matter, and by no means even wish to press my application for the criminal informations against the parties implicated in the irregular proceedings in the house of correction, should your Lordship consider that enough has been done to prevent the recurrence of similar evils, and that the great interests of humanity may be better attained by a conciliatory line of conduct.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Ed. Dacres Baynes*, Special Magistrate.

LETTER from *E. D. Baynes*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to Lord *Glenelg*, dated 21st November 1836. (Fifteen Enclosures.)

My Lord,

Jamaica, 21 November 1836.

WITH reference to a most unjust and unfounded attack made on me in my capacity of special justice by the late grand inquest of the county of Middlesex in this island, as well as to the line of conduct pursued by the said grand inquest in ignoring and throwing out several bills preferred by the Attorney-general at my instance, by command of the Marquis of Sligo, late Governor, against certain persons for various assaults, misdemeanors and grievous abuses in the house of correction of the parish of St. John, of which some of the facts have been already submitted to your Lordship by Lord Sligo, and respecting which I have lately forwarded affidavits to his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, I am compelled, in justification of my conduct from imputations so odious and offensive, to lay before your Lordship a distinct statement of every circumstance that has taken place in the matter, as the rejection of the bills, coupled with the subsequent assumptions of the grand jury in their presentment to the judges, should they reach the Colonial Office and come under your Lordship's cognizance uncontradicted and not disproved, as they happily can be with facility, your Lordship would with reason hold the truth of such charges confirmed or their justice admitted by so suspicious a silence.

The grand inquest, in their presentment, have said, "we have ascertained, from evidence that has been brought before us, that Mr. Special Justice Baynes, of St. John's, has instigated negroes in the house of correction of that parish to complain of the quantity of food, with which they allowed themselves, in our presence, to have been previously satisfied. We submit, that if culprits in any similar establishment, in any part of the world, had been so tampered with, they would readily find or invent grievances against those placed in authority over them." We are of opinion that the magistracy of St. John's has been unjustly slandered, and we present such conduct as a general nuisance."

My Lord, there is not a shadow of truth in the whole of this intolerable accusation. Twenty-three gentlemen have been so blinded or bewildered by the spirit of party as solemnly and deliberately to have made a presentment, the facts stated in which against me are not only utterly untrue in themselves, but, were they not so, could not, I am prepared to prove, have possibly come to their knowledge from any evidence before them.

They commence with charging me "with instigating negroes to complain of the quantity of food allowed them;" as if it were not the bounden duty of every magistrate, and more especially of a special magistrate, the prisoners in the houses of correction being almost exclusively apprentices, carefully and diligently to inquire into and satisfy themselves as to the quantity and quality of the food issued to the inmates in the different places of confinement, whether placed there for correction or security. There are, moreover, express island statutes

statutes on this head; extracts from which are included in the accompanying documents. The question is therefore simply whether or not the prisoners in the St. John's house of correction had a sufficiency of proper food issued to them, or at least the quantity and kind ordered by the rules of the establishment, namely, 4 lbs. of certain farinaceous roots, and half of a salted shad per diem. For information on this head I refer your Lordship to the depositions taken by Mr. Special Justice Bedford and myself, on the 4th July, at the police station; on the day following by myself in the house of correction; at the police station again on the 18th August; and to certificate No. 12, respecting the conduct and expressions of Dr. Whitaker at Point Hill. The account given by the prisoners of the quantity delivered to them differs somewhat from each other; it appears that considerable caprice was used in the distribution of their corn; some received more, others less; certainly none a sufficiency. Should your Lordship still entertain a doubt whether either of the magistrates instigated the sufferers to make these complaints (for now for the first time we find the lawful and prescribed inquiries of two magistrates, in the course of their duty, designated as instigation), I entreat your Lordship's attention to the certificates of Sub-inspector Dunne, and Sergeant Nicholson, of the police.

The presentment goes on to state, "that the inmates of any similar establishment, in any part of the world, if so tampered with, would readily find or invent grievances against those placed in authority over them." I respectfully appeal to your Lordship, after reading the depositions of Ellinor Lorraine, Ann Francis, Hannah Williams, Letitia, Robert Valentine and Richard Francis, whether those six injured persons, every indictment for the redress of whom was ignored by the grand jury, in reality found or invented the grievances they complained of.

Equally untrue, and still more unjust, are the assumptions that I have "slandered the magistracy of St. John's, and that I have used the cloak of my authority to avenge my private grievances." I have never, even up to the present moment, accused the magistracy of that parish with authorizing or countenancing the neglect or oppression of the supervisor of the house of correction, or with being aware that a sufficiency of food was withheld from the prisoners. I have never had any personal difference with any gentleman in the parish. My complaints have been exclusively on public grounds. The indictments preferred by the Attorney-general were not against the magistrates as a body, but against the senior magistrate only. Whether there exist any private pique in the breast of that gentleman towards me, I pretend not to know; but on my part I most solemnly disclaim entertaining any against him. Even had I been animated with any unworthy feeling of that nature, it could not have come in the shape of evidence before the grand jury. Affidavits of the 13 witnesses for the Crown, all in attendance, and their names before the jury, of whom they were pleased to examine only six, were afterwards taken by me, by desire of the Attorney-general, and forwarded to his Excellency, the Lieutenant-governor, for transmission to your Lordship. Not a single witness, it appears, spoke to what he could not know, if it existed, that I had private grievances to complain of or to avenge. One probable reason only can be assigned for this charge; it is, that the grand jury, having heard some such reports current out of court, glad to catch at anything to gratify the spirit of party, then running so high against the special magistracy, hastily, holding for granted what they willingly believed, mistook an extraforaneous rumour for judicial proof.

Having, I trust to your Lordship's satisfaction, shown the grounds on which the grand jury have based the charges against me contained in their presentment, allow me to entreat your Lordship's patience to a succinct statement of the facts which gave rise to them, and to which are to be attributed the long and harassing series of public and private annoyances and persecutions, from which I have received much detriment and my numerous family sustained great inconvenience and distress. By two vexatious prosecutions instituted against me, and a summons to appear as a witness before a committee of the House of Assembly, which has never sat, I have been under the necessity of attending in Spanish Town for nearly five weeks, to my great personal trouble and great pecuniary loss, totally beyond my means to afford. To discover the rancour and inveteracy with which I am assailed, I entreat your Lordship to throw a glance over certificate No. 11.

On Thursday the 16th of June last I visited the house of correction, then newly opened, at Point Hill. On entering the cell called a hospital I saw a woman named Ellinor Lorraine, who, being afflicted with a grievous malady, had been, in my commitment, expressly exempted from all manner of labour; she had, however, a collar round her neck, to which was attached a heavy chain fastened to her waist. I instantly directed both to be removed, and on no account to be put on again. In the yard there were also three or four other females under detention as suspected runaways, to give their masters an opportunity of claiming them. From these, who were coupled together by the neck, I also directed the chains to be removed, as not being authorized by any law of the land, by any internal regulation of the establishment, nor by the terms of my committals. More than 12 months before this occurrence Messrs. Batty & Watkis, distinguished counsel at the Jamaica bar, had given it as their opinion, in answer to certain questions proposed by the corporation of Kingston, that the chaining of prisoners committed only for detention as deserters was illegal. His Excellency, the Marquis of Sligo, moreover, in his circular, No. 2899, of which I annex a copy, had expressly enjoined the special magistrates to be extremely particular in drawing their commitments, and to report any deviation from them at once to him. Some days afterwards I heard accidentally that the females released by my orders had been again chained by command of Dr. Loane, the senior magistrate of the parish. On the 2d July following I attended a vestry held at Point Hill, on which occasion the foregoing

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circumstances were taken into consideration. There was some warm discussion, which terminated in my directing the supervisor, in the presence of the other magistrates, to remove the chains and collars so put on the females in disobedience of my orders. The magistrates forbade him to do so. On their leaving the place I, however, availed myself of my authority, and directed the police to take the chains off, which they did. It now became necessary to take depositions for the purpose of laying the whole of the circumstances before the Governor. The originals of these examinations were all sent accordingly to Lord Sligo, by whose directions I acted throughout, and to whom I confidently refer your Lordship in corroboration of the truth of this statement. Soon afterwards it came to my knowledge that the unhappy woman, Ellinor Lorraine, though in no better health than before, had been again put in chains by an order of the magistracy, and that their miserable modicum of half a shad was sometimes, for days together, withheld from the prisoners, whose principal subsistence was thus reduced to corn alone. At a meeting held for the express purpose of examining into these complaints, the latter fact was clearly proved by the admission of the supervisor himself; on which occasion Dr. Whitaker, one of the magistrates, found himself under the necessity of observing "that the magistracy of St. John's had involved themselves in great difficulty; that the description of food served out to the prisoners, unaccompanied by any salt provisions, was enough to kill them in a week." Your Lordship will also perceive that in consequence of my committals being utterly disregarded, and held of no more account than blank pieces of paper, I forbore, at the recommendation of Lord Sligo, sending prisoners under my sentence to that establishment. Women were heavily ironed by the neck, whom I had ordered altogether to be exempted from chains; others were put to hard labour out of the institution, whom I had positively directed to be kept within the walls. A prisoner, Richard Francis, was wantonly flogged on a diseased part of his body; and another, John Williams, detained in confinement four days beyond the term of his sentence, under pretence of non-payment of certain fees.

I submit to your Lordship whether it be not as contrary to reason as it certainly is to law to subject an unconvicted apprentice, committed only for detention as a suspected deserter, to any description of corporal punishment. Even after conviction the utmost extent of imprisonment at hard labour, for desertion, however long the period, amounts only to 14 days. Some of the prisoners so committed are frequently found after all not to be deserters, sometimes even to be freemen; yet these innocent persons, only ordered into custody on suspicion, are by this absurd and cruel practice often made to suffer many times the amount of punishment that can possibly be awarded by the sentence of a lawful court after due trial and conviction. As for custom being alleged in defence of such proceedings; custom, however it may palliate a breach of the law, can never make that to be law which is not so; nor can usage, by any mode of reasoning, be transferred from one state of society to another totally different from it, as from slavery to freedom. The degrading customs of the former have happily been abolished with it throughout the British empire. The indulgences formerly given to the slave are not, in this country, always continued to the apprentice. Surely if custom be not allowed to operate to the benefit of the negro, it is manifestly unjust to plead it to his prejudice.

I trust I shall not, in the foregoing statement, have merited your Lordship's reprehension, as resenting too warmly or acrimoniously the unjust and groundless imputations thrown on me for the faithful discharge of my onerous and delicate duties. To affect moderation of expression under the pressure of persecution and oppression may justly afford ground for suspicion that the wrongs so patiently endured or so slackly resented are probably not great, at least not sensibly felt.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Ed. Dacres Baynes*, Special Magistrate.

COPIES of the DEPOSITIONS taken respecting the Abuses and Irregularities existing in St. John's House of Correction. (First Seven Enclosures.)

(No. 1.)

Special Session, before *E. D. Baynes*, Esq.

Point Hill, 2 July 1836.

*Ellinor Lorraine*, duly sworn, deposes, that she is apprenticed labourer to Mr. Guy of Spanish Town; that she was taken up this day three weeks by the police in the Red Hills, and was committed by Mr. Baynes. She was up at the Red Hills for her health, being afflicted with the king's evil or cocoa bag. When she came up to the house of correction, Mr. Thomas, the supervisor, ordered her hair to be cut, and a collar, with a chain attached to it, to be put on her; the collar went round her neck and the chain round her waist. Deponent told Mr. Thomas, the supervisor, that she was sick of the king's evil, and had lost the perfect use of her arms; on which he put her into a room by herself; it was the hospital. Is quite sure she had the chain and collar on when in the hospital. Deponent was not put on the treadmill nor to any manner of work. The special justice came up some days afterwards, and ordered the chain to be taken off, which was done. Does not recollect how many days she was kept with the chain on her. Was not chained again after the collar and chain were removed by the special magistrate's orders. The doctor visited her, and said she had not got the king's evil.

*Ellinor Lorraine's* mark.

Ann

*Ann Francis*, apprenticed labourer to Francis Elliot, duly sworn, deposes, that she was committed to the house of correction on Thursday week last. When she came up she was chained to another woman, and the collar was put round her neck. Her hair was also cut. The chain and collar were removed when the special magistrate visited the house of correction. The chain was not put on again, but the collar was. About a week afterwards she fell sick and was put into the hospital. The collar was not on her neck when in the hospital. Has been employed in fetching water for the people.

*Ann Francis's mark.*

*Margaret Taylor*, apprenticed labourer to Margaret James of the Red Hills, duly sworn, deposes, that she was committed to the house of correction by Mr. Baynes last week. No chain nor collar were put on until Dr. Loane ordered them to be put on. Has not been put on the treadmill. Has been employed on the road. Has been chained to two women at different times, but not to a man. Heard Dr. Loane order the chain to be put on.

*Margaret Taylor's mark.*

*Frances Lindo*, apprenticed labourer on Fuller's Rest Estate, duly sworn, deposes, that she was committed to the house of correction by Mr. Baynes last Tuesday. She was put in chains, and fastened to another woman. She was sick one morning, but the chains were put on again before she was quite well. Her belly pained her, and she had a bad arm, which was cut by her being tied to the treadmill. Saw Mr. Chapman beat Richard Francis on his sore foot with a cat.

*Frances Lindo's mark.*

*Patrick Thomas*, supervisor of the house of correction of the parish of St. John's, being duly sworn, deposes, that he recollects the time that Ellinor Lorraine was brought up to the house of correction. He put the chains and collar on her in pursuance with the rules and regulations of the institution. Cannot point out under what rule or regulation he acted. Cannot remember whether the woman, Ellinor Lorraine, told him before or after the chains were put on her that she was sick. Did not think she was in such a state as to have exempted her from having the chain and collar put on her. Was aware that according to the terms of the committal she was ordered not to be put to any kind of work. She was immediately put in the hospital, and she remained there all along. Deponent removed the chain and collar, as ordered, in the presence of Mr. Baynes. Did not put the chain and collar again on her. Some time afterwards Dr. Loane and Mr. Bell ordered the chains and collars to be put again on all the women; but deponent used his own discretion, and did not put them again on Ellinor Lorraine because she was sick. Frances Lindo's arm was hurt during deponent's absence, when she was put on the treadmill by Mr. Chapman, deputed to do so by deponent.

(signed) *J. B. Thomas.*

The foregoing depositions were made before me this 2d day of July 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Special Magistrate.

(No. 2.)

Present, *E. D. Baynes* and *T. S. Bedford*, Special Justices.

Police Station, St. John's, 4 July 1836.

*Letitia*, an apprenticed labourer to Mr. William Bendon Valentine, not being a Christian, but duly cautioned to speak nothing but the truth, saith, that she was released from the house of correction of the parish of St. John on Saturday last. She was imprisoned there 15 days, being committed as a runaway by the special magistrate. She was put in chains and the collar as soon as she got there, by the supervisor, Mr. Thomas. Deponent was kept in chains three days, when she was attacked with fever and headache; she was put into the hospital; when in the hospital the long chain was taken off, but the collar was left on. Was a prisoner when the special magistrate came up to visit the institution. Heard the special magistrate order the supervisor to remove the chains and collar, which was done. On the Friday following Dr. Loane visited the place; saw him converse with Mr. Thomas, who soon after put the chain and collar again on deponent. They were kept on, as she stated before, until she fell sick. The collar was kept on her all the time she was in the hospital. Was not put on the treadmill. When in the hospital got the same provisions as when out of it. Was sick nearly half a week; the doctor never came. Was employed on the road, carrying stones. Heard it mentioned that the special magistrate had forbid the women to be worked out of the institution. Was still sick when the chains were put on her again. During the time she was in the institution she suffered from hunger, having on a Friday got only three heads of corn and the salt; on the Saturday she got only one head of corn; on the Sunday none at all; and nothing on Monday till four o'clock in the evening, when they gave her some cocoes; from Saturday to Monday afternoon she got nothing whatever to eat. During the remainder of her imprisonment she got 4 lbs. of cocoes per day. She had been guilty of no bad conduct to have her food withheld.

*Letitia's mark.*

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*Robert Bendon Valentine*, duly sworn, deposes, that he was sent to the house of correction at the same time with Letitia; recollects the whole of the prisoners in the house of correction getting but three heads of corn on the Friday at eight A.M., one on Saturday, and nothing at all after that until Monday about four o'clock in the afternoon, when they got some cocoes and shad. Deponent suffered extremely from the pangs of hunger. Recollects seeing Mr. Chapman flog Ann Francis and another woman when on the treadmill; he flogged them to make them get on it. Their legs also were cut. A convict, committed by Mr. Harris from the walks, was also flogged. The women were flogged with a cat. Does not know if the special magistrate had given orders to that effect. Deponent adds, that they got their shad during the days they got so little corn.

*R. B. Valentine's mark.*

*Letitia* also, upon being re-questioned, says the shads were served out on the days they were so short of corn.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes.*

The foregoing depositions and examinations taken by us this 4th day of July 1836.

(signed) *T. S. Bedford,* }  
*E. D. Baynes,* } Special Magistrates.

A true copy.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes.*

(No. 3.)

Point Hill, 5th July 1836.

Present, *E. D. Baynes*, Esq., Special Magistrate.

*Ellinor Lorraine*, duly sworn, deposes, that on Friday gone a week, as she believes, the people in the house of correction confined as prisoners received only three heads of corn in the morning, and in the evening they had two heads of corn served out to them; on Saturday a maccaroni's-worth of corn was bought and divided among all the prisoners; on the Sunday two bits'-worth of corn was bought and distributed among them. Does not know how many prisoners were then in the house of correction. On Monday got nothing at all, until the bread kind came in the evening; it was cocoes; when they got the prison allowance.

*Ellinor Lorraine's mark.*

*Richard Francis*, duly sworn, deposes, that he saw Mr. Chapman flog David Henry when on the mill. Was flogged himself with a cat. Deponent had a sore foot, and could not walk on the treadmill, because it was very bad. Mr. Chapman beat deponent on the sore foot. Heard Frances Lindo bawl out that Mr. Chapman had no business to flog her now with a cat; but cannot say whether she was struck or not. The foot got very bad after he was beat on it; and the doctor, when he saw it, ordered that deponent should not be put any more on the treadmill.

*Richard Francis's mark.*

*Margaret Taylor*, convict, under sentence as a runaway, duly sworn, deposes, that on Saturday gone a week corn was served out to the prisoners; they got three heads of corn served out on Saturday; thinks she got some on Sunday; from that time till Monday the prisoners got nothing, when they got the prison allowance of cocoes in the evening.

*Margaret Taylor's mark.*

*Johanna Lawrence*, duly sworn, deposes, that the gang is hired out to Mr. Bell; Richard Brown is one of them, and is now at work for Mr. Bell. John Dawkins, a runaway, is also at work at Mr. Bell's. Dawkins has been put on the treadmill. John Archer, also a runaway, is working at Mr. Bell's. Robert Johnson, another runaway, is also with the gang at Mr. Bell's. The house of correction has been open seven or eight weeks.

*Johanna Lawrence's mark.*

Johanna Lawrence is the matron of the institution.

The foregoing depositions and examinations taken by me this 5th day of July 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Special Magistrate.

A true copy of the above depositions.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes.*

(No. 4.)

Present, *E. D. Baynes*, Special Justice.

Aylmer's, 8th July 1836.

*Letitia*, apprenticed labourer to Mr. Bendon Valentine, re-examined, sayeth, that about the middle of the week before last, when a prisoner in the workhouse, not getting sufficient to eat, and feeling very faint from hunger, she asked the supervisor for something for her young child to eat, which she had with her, which he refused to give, and put deponent into the lock-up cell for asking him. Is quite sure she was not insolent to the supervisor. Heard the special magistrate order the supervisor to allow the children something to eat, and therefore asked for something. When the supervisor put the chain and collar on her again, he said he knew as much law as the special magistrate, and that the special magistrate should not come to make rules there. Saw Mr. Chapman beat Richard Francis on the mill with a cat.

*Letitia's mark.*

The above examination taken this day by me, 8th July 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Special Magistrate.

(No. 5.)

Present, *E. D. Baynes* and *T. S. Bedford*, Special Justices.

Aylmer's, 11 July 1836.

*John Williams*, apprenticed labourer to Solomon Da Silva of the Red Hills in the parish of St. John, not being a Christian, but duly cautioned to speak nothing but the truth, sayeth, that he has been detained four days in the house of correction of the parish of St. John beyond the term of his sentence, which was 14 days' hard labour and 10 days' solitary confinement, being 24 days; whereas he was detained a prisoner in the house of correction 28 days; after the 10 days' solitary confinement he was kept four days more, grinding corn in the yard. Deponent sayeth, that Mr. Thomas told him that he detained him because he could not get paid back the mile money. About two weeks since, on a Friday, deponent does not recollect the date, he got two pounds of cocoes in the morning and two heads of corn in the evening, with half a shad as usual. On Saturday Mr. Lawrence made the driver serve the prisoners all round with three heads of roasted corn; in the evening deponent received about half a pound of boiled yam. He was at that time in solitary confinement. On Sunday deponent got for breakfast three heads of corn; in the evening the corn was slack, and but one head of corn was served out. On Monday they waited until between four and five P.M. without anything, when the cocoes came in, and they got the prison allowance. They had their half shad per diem all this time. A man named Rodney, also a prisoner, was ordered by Mr. Thomas to beat deponent on his legs to make him dance on the treadmill. He got about 12 blows with a rope. Deponent knows Richard Francis; he was a prisoner also. Saw Mr. Chapman beat him with a cat on his sore foot, because he did not know how to dance on the wheel. Heard Frances Lindo call out. Saw Mr. Chapman lift a switch and threaten to strike Frances Lindo, but the switch broke in Mr. Chapman's hands. Deponent adds that Mr. Thomas was absent from the house of correction from Friday until Tuesday night.

*John Williams's mark.*

The foregoing examinations taken before us this 11th day of July 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, } Special Magistrates.  
*T. S. Bedford*, }

(No. 6.)

Point Hill, 14 July 1836.

Mr. PATRICK THOMAS examined; admits that Robert Johnson has been worked out of the institution. John Archer is also with the gang. Dawkins was committed twice, and put on the treadmill in consequence of his latter sentence.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*.  
*T. S. Bedford*.

(No. 7.)

Police Station, St. John's Rest Plantation, 18th August.

Present, *E. D. Baynes*, Justice of the Peace.

*Ellinor Lorraine*, duly sworn, deposes, that since the time that the special magistrate ordered the chain and collar to be taken off she was kept without them until Monday, 25th July last, two days after the vestry met, when Mr. Thomas, the supervisor, put the collar on her again; she was still sick at the time. Did not get better during the time she was in the house



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house of correction. Remained in the hospital until some militiamen were put into it, when she was turned out of it, although she was not cured, and no better than she had been. The collar was kept on her, though sick, until the special magistrates came up on the 11th instant, and discharged deponent from the house of correction. When in the hospital deponent was fed in the same manner and with the same provisions as the other prisoners. Deponent complains that she was fed on corn, and that she did not get the salt provisions regularly. Sometimes the prisoners went four and five days together without any salt provisions. Deponent says she suffered extremely from being fed on such provisions.

*Ellinor Lorraine's mark.*

*John Edwards*, duly sworn, deposes, that last Friday fortnight he was committed to the house of correction by the special magistrate, who told him that he was not to be worked out of the establishment, and that he was to be brought before him every time he visited the house of correction. The deponent told this to Mr. Thomas, the supervisor, who replied he did not care, he would work him as he, Thomas, pleased, and would cat him if he did not do as he ordered him. Deponent was hired out, first to Mr. Bell and then to Mr. Nash, carrying shingles for Mr. Bell, and picking pimento for Mr. Nash. Recollects Sukey being in the house of correction; she was committed at the same time with deponent. Can swear that Sukey was chained by the neck to Ann Francis, and was worked out of the institution, being employed in carrying shingles for Mr. Bell. Was generally fed on one quart of corn; sometimes did not get any salt provisions for a week. On the first week they went to work out for Mr. Bell two shads only were served out amongst eight prisoners. One day they suffered so much that they were obliged to beg Mr. Bell for some shads, who gave them four among them. Deponent suffered extremely from hunger all the time. The quart of corn they got was ground, which comes to one-fourth less than when raw. One Sunday, when he was kept in the house of correction, deponent himself ground his quart of corn, which was served out raw to him, and it came, ground, to one quart and half a pint.

*John Edwards's mark.*

*Ann Francis*, duly sworn, deposes, that on Monday, 25th ultimo, she was again chained by the neck, and attached to another prisoner, named Sukey. They were both sent out of the establishment to work, first to carry shingles for Mr. Bell, then to pick pimento for Mr. Nash. Deponent was allowed generally a quart of corn a day. Sometimes for a whole week together she got no salt provisions, during which she suffered extremely from the pangs of hunger. Dr. Loane and Mr. Thomas put on the chain. Mr. Thomas, when remonstrated with, said that the special magistrate ordered the chain should not be put on; that he knew as much law as the special magistrate.

*Ann Francis's mark.*

*Ellinor Lorraine* called in and re-examined; deposes to recollecting Sukey, a prisoner in the house of correction; she was chained by the neck to Ann Francis, and sent out to work for Mr. Bell.

*Ellinor Lorraine's mark.*

Sworn before me this 18th day of August.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Special Magistrate.

A true copy.

*E. D. Baynes.*

(No. 8.)

MEMORANDUM of his Excellency Lord *Sligo* on the foregoing Depositions.

The Attorney-general will please to prosecute this, and issue such orders to the clerk of the Crown as he shall deem expedient.

(signed) *Sligo.*

(No. 9.)

COPIES of the COMMITMENTS of the PRISONERS illegally chained in the St. John's House of Correction, and worked out of the Establishment, in disobedience of the Sentence of the Special Magistrate.

1. *Ellinor Lorraine.*

To the Supervisor of St. John's House of Correction.

Receive into custody the body of *Ellinor Lorraine*, a runaway, and her detain until lawfully claimed, or until further directions from me. She is to be put to no manner of work.

Given under my hand and seal this 4th day of June 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Special Magistrate.

2. *Robert*

2. *Robert Johnson*.—Put to work out of the Institution.

To the Supervisor of St. John's House of Correction.

Receive into custody the bodies of Robert Johnson and R. Bryan, runaways, and them detain until duly claimed, or until further orders from me. Not to be put on the treadmill, nor employed out of the institution.

Given under my hand and seal this 11th day of June 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*.

3. *John Williams*.—Detained four days beyond Sentence.

To the Supervisor of St. John's House of Correction.

Receive into custody the body of John Williams, convicted before me of absence from the service of his employer for the space of three months, and him safely keep at hard labour in and out of the institution, and on the treadmill for 14 days, and at the expiration of the 14 days, 10 days more in solitary confinement.

Given under my hand and seal this 11th May 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*.

4. *Frances Lindo*.—Worked out of the Institution.

To the Supervisor of the St. John's House of Correction.

Receive into custody the body of Frances Lindo, apprenticed labourer on Fuller's Rest estate, convicted before me of assaulting Thomas Harrison, and her keep at hard labour in the institution, and on the treadmill for seven days.

Given under my hand and seal this 27th June 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*.

5. *Hannah Williams*.—Chained and worked out of the Institution.

To the Supervisor of St. John's House of Correction.

Receive into custody the body of Hannah Williams, a runaway. She is only to be put to light work within the walls of the institution, not to be chained or collared, and to be brought up every visit before the special magistrate.

Given under my hand and seal this 14th July 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*.

This commitment disregarded in every particular.

6. *Robert Bryant*.—Worked out of the Institution.

To the Supervisor of St. John's House of Correction.

Receive into custody the body of Robert Bryant, a runaway, and him bring before the special magistrate on next visit to house of correction, if not discharged before. Not to be put on the treadmill or worked out of the institution.

Given under my hand and seal this 14th July 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Special Magistrate.

7. *Richard Brown*.—Worked out of the Institution.

To the Supervisor of the House of Correction, St. John's.

Receive into custody the body of Richard Brown, convicted before me of assaulting Mr. Bernard Clement, and him keep at hard labour within the walls of the institution for the space of four days. He is on no account to be put on the treadmill.

Given under my hand and seal this 2d July 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*.

8. *James Edwards*.—Worked out of the Institution.

To the Supervisor of the St. John's House of Correction.

Receive into custody the body of James Edwards, a runaway, and him detain until duly released according to law. He is not to be worked out of the institution, nor to be put on the treadmill.

Given under my hand and seal this 11th August 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Special Magistrate and Justice of Peace.

JAMAICA.

9. *John Edwards*.—Worked out of the Institution.

To the Supervisor of the St. John's House of Correction.

Receive into custody the body of John Edwards, a runaway. He is not to be worked out of the institution, and is to be brought before me every time I visit the house of correction. Hereof fail not at your peril.

Given under my hand and seal this 29th July 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Special Magistrate and Justice of Peace.

This committal disregarded in every particular.

10. *Sukey*.—Chained and worked out of the Establishment.

To the Supervisor of the St. John's House of Correction.

Receive into custody the body of Sukey, a runaway from the service of Thompson and Nichol, and her keep till duly released according to law. This woman is on no account to be worked out of the institution, nor is any collar or chain to be put on her; and she is to be brought before me every time I visit the institution. Thereof fail not in any particular at your peril.

Given under my hand and seal this 25th July 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Special Magistrate and Justice of Peace.

Disobeyed in every particular.

(No. 10.)

CIRCULAR 2899.—To the Special Magistrates of Jamaica, respecting the RULES to be observed in their COMMITMENTS to the Houses of Correction.

Sir,

The King's House, 10 May 1836.

THE attention of his Excellency the Governor has often been engaged in attempting to devise a proper mode of classification of prisoners committed to the gaols and houses of correction, and he has recently received a communication from the Secretary of State on the subject.

In many instances he believes that when sentence is simply committal for a certain time, hard labour, either in or out of the institution, is added by the supervisor. It becomes necessary that you should in your sentences define as clearly as possible the punishment you intend the parties to undergo. Labour out of the institution is frequently objectionable for this reason, that it is customary for the parties to be chained. It may happen, from the smallness of the number, that a person for the minor offence of having absented himself from his master's work may be chained to a convict under sentence for life for some very serious crime. Hard labour on the treadmill may therefore be a better sentence. Breaking stones for the roads, which may be done within the walls, would be a wholesome species of labour. Having, however, directed the most scrupulous definitions of the punishment you intend, you will take care that it be not exceeded or deviated from in any particular. And of course it will be your duty to report any abuse you may detect to his Excellency the Governor.

E. D. Baynes, Special Magistrate.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *W. G. Nunes*, Secretary.

(No. 11.)

## CERTIFICATE.

I hereby certify and declare, that towards the end of October last, being at Watermount estate in the parish of St. John's, Mr. John Patree, the overseer of that property, did inform and acquaint me that a person, whose name he declined at the time to mention, but whom he promised to name and give up, offering to serve as a witness in the matter, should it ever become the subject of a public inquiry, did some days previously, at the said estate of Watermount, declare, that at the approaching meeting of the House of Assembly, Mr. Baynes, the special magistrate of St. John's, should be put to great expense and inconvenience, for that he should be summoned down to Spanish Town to attend a Committee of the House as a witness; and the same party then proceeded to calculate every article of expense that Mr. Baynes would incur, enumerating his breakfast, dinner, bed, keep of servants and horses, &c. And I further certify that such has really been the case. I have been summoned down to attend a Committee appointed to examine into a petition from certain magistrates and others respecting the house of correction, which Committee has never yet sat, and I firmly believe never will, and that therefore I have been obliged, and still am liable to be made, to my great personal distress, inconvenience and expense to attend, and that I have been harassed in this cruel manner from the 9th to the present

present day, the 19th of November, and thereby obliged to saddle myself with heavy expenses, which, with my numerous family, I can very ill, or rather am not at all able to afford.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Special Magistrate.

19 November 1836.

(No. 12.)

CERTIFICATE.

I hereby certify, that I had previously heard from various quarters, and that yesterday the 18th November instant, John Taylor and Daniel Smith, esquires, of this parish, informed and certified to me, that at a meeting held at Point Hill by the magistracy and vestry, on the 23d July last, for the purpose of inquiring into the abuses and irregularities complained of by Mr. Special Justice Baynes in the parochial house of correction, Dr. Whitaker, one of the magistrates for the precinct, and a member of the House of Assembly, caused Patrick Brown Thomas, the supervisor of the house of correction, to be called before the board, and that he, Dr. Whitaker, did ask three questions of the said Thomas, from whose answers it was shown that at times, for seven days together, the prisoners in the said house of correction had no salt provisions whatever served out to them, the daily allowance of which is half a shad each. That the said Dr. Whitaker sharply reprov'd the other magistrates for their neglect; told them that it was impossible human beings could exist on the provisions served out to them, being generally Indian corn only, and that such food was enough, without salt provisions, to kill them all in a week. He further told them that they were to blame, and that they would be made to answer for the neglect of their servant. I further certify, that the said Dr. Whitaker is, notwithstanding, more hostile to me than any other of the magistrates, having both brought a civil action and instituted a criminal process against me, on the part of one Brown, a free person, committed by me to prison in the lawful discharge of my magisterial functions.

19 November 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Special Magistrate.

(No. 13.)

CERTIFICATE of Sub-inspector *Dunne*.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify, that on the 4th day of July last Mr. Special Justice Baynes came to this police station, by requisition of the inspector-general, for the purpose of attending a police court, accompanied by Mr. Bedford, another special justice. The police court being deferred, Mr. Baynes desired that two apprentices, named Robert Bendon Valentine and Letitia (both belonging to the on which the station-house is situated) should be brought before him for examination. I further certify, that neither of the special justices left the court during the time the above-named apprentices were giving their depositions regarding the treatment they received in the house of correction, both testifying positively and voluntarily that they received four heads of corn and a small piece of shad on a Friday morning, which was the *ne plus ultra* of their subsistence each until the Monday evening following.

(signed) *James Dunne*, Sub-inspector of Police.

St. John's Police Station, 18 Oct. 1836.

(No. 14.)

CERTIFICATE of Serjeant *Nicholson* of the Police.

I hereby certify, that on the 4th day of July last, both Messrs. Special Justices Baynes and Bedford came to the police station, and sent, on the property on which it is situated, for two apprentices, named Robert Bendon Valentine and Letitia, which apprentices I brought before the said two special justices, who never moved out of court during the time of examination, nor had they any private communication with either of the above apprentices, who voluntarily told in open court that they each received four heads of corn and a piece of shad on a Friday morning, on which they subsisted until the Monday evening following, when in the house of correction.

(signed) *Edward Nicholson*, Serjeant of Police.

St. John's Police Station, 18 Oct. 1836.

(No. 15.)

EXTRACTS from the Act for the better Regulation of Gaols and Houses of Correction.  
(Passed 4th July 1834.)

Section 2. Regulation 11.

"All prisoners shall be allowed a sufficient quantity of plain and wholesome food."

JAMAICA.

## Section 7.

"Two or more justices shall be nominated to be visitors of each gaol or house of correction, who shall personally visit and inspect each prison and house of correction, and shall examine into the behaviour and conduct of the respective officers, and the treatment, behaviour, and condition of the prisoners and inmates, and into all abuses within the prison or house of correction; and in matters of pressing necessity, and within the powers of their commissions as justices, shall take cognizance thereof, and proceed to regulate and redress the same."

## Section 8.

"Provided always, and be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace, of his own free will and pleasure, without being appointed a visitor, to enter into and examine every prison and house of correction of such parish of which he is a justice, at such time or times or so often as he shall think fit, for the purpose of discovering any abuse or abuses therein."

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— No. 549. —

No. 549. COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *L. Smith*, K. C. B., to Lord *Glenelg*, dated The King's House, Jamaica, 4th April 1837.

My Lord,

The King's House, 4 April 1837.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatches of the 16th January and 6th February last, on the subject of a presentment by the grand jury of the county of Middlesex, and of the reply of Mr. Special Justice Baynes to the statements therein contained against him.

Your Lordship is pleased to direct that the sentiments conveyed in your despatch of the 16th January, with reference to the notice taken in the presentment of the conduct of Special Justices Palmer and Baynes, should, in justice to those gentlemen, be made public.

The grand jury by whom that presentment was made having of course ceased to exist as a body, it was impossible to communicate to them your Lordship's despatch. I therefore transmitted a copy of it to the chief justice, through whom the presentment was first brought under my notice; and I furnished Mr. Baynes with an extract of such part of it as related to himself.

Your Lordship will perceive by the enclosed number of the Telegraph Newspaper, that publicity has been given to such part of your despatch as related to the conduct of the special justices; Mr. Baynes having, I presume, communicated it for that purpose.

With reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 6th of February, I take leave to enclose a copy of the letter addressed by my secretary to Mr. Baynes, from which the extract transmitted to your Lordship by that gentleman is no doubt taken. While in all future instances I shall carefully attend to your Lordship's orders with respect to the transmission of complaints for redress from every class of His Majesty's subjects, I must at the same time assure your Lordship that in acting in Mr. Baynes's case, upon the principle stated in the concluding part of that letter, I was influenced not by any desire to preclude Mr. Baynes from appealing to your Lordship, but by the practice which I have everywhere found to exist with reference to representations made by subordinate officers to the Government by whom they are employed.

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

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Enclosures in No. 549.

(No. 1.)

From the "Telegraph" Jamaica Newspaper of the 4th April 1837.

To the Honourable *C. P. Berry* and the Jurors of the late Grand Inquest for the County of Middlesex.

Gentlemen,

You have been pleased, in your presentment to their honours the judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature in this island, after considerable vituperation and obloquy cast on other special magistrates, to make me the object of your peculiar hostility, and to assail me personally

Enclosure 2,  
23d Nov. 1836.

Enclosure 1,  
4th April 1837.

Enclosures in  
No. 549.

sonally in language and terms, the intemperance, precipitation and party bias betrayed by which, I readily persuade myself you warily guarded against and utterly repudiated in the previous exercise of your sworn and responsible judicial functions.

Gentlemen,—Firm in conscientious rectitude, alike of action and intention, I repel, with indignation and contempt, all and every part of your odious and libellous imputations. I solemnly declare, that whatever may be the grounds or motives on which you have come to such conclusions, that they are in every particular unjust, calumnious and untrue, and such I undertake to prove them, even to yourself, if you are not ashamed, the worst of shames, to acknowledge an error; if you possess the moral courage to do justice to another at your own expense; if, in fine, you can only bring yourself to be one tithe part as dispassionate, as devoid of prejudice, and as deliberate in re-examining your opinions as you have shown yourself rash, partial and inconsiderate in adopting them.

Had you, gentlemen, not conceived it altogether a work of superfluity to consult the law, you might, by opening Blackstone, have learned that, as a grand jury hears the evidence on one side only, their presentment is in the nature of simple inquiry or accusation, not of proof or conviction, as you, gentlemen, have now either ingeniously discovered or egregiously mistaken. Extend your legal research somewhat further, and, after decision, do what perhaps it would have been as well to have done before it,—look into the laws of this island, consult the Act for the Regulation of Gaols and Houses of Correction, passed only two years since by the Legislature, of which your worthy chairman was at the time and still is a component part. Section 3, rule 2, would have disembarassed your minds of any lurking doubts whether or not prisoners in the house of correction are entitled to a sufficiency of food. By section 7 you would have been instructed that, “Two or more justices are to be appointed to visit each gaol or house of correction, to examine into the behaviour and conduct of the respective officers and the treatment and condition of the prisoners, and into all abuses in the prison or house of correction.” Section 8 authorizes any justice of the peace, of his free will and pleasure, to visit, as often as he thinks fit, for the purpose of inquiring into abuses. When you read the depositions, which will be published, together with the certificates of Sub-inspectors Dunne, Adams and Serjeant Nicholson, who were present, you will find that the unhappy sufferers spontaneously deposed, not before me alone, but before Mr. Special Justice Bedford also, that four heads of corn and a little shad formed the whole of their subsistence from Friday morning until the Monday evening following. When you are further told that I was acting all this time in compliance with the strict injunctions of the executive, on what do you base the foul charge of tampering with evidence, brought against me by 23 gentlemen solemnly sworn to decide according to the truth, and to present or screen no man from hatred, malice, fear, favour or affection? Where is an allusion made to or the name mentioned of any member of that respectable body? Where did you gather that I charged them with authorizing or countenancing the neglect or inhumanity of the supervisor of the house of correction? or with even being aware that sufficient and proper nutriment was withheld from the prisoners? Again, gentlemen, permit me to inquire on what evidence submitted to you you ascertained that I was troubled with private grievances? From which of the witnesses examined before you did you collect this fact? Was it from Eleanor Lorraine, the sick female, who testified before you on oath that she was kept chained by the neck when ill in the hospital? From Letitia, or Robert Valentine, who accused the supervisor of the house of correction with nearly starving them? From Ann Francis or Hannah Williams, who swore that they were heavily ironed, and worked out of the institution, in direct contradiction of the commitment of the special magistrate? Or was it from Richard Francis, whose back appearing somewhat insensible, the keeper’s deputy ingeniously resorted to the Turkish mode of administering the bastinado, and applied it to a part sufficiently sensitive, the poor creature’s diseased foot? From which of these six injured persons, every indictment for the redress of whom you threw out, from which of these six, I ask, (for of 13 witnesses of the Crown in attendance it pleased you to examine only six) did you contrive to discover what did not exist, was not in case, that the special magistrate of St. John’s had private grievances to complain of or to avenge? The indictments were not preferred in refutation or revenge of any wrongs, either real or fictitious, as you, gentlemen, gratuitously and unwarrantably assume; but to prove principles, and to set at rest the questions whether females committed for detention as runaways, are subject to be worked out of the establishment, and in irons; whether the commitments of apprentices by special magistrates have the weight of law, and are to be complied with and enforced, or whether they are unmeaning and idle scraps of paper, the injunctions of which can be disregarded, altered, set aside or added to at the pleasure of the senior magistrate or other parochial authority.

Gentlemen,—By rejecting these bills, supported, as you would have found them, by an overwhelming weight of evidence, had you not dispensed with the ordinary and not universal precaution of examining the witnesses in attendance, you have done much, I fear, to justify the imputations of those who are by some styled enemies to Jamaica. Will they not now triumphantly contend that the chaining of sick and diseased apprentices in hospitals has been pronounced the lawful and ordinary course in this island by the grand inquest of the country? That you have reprobated, with all the indignation and force of language your incensed feelings at the time supplied you with, the attempt of a lawfully constituted authority to check so monstrous a practice as a general nuisance?

Gentlemen,—It will be asserted, and without fear of contradiction, that you have designated an effort to bring to justice an individual for maliciously and cruelly beating a prisoner on the diseased part of his body as a general nuisance.

JAMAICA.

Gentlemen,—Mr. Batty, a distinguished counsel, whose attachment to Jamaica is at least equal to your own, in conjunction with Mr. Price Watkis, gave it as their joint opinion, in their reply to certain questions proposed to them by the corporation of Kingston, that deserters, sent only to the house of correction for detention, cannot be worked in chains. Your alleged enemies, gentlemen, will declare that you have presented a magistrate, for holding the same opinion with your favourite counsel, as a general nuisance.

Gentlemen,—The law which I have already cited enacts, that it is the bounden duty of a magistrate to make strict research into the treatment of prisoners. You surely will yourselves admit the quality and quantity of food allotted to them to be most essential, as starvation may haply be the consequence of continued and habitual neglect. Yet, gentlemen, it will be loudly proclaimed throughout these colonies, the mother country, and the whole civilized globe, that the grand inquest of Jamaica has denounced all such inquiries as a general nuisance.

Such, gentlemen, will be the assertions of those whom you hold to be your enemies; nor will they, in support of their conclusions, fail to dwell on the following facts:

You threw out every bill sent in at the instance of a special magistrate.

You returned a true bill on every indictment sent in against a special magistrate.

Of 13 witnesses for the Crown in attendance, whose names were all before you, to prove the facts stated in the indictments, you examined only six, neglecting or omitting to call in the remaining seven.

You ignored a bill against Patrick Thomas, for assaulting and ill-treating apprentices in the house of correction, without taking a single deposition in support of it.

On the other hand, you found a true bill and took the depositions in the case of Special Justices Baynes and Bedford, though the evidence before you was not on oath, on which ground the gentleman first mentioned, to your considerable mortification no doubt, quashed your finding in open court.

Gentlemen,—I doubt not of your concurrence when I say that no upright judge nor conscientious juror will pronounce the decisive fiat of condemnation without hearing both sides of the question, nor be at all desirous of meriting a share of Seneca's ironical encomium on the imbecile, besotted, and contemptible Claudius:—

Quo non alius,  
Dicere causas,  
Potuit citius,  
Parte auditâ,  
Unâ tantum,  
Sæpe et neutrâ.

Permit me, gentlemen, without any peculiar reference, to observe that a greater moral delinquency, whether in judge or juror, than carrying party feelings or private enmity to the judgment seat, does not exist. An impartial and upright judge will carefully eschew the bare suspicion of such unpardonable dereliction of the duties of the most august and responsible functions with which humanity can be invested. Kings were formerly held to be God's vicegerents on earth: judges are so at present. It is theirs to punish crime, to uphold the right, to repress injustice, to redress wrongs, to protect the lives and properties of their fellow citizens. On the bench they should have neither party prejudice nor passion; at their bar they should know neither friend nor enemy. But, gentlemen, to pervert this high and holy office into an engine of oppression, to view the accused through the lens of party interest or private affection, to further the purposes of faction, or gratify particular resentment, is to destroy and confound, especially in a nascent community, all sense of moral discrimination; to strike at the foundation of all society, by prostrating the barrier between right and wrong; to pollute and poison the stream of civilization at its source; and, under the mask of justice, to rear up and plant injustice in her stead. In such hands, gentlemen, the balance of Astræa resembles the rod of Moses, which on the ground became a serpent.

Gentlemen,—I fear that I have occupied your attention too long; and therefore, now, leaving your presentment with the court, your motives with the public, and your conscience with your God,

Verbum non amplius addem.

St. John's, 8 Nov. 1836.

*E. Dacres Baynes.*

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Secretary of State to Sir *Lionel Smith*, K.C.B.,  
dated 16th January 1837.

(No. 40.)

“But while for the present I pass over these topics, I cannot postpone the notice of another, which is pressed on my attention both by the presentment of the grand jury and by your despatch. I refer to the imputations cast by that body upon the special justices, Mr. Baynes and Dr. Palmer.

“Mr. Baynes is accused of having instigated negroes to complain of the quantity of food allowed in the St. John's Workhouse. The magistrate is declared a slanderer, and is denounced as having used the cloak of his authority to avenge his private grievances. On the authority of a letter addressed to the foreman, Dr. Palmer is represented as having at a social meeting uttered improper expressions; and then, assuming the truth of all that is said by the unnamed writer of this letter, the grand jury proceed to found upon it a very strong denunciation of the conduct of Dr. Palmer.

It

It is, I am aware, difficult or impossible to define precisely the boundaries of the power of the grand juries in bringing under the notice of the court whatever they may regard as a violation of the law. We can look only to usage and to the immutable principle of justice; and I must avow the difficulty which I find to reconcile the proceedings on this occasion with either.

First, as to usage. So far as my information extends, no grand jury in this country has ever attempted to convert its presentments into a vehicle for impugning the conduct of individuals, either in their public capacity or in private life, except when such charges have been relevant to the matter of some indictment to be preferred against the parties so accused. Neither am I aware that any grand jury in England has ever drawn up such accusations in the controversial and reproachful style employed in this presentment. Still less can I suppose that grand juries are accustomed to found such heavy imputations upon the mere quotation to them, by one of their own number, of a letter received by him from some unnamed correspondent.

As to the justice of this proceeding, it is obvious that no reputation is safe if any body of gentlemen are at liberty thus to promulgate charges of which the accused party has no notice, and which it is impossible for him to bring to the test of a judicial inquiry. Messrs. Baynes and Palmer had it not in their power to insist upon indictments being framed against them, because the imputed offences, however grave, were not of an indictable nature; neither could they bring actions for defamation against their accusers, because the grand jury are of course privileged against any such responsibility. Thus these gentlemen could have no resource, except in an appeal to the public journals, a remedy to which it is scarcely reasonable that any of the King's subjects should be left. Nor can I perceive any necessity for such a mode of bringing forward a charge against a public officer. If any party had a reasonable ground of complaint against a special magistrate, that complaint might, without difficulty, be preferred to the Governor, by whom such an investigation could be directed as he might think it his duty to institute, with a view to that redress which he has in such case the power of applying.

As to the truth of the charges, it is my duty to offer some observations. Mr. Baynes has adduced, in refutation of the charges affecting him, such evidence as I am bound to declare not only satisfactory but complete. Whether it is possible to repel the force of his proofs by any counter testimony I am of course unable to determine; but, confining myself to the documents before me, I must regard this gentleman as having been subjected to an imputation as unfounded as it is serious. With respect to Dr. Palmer, whatever views I may entertain of his conduct as exhibited in other parts of your correspondence, and allowing that some want of caution was evinced by him on the occasion in question, I am constrained to admit that he has refuted the substance of the charge made against him by the grand jury, by showing that the words spoken by him do not require or warrant the construction which they have received. Yet both Mr. Baynes and Dr. Palmer remain burthened with these disgraceful imputations before the public at large; nor do I know how they can be fully relieved from the effect of these imputations. It is, however, but due to them that publicity should be given to the sentiments which I have felt it my duty to address to you with reference to this case.

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

(True extract.) *C. H. Darling*, Secretary.

(No. 2.)

EXTRACT of a LETTER from *C. H. Darling*, Esq. to Mr. Special Justice *Baynes*, dated the King's House, 23d November 1836.

I AM instructed by his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant.

You are perfectly aware that your case, in having had your bill thrown out and severe reflections cast on you by the grand jury of Middlesex, has been sent home to the Secretary of State to know whether his Lordship approved of your prosecuting *ex officio*, and would provide for the expense, and what other course he would advise.

His Excellency must decline forwarding your further appeal to Lord Glenelg on the subject, enclosed in your letter of the 21st instant to Mr. Hill, not only because it has been already acted on, but because you thought proper to address a letter yourself, through the public prints of the island, direct to the foreman and grand jury.

His Excellency can hardly bring himself to believe that a gentleman who so long served in the army could be ignorant of the principle of official rule, that no public officer has a right to appeal to the public pending any matter of reference to those to whom he is subordinate; such a course would, in most instances, fetter, compromise or restrain the decision of the authority appealed to, by the public being previously possessed of all the circumstances.

On these grounds his Excellency declines forwarding any further representation of your case with the grand jury, and your letter to Lord Glenelg is therefore returned herewith.



JAMAICA.

— No. 550. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated the King's House, Jamaica, 8th August 1836.

No. 550.

"IN making to you my usual report on the general state of the island, I have little more to say than to assure you of my conviction that there was no truth whatever in the representation that a bad spirit exists amongst the apprentices of St. James's parish. I have not received answers to all my letters; but from those which have reached me, I have no difficulty in pronouncing a decided opinion. Should I see any cause to change it, I will not fail to make your Lordship acquainted with my reasons for so doing."

## Enclosures in No. 550.

## LIST of DOCUMENTS.

Enclosures in  
No. 550.

- No. 1. Inspector Daly's report, showing the unwillingness of the inhabitants of St. James's to accommodate the police.
- No. 2. List of fines for oppression for July; St. James's still occupying the first place.
- No. 3. Return of miles travelled, &c. during July.
- No. 4. Further communication from Mr. Baynes, showing the contumacious feeling of the magistrates of St. John's, and that a parish subscription had been entered into to prosecute him.
- No. 5. Mr. Dillon's report of time and medicine allowed on Ballantoy estate to free children and their mothers.
- No. 6. Valuation by Mr. Davis, showing the high rate of value of a negro per day.
- No. 7. The religious manner in which the 1st of August was passed by the apprentices in Trelawny.—Mr. Price.
- No. 8. Mr. Nolan's report of the apprentices working cheerfully in Vere, the 1st of August not having been there given as a holiday.
- No. 9. All ships went away full from Black River.
- No. 10. First of August in Clarendon.—Mr. Chamberlain.
- No. 11. Mr. Harris.—Case of two women complaining of being overworked.
- No. 12. Mr. Harris.—Case of George Walsh an apprenticed labourer.

(No. 1.)

Sir,

Trelawny, 18 July 1836.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I inspected the police stationed at Dumfries and Orange Hill on Wednesday the 13th inst.; at the former station the men appeared to be getting into a better state of health, although I regret to have learned yesterday the death of another man. These men, considering the melancholy state in which they were in from sickness since they (the greater part) joined the service, are improving in discipline; their present quarters are as comfortable as it is possible for Mr. Dunstone to make those buildings which are only intended for the manufacture of sugar; there is a large carpenter's shop which has been made available to the use of part of the men, and I ordered sub-inspector Bayley to employ the men themselves in making this building more secure from bad weather and more comfortable. I sincerely regret to say that in St. James's no step whatever has been taken to prepare any place for the police. I spoke to many of the most influential gentlemen there, Mr. George Gordon among the rest, but the result was that these gentlemen stated the parish could not afford to do anything, and that they knew of no suitable place that could be procured; it therefore appears that we shall ultimately, when we are obliged to leave Dumfries, have to go into Montego Bay, and all other parts the most important of the parish will be left without the services of the police.

The police under the command of sub-inspector Chrystie, at Orange Hill, maintain, I am happy to say, in the highest degree their respectable character, and, with a few cases of measles excepted, are in perfect health, getting into a high state of discipline, and on the whole a fine body.

This station is indeed a splendid one, and I am in great hopes that we will be enabled to retain it; a Mr. Davis, who is now in treaty for its purchase, assured me that if he bought it he would be most happy to accommodate the police there still, and although it is not central in the parish, yet it is near to some of the largest estates in Trelawny; and as both our stations are at the extremities of the parish, the duty becomes divided equally, and both being very healthy, the men are always effective and ready for service, besides which there are many short roads that would bring our men in a very short time to the centre of the parish.

The men at Orange Hill are putting up houses for their families; and for that purpose have built a lime kiln.

I cannot but observe that the police, with all the exertions that can be possibly used, are at present subject to many evils, the want of regular barracks, the disinclination on the part

part of most of the local authorities in many parts of the country to render the slightest support, and the opportunity afforded our men by the annual bill, of leaving us just at the moment we have made them efficient, all conspire to render the ultimate success of our best exertions at least problematical under the present system. There are duties too under the present regulation which are of a most difficult character, but if not performed would give offence to the local authorities: that of stopping grass and taking it away from negro apprentices, who take it, as well as wood, into the towns. Many indeed, I am led to believe, are allowed this as a boon or return for some service, yet should the overseer or person in charge be out of the way in the evening, the time for carrying these articles in for sale, or should be in ill humour at the moment, which would debar the negro from getting a ticket, the police law requires that these articles should be seized by the police.

I cannot, in the discharge of my public duty, suppress these sentiments, being perfectly aware that his Excellency the Governor expects full information on these subjects, and knowing your own very great anxiety for the interests of the police service.

I have, &c.

(signed) R. Daly, Inspector Cornwall Police.

W. Ramsay, Esq., Inspector-General.

(No. 2.)

FINES Imposed on Overseers and others, in July 1836, under the Abolition Act; extracted from Special Magistrates' Reports.

DATE.	P L A C E.	N A M E of Magistrate.	Complainant.	Defendant.	C O M P L A I N T.	Decision.	PARISH.
July 1	New Battle	Patrick Dunne	Elizabeth Davies	Mr. Murray	illegal confinement	Fined: £. s. d. 2 - -	St. David.
June 29	Rural Vale	J. K. Dawson	Richard Papley	H. N. Speed	for beating him	3 - -	St. Thomas-y <sup>e</sup> -East.
July 1	Spring Vale	- - -	Edward Allen	John Laing	assault	2 - -	- ditto.
June 10	Burrowfield	David Ewart	W. J. Taylor	J. Spinks	illegal confinement	2 - -	- ditto.
July 1	Court House	W. Finlayson	Robert Dance	Mr. Bruce	flogging him	3 - -	St. James.
- 4	Golden Spring	J. Gurley	Stewart, Francis	A. Sutherland	illegal confinement	1 - -	St. Andrews.
- 2	Court	J. Hulme	Isaac Cosely	James Ritchie	striking and abusing him	2 - -	Hanover.
- 1	Kingston	H. Moresby	Phoebe Thompson	John La Cost	assault	2 - -	Kingston.
- -	- - -	- - -	Jessey	Mr. Verley	ditto	5 - -	- ditto.
- -	- - -	- - -	Alexander Bamed	Edward -	ditto	2 - -	- ditto.
- 2	Alley	James Nolan	Jane Morgan	James Rose	ditto	5 - -	Vere.
- 1	Kenmay Grove	J. Waddington	Edward Deans	Robert Chance	striking him	1 10 -	St. Ann.
- -	- - -	- - -	Christina Passby	Edward Deans	striking her	2 dollars.	- ditto.
- 9	Aylmers	Mr. Baynes	William Mitchell	James Breary	working him beyond time	£. 2 - -	St. John.
- 6	Cave River	T. A. Dillon	Thomas Wood	Mr. Arkininstall	illegal confinement	3 - -	St. Ann.
- 11	Hontfield	W. Finlayson	Ann Campbell	Mr. Hyslop	ditto	1 - -	St. James.
- 5	Hibernia	H. Kent	George Smith	Mr. M'Dermott	collaring and throwing him down	2 - -	Port Royal.
- 6	Industry	- - -	John Thomas	Mr. Watt	beating him	2 - -	- ditto.
- 8	Montroze	R. S. Lambert	Caroline Farkson	H. Stevenson	illegal confinement	1 - -	St. Mary's.
- 12	Oxford	M. H. Bell	Henry Wallace	W. M'Leish	assault	3 - -	St. Elizabeth.
- 18	Catherine Mount	W. Carnaby	Mr. Browne, owner.	Ed. Reynolds	case dismissed	Mr. Browne 1 l. for locking him up.	St. James.
- -	Fairfield	- - -	D. Malcolm	Mr. Henderson	oppression	- 10 -	- ditto.
- 19	Moss Side	W. H. Brownson	Charles Campbell	A. M'Gilvray	assault	2 - -	St. Andrew.
- 13	Seven Rivers	R. B. Facey	Robert Main, overseer.	T. Gordon and 5 apprentices	insufficiency of labour	-- case dismissed, Mr. Main 5 l.	St. James.
- 14	Running Gut	W. Finlayson	Eleanor Wilson	Mr. Jessop	not paying wages	- - -	- ditto.
- 16	Mandeville	J. W. Grant	J. Walker	Mr. Britton	taking his Saturday	5 - -	Manchester.
- 18	Court	G. D. Gregg	Ann Ringrose	T. Smelley	assault	5 - -	Trelawny.
- 16	Spanish Town	G. O. Higgins	Jane Brown	D. Wilkin	ditto	1 - -	St. Catherine.
- 16	Rodney Hall	Dr. Palmer	Chloe Stewart	Mr. Tucker	assaulting her child	1 - -	St. Thomas-y <sup>e</sup> -Vale.
- 18	Pickwith	A. Welch	James Campbell	Mr. Newman	making false accusation	1 - -	Manchester.
- 20	Weybridge	J. K. Dawson	Neptune	T. R. Prillen	assaulting him	2 - -	St. Thomas-y <sup>e</sup> -East.
- 21	Green Castle	Thos. Davies	Robert M'Leod	- - -	-- for kicking and confining two apprentices.	1 10 -	St. Mary's.
- 22	New Savanna	J. Daughtrey	Elizabeth Johnson	Mr. M'Cleary	-- for locking her up with an old man and boy, one night.	-- 1 l. for disregard of decency.	St. Elizabeth.
- 19	Jock's Lodge	G. D. Gregg	Alexander Coteral	Wm. Brown	assault	5 - -	Trelawny.
- 25	Moneague	H. Laidlaw	John Davis	Mr. Calder	striking him	2 - -	St. Ann.
- -	- - -	- - -	Ann Davis	- - -	assault	5 - -	- ditto.
- 25	Kingston	H. Moresby	M. Harris	Miss Craddock	ditto	2 - -	Kingston.

TOTAL in each Parish :

St. James	- - - -	6	Port Royal	- - - -	2
St. David	- - - -	1	St. Mary	- - - -	2
St. Thomas-y <sup>e</sup> -East	- - - -	4	St. Elizabeth	- - - -	2
St. Andrew	- - - -	2	Manchester	- - - -	2
Hanover	- - - -	1	Trelawny	- - - -	2
Kingston	- - - -	4	St. Catherine	- - - -	1
Vere	- - - -	1	St. Thomas-y <sup>e</sup> -Vale	- - - -	1
St. Ann	- - - -	5			
St. John	- - - -	1			
			TOTAL		37

(No. 3.)

RETURN of the Number of Miles Travelled, Estates Visited, &c. &c., by Special Magistrates, in July 1836.

NAMES OF MAGISTRATES.	Week ending 7 July 1836.				Week ending 14 July 1836.				Week ending 21 July 1836.				Week ending 28 July 1836.				TOTALS.				
	Miles Travelled.	Estates Visited.	Estates where there are no Complaints.	Number of Corporal Punishments.	Miles Travelled.	Estates Visited.	Estates where there are no Complaints.	Number of Corporal Punishments.	Miles Travelled.	Estates Visited.	Estates where there are no Complaints.	Number of Corporal Punishments.	Miles Travelled.	Estates Visited.	Estates where there are no Complaints.	Number of Corporal Punishments.	Miles Travelled.	Estates Visited.	Estates where there are no Complaints.	Number of Complaints.	Number of Lashes.
Alley, Wm. H.	99	11	9	-	84	11	11	-	-	Unwell	-	87	13	11	-	270	35	31	8	20	
Baines, T. J.	78	12	12	-	89	4	3	-	86	19	19	17	6	6	-	270	41	40	1	-	
Baynes, E. D.	82	17	15	-	50	15	7	-	101	20	16	-	-	6	-	233	52	38	40	30	
Bedford, T. S.	Taking a District.				85	14	7	-	Changing District				28	8	6	-	113	22	13	19	-
Bell, W. A.	55	15	10	-	56	14	9	-	89	16	13	-	45	13	10	-	245	58	42	63	40
Bourne, S.	39	7	3	-	71	12	5	-	80	16	14	-	In Kingston			190	35	22	43	switching	
Brownson, W. H.	29	9	8	-	56	11	7	-	56	11	6	-	48	8	3	-	189	39	24	58	297
Carnaby, Wm.	45	-	-	-	12	1	-	-	52	20	10	-	56	6	5	-	165	27	15	21	-
Cocking, R.	85	27	18	39	No Return received				72	26	21	-	68	25	21	-	225	128	60	20	129
Chamberlaine, R. N.	72	16	8	-	88	6	4	-	76	13	11	-	98	12	7	-	334	47	30	40	15
Cooper, Rd. S.	33	11	7	-	Removing from Hanover to St. John								-	-	-	-	33	11	7	4	-
Danson, H. W.	84	16	13	-	67	9	8	-	97	14	11	-	58	7	6	-	306	46	38	9	25
Daughtrey, J.	31	8	5	-	47	13	11	-	79	14	9	-	41	10	9	-	198	45	34	20	-
Davies, Thos.	60	19	16	-	60	14	8	-	80	14	12	-	65	9	5	-	285	56	41	27	95
Dawson, J. K.	40	11	5	-	31	10	10	-	39	10	8	-	37	17	13	-	147	48	36	27	48
Dillon, T. A.	Medical Certificate				133	26	25	-	151	21	19	-	131	27	23	-	415	74	67	14	246
Dunne, Patrick	63	20	12	-	88	19	10	-	113	20	17	-	66	12	3	-	330	71	42	39	44
Ewart, D.	59	7	5	-	81	12	8	-	51	8	7	-	57	9	4	-	248	36	24	18	-
Facey, R. B.	74	4	-	-	24	2	-	-	105	17	5	-	Attending Investigation at Hazelymph			203	23	5	29	switching	
Finlayson, W.	45	-	-	-	50	10	8	-	75	20	12	-	63	8	6	-	188	38	26	77	-
Fishbourne, E. E.	65	17	14	-	55	10	4	-	52	16	11	-	76	18	15	-	248	61	44	72	296
Gregg, G. D.	at Cambridge.				55	10	4	-	52	16	11	-	76	18	15	-	248	61	44	72	296
Gurley, John	94	15	11	-	74	9	7	-	On leave of absence			67	9	8	-	235	33	26	22	90	
Grant, John W.	64	8	7	-	100	13	10	-	113	9	7	-	103	24	23	-	380	54	47	25	-
Gordon, George	66	9	6	-	54	9	8	-	On leave of absence			38	4	5	-	158	22	19	14	24	
Hamilton, C.	78	22	18	-	67	24	14	-	73	23	18	-	90	31	22	-	100	72	30	switching	
Harris, James	77	11	4	-	80	17	7	-	112	17	10	-	85	20	11	-	354	65	32	107	ditto
Hawkins, C.	60	21	14	-	66	18	15	-	44	14	11	-	55	18	6	-	225	71	56	24	-
Higgins, G. O.	64	17	16	-	77	28	22	-	85	26	23	-	74	26	22	-	300	97	83	25	-
Hill, Richard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	
Hewitt, William	68	10	7	-	55	8	7	-	62	7	4	-	71	9	7	-	256	36	25	18	183
Hulme, J. R.	Unwell				Changing District				48	7	6	-	64	14	12	-	112	21	18	14	145
Jones, T. W.	No Return received				Removing from St. Thomas in the Vale to Hanover								-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kelly, D. W.	55	13	10	-	90	15	13	-	79	13	12	-	85	17	14	-	309	58	49	15	-
Kent, Henry	69	12	9	-	89	21	17	-	70	11	9	-	102	20	17	-	330	64	52	25	-
Laidlaw, Henry	65	16	11	-	70	16	12	-	71	14	9	-	71	16	12	-	277	62	44	35	97
Lambert, R. S.	48	14	10	-	50	16	17	-	41	12	9	-	47	13	10	-	186	55	36	55	199
Lloyd, Samuel	104	19	12	-	84	13	10	-	90	14	9	-	90	18	15	-	368	64	46	37	80
Lyon, E. B.	91	12	8	-	117	12	11	-	85	12	11	-	90	17	14	-	383	53	44	37	45
Marlton, W. F.	59	7	5	-	90	12	5	-	71	9	5	-	87	11	6	-	307	39	21	60	244
Moresby, H.	Kingston no District				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	78
M'Leod, A. N.	55	18	11	-	-	-	-	-	77	26	19	-	12	6	2	-	144	40	52	63	-
Nolan, James	124	27	20	-	119	31	26	-	100	23	19	-	112	24	21	-	455	115	86	65	35
Odell, John	32	7	5	-	36	8	3	-	26	5	1	-	16	4	2	-	110	24	11	25	-
Oliver, T. M.	64	10	10	-	64	15	11	-	66	13	9	-	60	14	14	-	254	52	44	36	220
Palmer, A. L.	122	11	9	-	100	17	11	-	87	15	11	-	81	19	12	-	390	62	43	53	-
Philp, E. D.	102	12	10	-	78	17	14	-	87	16	13	-	63	15	14	-	330	60	51	10	60
Pryce, Samuel	64	27	22	-	60	34	25	-	66	31	25	-	58	26	21	-	248	118	93	75	187
Rennell, Robert	84	17	10	-	84	19	12	-	104	20	17	-	56	11	11	-	328	56	39	85	324
Ramsay, William	On Police Duty				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Rawlinson, S.	64	22	18	-	57	18	16	-	51	18	6	-	74	24	15	-	246	82	55	24	260
Reynolds, John	65	9	8	-	64	7	6	-	115	13	11	-	86	10	8	-	330	39	33	7	-
Sowley, W. H.	67	18	15	-	79	20	15	-	81	25	19	-	-	-	-	-	227	63	49	28	247
St. John, R.	57	15	11	-	89	8	8	-	75	16	13	-	26	7	7	-	247	46	39	10	109
Thomas, J. R.	43	17	13	-	31	12	9	-	53	19	14	-	38	13	10	-	165	61	46	44	274
Thompson, R.	39	9	7	-	55	15	11	-	30	9	8	-	64	16	7	-	188	33	33	32	86
Waddington, H.	45	8	2	-	81	14	10	-	89	13	8	-	98	18	15	-	313	53	35	62	305
Welsh, Henry	-	-	-	-	60	8	6	-	60	12	8	-	28	3	3	-	148	23	17	14	-
Welch, Arthur	81	20	20	-	34	11	10	-	75	17	13	-	80	20	18	-	270	68	51	8	90
Willis, George	44	8	4	-	58	15	9	-	52	10	8	-	58	13	11	-	212	46	32	26	switching
Woolfreys, John	-	-	-	-	A Medical Certificate of ill health				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL																£.	13,692	2,937	2,142	1,969	4,771

Miles Travelled - - - - - 13,692  
 Estates Visited - - - - - 2,937  
 Ditto where no Complaints - - - - - 2,142  
 Number of Complaints - - - - - 1,969  
 Number of Lashes - - - - - 4,771  
 Number of Reports - - - - - }  
 Number of Corporal Punishments - - - - - 121

(No. 4.)

Aylmer's, 30th July 1836.

IN obedience to your Excellency's commands per memorandum, No. 4461, requiring a statement of the prisoners confined in the St. John's house of correction, to enable your Excellency to judge of the expediency of ordering their release, I enclose a list furnished me by Mr. Thomas, the supervisor. When I visited the institution on the 20th instant, I found to my great surprise, that the unfortunate prisoners were still fed on corn, though the regulations of the institution expressly state that ground provisions only shall be served out to them; I found on inquiry that a quart of corn and half a shad was the whole of the sustenance allowed for 24 hours, certainly insufficient to keep them from suffering severely from the pangs of hunger, and to protect them from the dreadful diseases so often brought on in prisons by insufficiency or improper description of food. I am sorry moreover to add, that the local magistrates have again ordered the unhappy females detained in the house of correction, not as convicts, but simply on suspicion of desertion, to be chained by the neck; an act as illegal as savage, against which I warmly protest, and call on your Excellency in your exalted capacity of protector of the rights of all, without distinction, of the poor and lowly as well as the rich and powerful, to interpose with the strong hand of authority (for my jurisdiction is utterly defied and set at nought) to protect these helpless and suffering women, who have none but God and your Excellency to look to for redress.

It is a fact, my Lord, a fact which when known in England will excite consternation and indignation, that females unconvicted of any crime are now in Jamaica, in the third year of emancipation, still liable to be chained by the neck like dogs at the pleasure or caprice (for that it is contrary to the "Act for the abolition of Slavery" I fearlessly assert and maintain) of the local magistrates, in utter disregard of the oral directions and written conviction of the special justice, who alone has any lawful jurisdiction under the said Act over the apprentices.

My Lord, a meeting took place on Saturday last at Point Hill, convened for the purpose of taking my conduct into consideration for daring to ascertain that my own directions and sentences were not exceeded; and for this offence it was resolved by the said meeting that I should be prosecuted at the expense of the parish. I humbly entreat your Excellency will extend towards me that protection of which I have so much need, by placing the charges I have already forwarded to your Excellency, with several others I have now to add, in the hands of the Attorney-general, to proceed against the parties complained of according to law; and I earnestly entreat permission from your Excellency to bind over at once the witnesses that will be wanted for the Crown.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes.*

The Marquis of Sligo,  
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 5.)

My Lord,

Retirement Great House, 2d August 1836.

KNOWING your Excellency prefers facts to assertions, and to corroborate further the tone of feeling between manager and apprentice in this district, I beg leave to enclose an abstract from the hot-house book at Ballantoy of the number of days which the children's mothers have been allowed to absent themselves from labour whilst nursing their sick offspring, from the 28th March to the 27th July inclusive. Both the mothers and fathers of these children have proved themselves worthy of this liberal and humane management, as they profess gratitude and willingness to serve the property on every occasion of necessity or emergency.

Marquis of Sligo, &amp;c. &amp;c. &amp;c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *T. A. Dillon, S. J.*

28 March :

Isabella Nicholas	-	-	five days and three doses of physic.
Sarah Campbell	-	-	four days and six doses.
Rebecca Fullarton	-	-	one day and three doses.
Kate Bygrave	-	-	twelve days and four doses.
Frances Ewitt	-	-	nine days and three doses.
Fanny Frances	-	-	twelve days.
Rachel Brown	-	-	five and a half days and two doses.
Adam Brown	-	-	four days and three doses.

27 July, days due at date :

Kitty Lewis	-	-	five and a half days and four doses of physic.
Bessy Downing	-	-	twelve and a half days and four doses.
Isabella Brown	-	-	seven days and four doses.
Charlotte Aily	-	-	two and a half days and two doses.
Emily Fullarton	-	-	four days and four doses.
Kitty Dawrance	-	-	seven and a half days and four doses.

(No. 6.)

## VALUATION RETURN.

Highgate, St. Mary's, 19 July 1836.

NAME of APPRENTICE.	Age.	Health.	CLASS.
Agnes Knight, of Esher estate -	33	good - -	Prædial attached; field-labourer.

*A. D. Cooke*, esq., Assistant Justice.  
*Thomas Davies*, Special Justice.

Witness for estate, Edward Nelson, overseer, sworn:—Does not name a magistrate. That Agnes Knight is a field-woman, in good health, industrious habits, and is now paying 5 s. per diem to jobbers for digging cane holes, and she is well worth to the estate 20 l. per annum, and valued at that sum.

Apprentice witness:—Declares she has none, and does not object to the above justice.

	£.	s.	d.
Annual value, per annum - - - - -	20	-	-
For four years - - - - -	80	-	-
Deduct one third, (contingencies) - - - - -	26	13	4
Net Sum awarded - - - - -	£.	53	6 8

Not paid.

(signed) *Thomas Davies*, Special Justice.

(No. 7.)

My Lord,

Weekly Brief Report, ending 2 August 1836.

THIS week we have had continued fine seasons, and everything is going on tolerably well everywhere in this district.

Yesterday was observed as a holiday, and religious ceremonies performed which were wonderfully well attended, and I have the honour to report to your Excellency the most perfect tranquillity and order prevail in this beat.

(signed) *S. Price*, S. M.

The Marquis of Sligo, &c. &c. &c.

(No. 8.)

My Lord,

Olive Park, Vere, 3 August 1836.

I HAVE the honour herewith to enclose my weekly diary, also a monthly return of properties visited, which I trust your Lordship will find correct.

I am sure it will be gratifying to your Excellency to perceive 29 important properties out of the 33 visited this week without a single complaint from master or apprentice. I have now every reason to suppose, my Lord, that the advice I have often endeavoured to impress on the minds of the apprentices as to the actual necessity of obedience and industry as the only means of ensuring their own happiness both now and hereafter, has had the desired effect, from the tranquil and prosperous state of my district.

I am also happy to observe for the information of your Excellency, that the anniversary of the great change in the negro population from slavery to freedom, passed off without any apparent emotion in the minds of the apprentices. There has been a general good and cheerful turn out on all the estates in this parish on Monday the 1st instant, which I am confident your Excellency will be pleased to learn.

The Marquis of Sligo,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *James Nolan*, Special Justice.

(No. 9.)

My Lord,

St. Elizabeth, 2 August 1836.

THE second anniversary of the abolition has passed, and everything in this quarter maintains its accustomed course of tranquillity and order, and comparative industry. Not a single application has this year been made to me to know if the 1st of August was a holiday, so well are the apprentices now informed upon every point connected with their new condition. That the date still excites a lively interest in their minds is, however, very evident. A little incident may be mentioned in proof of this: having in the early part of last month an investigation to make in presence of some white people and negroes, and being for the moment doubtful as to the exact day of the month, I inquired, and was immediately answered correctly by one of the common apprentices, to the surprise I believe of all present.

The various ships from this port left yesterday, all with overflowing cargoes. Besides those

those which stately resort to it, several called from other places to fill up, and yet no considerable quantity of produce still remains, for which room was not found.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *John Daughtrey.*

(No. 10.)

Lime Savanna, Clarendon, 3 August 1836.

My Lord,  
I HAVE the honour to forward my report for the past week, and to confirm my last account of the tranquillity of the district.

The anniversary of the ever memorable 1st of August passed off with perfect quietness. On that day I met several large gangs of labourers working out road allotments, and could perceive no extraordinary demonstrations amongst them, further than my receiving hearty congratulations as I went along.

The Marquis of Sligo,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. Chamberlaine*, Special Justice.

(No. 11.)

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Mr. Special Justice *Harris* to the Marquis of *Sligo*, dated St. Thomas in the Vale, Charlton, 1 August 1836.

“YESTERDAY two women from Recess came to me to complain of their being worked every day considerably longer than they should have been; they also gave me a horrible description of the hot-house and dungeon (as they designated the place) at Recess. They represented it as being a cellar under ground, dug out of the earth, under the dwelling-house, like a place where wine is kept; not a window in it; a ground floor. It is used indiscriminately as an hospital and dungeon; that there were in it two coffin cases that were used in former times; one of the coffin cases was destroyed, the other still there, but not used; that there were also stocks there, &c. From this description I apprehended that this lock-up room and hospital must be a very improper place indeed, and I now fully perceive the cause of Mr. Gyles' continued and determined resistance in preventing me from inspecting these places on Recess, in obedience to your Lordship's instruction. I, however, all along suspected that all was not right, and I should have considered it my duty to have persevered until I did succeed in inspecting this 'hallowed' spot, and satisfied myself whether it was such a proper place as the law would tolerate to be used on any place, particularly on a private property; but due respect and obedience to your Excellency's commands\* restrained my anxiety on this point.”

(No. 12.)

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Mr. Special Justice *Harris* to the Marquis of *Sligo*, dated St. Thomas in the Vale, Charlton, August 1, 1836.

ON Saturday last an apprentice, named George Walsh, to Bybrook, complained to me that he had enjoyed the responsible and honorary distinction of constable and superintendent (*i. e.* driver) of the second gang, that he had lately been degraded without cause, and made to work as a common field-labourer with his hoe and bill; that he was not any longer considered as a constable, and was not required or permitted to perform any duty in that capacity, and asked redress at my hands. Allow me to solicit your Excellency's opinion and advice on this case:—Whether it can be considered as a wrong and injury under the 49th clause? Whether I can afford any, and what redress to the complaining party?

—No. 551.—

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated the King's House, St. Jago de la Vega, 13th August 1836.

No. 551.

HAVING recently written to your Lordship on the subject of hospital abuses, it will not be my duty on the present occasion to write more than a few lines on the subject of this despatch. In Mr. Harris's letter of the 1st August, which has been sent home to your Lordship by the last packet, you will see that a complaint was made by two women belonging to the Recess Estate, of whom Mr. Nicholas Gyles, the prosecutor of Mr. Harris before, is the proprietor of the improper place which was made use of as an hospital and a dungeon. This place had once before been pointed out to me as being of a most improper description, and

*Vide* Enclosure No. 11, in the Marquis of Sligo's Despatch, 8 Aug. 1836, No. 550, supra.

\* Note by the Marquis of Sligo.—“Not to force an entry at the risk of personal collision.”

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and Mr. Gyles himself had been fined for his treatment of a man, Martin Maidennot, in this very place.

Feeling it to be necessary that some examination of this place ought to be made, and that the Abolition Act, 54th clause, justified the special justice in doing so, I directed Dr. Palmer and Mr. Harris to go there, and to assert their right to inspect them. I assured them that they would be resisted, and that taking care not to commit themselves by any breach of the peace, it would be their duty to submit to any assault that might be inflicted on them, and that the moment any such took place, they were immediately to retire and report the same to me. Their report of what took place at Recess I have the honour to enclose. Your Lordship will see therein to what an extent Mr. and Mrs. Gyles went, and the effect it had on the negroes of Recess and the adjoining properties.

I have ordered the affidavits of these two magistrates to be submitted to the Attorney-general, with directions that Mr. Gyles should be prosecuted forthwith for this assault, and for the obstruction to the special justices in the execution of their duty. I trust that the bills may be found by the grand jury; if not, I shall certainly direct the Attorney-general to prosecute *ex officio*.

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Enclosure in No. 551.

My Lord,

St. Thomas in the Vale,  
Wednesday night, 10 August 1836.

Enclosure in  
No. 551.

WE deem it our duty to lose not a moment in laying before your Excellency a particular report of the proceedings of this day.

In obedience to your Lordship's directions we this morning proceeded to Recess plantation, the property of Mr. Nicholas Gyles, both to hold our court and to inspect the hospital and cell or lock-up room, about which such serious complaints had been laid before us by different apprentices.

On our arrival at Recess we found Mr. Gyles with two of his friends, Mr. Anderson, the overseer of Palm, and a Mr. Henry Rees, also a planter; those gentlemen were there evidently by design.

On Mr. Harris asking Mr. Gyles if he had any business to come before us, Mr. Gyles replied, that he had a multitude of cases for trial, but should bring none before us; that he considered us incompetent to hold the commission; that no gentleman in the parish could think of bringing cases before us after the resolutions of the magistrates, and the presentment of the grand jury, until they heard from the executive; that we encouraged the apprentices to come to us at Charlton on Sundays, when we laid down plans for the ruin and destruction of their masters; that we encouraged them in idleness, instead of endeavouring to promote industry; that he could prove that Mr. Harris had said, that he would rule and tyrannize over the planters of St. Thomas in the Vale more than ever Dr. Palmer could be able to do, and that he was therefore totally unfit to "administer his Majesty's commission."

During this torrent of invective we remained perfectly calm, and scarcely made a single remark; when it was over Mr. Harris observed, "If you have no business for us, Mr. Gyles, there are some complaints of apprentices which we shall have to inquire into."

We sent for a woman, named Ann Lea; before her arrival, Mr. Gyles, notwithstanding his previous determination to bring no cases before us, charged two men with deficiency of work in sawing boards. He afterwards brought two more cases before us, which we very patiently inquired into, and adjudicated on.

The complaint of Ann Lea of being assaulted and dragged on the ground for the purpose of being put into confinement in the hospital on Sunday, was then tried and clearly proved, and we fined Mr. Gyles 3*l*.

The gang then came before us with a charge of being defrauded of their time, but as it was then nearly six o'clock, we adjourned the court till the following morning.

Before taking our leave, Mr. Harris said, "We have another duty to perform; we have the Governor's directions to inspect your hospital and lock-up room, against which serious complaints have been made by apprentices, and to report to his Excellency the condition we find them in." Mr. Gyles immediately replied, "Then I will obstruct you."

We directed the police to follow us, and requested a free man, Frederick M'Laughlan, to show us the place. Mr. Gyles said, "I will show you where it is," and then led the way. When arrived at the door of one of the cellars under the house, Mr. Gyles stopped, and placing his back to the door-post said, "There, Sir." Dr. Palmer, who was following close, attempted to pass him, when Mr. Gyles laid his hands on him (Dr. P.), and violently pushed him back; he fell against Mr. Harris, who was close behind, and, but for that collision, would, to a certainty, have fallen on his back; the force Mr. Gyles used was quite enough to have knocked down Dr. Palmer. Mr. Harris then attempted to pass into the building, when Mr. Gyles laid hold of him by the collar with one hand, and of Dr. Palmer by the breast of his coat with the other hand, and forcibly pushed us away from the door a second time. At the same moment Mrs. Gyles rushed forward with a long stick and made a blow with all her

her strength, but his servant rushed up and received the blow on his head, by which the side of his hat was knocked in; the police immediately took Mr. Gyles into custody by our orders, but we released him in a few seconds, when we found that his violence had ceased. His friends were close at hand, but did not actively interfere

During this proceeding an apprentice, named Eliza Richards, who was present, and seeing the violence used, screamed out that they were going to murder the magistrates; in an instant the alarm was given, the whole body of the apprentices, who had before left the premises, came running back yelling and screaming in the most frightful manner; the scene that ensued exceeds anything either of us had ever before witnessed for some time; it became impossible to calm the excitement that prevailed, they loudly declared that Mr. Gyles, along with the overseer of Palm, had previously threatened us with personal violence, and were quite sure that the overseer of Palm and Mr. Rees had been sent for on purpose to assist in some outrage; two of the men declared that M'Laughlan, the freeman, said in their presence, when they came up to the house, that if he had had a pistol in his hand he would have shot Dr. Palmer. We could not satisfy the people's minds as to the real nature of the scuffle; they still insisted that a plan had been formed between their master and Mr. Anderson

When at length we left Recess and were going down the hill, we met the entire gang or Palm Estate rushing with breathless haste to our protection; they also were in a state of fearful excitement; the same impression had been made on their minds, that their overseer and Mr. Gyles had formed some plot against our personal safety, and hearing the tremendous noise made by the Recess people, although more than a mile distant, they felt assured that some dreadful mischief was befalling us.

It may be necessary for us to mention that last week some of the Palm people and some from Recess told Mr. Harris that we should be on our guard, and not go about without the police, that Mr. Gyles and Mr. Anderson had been throwing out some dark hints, and that Mr. Gyles had declared that in less than three weeks we should have a rope round our necks. We treated them as idle words, but after what has passed this day, we deem it necessary to lay this statement before your Excellency.

We must now leave it to your Excellency's judgment as to what measures shall be adopted, both as to the obstruction we have met with in the performance of our public duty, and the violent assaults on our persons which we have experienced at the hands of Mr. Gyles

We have, &c.  
(signed) A. L. Palmer, Special Justice.  
James Harris, Special Justice.

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— No. 552. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of Sligo to Lord Glenelg, dated  
The King's House, St. Jago de la Vega, 10th August 1836.

No. 552

"IN reference to your despatch of the 28th June, relative to the throwing out the bills against Whiteman and Nelson for flogging the female prisoners in St. Andrew's Workhouse, I have the honour to state that no reason was given for their so doing, and that I have reason to think that the evidence sent home to your Lordship was precisely that given before the grand jury. I cannot give your Lordship any expectation that any result will follow the sending of such a message to the Assembly as you direct. Your Lordship will remember that I sent one precisely similar last winter, and that no notice was taken of it, and that during the last Session I sent the House a list of, I think, upwards of 40 cases, and that no notice was taken of that, at least no vote was come to.

*Vide Parliamentary Papers respecting the Abolition of Slavery, 1836, Part 3-1, page 376.*

17 Nov. 1835.

"No good whatever would result here from *ex-officio* informations; though I tried one case last Grand Court, which is to come to trial in October, in a cause pretty nearly similar: if success attends that effort I will direct a continuance of it."

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Enclosure in No. 552.

EXTRACT from the VOTES of the Assembly of Jamaica, 17 November 1835.

Mr. Speaker,

His Excellency the Governor is compelled to request the attention of the legislature to the Act for making further provision for the building, repairing and regulating of gaols, houses of correction, hospitals and asylums, for the purpose of completely guarding against certain abuses, which, if not specifically declared to be illegal, are liable to occur in the administration of the law.

Enclosure in  
No. 552.

It is plainly impossible that all the minute rules required for the good government of the places of confinement and punishment, varying, as they must, with different circumstances, could be introduced into a statute of the island. The power of making such rules was un-



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voidably delegated to the justices assembled at the general or quarter sessions, who must be considered as the unexceptionable depositaries of such trust. But a construction may, in some instances, be given to a power thus delegated, completely at variance with the wise and humane regulations of the law for the Abolition of Slavery, which should always be taken in connexion with any measure affecting that class of persons for whose benefit it was framed.

His Excellency understands that the power of inflicting corporal punishment, at their own discretion, has been trusted to supervisors of workhouses; those persons, however respectable they may be, are not, in his Excellency's opinion, of the class in life to justify such confidence. Instances which have recently come before the public, show that this is not a loose assertion, and the fact that the magistracy, whom the spirit of the British constitution entrusts with the power of summary punishment, are chosen out of another class, confirms him in the sentiment. He hopes, therefore, that the supervisors may be deprived of that power, and that it may be reposed in the magistrates, and no one else.

A much more serious breach, not only of the spirit, but even of the letter of the law, has been committed under the supposed authority of the Act in question. His Excellency alludes to the rule permitting the use of the whip upon women by the superintendents of tread-mills. This is a direct infringement on the 21st section of the Abolition Act, which expressly forbids the whipping of the women under any circumstances; prisoners are likewise made subject to have their hair cut off for imputed or real misconduct; and even untried persons have suffered this punishment; and, as His Excellency's remonstrance on the impropriety of this conduct has not occasioned such practices to be discontinued or such rules to be rescinded, he suggests to the House the necessity of some legislative interference, prohibiting the adoption of these and any other regulations which may interfere in the faithful compliance with the law for the Abolition of Slavery, without the spirit in which it was enacted by Parliament, and adopted by the Council and Assembly of Jamaica.

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— No. 553. —

No. 553. EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated The King's House, St. Jago de la Vega, August 13th, 1836.

*Vide* Parliamentary Papers respecting the Abolition of Slavery 1836, Part 3-1, page 368.

“ IN reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 28th of June, relative to the case of Sophy, of Berkshire Hall, and Martin the overseer, I have the honour to inform you that he was sentenced to two months' imprisonment by the judges of the Grand Court, and that he underwent that punishment. Your Lordship very naturally expresses a hope that this conduct will excite universal disgust, and that he will lose his situation: he did lose it, as does every other overseer who is prevented from residing on the property by any cause, without the slightest reference to the crime, or nature of the cause of such absence. Since his discharge from prison he has been, as is the habit, living about from estate to estate, at the houses of the different overseers, at the expense of the proprietors at home, and has not got a place. The reason of that, however, is, because since the deficiency law has been suffered to expire, great numbers of overseers and book-keepers have been dismissed, and I have no doubt, though I am not aware of the precise fact, that many have, without specifying their former conditions, enlisted in the police force, at stations where they are not known. Numbers are, to my knowledge, wandering about without employment, and a more worthless drunken set than the majority, I am not acquainted with. To that is to be attributed Martin's not being employed; that it has nothing to do with his offence will be proved to your Lordship by the fact that Joughlin the overseer, who was fined and confined by the magistrates at Morant Bay, for tying an apprentice to a putrid steer, is now again in full employment and in charge of an estate as an overseer in the parish of Portland.”

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— No. 554. —

No. 554. EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of *Sligo* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated The King's House, St. Jago de la Vega, 23 August 1836.

“ IN making to your Lordship my usual report by each packet, on the general state of the island, the last which, in all probability, it will be my duty to make to you in the character of Governor of this colony, it is my pride and satisfaction to be able to say, that I leave the administration of affairs in the hands of my successor in as easy a state as can be well imagined.

“ The

“The negroes everywhere behave in the most orderly manner. I must confess that it is to me a source of much gratification that I am to be succeeded here by a man of Sir Lionel Smith’s experience, firmness and general capability; as I feel confident, from what I know of his administration of the government of Barbadoes, that one common feeling has directed our proceedings in almost a parallel course; and I feel assured that any deficiencies which may have appeared in my manner of conducting the affairs of this colony, will be corrected by his superior experience: into his hands with confidence do I commit the superintendence of this most interesting measure, with a full confidence that its prosperity and success will be much promoted by his administration. I am not aware that I need make any remark on the various documents, as usual enclosed, excepting that my predictions as to the incorrectness of the reports of a bad feeling in St. James’s parish have proved to be quite correct. There are also some cases of valuation sent to your Lordship which abundantly confirm the necessity of some alteration in the law, as laid down in your Lordship’s despatch of the 11th July 1836, just arrived.”

*Vide Parliamentary Papers respecting the Abolition of Slavery, 1836, Part 3-1, page 395.*

Enclosures in No. 554.

(No. 1.)

My Lord,

Aylmer’s, 1 August 1836.

Enclosures in No. 554.

I ENCLOSE your Excellency’s memorandum 15th July, No. 7004, respecting the valuations of Richard Bennett and Letitia, which your Excellency considers unreasonably high. The truth is, that there is now no discretion whatever left to the special magistrate in the valuations; when the three magistrates take their seats at the board, they form a court, to regulate their proceedings, and decide according to the evidence brought before them. The uncontradicted evidence on oath of Messrs. Collman and Hamilton estimated the value of the services of Richard Bennett at 26*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* per annum; hence the agreement of all three magistrates to that sum; for on no account would they, in face of the evidence, have been justified in affixing a lower valuation, without suspicion of collusion, of which there could be none in this instance, on the part of the witnesses. For my part, I make it a rule, when the witnesses differ, to give the apprentice the benefit of the lowest estimation; but when there is no difference, I hold myself conscientiously bound to decide by the evidence produced in court.

That the present high rates of valuation are an apparent, perhaps a real evil to the apprentice, I am ready to admit; and most desirable would it be if Government would yet interfere and fix a maximum at once, for the protection of the apprentice; for I do not hesitate to say that it is an evil which will daily increase, and that a year hence the applicant for a discharge from the apprenticeship will find his services valued even still higher than at present. The value of the services of the apprentice must and will continue to be regulated by the price of labour in the market, and that is daily increasing. Mr. Lord, of Bowerwood, in this parish, has refused to hire his people out for less than 2*s.* 11*d.* per day; I have myself been asked 3*s.* 4*d.* for some work I wanted done; and Mr. Burrell, of Vere, (your Excellency will perceive that I mention facts and names,) will not take less than 3*s.* 4*d.* for common labour. The demand for labour is so great, that the jobber will ask and obtain the very highest sum that the price of sugar will enable the cultivator to give. As sugar continues to rise, so will wages; and so also will the valuation set upon apprentices. If things go on at this rate, the daily price of labour will be 5*s.* before the termination of the apprenticeship. That this high price of labour will be fatal to the cultivation of sugar after 1840, I am fully persuaded; but that it will ruin the island I am very far from thinking. Jamaica has numberless resources; necessity and enterprize will every day develop new means, with proper encouragement. But to revert to the price of labour, 2*s.* 11*d.* or even 3*s.* 4*d.*, is at present a very moderate rate of wages. Some descriptions of labour are vastly higher; for example, 11*l.* per acre is a common demand for digging cane-holes. I subjoin a calculation, by which your Excellency will perceive that the daily rate of wages amounts, in this instance, to no less than 5*s.* 7½*d.*

9 sq. ft.	£.11 price per acre.
30½	20
272½—1 sq. pole.	Days’ labour 39)220(5 <i>s.</i> 7½ <i>d.</i> daily wages,
40	195 one hand.
10,890—1 sq. rood.	25
4	12
Cane holes }—16   43,560 sq. ft. in an acre.	300
4 ft. square. }	273
Daily task - 70   2,722	27
Days - - - 39 nearly.	4
	108

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From these calculations, these manifest truths may be collected: that the result of the apprenticeship system has far exceeded the calculations of the most sanguine; that the complaints of the planters are unjust, unreasonable and groundless; and that the proprietor will derive from the six years of apprenticeship more profit than he could have obtained from 20 years of slavery.

The Marquis of Sligo,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. D. Baynes.*

*P. S.*—Since writing the above I have been informed that Mr. Thorp, of Phoenix, and Houghton Grove, refuses to take less than 3s. 9d. per diem for his jobbers.

(No. 2.)

My Lord,

Aylmer's, 11 August 1836.

THE extreme importance of the present case must plead my excuse with your Excellency for making it the subject of a report extraordinary. Julian, the apprentice whose case I have more than once submitted to your Excellency's consideration, and who, it appears, was illegally committed by Mr. Justice Bell, is in a dying condition; that is, Mr. Thomas, of the house of correction, and Mr. M'Pherson, both admit that the medical attendant has declared that he does not think that she will live. It was my intention to have ordered her release this day, but in such condition I durst not remove her. I subjoin a copy of the commitment; your Excellency will perceive that no name is mentioned in it.

The Marquis of Sligo.  
&c. &c. &c.

1. Mr. Thomas,

Please receive into the house of correction the within-mentioned runaway, and have her in safe custody until duly claimed by her overseer.

(On the back signed) *John Thomas Bell.*  
18 June 1836.

2. Dear Sir,

Lemon Hall, 18 June 1836.

MY head constable having taken up a runaway in the negro grounds, I must beg of you to commit her to the workhouse, or advise the bearer how to act.

Hoping yourself and family are well,

To John Thomas Bell,  
Point Hill.

Yours truly,  
(signed) *Alexander Gordon.*

Such, my Lord, is the commitment of Julian; the following is no less illegal and extraordinary, though not attended with such fatal consequences.

3. Dear Sir,

WILL you oblige me by committing the bearer prisoner to the lock-up room of the barracks till Monday, when I shall take him to Mr. Baynes; I have no place of security here, or at Retirement, or I would not trouble you.

Yours truly,  
(signed) *B. Harvey.*

4. Mr. Thomas,

June 18, 1835.

Receive the prisoner, agreeable to the above request, for safe custody until Monday.

Your obedient servant,  
(signed) *John Thomas Bell.*

I now come to two of my own commitments; those mentioned by me as sent by way of experiment to the house of correction, in my last report.

5. To the Supervisor of the St. John's House of Correction:

Receive into custody the body of John Edwards, a runaway. He is not to be worked out of the institution, and is to be brought before me every time I visit the house of correction. Hereof fail not, at your peril.

Given under my hand and seal this 29th day of July 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes, Special Magistrate.*  
(L. S.)

This man was worked out of the institution at the time of my visit this day, and was not brought before me, according to his commitment.

6. To the Supervisor of the St. John's House of Correction:

Receive into custody the body of Sukey, a runaway from the service of Thomson & Nicol and her keep until duly released according to law. This woman is on no account to be worked

worked out of the institution, nor is any collar or chain to be put on her; and she is to be brought before me every time I visit the institution.

Hereof fail not, in any particulars, at your peril.

Given under my hand and seal this 29th day of July 1836.

(signed) *E. D. Baynes*, Special Magistrate.  
(L. S.)

This woman was chained by the neck, and a collar put on her; she was also worked out of the institution.

Commitment of *Isabella Butler*\* according to your Excellency's commands.

7. Receive into your custody a runaway apprentice, stating that she belonged to Belmont Estate, taken up at Old Harbour Bay, and her keep until released in due course of law. Pay premium and mile money.

(signed) *Alexander M'Leod*, Special Magistrate.

To the Keeper of the House of Correction, St. John's:

John Archer and Ann Francis, committed by me on the 16th June, were not brought up this day, pursuant to my order, to be discharged; but on the contrary, in defiance of my commitment, are at the present time out to job for Mr. Nash. Ann Francis is again in chains. The collars, my Lord, again put on that unfortunate creature, Eleanor Loraine, in direct contradiction of my orders, though the unhappy woman is still grievously sick in hospital.

Such outrages on humanity and justice as the above need no comment; and I leave them in their own naked deformity for the consideration of your Excellency.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Edward D. Baynes*.

(No. 3.)

My Lord,

Retirement Great House, 16 August 1836.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that I am now without any place to hold court on Saturday, Mr. Shelly having let Wakering. I shall state this fact at the next vestry; but as I never omit visiting the estates on their own particular day, and as many consider that my punctuality renders a court unnecessary, I do not anticipate any good will result from the application.

It may be interesting to your Lordship to know that another plantation called Devon, in this district, of no great pretensions, has been leased on Saturday last for four years, at an annual rent of 900 l. currency. This, my Lord, is no bad evidence as regards the system, and a sterling compliment to the industry of the apprentices.

I have, &c.

The Marquis of Sligo,  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *T. A. Dillon*, Special Magistrate.

(No. 4.)

My Lord,

New Ramble, St. Mary's, 16 August 1836.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a letter, dated the King's House, 9th August 1836, No. 5220, relative to the practice of confining prisoners in the house of correction in the stocks. It is a part of the ordinary discipline of the prison, as I have repeatedly seen prisoners in irons in the day time, when visiting the house of correction. I am not aware that all prisoners are secured at night in the stocks, but will make inquiry on the subject and report to your Lordship. The supervisor or superintendent of the house of correction is bound by the Act for regulating of gaols, &c., clause 3, rule 10, to report to a visiting justice when any prisoner is placed in irons. I observed the practice in the gaol, which was discontinued on my pointing out the illegality of punishing people before trial, by putting them in irons. With respect to the house of correction, I have just as much power to prevent prisoners being placed in the stocks as I have to prevent their hair being cut off, or the use of chain and collar.

I have, &c.

The Marquis of Sligo,  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *William Marlon*, Special Justice.

\* The copy of the commitment of *Isabella Butler*, by Mr. M'Leod, is sent in consequence of your Excellency's commands, and not owing to any irregularity that I have discovered in it.

JAMAICA.

(No. 5.)

Sir,

Montego Bay, 16 August 1836.

I HUMBLY take leave to submit to his Excellency the Governor the following case, and although it has been decided, both here and at home, by the law officers, that trades-people, &c., attached to estates can be worked in the field when not otherwise employed, I cannot but humbly submit that none can be so put, either by caprice or whim, as has been done in the case now submitted to his Excellency the Governor.

The person who, through me, complains, is a very excellent and well-disposed negro, and has exercised from his youth the functions of driver, and latterly those of a constable, and therefore feels it a degradation of much consequence to be placed, from no misconduct of his own, at his time of life, being now in his 60th year, in a debased and subordinate situation.

The poor man has been some considerable time striving to induce me to lay his case before his Excellency the Governor, but apprehensive that other than the offence which he has represented to me has been committed by him, I have refrained from doing so; but as he is exceedingly anxious that his conduct should be inquired into, I have been induced respectfully to lay his case before his Excellency the Governor, with the fullest satisfaction that every justice will be afforded to him.

John Clark, late head constable on — estate, in St. James's, says that Mr. —, the attorney, complained some time ago to the special magistrate of his people not doing their proper quantum of work, and cited deponent as an evidence against them, but deponent did not depose as Mr. — wished him; that on a subsequent occasion the apprentices, in their turn, complained to the special justice, and deponent was of course called upon to give his evidence, which he did fearlessly, and which inculpated Mr. —. For this and former offence the unfortunate man has been ordered to take up his bill and hoe, and to turn out with the gang.

The offences herein described are the maximum of Clark's crime; and although the penalty inflicted is in itself trivial, yet, to persons such as Clark, it is considered of vast importance. The man complains, further, that the apprentices have neither herrings nor salt given them, as customary, and that they have a resolution, which I believe I have successfully combated, to quit the estate, and seek elsewhere employment and better fare. Such, then, is the condition of Clark, who only seeks a fair investigation of his complaint, and will gladly submit to any award, should his Excellency decide against him.

W. G. Nunes, Esq.

I have, &c.  
(signed) S. Manderson.

— No. 555. —

No. 555. COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Major-General Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 30 December 1836.

AMONG the miscellaneous enclosures transmitted in Lord Sligo's recent despatches on the general state of the island, I find some complaints of oppressive conduct towards the apprentices, to which I think it necessary to call your attention.

In a letter enclosed in his Lordship's despatch of the 28th July last, and dated the 25th of that month, Mr. Special Justice Hamilton reports, that the gang of Drummond Castle have been deprived of their field-cooks, and that not having sufficient time allowed to cook their food themselves, they are "compelled to work without their usual meals." He also complains that the sick in the hospital are left to their own resources, that no nourishment is given them, and that in two cases he had "desired that they should be provided with everything necessary, but of no avail, in consequence of there being no responsible person on the property."

I am not informed what directions his Lordship gave in consequence of this letter, nor is the case reported with sufficient fulness and precision to enable me to pronounce a decided opinion myself. With reference to the first point, I presume that the employer cannot be compelled by law to furnish his apprentices with field-cooks. It does not, however, follow, that because he was not bound to provide this indulgence, he is therefore at liberty (at any time and under any circumstances) to withhold it; cases may easily be imagined in which a customary allowance cannot be suddenly withdrawn, without such cruelty as would render him punishable under the 49th section of the Abolition Act. If it be doubtful whether the charge of cruelty can be legally substantiated, the case should be referred to the Attorney-general for his opinion.

With

Vide Enclosure  
No. 11, in the  
Marquis of Sligo's  
Despatch, 28 July  
1836, No. 539,  
page 121.

With regard to the second point, I cannot see how the leaving of the sick in the hospital to their own resources, without nourishment, can be other than a direct infringement of the law, which says that they shall receive "the same medical care and attention as has heretofore been customary." And whoever is entitled to prefer complaints against the apprentices for the non-performance of their duties towards him, is answerable for the non-performance of this duty towards them.

Enclosed in the same despatch, I find a letter from Mr. Special Justice Gregg, dated the 26th July, reporting that Catherine Baily (who was valued on the 1st June at the sum of 30*l.*, which she appears to have been unable to pay) "has been ordered to take her hoe and go into the field, though she is at least 70 years of age, and has been, Mr. Gregg knows not how long, driveress of the small gang." In the valuation return, her age is stated to be 65. Lord Sligo describes this in a note as "a most cruel oppression," but does not state how he directed Mr. Gregg to act. Whether the conduct of the manager or overseer in this instance can be proved to have sprung from a feeling of resentment, and a determination to inflict punishment on the woman for some offence not punishable by the magistrate, the information contained in the letter does not enable me to judge; but I apprehend that Mr. Gregg must have the means of satisfying himself on this point, and he should be reminded that if it be really a case of "cruelty," it may be punished under the 49th section of the Act.

Another case of the same kind is reported by Mr. Harris in a letter enclosed in despatch 8th August, and dated the 1st of that month. He states that an apprentice, named George Walch, of Bybrook, had complained to him of being degraded from his office of constable and driver of the second gang, and sent to work in the field without any cause. The overseer's own account of the matter is not, however, reported, nor is any presumed motive adverted to.

A third case of the same nature is contained in a letter from Mr. Manderson, enclosed in despatch of the 23d August, and dated the 16th. Mr. Manderson calls Lord Sligo's attention to the case of a negro, named Clarke, who being 60 years old, and having been a driver from his youth, has lately been ordered to turn out with the field-gang, for no other offence but that of having given evidence against Mr. —, when cited as a witness against him by the apprentices, and having failed to give evidence in his favour when cited as a witness against the apprentices by him. Lord Sligo replied, that the law was against the complainant, and that it was impossible to interfere in his favour.

If Mr. Manderson be correct in stating that this is the only offence of which Clarke has been guilty, and if consequently there can be no doubt about Mr. —'s motive in degrading him, I apprehend that the conduct of that gentleman cannot be considered as legal. But on this and the two preceding cases, I need only refer you to my despatch of the 30th November.

I find also two letters from Mr. E. D. Baynes, on the condition of the house of correction in the St. John's parish. The first is dated July 30th, and enclosed in despatch of the 8th August. It states that the prisoners are not supplied with food, either sufficient or of a proper kind; that females detained there, not as convicts, but only on suspicion, have been chained by the neck; that his own jurisdiction as special magistrate is defied, and that he is about to be prosecuted at the expense of the parish, for "daring to ascertain that his own directions and sentences were not exceeded." He concludes by requesting Lord Sligo to place in the hands of the Attorney-general for prosecution certain charges which he has forwarded, relative, as I presume, to the illegal conduct above mentioned.

The other letter is dated August 11th, and enclosed in despatch of the 23d August. It reports the following instances of illegal and oppressive conduct in the same house of correction.

1. On the 18th June, Mr. Gordon, of Lemon Hall, wrote to Mr. Bell, a local, but not a special magistrate, stating that his head-constable had taken up a runaway on the negro grounds, and begging him to commit her to the workhouse, or advise the bearer how to act. Mr. Bell immediately wrote on the back an order to the supervisor to "receive the within-mentioned runaway, and have her in safe custody until duly claimed by her overseer."

Mr. Baynes's letter describes her as being at the time of its date in a dying condition, so that she could not be removed from the workhouse, but it does not

*Vide* Enclosure No. 12, in the Marquis of Sligo's Despatch, 28 July 1836, No. 539, page 121.

*Vide* Enclosure No. 12, in the Marquis of Sligo's Despatch, 8 Aug. 1836, No. 550, page 169.

*Vide* Enclosure No. 5, in the Marquis of Sligo's Despatch, 23 Aug. 1836, No. 554, page 176.

*Vide* Lord Glenelg's Despatch, 30 Nov. 1836, No. 540, page 121.

*Vide* Enclosure No. 4, in the Marquis of Sligo's Despatch, 8 Aug. 1836, No. 550, page 167.

*Vide* Enclosure No. 2, in the Marquis of Sligo's Despatch, 23 Aug. 1836, No. 554, page 174.

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say whether she had been confined there ever since her commitment on the 18th June, or how she had been treated during her confinement.

2. On the same day (Saturday) Mr. Harvey wrote to Mr. Bell, requesting him "to commit the bearer prisoner to the lock-up room in the barracks till Monday," when he would take him before Mr. Baynes. He sent him to Mr. Bell, because he had no place of security on the estate. Mr. Bell immediately wrote to the supervisor, "Receive the prisoner agreeable to the above request for safe custody till Monday."

3. On the 29th July, Mr. Baynes ordered a runaway to be received in the house of correction, but gave particular directions that he was not to be worked out of this institution, and was to be brought before him at every visit.

The man was not brought before him when he visited the house of correction on the 11th August, being at that time worked out.

4. On the same day he committed a woman, also a runaway. It was distinctly specified in the commitment that she was on no account to be worked out of the institution; that no collar or chain was to be put upon her, and that she was to be brought before him every time he visited the institution.

This woman was chained by the neck, a collar was put on her, and she was worked out of the institution.

5. He then mentions the case of another man (John Archer) who was worked out, contrary to the commitment; of another woman (Ann Francis) who was not only worked out, but was again in chains; and of a third (Eleanor Loraine) who, though "still grievously sick in the hospital," again had collars put on her.

Mr. Baynes makes no remark on these cases, but leaves them for the consideration of Lord Sligo. His Lordship adds a note describing the subject of the letter, but without further comment. I am not aware, therefore, what directions were given in consequence of these letters, or what was about to be done; but I entertain no doubt that all practicable steps were taken for bringing the offenders to justice, and for preventing the recurrence of such offences. My only object in adverting to them is to avoid the possibility of its being supposed that such gross instances of misconduct could escape notice and animadversion; and I trust that you will be enabled to satisfy me by a report of the result of the proceedings which may have been taken in these cases, that such offenders, if the facts are clearly proved, cannot escape with impunity.

*Vide* Enclosures  
Nos. 9 & 10 in the  
Marquis of Sligo's  
Despatch, 28 July,  
No. 539, page 120.

In despatch of the 28th July I find the deposition of two female apprentices (Ann Vedah Williams and Amelia Hutchinson) who had been flogged in the respective workhouses of St. Catherine's and St. Ann's, while undergoing punishment on the treadmill.

Although these cases have come to light subsequently to those reported in Lord Sligo's despatch of the 13th June, I cannot doubt that they have been referred to the Attorney-general for prosecution, and that no exertions will be spared for bringing the perpetrators of these outrages to the punishment which their crimes deserve.

In these and all similar cases I have one general instruction to give. When a question is referred to you by any of the special magistrates, which you do not feel competent to decide yourself, you will refer it to the Attorney-general for his opinion. Should you be unwilling to proceed further in the matter without my sanction, you will accompany the statement of the case with that officer's report upon it. Should you think proper to report it for my information only, without any view to a decision, I have to request that you will acquaint me with the steps which have been actually taken in order to satisfy the ends of justice.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

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— No. 556. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Mr. Under-Secretary *Stephen* to Sir *L. Smith*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 15 October 1836.

No. 556.

MR. WILLIAM STURGE, a member of the Society of Friends, accompanied by three other gentlemen, being about to visit Jamaica, in order, as it is represented, to satisfy their own minds, by personal observation, as to the present state of the emancipated population, Lord Glenelg has been requested to recommend them to your protection. His Lordship, who is at present absent from London, has directed me to perform this duty on his behalf, and I have therefore to request that you will afford to Mr. Sturge and his friend such protection and countenance as they may require while residing under your government. These gentlemen have been represented to Lord Glenelg as highly respectable persons, but they are not personally known to his Lordship; and I should add, that their mission has been undertaken without either the sanction or the knowledge of Lord Glenelg and his colleagues, and that I cannot undertake to answer for the propriety of their plans of proceeding. I can only state that I am aware of no ground for supposing that they are actuated by any other than laudable motives.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *James Stephen*.

— No. 557. —

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

My Lord,

The King's House, 8 November 1836.

No. 557.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of my addresses to the two branches of the legislature, on opening the session on the 1st instant, and of their replies.

I am happy in being able to assure your Lordship, that a general disposition has been manifested by both houses to conduct the public business in a spirit of cordiality, and with a strict regard to the interests of the country.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Enclosure 1, in No. 557.

ADDRESS of the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR of *Jamaica* to the Legislature, on opening the Session, 1 November 1836.

Gentlemen of the Council,

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 557.

I AM very happy in meeting you in session for the first time since I have assumed the charge of this important government.

I am deeply penetrated with all the responsibilities and difficulties I shall have to undertake, but I feel confident in your support and in your patriotism to enable me to overcome them, and to encourage my increasing exertions to render my government serviceable to your country.

Gentlemen,

The country is represented to me as full of grievances, many, I acknowledge, seem of great difficulty. I invite you to examine into their cause and origin dispassionately, that they may be combated by joint exertions, and faithfully represented by me to the King's ministers.

There has been much to complain of in the conduct of two or three of the special magistrates, in putting employers and apprentices in a state of irritation against each other, which has, in many instances, provoked more severity and harshness towards the labourers than ever existed in slavery.

I am doing all I can to correct this evil; and, amongst other measures, I have set on foot inquiries towards a careful establishment of scales of labour.

I have not forgotten, gentlemen, that Jamaica set the first example in speedily and honourably giving effect to the wishes of the Imperial Parliament, by their preparatory Emancipation Act. I was then engaged in the same great cause in the windward government, and I felt under the greatest obligations to this island for her promptitude.

Deeply is it to be lamented that unfortunate feelings arose which prevented those modifications to your Act which experience has shown are still essential to the mutual interests of masters and servants. I will never believe that the gentlemen who then represented the interests of this powerful colony have ever been indifferent to the ultimate success of those measures



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measures to which they so early gave effect, and I shall, therefore, not fail hereafter to propose to your consideration some suggestions of practical improvement likely to put down complaints, and restore confidence and good-will between proprietors and labourers.

There is, indeed, one most important subject which I cannot resist submitting to your grave consideration, it is the religious and moral condition of the negroes. No man has had such opportunity of enlarged observation amongst this class as I have had, either in the immediate government of, or eventual control over, seven colonies, and I am sorry to proclaim that they are in this island in a more deplorably backward state than in any other. Yet, gentlemen, men must be taught to fear God before they can be made to respect the laws. It is physically impossible for the ministers of the established church, few in number, with an extended surface of population, to do more than they have done. The first object is to instil the doctrines of Christianity, and not to insist on any particular church discipline. I firmly believe the assistance of the missionaries is most necessary to this end. Gentlemen, we have hardly four years more to watch over the experiment of apprenticeship. Give every facility you can to the missionaries' labours. Banish from your minds the idea that they are your enemies. I will answer with my head for their loyalty and fidelity. Encourage their peaceable settlements amongst your people; let every four or five contiguous estates combine for the erection of chapel schools; and knowing, as you well do, the attachment of the negro to the place of his birth, and the burial-place of his parents, you may, I sincerely believe, by these means, finally locate on your estates a contented peasantry.

The example in Antigua forcibly impresses the advantage of this course of improvement.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

I reserve for other opportunities the laying before you several communications, either connected with my instructions from the Secretary of State, or emanating in local expediency.

I respectfully recommend to your early consideration such annual Acts as are about to expire.

Gentlemen of the Council,

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

There never was a time in the history of this colony in which the spirit of union and cordiality was so necessary to your successful labours. For myself, I shall most cheerfully concur in any measure, whether directed to the immediate wants of society, or to the security of your future interests.

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Enclosure 2, in No. 557.

To his Excellency Major-general Sir *Lionel Smith*, &c. &c. &c.

The humble Address of the Council.

May it please your Excellency,

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 557.

WE, His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Council, sincerely congratulate your Excellency on your assumption of this important government.

We duly appreciate the difficulties with which you will have to contend, and the responsibilities of your high station, but you may rely with confidence on our support and patriotism; and be assured that no exertions shall be wanting on our part to render your government as easy to yourself as we are satisfied it will be beneficial to the country.

We concur in the anxious hope expressed by your Excellency, that those animosities which have distracted our community may cease, and that the united efforts of the legislature may be steadily directed to the discovery and adoption of the best means of upholding the prosperity and maintaining the peace of the island.

It is impossible to deny that many grievances exist, into the cause or origin of which we shall dispassionately inquire, and we trust that they may be as successfully combated, as we feel assured they will be faithfully represented by your Excellency to the King's ministers. We regret that the conduct of some of the special magistrates should have given such just cause of complaint, and that, in consequence, a state of irritation has been excited between proprietors and apprentices most prejudicial to the well-being of the colony. We thank your Excellency for the assurance that you are doing all in your power to correct this evil, which we are convinced will in a great measure subside, when the Acts regulating the duties of master and apprentice are, throughout the island, duly and impartially administered; and we anticipate the best results from a cautious and well-digested establishment of scales of labour.

We are gratified by the honourable mention made by your Excellency of the manner in which effect was given by the legislature of this island to the wishes of the Imperial Parliament, in so speedily passing the Act for the Abolition of Slavery; and we can with truth affirm, that those who represent the interests of this powerful colony have ever been most anxious for the ultimate success of that most important measure; and any suggestions of practical improvement, emanating from your Excellency, shall receive our most attentive consideration; and, if adopted, we hope they may put down complaints, and firmly establish confidence and good-will between proprietors and labourers.

We sensibly feel the absolute necessity of giving the negro population the advantages of moral and religious instruction, and fully concur in the sentiments expressed by your  
Excellency,

Excellency, that man must be taught to fear God before he can be made to respect the laws. Whilst we agree with your Excellency that the first object is to instil the doctrines of Christianity, we cannot forbear declaring our devoted attachment to that form of sound words in which we have been brought up, and expressing our regret that the number of the clergy of the church is not equal to the spiritual wants of this large colony. Still, we hope, that all denominations of christian teachers will be supported, whilst they confine themselves to the true and legitimate object of their calling; and we trust that the beneficial results anticipated by your Excellency as likely to flow from the labours of the missionaries may be accomplished.

We are deeply impressed with the absolute necessity of fostering a spirit of union and cordiality to arrive at a successful termination of our labours; and we sincerely thank your Excellency for your assurance, that you will concur in any measure, whether directed to the immediate wants of society, or the security of our future interests.

Passed the Council this 2d day of November 1836.

(signed) *W. G. Stewart*, Clerk to the Council.

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Enclosure 3, in No. 557.

Gentlemen of the Council,

I AM sincerely thankful to you for this kind address, for it gives me every assurance of your zeal and spirit to promote the best interests of the country, to which end my humble abilities will be faithfully directed.

I cannot omit, in particular, my grateful acknowledgment of the liberality with which the head of the church has met my sentiments on the means of extending Christianity.

What we can safely undertake now, in preparing for freedom, would not, I admit, have been prudent in slavery.

I am quite convinced that the gentlemen of the island, generally, are too intelligent and rightly disposed not to see and admit the distinction between the influence of missionaries, as a first means of preparing for freedom, and their exertions in slavery, when they were so apt to be misunderstood, and to raise expectations inconsistent with that condition.

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Enclosure 4, in No. 557.

To his Excellency Major-general Sir *Lionel Smith*, &c. &c. &c.

The humble Address of the Assembly.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, His Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects, the Assembly of Jamaica, beg to offer your Excellency our most sincere congratulations on your Excellency's appointment to this government.

We are sensible of the responsibilities and difficulties which your Excellency has undertaken, but we beg you to be assured of our warmest support and co-operation; and from the energy and success which distinguished your Excellency's administration of the sister colonies, we entertain sanguine hopes that your zealous exertions will overcome these difficulties, and render your government serviceable to our country.

It is true that the country is full of grievances; to the cause and origin of those grievances our anxious attention shall be directed, in the full confidence that your Excellency's faithful representations to the King's ministers will accomplish their removal.

We much regret that the conduct of some of the special magistrates, in putting employers and apprentices in a state of irritation against one another, has in many instances provoked greater severity and harshness towards the labourers than existed in a state of slavery. We duly appreciate your Excellency's exertions in removing this evil, so pernicious to all parties; and we trust your Excellency may succeed in establishing scales of labour, which must prove highly beneficial.

We are gratified to be informed by your Excellency, that the example set by Jamaica in the promptitude with which it gave effect to the wishes of the Imperial Parliament, by enacting the Abolition of Slavery, was so strongly felt by your Excellency, in the high official station which you at that time filled in the windward government. The same desire of conforming to the wishes of our fellow subjects in England, which caused us so promptly to give effect to the Emancipation Act, has never ceased to guide us in our attempts, by subsequent modifications, to make that Act more perfect.

We lament, in common with your Excellency, that unfortunate feelings arose which prevented those modifications from being carried into effect which experience has shown are still essential to the mutual interests of master and servant. We never had—we never could have had—any other object in view in our proceedings than to provide such regulations as in our experience and judgment appeared to us calculated to maintain order, and promote the general welfare of society. To any suggestions likely to put down complaints and restore confidence, which your Excellency may be pleased to offer, we shall be ready to give our most considerate attention.

We are fully sensible of the great importance of the moral and religious instruction of our negro population, and we much regret that your Excellency should see cause to proclaim them to be, in this respect, so far behind those of the other colonies.

While we admit that the present church establishment is inadequate to the extent of the country,

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country, we regret that we cannot concur with your Excellency in the opinion that the ministers of that church have done all that they could have done. Sensible, however, of the necessity of providing increased means to meet the religious wants of the people, additional places of worship are, at the present moment, being erected, at a very heavy expense, in almost every parish in the island. A similar extension of missionary chapels is in like manner in progress. To the labours of the missionaries no opposition has ever been offered here, while they confine themselves to their own proper and legitimate duties; and we shall be happy that, abstaining hereafter from intermeddling with matters that do not belong to them, they pursue a course to merit and secure for themselves the good opinion and confidence of the country. Your Excellency will find not only a general desire, but an extreme anxiety pervading the landed proprietors of the colony, to establish schools for the moral and religious instruction of the young people on their properties, without regard to any particular church discipline, provided habits of industry, so essential to a labouring people, are at the same time duly and properly inculcated. We cannot but add our deep regret and disappointment that the British Parliament has done so little to redeem its pledge of affording efficient means of moral and religious instruction towards an ignorant people, so suddenly raised to a condition for which a large proportion of them are as yet unfortunately so ill prepared.

Whatever communications your Excellency may be pleased to lay before us, emanating from the Secretary of State or from your Excellency, will have our best consideration, and our immediate attention shall be given to the annual laws which are about to expire.

We are deeply sensible that there never was a time in the history of this colony in which the spirit of union and cordiality was so necessary to its successful government. The spirit of concord it will be our anxious endeavour to cultivate, and we derive hope of success in our labours from the gratifying assurance given us by your Excellency that you will concur in any measure directed to the immediate wants of society, or to the future safety and general welfare of the colony.

(signed) *Richard Barrett*, Speaker.

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Enclosure 5, in No. 557.

Enclosure 5,  
in No. 557.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I AM very grateful to your honourable house for the terms in which you have received my first address.

It gives me the assurance of your co-operation in every measure calculated for the correction of evil and the promotion of good; and I have no ambition, no object, so much at heart as that of gaining the confidence of the honourable house and the country at large.

You have qualified your approval of missionary labours with an expression of a desirable caution.

It never can be compatible with the duties of any clergy to mix themselves up in the occasional broils of society, or to interfere in any of its political institutions.

I would not fail to condemn such attempts as abusing their avocations; but slavery having ceased, there is room enough, and a most interesting field of exertion, for all ministers to instruct the negro mind in those principles which may render them obedient, industrious and contented subjects.

I pray God that this may be the happy result of their labours; and I anxiously hope the mother country may still further assist in the grand object of education to which your honourable house have so liberally contributed.

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— No. 558. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated  
The King's House, 12 November 1836.

No. 558.

I BEG to draw your Lordship's attention to the quarterly reports of the special magistrates, herewith transmitted.

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Enclosure 1, in No. 558.

REPLIES to Circular (No. 63), dated Downing-street, 15 July 1836.

QUESTIONS.

REPLIES.

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 558.

1. What has been the general conduct of the apprentices in your district since your last report?

1. Much improved.

2. Is there any want of good feeling between them and their employers, and, if so, to what cause do you attribute it?

2. Every good feeling exists; when any symptoms contrary show themselves, it is generally the fault of the apprentices, as the masters and managers are always inclined to conciliate and give every encouragement for good conduct.

3. Do

## QUESTIONS.

## REPLIES.

3. Do they perform their work willingly, and, if not, to what do you ascribe it?

3. They generally perform their work cheerfully, with the exception of the pregnant women and children's mothers, and these upon most estates are lazy, insolent, and every way very troublesome, and, from their numbers on some estates, a great drawback to the effective strength of the gang.

4. What are the working hours generally in use in your district; are any, and what, intervals of relaxation allowed to the apprentices during the working hours?

4. They work on the nine hours system; some give half an hour to breakfast, some an hour; some two hours to dinner, others two hours and a half, according to the arrangement entered into. An uniformity of system in the hours allowed for relaxation would be very desirable, as it would prevent the apprentices from entertaining an idea that they are imposed upon on some of the properties.

5. Is task-work generally resorted to in your district; if not, does the objection lie with the masters or the apprentices?

5. I regret to state that there is only one estate (Leogan) where task-work has been resorted to in this district successfully. Most of the masters and managers would prefer task-work, but the apprentices object to it, under the plea that an advantage would be taken of them, except in the digging of cane-holes, and then it is adopted generally.

6. Is it usual for the apprentices to work in their own time for money wages; if so, what is the ordinary rate of wages, and how are they paid; if not, have they been offered?

6. The apprentices dig cane-holes during their own time for money-wages at the rate of 3s. 9d. to 4s. 2d. per hundred, according to the nature of the soil, and which work they accomplish with ease by 12 o'clock. Some dig from 150 to 200 cane-holes per day. Cleaning canes for hire at the rate of 2s. 6d. per day (although very light work) they have generally an objection to perform.

7. Are any indulgences withheld, which it was usual for the estate during slavery to supply?

7. No indulgences are withheld. On some estates the masters pay the medical attendants for their attendance upon the free children, for which kindness the parents do not seem to be grateful.

8. What is the condition of the free children, and how are they supported?

8. The free children are in a very bad state, owing to the neglect of the mothers. They do nothing but wander and idle about the negro-houses, and frequently are in the last stage from want and sickness, until discovered by the managers and taken to the hospital. Several cases have proved fatal through their mothers' neglect.

9. What facilities does your district supply for education and religious instruction; is the attendance at church and in the schools equal to the accommodation?

9. There is one chapel of the established church, two Scotch missionaries, one Baptist and one Mico charity, and I believe are well attended, principally by adults.

10. Is there a general desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge; how many discharges have been effected since your last report?

10. There is a general desire amongst the apprentices to purchase their discharge if they had the means. Three discharges have been effected since my last report.

11. To what kinds of employment do those who have obtained their discharge usually betake themselves?

11. Those who are tradesmen generally betake themselves to their call, but those who are not, idle their time away about the negro-houses.

12. What are the prospects of the ensuing crop, and what the general state of cultivation; has the season been favourable, or otherwise?

12. Every appearance of an increase of crop; the state of cultivation is very good, and the seasons have been every way favourable.

13. Have you any suggestions to make, or any practical measure to recommend?

13. I have no suggestions to make, as my opinions are generally embodied in the foregoing remarks.

(signed) *R. Cocking, s. m.*,  
Windward District, St. James's.

JAMAICA.

Enclosure 2, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *Thomas M. Oliver*, Esq., Special Justice,  
to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Hertford, 3 October 1836.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 558.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your circular, No. 63, and to transmit herewith, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, answers to the questions contained therein, from No. 1 to 13 inclusive.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Thomas M. Oliver*, Special Justice.

1. Very good.
2. I am not aware of a single instance.
3. To the best of my belief they do.
4. They vary, but generally the nine hour system; in some instances they work task. The usual allowance is one hour for breakfast and two for dinner-time.
5. Task-work in many instances is resorted to, but not generally, as the nature of the employment does not always admit of it; but I never heard an objection made on the part of the master, if it was the wish of the apprentice to work task.
6. It is usual in this district for the apprentices to work for hire in their own time, if required, at the usual rate of 2s. 1d. per diem, or 3s. 4d. digging cane-holes, and always paid in money.
7. I am not aware of any indulgence being withheld which was usual during slavery.
8. The condition of the free children is very good, generally supported by their parents; on some estates they have clothing, medical attendance and allowances, same as the rest, the parent paying four days' labour to the estate, in his or her own time, as a consideration, which is a great advantage to the apprentice.
10. I do not think there is a general desire to purchase their discharge among the apprentices.
11. Their employments differ; tradesmen generally follow their trade; some hawk goods for store-keepers; others hire out as domestics.
12. The prospects of the ensuing crop had every appearance of being favourable; the state of cultivation appears good, but latterly the almost incessant rains, and heavy rains, together with breeze, I should fear would operate much against the plantation.
13. None.

Enclosure 3, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *E. D. Philp*, Esq., to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Westmorland, Leeward District, 4 October 1836.

Enclosure 3,  
in No. 558.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for his Excellency's information, the condition of my district, ending the quarter, 30th day of September 1836; and, in reply to his Excellency's circular, No. 63, containing certain questions, I beg leave to make the following statement:—

ANSWERS to Queries, from No. 1 to No. 13 inclusive.

1. Good.
2. I know of none.
3. They do, most willingly and cheerfully.
4. The nine hours system, allowing the apprentices one hour for breakfast and two hours for dinner.
5. It is very frequent, and encouraged by the masters.
6. It is usual, the apprentices receiving at the rate of from 2s. 1d. to 3s. 4d. per diem.
7. I am not aware of any.
8. In most instances the estates supply them as before, and pay for medical attendance.
9. There are four schools where religious instruction is afforded. The attendance at church and in the schools is not equal to the accommodation.
10. Yes; fourteen in number, principally non-prædials.
11. I know not.
12. Very good; cultivation good; the season favourable, although rather heavy.
13. None at present.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. D. Philp*.

Enclosure 4, in No. 558.

ANSWERS to Questions.

Port Royal Mountains, 30 September 1836.

Enclosure 4,  
in No. 558.

1. GENERALLY good; the principal complaint against them is an unwillingness on the part of the females to turn out in the mornings, and both males and females working with slackness when in the field.

2. There

2. There has been, but that feeling is gradually wearing off, as each party sees the advantage of accommodating themselves to the new law.

3. They do not perform their work willingly; they are naturally an indolent people, and seek every opportunity to skulk from the work they are put to.

4. On the greater part of the estates in this district they work four days of nine hours one week, and five days the next; some few work regularly four days and a half; they are in the field ten hours, but are allowed to sit down half an hour to each of their two meals.

5. Task-work is not generally resorted to in this district; I cannot say where the unwillingness is to adopt it. It has been tried with good effect on Mr. Simon Taylor's estate, Pleasant Hill.

6. They demand 2s. 1d. per day, and which their employers are unwilling to give; if they would work for 1s. 8d. a day, they would be constantly employed on their Fridays. They are always paid in silver.

7. Fish and salt are generally withheld, but not their Christmas allowance, except on some few properties. Allowances to lying-in women are likewise on most properties withheld; nor is the surgeon paid for attending the free children, but they are never denied medicine.

8. On some few estates private families are instructing them to read, but the parents do not yet understand the advantages of education. They are supported by their parents, who cannot be in want, when they will not work for 1s. 8d. per day.

9. There are one or two chapels on each estate, with a leader from among the negroes, who preaches to them, trained by the Baptists: they are regular in their attendance. There are no schools in this district, and only one church, which is very small.

10. A great many apply to be valued, but few are enabled to pay the amount. Eight have been valued during the last three months, but only one effected his discharge.

11. Generally as domestics; they seldom make application, unless some friend is going to pay the money for them.

12. The present crop promises to treble that of last year. The weather being very dry in July, threatened destruction to the coffee crop; and the estates in low situations sustained serious injury, but those on more elevated situations suffered very little from it; but for that circumstance it would have been a magnificent crop; on the whole, however, they will not have cause to complain. The crop commences gathering in this part about April.

13. None.

(signed) *H. Kent*, Special Justice.

#### Enclosure 5, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *Thomas Davies*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Highgate, St. Mary's, 1 October 1836.

I HAVE the honour to write you, in obedience to the orders of his Excellency, calling on me to give a general account of this district. It is now upwards of two years since the Abolition Act came in force, since which time I cannot see that the apprentices are at all improved in industrious habits, or that any dependence can yet be placed in them for continuous labour; neither do I think there is any visible improvement in morality, which, to be lasting, must go hand in hand with industry. The estates, especially those that are short-handed, are feeling a very considerable want of labour, which arises from the natural decrease by death, and the number who have purchased the remainder of their apprenticeship, and they are now become many; yet in no one instance have any who so purchased themselves consented to work at any field-labour; but, in general, they live on estates with some of the women in all idleness at the negro-houses, and are given to all manner of vice. I do not know an estate but has some of these free people living on them; but last week a constable to Water Valley complained to me that one of them had broken into his house in the daytime, and stolen a 3*l.* check, but on a discovery being made he absconded, leaving an eye-glass, with other flimsy articles of dress, with the woman he lived with. The prospect for next year's crop is by no means good, and I do not think it will equal the one of this year. Fences, with the buildings, on estates are going out of order; and Guinea-grass pastures getting overgrown with bush. The cane-field will be the next to suffer.

With regard to free children, they are at their parents' houses, doing little or nothing; neither will their parents allow them to do any small proportion of labour towards the expense of schools on estates. I have already stated that education not combined with industry will, in the end, be a great evil to the community. At Esher estate there is a school for these children, which is well attended, but conducted entirely at the expense of the proprietors.

I do not consider the apprentices perform their work willingly; they are scrupulous of their own time, and will, if possible, idle away their master's, and I have observed of late some are getting more ill-disposed. I can only give one instance of a master, or one that stands in that relation, who annoys his apprentices, which I can only ascribe to a perverse nature on the one side, and a disposition to be idle on the other. Cultivation of sugar may go on partially, but never to any extent, as it has hitherto done.

The apprentices, I am sorry to observe, are neglecting their grounds; and I have been assured by managers of experience and respectability, that they are likely to suffer from a want of provisions. In this district no satisfactory reason can be given for such neglect; but they have been heard to declare, that the probability of having their grounds taken from them

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them at the expiration of the apprenticeship, prevents them from cultivating to any extent; should such an opinion prevail, I am satisfied it has originated from ill-disposed people.

The apprentices in this district are seldom required to hire themselves on Saturday, except such as are required to work wains and mules, for which they either receive 2s. 6d. per diem, or a day in return, the choice of which is in general left to themselves. The offer for extra time during the six days in the week varies according to circumstances; but the average amount given to each is about 5s. I have, agreeably to your Excellency's instructions, recommended the nine hour system; but, from the law not stating on which day they should be worked four hours and a half only, I find that the managers are under the impression that the half day can be given on any day during the week, and, notwithstanding the arrangement of giving time on the Wednesday or Thursday, may benefit the apprentices on a few properties by not affording them time to quit the estate while they should be attending to their grounds. I am aware that on one estate they cannot employ the half day, unless given on Friday, beneficially to themselves, from the circumstance of their grounds being at least three miles from the estate. I must, in justice, acquaint your Excellency that this is the only case that has come under my observation for some time past, where an apparent determination to annoy the apprentices seems to continue.

In conclusion, I consider the schools are more than equal to the attendance, and we have only one church in this district, which is well attended; and 10 apprentices have purchased their time out.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Thomas Davies*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 6, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *Stanley Rawlinson*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Brownstown, 4 October 1836.

Enclosure 6,  
in No. 558.

WITH reference to the second part of the circular, No. 63, of the 23d ult., conveying his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor's instructions, that the quarterly report of the state of this district be regularly prepared in future, and transmitted, without waiting for particular directions to that effect, and accompanying the same with a series of questions, 13 in number, I beg to return the following answers:

1. The general conduct of the apprentices since my last report has been orderly and quiet.
2. There is, generally speaking, a good feeling between employers and apprentices.
3. The apprentices might, with the greatest ease, get through a great deal more work than they do at present.
4. The working hours are, generally speaking, from 6 o'clock till 10; one hour is then allowed for breakfast; if there is no cook, one hour and a half or two hours; on some properties, at the request of the apprentices, they have no dinner-time; shell is blown accordingly.
5. There is little or no task-work in this district, it consisting almost entirely of pen and pimento.
6. The apprentices will occasionally work on Saturday for wages; but they will not bind themselves to work two or three.
7. Salt fish is not given when the apprentices do not give a fair average of labour.
8. The free children are leading a very idle life; they are supported by their parents from provision grounds belonging to the proprietors. Medicine is invariably given them when sick.
9. There is a school at Brownstown, and one at Brighton. The accommodation at church and in the schools is equal to the attendance.
10. No doubt the apprentices would purchase their discharge had they the means; eight valuations have taken place since my last report; three only have paid the stipulated price.
11. It is not in my power to state the kind of employment those who have obtained their discharge betake themselves to.
12. There being only seven estates in this district, and the majority having reduced their cane-pieces, the crop will be less than last year; the remainder, consisting of pen and pimento, is kept in pretty good order.
13. I have no suggestion to make, or any practical measure to recommend.

I believe the above 13 answers contain almost all the information required by the 27th rule of instructions issued by his Excellency Lord Sligo, the late governor. I will merely add, that the prevailing and general complaint of proprietors and overseers is an insufficiency of labour. The negro grounds continue to be well worked. Complaints have diminished on the part of apprentices; I have not had a single complaint since the last report.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Stanley Rawlinson*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure

## Enclosure 7, in No 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *James Kennet Dawson*, Esq., Special Justice.

St. Thomas in the East, Jamaica, 3 October 1836.

THE conduct of the apprentices in this district for the last quarter has been marked by two extremes; viz. during the first six weeks they were sulky and disobedient, not performing by any means a fair proportion of labour. It affords me, however, much pleasure to state, that they are now working well, and, it may be added, cheerfully; in consequence of which, complaints and punishments are far less frequent, and a good understanding is re-established. Their former misconduct is to be attributed to the instability of the negro character, as there was no diminution of kindness shown them or their free children by the managers, who have never withheld any of their former indulgences.

The apprentices continue to hire themselves in their own time, digging cane-holes at 12 for 5 *d.*, at which they earn with ease from 3*s.* 4 *d.* to 4*s.* 2 *d.* per day.

The usual method of working for their masters is from daylight until dark all the year round, having three hours' relaxation in the middle of the day. This is a mutual arrangement between them, and much preferred by the apprentices.

There is no great desire amongst them to purchase their discharge, six only during the last quarter having been so released, not one of whom has occupied himself in field labour, nor has an instance of the kind come within my knowledge: the reason known to be is, that they consider agricultural pursuits a degradation.

The prospects for next year's crop are very favourable, in consequence of the exceedingly fine seasons; and the estates are generally in a high state of cultivation; but the crops must diminish till the end of the apprenticeship, owing to the following causes: death, discharge from service, the increasing infirmities of the elder negroes, and there being no one to supply the deficiency.

Since my last report, no new schools have been established for the instruction of the apprentices; but the proprietor of Elm Wood estate intends, aided by others, to erect one on his property, to which a church will be attached.

The only exception to this favourable report, and it is certainly a serious one, is the condition of the free children on estates. They are now becoming a very great burden—a stronger term might be more applicable, viz. nuisance. Their parents will on no account allow them to work at field labour, either for their managers or others; their time is spent in complete idleness, and in thieving what they can get from the properties. Many instances have come within my own knowledge where most liberal wages have been offered, nay, even education and clothing gratis, and indignantly refused.

Should this not be remedied, they will become vagrants, and never be induced to work for their livelihood. There are two causes for this: first, all agriculture is considered by the negro a degradation—this arises from that duty hitherto having been performed only by slaves; secondly, the parents think that, if their children are so employed, they will never be free. No persuasion will convince them to the contrary. It will require a legislative enactment to enforce it, which, if passed immediately, may effect the object; but will be too late if deferred to the end of the apprenticeship term.

(signed) *James Kennet Dawson*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 8, in No. 558.

REPORT of State of District for Quarter ending September 1836.

WITH pleasure the undersigned states that a great improvement has taken place in the district since his last report. Theft has greatly decreased, and complaints of the robbing of provision grounds, gardens, &c., are becoming every day more rare. Provisions are not over-plentiful; the negro yams have come in, but other descriptions of bread kind are scarce, owing to the apprentices having neglected the seasons in the putting in of a sufficiency, and gone to job out on other estates in their own time.

The appearance of the cane-fields is good, the seasons never were better, and the cultivation is carried on with energy.

The masters and managers continue to pay every attention to the wants and comforts of the apprentices, and a better confidence exists in the system, and will continue to increase, providing the decisions of the special magistrates are administered with impartiality.

(signed) *R. Cocking*, S. M.

## Enclosure 9, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *D. Ewart*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Morant Bay, 5 October 1836.

IF I may fairly presume that my last quarterly report, appropriated to the consideration of some of the most prominent points in which the apprenticed population can be viewed, contained a faithful and adequate illustration of the advantages which that population has derived from the great measure of emancipation, then I may congratulate myself in engaging attention to the interval between this and my last report, that nothing has occurred to lessen the conviction I entertain of the ultimate success of the system, and of the comparative, if not decided and extensive, advantages which property has already gained from its operation.

Enclosure 7,  
in No. 558.

Enclosure 8,  
in No. 558.

Enclosure 9,  
in No. 558.



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Of the general conduct of the apprentices since my last report, I am happy to be able to speak in terms of commendation, and I cannot too highly extol their obedience to legal government. Their demeanor on all occasions when brought before me for trial is highly creditable, and invariably distinguished by a proper sense of the decorum due to the formalities of justice.

The feeling between the apprentices and their employers is generally good, and is gradually becoming more cordial and permanent.

In reference to the spirit with which they perform their labour, much depends on the independence and impartiality of the special magistrate, and on the temper and judgment of the employer. I have no reason to doubt that the labour of the apprentices is not as willingly performed as might be expected under the present state of society.

I am also happy to inform his Excellency, that it is not unusual for the apprentices to work in their own time for money-wages. In St. David's, they are at present working at from 2s. 6d. to 4s. 2d. a day.

The nine hour system prevails in my district, and three hours are allowed as intervals of relaxation; task-work is not resorted to, and I am not aware that there is any objection to it, either on the part of the employers or the apprentices. The latter, by virtue of an agreement, sanctioned by me, are entitled to all the indulgences that were usual during slavery.

The condition of the free children in my district is not very favourable; while their parents avail themselves of the limited facilities which my district affords for moral and religious instruction, and their attendance at church is, as far as I am aware, equal to the accommodation; they do not appear to take much interest in the education of their children.

There is, in my opinion, a general desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge; thirteen have effected their discharge since my last report; but I am not able to give any information as to the kinds of employment which they follow; I have, however, not heard any thing to their prejudice.

The prospects of the ensuing crop are good; the general state of the cultivation is forward, and the season has been unusually favourable.

I have not any suggestions to make, or any practical measure to recommend.

I have, &c.

(signed) *D. Ewart, s. m.*

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Enclosure 10, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *S. Reynolds, Esq.*, Special Magistrate, to *C. H. Darling, Esq.*

Sir,

Torrington, 4 Oct. 1836.

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith the return "Table A., filled up." I have like wise, in obedience to his Excellency's commands, answered the questions put from Downing-street, "Circular, dated 15 July last."

I have, &c.

(signed) *S. Reynolds, s. m.*

Enclosure 10,  
in No. 558.

1. The general conduct of the apprentices in my district, since my last report, has been good.
2. The conduct of the overseers, as well as that of proprietors, as far as regards the apprentices, has improved since I took upon myself the duties of my district.
3. In my opinion, the apprentices perform their duty with good-will.
4. Throughout my district, with the exception of three or four pens, the nine hour system is in practice.
5. Task-work is seldom proposed, but when it was, I never heard that the apprentices objected to it.
6. I do not know of any instance where the apprentices refused to work in their own time; in my district they appear to me to be very anxious to earn money; when employed in their own time, they are paid money for their labour.
7. With the exception of two attornies in my district, I never heard that the supplies to the apprentices have been withheld since the 1st August by the proprietors.
8. The free children are supported by their parents.
9. There are several schools in my district where the free children are taught free of expense; the apprentices are remarkable for their strict attendance at church.
10. For the last six months many of the apprentices of my district have purchased their freedom.
11. Many of the people who have purchased their freedom have bought some few acres of land; others, I find, have repaired to the large towns to hire out as labourers, else as servants.
12. The current crop bids fair; the late rains have raised the hopes of the planters.
13. I have merely to suggest the advantage of establishing a scale of wages, "as well for the benefit of the proprietor as for that of the apprentice;" for instance, I do think that 1s. 8d. per day of nine hours would be ample wages to the labourer, bearing in mind, as I do, the abundant stock of provisions which the apprentice enjoys.

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Enclosure

## Enclosure 11, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *Thomas M. Oliver*, Esq., Special Justice, to his Excellency the Governor of Jamaica.

Hertford, 30 Sept. 1836.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting my report for the last quarter for the information of your Excellency, and beg leave to state that the district under my charge still continues to go on well, both as regards the kindness of the managers and the industry of the apprentices. I attribute that doggedness, usual to the negro character, to have been much removed through the judicious management of those placed over them, by encouraging a mutual good feeling and a strict observance of the rights and privileges of both. On a great many estates where their labour is required in their free time, they have hired to their respective estates, and in other instances to others, who have given them employment. In some cases there has fault been found with individuals not cultivating their grounds; but this is, I believe, only instanced in bad characters, as, from the quantity of provision I see go to market, I should say, generally, they must attend to the cultivation thereof. Should the season not be more boisterous than it has hitherto been, though on some estates canes have been blown down, the crop for the ensuing season, I should expect, from present appearances, would be good, and a suitable time to take it off; I should say it would exceed last year's average.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Thomas M. Oliver*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 11,  
in No. 558.

## Enclosure 12, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *R. S. Cooper*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to his Excellency the Governor.

Sir,

St. Thomas in the Vale, 5 October 1836.

THE period has arrived when I ought to transmit to your Excellency the usual quarterly report on the state of my district, but, having so lately taken up my station in the one which I have now the honour to superintend, I have not yet been able to acquaint myself so fully with those subjects respecting which your Excellency would wish to be informed, as would justify me in tendering that information with any confidence in its accuracy.

On one subject, I am, indeed, perfectly qualified to report, viz., the nature of the prevalent feelings of the masters and apprentices respectively towards each other; but, as the present unfortunate state of things is undeniably of recent origin, and will not, I trust, be of long duration, I would rather be silent on that particular than affix to the district a stigma which would long outlive the circumstances out of which it arose.

The period of my services in St. John's was likewise short, too much so for me to report; but as I was merely the assistant of Mr. Baynes, that gentleman's report will obviate the necessity of one from me. The yet earlier part of the quarter (the month of July) was taken up in removing with my family from Hanover, and in part by sickness, as was also the case in part of August.

Your Excellency will perceive, from what I have stated, that any report now furnished by me must necessarily be, in almost every particular, founded on hearsay, for the truth of which I could not possibly pledge myself.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. S. Cooper*, Special Magistrate.

Enclosure 12,  
in No. 558.

## Enclosure 13, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *James Nolan*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Olive Park, Vere, 5 October 1836.

IN obedience to the wishes of his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, I have the honour to forward a quarterly report of the state of my district.

I have much gratification in stating that the general conduct of the apprentices in the parish of Vere, containing a population of 6,976 apprentices, which comprises my district, has given ample satisfaction in most instances in the zealous discharge of the duties required of them by the strict letter of the Abolition Law.

It is also a source of great satisfaction to me, being enabled to report that a mutual good feeling exists between master and apprentice throughout this parish, which has hitherto ensured the successful working of the new system.

I have no hesitation in stating that the work performed on all the estates around me, during the limited hours of labour, has far exceeded the average of many years back, which most of the managers have no hesitation in stating to me. The cheerfulness with which the negro population now perform the work required of them has no precedent in former years.

The nine hour system has invariably been adhered to in this district, field labour commencing at six A. M. and terminating at six P. M., allowing the apprentice a relaxation of three hours. During last crop the spell-hands, generally speaking, commenced labour about the sugar works at four A. M., and worked their nine hours by one o'clock; the remainder of

Enclosure 13,  
in No. 558.

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the day being at their own disposal, which spare time was generally disposed of to the estate.

Task-work has been on many estates resorted to during crop and out of crop; it has come within my own observation that the apprentices have on such occasions performed the task daily allotted them in six hours, both in digging cane-holes and cleaning canes; for example, on Moreland, one of the largest estates in my district, the overseer laid out each Monday morning task-work for the whole week. My residing on the property will entitle me to speak with confidence, and I hesitate not to state that for weeks the apprentices on that estate had, to the perfect satisfaction of their manager, performed the work required early on Thursdays, thus securing all Friday weekly for themselves and an ample allowance of fish, for their exemplary conduct during the week; this is one instance out of many I might enumerate. During last crop I had accomplished satisfactory arrangements, on all the estates who required the continued hired services of the apprentices, to work their extra time for 9 s. 6 d. per week, and usual allowances, with the exception of some five estates, who paid at the rate of 3 s. 4 d. weekly for such compensation; the mills were kept in continual operation, both night and day, as formerly. The increased disposition of the negroes to work for wages leaves now little doubt on my mind but I shall be enabled to make the same arrangements this year to take off the approaching crop.

I have also to report, for the information of his Excellency, that the apprentices on the different estates in my district receive the allowances that were customary during the period of slavery, with the exception of a weekly supply of Guinea corn, which has been, in most instances, withheld from them.

The condition of the free children I am sorry I cannot report to your Excellency as favourably as that of the apprentice. I do not, in many instances, observe a feeling or wish on the part of the parents to bring up their children to habits of industry; they allow them to wander all day long through the wilds of the plantations; such a feeling on the part of the apprentices, by infusing such precepts of idle habits in the youthful minds of their children, may tend to the most alarming consequences hereafter, unless some coercive measure is passed by the home government to enforce their attendance at schools of industry; otherwise in the year 1840 they will be perfectly untractable, and a curse to their own parents, as well as that of the country.

While on this subject, I must not omit stating that the schools are rather limited in this parish, being only two in number; the school at the rectory is situated in the centre of many large estates, containing a population of some thousand apprentices; and I am sorry to add, although many of their parents are not inferior in intelligence to the European labourer, that the attendance of their children at school is not at all equal to the accommodation offered. The overseer of Greenwich, an estate situated within half a mile of this school, directed the apprentices to send their children to school, which order they refused to comply with, until a threat had been held out that the mothers of six children, who were indulged during the period of slavery and apprenticeship, should immediately go to work; I believe by that means he secured the attendance of a few.

The attendance of the apprenticed labourers at the different churches and chapels of every persuasion is, in my opinion, in every way equal to the accommodation; and I can assure your Excellency that no peasantry can behave with more decorum and respect than they do on all such occasions.

There is a very general desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge, but few instances have come within my knowledge of those who have already purchased the remaining term of their apprenticeship being able to do so by their own industry; the amount awarded has been chiefly advanced by free people and jobbing carpenters, who employ the apprentice to work out the amount advanced for his discharge.

The number discharged since my last quarterly report has been six, three men and three women. Some of those who have obtained their discharge betake themselves to higgling, and carry on a traffic between town and country, which unfortunately has led to many punishments and heavy fines in my district during the last quarter, from the facility afforded by this sort of people to the apprentice of disposing of stolen produce.

In conclusion, I have to report for the information of his Excellency, that the prospects for next crop looked highly promising at the end of June last, so much so, that it was confidently anticipated that this district would have made one of the largest crops, from the unusual plant put in, that it had made for the last 10 or 20 years, but unfortunately since that period we have had no favourable seasons, and many estates were near losing their plants; however, the October season having set in for the last week, has given a healthy appearance to the cane-fields; and I have no hesitation in asserting, that, if aided by the usual October seasons, an average crop will be made.

I have, &c.

(signed) *James Nolan*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 14, in No. 558.

ANSWERS to Circular.

Enclosure 14,  
in No. 558.

1. THE apprentices have conducted themselves well.
2. In very few instances do I find a want of good feeling between the apprentices and their masters.
3. The apprentices in this district I consider to work willingly.

4. The

4. The apprentices in this district are worked generally upon the eight hour system; this gives them the four o'clock to leave off work, and which they prize much; they have half an hour for breakfast between eight and nine o'clock, and an hour for dinner between one and two o'clock; they are allowed cooks in the field.

5. Task-work is not generally resorted to in this district, but is gradually introducing; when the negro has been employed in that manner, he has completed his task on an average by two o'clock, and gone to his home.

6. I have as yet known of no apprentices in this district working in their own time for money-wages, at least it has not come under my observation.

7. When the apprentices have not worked to please their employers, or when the employers have lost stock supposed to have been stolen by the apprentices, or by their connivance, the employers have in some cases withheld the allowance of herrings and salt, but not in very many instances, or for any length of time.

8. The free children remain on the properties with the mother, and are supported by them. No complaint has ever been made to me that medicine has been denied to them from the properties' store when sick. Very few of the free children are yet of sufficient age to be employed in field labour.

9. In this district there are four day-schools and three Sunday-schools, giving occasional instruction to about 400 apprentices. There are three places of worship well attended.

10. The desire among the apprentices to purchase their freedom is not very general; this conclusion I come to, from the very few applications made to me to assist them in their valuation. No discharge has been effected during the last quarter.

11. I have not yet been able to inform myself how the free negroes are employed.

12. The rains in April and May last had a prejudicial effect on the old coffee trees, and but little, I am given to understand, will be gathered from them this crop. Those properties that have fields of young trees will be productive. I believe the coffee-pieces to be in good order.

13. I have no further particulars to communicate.

Kingsland, Manchester, 4 October 1836.

(signed) *H. W. Dawson,*  
Special Justice.

Enclosure 15, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *T. J. Baines, Esq.,* Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling, Esq.*

Sir,

Retreat, St. Thomas in the East, 1 October 1836.

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of his Excellency, that the conduct of the apprentices in my district since my last report has been good; a kinder feeling exists between the master and the servant, the former not wishing to exact more labour than the law and justice to his employer render necessary, and the latter giving it much more cheerfully than when I first entered upon my duties.

The working hours out of crop never exceed nine hours, half an hour for breakfast, and two hours and a half in the middle of the day for dinner or relaxation, labour commencing at sun-rise and terminating at sun-set; the Friday afternoon the apprentices have (I may say throughout the parish) given to the estate, in return for allowances and indulgences which they consider more to their advantage. During crop-time, an agreement is entered into between the overseer and the people, sanctioned by the special magistrate. Task-work, I regret to say, is seldom adopted, except by jobbing gangs, who generally, by the way in which they perform their work, obtain one and frequently two days in the week more for their own benefit. The objection to task-work upon estates has always come from the apprentices, who are always suspicious that it is intended for the benefit of the master only. The proprietors and attornies in this district are very liberal in their supplies, and never restricting them in the quantity of land for the cultivation of their provisions. The markets being good and easy of access, has made them independent of the master, and less inclined to work for money; they prefer working for time.

Kindness is evinced towards the free children, who receive medical attendance, and in most cases the same allowances have been continued to them that they received in the times of slavery; but I am sorry to say, there is no disposition on the part of the parents to make any return to the estate, nor will they permit their children to work, be the inducement held out to them what it may: thus the rising generation, instead of adding to the strength and solidity of this island, unless some legislative enactment interposes, will weaken and injure its best interests.

The apprentices are fond of attending some place of worship, are well dressed, and conduct themselves on those occasions very orderly. The established churches in this district are too far apart to give the people the benefit of religious instruction, which they seem willing to avail themselves of. Port Morant, half way between the church at Morant Bay, Bath and Golden Grove, would in every point of view be a most desirable spot for another place of worship. A new school-house is being erected at Morant Bay. A school has recently been established at the Great-house at Air Mount; and a Sunday-school has been opened in the hospital at the Lower-house on this property; but parents object to their children availing themselves of these advantages, unless in the masters' time. There does not exist a general wish to avail themselves of these advantages.

Applications are not numerous for the purchase of the unexpired term of the apprenticeship. Since I have been in this district, the attornies in charge of properties have, by a

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mutual agreement, freed many of the people upon the estates under my charge, and from the kind, considerate conduct of these gentlemen, I have no valuation to record since my last quarterly report. When applied to, I refer them to the courts held at Morant Bay and Bath, where a special magistrate sits every Saturday with local magistrates, giving them a greater facility of being valued than I could afford in the situation I am placed in, distant from local magistrates. The female apprentices, upon obtaining their free paper, almost invariably proceed to Kingston as higglers; the men job about from place to place, but never offer themselves to the estate they left to work for hire. The canes look well, are in a much cleaner state than this period last year; the high price of sugar has induced the planters to bring a larger proportion of cane land into cultivation. The maroons have lately made themselves most useful as jobbers, cleaning treble the quantity of pasture that the apprentice could do in the same time. In closing my report, I beg most respectfully to state, that I have most cheerfully received every assistance from the proprietors, attornies and overseers, in carrying into effect the Abolition Act, not only now, but from the commencement of my duties in this parish since March 1835; that frivolous complaints, I may say, on both sides have ceased. I regret that machinery is not in more general use, to meet the reduction of labour which must be felt every year more and more, from the old and infirm dying off, and the rising generation not being disposed to supply their places upon any terms; this also must be particularly felt after 1838, when field labourers must be taken to supply the place of the non-prædials.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *T. J. Baines*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 16, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *Henry Laidlaw*, Esq., to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Crescent Park, St. Ann's, 4 October 1836.

Enclosure 16,  
in No. 558.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to you, for the information of his Excellency, the following report on the general state of this district, for the quarter ending on the 30th ultimo.

It is very gratifying to be able to report favourably as to the general conduct of the apprentices. With a few exceptions, which must occur in all communities, they are very well disposed, and a good feeling appears now to exist between them and their employers. It has been my anxious endeavour to promote and extend this feeling, and to impress upon both parties that it is as much their interest as their duty to live on good terms with each other. A few gangs have been lately brought before me for deficiency of work, but in general the employers appear to be satisfied with the amount of labour. The nine hours system has generally prevailed in this district from a very early period of the apprenticeship, and the apprentices prefer continuous labour to having shell-blow allowed them in the middle of the day, as they have by this means an opportunity of paying some attention to their grounds, after the expiry of the legal hours of labour.

From the nature of the cultivation of the soil in this district, there is very little occasion for extra labour beyond what the law provides, but when it is necessary, I am not aware of any indisposition on the part of the apprentices to work during their own time, and I believe the rate of wages upon these occasions is 1s. 8d. currency, equal to 1s. sterling per day. The free children are supported by their parents, there not being a single instance of persons in this condition, apprenticed to the owners of the parents, within the limits of my jurisdiction.

It is with extreme regret that I have to report, that no provision whatever exists for the education of the free or apprenticed children, and I fear that if means are not speedily adopted to provide for their instruction, they will be utterly unfit for the enjoyment of that liberty which has been secured to them, at so great a cost, by the British nation. There appears to be an anxious desire on the part of the people for religious instruction, but there is no place of religious worship connected with the establishment in this district. Preparations are now making for the erection of three dissenting chapels, and in the meantime the people attend the celebration of divine worship in the open air, in large numbers, whenever they have an opportunity (which is frequent) of so doing.

As the term of the apprenticeship advances, the people seem more anxious to purchase their discharge, but within the last quarter, only eight persons have been able to pay the valuation awarded, as the price of their remaining period of service. With the exception of the females, who, when free, generally attend to the cultivation of the negro grounds, the persons who have so purchased themselves have been tradesmen, who pursue the trades to which they have been trained. The properties in this district are principally pens, which in general appear to be in good cultivation; and the seasons have of late been very favourable.

In conclusion, I have to state, that so far as my experience extends, and considering the great change that has so recently been effected in the state of society in this island, the system is working as favourably as could possibly have been anticipated, and that the body of the people are daily becoming more prepared, by gradual experience of the value of time and money, for the state of things which must arise at the termination of the apprenticeship.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Henry Laidlaw*.

Enclosure

## Enclosure 17, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *W. H. Brownson*, Esq., Special Justice, to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Liguanea, St. Andrew's District, 30 September 1836.

I HAVE the honour to forward, in obedience to your Excellency's instructions, the general quarterly report of my district, which, I trust, may meet with your Excellency's approbation.

Enclosure 17,  
in No. 558.

The general conduct of the apprentices, in that part of my district denominated the Mammee and Cavalier Mountains, is good and respectful towards their employers, with a few exceptions, and the apprentices appear to perform their work willingly; but I am sorry to say, that in the Lowland or Liguanea part of my district, the same good conduct and willingness to work does not exist, and I can only attribute the cause to its contiguity to Kingston, which affords the apprentices a greater facility for the sale of their produce and for hiring themselves out in their own time, contrary to the wish of their employers.

The nine hour system is generally pursued, and the interval of relaxation is from 10 to 11 o'clock, and at 4 labour terminates.

In the mountains task-work generally prevails, where coffee and pimento is cultivated, and the apprentices gain much time to themselves; but such is not the case in the Lowlands.

It is more usual for the apprentices in the Liguanea than the Mountain district to work in their own time for wages. The general rate is a macaroni per day. Indulgences of any kind are but seldom afforded.

As regards the condition of the free children, I am not able to inform your Excellency, for, since my taking the duties of St. Andrew's district, not one has applied to be apprenticed.

The facilities for education and religious instruction are numerous, and the accommodation very much exceeds the attendance.

A very great and general desire among the apprentices exists to purchase and set themselves free from the remainder of their apprenticeship, and 12 in number, I am happy to say, have done so this quarter; but to what kind of employment they generally engage themselves, after they have obtained their manumission, is out of my power to inform your Excellency.

The crops have suffered materially from the previous dry season, otherwise they would have proved abundant; two-thirds are, I believe, generally calculated upon.

In conclusion, it affords me great pleasure to inform your Excellency, that the system is working as favourably as could have been expected, and which, I am glad to say, is corroborated by some of the greatest and most influential proprietors.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. H. Brownson*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 18, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *R. B. Facey*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Montego Bay, St. James's, 4 October 1836.

IN obedience to his Excellency's desire to be furnished with a quarterly report on the state of my district, I take leave to state—

Enclosure 18,  
in No. 558.

1. That I have not observed any change either in the conduct or behaviour of the apprentices in this district of sufficient importance to direct his Excellency's attention to; they continue perfectly tranquil, and in general well-behaved.

2. That there is a far better feeling within the last three months is pretty evident; but whether it may be attributed to a change of management or the administration of the law is perhaps uncertain; to whatever cause, however, this happy circumstance may be ascribed, I am convinced it is the only sure means of securing a continuation of field labour after the expiration of the apprenticeship system.

4. That the nine hours labour is "general" in this district, the working hours commencing at six in the mornings, and closing at six in the evenings, with intervals of an hour for breakfast and two for dinner. At this time of the year, however, the nine hours labour cannot by possibility be accomplished, first, on account of the short days, and again, the immense heavy showers of rain commencing about mid-day, and continuing, without intermission, until the following morning.

5. That task-work is not very generally resorted to in this district, nor can the objection be fairly said to lie with the apprentices. If (as there should be) one uniform system, or an equitable scale of labour decided on through the year, task-work would be preferred by the apprentices; as it is, task-work, on account of the heavy rains, would be decidedly advantageous to the employer at this time of the year, and hence their anxiety, in some instances, to impose it; nor would there be any objection, in my opinion, if, during the other parts of the year when the advantage might be in favour of the apprentice, the master would continue it.

6. That it is unusual in this district for the apprentices to work in their own time for money-wages, except during crop, when they enter into an agreement to complete a given

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number of hogsheads of sugar during the nine hours, and for every extra hogshead made during that time, or in their own, they receive 20s. I have not heard of an instance, where the people have been fairly remunerated for extra labour, that they have refused the offer to work in their own time when the application has been made to them.

7. That the indulgences which it was usual for the estate to supply during slavery, I regret to say, have not been so liberally extended as it ought to be—indeed, on some properties, I may say entirely withheld, and to which I attribute the cause of much sullenness and discontent.

8. That I have no immediate means of ascertaining the actual condition of the free children, but have reason to believe that, with the exception of medicine and medical aid, which is denied them by the managers of estates where their parents are attached, they are otherwise well attended to by their relations.

9. That the facilities for the extension of education and religious instruction in this district do not appear to me by any means adequate to the demand. I have already forwarded a return of schools, and the number of scholars in this district, by which it will be observed that the only institutions for that purpose are those under the control of the Rev. Mr. Burchell, a dissenting minister, where, in addition to catechetical and oral instruction, they are taught the knowledge of letters, by which means many not only learn to read themselves, but are enabled to impart instruction to others.

10. That although I have only completed 10 valuations since my last return, it must not be considered as a disinclination on the part of the apprentices to obtain their discharge; but what becomes of them after, or to what description of labour they betake themselves, I do not pretend to say.

12. That, with respect to the ensuing crop, I may venture to say the prospect is most flattering; the fields much more extensive than they were last year; the plants extremely well cleaned, and having every where a healthy appearance. At the Montpeliers in particular, the property of my Lord Seaford, there are about 210 acres in canes, decidedly the best in appearance that are to be seen in the parish.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. B. Facey*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 19, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *Samuel Lloyd*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Chapelton, Clarendon, 1 October 1836.

Enclosure 19,  
in No. 558.

IN obedience to your circular of the 23d ult., No. 63, I have the honour to transmit, for his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor's information, the report of what I conceive the state and condition of this district. My first observation shall be guided to the conduct of the apprentices; in so doing, I beg leave to remark, my official duties here commenced on the 13th June last, at which period I was sorry to find them prone to idleness, so much so that many of the properties were in a state quite foreign to that in which my late district (St. Andrew's) was generally allowed to be, in which parish I was officially connected over two years; in corroboration of which state, I beg leave to quote a passage expressed by the gentry there, at a meeting convened by the custos on the 8th June: "Industry has been encouraged, obedience enforced, and good-humour engendered on the part of the apprentices." It affords me much gratification in assuring his Excellency, I have every reason to suppose that ere long such a passage may be applied to this district, where a general good understanding is beginning to prevail between the apprentices, their owners and managers; and I am happy to add, with few exceptions, labour is performed more willingly, and particularly so since carrying into effect the conditions of his Excellency's instructions, as per circular of the 16th ult., making the working hours nine per diem, and those of relaxation such as may be most conducive to the mutual interests of all. I am sorry task-work is not more generally resorted to, because, where there is a mutual understanding in the quantum of labour, I have few, if any, complaints; but the ordinary descriptions of labour vary so much, according to soil and seasons, it would be difficult to strike out a general scale.

During the manufacture of the crop, the apprentices work extra hours for money-wages, at the rate of 10*d.* currency for every four hours; but it is difficult to prevail on them to hire themselves to the property on any of their Saturdays. When the apprentices are at field-labour, an unexperienced spectator would imagine they work hard; but I am aware how reluctantly they perform work, and how much inclined they are to idle away their masters' time, although extremely tenacious of the infringement of one minute of their own, which is too often spent in idleness.

The indulgences formerly given are, with few exceptions, continued in this district, which the apprentices receive with feelings of distrust, fearing it would bind them to some obligations, and which feelings I recently witnessed, having attended on an estate on the day of serving the annual supply of clothing, when clothing was also offered them for the free children, but which was refused, and which children their parents are bringing up in idleness; they are also disinclined to accept of any gratuity whatever for them, or to send them to school, which has caused the total breaking up two schools established on estates. There is, however, a well-established parochial school at Chapelton, where many children receive religious and other useful instruction. I find many of the apprentices attentive and orderly at church; and I generally find those who attend the Protestant house of worship a well-conducted

conducted people ; but here, I beg to observe, where the apprentices have congregations of their own at home, and where the preacher is one of their own colour, they are not so orderly and obedient as those who attend the Protestant church ; on the contrary, they are sullen and idle. I further beg leave to state, they are very anxious to purchase the unexpired term of their apprenticeship, which, in most cases, is done by loan, the apprentices promising to repay by labour the amount advanced ; but, owing to the many frauds committed on the persons making the advance, I find a great decrease in applicants, and only two valuations during the quarter. The people released from apprenticeship generally employ themselves in the least laborious way they can earn support, such as higgling, many of them depending on their reputed husband or wife, and the provision ground possessed by them, for subsistence.

I have much pleasure in assuring his Excellency, the late rains give a promise of an average sugar crop. Not having any coffee properties in the district, I am unable to report their state.

In conclusion, it is with much regret I have to acquaint his Excellency, although the general appearance of the apprentices would indicate a great improvement, crime and thefts are not decreasing, and I have reason to suspect every plant throughout the island has its own gang of robbers in some of the many woods, which afford them every facility for concealment and nightly depredations, and which gangs are, in most cases, headed by some desperate villain, one of the convicts for life, who are continually escaping from the different workhouses. Having had some experience in routing and dispersing such bands, both in this and my former district, having had the police out many nights in scouring parties, I feel it a duty incumbent on me to bring this subject particularly under his Excellency's notice, being convinced, from occurrences under my own observation, that when any of the convicts abscond, there are more acts of plunder in the vicinity than on ordinary intervals ; and that the example such fellows set the people, by whom they are sometimes harboured, will have a very dangerous tendency. I therefore take the liberty to suggest, for his Excellency's consideration, that a scrutiny of the various crimes committed by the convicts before and since their convictions be laid before his Excellency, in order to rid the colony of the most desperate previous to the expiration of the apprenticeship term.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Samuel Lloyd*, Special Magistrate.

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Enclosure 20, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *G. D. Gregg*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Retirement Pen, Duncan's, P. O., Trelawny,  
4 October 1836.

Sir,

In compliance with your orders, contained in your circular, No. 63, I have now the honour to report my observations.

The conduct of the apprentices in general I consider good, but there are, to counter-balance this, several instances of misbehaviour, and which may be attributed to many causes ; such as where the master or manager does not enter cordially into the new order of things, as well as where the apprentices are a badly-disposed set of people. What I mean by the master or manager not entering cordially into the new order of things, is, that he wishes not to overlook any little error that may have been committed by any one of his apprentices, however good the general conduct of that apprentice may have been before ; therefore, by getting him once punished, he destroys what little feeling of pride he may have had, thus making a discontented man of him. Where this picking and bickering system does not exist, I generally find the apprentices work willingly and well. The Act in aid having done away with the eight hour system, except by consent of the apprentice, I am in hopes that much cause of discontent has been removed. The cause why task work is not generally resorted to, is, because the labourer does not perform the work properly, but hurries over it, that he may work for wages, which is now very considerable, 2s. 6d. per day being paid for field labour, and as much as 4s. 2d. per hundred for cane-holes ; but 3s. 4d. is the general price of this latter, and at this rate labourers are not to be had ; this is, however, owing to its being pimento crop, and at which they can earn 5s. to 6s. 8d. per day ; but such is the avidity to work for money, that I have known them go and dig cane-holes during the night ; but only for money will they now work, as they can purchase " salt " with much more ease than formerly, and this " salt " is perhaps the only thing withheld of that which was usually given when slaves.

The free children are not generally sent to school when schools are at hand, but they are never employed to work for their former masters (though I have known several very liberal offers made them by the employer), and of this I have not known a single instance.

I regret to say that the schools are few and far between in my district ; and of all the estates, Hyde Hall alone has one upon it, the others being in Stuart Town.

The apprentices appear desirous of purchasing their freedom, but have not the means ; however, six have done so since my last report ; but of those who have become free, I cannot positively speak as to how they employ themselves. I know of but two instances, and these not in my district ; one in which the apprentice remained on the estate, and the other a female, who has become a small shopkeeper.



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The seasons have been so very good in my district up to this moment, that I am in hopes that next year's crop will not fall off; besides, the estates appear in good order, though somewhat backward.

The great difficulty a magistrate has in making these reports must be allowed, for there is no one circumstance which he may state but will bear contradiction, either with regard to the well or ill working of the apprentices, or with regard to the good or bad management of those whose duty it is to superintend estates; I have therefore endeavoured to confine myself to what may be considered the general working and managing upon properties.

There are some circumstances that I feel it my duty to call the attention of Government to: a system of living together as man and wife has been a very general practice in this country, not only among the lower, but higher classes, and the parties have lived together very happily. I have known an apprentice on more than one occasion abandon his old companion, and that, too, after having several children, and he has got legally married to another; one case in particular: Ann Clarke, a female apprentice to Harmony Hall, lived with a man of the name of Roper, by whom she had seven children, and six of whom are now alive (the youngest about nine months old); he purchased his freedom, abandons his offspring, and gets married, by special license, to another woman, for the Rev. W. Fraser positively refused, upon my representing the case, to solemnize the marriage. I would therefore humbly suggest, that persons who have lived together as man and wife, and by whom there may be three or more children, be prevented from getting married, at all events until they can show that ample provision is made for, not only the offspring, but also the female. This point presses very hard on the former slave, for they cannot be equal delinquents with the peasantry at home, for custom had established a practice to soften the severity of the law on this subject. I could say much, but I feel confident that only the suggestion is necessary, and that measures will be taken to protect an innocent offspring from starvation, through the barbarity of an unnatural father, as well as having them as living monuments of a hated law. This, I am of opinion, can only be done by declaring them as legal legitimate children, and as such entitled to a part of the father's estate. Should this not be done, I fear many poor mothers will be left to provide for a young family, and which must ultimately become paupers on the parish.

The law with regard to petty thefts is so very defective, and the master so severely punished, that I think it, as well as the pound law, ought to be altered.

I must here beg to state the circumstance of one of the estates in my district, on which the apprentices, by general agreement, work the ten hour system, so that they may have the Friday to sell to their master; this method they appear to prefer to any other, as from it they derive many advantages: first, they have no necessity to go to market with provisions to procure "salt;" again, if their grounds have not provisions ripe, or fully ready for use, they are not compelled to use them; or if they require a little ready money, they are not compelled to make a sacrifice to procure it, as they know Friday brings it, and if they even overwork themselves, which they often do, they have Saturday and Sunday to rest. The hot-houses are another point which I must beg to report upon. It is not generally known, that when an apprentice is sick he is not found by the estate in nourishment, and of the very great loss the estates suffer by a number of apprentices repairing there during the day and leaving at night. I have known as many as twenty or five-and-twenty in the hot-house in the day, and not more than three or four sleeping in it at night, some from sickness and some skulkers; but we suppose a man or woman who had been sick, but now convalescent, requires nourishment, and leaves the hot-house, with leave, to go to his grounds at one mile distant; on his way there the rain takes him, or a burning sun, with a heavy load; the chances are ten to one but a relapse follows, and the estate loses some three or four weeks' labour; besides which, though the hot-houses are very commodious, still they lack beds and every comfort of sheets, bolsters, &c. Now if the hot-houses were put on the footing of hospitals, I am confident the labour of 300 people would be saved in the year; but the rules must be drawn out by men of experience.

In making this report, I disclaim any intention of injury to either the colony generally, or to any single individual, as my sole desire is to afford His Majesty's Government every information that I possibly can, and for this purpose I shall not at a future day hesitate to state my opinion (though it must be all conjecture and surmise) as to what may be the state of things after 1840.

I also beg to annex a copy of a letter addressed by me to the gentlemen in charge of properties, in consequence of an order I received from his Excellency the late governor, but which in no one instance has been complied with, and I now solely state it for the purpose of calling attention to the fact.

I have, &c.

(signed) *G. D. Gregg*, Special Justice.

(Circular.)

Dear Sir,

Special Magistrate's Office,

His Excellency the Governor being most anxious that every possible precaution should be taken to avoid that excitement and confusion which may arise in 1838, when the non-prædials will be totally emancipated, by a great number of prædials also claiming that right, has directed me to request that you will draw out an alphabetical list of the apprentices under your charge, or belonging to you, or for which you may be representative or otherwise concerned; specifying the names, ages and classification to which each belongs, as per annexed model, and which will be supposed to be correct until controverted.

No

No doubt you will have to consult your employers, whether they will allow you to furnish me with the required list. Should they not, you will please state in your reply any reasons that may be assigned for such denial, and if it is in my power to remove the objections, I shall do so, if consistent with my duty; or if otherwise, make application to his Excellency the Governor, who, I am sure, will do all in his power for the well-being of the country.

I also beg to inform you, that, to avoid the possibility of the apprentices claiming a right to a class to which they do not belong, and by demanding that that right be inquired into, thereby giving unnecessary trouble, his Excellency proposes that all the apprentices should, at any day you may appoint, be brought before me for the purpose of my ratifying the class in which each may be placed, and, by my signing the lists in the estate's book, avoid at any future day a misunderstanding upon this head.

His Excellency's object in imposing this trouble on you cannot be mistaken, as it is solely for the purpose of obviating all the inconveniences which must otherwise attend the uncertainty under which so many individuals will labour in 1838; the agitation of which question must be highly injurious to the country at large, and that too at a moment when it would be most prudent to avoid all agitation.

It may be necessary here to inform you, that all tradesmen on estates are prædials; domestics, hospital attendants and town tradesmen are non-prædials.

I have, &c.

(signed) G. D. Gregg, Special Justice.

P. S.—An early answer is requested.

To

ESTATE,

Names.	Age.	Class in Estate Book.	Special Justice's Conclusion.	Remarks.
<b>MALES :</b>				
Adams, John - -	45	Prædial - -	Prædial.	
Brown, William -	33	- ditto - -	Non-prædial.	
Cooper, Alexander -	36	- ditto - -	- - -	Undetermined.
<b>FEMALES :</b>				
Adair, Jane - -	27	- ditto.		

Enclosure 21, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from W. A. Bell, Esq., Special Magistrate, to C. H. Darling, Esq.

Pullet Hall, St. Elizabeth's, Goshen, P. O.

4 October 1836.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of his Excellency, that the state of this district during the last quarter has been quiet and orderly, excepting—

1. That for the last two or three weeks, two or three of the gangs on different properties have shown a great deal of insubordination, and neglected their work, even to half the quantity they ought to do; this is evidently done on purpose, either from some mischief-maker putting foolish ideas into their heads, or from their own want of education, which would enable them to do better; otherwise, the conduct of the apprentices since my last report, for such a large district (excepting always the known bad characters, of which there are some on almost every property), has been quite as good as could be expected from the short time that has elapsed since the abolition.

2. There is certainly still in some parts a want of that perfect good feeling which exists between the farmer and his workmen in Great Britain; the cause I consider to be the short time that has elapsed since the Abolition Act, which has not enabled either party to forget their relative positions; when the one party, as a slave, might be excused from playing tricks, and the other party, as master, for his management of him as a slave. But this feeling will, I trust, cease with time, and with the assimilation of management to that of farms at home, and emigrants of good character (working men) taking the lead in every different department of a property, together with the apprentices of good character, instead of the present parade of book-keepers, who (however correct and kind towards the apprentice) still calls to his memory the former feeling that existed. I also consider that task-work would very much ameliorate this feeling, as the slavish old form of blowing shells, &c., for them to eat, drink or lie down would be done away with.

3. Whenever they do not perform their work willingly, I consider it to be their independence as to their support, as if they work their grounds regularly for even a quarter of the time they now have, they can support themselves and buy luxuries besides; and in their ignorance,

Enclosure 21,  
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ignorance, as long as this lasts, they see no reason why they should work four days and a half for their master.

4. The working hours in my district, in the long days, are from six o'clock A. M., to six o'clock P. M. allowing three hours' relaxation, that is, one hour from 10 to 11 A. M. for breakfast, and two hours from one to three P. M. for dinner; in the short days, from half-past six A. M. to half-past five A. M., allowing half an hour for breakfast and one hour and a half for dinner. There are a few, but only on pens, who give one hour for breakfast and none for dinner, but who break off work at four o'clock P. M., and in the long days at half-past four P. M.

5. I am sorry to say task-work is not yet generally resorted to, except in digging cane-holes, which was always the case, even in times of slavery. The objections, I think, chiefly lie with the masters, who do not appear to wish the special magistrate to be the judge of the quantity of work an apprentice should do, and the apprentice will not make an agreement without the special magistrate being present, except in some few instances; I think, however, this will find its own remedy in time from the master's good sense, without the interference of the special magistrate, although not so soon as with it; and there is a great want of unanimity of opinion and action among the planters on this as on most other subjects connected with the country.

6. On some properties during crop time, the apprentices appear willing enough to work some extra hours for money, at the rate of a penny an hour, particularly about the boiling or mill-house, cart-men, &c., but not the field people, and these former never on their Saturday. There are some, again, who will work on their Saturdays on other people's properties, but not on their master's, these receive from 2s. 1d. to 3s. 4d. per day for coffee-planting, digging cane-holes or falling lands, &c.; these are usually tasked, which they prefer.

7. On my coming to this district, I found the apprentices refusing to watch, as it was not a work ordered by the law, being so many hours more than their nine, without payment; and I also found that the masters were withholding, or threatening to withhold, the allowances of herrings, which were sometimes usual and sometimes not (as the parties were well or ill-behaved), on account of the apprentices' refusal to watch. I, therefore, made immediately the best terms I could for both parties, as I considered which was the one party to take their turns at watching as usual, and the other party to give indulgences as payment thereof. Some allow them to run their stock and hogs only for payment; others again give them herrings in addition; but as it is a mutual agreement, unless dissented from by either party at the new year, it is considered an annual agreement.

8. The condition of the free children in my district is generally that of a state of idleness; with few exceptions, they are supported from the grounds of their parents, or starve upon the fruits which they purloin from the different trees up to the very doors of their masters' houses. Work and money have been offered to them in different places on liberal terms, and education for work, but refused by the mothers.

9. The distances are so great in my district that it would be impossible, without some good public institutions, to afford education, generally, and religious instruction to the apprentices; the clergy are doing as much as they can. The attendance in the houses used as churches and schools is much more than equal to the accommodation; this will, however, be remedied by degrees, as chapels and churches will be built; but I trust that power will be given to some persons to force the younger branches of the community (free or otherwise) to attend the schools, and labour for remuneration.

10. The desire is not great among the head people to purchase their discharge; it is usually the bad and idle who have no money, and who always wish for change, or those who are good workmen, though not head people, or those who have family reasons.

There have been seven certificates of freedom given since the last report.

11. If tradesmen, the apprentices who have purchased their discharge usually work at their trade; but all the others prefer house work or travelling employment, but seldom betake themselves to the field.

12. I am happy to state, that the prospect for the ensuing crop in my district is even better than last year, and this district was an improving one from the year before as to sugar, there being 14 estates. The fields are clean; the season has been favourable for the growth of canes, excepting where the river has overflowed its banks and flooded the land. The rains have prevented work in some degree, particularly the carrying out of dung; however, I trust, all is for the best.

13. I would suggest that, if possible, it should be made imperative upon the masters of properties to give their apprentices task-work whenever it is practicable.

Also, that for the purposes of industry, a regular allowance of bread kind and salt provisions should be given to the apprentices weekly, in the same manner as done in Demerara and Essequibo: his ground to be given up, and his four hours and a half taken by the master; this would make a certainty to every one, good, bad, sick or well, aged or otherwise, of having sufficient support. There are many worthless who will not make a ground, or if it is made for them, according to law, will not keep it up; also there is much land given to apprentices two hours' distance from their homes, and that at their own choice, it being good land, where they may take as much as they like, which makes a loss of half a day's labour the going and coming, and though they may prefer it, "time is money." This plan and the task-work together, with their Saturday (the whole of which is wasted in going to market), time again lost, would enable them, if they wished it, to take money for the cultivation of produce to pay for their amusements, luxuries, &c., if they required them; it would not prevent some few of the very industrious from renting a piece of land from his  
master

master any more than the emigrant, and would prevent the constant disputes of hogs, &c., and the constant thieving of the bad from the good (as these former, having no grounds, would have no business there), which constantly occur on almost every property. This plan would take twelve months to be brought into practice, as it would be full that time before the master could have a ground sufficiently large and stocked to afford a weekly supply; until that time, the apprentices would of course be obliged to keep their present lands in cultivation, and after that time the land would become the property of their masters. It would also bring them nearer to that state in which the labourers are in England, but I am sorry, for the sake of the labourers in England, to say, that the apprentices here would be in a much more prosperous condition. This would also pave the way to doing away in time with giving clothing to the apprentices, and improve the revenue by the quantity of money which would be constantly changing hands in consequence of the necessities of the different classes of labourers, and also the greater quantity of produce which would be sent home by the greater quantity of labour given to the estates.

The apprentices' grounds are much as usual, as far as their own food is concerned, but for sale there does not appear so much as formerly in the country; of course the idle and worthless apprentices have their grounds in their usual order—not good.

The offences among the negroes generally are the careless use of fire, destruction of canes and provisions from one another and from their masters, insolence and contemptuous behaviour to their constables and managers, and in some instances loss of labour. I do not mean to say that all these offences are general.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. A. Bell*, Special Magistrate.

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Enclosure 22, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *John Odell*, Esq., Special Justice, to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Houghton Grove, Western Interior District,

1 October 1836.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state that, since the transmission of my last quarterly report, the general conduct of the apprentices in this district has been peaceable and orderly. I must however add, that on some few estates the best of feeling does not appear to exist between them and their managers; and this I conceive to be mainly attributable to the want of discretion on the part of the latter, who are either uncourteous in their bearing and language to the people over whom they are placed, or too fond of stopping on every trivial occasion their fish, &c. &c., which the great majority of the properties, I am happy to say, still continue to them.

It is but too observable that, on those estates where such measures are pursued, work is reluctantly and indifferently performed; whereas, under a conciliating yet firm management, a very opposite result almost invariably takes place.

I now proceed to afford your Excellency information on those subjects not yet referred to, which are required by your circular of September 23.

In this district, at the present season of the year, labour commences shortly after six A. M. (sun-rise), and whether interrupted by heavy rains, as is almost daily the case for hours at a time, terminates at sun-set, about six P. M. It is palpable that, owing to the prevalence of those rains, the employer seldom obtains from the apprentice more than eight hours' work. During the working hours some estates give an hour for breakfast to the apprentices, but the majority of them not more than half that time; all allow two hours for dinner and rest, which relaxation generally begins at one o'clock P. M.

Task-work is very frequently resorted to in the district; and on many estates the apprentices seem to prefer this mode of working to any other. Some managers, however, disapprove of the system, from a belief that the apprentices, in their eagerness to complete the labour apportioned to them, hurry over it in a slovenly manner.

It is quite general amongst the apprentices to employ themselves for wages in their own time at a particular description of labour, namely, the digging of cane-holes; but they do not evince a similar disposition with regard to any other work. The love of gain is obviously enough the cause of this selection of employment, an able-bodied negro not unfrequently earning, at the rate paid for cane-hole digging, 6s. 8d. for every hundred holes, 10s. per day; for ordinary work he would not acquire more than 2s. 6d. in the same time.

Few indulgences are, I am inclined to believe, discontinued by the proprietary under the new system, but they are withheld from the people occasionally, under the circumstances stated in the early part of my report.

The moral condition of the majority of the free children, it is much to be feared, is bad; their physical wants appear to be well supplied by the parents, and in some instances they are assisted in the latter respect by the managers.

There are two day-schools and three Sunday-schools in the district; the two former and one of the latter have been established by the Rev. Mr. Betts, of the Church Missionary Society, at Argyle and Alexandria, properties belonging to Mr. Neil Malcolm. The reverend gentleman has, I have every reason to believe, received much support and encouragement in his zealous endeavours to promote moral and religious instruction amongst the peasantry from the representative of Mr. Malcolm's numerous estates, Mr. George Gordon. The two other Sunday-schools are superintended by the clergymen of the respective missions to which

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which they belong, the Baptist and Methodist. These schools, as far as I can ascertain, are all well attended. The congregation at the chapel of the Church Missionary Society, and at that of the Methodist mission, on Sundays, appears to be commensurate with the accommodation which either building affords.

No discharges from apprenticeship have taken place since my last report, and no desire has been evinced amongst the apprentices in this district to purchase their manumission from the time of my having assumed charge of it.

The prospects of the ensuing crop are, as stated in my previous report, not of a very cheering description. The cultivation of the plant cane has, it is true, been considerably extended in comparison with last year; but the quantity of ratoons going out of cultivation, from neglect, in many cases, will much more than counterbalance any increase which might otherwise have resulted; added to this circumstance, the violent and continuous rains have done much injury.

I shall now conclude, by begging to suggest to your Excellency the necessity which exists for instituting schools, with agricultural establishments attached to them, for the benefit of the free children. I fear that schools without such appendages will be of little efficacy; and that unless these young people are henceforward, simultaneously with mental culture, practically trained, by the hope of reward, to farming and rural pursuits, a great indisposition, if not a positive disinclination, will be shown on their parts to embrace them at a more advanced age; I need scarcely add, how detrimental such a result would be to the colony.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Odell*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 23, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *Joseph Rawlins Thomas*, Esq., Special Justice, to  
*C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Falmouth, Trelawny, 3 October 1836.

Enclosure 23,  
in No. 558.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, for the information, and in obedience to the orders, of his Excellency the Governor, the monthly report of the state of the Falmouth district, under my superintendence, and I trust it may be found in accordance with his Excellency's wishes, conveyed in circular, No. 63, 23 September 1836, and in every other respect satisfactory.

The general conduct of the apprentices is, I am happy to say, quite orderly and contented, the prevailing discrepancies and crime amongst the worthless consisting in running away and the depredation of provision grounds; and I regret to add another class of delinquents, those who, from choice, hiring out, using every stratagem to defraud their owners.

Good feeling universally prevails between the good apprentice and the master; where not, the fault is that of the lawless apprentice; and yet the eye of the master and his very assistant on the property. The vigilance of all is indispensable to ensure a fair return of that labour which the law would ensure the proprietor.

Task-work is encouraged in this district, and to the obvious advantage of the apprentice; and where not entered into, the objection is on the part of the apprentice.

The usual system of daily labour is the nine hours, according to the fifth clause of the Act in aid.

The apprentices are free, generally, to work for money-wages in their own time; where not, the objection is on the part of apprentice. The ordinary rate of wages is from 3*d.* to 4*d.* per hour.

Some indulgences are curtailed, but the staple one of salt fish is freely and universally allowed.

The condition of the free children would be pitiable, but from the spontaneous and liberal provision made for them on their properties.

This district does afford ample facilities for education and religious instruction, and the attendance, particularly in the town of Falmouth, is great, the church and schools affording commensurate accommodation.

The desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge continues, but I do not think increases; since my last quarterly return of valuations, 28 have taken place, and 24 discharges given.

The employment to which those who have obtained their discharge resort is their usual and accustomed trade as artificers; and others hire themselves, with the boon of freedom, to their old owners, or indent themselves to new masters.

The prospects of the ensuing crop are generally, throughout this district, most sombre, owing to the late months (since June, in which month the rains gave the canes a "spring," subjecting them doubly to the ravages of the drought) proving so dry and untoward to the thirsty plant.

On every estate in this district the state of cultivation has been more or less forward, and the seasons alone failing have frustrated the fondly-cherished hope of a far more abundant crop than that of the last year.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Joseph Rawlins Thomas*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure

## Enclosure 24, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *W. H. Sowley, Esq.*, Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling, Esq.*

St. Ann's, 30 Sept. 1836.

SINCE the date of my last report, the apprentices in this district continue to behave themselves well; their conduct has considerably improved, and there appears to be a kind feeling existing between them and their employers; they perform their respective duties willingly, and appear to be cheerful and contented.

Enclosure 24,  
in No. 558.

The eight hour system has been the general mode of working the apprentices. They are allowed an hour (with cooks) generally for breakfast, and two hours in the day for dinner; so that, if they come to their duties at six o'clock in the morning, they are drawn off at five o'clock in the evening. This, however, entirely depends upon what hour they begin their work.

In digging cane-holes, task-work is resorted to, agreeable to the mutual wish of employers and apprentices, sanctioned by the special justice; and while so employed they take such relaxation as they please; but it rarely happens that at this kind of work an apprentice is seen in the field after two o'clock in the day, they having by that time performed such task-work, and gone about their own affairs.

When the mills are about on the sugar estates, the apprentices willingly give labour, in their own time, for money-wages, and are paid, generally, at the rate of 2½*d.* an hour. When they dig cane-holes, they are paid from 3*s.* 4*d.* to 4*s.* 2*d.* a hundred, and while at the same work in the estate's time, they have an allowance of rum and sugar served them every day, and sometimes with fish in addition. When they are deserving of it, they have herrings occasionally served out to them during the year, and at Christmas the same allowance of salt fish is given them, as in former times, as also rum and sugar. I cannot say much for the condition of the free children: they are supported at the expense of the estates, and their parents will not suffer them to perform any duty but for themselves, and when they are sick, the estates furnish them with medicines, and generally allow the mother to remain with them until they are well.

There is every facility for the education and religious instruction of them, but very few go to the church. It is my opinion that many estates would employ teachers, if the parents would consent to perform a little additional labour for the expense.

There are not so many of the apprentices now purchasing their remaining term; only about half a dozen have done so since my last report; and those who have been discharged go away and are not heard of more. I cannot say that, of all who have so obtained their discharge, I am acquainted to what employment they betake themselves.

The prospects, both for the present and the ensuing crops, were very good at one period; but from the long drought, it is fearful if an average crop will be made next year. The seasons have been most unfavourable, as all vegetation has been at a stand for some months past.

I must not, however, throw a very gloomy aspect on the condition of things in general, nor do I wish to hold out any favourable prospect for the ensuing crop, as this entirely depends, even at this late period, upon whether the fall seasons are followed up or not.

(signed) *W. H. Sowley, Special Justice.*

## Enclosure 25, in No. 558.

COPY of a REPORT from *Walter Finlayson, Esq.*, Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling, Esq.*

Montego Bay, 4 October 1836.

THE general conduct of the apprentices in my district has been good.

Enclosure 25,  
in No. 558.

Upon some estates, the good feeling between the employers and the apprentices has been interrupted from various causes, particularly by depriving the apprentices of their half Fridays, in consequence of adopting the eight hours system; by withholding the former allowances of salt fish, and by recent oppressive regulations applicable to hospitals which have been enforced by some medical practitioners; but, generally, the people perform their work willingly.

The working hours are now fixed at nine daily; one hour is allowed for breakfast, and two hours for dinner.

Task-work is not generally adopted in my district; though, where reasonable tasks are given, the apprentices willingly accede to them.

Where they can get adequate wages, the apprentices work readily for hire; but several estates do not require their employment on the Fridays and Saturdays. The wages usually given are from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.* per day.

It has been already stated that some estates withhold entirely the former supplies of salt fish to the apprentices. Others have limited the number of cooks, nurses and watchmen to provision grounds. These are, however, generally granted.

The condition of the free children is in general very bad, as they are burdens almost entirely upon their mothers, receiving no support from the estates, and only getting medical care in a few instances, unless when paid for.

The attendance of the apprentices, both at church and in schools, appears to be fully equal to the accommodation; and it affords pleasure to report that great exertions are making (especially in the town of Montego Bay) to provide additional accommodation.

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There is, unquestionably, a general desire among the apprentices to purchase their freedom. During the last quarter eleven applications for valuations were made to me. Of these five were not concluded, owing to differences of opinion among the justices; three were settled by payment of the sums fixed, and the remaining three are still unpaid. I cannot tell how they afterwards employ themselves.

So far as can be guessed at, the prospects of the ensuing crop are good. Upon a number of estates the cultivation has been extended; and the seasons have hitherto been very favourable.

(signed) *Walter Finlayson*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 26, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *John Daughtrey*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

St. Elizabeth's, 4 Oct. 1836.

Enclosure 26,  
in No. 558.

THE general conduct of the apprentices in this district has been undergoing a gradual but perceptible improvement, from the commencement of their term of indentured service; and I make the remark as equally applying to the last three months of the period.

Although unable to state that there is no remaining want of confidence and cordiality between them and their masters, the unfriendly feeling is by no means universal, and is divested of much of its original bitterness.

The causes of the absence of this perfect good feeling are various, and not always very tangible. On the part of the master, an injudicious manner of treating the people will occasion it. They cannot bear many words, even when in fault; a teasing, taunting method is particularly offensive to them; and some overseers, having no other weapons now at command, are too apt, I fear, to employ these. I observe, that a firm, quiet carriage in a manager, with perfect fair dealing, and occasional encouragement, are almost unfailing in their effect upon the negro mind; but this happy combination of qualities can scarcely be very common in persons who had their training under all the bad influences of the old system. My district, I am happy to state, affords a few such characters. I need not add, that wherever they are, all interests reap the advantage; the proprietor never fails to do so in his improved return. It would be well for themselves if that body evinced more concern than I fear they generally do with regard to the fitness of those who have the immediate charge of their people and estates—I mean, of course, their moral fitness.

Too much must not be expected at once from a body of labourers who were so lately slaves. Their habits must almost of necessity be all against willing labour for others—labour, I mean, without direct and obvious reward. As slaves, it is beyond dispute, they hung back wherever they could, and their ingenuity was constantly exerted in finding methods to do it undetected. Something of this vice still lingers among them as apprentices, and must be expected to do so. Where they are in every respect well treated, far less unwillingness discovers itself. Indeed, under such circumstances, they often manifest considerable cheerfulness at their work and contentment with their condition.

But to be aware of all the agility and animation of which they are capable, they must be seen on their march, in groups, to market, with provisions, or on their return with their purchases. Neither the distance nor the burthen they carry appear to be felt. The motive, doubtless, stimulates and sustains the physical power. Constrained and reluctant labour, wanting this principle, cannot have its support. The apprentice system retains some portion of this attendant disadvantage; but, with all its unavoidable defects, I must ever consider it as a state which has conferred upon the subjects of it a boon of incalculable value, and which is conducing to their essential improvement in the scale of society.

In referring to the causes of comparatively unwilling labour, it is important to remark, that much always depends upon the prevailing moral tone on the respective properties. Where the advantage of instruction has been afforded, and has taken general effect, an influence is brought to bear upon the behaviour of the people, which is found to overcome many of the little annoyances and minor grievances which would otherwise be sufficient to produce irritation or sullenness.

On some of the properties in this district, the salutary influence I have described has, unhappily, scarcely yet an existence. Nothing can be more marked than the contrast the two classes present; it extends to their whole appearance, and to every thing about them. I hesitate not to affirm, that the annual labour of an intelligent, instructed body of apprentices is worth, at least, one-third more than that of others to any property. Indeed, taking the contrast in its widest extent, as it exists at this moment on two neighbouring estates under my official charge, I consider the difference to amount to full fifty per cent.; and I am sure the relative return to the proprietors will confirm the opinion.

The arrangement of the time of labour in this district has always, with few exceptions, been what is called the nine hour system, work commencing at six, with the interval of an hour for breakfast, either at nine or ten, and terminating at four; in some instances completing the weekly quantum by four hours and a half on every Friday, and in others, by working the usual time on alternate Fridays. The people are satisfied with the plan.

Task-work is gradually coming into practice here; I have urged it strongly. There is no inveterate objection to it in either party; but managers, unaccustomed to what requires pains and application of mind, are sometimes disposed to fancy difficulties in it which may not really exist; and the negro, not always seeing beforehand his clear advantage in it, and habituated to the indulgence of distrust, frequently declines such a proposition when made to him.

him. Some managers are anxious to introduce the system, and there cannot be the smallest doubt that, wherever it is undertaken upon fair principles, it must be beneficial to both parties.

I have the satisfaction to report that a considerable proportion of the apprentices now work freely, in their own time, for money-wages. The ordinary rate is 2s. 6d. currency, which is an advance upon the rate paid some months ago. For digging cane-holes, 3s. 4d. per hundred holes is given, and readily accepted. The payment is usually in money, and the settlement daily. This judicious practice has greatly tended to induce the people to hire. I fear, however, it is becoming a temptation to the improvident to neglect the due cultivation of their grounds, and that I shall shortly have to apply in some cases the remedy which the law provides for such neglect.

Here, as I believe every where else, the weekly supply of herrings, one of the indulgences under the slave system, has been generally discontinued since the abolition. Nothing would more contribute to the content of the people than the renewal of this boon. Where it has been continued, I observe that good feeling generally exists between the parties.

A majority of the free children in this quarter, I regret to say, are still vegetating about the negro-houses in equal indolence and ignorance. I have no reason to think that many suffer from want of support; but I never think of the state in which public neglect or delay has left the great mass of them for two whole years without discouragement and sorrow. If they are ever to be a useful, industrious race, manual labour schools must be provided for them ere long, and at whatever cost. Some means of compulsive attendance will have to be devised, or those children whose parents are lowest in the scale of intelligence will be apt to lose the benefit. It will be in vain to look for teachers in the island, they must be supplied from the parent country.

The attendance at divine worship very much exceeds the present accommodation. This district is more favoured with respect to means of direct religious instruction than education. There are not schools for one-third of the children, and yet, where they do exist, there is on the part of many parents a considerable apathy with regard to the attendance of their children.

I have not discovered any general desire in the apprentices to purchase their discharge; not more than nine have been effected here since my last report. Nearly all have gone into the service of parties who advanced money to release them from other masters. It seems to be chiefly where they are on bad terms with those who are over them that they wish to disengage themselves. Many have the means to do so who have hitherto evinced no desire for it.

The prospects for next crop are favourable; on two or three of the sugar estates very much so. General cultivation is unquestionably advancing. The season has been, on the whole, propitious for this mountain district, although unusually wet.

Future reports may suggest other points for remark. If I have nearly repeated former observations, the heads which were placed before me in the instructions from the Colonial Office have naturally and necessarily led to it.

(signed) *John Daughtrey.*

Enclosure 27, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *Arthur Welch, Esq.*, Special Justice, to his Excellency the Governor.

Sir,

Manchester Parish, Warwick, 1 October 1836.

THE general conduct of the apprentices in this district is good. There does not appear any want of good feeling between them and their employers, except in a few instances, where the "salt" has been withheld, and where the managers are obstinate and foolish. The labour, in general, is cheerfully and regularly given. The usual relaxation is half an hour for what is termed "chocolata," and an hour for breakfast, from twelve to one.

Task-work is seldom resorted to; the apprentices do not like it, from the idea they will do too much.

The apprentices are all eager to work for hire in their own time. Pruning and cleaning at 1s. 6d. sterling, and picking coffee at 2s. sterling per diem. In a few instances, and but very few, "salt" (*i. e.* herrings) is withheld.

The free children are idle and ill clad; they are supported by their parents, but from the produce of the "grounds" belonging to the estate. This subject calls loudly for the consideration of your Excellency. The attendance at church is far greater than the church gives accommodation for. There is not a tenth of the schools requisite, nor does there appear any probability of more being erected. Mere literary education, unless combined with agricultural labour, will do little for the ultimate benefit of the country; and if the free children generally are not made to work for adequate wages, or apprenticed by the special justices, they will be a direct nuisance to the country instead of a benefit.

Any apprentices having the power to do so, would gladly purchase their discharge. Five have been effected in the last quarter. Those purchasing such discharge usually hire themselves to small settlers, or become small traders about the country.

The ensuing crop is small, the old coffee not bearing, in consequence of the heavy crop last year. A great deal of young coffee will come on next year, and every one is planting as much as he can. The season has been favourable enough, but the crop will not average more than half of last year. The coffee crop is no criterion of the description of a



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district. Last year's was a very heavy one. The cultivation of coffee, if prices exceed 4 l. a hundred, need never give any one the least alarm. When negroes come, in 1840, to work for money, 20 good able people will do the work of 60 at the present day.

I have already offered to His Majesty's Government every suggestion I consider capable of making this island what it ought to be. The chief thing is to make the idle become industrious, and the improvident careful, a task of no minor importance in any sphere of society. The rising generation ought to be generally instructed on such subjects as will hereafter make them useful members of society; but in a semi-barbarous country like this, to give children an education that will just make them self-opinionated, and think themselves superior to their parents, and too clever to earn their bread by the sweat of their brows, will be the obvious result of the system at present pursuing. It has already had this effect on a large portion of the inhabitants of Jamaica, and if continued, what the free people of the lower orders here are now, the free children will be hereafter.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Arthur Welch*, Special Magistrate.

## Enclosure 28, in No. 558.

EXTRACT from Mr. Special Justice *Harris's* Quarterly Report, dated Montego Bay, St. James's, 26 September 1836.

Enclosure 28,  
in No. 558.

ACCORDING to rule 27 of the instructions from his Excellency the Marquis of Sligo to the special justices, it becomes my duty to lay before you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, a special report of the state of my district.

Having so very recently taken charge of the district in St. James's, it is quite out of my power to dilate on the several points required by the rule; it will require a little time and experience, which as yet have not been afforded me; I have, however, been through the district once. The cultivation appears to have been well attended to, the fields are clean and in good order, and, as I am informed, the cultivation is in a much more forward state than this time last year. There has been a good deal of dry weather, from which the fields suffered much; but within the last fortnight there have fallen very fine showers of rain, and, in consequence, beautiful verdure has been produced.

From report, the apprentices are steadily pursuing their allotted labour. Complaints very seldom made on either the part of the master or apprentice. A good feeling appears to exist on both sides, which I sincerely trust will be industriously encouraged and promoted.

## Enclosure 29, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *William Carnaby*, Esq., Special Justice.

Montego Bay, 4 August 1836.

Enclosure 29,  
in No. 558.

THE crops look well, and, as regards both extent and condition, are much better than last year. The seasons have been propitious, and no interruption in the labour of any consequence has occurred.

I have much pleasure in reporting the conduct of the apprentices peaceable and orderly, and that they perform their work cheerfully. Where they receive humane treatment, I see no reluctance to do their work well. I should say the managers generally use them kindly, though there are a few exceptions, which the body cannot help, nor the magistrate reclaim.

The hours of labour are nine daily, one hour being allowed for breakfast and two for dinner; but when the day shortens, it is found necessary to limit the diet hours, so as to enable the apprentice to give the nine hours' labour, and thus have no infringement upon their Friday afternoon. During crop, an arrangement is usually gone into between the manager and apprentices for working in spells 16 hours daily, those choosing to labour the whole 16 hours receiving payment for the extra time, averaging 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  d. per hour.

This season, task-work has been very generally performed, and when honourably and liberally superintended, I have no hesitation in reporting that it answers well, and is advantageous to both parties. Upon one property, however, the overseer withdrew from a verbal agreement of that nature the moment he found it to be beneficial to the apprentices. Instances of this sort are rare, and seldom occur.

The old allowaances of herrings, &c. are, with few exceptions, still given; but I deplore that any option on this head is left to the party, as in many instances the innocent suffer by such allowances being withheld.

I am happy to say that this season there is a marked improvement in the disposition of the apprentices to work for hire; the wages given average from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. 4 d. daily.

Managers complain that the parents of free children will not permit them to labour for hire, though a liberal allowance is offered. I have no reason to doubt the fact, but it must be evident that such children are much better employed obtaining education, to enable them to become good members of society, than labouring at the tender age of eight. I believe the parents give all assistance in their power to educate such children; but I regret to observe that, as yet, there are no regular establishments for the education of free children upon estates in this district, if I except the properties of Irwin and Williamsfield, where schools have for some time been in active operation, under the superintendence of the Rev. John Robins, of the Moravian mission, aided by the liberality of both proprietors.

Churches

Churches and schools are in the course of erection in the district, and when finished will, I imagine, go a great way to render such accommodation complete. The attendance at church is great, and marked decorum every where observable.

There is a very general desire among the apprentices to purchase their freedom, and, as the apprenticeship shortens, I anticipate a great increase, especially among non-prædials. For the last quarter, seven valuations have been carried through by me, four being paid for, averaging 34*l.* 5*s.* 2½*d.* currency each. I cannot say how those parties paying afterwards employ themselves.

Should the weather continue favourable, and no calamity occur, I have every expectation that the crop will, so far as regards my district, exceed that of last year.

(signed) *William Carnaby*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 30, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *George Willis*, jun., Esq., Special Justice,  
to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Bath, St. Thomas in the East, 11 October 1836.

In answering circular, dated the 15th July, for the information of the Secretary of State, I should say as follows:—

1. The general conduct of the apprentices in this district is decidedly good.
2. The feeling between master and apprentice equally good.
3. They perform their labour willingly, but at the same time do not do the portion they should in the hours allowed them by law; hence arises their occasionally being made to pay days.
4. The working hours in this district are nine, and two hours and one half-hour allowed during the day for relaxation, viz. half an hour for breakfast and two hours for dinner.
5. Task-work is not resorted to generally, and the objection does certainly lie with the apprentice.
6. The work done in their own time for wages is so very trifling, not worthy of notice. I only know of one estate, viz. Pleasant Hill, and the rate of wages 1*s.* 8*d.* per day, with an allowance of salt; but the free labour upon this property only amounts to 75*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, making the average of free labour, per each apprentice, about 7*s.* in two years.
7. I am not aware of any indulgences being withheld that were usual during the term of slavery.
8. The condition of the free children is far from good; the parents have had excellent offers made them, but they resist every thing tending to be of service to their offspring. I was present upon the 5th September, on Plantain Garden River estate, when an offer was made (as below) by the attorney, A. Barclay, esq.; also present, the rector of the parish and the Hon. Thomas M'Cornock, custos; when every thing was done in our power to persuade the parents how much it would be for their good; however, they resisted every offer, and declined having any thing to say upon the subject. The same offer has been made to the Golden Grove apprentices, upwards of 500 in number; they also refused.
9. In this district the attendance at church is more than equal to the accommodation, but the attendance at school far from equal to the accommodation.
10. The desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge is not general; since my last report (three months), only six.
11. I cannot learn to what kind of employment, when they have obtained their discharge, they usually betake themselves.
12. The prospect of the ensuing crop good; the general state of cultivation good; the season has been favourable.
13. The only suggestion I have to make is, that a scale of labour would be much more satisfactory than the present plan, and save an infinite deal of trouble to the magistrate and the manager.

I am, &c.

(signed) *George Willis*, jun., Special Justice.

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PROPOSITION to the Parents of Children under Eight Years of Age, on Plantain Garden River Estates. Number of Apprentices, Three Hundred; of Free Children, Sixty-five.

*On the part of the Children.*

THAT all children from four to eight years of age, having previously had their breakfast, shall enter the school at eight o'clock in the morning, and remain until ten; from ten to twelve o'clock to be employed in gathering and bringing in hog meat, vine, or at any other light employment, such as picking trash in the cane-yard at crop-time, or weeding young canes, under the superintendence of any old woman, whom the parents may themselves select for the purpose; from twelve o'clock to two, dinner and play; from two o'clock to four, in school; from four o'clock to six, the children over six years of age to be employed as in the forenoon; the younger to go to play.

That on Sunday the children shall attend regularly some of the places of worship near by, the church or chapel, as their parents may wish.

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*On the part of the Proprietor.*

That he will maintain a teacher for the instruction of the children, and provide them with all necessary books.

That he will pay for medical attendance for them in sickness, and provide necessary medicines, &c.

That he will pay to each child over six years of age, who shall give regular attendance during the specified hours, 10*d.* per week, thus affording them education at their own houses under their parents; medical attendance, in case of sickness; hire sufficient to provide them with ample means of clothing, and the free use of land for providing them with food.

(signed) *A. Barclay.*

## Enclosure 31, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *E. E. Fishbourne*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Lower House, St. George's, 11 October 1836.

Enclosure 31,  
in No. 558.

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your circular letter, No. 63, dated 23d ult., with reference to the subjects to be embraced in my general quarterly report upon the state of my district, I have endeavoured to reply as fully as possible to each question as it stands in the circular dated from Downing-street.

1. The general conduct of the apprentices in my district, since my last report, has been respectful and peaceable.

2. I am not conscious that any bad feeling exists between them and their masters.

3. On most estates the people work well and willingly, more particularly where they are kindly and liberally treated, and where allowance is made for slight offences.

4. The system of labour hitherto adopted on sugar estates has been the eight hour system, allowing from half an hour to an hour for breakfast, and two hours for dinner; or half an hour for breakfast, and two hours for dinner; or three or four hours at once in the heat of the day. A different system obtains upon almost every estate, and varies according to the seasons or other circumstances. On coffee properties, task-work adapted to the nine hour system is almost universally prevalent.

5. Task-work is resorted to wherever it can be done, to the mutual satisfaction of master and apprentice.

6. The apprentices seldom refuse money-wages for work to be done in their own time; occasionally they demand too high a rate, but generally they gladly accede to fair terms, and work well when they are certain of being punctually paid. The rates vary with the nature of the work they are employed on, from 1*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.* a day; in the manufacture of sugar, they are paid either by the number of pans of liquor boiled, or the number of hours employed. They are usually paid weekly.

7. Some of the indulgences are withheld on some estates, such as herrings, allowances to child-mothers and young children.

8. Free children are supported by their parents alone; they are quite unemployed, and their state is far from satisfactory.

9. There is a Sunday-school and a day-school at Annotto Bay, open both to free and apprentices, but the attendance is very limited. There is also a school at Fort Stewart estate, supported by the Messrs. Mitchells, of London: the lord bishop allows a master. There is a parish church at Buff Bay, an episcopal church, and a Baptists' chapel at Annotto Bay. In the parish church the attendance is far beyond the accommodation.

10. There are several sensible, respectable apprentices who are well able to purchase their discharges, but they think it better to keep their money until the end of their apprenticeship. Four discharges have been effected since my last report.

11. I have valued 35 apprentices, and of that number I can only account for a few. I believe women generally become higglers or seamstresses, and men usually work at their trades, or hire themselves as sailors or servants.

12. The prospects of the ensuing crops appear rather favourable; the state of cultivation is very good; the fields are clean; the season has been very hot, and some estates, where the soil is sandy, have suffered very much in consequence.

13. I have not any suggestion to offer, or practical measure of importance to recommend.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. E. Fishbourne*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 32, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *Richard St. John*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Mount Holstein, St. George's, 4 October 1836.

Enclosure 32,  
in No. 558.

IN compliance with the directions contained in the circular letter, No. 63, dated 23d ult., respecting the general heads upon which it is desirable I should afford information in my general quarterly report upon the state of my district, I shall reply to the questions in the circular, dated Downing-street, 15 July 1836, in the same order, paragraph by paragraph, as the circular is marked.

1. The general conduct of the apprentices in my district since my last report has been uniformly

uniformly marked by attention to their duties, respect to their masters, and tranquillity in their hours.

2. I am not aware of the existence of any bad feeling between them and their employers; few complaints are brought forward by the apprentices against their masters.

3. Making due allowance for the natural disinclination of a man to work for another without remuneration proportional to extra exertions, the people work as willingly as can be expected, they knowing that they can be compelled to do fair work.

4. The apprentices in my district work upon the nine hour system; they get an hour and a half in the day; they commence at six, and are drawn off at half-past four every day, and are allowed every alternate Friday. These hours must vary with the seasons.

5. Task-work is not resorted to; the question has never been mooted by either party.

6. Working for money-wages is common in my district; the people are always paid every day, at the rate of from 1s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. per day, according to the work they are employed upon.

7. I am not aware of any indulgences being withheld from the apprentices; complaints have never been made to me to that effect.

8. The free children are totally unemployed and left to the care of themselves or some feeble old woman. I consider their state far inferior to that of apprentices between six and twelve years of age, inasmuch as they are not allowed clothing, &c., by the properties upon which they reside, and they are not brought up to any useful employment; they are universally supported by their parents alone.

9. There is but one school in my district, which is centrally situated at Birnam Wood; it is supported by the Church Missionary Society. The attendance, I understand, is very bad.

10. There are many quite able to purchase their discharge, but they do not like to part with their money. No discharge has been effected since my last report.

11. I am quite unable to state to what employments those who have been discharged usually betake themselves; very few have been discharged in my district, and they have removed to town, or out of my district.

12. The prospects of the ensuing crop cannot be estimated at this period of the year with any probability. The appearance of the trees and the state of cultivation are unobjectionable, but the season may be unfavourable, and anticipations may not be realized. Last year, expectations of a very large crop were entertained; but the former part of the season was much too wet, and the latter part too dry, and, consequently, the crop has fallen far below the estimates of planters.

13. There are many small settlers in my district who have a few apprentices upon remote and distant mountains. It would be impossible for a special justice to visit them, and attend to properties pointed out by the Abolition Act; and it must also be attended with too great a loss of labour if the special constables were to be employed to bring culprits before me; therefore, many poor people suffer much loss rather than incur the further loss of a constable's time. To remedy this, I recommend that a small detachment of police be stationed in my district, under a steady serjeant, who, upon application to me, might be employed in bringing up such culprits; besides which, my district is situated along both the sides of the high road from St. George's to Kingston, and if a body of police were situated upon some central place, much stolen produce would be taken up, and many petty thefts prevented.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Richard St. John*, Special Justice.

COPY of a LETTER from *Richard St. John*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Mount Holstein, St. George's, 11 October 1836.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, that complaints have considerably decreased since my last quarterly report.

The chief charges are in cases of neglect of duty, where there is no immediate superintendence, such as odd jobs, watchmen, and cattle minders, &c.

Some apprentices are so idle that when left to themselves they prefer to waste their time in idleness than work their grounds; the consequence is, that if they do not work for money-wages on Saturdays, they have no provisions to subsist upon, and are therefore in a manner compelled to steal from the industrious. This is a very serious evil, for the difficulty of detection and proof of guilt render them more careless about their grounds, and also dishearten those who are desirous of living honestly upon the fruits of their own industry. Managers do not complain, because, if special justices order the grounds of such persons (who are generally idle fellows) to be put in order by the estate, and then to repay the labour so employed during their own time, the properties suffer. It seems to me desirable, for the good of my district generally, that apprentices should be employed to work at fixed times in their grounds, under the superintendence of a driver, and to be periodically inspected, either by the manager or one of his book-keepers, and a certificate to this effect produced before vestry.

The coffee fields are in good order, and if the seasons are favourable, the ensuing crop will be rather good than otherwise; but as much depends upon the weather, little value can be placed upon any estimate.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Richard St. John*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 33, in No. 558.

ANSWERS to Circular.

Port Royal, 1 October 1836.

Enclosure 33,  
in No. 558.

1. WHAT has been the general conduct of the apprentices in your district since your last report?—Improving.
2. Is there any want of good feeling between them and their employers, and if so, to what cause do you attribute it?—Generally speaking, there is a good feeling.
3. Do they perform their work willingly, and if not, to what do you ascribe it?—The majority do not; I ascribe it to the apprentices in this district being the most depraved and dissipated in the island.
4. What are the working hours generally in use in your district; are any, and what, intervals of relaxation allowed to the apprentices during the working hours?—The apprentices in this district are all non-prædials.
5. Is task-work generally resorted to in your district; if not, does the objection lie with the masters or the apprentices?—The apprentices in this district are all non-prædials.
6. Is it usual for the apprentices to work in their own time for money-wages; if so, what is the ordinary rate of wages, and how are they paid; if not, have they been offered?—The apprentices in this district are all non-prædials; but as the colonial engineer, I have at present very heavy work to perform in digging out a new river-course, and frequently, on Friday and Saturday, employ estate's apprentices at the rate of 2s. 11d. currency, equal to 1s. 9d. sterling; on those days I generally have from 200 to 300 at work.
7. Are any indulgences withheld which it was usual during slavery for the estate to supply?—No.
8. What is the condition of the free children, and how are they supported?—Generally good, and in most instances supported by their owners; however, there are some exceptions where the children are very badly off, owing to the depravity of their parents.
9. What facilities does your district supply for education and religious instruction; is the attendance at church and in the schools equal to the accommodation?—The parochial school, the Mico charity school, Protestant Sunday school, Wesleyan Methodists' school and Baptists' Sunday school. The attendance at church and in the schools is not equal to the accommodation.
10. Is there a general desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge; how many discharges have been effected since your last report?—There is not a general desire; three apprentices have been discharged, since last report, by their owners, without any remuneration.
11. To what kinds of employment do those who have obtained their discharge usually betake themselves?—They continue in the same employment as when apprentices.
12. What are the prospects of the ensuing crop, and what the general state of cultivation; has the season been favourable, or otherwise?—My district is confined to the town of Port Royal.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *James H. St. John*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 34, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *J. W. Grant*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Mandeville District, Manchester, 7 October 1836.

I HAVE now the honour to send the quarterly report on the state of my district.

The general conduct of the apprentices, since I last made a similar one, has been good, proper and respectful. It has ever been my anxious desire—indeed the object I have most aimed at—to create and cherish a good feeling between masters and apprentices, and I need not say, that it gives me pleasure to think my efforts have not been altogether unsuccessful. There is a good feeling between masters and apprentices in my district, which may be perceived by referring to the few complaints in my diaries made by either party for the last three months.

The apprentice always will work, and work well, when he is treated with mildness, and conceives that there is no desire, on the part of persons in authority over him, to deprive him of any of those privileges and just rights to which the law entitles him.

A number of properties have been cultivated by labour on the nine hours system, but I believe the greater part on the eight. On many properties they work from six to ten o'clock in the morning, and from one to five in the afternoon.

Task-work is resorted to on many properties, and I often meet the apprentices returning from the field to their homes in the middle of the day, after having performed the quantity of labour allotted to each or all of them by their respective managers.

They always work for money-wages, when they think they can earn more by doing so than in cultivating their grounds. The ordinary rate of wages is 2s. 6d. currency, but from the many facilities they have of making more than even this, it is often refused. Of course there are exceptions; but speaking generally, I cannot ascribe their refusing to work in their own time to any indisposition to labour, but, among many others, to the cause I have already mentioned.

There is not a property in my district, that I am aware of, where the indulgences the apprentices were accustomed to receive in the time of slavery are withheld. The masters and managers know, from the discontent such acts always create among them, that it would be very bad policy to do so.

Enclosure 34,  
in No. 558.

The free children are supported by their parents, and, I have often had occasion to observe, are treated with kindness by the masters. On some properties they receive medical attendance when sick, as the apprentices do, and have a person sent with them to school to take care of and attend to their little comforts.

There are very few facilities afforded for education, from the small number of schools; and in some parts of my district the people feel this, and regret that they have no opportunity given them of having their children educated.

There is every facility afforded for religious instruction, from the number of churches, but the attendance is not, I believe, at all equal to the accommodation.

The apprentices evince the greatest desire to purchase their discharge, although, during the last three months, only ten have done so. I am aware, in a few instances, of their hiring themselves out immediately they have been discharged, but I cannot say to what kind of employment the greater part betake themselves.

The crops here are generally good and bad every alternate year; the last crop was exceedingly plentiful; the prospects of the ensuing are not so good, although the cultivation is, if any thing, forward.

The season, from the almost incessant rain, has been very unfavourable; if the crop will be small, these remarks will show that the circumstance cannot be attributed to any bad conduct on the part of the apprentices, or unwillingness to do that duty which the law requires of them.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. W. Grant*, Special Justice,

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Enclosure 35, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *W. H. Alley*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Mile Gully, 12 October 1836.

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Lieutenant-governor, that the general conduct of the apprentices in this district has been orderly. It affords me great satisfaction to observe that a feeling of good-will and confidence increases daily between the master and apprentice; if this continues, which I am almost confident of, from my knowledge of the proprietors and managers of the estates, I anticipate the most favourable results.

Enclosure 35,  
in No. 558.

I have received no complaints as to the working hours; the eight hour system has been uniformly acted upon since I have performed the duty of a special magistrate.

The intervals of relaxation are half an hour in the morning and an hour in the middle of the day.

I have very particularly recommended task-work, which appears the most satisfactory to the apprentice; generally speaking, the apprentices do not wish to work in their own time for their masters; they have, however, done so on some estates, for which the average amount of wages is 2s. 6d. a day. All the allowances which it was usual for the estates to supply during slavery are almost universally continued; the indulgence of salt and herrings has been withheld where the apprentices behaved improperly or disrespectfully to their masters.

The free children are supported by their parents, who do not show any disposition to bring them up in habits of industry. There are two churches of the established religion, together with the Moravian and others; there are also several schools.

The apprentices show a strong desire to purchase their discharges; I have had none since my last report.

I cannot say to what employment those who have obtained their discharge betake themselves, but I can state that I have never known one who returned to field work.

The crops are not so abundant, nor is the cultivation so forward, as at this time last year. The season has not been favourable.

I have not at this moment any suggestion to make, or any practical measure to recommend.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. H. Alley*, Special Magistrate.

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Enclosure 36, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *George Gordon*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Crawle River, Great House, Clarendon,  
9 October 1836.

It is with much gratification that I report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the continued good conduct of the apprentices in my district; the spirit of litigation has much subsided, and there appears to exist on the part of the managers a laudable desire to overlook minor faults, which clemency seems to be duly appreciated by the apprentices.

Enclosure 36,  
in No. 558.

The nine hour system is usually adopted, and the periods of relaxation are one hour for breakfast and two hours for dinner. Any want of uniformity is to be attributed to the influence of local causes, as, the distance of the field from the negro-houses, and the expect-

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ation of the noon rains. Task-work would be more common, but the great inequality of lands, even of neighbouring properties, prevents the adoption of a general scale of labour through the parish; and managers, therefore, find it difficult to arrange any other labour by task-work than that of cane-hole digging. There is a reluctance on the part of the apprentices to work in their own time for wages, except during crop. The mode of payment is by money, once a week, and the ordinary rate is 10*d.* for eight hours, when the extra work is in the manufacture of sugar, or 2*s.* 6*d.* for the Saturday, or 5*d.* for every eight cane-holes, when the labour is agricultural. I am happy to bear testimony to the liberality of the proprietors, who have, without a single exception, continued the usual indulgences of former times.

The great abundance of provisions in this seasonable district prevents any cases of want and wretchedness among the free children, and their diseases always meet every attention from the kindness and humanity of the managers; but there is nothing more truly melancholy to the philanthropist, and nothing which calls more loudly for legislative enactment, than the moral condition of these children; no youthful discipline is maintained, and no habits of industry inculcated; and even the christian endeavours of private individuals to teach the primary moral truths have been met with indifference by the parents. Of the episcopal form of worship there is one church at Chapelton, and another to be built at Arthur's Seat; the lord bishop has also appointed a lay reader to the Leicester-fields district. The missionaries have no recorded place of worship, but are gradually adding their assistance, and extending their influence. There is one parochial school at Chapelton, which is well conducted, under the immediate superintendence of the rector; and the school at Leicester-fields is a branch of the Jamaica National; another school will soon be erected at Arthur's Seat. Many private individuals devote a part of their time to the oral instruction of the apprentices. I am, however, sorry to say that the attendance is not equal to this very small accommodation, but that may partly proceed from the population being scattered; but it is to be hoped that an increased accommodation may also cause an increased attendance.

Five discharges have been purchased within the last quarter; few or none of these comprise the better or more intelligent order of negroes; and the liberty that is sought for is the liberty of idleness, for they neither purchase land nor offer themselves for employment on the estates. The season has been favourable, and the prospect of the next crop is good.

I have, &c.

(signed) *George Gordon*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 37, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *William Hewitt*, Esq., Special Justice, to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

St. George's, Jamaica, 6 October 1836.

Enclosure 37,  
in No. 558.

IN reply to your Excellency's circular of the 23d ult., No. 63, I have the honour to make the following observations on the state of my district.

Since my last report on the conduct of the apprentices, they have continued to conduct themselves with diligence and propriety; they are just now showing a disposition to idleness, and are rather unsettled, in consequence, as they say, of the change of the hours of labour; they seem to imagine that Mr. White, the former special magistrate, and myself have defrauded them of their rights, by allowing the managers to work them on the system of eight hours per diem instead of nine hours, which latter the apprentices greatly prefer. From the 1st August 1834 the apprentices have been working in this district from six A. M. to eleven A. M., when they get three hours for their breakfast and dinner-time; they go to work again at two P. M. and leave work at five; one day in the week at half-past five. They have been perfectly satisfied with this method of labour ever since my residence here, about 20 months; but I am told that at first they wished very much to work nine hours daily, and get their four hours and a half at one time; they have generally worked for wages in the manufacture of sugar, and sometimes at field work, when required, at the rate of 1*s.* sterling per diem.

The indulgences which were allowed during slavery are not generally withheld.

The free children are usually provided with medicine and medical attendance, when required; and their mothers are allowed to attend them in hospital, on condition of their repaying the time so employed; these children are, generally speaking, in a deplorable condition.

The apprentices are regular attendants at church, which has just been enlarged by subscription for their accommodation; and there are several Sunday-schools, which are well attended both by adults and children; there is a school in this district established by the Church Missionary Society, but I fear that few scholars profit by it.

No apprentices have purchased their freedom during the last three months; nor does there seem any desire amongst them to do so.

The season has been tolerably favourable this year; the estates are looking well; and I imagine that this district will fall but very little below the average crops.

I have, &c.

(signed) *William Hewitt*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 38, in No. 558.

JAMAICA.

COPY of a LETTER from *T. A. Dillon*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Retirement, Great House, Upper Dry Harbour District,  
St. Ann's, Jamaica, 12 October 1836.

ALTHOUGH very unwell, I have endeavoured, with the assistance of a clerk, to carry into effect his Excellency the Governor's instructions with as much accuracy as possible. Had I been in better health, there would have been less necessity for an apology for any inaccuracies which may appear in the various new forms.

This district has, I am sorry to say, been visited with incessant rains for the last nine weeks, rendering the duties of all parties, including masters, apprentices and magistrates, harassing and laborious to exceed description; nevertheless, there has been no relaxation in discipline or conduct, and I am sanguine in my hopes that it will exhibit at the termination of the apprenticeship a community bound together by reciprocal feelings of good-will and mutual benevolence, and influenced by one common motive in maintaining order, industry and obedience to the laws. May God grant that my exertions and ardent desire should conduce to this end, is the sincere prayer of

Your, &amp;c.

(signed) *T. A. Dillon*, Special Justice.Enclosure 38,  
in No. 558.

1. Superior to the emigrants, and quite equal to the peasantry of Europe.
2. Not generally; there may be one or two instances; want of tact in the overseer, and temper in the people.
3. I cannot say they do; they derive no additional benefit for working well, no privation for working ill; the total absence of that which stimulates all mankind—profit and loss.
4. Nine hours; none, except what the Act provides, nor is it necessary; they can, when working for wages, clean 1,285 cane-holes; but when employed for the estate, they never exceed 350.
5. Task-work is not general, except in their own time, which they prefer, as they can, with ease, earn a dollar a day.
6. It is from 2s. 6d. to 3s.; invariably in cash.
7. Many estates continue the old allowances; others, less prosperous, withhold them.
8. In absolute idleness; supported generally by the mothers.
9. None; the accommodation quite inadequate.
10. It is very much decreasing; many, very many, have the means, but not the desire; six.
11. To such as they have been heretofore accustomed.
12. Short. This district has been visited with incessant rains, such as have not been remembered; but the quality will be superior, owing to intervals of intense heat between the heavy rains; this remark applies to coffee. Cane-plants are luxuriant; cultivation variable; but on the sugar estates admirable.
13. I have already recommended four, in my March and July reports; experience convinced me of their necessity. Time and calamities will force their adoption. The emigrants who cannot be placed under sanatory control are, in many instances, infected with the loathsome yaws. I would fain refer to my July report, pointing out a remedy. If some measures are not speedily taken to prevent the spread of this frightful disease, the Abolition Law will prove a calamity instead of a blessing.

(signed) *T. A. Dillon*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 39, in No. 558.

REPORT of District from *John R. Hulme*, Esq., Special Justice.

September 1836.

THE conduct of the apprentices, generally, in this district, during the last quarter, is decidedly improved, and a good feeling appears to exist between them and their employers. Upon the whole, they are working willingly, but sometimes they are rather slow. They work nine hours per day, having an hour for breakfast and two hours in the middle of the day. Whenever task-work can be employed, it is generally adopted, and decidedly preferred by the apprentices. They have been working for wages on most of the properties in this district, in digging cane-holes, the rate of wages being 3s. 4d. for 100 holes; and they have the usual indulgences granted them.

The free children are supported by their parents, and on many properties they are furnished with medicine when sick, and other indulgences, but are generally living in a state of idleness. There is one school at Green Island, and another at Rockspring, supported by the proprietor, for the education of the free children and younger apprentices. The accommodation at church is more than equal to the attendance.

There has been only one apprentice discharged since I came to the district. I am not aware that they follow any employment after they are discharged.

The prospects for the ensuing crop are not so good as were anticipated, owing to incessant heavy rains; and for the same reason, together with the general prevalence of measles, the state of cultivation is not so forward as might have been expected.

(signed) *John R. Hulme*, Special Justice.Enclosure 39,  
in No. 558.



JAMAICA.

Enclosure 40, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *Edmund B. Lyon*, Esq., Special Justice,  
to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Palmetto River, Blue Mountain District, St. Thomas in the East,  
31 September 1836.

Sir,

Enclosure 40,  
in No. 558.

UPWARDS of two years of the apprenticeship have elapsed, and reviewing the condition of the estates in this district at the present moment, I feel pleasure in the retrospection of the conduct and labour of the apprentices during that period. At the commencement of my labours in the latter part of August 1834, a spirit of dissatisfaction prevailed among the apprentices, which on some estates exhibited itself in open resistance to the authority of the magistrate and master, the able people frequently absenting themselves for two or three days together. At that time my district embraced half of this populous parish, and the whole of St. David's, containing a population of 18,000 apprentices. I had the good fortune to be received by them with confidence; tranquillity ensued, and with it cheerfulness and industry. Since this, I have every quarter had the pleasing duty of recording the industrious and improving state of the peasantry; and at the same time, as a necessary consequence, the excellent condition of the estates, the majority of which have been increasing their cultivation, and have not, in a single instance, suffered any other reduction of crop than that arising from the diminution of the hours of labour.

The valley of the Blue Mountains, the principal sugar cultivation of my district, has the appearance of a highly cultivated garden. The estates have all cleaned their cane-pieces in a shorter time than customary after the termination of crop, and have been enabled to establish a larger plant than usual, and in some instances without the assistance of jobbers; nor has the anxiety, which the present high price of produce must naturally create, of increasing cultivation led them to neglect the permanent and substantial advantages to be secured by the improvement and enlargement of their works and machinery, the repairs of roads, cleaning of pastures and other labour, which, two years ago, it was universally declared to be impracticable to effect. Blue Mountain estate has, since Christmas, erected a steam-engine, and are enlarging their boiling-house; Hallhead and Suze Island have repaired their water-wheels and works; Coley has erected a cast-iron wheel, and are busy repairing their works generally; Buckingham and Boston are enlarging their boiling and trash-houses, and, in addition to the putting in of a much larger plant than usual, have, by the estate's people, within the month of September, trashed, cleaned and moulded 113 acres of canes and 200 acres of pasture land, which had not been touched for the last four or five years, with a great gang of 37 and small one of 17 people.

A most extraordinary instance of the application of manual labour was exhibited by the apprentices of Blue Mountain estate two weeks ago—40 people in four days cleaned and trashed 42 acres of canes, less than four to the acre. The same people last year, and in the course of the present, trashed and moulded, and trashed and cleaned all their cane-pieces (with the above exception) at a rate not exceeding six to the acre, and were justly considered to have performed extraordinary work.

Last week, at Hallhead estate, the apprentices, after the land had been ploughed and harrowed, dug it into cane-holes at the rate of 20 people to the acre, a performance astonishing to contemplate, and which, in the most energetic period of coerced labour, would have been deemed impracticable; and these are people who, from the commencement of the system to the present moment, have never needed any stronger incitement from me than praise or expostulation. The gangs have never been deprived of a day, nor have there been a dozen individuals tried for offences on either of these estates (Blue Mountain and Hallhead) during the last two years. But the merit is not mine, nor solely the people's; it is chiefly the result of the good common sense, extensive practical knowledge, and of a quality still more rare in a colonial atmosphere—the sense of equity which directs the management of the gentlemen who are overseers on those properties. The same results, the same good feeling, and the same spirit of industry and cheerfulness among the apprentices would be developed on all the properties around me, did it always happen that the managers were possessed of the same judgment, actuated by the same zeal, and capable of appreciating, in the same degree, the willing, strenuous and hearty co-operation of their labourers.

In my last quarterly report, I entered so fully into my reasons for expecting the continuance of the same state of feeling (that did then and which at present exists) between master and apprentice unto the termination of the apprenticeship that it would be a work of supererogation to again enlarge upon the subject; but there is one portion of it which, from its probable influence on society at the termination of the apprenticeship, requires more than a passing notice. It appears to me that no part of a magistrate's duty is more important than that of recording the occupation and watching the social condition of those released by purchase from the apprenticeship. The preamble of the British enactment looks to "the new state and relations of society which are to follow the general manumission," as a condition to build on in "an adoption of the laws" to the great and universal change from slavery to freedom; that is, to the time when a peasantry, receiving wages for their labour, shall rent the cottage and land they occupy, distribute the toils of their families according to their own notion of their usefulness, their ease and their happiness, and order the concerns of their humble homes in any way they please. The narrow-minded factionist, who struggles against the progress of events, knows that this must be the state of things when the apprenticeship (the last link in the chain of slavery) shall be broken, yet he seeks to retard its beneficial operation by discountenancing and checking, by persecution, every approach

approach to this condition as long as the apprenticeship shall last, and he shall possess authority. He refuses to adapt the laws to the new relations which are to follow a state of general and unconditional freedom. One of the processes by which this operation is carried on, is the exclusion of the free unapprenticed husband from the company of the apprenticed wife; or of the wife, released by purchase from apprenticeship, from the society of the still-continued bond husband. It is not a mere verbal exclusion, or a threat of enforcing against such intruders on the estate the penalties of the Trespass Act, by which this is effected. It is all systematized under the formalities of notices served, in which the parties are declared tenants chargeable with rent at an exorbitant rate, or of warnings to depart, under the pains and penalties of the law. In the struggle of the special magistrate to protect the apprentice in his family and domestic rights, he is brought into collision with the local magistrates, exercising jurisdiction over the person relieved from the obligations of the apprenticeship. This state of conflict augments the influence of a pernicious state of public opinion, and the habits and feelings of the labouring population are left unsettled, or exposed to very false views of happiness and utility.

To mention a case or two:—Two female apprentices to ———, the property of a local magistrate, were released from their apprenticeship by their husbands, who were desirous the remainder of their lives should be devoted to the superintendence of the domestic comfort of their families, and to that necessary care which their years and infirmities required. They were both old African women, who had been upwards of 30 years the property of their late master. The moment their certificate of discharge was granted, the overseer was directed to give them notice to leave the estate, and they were forbidden to enter the houses of their husbands, unless they paid a weekly sum for the privilege. They have two or three times applied to me for advice and protection, and my endeavour to protect them in their civil rights has created a considerable degree of irritation against me, not alone in the bosom of their late master, but generally among the magistrates and attorneys of the district. The latest (but I fear it will not be the last) attempt to remove and annoy them was a threat that Mr. ——— would issue his warrant, under the Trespass Act, for their apprehension.

At ——— plantation, Robert Graham purchased the remainder of his term, and, though a married man, was immediately ordered off the property, and forbidden to enter the house of his wife. A few weeks ago, in the silence and stillness of night, he crept into the house of his apprenticed wife, to whom, at the altar of his God, he had sworn "that, forsaking all others, he would cleave unto her until God did them part." He is a Baptist, and they joined in prayer, and sang a hymn of thanksgiving. His arrival was instantly reported to the overseer, who (still haunted by the memory of those accursed and heart-blighting days when the voice of the slave, raised in any other tone than supplication to or adulation of his task-master, was considered rebellious or insubordinate) instantly ordered the constables to watch at the door, and apprehend him on his coming out, which was done; but by some means he contrived to escape, and came to me. I visited the property, and have, I trust, for a time secured to him his domestic rights, and the privilege of visiting, as a free man, any other of the members of a free community.

At ———, James Harris, an old man, has six children on the property, two of whom are incurably diseased, requiring one person's entire attention; and Ann Barnswell had two children and an aged and impotent mother, with two or three others. The moment their release was effected, they were served with notices to quit at the expiration of three months, or to remain only on condition of paying an exorbitant rent, though occupying the same houses with their apprenticed children, and relieving the estate from the necessity of supporting and nursing their sick and disabled families. The same system has been pursued on other estates in this district, and I have reason to believe it is as extensively and as invidiously carried on in every part of the island.

To turn to a more pleasing view of the same subject, I have assisted in valuing the apprenticeship term of 145 prædial and non-prædial apprentices; and I have the satisfaction of knowing that the greater number (and have reason to believe the whole) are in their various situations respectable and industrious members of the community. In the earlier period, the greater portion released were the wives or n'stresses of unapprenticed individuals; at another, the children of apprenticed and unapprenticed persons; and latterly, the larger number have been of the prædial mechanics and labourers. The desire of the apprentice to effect his release from a system professing freedom, but which has so many of the odious features of slavery, is so strong and increasing, that in many it amounts to a passion, and induces them to solicit friends or strangers to advance them money for the purpose, under the pledge of becoming bound to the lender, and performing in return labour more onerous than that from which they so convulsively shrink—the compulsory, unrequited labour of an apprentice under the Abolition Act. As the period shortens, a serious obstacle to his obtaining his discharge is opposed in the immense and extravagant increase of value insisted upon by the local magistrates, and sworn to in valuations by almost every witness examined for the master. In the last quarter, a house servant in Special Justice Willis's district was valued at 120 £.; and a slender female prædial labourer was valued in the district of Special Justice Rennell for 114 £.: these are facts which speak too plain for comment.

It is much to be lamented that that most important of all "means of improving the happiness of the great body of the people, the spread of Christianity," through the religious education of the rising generation, should in this extensive mountainous and populous sugar district be almost entirely neglected. There are no schools or chapels in the district. The free children are, in consequence of the anxiety of the parents to have them educated, removed to the towns, the only places at present in which schools have been established.

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They have no alternative but to submit to a separation from their children, and consequently but few remain upon any of the properties around. A few have apprenticed them to tradesmen and shopkeepers, with an understanding they would be permitted to attend Sunday schools. It is a laudable anxiety; but the necessity for separation deprives the untutored parents of the advantages they would derive were their intercourse with their children unbroken, as, while they were progressing in knowledge and improving in manners, much that they learned would be sympathetically imparted to their parents.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Edmund B. Lyon*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 41, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *C. Hawkins*, Esq., Special Justice.

Sir,

Aberdeen, Rio Bueno, P.O., 11 October 1836.

Enclosure 41,  
in No. 558.

IN compliance with his Excellency's circular of the 23d September, No. 63, directing the special magistrates to send a quarterly report of the state of their district, I herewith enclose to his Excellency answers to the thirteen questions; viz.

1. The general conduct of the apprentices in this district since my last report is, that they have behaved themselves peaceably, quietly and orderly.

2. There is no want of good feeling between master and apprentice; and, from my own observation, that the feeling of mutual kindness is gradually increasing.

3. I cannot say that the apprentices are at present performing their work so well of late (viz. within this last month) as previously; they do not turn out in the mornings agreeable to law; and lately I have received several complaints of their not performing a sufficient quantity of work. I cannot at present point out what to ascribe this to; their turning out in the mornings I attribute to the difference in the length of the days, as the negro conceives that the sun must be up before he ought to go to his work.

4. The hours of working in my district generally is the nine hour system. On some small properties the eight hour system has been worked; but on every one of those who have so worked I have invariably found the apprentice discontented, and I have received more complaints from those properties with less negroes than on those who work the nine hours. I am of a decided opinion, that the eight hour system is worked as a punishment on the apprentices, and that no benefit whatever results to the properties; I should say an injury. The apprentices in this district have to go from 15 to 20 miles to their mountain-negro grounds, and the eight hour system hinders them from going on Fridays; and by the time that they can go and return on the Saturdays, they lose the market on that day; and I believe that is in some measure the reason that the apprentices neglect their mountain grounds. The apprentices are allowed one half hour, with cooks, for breakfast, and two hours for dinner, in the nine hour system.

5. Task-work is in general made use of in this district during crop, in digging cane-holes, and sometimes in cleaning cane-pieces, and is in general preferred by the apprentices, and seldom objected to by their masters. I have known task-work finished by 12 o'clock, except in crop time. At times the masters refuse to work task, as the apprentices have not done a sufficient quantity of work while working in the hours of their masters; but this is seldom. In picking pimento, I have known the apprentices bring in double the quantity in their own time, and paid for, as they did in the same time for their masters.

6. The apprentices are most eager to work for hire in their own time in this district, with the exception of one estate, and can always get employment; in fact, the estates cannot procure a sufficient number they wish for. The apprentices are now getting from 4s. 6d. to 5s. a hundred for digging cane-holes, 5s. and 6s. 8d. for picking a barrel of pimento, and 2s. 6d. per day for common labourers. George Marrett, esq. is most anxious to procure as many as possible, and has offered to pay them daily. On all estates the hire is paid weekly, and I have not received a single complaint from any one apprentice, of him or her not receiving the amount due.

7. Indulgences on some estates have been withheld which the apprentice received while in slavery, but this is not general; and I must remark, that on those properties where this has taken place, the apprentices do not work so well; discontent appears, and complaints are more frequent, and I have every reason to suppose that the estate loses by this niggardly conduct. On those estates which comprise the largest portion of apprentices, as well as the largest estate in my district, viz. the estates of Messrs. Marrett & Miller, attornies, the same allowance is now given as was given when slavery existed; and I have great pleasure in stating, that on the estates managed by Messrs. Marrett & Miller, less complaints are made, and punishments but very seldom inflicted.

8. The condition of the free children, from every information I have been enabled to get at, I am sorry to say, are not brought up to habits of industry, or are educated; that their parents make them their servants as soon as they can perform any work. Was it not for the kindness of the masters to the mothers, in allowing the children, when sick, to be taken into the hot-house, a very large proportion of children must be victims to disease and want of medical attendance. Although this kindness is gratuitous on the part of their masters, there is great difficulty in getting the mothers to repay back to the estate the time so lost, and in some cases the mothers have positively refused to repay the time so taken from the estate. I beg leave to state one instance of cruelty and neglect of a mother, at Stewart

Castle,

Castle, viz. a mother took her child to the hot-house doctress, saying it was sick; she told her to go to busha with her child; the mother said no—(this was on Thursday afternoon)—saying, to-morrow, Friday, was her day, also Saturday and Sunday; but on Monday she would do so. On Monday she brought her child dead to the overseer.

9. I am very sorry to say, in answer to this question, that there are few schools for education in my district; the only one I know of is kept by Mr. Knibb, a Baptist preacher, on the extreme point of my district. There was a branch school at Rio Bueno; a few only attended; the master was totally unfit for the situation, and has been discharged. The church and chapels are well attended—I may say, crowded to the extreme. There is one church, two Baptist and one Methodist chapels in my district. The apprentices are most punctual in the duties of religion, and every Sunday fail not to attend a place of worship.

10. The apprentices have a great wish to purchase the remaining term of their apprenticeship, so much so that several gave notice of their intention, who, on being valued, have not the means. The number discharged since my last report is three.

11. I cannot positively state how the whole of the apprentices, who have purchased their freedom, have employed themselves; I only know of a few, those having hired themselves to their old masters, and are receiving wages; those, I must state, are in general tradesmen who formerly belonged to the estate.

12. The prospect for the ensuing crop cannot at the present time be well ascertained, as in this district the planters depend mostly on the rains that come in with the northerly winds, which may now be daily expected. My district lies on the sea-shore, and we seldom receive any benefit from the southerly rains. The season within the last fortnight has been most favourable, and the appearance at present luxuriant. I can say that, on every estate in my district, the proprietors, or attornies, have put in a much greater quantity of canes than were in before; on some estates as much as 60 acres of canes have been planted this year; and on the smallest, not less than 10 acres, with the additional quantity of cane land; and the seasons proving favourable, I should certainly count on an increase of produce, allowing for the difference in the hours of working, agreeably to the Abolition Law; and I understand this is generally expected in this quarter.

13. In answer to this, I do most anxiously suggest to his Excellency the formation of a school in this district, for the education of the children of all classes. There are two villages in my district, viz. Rio Bueno and Duncan's; in both there are a number of young children without a teacher of any kind. I have often heard the free people regret the want of a school, as they would most gladly send their children to be educated. While the Rev. Mr. Vine lived at Arcadia Great-house, he kept a school for the younger branches of all classes, under the care of Mrs. Vine. On Sundays Mr. Vine instructed the adults in reading, and also in hearing their catechism after church service. Since Mr. Vine has left Arcadia, we have no school within six miles, nor a place of worship within four of my house, which is situated in the very centre of my district.

I beg leave to call his Excellency's attention to the state of the cultivation of the negro grounds. Provisions are daily getting more scarce; in fact, provisions can but scantily be procured for any price; the markets are but slenderly supplied, and what are brought to market sell at very high prices, so much so that it is almost impossible that the small planters can purchase sufficient to maintain themselves. From every information I have been enabled to gather, the negroes have abandoned their mountain grounds, and trust to jobbing and their garden around their houses. Provisions are at present mostly brought from the parish of St. Ann's, and from the small settlers of the mountain district of this parish.

(signed) C. Hawkins, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 42, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from W. F. Marlton, Esq., Special Justice, to Sir Lionel Smith.

Sir,

Bishop Mount, St. Mary's, 31 October 1836.

I HAVE the honour to forward my report for the quarter ending 30th ultimo, and to state to your Excellency that my absence from the district, in attendance on the duties of the commission in St. Thomas in the Vale, prevented my transmitting the quarterly report by the first post in October.

The conduct of the apprentices in my district, since my last quarterly report, has been in general exemplary; they have been industrious and contented, performing their duties under the law to the satisfaction of their managers. I must not omit to state to your Excellency, that in this district we do not adhere to the Abolition Law strictly. During this year the work has been carried on by a mutual understanding between the managers and apprentices; the latter, having the half Friday, or alternate Friday out of crop, with a good allowance of "salt," so termed, and other old indulgences, readily give up some time in return. My earnest endeavour has been to convince both parties that their interest is "conciliation;" and I attribute the willingness with which the apprentices perform their labour to the good understanding which at present exists between master and apprentice. Prudent managers rarely have occasion for the interference of the special justice; and I can safely say, with one or two exceptions, the overseers now see the advantage of departing from the old system of management. In this district the nine hour system prevails, but the labourers in the long days work more than nine hours, and that cheerfully, understanding

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as they do that they have their old allowances; one half-hour for breakfast and two at mid-day are generally allowed as hours of rest. Task-work is not resorted to in this district, nor have I attempted to enforce it, such a mode of labour being contrary to the Abolition Law. The apprentices, termed jobbers, are expected to dig a certain number of cane-holes, and during the pimento season half a barrel is considered a day's work for an able picker. I have no doubt the apprentices would prefer task-work, were they satisfied no advantage would be taken by imposing too much on them.

The labourers are eager to obtain money; they now have confidence in their managers, and readily work for wages. I am generally appealed to for the purpose of arranging between the parties, and I have considered, on the large properties, that the manager should expect the mill to be kept about for 16 or 18 hours daily, during five days in the week; that the spell-hands at the mill should receive 6s. 8d. per week, with their fish and other old indulgences. I have impressed on the apprentices that 1s. 8d. per diem is a fair remuneration for mill-labour, but in digging cane-holes they obtain 3s. 4d. for 70 holes. There are many apprentices on properties who depend on wages, in place of working their grounds for support. When the mills are not about, many of these people commit trespasses on the grounds of their neighbours. The prevailing offences are, trespass on provision ground and cane-pieces; absence from work and impudence to the constables; but I find they are generally committed by the same set of delinquents. The apprentices, being conversant with the law, are not disposed to make frivolous complaints; forbearance on both sides has been seen to be the interest of all parties. The negro grounds have suffered much from the very dry season; the labourers appear to prefer the cultivation of their gardens to their grounds; but the latter are sufficiently well worked for all their purposes.

The season having been unusually dry, the canes suffered severely from want of rain; the crop next year may be deficient in consequence, but the managers do not blame the "system," as the cultivation has not suffered from want of labour.

The free children are entirely under the care and control of their parents; I have met with only one instance of inability in the parent to maintain the child. They have the most decided aversion to let the free children do any work for the estate; being young, they are easily supported by their parents. The managers generally afford assistance in the way of medicine to the sick free children; on only one estate in my district are they attended by the medical practitioner, which is by an arrangement between the master and apprentices. The free children are clothed and attended in the same manner as the other labourers; for this and the old allowances the apprentices give up the half day per week. The only plan of education, in my opinion, likely to prove successful is the establishing places for instruction on the estates; the young people and the free children cannot be spared to attend any place at a distance. Saturday in each week could be devoted entirely to the education of the young people; but I am sorry to say there is a want of attention to this subject, caused, in my opinion, by the fear of the planters that after the apprenticeship the negroes will not work. In my district there is a church, a kirk, and there are three chapels for dissenters, which are well attended, I understand; but there is no free-school for apprentices. The instruction they receive is from the missionaries, who attend the properties and see the people during the day, generally at mid-day, their interval of rest. The apprentices are very desirous of purchasing their discharge; the high price placed on their services too often proves a bar to the payment of the sum awarded. The special magistrate has only one voice in three, and labours under great difficulty in valuation cases. A great many discharges are effected by the friends of the party, who apply to have his or her services valued; rarely does the man or the woman pay the money from their own savings. When apprentices are dissatisfied, they apply to some person to advance the valuation money, and then undertake to work out the sum awarded, by binding themselves to the party advancing the money. Those who obtain their discharges by means of their husbands, &c., generally reside with them on the property, and turn higglers and petty chapmen. Two-and-twenty valuations have been effected in this district during the quarter, leaving twelve unpaid whose services were valued. I have every reason to believe that the apprenticed labourers are contented, and patiently waiting for their approaching freedom. They naturally seek to obtain as much as they can for their extra labour. The well-disposed see that punishment is only for the ill-disposed, and where the apprentices are liberally treated by their managers, no magistrate is required.

There is a most deplorable want of attention to the principles of prison discipline in this parish; sending people to the house of correction in Port Maria is a degradation, without effecting any reform; the mere chaining together and working in the same gang so many persons of different sexes and ages, convicted of various degrees of misconduct and crime, appears the only end effected in the house of correction. It is quite beyond my power, as a special justice, to effect any alteration in the system of correctional discipline in the house of correction, being a parochial institution.

I also consider it my duty to call the attention of your Excellency to the very defective state of the Abolition Law of this island. The 44th clause provides for the disposal of inferior misdemeanors, &c. The 26th clause of the Act in aid limits the power of the special justice over apprentices; under the 44th clause of the Abolition Act, to cases where one local justice could take cognizance of and punish offences committed by a free man. The 49th clause of the Abolition Law protects the apprentice against injury from the employer, and other clauses protect the employer, so that "assault" from either of the parties is cognizable and punishable by me; but if one apprentice assaults another, I have no jurisdiction under the 44th clause of the Abolition Law, because, under the 26th clause of the Act in aid, I can only act where one local justice could act, and the law requires two in cases of assault. Again, if an apprentice

tice trespasses on the grounds of another, I can substitute the Abolition Law for the Trespass Act; but if the apprentice enters the house of the other and takes away his allowance of fish for the week, I have no power. The interest of the master and welfare of the apprentice would be secured by giving the special justice power to adjudicate in cases of petty theft, embracing all offences committed on property and person to a certain extent. The good conduct of the apprentices is best secured by prompt trial and punishment for delinquencies, and justice is brought home to the door of the apprentice, in place of sending him to seek redress in a higher court, entailing expense beyond his means, and often amounting to a denial of justice. I trust your Excellency will believe that the above observations relative to the law are founded on the difficulty I have found by experience which attends the administration of justice by the special magistrates, and that the apprentices would be more secure from depredation had we the power to adjust such differences.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *W. F. Marlton*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 43, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *Henry Walsh*, Esq., Special Justice, to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Windsor, 1 November 1836,  
Salt Gut, P. O.

Enclosure 43,  
in No. 558.

Your Excellency,

I HAVE the honour to make you my quarterly report. I am proud to be enabled to confirm all my former reports, and to state that the apprentices still continue to do well; they have far surpassed the understanding of weak, desponding men.

In some instances the most friendly and mutual confidence exists between the masters and the labourers, but such benevolence arises out of this particular channel,—wherever the proprietor is located amongst the labourers, the most social harmony exists; but on the other hand, where the estate is intrusted to a tyrannical attorney and an immoral overseer, the greatest discord prevails, with various growing evils, and a total ruin as to the future. This is the most direful calamity for the absentee; and it can no longer be denied by any, but that unless the absentees and merchants of England arise from lethargy, and discharge these gentlemen by wholesale from the estates, and place moral men, “who will act with united efforts to further the mighty cause of humanity and civilization,”—I tell your Excellency, and that publicly, unless this is done, and quickly, that the absentees’ properties in this island will not be worth 20 s. per acre in the fee-simple at the end of the year 1840.

My reasons are simple, but true; the labourers will locate with the resident proprietors, and they have all plenty of cane and provision land for them.

The resident proprietors will make plenty of sugar, and at a much cheaper rate than now; the labour on such estates will be in abundance.

I say this from experience, as the apprentices declare that it is their intention to locate with the resident gentlemen when free; and it is but natural to expect that in such an event, when freemen will be at liberty to seek their own masters, the educated and benevolent will get the decided preference over the immoral and irreligious.

I have not the slightest hesitation in saying, without any doubt, that unless the absentee immediately sees to his present and future growing interest, that at the termination of the apprenticeship, the estates intrusted to the lovers of slavery will be deserted.

I am induced to say that the labourers give the masters all and every obligation that they are by law entitled to.

We work on the eight hour system in my district, but the labourers prefer the nine hour system, they being then entitled to half a day in the week in addition to Saturday, to earn money for themselves, and for which they cheerfully labour in their own time, and a good labourer generally earns 2 s. 6 d. per day at cane-hole digging, that is to say, at the rate of 6 d. sterling for 20 cane-holes. In some instances I have known the labourer to earn 4 s. sterling on his Saturday at cane-hole digging; but the former would be found the constant average without injury to health.

We cannot well task the labourers to work in my district, but I have not met any opposition to such a mode on the part of the apprentices.

With reference to former and usual allowances to the slaves, such as “salt,” I regret to bring under your notice that Mr. ——— has not met the views of humanity on this important point, and I am, and have been, for these twelve months past, obliged to be rigid with that gentleman in the faithful discharge of the trust reposed in me by Government. I am sorry to remark that no steps have been as yet taken on the part of the legislature of this island to educate the apprentices or their free offspring; any advance made amongst that class of society is to be attributed to the missionaries, who are most zealous in the cause of Christianity; their fidelity can no longer be denied or obstructed.

Many of the labourers that obtained freedom by purchase have located with the proprietors, and they appear to be confidential and industrious.

The discharges to the apprentices would be more frequent only for the high valuations; the planters value the labourers higher as the term of apprenticeship decreases; this error is not yet forcibly impressed on them as bad policy. I will give you one instance to prove the folly of such a mode:—the labourers present at valuations hear the overseer and other masters swear that the labourer is worth 3 s. 4 d. per day, and at such he is valued for the

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term of apprenticeship, not calculating for chance of death or sickness, and altogether forgetting the impolitic act of raising the understanding of the apprentices as to present and future labour: this error will meet its own death.

The crops in my district have most materially suffered by the late extraordinary dry weather; such, I am informed, has not been known in this parish (St. Mary's) for 40 years.

With respect to increase and decrease of crime generally in the island of Jamaica, I beg to emphatically deny that crime has increased at all; I admit that many cases went before the grand court; but I call your Excellency's attention to the courts of quarter sessions, and I relate that very few cases indeed will appear, if any. An alarm is, I am well aware, endeavouring to be raised in the minds of the English people, and I am sorry to observe that on this point appears to me a deep political intrigue, and one that calls on me to state fearlessly my own opinions. Crime in this country was formerly hidden to a certain extent, and in like manner hiddenly punished: in former days, if a slave stole a few canes, or I would see one appropriating, say took a few canes, it was not considered an offence; but now every thing is high treason, and this can only be remedied by religion, education and age, in the existing laws, and such addition as the British Government may judge expedient to a new peasantry uneducated.

It is now beyond question that the reason of the well working of the past apprenticeship years is entirely owing to the indefatigable nerves of the Marquis of Sligo; and it is quite evident that the apprentices promise fairly to prove to the world the wisdom of the British Parliament, by a triumphant success in industry and civilization.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Henry Walsh*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 44, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Sydney Lambert*, Esq., Special Justice,  
to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

South-east Division, St. Mary's, 30 September 1836.

Enclosure 44,  
in No. 558.

In obedience to your circular order of the 23d instant, I have the honour to report, in relation to the state of the district of this parish under my charge, that with the exception of one case, that of a combined opposition to the eight hour system of labour, nothing has occurred during the past quarter to disturb the general tranquillity and order on the part of the apprenticed population, though, in consequence of this same occurrence, an increase, as compared with the preceding corresponding period, appears in the number of offences committed, which in other cases are principally composed of individual instances of absence and insolence.

On taking a general view of the conduct of the apprentices, a mutual good feeling between them and their employers seems evident, as indicated by an increasing disposition on the part of the labourer to employ his own time for a consideration, which is readily given at the rate (when engaged by time agreement) of about 2*d.* per hour; but if the arrangement be as so much for a stated quantity of work, from 3*s.* 4*d.* to 5*s.* per day are earned with facility.

Task-work is in many instances eagerly sought by the apprentices, and where, from the nature of the employment, it becomes adoptable, is readily granted by the master, on terms that enable the able-bodied workman to complete his week's work at a very early period, in some instances on Wednesday evening, or frequently on Thursday, whereby he is encouraged to a system of hard labour, which is fully recompensed by the profit arising on the cultivation of provision grounds every where in this district maintained in good order, or by the money-wages they have the opportunity of earning from their master.

With respect to the state of the labour in this district (principally devoted to the cultivation of coffee) as compared with last year, no material difference is apparent, though it must be remarked that the crops will fall very short of that gathered in the past season.

The hours employed in labour are principally from six A. M. to four o'clock P. M., one hour being allowed for breakfast; in some instances labour is continued till six o'clock P. M., allowing a cessation of three hours in the middle of the day; but to close the day's work at four o'clock is the system preferred by the apprentices, who still uniformly receive the same indulgences as in the time of slavery, with the exception of a pecuniary bounty frequently paid to women at the time of their delivery.

The free children as yet remain in a state of utter idleness, in which they are supported by their parents, who, though in some instances they are provided with clothing and ordinary supplies by the estate for this part of the population, exhibit a great reluctance to their application to any useful employment.

In this, the windward interior division of the parish, are situated a chapel of the establishment, capable of containing 1,000 persons, and one also attached to the mission of the church of Scotland; the former with a Sunday-school of about 100 scholars; the pastor of the latter giving instruction to about 450 persons in a daily and weekly school. Thus 550 individuals are receiving education; but there is good reason in the belief, that were the accommodation in the church, which has been recently much enlarged, still greater, the attendance would be commensurate; and that could the means be provided in the establishment of district schools, a corresponding increase would be found in the number of the apprenticed scholars.

The desire on the part of the apprentices to purchase their discharge is limited in the extreme,

extreme, though not without most ample means; only three cases of discharge by purchase have been effected during as many months in a population of upwards of 4,400 apprentices, as, in most instances, the parties so discharged betake themselves to the cultivation of provision grounds.

I beg leave to close this report by submitting to your consideration the establishment throughout the heights of the island of a line of gun-signal stations, from whence the announcement of the rising and the setting of the sun to the great body of the apprentices would go far to disabuse their minds of an impression too often entertained, that injustice is done them by their manager when announcing the commencement and close of the legal hours of labour: an advantage to which, independent of many other benefits to be derived from this establishment of rapid communication, of which the intimation to the leeward districts of the arrival of the home packet would not be the least, I feel induced to attach a degree of considerable importance.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. Sydney Lambert*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 45, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *Edward Dacres Baynes*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to  
Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Aylmer's, St. John's, 13 October 1836.

I HAVE the honour to forward my quarterly general report on the state of this parish. In drawing it up, I have, for the sake of perspicuity, often embraced in one reply the subjects of several queries, where the points under consideration either run naturally into or are necessarily dependent on others.

1. The conduct of the apprentices has, I regret extremely to say, been less satisfactory in this district during the late quarter than that preceding it. There is a visible diminution in the quantity of labour afforded to the persons by law entitled to their services; even the cultivation of their own provision grounds has fallen off; and with, in most instances, a day and a half to themselves in the week, favoured by propitious seasons, they often complain that they have nothing to eat. It is now becoming a matter of daily occurrence with me, to be under the necessity of directing their managers to put their grounds in order for them. For this loss of labour, as well as for making up for deficiency of work, and repayment in cases of absence and desertion, the proprietor can only be compensated from the time allotted to the apprentice. The provision of the Abolition Law, according, in such cases, under sentence of the special magistrate, 15 hours of extra labour weekly to the master, is a dead letter. When days are shortest here, they do not exceed 11 hours. The work required on the sugar estates is so laborious, that two hours is a scanty portion of repose for the negro, the whole of whose own time does not, at this period of the year, in consequence, amount to much more than 13 hours and a half. Now, except in instances of putting provision grounds in order, when both justice and example require that every minute of the defaulter's time should be ceded to him who is doing his work for him, no magistrate has, I believe, except under very peculiar circumstances, been in the habit of taking more than one day in each fortnight from the apprentice; this day, under the eight hour system, has unavoidably been the Saturday. Working, as at present, nine hours, the delinquent may reasonably be sentenced to 13 hours and a half, or a day and a half in alternate weeks; and this, I think, should be the maximum, unless in cases in which the master may be ordered to find him food. To revert to the conduct of the negro population: I observe that they are daily divesting themselves of that small portion of respect with which they have hitherto treated their superiors; nor is this confined to their masters and managers, but extends to all white people in general.

2, 3, 7. I certainly attribute this unfavourable state of things to an utter want of good and kindly feelings between the employer and the employed in this district; I speak generally, for there are, doubtless, exceptions; but too often, I lament to say, all community or reciprocity of interests is disregarded by both parties; whilst the one would exact, the other will afford as little as he can. The scanty, the, unfortunately, too scanty provision directed by the law; a few yards of Osnaburgh, some very coarse cloth and a hat, the whole not exceeding 10s. sterling in value, is meted out on many estates with parsimonious exactness, as the legal allowance of clothing for an apprentice during a whole year. The check and other stuffs allowed during slavery as body linen; the caps, handkerchiefs and knives; the very scissors, thimbles and needles, formerly given to the women, are withheld; and what they complain of still more bitterly, their weekly dole of salt fish is no longer granted to them. This, though not always the case, is too generally so. Those employers who wisely scorn this miserable saving are amply repaid by alacrity, industry and good-will from the negro. What those who pursue a different course, who are only known to their dependents by the rigid exaction of daily labour, expect, I cannot say; but I know what they find—idleness, opposition, ill-will and disrespect. The produce of the estate yearly diminishes, and will continue, under such management, to do so until the expiration of the apprenticeship, when an estate without a hand to cultivate it will be all that will be left to the proprietor. Such conduct is as short-sighted for the future as unprofitable at present; hence suspicion and bad feeling on the part of the apprentice responded to, too surely, by exasperation and retaliation on that of the manager. After the reports it has been lately my painful duty to make to the executive of this colony, and after considerably more than two years' acquaintance with the

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respective views and feelings of parties so opposed to each other by principle, prejudice and colour, I may perhaps be borne out in hazarding the foregoing observations, the more so as I am suffering great inconvenience in labouring under prosecutions, originating solely, as I conscientiously believe, in this mutual animosity between the apprentice and the person entitled to his services. I, who have had no other object in view than to ensure and compel a reciprocal observance of duties and obligations between them, have, in a measure, become the victim—at least, the object of attack of that party which ought to possess more discretion and moderation. I have been virulently prosecuted and pursued for no other reasons than for watching carefully over the execution of my own sentences, and removing the disgusting collar and chain from females unconvicted of any offence, and only sent to the house of correction as suspected runaways for detention; some of whom were kept chained by the neck, though grievously sick in the hospital, if that can be called a hospital, where the sole accommodation is a bare bed of boards without a mattress, without even a wisp of straw for the repose of the suffering patient. I shall prove in court, when the trial comes on, that some of the wretched prisoners did not for three whole days receive more than one head or four ounces of corn, with about six ounces of salt fish, for their subsistence during the whole of that time.

4. The hours of labour are, as I believe they are now generally in all parts of the island, nine hours per diem; allowing, for extremes, about four hours at the summer solstice, and about two at the period of that of the winter for relaxation.

5. Task-work is but rarely resorted to in this district, probably because the full and entire labour of the negro is expected during the hours allotted to his employer, who has, undeniably, a legal title to it.

6, 10, 11. It is by no means common for the apprentices in this parish to work in their own time for money; on some properties, however, they take wages. Two shillings and sixpence currency per diem, for ordinary labour, is the average; but for certain descriptions of employment it is much higher; for example, Mr. Lord, of Bowerwood, has refused to hire his people to Mr. Duncan Hamilton, of Retreat, for less than 2s. 11d. per day; Mr. Burrel, of Vere, will not take less than 3s. 4d. daily for common jobbing; and Mr. Thorpe, of Phoenix and Haughton Hall, requires 3s. 9d. Under these circumstances, and the increasing price of sugar, which will of course have a corresponding effect on wages, it is preposterous to expect that sugar can be cultivated in this island in considerable quantity, for exportation, after the expiration of the apprenticeship. Hence it arises, too, that the apprentice is not very anxious to purchase his discharge. As a freeman, he might cultivate a portion of land for himself; but he would consider it beneath him to hire himself out, even at such wages; in fact, he only purchases his freedom to avoid the humiliation attached, in his opinion, to field labour on the sugar estates. The valuation of an able apprentice in this district averages 2s. 6d. per diem. If this high rate be an evil, it is one that will increase; and if a maximum be not fixed by Government—and I do not see how it can be done with equitable reference to the rights of all parties—the proportionate value will next year exceed that of the present. The worth of the services of the apprentice must and will continue to be regulated by the price of labour in the market, and that is daily increasing, as I have shown above. The demand for jobbing is so great that the jobbing proprietor will ask, and obtain, the highest possible wages that the price of sugar will enable the cultivator to give. Sugar continues to rise, so will wages, and so will the valuations set upon apprentices. If things go on at this rate, the daily price of labour will be 5s. before the expiration of the apprenticeship; 3s. 4d. is even at present a very moderate demand; some kinds of labour are vastly higher; 11l. per acre is a common demand for digging cane-holes. I subjoin the calculation, giving 5s. 8d. per diem:

Square Feet in an Acre.	Cane-holes, 4 Feet square.	No. of Holes in 1 Acre.	Daily Task, 1 Hand.	Days' Labour.
43,560	÷ 16	= 2,722	÷ 70	= 39, nearly.

£. 11, or 220s. ÷ 39 = 5s. 8d., nearly, for a day's wages.

This high rate of wages tends also to prevent the increase and growth of kindly feelings between masters and servants; the former conceiving, and with too much reason, that the cultivation of sugar for exportation cannot be carried on after the apprenticeship, turn all their attention to the present, and rack to the utmost the land and the negro for produce and labour, in order to take advantage of the existing state of the sugar market. Hence, too, employers, in many instances, resort to every saving, however despicable, and are careless of conciliating the good feelings of those whose services they believe they will be unable to obtain hereafter. If this is the fact, even with the owners of the soil, the motive acts still more strongly on the representative of the absent proprietor. Four years more, and the tree which now yields him its golden fruit will be felled; for then, the slow operation of turning the capability of the land in another direction, and laboriously recovering its utility by the cultivation and growth of other produce, though the impoverished owner may be constrained, for a livelihood, to bend his attention that way, will not and cannot suit those who look only to their yearly commissions, who have already reaped their harvest, and, having nothing further to gain, will never risk the loss of what they have already acquired. To return to the purchase of their discharge by the apprentices: none have been effected in this district since my last report. As I have said above, the average value of an able hand is 2s. 6d. per diem, which for his 232 working days in the year will give 29l.; deducting one-third from this amount for contingencies, a net sum of 18l. 6s. 8d. is left, which, for the three

three years and nine months of the apprenticeship to run, gives 68*l.* 15*s.* Now, in addition to his depriving himself of this large sum, the purchaser of his discharge loses also his house, garden, provision grounds, medical assistance, and the portion of clothes, small as it is, allowed him by his master. When he once becomes a freeman, the novel charms of repose keep him in idleness for a long period; or he sits down on a spot of land from which he cares only to draw a subsistence, and no more. No instance of an emancipated apprentice having hired himself out, either for the cultivation or manufacture of sugar, has come to my knowledge; he considers such labour, and especially field-labour, as below his new condition. Let us now look to the other side of the question, and suppose he keeps his money, and when free by law, in 1840, purchases land with it. Fine virgin soil may be had in almost every parish in the island for 2*l.* the acre; he acquires 25 or 30 acres; in 30 days he erects a comfortable dwelling-house; his ground supplies him with all the materials; he clears pimento, or plants coffee, arrow-root, ginger or cocoa. In a year or two, with the assistance of his wife and children if industrious, his land will yield him 5*l.* per acre annually, besides an abundant subsistence, for his family. I have spoken above of the houses, ground, &c., allowed to the apprentice; it may be as well to look to their real value, for this is one of the rods which the master now shakes over the heads of his dependents, and he often relies on it for ensuring him the labour of his apprentice hereafter. I have shown that virgin land may be bought at 2*l.* per acre; I have purchased a few acres of pimento in bearing for 3*l.*, on which I am erecting, by contract, a house for a watchman; it will be larger and more comfortable than the generality of negro-houses, and will cost, when complete, 9*l.* The grounds cultivated on estates by apprentices do not average more than three-fourths of an acre—let us grant a whole one—and we shall see how fragile a reed the planter relies on for compelling the negro to serve him after 1840.

An acre of land 2 <i>l.</i> , at 10 per cent. per annum - - - - -	£. s. d.
House and garden, say 10 <i>l.</i> , at ditto - ditto - - - - -	- 4 -
Medical assistance (ordinary price) - - - - -	1 - -
Value of allowances ordered by law - - - - -	- 5 -
	- 16 8
TOTAL value of all advantages derivable at present to } the negro from his master - - - - - }	£. 2 5 8

We have here 2*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*, the amount of 18 days' labour, for the full value which the apprentice receives as a compensation for his services. He is too shrewd, too calculating, for I perceive no natural inferiority to the white man, to give hereafter a greater return for the above accommodation than it is actually worth; if molested, he will change his quarters.

8, 9. The condition of the free children calls for the immediate attention of the Imperial Parliament. In the third year of emancipation, the local legislature have done literally nothing for their improvement and instruction; they run naked about the negro villages, insufficiently fed by their parents, untaught to do any thing for themselves or others, and acquiring all manner of bad habits. Unless something is done at once on this all-important head, these children will, at the expiration of the apprenticeship, and for years afterwards, become a burthen and a pest to the community. In my report, forwarded in December last, I made a few observations on this subject, and hinted a plan, the expense of which seems to be its chief objection. In the same return I made a report of the means of education and religious instruction existing in this parish, which are lamentably deficient, not being adequate to the accommodation of one-tenth of the population; it would be strange, under these circumstances, if the different places of worship were not attended by comparatively numerous congregations.

12. The prospects of the ensuing crop are not so favourable as those of last year were at the corresponding period; the cultivation, also, seems somewhat inferior, though the seasons have been propitious. A considerable falling off of the staples may be expected.

13. I have a few suggestions to offer, and, having dwelt on some of the principal causes affecting and impeding the free operation of the system, would hazard the recommendation of several remedial as well as prospective practical measures, but, having already exceeded the usual limits of similar communications, I shall reserve these for my next report.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Edward Dacres Baynes*, Special Magistrate.

Enclosure 46, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *Henry Waddington*, Esq., Special Justice,  
to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,  
In submitting my quarterly report of the general state of this district, I request a reference to the answers to the questions, commencing No. 1.

1. Since my last report, under date 30th June, the apprentices, with a few exceptions, have conducted themselves with order and propriety.

2. There is no want of good feeling between them and their employers.

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3. They

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3. They do not perform their work unwillingly, but several complaints have been made of insufficiency of labour and of work badly performed.

4. The working hours on most of the properties are nine, from sun-rise till sun-set; out of which three hours are allowed for relaxation in the long days; but as the days shorten, the time for rest is also reduced in proportion.

5. Task-work is resorted to in digging cane-holes; in clearing bush, trashing, moulding and cleaning canes, there appears to be an objection on the part of the employers, under the plea that the work would be neglected or badly performed.

6. On some properties the apprentices will work in their own time, at the rate of 3s. 4d. currency, or half a Spanish dollar, to dig 80 cane-holes, which is always paid in money; boilers and stokers, or firemen, will work at night for money, at the rate of 3d. per hour; some apprentices will work in their own time of shell-blow; the time to be returned.

7. None.

8. The condition of the free children is melancholy and lamentable; it is supposed that they are supported by their mothers, who will not permit them to do the slightest work; they are perfect nuisances on the properties where they reside, pilfering fruit and canes, destroying fences, worrying pigs and goats, and passing their time in filth and idleness.

9. There are nine schools, besides Sunday-schools, for the benefit of apprentices and free children; the number that attends is extremely small, the mothers of the free children appearing to object to their being instructed. I have offered to pay the expense of instruction for 50 free children, but only four have availed themselves of this offer: there are at least 600 or 700 free children in this district. The parish church is much too small; one of larger dimensions is shortly to be erected, and a chapel is in progress about ten miles distance from Port Antonio; there is also a Wesleyan chapel.

10. I do not consider there is a general desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge, several to my knowledge possessing the means, but who do not. I have assisted at nine valuations during the last three months; three only have been effected.

11. Of the three apprentices who have paid for the discharge of their apprenticeship, one, a woman, lives with a maroon; the second, a boy of 14 years of age, resides with his mother, doing nothing; and the third, an able field-labourer, who purchased his discharge a few days ago, hires himself by the day, but will not dig cane-holes.

12. Every thing connected with agriculture has improved much since I last took charge of this district in June; the prospects of the crop are very good, and the season to this time very favourable.

13. I am not aware of any practical measure to suggest at present, in any way that concerns the apprentices; neither does it appear to me that any change in their present condition is at all required; but as regards the free children, I would intimate that some course might be adopted to enforce the employment of those children, but which should be constrained by legal compulsion, the unfortunate feelings of their mothers being so much averse to permitting them to attend to the least occupation.

In the punishments awarded by me, there appears a large proportion by whipping; this is much to be lamented, but existing circumstances compelled me, the greater number of complaints preferred being for insolence and contempt of authority, trespasses on cane and provision grounds, watchmen neglecting their charge, ill-treatment of live stock, and disobedience of orders. The number of complaints and charges brought before me, during the last quarter, are nearly one-third less than those preferred in the quarter previous.

The negro grounds and gardens are generally in a state of cultivation; some truly are suffering, and others much neglected; at the present time there is a complaint of a scarcity of ground provisions.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Waddington*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 47, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *Daniel Winder Kelly*, Esq., Special Magistrate,  
to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Parish of Westmoreland, Mount Edgecombe Pen,  
Robin's River, P. O., 1 October 1836.

Sir,

Enclosure 47,  
in No. 558.

AGREEABLY to the instructions contained in your circular, No. 63, I have much pleasure in reporting, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, that the apprentices in this district continue to conduct themselves well, and are in general giving satisfaction to their several employers; with few exceptions, there appears to be a good feeling existing between the apprentice and the master; where it is not so, I attribute it principally to injudicious management.

The general number of hours' work performed daily by the apprentices in this district are nine, the apprentice getting one hour for breakfast and two for dinner. During the pimento season, the apprentice is expected to pick two bushels daily; this I have seen done by one o'clock, the rest of the day being at their own disposal.

With regard to task-work, there is none performed in this district, nor am I aware that it has been required of the apprentice.

On some properties the apprentices work for hire, the payment generally cash; but this feeling is not as prevalent as would be wished, and I think the apprentice values his time at a higher rate than the master could afford to pay. I have seen carpenters refuse 3s. 4d. per day, and I have also seen 2s. 6d. refused for digging 100 cane-holes; which work I have seen the same apprentices perform the day previous by twelve o'clock.

On most properties the same indulgences are given as formerly, such as fish, grass for their horses and cattle. On all the properties which are under the management of the Hon. M'Neil, the free children get their clothing yearly along with the apprentices, and also medical attendance and medicine, when required.

In most instances, my opinion is that the free children are brought up in idleness, and I think this is much to be attributed to the limited means of affording education. In this district there is one school, established by H. Scott, esq., of Hopeton Pen, and wholly supported at his expense. At this school there are 129 free children receiving education, and 142 apprentices, who come generally after the labours of the day are performed. This school is under the religious instruction of the Moravian minister (Mr. Collis). Mr. Scott has been at an enormous expense, and well deserves encouragement, to forward his views. There are also six other small schools in my district, all under the management of the Moravian ministers, with the exception of the Rev. Parson Sharp's school.

The apprentices attend their several places of worship with much regularity, and in most places the accommodation is not equal to the attendance.

There is evidently a great desire on the part of the apprentices to effect their discharge; those who have obtained their freedom either hire themselves or purchase a small quantity of ground, on which they work. Since my last quarterly return, twelve have effected their manumission.

There are but four sugar estates in this district, on three of which there are good prospects for the ensuing crop. The pimento returns have been as good as could be wished; the ginger in many places will turn out badly, in consequence of the incessant rains we have had this season.

In conclusion, I beg to state (as can be seen by my weekly reports) that few complaints are now brought before me, and in general those of a trifling description; and I think it may be safely stated, that the apprentices in this parish are well-disposed, and in most places working cheerfully and well.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Daniel Winder Kelly, s. m.*

Enclosure 48, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *S. Pryce, Esq.*, Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling, Esq.*

Sir,

Jamaica, Trelawny, 10 October 1836.

IN ready obedience to your commands, I have the honour to submit to his Excellency the Governor my report on this populous and important district for the quarter ending 30th ultimo.

Enclosure 48,  
in No. 558.

It will, doubtless, be satisfactory for his Excellency to learn that uninterrupted tranquillity continues to pervade this whole district, and I am happy in being able to report to his Excellency—

1. That the general conduct of the apprentices has been orderly and correct.
2. The prejudices on both sides are fast diminishing, and on many properties have totally disappeared; time alone can wholly efface the habits or prejudices of the apprentices or their managers.
3. The apprentices generally do perform their work willingly and well; but there are some exceptions; and I consider the introduction of task-work, or a fixed scale of labour, necessary, and which applies equally to the manager, the apprentices and the magistrate.  
A knowledge of the duties they have to perform creates an emulation amongst the apprentices, and stimulates them to increased exertion, and I have on all occasions considered it produced that effect.
- With a willing mind, the apprentices are, doubtless, capable of doing nearly double the quantity of work they are now performing.
4. Out of crop, in this district, we have always worked the nine hour system, and the apprentices have had the Fridays after half-past ten and eleven o'clock to themselves; they get two hours for dinner, and an hour (on most of the estates) for breakfast.
5. Task-work is not generally resorted to, though I conceive it would tend to the mutual benefit of all parties, for the reasons already assigned.
6. The apprentices eagerly dig cane-holes, in their own time, at a halfpenny per hole (about 5 l. per acre), and frequently earn 5 s. per day.  
They are not so fond of day labour at 2 s. 6 d., finding a better return from their provision grounds at present; and a further cause is, their mountain grounds having been partially neglected during the crop time, when they cheerfully devoted sixteen hours' labour daily in their masters' service for 5 s. each weekly.

There are, however, instances where they have cleaned and trashed canes for ten hours in the day for 2 s. 6 d., and given great satisfaction to their employers.

7. The apprentices, and, on many estates, the free children, receive very similar indulgences to what they did before 1st August 1834.

On some properties, the herring allowances this year have been stopped, with my concurrence; but on those estates the people are encouraged to work in their own time for money.

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I do not advocate any indulgences or allowances of any kind, which are solely under the manager's control, from an experience of its having created much bickering and ill-will between the managers and apprentices. I wish to see them independent of each other in so far as that goes, and advocate a strict adherence to the laws on both sides.

I have already had the honour to report my conviction, that the apprentices throughout this beat are well housed, well fed and well clad.

8. The free children are supported by their parents, assisted in many instances with medical aid, &c., by the managers, none of whom have been apprenticed to the proprietors, or otherwise; and I regret to report, that, generally speaking, they are growing up in ignorance, idleness and vice, though there are many instances where they are sent to school; their parents appear to be suspicious of receiving gratuitous instruction for their children from the planter, although they express a desire to have them educated; a system, combining industry with education, would be very desirable on their account.

9. My recent report shows that schools and places of worship are not at all equal to the population, nearly 10,000, exclusive of the free inhabitants.

10. There is manifestly a great desire amongst the apprentices to purchase their discharge; during the last quarter I had 25 applicants for freedom.

11. There have been more non-prædials than prædials liberated by purchase, some of whom (seven in this district) remain on the estates in confidential situations, as book-keepers and tradesmen, and are giving great satisfaction; their salary is about one-half that usually given to the whites. The young coloured females usually repair to their connexions and relations; but on the 1st August 1838, I am of opinion that many will be happy to remain on their plantations, in the pursuit of their usual avocations, for a moderate remuneration.

12. I feel a great pleasure in being able to report to his Excellency, that the seasons have been very favourable for the last 12 months; and that the cultivation of this district is in a flourishing state. It is most pleasing to witness the face of the country, which affords a very strikingly favourable contrast with that of last year, at a corresponding period, when the whole district suffered from dry weather; consequently, there can be no doubt of considerably increased returns to the last year's sugar crops every where; in this opinion I am borne out by all the planters, who, I am happy to state, together with the apprentices, have used their best exertions to obtain so desirable an end. And a complete reaction has manifestly taken place, arising, doubtless, from an entire confidence in the probationary state, in which, at the commencement of the system, great doubts were freely expressed.

13. I very humbly and respectfully submit to the consideration of his Excellency the Governor—

First. The necessity of an uniformity of working the system, by the introduction of task-work, or a scale of labour, to create emulation and excite the apprentices to exertion, which effect I have observed it invariably has produced; with a willing mind, the negroes can do nearly double the work they are now performing.

Secondly. A law to benefit the apprentices, by compelling them to work in their own time for their proprietors, alternate weeks, the half of Friday and Saturday; for which I consider they should receive 3s. 4d., or half a dollar.

Thirdly. Or at least be compelled to work on the half Fridays every week for 1s. 3d. cash, to prevent that time being spent in idleness, or worse purposes.

Fourthly. Though the cultivation of their provision grounds might benefit the apprentices at present, it may not after 1st August 1840; and the cane cultivation ought not to be neglected; and the apprentices should be taught and compelled to labour in their own cane-pieces for money during their own time, to meet the approaching valuable exigency of absolute freedom. Canes and grass are the only cultivation in this district, in which there are 35 sugar estates and seven pens and jobbing gangs, and, including small settlements, about 8,000 apprentices.

Fifthly. I very humbly suggest to his Excellency, that the apprentices should be paid monetary hire, as free labourers, for the last year (or a less time) of the probationary state, to create an imaginary want; but at a rate 25 per cent., or even 50, below what would be offered to them when they became free men—I mean the able portion of them, whose services would be put in requisition after 1840.

Sixthly. One-half of the present aggregate number of people on estates will only be required to labour for hire after 1840; and it is agreed that 100 apprentices, adults and children will produce at least 100 tons of sugar; and I beg very respectfully to submit to his Excellency's consideration the statement adjoined, marked (A.), in prospectus.

It is a pleasing duty to report to his Excellency a total absence of any complaints against the managers; and that the number of complaints on either side is fast diminishing. Assuring his Excellency of my continued zeal and best exertions under the law for the benefit of the planters, the apprentices and the island in this district,

I have, &c.

(signed) S. Pryce, Special Justice.

STATEMENT (A.) in Prospectus.

Wages to 100 apprentices, adults and children, 200 days at 1 s. 3 d., or 12 l. 10 s.	£.	s.	d.
- - - - -	1,250	-	-
All other expenses and contingencies	1,250	-	-
	<hr/>		
	£.	s.	d.
Value of 100 tons of sugar - - - - -	3,500	-	-
40 puncheons of rum - - - - -	600	-	-
	<hr/>		
	4,100	-	-
	<hr/>		
Leaving for the proprietor, annually	£.	1,600	- - sterling.

52 weeks in the year,  
less 12 weeks, 1st of every month, of 5 days and 10 hours daily, for rent of houses,  
— gardens and grounds,  
leaves 40 weeks, or 200 days, to pay for annually, at 1 s. 3 d. sterling per day, on the average  
of adults and children.  
Free labour - - - 52 weeks, 260 days, or 2,600 hours.  
Old system - - - 52 weeks, 260 days, or 2,860 hours, or 26 days more than new  
system: viz.

52 weeks	
6	
<hr/>	
312 days	
26 alternate Saturdays	26
	<hr/>
286	10
26 for sickness	<hr/>
	260 hours.
260	
11	
<hr/>	
2,860 hours.	

Enclosure 49, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *Stephen Bourne*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir, Grecian Regale, St. Andrew's, 10 Oct. 1836.

IN obedience to his Excellency's instructions, I forward to you the quarterly report of the state of the district allotted to me by the late governor.

Enclosure 49,  
in No. 558.

The general conduct of the apprentices, since the commencement of my duties as special justice, has been as good (I am inclined to think better) than that of English or Irish peasants would have been under the same circumstances. Their vices are the vices which are the natural and almost necessary consequence of their education and their training. I believe they do more work than the same number of English families would do, if they were removed from their own country to this. Their education has been but little attended to, and the examples which have been presented to them by the better instructed have not been such in general as every well-wisher to mankind must have desired that they should have been. I have found the apprentices, with scarcely an exception, respectful to the magistrate, and, in general, obedient to the law. I wish I could say as much of all the overseers and book-keepers I have met with.

I cannot say that there is no want of good feeling between the apprentices and their employers; but in general there is much more than I should have expected, considering the situation of both parties previous to the extraordinary change which the Abolition Law has made in the condition of both. As I have observed in a former report, where there are reasonable proprietors, honest attorneys, diligent overseers, civil and accurate book-keepers, and constables whose humane and respectable characters have secured the confidence of the apprentices under their charge, there are very few complaints. In all such cases the apprentices are easily managed, and the magistrate has only to say, "How d'ye" to the manager. I state this with confidence, as the result of a close observation of the people of my district for nearly two years.

The working hours were, with, I believe, only three exceptions, from six A. M. to four P. M. allowing one hour out of this for meals; and since his Excellency's circular, I understand that in these the nine hour system has been adopted.

Task-work is not common in my district, which I ascribe principally to the nature of the country, and the difficulty of settling the proper quantity of labour to be performed, where the state of the weather and the quality of the soil are so variable. The frequent change of overseers and book-keepers presents a great obstacle to such arrangements, because, as soon

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as a man acquires the requisite knowledge of the state of the country and the people to be able to propose a satisfactory arrangement, it frequently happens that he is removed from the property, and a stranger is put in charge, who expects more or less, according to his habits, feelings and previous situation. I think it would not be difficult for a magistrate, who has the confidence of the apprentices, to settle an arrangement for task-work with them wherever the overseer might be disposed to make a just and, therefore, satisfactory one. There is a case in my eye in which an offer was made within the last fortnight to the apprentices to clean a certain number of coffee-trees every day; some of the most skilful and industrious of the people went to their work before daylight (for the purpose of taking advantage of the October rains to clean and plant their own grounds), and they finished their work early in the day. The overseer then wished to bind the whole gang, not to do the same quantity, but so much as he conceived the ablest people might have done had they worked the full time. The apprentices considered themselves tricked and ill-treated, and have refused to enter into any arrangement for task-work on any terms.

It is usual for those apprentices, who can do so without neglecting their own grounds (and thereby parting with the means of providing for the wants of themselves and their families) to work for money-wages in their own time, either for their owners or other persons. They are paid, in some instances, 1*s.* sterling, in others, 1*s.* 3*d.*, 1*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.* per day, depending, of course, on their own abilities, and the occasion for their services on the part of their employers. Carpenters and masons generally receive 3*s.* sterling per day; but even these, in the season, and near to the markets for the sale of provisions, prefer to work their own grounds.

On several estates in my district, the indulgences, which were, as I understand, supplied under the old system, have been withheld, always, as I conceive, to the disadvantage of the proprietor.

The free children are supported by their parents, with the assistance, in a few cases, of their masters; they appear to me to be well fed; but as there are no schools within their reach, and they are too young for labour, I do not conceive how they can be educated or employed.

There are two places of worship in my district, one a chapel of ease, and the other connected with the Church Missionary Society; in the first, there is one service on every alternate Sunday, and in the other every Sunday; but the accommodations for religious instruction are not by any means adequate to the wants or disposition of the people. I understand that the negroes are in the habit of holding evening meetings (which are called prayer-meetings) on most of the estates; but in the whole of my district, I have not been able to find ten apprentices who could read the Bible with propriety. I consider that the means of instruction already offered to the people are not at all commensurate with their necessities; and whilst these are withheld, their quiet, orderly and good behaviour is more than could have been anticipated. It is my most anxious desire to have at least one school of industry established in my district; I am thoroughly convinced that more good would result from such an institution than from any other instrumentality that could be employed.

The apprentices are generally desirous of purchasing their discharge; but although many valuations have recently been made, few have been effected, in consequence of the high price which the local magistrates are disposed to put upon them. Two local magistrates being necessarily associated with one special justice, they have the power of fixing the price, or preventing the valuation. They seem generally disposed to calculate the value according to that which they have to pay for jobbers in cases of urgent necessity. The number of discharges during the last quarter has been only two, which I ascribe entirely to the high price insisted on by the local magistrates.

The apprentices who have purchased their discharge generally employ themselves in cultivating their own grounds or those of their families, or in supplying the market with provisions, which they purchase from the estates. The single women frequently hire themselves out as domestic servants, there being a constant demand for good servants, and most sensible people preferring to be served by those whom they can dismiss in case of misbehaviour.

With regard to the ensuing crop, the prospects both of coffee and provisions were very indifferent until the late rains; but I have reason to hope that they are not too late for many of the estates in this district, although, I fear, that on several plantations the long-continued drought will be very injurious; I have no grounds for supposing that the properties in this district are not as well cultivated as they ever were under the old system.

I have already stated that schools of industry, more places of worship, and the encouragement of married persons as overseers, would, I think, materially promote the permanent interests of the colony. I apprehend that a more equal and convenient division of the country into districts, so as to place the magistrate in the centre of his district, and within the reach of every estate, without any considerable loss of time in travelling, either to the magistrate, the overseer or the apprentice,—a small number of policemen stationed close to the residence of each magistrate, instead of their being, as now, at such a distance as to render them comparatively useless,—would greatly contribute to the well working of the apprenticeship system.

I understood, before I left England, that the island had been so divided, and the magistrates so apportioned, as that no one of them would have to travel more than about six miles from his home to the farthest estate; on the contrary, I, who have one of the least extensive districts

districts (the roads being mountainous and bad), have periodically to ride eight hours, in the heat of the day, to visit one or two estates, on which there are sometimes no complaints; whilst the magistrate of another district has the same distance to ride in order to come within half an hour's ride of my residence.

There are no policemen stationed in my district, and I have to send several miles out of it when I have occasion for their services, so that to me they are only available in extraordinary cases.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Stephen Bourne*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 50, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *C. Hamilton*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Petersfield, Port Royal, 30 September 1836.

I HAVE the honour of reporting, for his Excellency's information, that perfect tranquillity prevails in this district; and that, in very many cases, as much labour is now performed as formerly, and with greater cheerfulness and satisfaction. Indeed, I consider that a good feeling seems to predominate generally between the apprentices and their managers, with the exception of one or two instances of managers having held out threats to impound the apprentices' stock, conceiving, by such undue means, to force them into their views. If, however, a proper system of management is observed, every thing would go on well. Complaints are decidedly on the decrease. The principal cause of complaints is against women for late turning out to field labour, and the lower order for trifling misdemeanors.

Enclosure 50,  
in No. 558.

It has been frequently asserted that the apprentices are indisposed to work for wages in their extra time. I am prepared to state that such indisposition proceeds from no ill feeling towards their managers; but they are impressed with the belief that tenfold advantages will accrue by the cultivation of their grounds, and consequently the generality of them adhere to that principle. If, however, they were paid in the same ratio as jobbers, they would willingly accede; but, in many cases, they are offered reduced prices for labour. I am convinced that, if the apprentices were kindly treated by their employers, and got proper wages, they would work freely.

Much has been said of the apprentices neglecting their provision grounds, and wandering about the country. This assertion is not borne out in fact, because I have had frequent opportunities of witnessing the immense loads of provisions taken to town on market days, and for their own consumption; and from the information I have derived, it would appear that provisions have been very scarce, more particularly owing to the severe drought; their grounds have been quite burnt up; but their expectations will be realized by the coming in of the new provisions. There are, however, a few worthless characters that will not work their grounds, but, strange as it may appear, they work the grounds of other apprentices.

With respect to the prospects of the present crop, I was under the impression, from my own observations, and the information I have had from experienced planters, that the crops would far exceed those of the last year, owing to the then fine seasons, and the rich and luxuriant appearance of the coffee trees throughout the district; but I very much fear, from the severe drought we have had for the last three months (with the exception of a few passing showers), that the expectation of so favourable a crop will not be fully realized. I do, however, consider the diminution (if any) will be inconsiderable. The fine rains we have had within the last week will no doubt tend to revive the fields considerably.

I take leave most respectfully to crave his Excellency's attention to the state of the free children on the different properties. They are, I regret to say, brought up in a state of absolute idleness, of no use to their parents or themselves, and no means whatever resorted to for the purpose of bringing them up to habits of industry, or in benefiting their morals. There are no places set apart for the spiritual and religious instruction of the negro population. The parish chapel being a distance of 12 miles and upwards, they in consequence resort to Kingston.

There are no means whatever of affording education to adults and infants in this district.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. Hamilton*, Special Justice.

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ANSWERS to Circular.

Craig Hill, Court-house, Port Royal, 17 October 1836.

1. WITH a few exceptions, the apprentices, having now a knowledge of the Abolition Act, conduct themselves with as much decorum as the peasantry in Europe generally.

2. In my district there is seemingly a reciprocity of good feeling existing between master and apprentice. This, however, I regret to say, is not without a few exceptions on the part of the manager,—the manager appearing to think it hard to submit to the wholesome regulations contained in the Abolition Act.



## JAMAICA.

3. It affords me pleasure to state, that the labourers in general do perform their work willingly, and when there is any unwillingness manifested, it can, in my opinion, be attributed to no other cause than that of indolence.

4. There is no violation of the Abolition Act in this case in my district, except one. The apprentice commences his labour at half-past six in the morning, and continues till half-past four in the afternoon. One hour, however, of relaxation is allowed him, which is thus divided—half an hour for breakfast and half an hour for dinner. The exception I regret to have had cause to complain of is on Lower Lucky Valley estate.

5. It is not generally resorted to; there is task-work, however, performed on some properties, but only where there is a good and mutual understanding between the apprentice and the manager. In the course of my experience as a special magistrate, I have never known an objection to task-work being performed when any thing of a generous feeling appears to pervade the breast of the overseer.

6. There are seasons and cases in which they will work for money; but the range of my district is so contiguous to the Kingston market, that they imagine, and I believe, they can devote their time to better purposes by cultivating their provision grounds for the supply of the Kingston market, which is very considerable. In the season, however, between the planting and the gathering in of their provisions, I have never known an instance of their refusal to work. The rate of wages differs; on some properties the labourer receives 1s. 8d. currency per day, on other estates from 2s. 1d. to 2s. 6d. They are paid in the current coin.

7. That indulgences, such as were common in slavery, are in a great many instances withheld cannot be denied. I rejoice to state, however, that there are some noble exceptions; where they do occur, the proprietor loses nothing by his generosity.

8. In answer to No. 8, it pains me to observe, that the free children are left entirely to the guidance and limited means of the parent.

9. Education and religious instruction, I regret to say, are almost unknown in the range of my district (until within a few weeks past). The chapel of St. Michael's, of the established church, is about 10 miles distant from the central part of the parish, the distance of which has afforded, in many instances, an opportunity for the labourers wasting and violating the Sabbath. Of late, however, the Baptist Association have appointed a zealous minister of the gospel to officiate at a small place, the distance of 10 miles from Kingston, or five miles within the range of my district, which circumstance will doubtless prove an auxiliary to the labours of the church minister. As for education, it is totally unknown.

10. I am surprised that so little desire on the part of the apprentices in my district has been evinced to purchase their discharge: the number that have obtained their freedom since my last report is one.

11. As free men, they are no longer under my direction; therefore, in some cases, it is impossible for me to say directly what they betake themselves to; from respectable information, however, I am glad to say that the greater number of those who purchase their freedom have some pecuniary means, with which they purchase small parcels of land that they cultivate.

12. The planter's prospect in the early part of July last was grand beyond expectation; but since that period our parish generally has been visited with a severe drought, which has extended itself from the early part of July to the latter end of September, which has blighted, in a great measure, the prospects of the planter. I speak particularly of the coffee trees, as they abound in my district. When I speak of the blighted prospects of the planter, I do not mean to say that the planter will not, after all, realize an average crop. Since the setting in of the October rains the fields have become luxuriant, and so favourable are the seasons, that many of the coffee planters have commenced gathering in their crop.

13. Considering the general good understanding that exists between the manager and apprentice, I have no suggestions to make which, I can safely say, would tend to the better working of the system; neither can I, at present, conscientiously say that there is any practical measure which I can recommend to be adopted.

(signed) *C. Hamilton*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 51, in No. 558.

ANSWERS to Questions.

St. Dorothy's, Oct. 1836.

1. I CONSIDER the conduct of the apprentices to have been as good as could reasonably be expected.

2. With individual exceptions, I do not think there is any want of good feeling between the apprentices and their employers.

3. The apprentices in this district, and I believe in many others, have certainly done more work since the commencement of the apprenticeship, than they were ever in the habit of doing in the same given time during slavery.

4. The orders of his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, contained in the circular of the 16th September, being strictly enforced in this district, the people work at the rate of nine hours a day for four days and a half in the week. The intervals of relaxation during the working time vary according to circumstances, and are, generally, such as both employers and apprentices are equally satisfied with.

5. Task-work

5. Task-work has already been adopted in many cases; and the recent circular from his Excellency relating to this subject will, I trust, have the effect of making the adoption still more extensive.

6. During crop-time the apprentices, generally speaking, work for wages in their own time. The amount of wages varies considerably, but I think about 2*d.* an hour will be the average. They are generally paid once a week.

7. The indulgences usually given in slavery are generally continued at present; but in some cases the continuance has been made conditional, upon a certain though very small quantity of extra work by the apprentices.

8. I consider the case of the free children to demand the most serious and anxious attention of the Government; they are supported, indeed, by their parents, but no attention is paid to their moral culture, and no exertion used to render them industrious and useful members of society.

9. There is a lamentable deficiency in the means of education and instruction. In a population of more than 5,000 souls, there are schools for only 60 or 70 children. The accommodation in the churches is not sufficient for the number of people.

10. There is a general and natural desire on the part of the apprentices to purchase their discharge; but in consequence of the rise in valuations, originating in the enormous rise in the hire of jobbing gangs, very few have purchased their discharge since the middle of this year. Four only have bought their discharge since the month of June.

11. I have not been able to learn to what kinds of employment apprentices who have bought their discharge generally betake themselves. Prædial tradesmen generally continue tradesmen, but there is no instance of a field labourer returning to field labour for wages.

12. The prospects for the ensuing crop are, I am informed, generally good. The lowland part of this district was suffering much two months ago by a very long course of dry weather; but the recent rains have served greatly to revive the canes, and give them a promising appearance.

13. I would humbly venture to suggest that the most energetic measures be forthwith adopted for negro education. This is the object which, in my opinion, more urgently calls for the attention of Government than any other whatever; and what renders this attention still more pressingly important is, that the vital utility of education does not seem to be generally understood in Jamaica.

(signed) *Alexander N. Macleod*, Special Magistrate.

Enclosure 52, in No. 558.

COPY of a LETTER from *William Ramsay, Richard Hill and G. Ouseley Higgins, Esqrs.*, Special Justices, to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

May it please your Excellency,

Spanish Town, 20 October 1836.

THE grand jury of the county of Middlesex having declared, in their presentment to the assize court, their conclusion that the asserted increase of crime in this division of the colony is to be attributed to the manner in which the law committed to the special magistracy is administered, we, the special justices of the parish of St. Catherine, deem it a duty incumbent on us to lay before your Excellency our own experience of the sources of crime in this community. As much of the information of which we should have availed ourselves for our quarterly report will be embodied in the present document, we dispense with our usual separate communications, and address your Excellency unitedly, in a matter in which our credit, our character and our integrity are jointly attacked, as well as separately assailed.

When the British Government decided on abolishing colonial slavery, they provided for an intermediate state, during the continuance of which the "laws then in force in the colonies were to be adapted to the new state and relations of society" which would follow the general manumission of the slaves. All the parts of the former institutions which ensured a continuation of useful and industrious habits were still retained, while those principles which were to enforce a steady adherence to social duty, through the common bonds of mutual dependence, reciprocal regard and united support, were to be founded on those motives of conduct in a free community which so essentially differ from those of slavery. "If circumspection and caution are a part of wisdom when we work only upon inanimate matter, surely they become a part of duty too, when the subject of our demolition and construction is not brick and timber, but sentient beings, by the sudden alteration of whose state, condition and habits, multitudes may be rendered miserable." Like the actors in the French revolution, to whom Burke addressed this remark, the men with whom we have had to deal in our public duties have considered that "an unfeeling heart and an undoubting confidence" are the sole qualifications to ensure individual interest and public duty. There has been in too many instances little of "love and respect for his kind" in the dealing of the master with his bond servants, and too little of fear, too little of caution, in his calculations of their power to react upon him.

The fearful decrease of the labouring population which marked the progress of colonial slavery was one of the strongest arguments for its abolition. The immediate release of the children

JAMAICA.

children under six years of age from all claims of the master, who held the parent as an apprenticed labourer, was supposed to lay the foundation of a future increasing population on the best and surest basis. One, however, of the most distressing controversies between the servant and the master, and one in which the special justice has found himself a powerless arbiter, is the claim which the employer makes to the services of his female apprentice, without any abatement whatever for the wants, necessities and infirmities of her infant family.

Your Excellency's predecessor laid down a rule deduced from the common dictates of humanity for the guidance of the magistrate in all these disputes. That a necessity should have arisen for this appeal to his high authority is sufficient to convince a dispassionate person that the question must have been general, and the liability of pregnant women to repay the master the time lost in childbirth, or, of mothers, that expended in the suckling and nursing of their children, harsh, severe and repulsive as it may seem, was of constant reference to the special justice. There could have been little sympathy, little regard, little of those common bonds of mutual dependence and support which form powerful links in uniting communities in a free state, where such a dispute could be referred to the arbitration of a magistrate; and the magistrate who could feel that the one duty on such a reference was adequate protection to the poor and helpless was likely at once to be viewed more as a partisan than as a judge. This was one great source of detaching the respect and affection which might have subsisted between a slave and his owner in the former state of things, and induced both to consider that they no longer had any community of interest. Each now stood on the concessions made by the letter of the law, and demanded his rights under its authority. The master, finding that there existed no compulsory enactment to enforce the continuance of the provisions usually given out from the stores of his plantation, such as herrings and corn, withheld them altogether, and threw the labourer on the proceeds of his grounds in his own days to realize by their sale in the market the means of purchasing the food which was no longer doled out to him. In addition to this privation, the portion of the week for cultivating the provision grounds was reduced to the least possible time. The grounds allotted are usually detached some miles from the plantation, and the reduction of the hours of labour from nine to eight daily, under the pretext that the concession of the four and a half hours in each week, under the 47th clause of the Abolition Act (equivalent to half a day), might be divided into an hour on each working day, was virtually an extinction of the time conceded by the law for working their provision grounds. The Saturday was, under these circumstances, the only day available to the negro for the necessities of himself, his wife and his infant children, now thrown upon him in a state of absolute dependence in health and in sickness. Any dereliction of duty subjected him to the forfeiture of this time, to make good the loss of labour which the master sustained by his misconduct, as well as by his absence from work. The magistrate generally, in awarding punishment, did not hold it unreasonable to make the servant a debtor to his master to the extent to which he might be a loser by his misconduct; and, to aggravate the evils of his dependent condition, the negro was deprived of his Saturday as a forfeiture to his master for his delinquency.

These remarks are general, but there are circumstances in which this parish differs from all others, which are an aggravation of the social evils to which we have adverted.

A considerable portion of the parish of St. Catherine is an alluvial plain, which does not produce the usual vegetable means of sustentation for the negro. The Guinea corn is the only cereal grain which it yields, and the extensive pens, which are cultivated as grass farms during a considerable portion of the year, lie parched and unproductive, and afford a resource for profitable labour only in the wood furnished by the extensive wilds of acacia trees, which every where prevail, as fuel for this town and for the Kingston and Port Royal markets. In such a district, the duty of the special magistrate is to see that the master entitled to the services of the apprenticed labourer makes ample provision (under the 48th section of the Abolition Law) by other means than by the allotment of grounds. Those ways and means are usually to allow the apprentices to cut wood and grass for the market in their own time within the week. By the sale of these commodities, they realize the means of subsistence for themselves and families.

It is evident that the condition of the people of this district, who may be burthened with infant families, must be hard and precarious. Where the earth yields its harvest to the husbandman, he derives not merely food for himself, but for his dependent household. His domestic animals are fed out of the proceeds of his grounds; and the master, however he may restrict his ideas of his obligation to provide the means of support for his labourer, is not able to exclude the benefit of the earth he tills from administering to the wants and necessities of that portion of his family, who, no longer bound by the law to serve him, are no longer objects of his care, his bounty, or his regard. Not so the labourer of the district which produces no food; the obligations of the master are limited to the individual alone who serves him. The wood and the grass he cuts, to realize the means of food and clothing; are stinted to himself alone. For the claims of his children, he is thrown on other resources; and if the necessity of providing for his infants, in his untutored mind, is a paramount obligation to all moral duties, he makes the successful trespasses he commits in his master's woodlands and grass pastures, and in the provision grounds of the hill country nearest to his location, provide for all his wants and necessities.

It is, however, not only the fear of famine which compels the negro to become, first a trespasser, and then an avowed thief: if he is goaded on to be dishonest by the necessity here mentioned, the force of that necessity is accelerated by his peculiar position under the restriction

restriction of the police law. Every evening of the week is available to the negro for the market. On the days, however, which are not declared his by law, or which are not recognized as market days, the apprentice is liable to be questioned, both for his absence from the plantation and for the goods in his possession; and the police law has expressly included wood and grass among those which shall suggest suspicions, and require the permission to be shown by which they have become his. If the apprentice is not furnished with a ticket showing that the person is duly authorized to sell these particular commodities for subsistence, they are taken away and forfeited, and very frequently it consists with our experience, that the ticket is withheld by the overseer or master, as punishment for some fault he has decided his servant has committed. Impelled by his wants, and harassed by vexations of the law, is it to be wondered at that the ignorant negro (demoralized by slavery) should take advantage of his position, as one among a numerous people exposed to similar temptation, to plunder his neighbour, and to slaughter his sheep and oxen for food, which forms by far the most numerous cases of theft which appear upon the calendar of the assize court.—See Appendix (A.)

Though these several circumstances are enough to account for the number of petty and grand larcenies which the quarter sessions and assize courts periodically present, there are other local causes which augment very materially the evils of the negro's condition, as that of the most dependent person in society. Liberality in dealing with him as a labourer might in a manner correct this necessitous state of things, but the want of an adequate market for the disposal of his commodities, where so many are to be provided for, and so much must be realized before he can be placed in the same state of sufficiency as that which prevailed in the times of slavery, is an evil which can be counteracted only by new arts and new industry within the existing towns, or by a new and increased population creating a want for that which the industry of the husbandman supplies. Many of the parishes of this county are not maritime; they have no dense population of a town drawing on the country for subsistence, they afford no market for the small agriculturist. Those that are maritime are for the most part mere embarcadiers for the staple produce of the colony, and are gifted with little of commercial importance but that which is made by the periodical visits of the shipping. No other district of the island is so peculiarly circumstanced. This difference in forming a great distinction in the social and industrious habits of the people must create also a different and peculiar state of moral feeling, and must be taken into account as one of the sources of augmented crime, if there has been any augmentation since the abolition of slavery.

The perpetration of rape, which the grand jury declared to have become frequent in a country in which formerly it was of rare occurrence, should be deemed not the evidence of increasing crime, but of a sense of increased decency and moral propriety in the peasantry who claim the protection of the law against this outrage.

It is presuming too much on the illusion of prejudice to suppose it can be believed, in a state of society in which till lately the caprice of a master, or the wanton depravity of a plantation underling, could expose the nakedness of a female, and subject her to be lacerated by the whip of a driver, that the chaster virtues could have been much practised or much regarded. The wise dispensation of Providence, which assigns ignorance to brute creatures as a mitigation of their condition, has made also the extinction of the acuter moral feelings, and of the capacities of thought, intelligence and reflection, a means of reconciling men to the degradation of slavery; the low desires and affections of such a state could never have ranked chastity as an important virtue, or, if it did, the defenceless condition which made the happiness and usefulness of one class of our fellow-creatures administer to the arbitrary self-will of another, presented too many inducements to the weaker portion to surrender it without complaint to the lust and caprice of the stronger. In every country in which the domestic virtues are cherished, deviations from moral propriety subject those who are betrayed into error to exclusion from society. In those in which female chastity is respected, the ravisher is punished ignominiously; while, wherever virtue is treated with indifference, the crime, though not heard of, is yet perpetrated, but the offence is not viewed as a great atrocity. A similar state of moral feeling prevailed during the existence of slavery; but, under freer institutions, or those where religion has spread its influence, and the virtuous affections are regarded, female honour is made to claim the protection of the law; hence it is that the crime of rape appears among the offences of the calendar, and demands protection from the same tribunal, which sees, for the first time, the once slave assuming the dignity of the citizen, and demanding that truth, good faith and honesty should judge in his interests as they judge in those of any other set of the King's subjects.

We are aware that, in estimating the progress of a religious spirit in the community, we are apt to be deceived by the mere concourse of persons who attend on the Lord's-day the places of worship. The Sabbath has been rescued by the law from desecration; the multitudes that attended the market now attend the church or the chapel, and vanity may influence many to visit these places as places of common resort, when debarred from the pursuits of petty traffic. We are not, however, deceived by the numbers who frequent the houses of worship on the week-day evenings; the spirit of devotion, the consoling influence of religious hope seen there, all manifest themselves in the simple decency, and the meek and humble demeanor of those who attend them; it is here that we see that religion and morality have found increasing votaries, and that vice is not merely checked in its career, but crime diminished, by the inculcation of those precepts by which their hearers are taught that, whatever may be the temptations that beset them, the path of duty is still to be

## JAMAICA.

“unwearied in well-doing,” and that the privations of this life are the means ordained by a wise Providence to quicken our exertions for usefulness here and happiness hereafter.

In laying before your Excellency these incidents, from which we draw conclusions of a very different character and import from those of the presentment of the grand jury of Middlesex, we beg to state to your Excellency, that we have granted, for argument sake, the assumption, that there is an increase of crime in the community: the position itself we by no means admit. The diffusion of a better principle among the people, through the labour of the Christian missionaries, even under all the privations we have pourtrayed, is sufficient to keep the heart of the people in patience and resignation; while among those whose principles have not been subjected to any such meek and submissive influence, or whose conduct has not been regulated by those higher motives to increased exertion under increased difficulties of life, which they derive from a purer and better faith, the delinquencies are only more exposed than formerly, and things are made matters of record and of public notoriety before the special justices and other judges, which were heretofore summarily punished under the domestic authority of the master.

With regard to the spirit of conciliation which the grand jury urge on our observance, we feel it does not so much rest with us to advise it (which is all that is within our power) as it does with the gentlemen of the grand jury themselves to practise it. In every instance in which gentlemen of their influence and condition in life have acted in this spirit, they have reaped the blessings which a kindly feeling never sows in vain. Where the usual store allowances of slavery have not been withheld; where the infirmities of the women have received consideration, and the helplessness of their children obtained aid, contentment, orderly and diligent labour have prevailed, and the work of the plantation has been conducted with cheerfulness and good-will. In instances in which a contrary policy has been observed, the authority and influence of the special justice have been interposed in vain. We are not unmindful, while making this remark, of the injunction with which the chief justice closes his echo of the presentment of the grand jury, that we should teach the peasant labourer that his duty is “to earn his bread in the sweat of his brow.” We have the power, and we exercise it, to enforce toil, but no persuasion can secure the reward; it is not seen in the penurious dealing which we have narrated, nor in the pictures of disease and squalid misery which have so often come under our notice in our public duties.

We have, &c.

(signed) *William Ramsay*, Special Justice, and Inspector-general of Police.

*Richard Hill*, Special Justice, and Assistant-Secretary to the Special Justice Department.

*G. Ouseley Higgins*, Special Justice, St. Catherine's.

## APPENDIX (A.)

## NEW INDICTMENTS in the October Middlesex Assizes for 1836.

COLOUR and DESCRIPTION of PERSONS.	Murder.	Rape.	Stealing and Killing Cattle.	Receiving of Stolen Produce.	Larceny.	Perjury.	Horse Stealing.	Burglary.	Assaults.	Obstrucing Magistrates in their Duty.	Total Crimes.
Whites - - - - -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	1	7
Coloured - - - - -	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3
Blacks - - - - -	-	-	1	2	2	1	1	1	-	-	8
Apprentices - - - - -	2	4	7	-	2	-	1	1	1	-	18
<b>TOTAL - - - - -</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>36</b>

Middlesex contains a population estimated at 133,351 souls in 1,044,478 acres of land, being at the rate of one crime in every 2,667 souls, and one soul to every seven acres of land.

—No. 559.—

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

My Lord,

The King's House, Jamaica, 30 Dec. 1836.

No. 559.

I HAVE the highest satisfaction in acquainting your Lordship, that the Christmas holidays have passed off among the apprenticed population with perfect tranquillity, good temper and order.

Christmas-day falling on a Sunday, I had some anxiety whether the usual number of days would be granted, the Abolition Law providing that holidays shall never exceed three consecutive days.

I am, however, happy to say, there has been on this occasion almost a universal spirit of kindness and conciliation from masters towards their apprentices, and that the holidays have been extended to Tuesday, giving the labourers four and a half consecutive holidays.

I have, further, most satisfactory accounts that the apprentices are cheerfully entering into agreements for taking off the crops, by additional labour for payment.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

—No. 563.—

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

My Lord,

The King's House, 27 February 1837.

No. 563.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of a message from the house of assembly, requesting I would forward, for the information of His Majesty's Government, the documents which accompany it, being—

(No. 1.)

A General Return of the Exports of Jamaica for Fifty-three Years ending on the 31st day of December last.

(No. 2.)

An Abstract of the Church and School Expenditure of the Island for Five Years ending on the 30th September last.

(No. 3.)

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Enclosures in No. 563.

(No. 1.)

May it please your Excellency,

WE are ordered by the house to wait on your Excellency with a general return of the exports from this island for fifty-three years ending on the 31st day of December last; and also with an abstract return of the church and school expenditure of the island for five years ending on the 30th day of September last, and to request that your Excellency will be pleased to transmit these documents to England for the information of His Majesty's Government.

Enclosures  
in No. 563.



(No. 3.)

ABSTRACT of RETURNS made by the RECEIVER-GENERAL and CLERKS of VESTRIES of the several Parishes, as required by an Order of the House of Assembly, dated the 9th November 1836; showing the Amount of the CHURCH and SCHOOL EXPENDITURE for Five Years ending 30th September 1836.

PARISHES.	CHURCH EXPENDITURE.					SCHOOL EXPENDITURE.					GRAND TOTAL of Church and School Establishment.		
	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.	1836.	Total Amount Church Establishment.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.		1836.	Total Amount School Establishment.
St. Catherine -	£. s. d. 865 19 2	£. s. d. 881 15 -	£. s. d. 1,595 16 8	£. s. d. 1,380 17 6	£. s. d. 1,474 16 8	6,199 5 -	£. s. d. 21 -	£. s. d. 21 -	£. s. d. 21 -	£. s. d. 21 -	£. s. d. 631 -	£. s. d. 715 -	£. s. d. 6,914 5 -
Port Royal -	625 15 7½	648 18 9	558 3 9	405 16 8	338 - -	2,576 14 9½	- - -	39 15 -	132 10 -	102 8 9	95 - -	369 13 9	2,946 8 6½
Kingston -	1,406 - 10	1,617 17 11	1,275 8 4	1,564 4 2	2,761 8 4	8,524 19 7	- - -	100 - -	- - -	900 - -	500 - -	800 - -	9,424 19 7
St. Andrew -	843 6 8	854 19 5	682 2 -	782 8 5	645 5 5	3,808 1 11	257 18 3	339 6 3	245 5 -	220 8 10	315 - -	1,377 18 4	5,186 - 3
St. Thomas in the Vale -	608 10 7	826 3 8	740 18 11	700 - -	750 - -	3,625 13 2	- - -	- - -	61 13 4	60 - -	180 - -	291 13 4	3,917 6 6
St. Dorothy -	235 1 - 8	383 14 2	186 16 8	256 16 8	1,724 19 3	2,797 8 5	63 3 4	50 - -	50 - -	55 - -	25 - -	243 3 4	3,040 11 9
St. John -	148 - - -	234 13 4	295 - - -	128 - - -	638 - - -	1,431 13 4	37 10 -	100 - -	120 2 6	111 10 -	100 - -	469 2 6	1,900 15 10
Clarendon -	887 16 8	671 13 4	636 13 4	719 4 3	668 7 6	3,583 15 1	60 - -	60 - -	60 - -	60 - -	60 - -	300 - -	3,883 15 1
Veré -	224 5 - 8	206 - - -	208 10 -	206 - 8	392 16 8	1,237 11 8	- - -	- - -	- - -	30 - -	50 - -	80 - -	1,317 11 8
St. Elizabeth -	326 11 8	477 5 - -	448 9 2	308 6 8	432 8 4	5,883 - 10	45 - -	50 - -	50 - -	50 - -	54 - -	249 - -	6,132 - 10
Westmoreland -	3,271 - 6	854 - - -	753 - - -	800 - - -	2,693 11 6	8,371 11 6	45 - -	50 - -	50 - -	50 - -	155 - -	350 - -	8,721 11 6
Illover -	522 7 - 6	1,825 18 10	926 18 7	1,145 5 5	2,041 7 - -	6,461 17 4	405 10 -	422 - -	375 - -	335 - -	380 - -	1,917 - -	8,378 17 4
St. James -	390 - - -	1,438 11 11	1,163 15 -	569 5 - -	5,120 3 9	8,681 15 8	900 - -	900 - -	900 - -	900 - -	900 - -	4,500 - -	13,181 15 8
Trelawny -	979 2 5	1,818 12 3	1,114 - - -	761 2 1	749 15 8	5,422 12 5	481 18 4	453 10 5	431 15 10	978 16 8	327 18 4	2,673 9 7	8,096 2 -
St. Ann -	994 4 6	984 10 -	856 2 4½	671 1 8	3,495 15 4½	7,001 13 11	209 16 11½	107 13 4	137 13 4	113 15 -	129 10 10	698 9 5½	7,700 3 4½
St. Mary -	717 15 -	1,647 5 -	555 17 6	1,240 15 -	2,642 13 11½	6,804 6 5½	103 15 -	104 10 -	85 - -	85 - -	85 - -	463 5 -	7,267 11 5½
St. George -	2,333 6 1	916 6 8	1,692 8 4½	217 11 10	540 7 1	5,700 10 -½	266 3 4	320 14 4½	283 13 7	227 9 4½	104 10 2½	1,292 10 10½	6,993 10 10½
Portland -	250 7 6	204 6 8	301 10 5	607 13 4	344 18 4	1,708 16 3	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1,708 16 3
St. Thomas in the East -	1,890 10 -	994 10 -	485 16 -	1,268 11 -	847 18 3	5,897 5 3	1,017 - -	765 17 6	650 - -	662 4 4	971 10 -	4,066 11 10	9,468 17 1
St. David's -	388 6 8	415 11 8	224 11 4	233 11 8	264 8 4	1,527 9 8	80 - -	80 - -	50 - -	50 - -	33 10 -	292 10 -	1,819 19 8
Manchester -	133 3 4	147 8 4	659 15 -	104 8 4	119 - - -	1,223 15 -	- - -	- - -	200 - -	- - -	- - -	200 - -	1,423 15 -
Paid by the Receiver-general -	23,888 13 5	20,037 4 6	24,647 11 1	23,485 12 1	27,283 17 2	119,342 18 3	5,040 11 4	5,631 11 -	5,888 7 10	5,474 4 8	5,506 18 3	27,541 13 1	146,884 11 3
£.	41,928 4 3	37,988 6 5	40,009 4 6	37,616 11 9	59,859 18 7	217,413 15 6½	9,034 6 6½	9,595 17 10½	9,592 1 5	9,776 17 7½	10,692 17 7½	48,891 1 1	266,304 6 6
AVERAGE Annual Expense of Church and School Establishment for Five Years -													£.
-													53,260 14 5



JAMAICA.

—No. 564.—

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Sir *Lionel Smith* to Lord *Glenelg*,  
dated The King's House, Jamaica, 13 March 1837.

No. 564.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that the house of assembly having informed me that they had finished the business of the session, and applied for a recess, I prorogued the legislature on the 4th instant.

I enclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the speech which I made to them on that occasion.

It is with great pleasure I acquaint your Lordship, that several votes have passed the assembly towards the promotion of religious instruction and education. A sum of 500*l.* has been given in aid of a Wesleyan chapel in Kingston; 1,100*l.* have been voted to the Scotch churches in Kingston and Falmouth; 700*l.* to the Central National School in Kingston; 200*l.* to the Union School in the same town, and 200*l.* towards the enlargement of a chapel, of which the pastor is a native African. I advert to the spirit of liberality which these votes evince with the greater satisfaction, having in my opening address to the legislature urged upon them, in the strongest terms, the importance of promoting by every means the religious and moral improvement of the apprentice population.

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Enclosure in No. 564.

EXTRACT from Sir *Lionel Smith's* Speech on proroguing the Legislature of Jamaica,  
on 4 March 1837.

Enclosure in  
No. 564.

Gentlemen of the Council,

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I acknowledge with great pleasure the ready attention you have bestowed on all my communications; and the adoption of the suggestions for classing the apprenticed population under legal enactments will, I trust, fully provide for the contemplated emergency.

In bearing my testimony to the zeal with which you have applied yourselves to the public business, I cannot omit expressing the gratification I have experienced at the good understanding which has been apparent in all your proceedings during a session of unusual duration. I attach the greatest importance to the continuance of this feeling, which it will be the constant endeavour of my administration to promote.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I have no doubt the provision you have made for the exigencies of the public service has been regulated by your accustomed liberality, measured by a just regard to the interests of your constituents.

Gentlemen of the Council,

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I am rejoiced at being now able to grant you a recess, confident that you will return to your homes with an anxious desire to promote the interests of those who look up to you for protection, and whose future welfare is so closely connected with the general prosperity of your country.

I do now, in His Majesty's name, prorogue this General Assembly to Tuesday the eleventh day of April next, and it is hereby prorogued accordingly.

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—No. 565.—

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *Lionel Smith*,  
dated Downing-street, 29 April 1837.

No. 565.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 13th ultimo, reporting the prorogation of the legislature of Jamaica, and enclosing a copy of the speech which you delivered on the occasion.

I have received with much satisfaction the report which you have made of the assistance afforded by the assembly for the diffusion of religious instruction, without any distinction in favour of any particular class of society or denomination of Christians. The beneficial effects of this munificence, in conciliating the confidence and attachment of the people at large, in vindicating the title of the assembly of Jamaica to the praise of being animated by an enlightened policy, and in promoting the moral improvement and the social and individual happiness of the poorer classes of the people, will amply compensate the legislature and their constituents for the pecuniary sacrifice which the attainment of such objects may involve.

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No. 566.

—No. 566.—

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

My Lord,

The King's House, 13 March 1837.

No. 566.

ON assuming the administration of this government, my attention was naturally directed to the causes of the discontent and bad feeling which I found existing, to a great extent, between master and apprentice.

Amongst these, I felt satisfied that the want of uniformity in the hours of labour, and the absence of some compulsory enactment with respect to providing an allowance of fish, generally called among the negroes "salt," were very prominent. The result of my private inquiries and conversation with some of the principal members of the legislature convinced me, however, that I should fail in any recommendation which I made to the house of assembly on the latter subject. The argument I had to contend with was, that though the allowance in question was very usually given during slavery, it was not general throughout the island, and was perfectly optional on the part of the master; so that as the Abolition Law only prescribed the same allowances as were formerly given, there could be no good reason for an enactment which should be compulsory in this particular respect.

With regard to uniformity in the hours of labour, I had, in the first instance, issued a circular to the special magistrates (copy of which is enclosed), enjoining them to enforce the practice of the nine hours system; but finding that the intention of the law was in many instances disputed, I sent a message to the house upon the subject, of which I have the honour to enclose a copy. The assembly, however, for the reasons stated in the report of the committee of their body (enclosure, No. 3), have declined to accede to the proposal, and both the eight and nine hours system remain in operation as hitherto.

(No. 1.)

(No. 2.)

(No. 3.)

I have thought it my duty to report the present state of these questions to your Lordship, observing that they were particularly adverted to in the report of the Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the working of the apprenticeship system.

Although I am still of opinion that the establishment of uniformity in the hours of labour would remove a frequent cause of discontent with the negro, and operate strongly in engendering habits of the utmost importance to his future well-being, I am happy to state that no reports have reached me of the recent orderly and tranquil behaviour of the apprentices throughout the island having been disturbed, by the determination of the assembly to leave the law in its present state.

I have obtained scales of labour from the several parishes, adapted to the varieties of agriculture carried on in them, and they are at present in course of consolidation, with a view to their being generally adopted as guides for the regulation of task-work throughout the island. From my past experience in Barbadoes, I anticipate the best effects from the measure, and I am happy to acquaint your Lordship that the system is already acted on to a considerable extent, and with very great advantage to both the parties concerned in it.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*

Enclosures in No. 566.

(No. 1.)

Sir,

The King's House, 16 September 1836.

I AM desired by the Lieutenant-governor to call your attention to the 5th clause of the Act in aid of the Abolition Act, fixing the period of labour on sugar estates and other plantations at nine hours daily, except in cases where the employer and the labourers may mutually agree upon some other arrangement; and to direct that you will cause the provision of that clause to be strictly observed, making it your particular duty to ascertain, in cases where the employer and the labourers may be mutually desirous of entering into an agreement for working upon any other than the nine hours system, that such agreement is fully understood by both parties.

Enclosures  
in No. 566.

I am also to request your attention to the 6th clause of the Act in aid, which provides that the commencement and close of the legal hours of labour shall be intimated to the apprentices by ringing a bell, sounding a horn or shell, or by any other signal distinctly visible

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visible or audible to the apprentices, and to point out how desirable it is that this clause of the Act should be strictly enforced, according to the agreements which may exist, upon the several estates within your district.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *C. H. Darling, Sec.*

(No. 2.)

Mr. Speaker,

His Excellency the Lieutenant-governor has commanded me to convey to the honourable house his anxious recommendation, that they should take into their consideration the bearing and intent of the 5th clause of the Act in aid of the Abolition Act, which, though stated to be enacted "to regulate uniformity in the hours of labour," is still considered as leaving it optional to the employer to adopt the eight or nine hours system, according to the 47th clause of the Island Abolition Act. It appears to have been obvious to the honourable house, that a uniform system was desirable, in order that the apprentices may every where be subject to the same regulations of labour, and thus have no pretence for discontent, by a comparison of the different systems which might exist on different estates.

With this most desirable object in view, so important to the equal government of the apprenticed population, his Excellency entreats the honourable house to make the nine hours system immutable; as also that the half day given to the labourer in each week should be immutably Friday, in order that he may the better avail himself of Saturday, as being market-day, subject of course to such changes as may be mutually agreed upon by employers and labourers.

(No. 3.)

Mr. Speaker,

YOUR committee, to whom was referred his Excellency the Governor's fourth message of the 11th of November last, have given to that communication their most mature consideration, and recommend to the house to agree to the following report.

## REPORT:

That, in providing the details of the Abolition Act, the house were desirous to establish uniformity in the hours of labour so far as appeared to them to be practicable. The 5th clause of the Act in aid had that object in view, but was in some measure defeated by a proclamation of the late governor, recommending that the forty and a half hours of weekly labour, to which the master was entitled, should be equally divided over five days of eight hours each.

The house would most readily meet the wishes of his Excellency in now making the nine hour system immutable; but when they consider that nearly one-half of the apprenticeship term has already passed away, and that, although the hours of labour are not altogether uniform, a convenient system mutually satisfactory has, after much trouble, become established over the greater part of the island, the house fear that any alteration in the law might, from the ignorance of the people and the probably indiscreet conduct of some of the special justices, tend to renewed misunderstandings. Other difficulties of very serious magnitude present themselves to the establishment of an entire uniformity in the system of labour, as applicable to all classes of the people. A regulation beneficial both to apprentices and master situated near a town and market-place, is not so to those who are distant; that which best suits sugar districts in the lowlands does not equally apply to coffee mountains; and many other distinctions might be drawn, in respect to the various occupations of different classes, which it is unnecessary to detail. Under these circumstances, the house entreat his Excellency to be assured, that, in refraining from disturbing the law which regulates the hours of labour, they are actuated by a conviction that any alteration now attempted would fail in its object, and be productive of greater evil than benefit.

— No. 567. —

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

No. 567

My Lord,

The King's House, 4 April 1837.

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit the quarterly reports of the special magistrates for the quarter ending the 31st December last.

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

Enclosure 1, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *W. H. Brownson, Esq.*, Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling, Esq.*

Sir,

Liguanea District, Parish of St. Andrew, 2 Jan. 1837.

I HAVE the honour to forward, in obedience to his Excellency the Governor's instructions, the general quarterly report of my district, which, I trust, may meet with his Excellency's approbation.

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 567.

The

The general conduct of the apprentices, in that part of my district denominated the Mammee and Cavalier Mountains, is good and respectful towards their employers, with a few exceptions, and they appear to perform their work cheerfully; but I am sorry to say that, in the lowland or Liguanea district, the same good conduct and cheerfulness to work do not exist, and I attribute the cause mainly to its contiguousness to Kingston, and the facility which is afforded the apprentices, not only for the sale of their produce, but being employed and harboured.

The nine hour system is general throughout the district, and the interval of relaxation is from 10 to 11 o'clock, and at 4, labour terminates.

In the mountains, task-work more generally prevails than in the lowlands, and it is more usual for the apprentices in the Liguanea than the mountain district to work in their own time for wages. The general rate is four bits per day, and in many instances half a dollar. Indulgences are but seldom afforded.

As regards the condition of the free children, their parents are bringing them up in habits the most idle and dissolute, for, since my taking the duties of Liguanea district, not one has applied to be apprenticed.

The facilities for education and religious instruction are numerous, and the accommodation much exceeds the attendance. A very general desire still exists among the apprentices to purchase, and set themselves free from the remaining term of their apprenticeship, and eight have done so this quarter. The kind of employment to which they usually betake themselves, after they have obtained their manumission, is to higgie. Cane-cutting has partially commenced, which will be pretty general next week throughout Liguanea; and the prospects of the ensuing crop promise an abundant harvest, and will amply repay the labour of the husbandman.

In conclusion, it affords me pleasure to inform his Excellency, that there appears a general willingness on the part of the apprentices to meet the wishes of their employers, with respect to taking of the crop.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. H. Brownson*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 2, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *W. F. Marlton*, Esq., Special Justice, to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Bishop Mount, St. Mary's, 2 Jan. 1837.

I HAVE the honour to forward my quarterly report on the state of my district, and to represent to your Excellency that the general conduct of the apprenticed labourers, since my last report, has been satisfactory to their employers.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 567.

They have been industrious, doing their work cheerfully, and with but few occasions for complaint to the special justice. There are some ill-disposed people on properties, who rather wish to live by stealing from the industrious than by voluntary labour. I regret to say that pilfering has been very common for some months, and I have been obliged to award heavy punishment, with the view of checking the increase of an offence so injurious to the industrious apprentice. I do not observe any increase of other offences: the prevailing are, petty theft, desertion, absence from watch, &c. &c. and impertinence, generally from the same set of delinquents, who periodically are brought before the special justice.

The Abolition Law is now generally understood; the employers find more profit in encouraging the labourers to work cheerfully, by giving the old allowances, than in coercing them. This throws the master and apprentice more on each other than on the strict letter of the law, and a mutual good understanding has taken place; the suspicion of being cheated has given way to confidence, and there is no difficulty in obtaining extra labour from the apprentices, when required by the manager.

The working hours generally in use in my district are, for field labour, from sun-rise (sometimes earlier) until dusk; half an hour for breakfast, and two hours for dinner, the apprentices having cooks, &c., and their fish allowed them. The employers do not adhere to the law. The old indulgences of slavery are not withheld, but for these the labourers give up their time. Both parties understand this, and I believe the good feeling between master and apprentice is owing to their being so dependent on the proprietors for their fish and the old indulgences, which have not been secured to them by the Abolition Law. Extra mill labour is obtained during crop by paying the people 6s. 8d., 5s. and 3s. 4d. currency, per week of five days (indulgences included), the week's spell keeping the mill about 18, 16 or 14 hours, as may be required. This system of paying wages has induced many single men and others among the labourers to neglect their grounds: they prefer the cultivation of gardens near their houses; but, as far as I can ascertain, the provision grounds are sufficiently cultivated for general purposes. The weather for many months was dry, so much so as to affect the negro grounds severely. This caused a rise in the price of ground provision, and led to trespass on the part of the idle, and those who had not grounds. There is very little plea for stealing: an industrious man can easily earn sufficient money on Saturday, his own day, to keep him for the week comfortably.

I am assured by many managers of experience, that they have very little trouble with the apprentices, less than formerly; in most cases, as the head men, being constables, have so much authority over the gangs, the labourers looking with deference on these men, generally dressed in jackets, with red cuffs and collar. Having had two years' experience as a special justice, I confidently declare that the successful working of the system is mainly attributable to the constables, and the support they receive from the special justice in the execution of their

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their duty. I very rarely have complaints from managers for deficiency of work among the gangs: late turning out in the morning, during the short days, I hear of, but as the people work well when out, the overseers do not complain unless the advantage taken is great. The objection to task-work would not be with the employer, I imagine, nor do I think the apprentices would object, were they assured of the day's work being a fair one. Where the special justice is impartial, and pays attention, to make himself acquainted with the nature of labour, &c., there is no occasion for any task. The constables know what ought to be done, as well as the labourers. Where the management is good, and the treatment liberal, never is complaint made to me of deficiency. I should regret to see task-work established by law, as it would take from the special justice the right of exercising his discretion. Any manager might stop all the allowances, and call upon the special justice to enforce the task-labour; whereas, at present, we have the power of holding the balance between kind and harsh management. The apprenticeship law must determine; and I consider that special justice best consults the interest of both parties, who endeavours, by his administration of the power intrusted to him, to cause and keep up confidence and good-will between the parties. I do not believe there is a special magistrate in the island who can strictly enforce the Act; it would be met by resistance from the employers; the apprentices would have all their allowances stopped, and confusion ensue. I have had cases of overseers talking to me of the eight hours system, and not desiring more than the law; the thing is impossible. With all the industry of the apprentices, and the time they give up and sell, the managers can do no more than keep up the crops.

The crop for the year past has not been so good as anticipated; a deficiency unforeseen has taken place on many properties, but the managers do not blame the system, nor find fault with the industry of the labourers. The season has been unusual, and the yielding bad. A large plant has been put in for this year's crop, and the returns are expected to be good. Altogether the planters appear to be well satisfied with the aspect of affairs.

The parents of the free children find no difficulty in supporting them, and are very desirous of instruction for them, but will not agree to any proposals for labour on the estate. I believe they consider it a degradation for one of their free children to be employed with apprentices. The missionaries afford them instruction on their visits to the properties, and I am happy to say I am acquainted with many managers who encourage the missionaries, and fully appreciate their good services to the apprentices generally. The desire of freedom urges many apprentices to purchase their discharges from apprenticeship, and there is a desire on the part of the employers to retain them, field labour being now so valuable. The special justice is not always able to influence the opinion of the local magistrates; the want of some other mode of valuation is much felt. The people, when discharged, generally reside with their friends, and turn small traders, &c. I have, at present, 31 valuation papers, the parties having failed to complete the payment, from the value awarded being often too high, in their opinion. Since my last report, nine apprentices have effected their discharges from apprenticeship. The Christmas holidays have passed off with every appearance of good feeling and conduct on the part of the labourers, they having had their usual allowances of fish, &c. &c., and sufficient time to amuse themselves with the festivities of the season.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *William F. Marlton*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 3, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *Arthur Welch*, Esq., Special Justice, to his Excellency the Governor.

Carpenter's Mountain District, 31 Dec. 1836.

THE general conduct of the apprentices is good. There is no want of good feeling between them and their employers.

Work is performed as willingly as can be expected under any system of coercion.

The usual system of work is eight hours, with the customary time for meals.

Task-work is not general; it is not well understood by the negro population. Where it is adopted it answers well, and will probably in time become more general.

The price of labour for hire continues as before. With one or two exceptions, the apprentices receive all the allowances formerly granted in slavery. This Christmas has passed more quietly and orderly than any before, and the people all seem happy and contented.

The free children are not as yet brought forward to labour; more schools of industry are requisite. The attendance at public worship is greater than there is accommodation.

There is, I conceive, a general desire to purchase the term of apprenticeship, where it can be done: only two instances have been effected since my last report.

Those who obtain their discharges are for the most part accommodated with the money by some proprietor, who, if a good master, will find no difficulty in getting the best apprentices in the parish, and, as far as my observation goes, there is no distrust in such advance of money.

The ensuing crop promises fairly. Cultivation is carried to as great an extent as the strength of the properties and their resources will admit. The season has been sufficiently favourable, but the coffee crop short, from the heavy bearing of last year.

I have no suggestion to offer that I have not already had the honour to propose.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Arthur Welch*, Special Magistrate.Enclosure 3,  
in No. 567.

Enclosure

## Enclosure 4, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *John Gurley*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Stoney Hill District, St. Andrew's, 1 January 1837.

It is with great pleasure I have the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency, that the holidays have passed over with the greatest good order and propriety in the district under my superintendence. On the morning of the 27th ultimo, the apprentices were generally at their labour, except upon two properties; viz. Campbell's Mountain and Mount Dakins, where I am inclined to believe they were under the erroneous impression that they were entitled to another day, as Christmas fell upon Sunday. These are, however, the only two cases of complaint, during the holidays, where my interference has been required.

Having alluded separately, and at some length, in my former quarterly report, transmitted in October, to the several questions contained in your circular, No. 63, dated the 23d September, and which being equally applicable to the state of the district at this moment, I consider it quite unnecessary to repeat those observations.

The nine hours system prevails on the sugar properties, and task-work on the coffee plantations; and I am happy to add, that there appears more confidence on the part of those conducting properties, as to the working of the apprenticeship system, than I have hitherto observed.

The crop, as far as I can learn, will be an average one; the seasons latterly have been favourable. There are three schools established in this district for the benefit of both free and apprentice children; but I do not think there is that advantage taken of them by the apprentices for their free children as they might; this, however, may arise from the difficulty of sending them to and fro. A Sunday school on each estate would, at the present moment, be of greater advantage to the apprentices' children, as then there would be no excuse for non-attendance.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Gurley*, Special Justice.

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in No. 567.

## Enclosure 5, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *H. Moresby*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Kingston, 5 January 1837.

In making my report on the state of my district for the quarter ending 31st December 1836, I have the honour to state that the general conduct of the apprentices has been satisfactory. There certainly has been an increased number of punishments during this quarter, but which may chiefly be attributed to the occurrence of two public races, and the intervention of the Christmas holidays. When such scenes of amusement take place, it is almost impossible to detain at his work an apprentice, who at no other period of the year has such temptations for absconding, and opportunities for debauch.

I am of opinion there is no want of good feeling between the owner and the apprentice; both parties are gradually habituating themselves to the change which has occurred; and I may with confidence state, that, excepting a body of most incorrigible offenders, there would be few complaints brought before me worthy of any serious notice. As compared with English servants, the domestic apprentice is a most inefficient person, not only ignorant of the proper discharge of his duties, but in many cases idle and dirty. Custom has sanctioned a system most fatal to good order in a domestic establishment, which is permitting the apprentice, after his services are supposed to be dispensed with, to leave the house. It not unfrequently happens that a master is left without one single attendant during the whole night.

I have but few complaints against that valuable body of apprentices called mechanics. Their hours of labour are from six in the morning until four or five in the evening; and when allowed to work out for themselves, they generally earn from 3 s. sterling to 5 s. sterling per diem. The common jobbing labourer can earn from 1 s. 6 d. sterling to 2 s. 6 d. sterling per diem.

It is most difficult to ascertain the true condition of the free children of apprentices. Since the last quarter's report many inquiries have been made, but no satisfactory information obtained. From what I can learn, a large portion of them are supported by their parents and relations. In respectable families no distinction is made between the free child and the apprentice; both are treated with kindness and attention.

There is now in this town every facility afforded for the education and religious instruction of persons of every description. There are now between seven and eight thousand children undergoing a course of education in Kingston; and I am given to understand there are scarcely more than 500 apprentices, or the children of apprentices, who avail themselves of the various schools lately established for their benefit. I have seen no great desire among apprentices to purchase the unexpired term of their servitude. This last quarter few have applied to purchase their discharge, although the estimated value of a good domestic would rarely exceed 14 l. sterling.

Twelve only have obtained their discharge since my last report. The only practical measure, I beg most respectfully to submit, is the immediate adoption of a well-arranged system

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of "tickets of leave," similar to what was enforced in the 40th and 41st clauses of the Slave Act of 1831. At present, much difficulty and embarrassment exist in this town from the repeal of those clauses.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *H. Moresby*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 6, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *James Kennet Dawson*, Esq., Special Justice.Enclosure 6,  
in No. 567.

Lower Clarendon, Jamaica, 4 January 1837.

THE short experience which I have had in this district prevents me from stating, from my own personal knowledge, what has been the general conduct of the apprentices since the last report; but the proprietors and managers consider there is a decided improvement and a better feeling established than existed some time past, when the apprentices were allowed to act almost as they pleased; but now they work quite as willingly as can be expected. Few complaints are made as to general neglect of work, but many of an individual character; viz. stealing corn, cutting canes to an amazing extent, the robbing of provision grounds, and neglect of watch.

The plan generally followed is the nine hours system, the labourers having one hour's relaxation in the middle of the day.

Task-work is not resorted to, from want of a proper understanding between parties; nor is it usual for the apprentices to work for hire in their own time. The rate of wages is 2s. 6d. per day for able-bodied men, paid in current coin of British silver. The offer of wages is very general, and as generally refused, except by tradesmen on estates, and the negroes of the Hon. Alexander Bravo, who work willingly in cleaning coffee trees, 100 for 2s. 6d.

The proprietors and managers give their apprentices all former indulgences, and no return expected.

The condition of the free children is truly deplorable; they are brought up in filth and idleness, living at the expense of the proprietors of the estates to which their parents are attached. The facilities for education and religious instruction are very little, as far as I am informed, there being only one chapel of the established church, one Wesleyan, one Baptist, one Independent, besides one built by the apprentices of the Hon. Alexander Bravo, at their own expense, to which there is no regular clergyman. The attendance of negroes at the different places of worship is far beyond the accommodation.

There is no wish evinced by the apprentices to purchase their discharge, only one having done so during the last month. It is impossible to say to what kind of employment those so discharged usually betake themselves; but it is quite certain that they do not turn their attention to agriculture.

The sugar returns will be short, owing to unfavourable seasons. The deficiency in the coffee crop this year is very great, though the prospect for the next is most flattering. The state of cultivation of both sugar and coffee is quite as forward as ever.

The only suggestion I have to offer is, that something should be done towards educating the free children, and bringing them up to permanent habits of industry.

In conclusion, it affords me the highest gratification to report the orderly and good conduct of the apprentices during the Christmas holidays. They have all quietly resumed their labours without a murmur, from which the happiest results may be anticipated.

(signed) *James Kennet Dawson*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 7, in No. 567.

ANSWERS to Circular.

Port Royal, January 1837.

Enclosure 7,  
in No. 567.

1. WHAT has been the general conduct of the apprentices in your district since your last report?—Good.

2. Is there any want of good feeling between them and their employers, and if so, to what cause do you attribute it?—No.

3. Do they perform their work willingly, and to what do you ascribe it, if not?—Generally speaking, they do; however, there are a few incorrigible characters who will not work.

4. What are the working hours generally in use in your district; are any, and what, intervals of relaxation allowed to the apprentices during the working hours?—The apprentices in my district are non-prædials.

5. Is task-work generally resorted to in your district; if not, does the objection lie with the masters or the apprentices?—The apprentices in my district are non-prædials; but as colonial engineer, I find not the least difficulty in hiring from four to five hundred apprentices to dig out a new river-course; the work very laborious.

6. Is it usual for the apprentices to work in their own time for money-wages; if so, what is the ordinary rate of wages, and how are they paid; if not, have they been offered?—It is for wages; I pay 2s. 11d. per day, paid every week.

7. Are any indulgences withheld, which it was usual during slavery for the estate to supply?—No.

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8. What is the condition of the free children, and how are they supported?—Improving; generally speaking, by the owners of their parents.

9. What facilities does your district supply for education and religious instruction; is the attendance at church and in the schools equal to the accommodation?—Protestant Sunday school, charity school, Baptist Sunday school, Methodist Sunday school, and Mico charity. The attendance is not equal to the accommodation.

10. Is there a general desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge; how many discharges have been effected since last report?—I think not; none.

11. To what kinds of employment do those who have obtained their discharge usually betake themselves?—The same as when apprentices.

12. What are the prospects of the ensuing crop, and what the general state of cultivation; has the season been favourable, or otherwise?—My district is a town.

(signed) *James H. St. John*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 8, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *John Odell*, Esq., Special Justice, to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Hillowton, Western Interior District, 1 January 1837.

I HAVE much satisfaction in informing you, that no interruption to the tranquillity of the district has taken place since making my report in last October, and that the same orderly and peaceable conduct which then characterized the apprenticed labourers still happily prevails.

The Christmas holidays just passed over have been spent by the apprentices principally at their own homes in rational festivities, and the noisy semi-barbarous assemblages of former years have been altogether unknown.

On those properties, where a kind and judicious management is pursued, there appears at present to be no want of good feeling on the part of the apprentices towards their managers; and, indeed, this is practically proved by the cheerfulness with which they work during the hours prescribed by law, and subsequently for hire in their own time.

Of the prospects for the ensuing crop, I can only repeat the opinion expressed in my report of October 1, that there will be a decrease from that of the previous year; as in that communication I stated the grounds upon which I had formed such a conclusion, it will be, I assume, unnecessary for me to recapitulate them here.

With reference to the condition of the free children, the state of education, the usual working hours, the disposition of the apprentices to purchase their manumission, or the mode in which those who have done so employ themselves, I have nothing to add which would differ in any particular from the statements conveyed on these several heads in my previous report.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Odell*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 9, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *Thomas Matthews*, Esq., Special Justice, to his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor.

Sir,

Success Estate, 31 Dec. 1836.

I BEG leave to state, the conduct of the apprentices in my district has not been so good as it ought; I do not consider there is any want of good feeling between the apprentices and their employers; those who are idle and unwilling to work have acquired their habits in consequence of a non-residence of a special justice after the death of the late Dr. Thompson. Their working hours are from half-past six in the morning until four in the afternoon. They are allowed one hour for breakfast and two hours for dinner. Task-work is often resorted to. It is usual for the apprentices to work during the time allowed them for breakfast and dinner; for which they are paid 10*d.* currency for their breakfast-hour, and two bits for their dinner-time. There are no indulgences withheld, which it was usual during slavery for the estate to supply. The condition of the free children is excellent throughout my district; they are supported by their parents. The facilities are very good for education and religious instruction. The attendance at church and school is very good. There is a very great desire to purchase their discharge whenever they are able. Three discharges have been effected since my last report. Those who purchase their discharge, if mechanics, usually resort to it; others hire themselves to gentlemen as servants. The prospects of the ensuing crops and general state of cultivation are good. The season has not been favourable, upon the account of want of rain.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Thomas Matthews*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 10, in No. 567.

ANSWERS to Circular.

1. THE apprentices have conducted themselves well.  
2. In very few instances do I find a want of good feeling between the apprentices and their masters.

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3. The

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3. The apprentices in this district I consider to work willingly.
4. The apprentices are generally in this district worked upon the eight hours system; this gives them the four o'clock to leave off work; they have half an hour for breakfast between eight and nine o'clock, and an hour for second breakfast between one and two o'clock: they are allowed cooks.
5. Task-work is not generally resorted to in this district, but is gradually introducing.
6. The coffee this season being much under an average crop, there is not that demand for extra labour; however, I make no doubt that the apprentices would willingly work for money-wages were they so called upon to labour.
7. When the apprentices have not worked to please their employer, or when the employer has lost stock, supposed to be stolen by the apprentices or with their connivance, the employers have in some places withheld the allowance of herrings and salt, but not for any length of time.
8. The free children remain on the properties with the mothers, and are supported by them; a great proportion of the free children go to school.
9. In this district there are four day and three Sunday schools, giving occasional instruction to about 430 apprentices, besides free children. There are three places of worship well attended on Sundays.
10. The desire among the apprentices to purchase their freedom does not appear to be very general. This conclusion I come to, from there being so few applications to that effect. No discharge effected in this quarter in my district.
11. I have not yet been able to ascertain to what employments the free negroes betake themselves.
12. The present appearances are in favour of the ensuing coffee crop, and the cultivation forward for the season; and I have every reason to believe the apprentices will continue to keep the fields in good order.
13. I have nothing particular to communicate at the present.

Kingsland, 31 Dec. 1836.

(signed) *H. W. Danson*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 11, in No. 567.

## ANSWERS to Circular.

Enclosure 11,  
in No. 567.

1. Good.
2. None.
3. Generally speaking, they do.
4. From sun-rise to sun-set, with the usual hours of relaxation.
5. In some instances task-work is given, but not generally.
6. They generally work for hire, if required, and the usual rate of wages is four bits (2s. 6d. currency).
7. I am not aware of any.
8. Generally speaking, good and proper care taken of them by the managers.

## 9. Maning's free school:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
On the foundation - - - - -	55	40	95
Not on the foundation - - - - -	64	31	95
School at the parish church, open on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday - - - - -	56	69	125
At Canowena estate - - - - -	93	69	241
Adults - - - - -	75	4	

10. I should say not.
11. House domestics.
12. Good; general state of cultivation good; season favourable.
13. None.

1 January 1837.

(signed) *Thomas M. Oliver*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 12, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *D. Ewart*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Kingston, 19 January 1837.

Enclosure 12,  
in No. 567.

In considering the state of my district since I had the honour to transmit to you my last quarterly report, it is with no ordinary pleasure that I am again enabled to affirm my conviction of the industry and obedience of the apprentices, and of the continued good feeling subsisting between them and their employers; and I feel an additional pleasure that, at the termination of another year in the progress of the apprenticeship system, I am permitted to review, with heartfelt satisfaction, the whole period over which my official duties extend, and to appeal to the certified records of those duties for evidence of the happy results which have attended the working of the system in my district. The retrospect thus afforded me, while it cannot fail to encompass the future with the most inspiring hopes, affords me the happiness.

happiness of assuring you, that on this occasion I have no information to communicate which may not be found in my last quarterly report.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *D. Ewart*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 13, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *G. D. Gregg*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Duncan's, P. O., December 1836.

IN compliance with the orders received in your circular, I have the honour to inform you, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, my observations upon the working of the apprentices in my district, and, in so doing, shall endeavour to comply with the thirteen queries from the Colonial Office.

Enclosure 13,  
in No. 567.

The conduct of the apprentices, generally speaking, I consider good, and I cannot see any want of good feeling between them and their employers; there are, however, exceptions; but work is for the most part done willingly, or apparently so, during the nine hours per day; task-work is seldom resorted to except when they work for money-wages; watchmen are perhaps the only class who work for "salt," as it is termed, and this because they are old and infirm. The usual allowances have been given; but on some estates it has been withheld from those who the proprietor or manager considers have not conducted themselves properly.

There is in my district few schools, and consequently the free children remain all day about the negro-houses. Since my last report two apprentices have purchased their freedom, but I cannot say how they employ themselves; however, I have never known their going to field labour. I trust that in my district a very considerable increase of the crops will take place, as the seasons have been most favourable.

To the 13th question, I beg leave to suggest the very great advantage that would arise to all parties, if, instead of one special justice adjudicating, two were associated; this might be done by their sitting for two days together at one place, allowing such estates as are contiguous to bring their complaints, and then remove for another two days to another place, of which place each estate shall have due notice; and so on continually during the whole month. By this plan a greater weight will be given to the decisions, and much of the angry feeling allayed, much of that crimination and recrimination avoided, to which the present system is subject. There is also another cause why this method should be adopted,—the daily increasing number of free persons who were formerly apprentices; the facilities such have of trespassing on the apprentices' grounds, while the latter are employed in the master's work; the facility this would give in valuations, in obtaining witnesses from the number that would come together, not to say any thing of the weight it would give to the decisions now so apt to be impugned; besides, the book in which the evidence is taken down might be signed by both magistrates, and quarterly forwarded to head quarters; it would also obviate the necessity of much locking up, as the proprietor or manager would know where to look, and be sure to find the magistrates; in fact, your own superior judgment will point out many more advantages which I shall decline to enumerate.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *G. D. Gregg*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 14, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *R. S. Cooper*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to his Excellency the Governor.

Sir,

St. Thomas in the Vale, 14 January 1837.

IN offering my report for the last quarter on the state of my district, I have great satisfaction in being enabled to assure your Excellency, it is now in a state of perfect tranquillity, and that the apprentices, who have been rapidly improving for the last three months, are performing their work willingly and well, and behaving altogether in a manner highly creditable to themselves.

Enclosure 14,  
in No. 567.

The nine hours system has been universally adopted throughout this district, and only departed from in cases of special agreement for taking off the sugar crops by double spells of eight hours each; these agreements have, I believe, been entered into on all the sugar estates.

Task-work is rarely resorted to; the apprentices are ready and even anxious to accept it, but the managers do not, in general, appear friendly to it; their objection, I rather think, arises from the endless variety of soil, &c., which renders it difficult to fix a general standard even for one estate. Could it be rendered available, task-work would result in great advantage to the apprentice, who, having more time at his command, would earn much more money than he can now do, for it requires but little observation to detect the utter falsehood of the old cuckoo song, that the negro will not labour but on compulsion; and it may serve to show the dishonesty of those who are ever repeating it, that I have frequently heard from managers of properties the remark, that a negro will do for himself in one day as much work as he would for his master in two; this is indeed a truth. Influenced like his fairer brother by the cheering hope of reward, the apprentice will, in one of his own days, perform for 2s. 6d. currency a day's work sufficient to satisfy any judge of work; 2s. 6d., or four

bits,

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bits, is the usual rate per day of nine hours, but at some descriptions of work they earn more, in digging cane-holes per 100, &c. I do not mean to assert that individual cases of idleness, as well as of insolence and dishonesty, do not occasionally occur; such, as also insufficiency of labour in field gangs, will, I imagine, be found noted in the diaries of special justices until the end of the apprenticeship. In giving the above account of their conduct, I speak generally.

Some persons complain that the apprentices now neglect their grounds to work for hire; this is by no means generally the case, and where it is observable, it will on inquiry be found that the money so earned is employed in procuring such necessaries (salt provisions, &c.) as were formerly allowed him weekly by the estate, but are now very generally discontinued; and when not altogether discontinued, are capriciously doled out by the managers, being frequently stopped for the smallest offence, or for no offence at all. Clothing and nourishment also for their infant children, being no longer allowed by the estates, require immediate funds, which the parents can only obtain by working for hire.

The free children are thrown entirely upon the resources of their parents; in a few instances medicine is given them; but the mother is always expected to repay any time she may take from the estate, to nurse and attend upon her sick infant.

Instruction is but slenderly provided for, nor do I perceive any disposition here to promote it; the end solely contemplated is, to get as much work as possible from the apprentice; there is indeed a school talked of, and a small one is in operation on Sundays at Heywood chapel, but I am informed it is inadequate to the wants of even its immediate vicinity. The Wesleyans and Baptists make the most of their limited means; the former have a station in the above rocks, but the latter have no fixed establishment within this district. The church and chapels are well attended, and two or three large schools would find ample employment, and effect incalculable good. The last Christmas offered strong indications of improvement in the minds and manners of the apprentices; their clean and decent appearance and sober deportment being strongly contrasted with the drunkenness and noisy revelry of former years.

An increasing desire to purchase freedom is manifest, and I have reason to think that several have completed their arrangements; but, as (though a party to the valuations) I did not see the monies paid, I cannot possibly assert it; of those whom I know to have obtained their freedom by purchase, nearly all have betaken themselves to cultivation of the soil, some who were non-prædials hiring themselves out as servants. In general there is apparent a great desire to remain on the estates to which they formerly belonged.

Of the prospects with regard to the crop now just commencing, I would speak with caution; I think it will be an average crop; there has been general complaint of the canes "harrowing too soon," and as it is well known canes do not increase in size after harrowing, the circumstance may account for any slight falling off. The quality of the sugar already made is superior, and continues to bear out the opinion that night-work was in this respect unfavourable to its manufacture. The seasons have been highly favourable to getting in the plants, and the present dry weather appears equally so for taking off the crop.

It is with regret that I advert to the partial existence of an evil of great magnitude connected with the sanatory management of estates,—I mean the practice of locking up the hospitals, or, more properly, hot-houses. Persons in every stage of disease, and under all its varieties, are not unfrequently locked up together, night and day, in buildings with the very windows barred close, as if light and air were enemies to health; and the individual, just over a fever fit, to whom a little fresh air would be of more service than all the medicine in the dispensary, is doomed to breathe the impure air exhaled from a dozen or twenty pair of diseased lungs, and infected with the stench of ulcerated legs, &c.; and all, as far as I can discover, for the sole purpose of keeping people at work, by rendering the hot-house a place of punishment for sickness, rather than a relief from its pains. It is, however, but justice to add, that the above description is not generally applicable; the exceptions are many and honourable to the masters; and I must also observe that in most cases I found the practice complained of relinquished at the first expression of disapprobation from the special justice; but I have to complain that on some estates, and large ones too, it still subsists with the joint support of the doctor and manager, to the injury of the apprentices' health, not to speak of the illegality of the close imprisonment so imposed; on such properties, I solemnly declare I have never found matters go on well.

In conclusion, I beg to call your Excellency's attention to the injustice of calling upon a mother to repay time devoted to the care of her sick infant, which, as the law stands, cannot be prevented.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *R. S. Cooper*, Special Magistrate.

Enclosure 15, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *R. B. Facey*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Montego Bay, 3 January 1837.

IN compliance with his Excellency's circular of the 15th July last, No. 63, I take leave to forward the following report on the state of my district:

1. That the apprentices continue to conduct themselves with propriety.
2. That there is a better feeling between the managers and apprentices than there used to be, may be inferred from the considerable decrease of complaints on either side.

3. The

Enclosure 15,  
in No. 567.

3. The working hours in this district are from sun-rise to sun-set, allowing three hours' interval of relaxation during the day; on some properties half an hour is allowed for breakfast, and two hours and a half during the day; on others, one full hour for breakfast, and are then drawn off at four in the evening.

5. Task-work is now pretty generally resorted to when employed digging cane-holes; but whether the people will accept task-work on any other description of labour, will depend as much on a reciprocal good feeling as on the equity of the scale of labour.

6. I have seen the apprentices on Anchovy estate during the last three months not only labouring during the hours of relaxation, but by moonlight, at the rate of 3s. 4d. per 100 cane-holes. It does not consist with my knowledge that the apprentices ever refused to labour in their own time for money when the offer has been made, and a prospect of speedy payment held out to them.

7. I do not think the supplies so liberally continued as they used to be during slavery.

8. With respect to the condition of the free children and their means of support, I cannot speak with certainty; but I imagine they are exclusively supported by the industry of their parents, or by those with whom they may be placed to learn a trade.

9. There is still a lamentable deficiency of the means of education and religious instruction in this district. There is no established church or place of worship, and the only means by which education and religious instruction are imparted is through the exertions of Mr. Burchell and Mr. Wardell, two pious and indefatigable missionaries of the Baptist and Methodist persuasion.

10. Although I have only effected seven valuations since my last report, it must not by any means be considered as evidence of disinclination on the part of the apprentices to obtain their discharge; on the contrary, there is a general desire for freedom.

11. I do not know to what kind of employment those who obtain their discharge usually betake themselves.

12. The prospects of the ensuing crop, in almost all the properties in this quarter, have been represented to me by the managers as promising a good return. The seasons have been propitious, and, judging from the healthy appearance of the plants, I should say that nothing but bad management or an unexpected change of weather can prevent an increase over the last year's crop.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. B. Facey*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 16, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *Stanley Rawlinson*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Brownstown, 31 December 1836.

WITH reference to the second part of the circular, No. 63, of the 23d September, I beg to make the following report for the quarter ending this day.

The general conduct of the apprentices has been peaceable and orderly; a good feeling exists between them and their employers; they might, no doubt, with the greatest ease perform much more work than they have been doing: the working hours are from sun-rise, with one hour for breakfast and two for dinner. There is no task-work in this district: the apprentices do not work willingly in their own time. At Knapdale, Dunbarton and Queenhithe, liberal wages have been offered for the last two months for the digging of cane-holes, but in vain, and that with the choice of the easiest land. Salt fish is not given when the apprentices do not conduct themselves well. With respect to the free children, they are leading an idle, vagabond life; their parents will not allow them to do the slightest work for the property, although they invariably receive medicine when sick; I have, in many instances, been allowed to sit down and take care of them; the children are supported from provision grounds belonging to the proprietors. The accommodation at church and in the schools is equal to the attendance. There is no doubt the apprentices would purchase their discharge had they the means: 11 valuations have taken place since the last return; six only have paid the stipulated price. It is not in my power to state the kind of employment those who have purchased the remainder of their apprenticeship betake themselves to. This is not a sugar district, there being only seven estates. The crops, on the average, will be less for the ensuing year. The season has been favourable. The remainder, consisting of pen and pimento, is kept in pretty good order. If task-work could be agreed on, it would, I think, be advantageous to both parties; the general and prevailing complaint on the part of proprietors and overseers being an insufficiency of labour. Complaints against apprentices have not averaged more than 15 per month for the last quarter; on the part of apprentices only two, and when inquired into, not proved.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Stanley Rawlinson*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 17, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Cocking*, Esq., Special Justice.

St. James's, Windward District, December 1836.

THE undersigned is happy in having to state that the cultivation of the estates is very much improved, and there is every probability of its continuing so; it is expected this year's

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crop will be more than that of the last. An excellent feeling exists between the masters and apprentices, with some few exceptions; the former and the managers are doing every thing in their power to promote the apprentices' comforts and industrious habits. It is, however, with unfeigned regret that the undersigned begs to call the attention of his Excellency the Governor to the deplorable idle state and conduct of some of the apprentices upon almost every estate: during the time allowed for relaxation by law, they go plundering about the country to a very alarming extent, instead of working their grounds, which are almost totally neglected; and whilst the better disposed of them are attending divine service on Sundays, the former are prowling about, purloining every species of provisions and other articles they can lay their hands on. This serious evil very much disheartens those who have good grounds and plenty of provisions. It is much to be regretted that the law does not invest the special magistrates with power to cause all the bad disposed to be collected into a gang on each estate, and placed under the superintendence of a constable, whose duty it would be to make them work their grounds; thus, for instance, supposing such gang to be composed of from 10 to 20 apprentices, the whole number would set in on the apprentice days of every week, and clean and plant off a patch of ground for the first one, and so on until the whole 10 or 20 grounds were completed; on the same principle, they would also clean them in rotation. Theft would then in a great measure be prevented by their being placed at such an employment, and when the fruits of their labour began to develop themselves, they would then have an abundance of provisions; and the disgrace attendant upon being put into such a gang, together with the advantages they would then perceive accruing from habits of industry, would, in all probability, be the means of reclaiming many of them, and preparing them for the great change which will take place in their condition in the year 1840. If the bad-disposed of the apprentices could be persuaded, or the special magistrates had the power of enforcing their attendance at church, it may influence their conduct for the better, and be the means of preventing their plundering the regular attendants in their (the latter's) absence.

The conduct of the children's mothers, also, is such as calls forth the most painful considerations and animadversions; indeed, so every thing unlike maternal feeling do they display in many instances towards their offspring, that humanity revolts at their barbarity: many of their children, when ill, are allowed to consume away from disease, &c., in the negro-houses, and are sometimes at the last stage of existence before they will bring them to their managers or carry them to the hospital, where medicine and other necessaries would be administered; and although they are repeatedly requested to bring them up when taken sick, many of them expire from the delay of the mothers before any assistance can be rendered.

The Christmas holidays have passed off well; the apprentices have had every indulgence and allowance granted them, as formerly; and the conduct of all parties at the commencement of the present year augurs a favourable termination.

(signed) *R. Cocking*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 18, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *J. Rawlins Thomas*, Esq., Special Justice, to  
*C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Falmouth District, Parish Trelawny, 3 Jan. 1837.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith my several reports and documents for the month and quarter ending 31 December 1836; and I earnestly hope they will be found correct and satisfactory to his Excellency the Governor.

It is with the utmost satisfaction and pleasure that I can report most favourably of the general conduct of the apprentices in this district under my superintendence, and that the best feelings exist between themselves and their respective masters, all work going on well, and most willingly, under the nine hours system of employment. I cannot say that task-work is as generally embraced by the apprentices as could be wished, arising from an unhappy suspicion in them that all proposals have, more or less, some sinister motive, and inimical to their rights and interest; however, in many instances they have seen their folly, and had greatly to regret declining the liberal proposition of their employer, which would end well in many respects. The apprentices are pretty free to work for wages in their own time, the general rate of which is about 3*d.* per hour, paid weekly. Some few of the former allowances and indulgences are, unavoidably, curtailed on most of the properties in this district; but the staple boon of "salt," *i. e.* fish, is universally and most liberally bestowed. The condition of the free children would be most pitiable but for the liberal assistance and protection extended to them and their mothers by the estate, however undeserved by the latter party. The facilities for education and religious instruction in this district are great, and the attendance at church and school is good. Among the apprentices the desire to purchase their discharge certainly lessens, five cases of valuation only having occurred this month, when the ratio some few months ago was double that number; and these being either tradesmen in the town, or female non-prædials, house servants, they generally betake themselves to their trade and former habit of life. The prospects of the ensuing crop have brightened materially within the last month, owing to some seasonable rains, and, generally, the calculation is that of the last year, certainly not more. On the whole, the seasons have been unfavourable, and the canes, even where looking healthy and well, are yet very short. In conclusion, sir, I would beg leave most respectfully to offer my humble suggestions and

recommendations,

Enclosure 18,  
in No. 567.

recommendations, and these, with the deepest interest at heart for the well-being and well working of every estate in this land, viz. competency and activity in the manager of the property, with system, method, and, next to sacred uniformity in all his professional arrangements, his own eye attending and surveying his daily operations in every department; then, open-handed, liberal and generous dealing with the good and faithful apprentice in every class (but particularly supporting and upholding the sworn and faithful constable); but with the lawless and wicked apprentice, that would attempt to infringe that good and bountiful code, his ample boon, the law,—his portion should be, undeviatingly the utmost measure of coercion to which the offended law rendered him amenable.

I trust, sir—I most respectfully trust—that I have not expressed myself too energetically either to the sense of his Excellency the Governor or yourself; but I have been 34 years a professional servant to His Majesty—rather, to my country; and I can only say—thank God, I have been brought up in the school, the happy school, of discipline, which at least allows me, amply supported by others, to have the several thousands of apprentices in this district under my charge subservient to the law of the land, or any law which to-morrow might emanate from the will of his Excellency the Governor of this island.

My apprentices characterize happiness, and I do firmly believe have a confidence, at least, in the magistrate who has the more immediate charge and protection of them and their rights.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Joseph Rawlins Thomas*, Special Justice.

P. S.—Christmas-time has ended most happily in every sense; my two lightest calendars in the year at Falmouth Court were 24th and 31st December.

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Enclosure 19, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *Stephen Bourne*, Esq., Special Justice, to his Excellency the Governor.

Sir,

St. Andrew's East, 12 January 1837.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency my report for the quarter ending 31 December 1836.

Enclosure 19,  
in No. 567.

The conduct of the apprentices has been, with very few exceptions, good.

I do not observe any increase of good feeling between the apprentices and their employers.

I think the apprentices do perform their work, in general, more willingly than could have been anticipated.

The working hours are almost universally nine hours per day for the first four days of the week, and four and a half hours on Fridays. In some instances the apprentices are allowed the whole day every other Friday. One hour's relaxation is given in the middle of the day.

Task-work is not generally resorted to in this district; the apprentices are, with few exceptions, unwilling to engage in it. They are, in fact, afraid that every change during the apprenticeship term, will be for the worse; and the report now current, that the quantity of work is to be vastly increased, under the sanction of your Excellency, has set them against it more than ever.

The apprentices do work in their own time; the general price is 2s. 6d. currency, or 1s. 6d. sterling per day for able hands, and for others in proportion to their age and ability. Tradesmen get from 3s. 4d. to 5s. currency per day. In a few instances they obtain 2s. 1d. per day.

In some cases the Christmas allowances have been withheld; and in others they have been less than usual, but these instances, I am happy to state, are few. Several indulgences have been withheld on ordinary occasions, and on many estates cooks, nurses and midwives, but, as I have always remarked, with loss to the property more than to the apprentices.

The free children appear to me to be well fed, and at the expense of the parents, chiefly the mothers.

The facilities for education are few, totally inadequate to the necessities of the case; the same may be said of religious instruction on Sundays. The attendance of apprentices is fully equal to the accommodation, but the masters rarely attend the place of worship in my district.

I think there is a great disposition to purchase their freedom on the part of the apprentices, but the enhanced price of late has put it out of their power. On this account I have had but very few valuations recently, less than in any other quarter.

The apprentices who purchase their discharges commonly work their own grounds, the demand for provisions at the Kingston market rendering that their most profitable occupation. Some of them get places of service, but not many.

I do not think the prospect of a coffee crop generally good. (I have no sugar estates in my district.) The quantity will, I am persuaded, be less than the last year. The state of cultivation appears to me to be good. The season has not been favourable.

The great measures to be recommended for the advantage of the country are, in my opinion, schools of industry, and the encouragement, by the proprietors, of steady, industrious married men as overseers—men who are not above their business, who do not meddle with politics, and who set a good example to the apprentices. The too common practice of debauching the young black women, or bringing brown housekeepers amongst them,

has

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has tended more than any thing besides to lower the influence of the overseer over the apprentices, and to demoralize and unsettle the negroes.

If the English proprietors would encourage (by selling or letting portions of land to them) industrious farmers with large families, and if it were even but small capitals, to emigrate from home, it would be a most effectual means of promoting the true interest of the country; and my own experience in the health of a large family proves that the mountainous parts of the island are very favourable to the health of temperate and industrious persons.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Stephen Bourne*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 20, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *George Willis*, jun., Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Bath, St. Thomas in the East, 10 January 1837.

Enclosure 20,  
in No. 567.

I BEG leave to state, for his Excellency's information, that the apprentices in my district continue to conduct themselves in the same good manner as when I had last the honour of reporting, and the same good feeling, I am happy to say, exists between them and their employers. Task-work is not at present resorted to, and little or no work done in their own time for wages: the usual indulgences they continue to receive. I am sorry to observe the condition of the free children not at all improved. The whole of the estates in this district have commenced crop, but the yielding not equal to the appearance of the cane; the continuation of dry weather accounts for this. The Christmas holidays have passed off quietly, and the whole of the apprentices have returned to their labour.

I am, &amp;c.

(signed) *George Willis*, jun., Special Justice.

## Enclosure 21, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *T. A. Dillon*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Leeward District, Parish of St. Ann's,  
Retirement, Great House, 1 January 1837.Enclosure 21,  
in No. 567.

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of the Governor, that this district maintains its usual good character.

I adopt this mode of replying to the printed interrogatories issued by His Majesty's Government, because truth would oblige me to answer them in the same terms expressed in my last report.

The good feeling which has been the labour and pleasure of my official life to promote is obviously on the advance; complaints are infinitely less frequent; and whether this proceeds from forbearance in the manager, or an improved tone of character in the apprentice, or both, would be hardly useful to discuss; whilst the incontrovertible fact, that the business of estates is carried on with a comparative absence of punishment, is no less true than satisfactory. It is now more than a year and six months since I took charge of this district, and there are twenty-three estates on which corporal punishment has never been inflicted; during the last three months (with one exception, and that has been stealing salt fish from a store) not a single act approaching to crime has occurred, and it is only under our present judicial code that punishment could (by any possibility) be awarded. The coffee crop, as I anticipated, will be short, from causes over which industry could have had no control.

The sugar estates are in high cultivation, whilst extensive preparations in plants for 1838 and 1839 have been established. Properties are changing hands, some rented, some purchased on terms which evince confidence in the speculator; from 50*s.* to 5*l.* an acre for uncleared mountain land is asked and given, according to the facilities or difficulties of approach; finally, as confidence has advanced, prosperity has followed in a proportionate ratio.

I have made use of the national taste for horse-racing, as a means of introducing a novel experiment, namely, public rewards for industry, obedience and general good conduct; and on Saturday next I shall have the gratification of presenting (before a large assemblage of gentry and peasantry) to one, from each of the three classes of estate's constables most conspicuous for merit, two pistols and a handsome staff; a similar reward, of less amount, to the most deserving apprentice in my own district; and, should the Almighty give me strength, I shall use this stimulus at least once a year, which, with other appliances, may induce confidence, emulation and good feeling. The gentlemen of this district—indeed, of the parish—have subscribed liberally to promote the scheme, and the most thinking anticipate good results. I beg to annex the programme:

“The promoter of these rural sports having not only in view the moral advance of the apprentice, by providing periodical premiums for meritorious conduct, but at the same time, by catering for his amusements, to induce a return of willing labour and reciprocal goodwill, exciting in times to come grateful associations, making the standard or climax of his happiness that which he has been accustomed to enjoy in the propinquity of his own dwelling, checking his desire to seek for novelties elsewhere, and compelling him, by the common instinct of our nature, to cultivate, in the strength of his manhood, the well-remembered haunts of his youth, where his matured usefulness was encouraged, his moral conceptions enlarged, and his recreations not forgotten. Whether these views are real or visionary,

visionary, they deserve not only a trial, but the encouragement of proprietors, attornies and managers; whilst sportsmen and breeders will best consult their interest by becoming annual subscribers."

It is painful for me again to call the attention of His Majesty's Government to the lamentable state of yaw patients, adults and infants; and should the British Government be inattentive to this, my third appeal, I shall seek, through the medium of a petition to the island legislature, for the adoption of some plan to relieve these unfortunates from the sanatory control of estates, and to provide district asylums for the free children. To check the loathsome and increasing disease is not less humane than politic, or the rising generation will fall victims.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *T. A. Dillon*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 22, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *Hall Pringle*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Lucea, Hanover, 1 January 1837.

IN obedience to his Excellency's commands, I forward to you the report of the state of my district during the past three months. Since I have undertaken the duties of special justice of this district, I have found the apprentices (who exceed in number 9,500) generally well-conducted, and there appears to be a growing feeling of good understanding between them and their masters.

Enclosure 22,  
in No. 567.

The working hours of the apprentices of my district are from six in the morning till six in the evening, out of which they are allowed one hour for breakfast, and two for dinner. On two or three of the estates in my district the apprentices prefer working eight hours per day, and continuing the same on a Friday; during crop-time, which has now commenced, the apprentices are eagerly working eight hours a day extra for an average pay of 2s. 6d. sterling per week, consisting of five working days. I find that task-work is extensively imposed in digging cane-holes, but not so in other species of field labour. The only estates in my district where I find a disinclination on the part of the apprentices to work for hire in their own time, is on those estates where the provision grounds are more than usually extensive and productive, and where the apprentices have a ready sale for ground provisions; when the apprentice chooses to work for hire in his own day, he receives 6d. sterling per day of nine hours. I know that on the large estates none of those indulgences which the apprentice had bestowed on him while he was in a state of slavery are now withheld, but on the small mountain settlements in my district, I have reason to believe that the apprentice feels the poverty of the master. The state of the free children is such as to cloud the prospects of an improved state of the condition of the labouring classes in Jamaica; I find them growing up with the habits of idleness incident to the most uncivilized state of society, and I find their parents encouraging them in that antipathy to all restraint which characterizes the uncivilized. The mass of the adult population, I have every reason to believe, will continue those habits of industry to which they have been accustomed, on the expiration of the period of compulsory labour.

The facilities for juvenile education in my district are not great, but even these have not been taken advantage of. The facilities for religious instruction are extensive, and the apprentices evince a great desire to embrace the advantages afforded by a numerous clergy. The desire to purchase their freedom I find mostly displayed by the least respectable among the body of the apprentices; and many of the most industrious amongst the apprentices, who could easily purchase their discharge, prefer their present state, and keeping the money of which they are possessed.

I am given to understand that the seasons have been very favourable. The cultivation of the estates is generally good; but, from causes with which I am unacquainted, a slight falling off of the crops this season is expected.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Hall Pringle*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 23, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *Daniel Winder Kelly*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Parish of Westmoreland, Mount Edgewcombe Pen,  
Robin's River, P. O., 31 December 1836.

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, that since my last quarterly return, the apprentices in this district have conducted themselves with much propriety, and on most properties continue to give satisfaction to their employers.

Enclosure 23,  
in No. 567.

The Christmas holidays have passed over most satisfactorily, the apprentices attending their several churches in great numbers, and also amusing themselves with every appearance of happiness. With one or two exceptions, the allowances were distributed plentifully, such as fish, rum, beef and sugar, and also receiving several other marks of kindness.

There appears to be a kind feeling existing between the apprentice and the master, particularly so where there has been a conciliatory mode of management hitherto carried on, and from what I can observe this has been the case on most properties in this district,



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with the exception of some of the small settlers, who cannot afford the same indulgences. The labouring hours in this district are generally nine, the apprentice getting one hour for breakfast and two hours for dinner. Task-work is not generally resorted to; I think the objection lies principally with the apprentice; yet where it is so, I have invariably seen the work performed long before the usual hour for drawing off.

On many properties the apprentices are working for hire, and this feeling, in my opinion, is much on the increase in this district. The usual mode of payment is cash, at the rate of from 1s. 8d. to 3s. 4d. and 4s. 2d.; on most properties the apprentices get their allowance of fish, and grass for their cattle of every description. With regard to the free children, I am of opinion that most of them are brought up in indolence; this perhaps is much to be attributed to the limited means of supplying education, as, from what I have always observed, there appears to be a great desire on the part of the negro to receive instruction. The principal school in this district has been established by Hutchinson Scott, esq., of Hopeton; there are also six small schools, all of which are under the religious instruction of Mr. Collis, the Moravian minister, with the exception of one. The accommodation at the several churches, in my opinion, is not at all equal to the attendance, as I have frequently seen half the congregation remaining outside for want of sufficient room, particularly at the Moravian churches.

I do not think there is such a desire now, on the part of the apprentices, to purchase their manumission as some months past; those who have purchased their freedom have hired themselves, or got ground on which they labour. I have known an apprentice to Glanburnie pen, after he had obtained his freedom, go back to his master from whom he has since been receiving 3s. 4d. per day, and the same allowance as usual, thus getting at the rate of 50l. per year, deducting the days he would require to plant his provisions, &c. On the sugar estates in this district, it is expected there will be no diminution from the last crops; the season has been unfavourable to the mountain crops; in consequence of the heavy rains we have had, there is a good appearance for the ensuing returns.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Daniel Winder Kelly*, Special Magistrate.

## Enclosure 24, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Sydney Lambert*, Esq., Special Justice, to  
*C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

S. E. Division, St. Mary's, 31 December 1836.

THE time having arrived when it becomes my duty to supply the information required in respect of the district of this parish under my charge, I have the honour to report that during the period of three months that has now elapsed since my last report—

1. The conduct of the apprentices generally has been satisfactory, leading to a decrease of nearly one-third in the number of offences, which are unmarked by those features of determined resistance to the law that have heretofore called for the exercise of its severity to an extent which is now happily much diminished.

2. Whereby a mutual good feeling is engendered between the apprentices and their employers, against which latter, during the whole period embraced in this report, not a single conviction has taken place.

3. With one exception (the case of the female portion of the gang of jobbing apprentices belonging to Rosehill, but employed at Orange River estate, who have shown a great reluctance to perform a due and customary quantum of labour, ascribable, I am induced to think, to their intercourse with the females of this latter estate, who have, on repeated occasions, exhibited proofs of insubordination), the apprentices in general repair to their several duties with a certain degree of willingness, indicative, nevertheless, of a conviction of the compulsory nature of the engagements by which they are connected with their masters.

4. The working hours are principally from six o'clock A. M. to four o'clock P. M., one hour cessation being given about noon. This system of retiring from work before the close of the day is generally preferred by the negro to receiving a longer cessation in the middle of the day, and working till sun-down.

5. Task-work is very generally adopted by those jobbing gangs ordinarily employed in cane-hole digging; but in this mountainous district many local difficulties prevent the adoption of the system, but which, where feasible, is seldom objected to by either party, if desired by the other.

6. On the sugar estates, of which there are only eight in the district, agreements have been entered into, whereby the negro receives from 2d. to 3d. per hour for the time he may be worked over the legal hours of daily labour; but the employment of either Saturday, or "the four hours and a half per week," granted as an additional time to cultivate grounds, is a rare occurrence, though frequent endeavours are made by the employer to further such an arrangement. The wages are paid in money. On the coffee plantations extra labour is seldom engaged.

7. The full accustomed allowances are still granted; and when the conduct of the apprentices has entitled them to it, I have reason to believe they have been increased with the same liberality that induced the general grant of the full holidays of the "olden time," on the occasion of the recent Christmas.

8. The

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in No. 567.

8. The free children are well taken care of by their parents, who keep them in a state of idleness, though offers have been made to give them employment, and a fair remuneration for their services.

9. One church of "the Establishment," a chapel attached to the mission of "the Church of Scotland," and a Wesleyan chapel, a school being connected with each, constitute the only facilities for religious instruction and education in the district; in each of these establishments the attendance is generally more than equal to the accommodation offered.

10. The desire amongst the apprentices to purchase their discharge has increased during the past quarter; nine have completed such purchase, whilst others are making arrangements to do so; the applications for valuations at the present moment amount to two.

11. Amongst those lately discharged, the majority engage themselves in the cultivation of provision grounds, whilst the remainder have become hired labourers.

12. The prospects of the ensuing crop induce the belief that it will be abundant on sugar estates, where the fields of cane have been much extended. In the state of cultivation, no comparative difference is perceptible, though in the coffee fields little time has been engaged in securing the last crop, which was very deficient; and on the sugar estates there exists a great demand for that auxiliary, the jobbing gang.

13. I beg leave to conclude this report, embracing all the topics referred to in your circular of the 23d September last, No. 63, without submitting any suggestion or recommendation.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. Sydney Lambert*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 25, in No. 567.

Copy of a LETTER from *Henry Laidlaw*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Crescent Park, St. Ann's, 9 January 1837.

In submitting, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the following report on the general state of this district, I am spared the necessity of entering into any lengthened detail, in consequence of the little alteration that has taken place since the period of my last quarterly report.

The apprentices continue to conduct themselves in a very creditable manner; and the good feeling to which I alluded in my last report as prevailing between master and apprentice, I am happy to state, appears to be daily increasing. Both parties seem more reconciled to the working of the new system than they were at an earlier period of the apprenticeship, and to be better acquainted with the duties and obligations which they respectively owe each other. The usual allowances were generally given to the people at Christmas; while they, on the other hand, conducted themselves during the holidays with great propriety, and returned to labour, at their expiration, with the greatest order and regularity.

The nine hours system of daily labour has been almost universally acted upon in this district for a considerable time past; and as I have observed that the apprentices uniformly prefer working in this manner, it has been an object of my greatest solicitude to impress on the owners and managers the propriety of conceding this point; and I have now the satisfaction of stating that I am not aware of a single instance in which the half of Friday, or some other day in lieu of it, is not allowed to the people.

The various sorts of labour required on pens renders it difficult to resort to task-work, and it is not therefore generally practised in this district. There is also very little necessity for extra labour, the time allowed by law being in general amply sufficient for the species of cultivation required in this district; but when it has been wanted, there has been no difficulty in procuring it; and I am informed that, upon these occasions, the apprentices work with great alacrity for money-wages, which generally vary from 1s. 8d. to 2s. 6d. currency per day.

The free children are supported by their parents from the produce of their provision grounds, there not being a single instance of an apprenticed free child in this district.

The religious instruction provided by the Established Church in this parish is extremely deficient, the principal instruction being afforded by the Methodist and Baptist ministers; and the people are most anxious to avail themselves of every opportunity of attending divine worship. I regret extremely to state that as yet no measures whatever have been adopted on the all-important subject of education, and the free children are, in consequence, growing up in idleness and ignorance.

There appears to be an increasing desire on the part of the apprentices, particularly of females, to purchase the remaining term of their apprenticeship, and since the period of my last report, 13 discharges have been effected. So far as I have an opportunity of obtaining information, the tradesmen when liberated generally pursue their respective trades, and the field people purchase lots of ground, which they cultivate for their own support; but in several instances the amount of the valuation is advanced by third parties, to whom the apprentices bind themselves anew after they have received their discharge.

In conclusion, it is extremely gratifying to state that each year's experience holds out the prospect of a more successful working of the great experiment that is now going forward, and leaves little doubt that, by the end of the apprenticeship, the bulk of the negro population will be gradually prepared for the enjoyment of that boon, which has been secured to them at so great a cost on the part of the British nation.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Laidlaw*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 25,  
in No. 567.

JAMAICA.

Enclosure 26, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *J. W. Grant*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Mandeville District, Manchester, January 1837.

Enclosure 26,  
in No. 567.

SINCE I last had the honour of making a similar report to this on the state of my district, I regret that the conduct of the apprentices in some instances has been such as now to preclude me from speaking of them in terms of commendation.

Behaviour similar to that of the Oldbury apprentices, however, was not general; and, with the exception of that property, has on the others decreased altogether. Oldbury has, it is well known, always been an exception to the orderly state of the other properties in this district.

There is in general a good feeling between the apprentices and their employers, with the above exception; but there (and I am at a loss to what cause to attribute the fact) neither the employer nor the apprentices have the least feeling of confidence in each other.

The apprentices generally have of late performed their work with willingness; this I have been gratified to hear, in answer to all the inquiries I have made on the subject.

The eight hours system is the one adopted here; and, from no feeling of dissatisfaction being expressed by the apprentices, and from their (to my own knowledge) preferring it in many instances, I think the intervals of relaxation which can be allowed from their work during the day on this system, they find to be more convenient than that which would only be their due had they to work on the other.

Task-work is resorted to on many of the properties in my district; and I have always found that the apprentices work better and more willingly when they are aware what is to be expected, and, of course, can be fairly exacted from them.

If the apprentices cannot make more in any other way, *i. e.* by working in their grounds, &c., they are always ready to work in their own time for hire, which they usually receive at the rate, I believe, of 2s. 6d. currency per day.

I am not aware that the indulgences they were accustomed to receive in the time of slavery are withheld from them on any of the properties in my district, with the exception of Marlborough, a property for which the Honourable Mr. Salmon is attorney, and where the apprentices have always behaved exceedingly well.

The free children are supported by their parents, and, if within a few miles of any school, are sent to it; but this part of the country affords very few facilities for the education of the mass, and it is a matter of regret that schools are so few, and so little encouragement given to have them. With regard to religious instruction, I believe there is every facility, and that the accommodation is quite equal to the attendance.

There have only been four valuations during the last three months. Many of the sensible apprentices now tell me that, although they are quite able to purchase the release from the remaining term of the apprenticeship, yet they prefer keeping their money, and continue adding to it until they are free, when, they seem to think, they can then lay it out more advantageously in beginning to work for themselves.

The prospects of the ensuing crop are good, and (in consequence of the favourable seasons) the cultivation forward.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *J. W. Grant*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 27, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *Henry Waddington*, Esq., Special Justice, to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Port Antonio, Portland, 31 Dec. 1836.

Enclosure 27,  
in No. 567.

IN obedience to your Excellency's commands, conveyed in Mr. Secretary Darling's circular, No. 63, and date 23d September, I reply to the series of questions therein contained.

1. The general conduct of the apprentices has been orderly and peaceable; complaints occasionally occur of neglect of work, and also of going to their work late in the morning; I lament to say, that many still continue to pilfer fruit, canes, corn and sugar.

2. There is no want of good feeling between the employers and the apprentices. No complaint can be made on the part of the apprentices with respect to the treatment they receive.

3. As answered in No. 1, they are in the habit of losing time, but I do not think that they are unwilling to work.

4. On most properties nine hours; intervals of relaxation according to the length of the day.

5. Not generally. I am firmly of opinion, that were task-work imposed by law, it would essentially benefit all classes.

6. On some properties they will work, but not on all. Wages have been offered on most properties; price 3s. 4d. and 4s. 2d. a day.

7. No indulgence has been withheld.

8. The condition of the free children is deplorable; it is supposed that they are supported by their mothers; they are great nuisances, destroying trees, stealing fruit, &c.

9. There are several daily and Sunday schools; a few free children attend, but scarcely any apprentices. The church is too small; another is to be erected, and a chapel is nearly completed; there is also a Wesleyan chapel well attended.

10. There

10. There does not appear any great desire on the part of the apprentices to purchase their discharge, though many have the means of so doing.

11. Very few apprentices have purchased their discharge in this district. One, a carpenter, gains from 6s. 8d. to 13s. 4d. a day; a labourer earns 6s. 8d.; a woman lives with a maroon; and a boy of 15 years lives with his mother, but does nothing.

12. The prospects of the ensuing crop are remarkably good; the season has been and continues to be very fine, and the appearance of cultivation beautiful.

In conclusion, I beg to observe that the Christmas holidays have passed in the most quiet and orderly way. It has been remarked to me, that no Christmas ever passed so quietly. The same may apply to the different estates equally with Port Antonio.

I do not find much difference in the number of complaints in this and the former quarter.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Waddington*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 28, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *E. E. Fishbourne*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Dover House, St. George's, 31 Dec. 1836.

In obedience to the directions contained in your circular letter, No. 63, dated 23d Sept. 1836, I have the honour to forward the following report upon the state of my district.

Enclosure 28,  
in No. 567.

Since the transmission of my last general quarterly report, the conduct of the apprentices has been satisfactory. They have been diligent in performing their duty to their masters, and sober, orderly and peaceable during their own time. The liberal allowances which were distributed at Christmas, the absence of all rioting or quarrelling, and the harmony which prevailed, lead me to believe that the best understanding exists between employers and apprentices. The various places of worship were crowded on Christmas-day; and Monday and Tuesday having been spent in the usual festivities, the people returned to their work on Wednesday cheerfully, and in good time.

Although some instances of bad and insufficient work have occurred within the last three months, still the apprentices, as a body, labour willingly, and perform a fair and reasonable quantity of work, especially where they are met in a spirit of liberality by their managers. On some estates, this is very observable; for, where this encouraging disposition is manifested, very few complaints are brought before me.

During the quarter just expired, no alteration has been made in the systems of working; neither has any change taken place which would render it necessary for me to offer any further remarks respecting apprentices working for money-wages in their own time.

On some estates, part of the indulgences and allowances which the people received when they were slaves are not now supplied at the proprietor's expense. Herrings are not issued on all estates. The child-mothers and pregnant women are not allowed their former indulgences on any; and on some few estates children who were under six years of age on 1st August 1834, are not now supplied with medicines and medical attendance as heretofore. This has been mentioned to me by medical gentlemen in my district as a very serious deprivation.

The condition of the free children is very unfortunate; they are growing up in a state of complete idleness; and being in most instances some miles from either of the two schools in my district, they are unable, even were they willing, to avail themselves of the advantages of instruction; therefore, whilst their parents are employed at their daily labour, these children are either left to loiter about the negro-houses, or else are partially restrained and kept together by some old persons, too feeble or too unwell to do even the lightest description of work.

There is a day-school at Annotto Bay open to free and apprentices; the master, who is paid by the vestry, is constantly ill; the children residing at Annotto Bay attend very irregularly, and those belonging to the neighbouring estates, two excepted, are too far off to do so. There is also a Sunday-school taught only by the master of the day-school, and the number of pupils is exceedingly limited. The Messrs. Mitchell, of London, caused a school-house to be erected at their expense upon Fort Stewart estate, and allow a liberal salary for a master; but I am informed that no instruction has been given there for some time. In the parish church at Buff Bay the attendance of apprentices is much greater than the accommodation. In the episcopal chapel at Annotto Bay there is sufficient room for all who assemble there. The Baptists' chapel also at Annotto Bay is large, and is numerously attended.

The desire to be totally free is naturally very general, but the intelligent and respectable apprentices, who are in many instances well able to purchase their discharges, think it better to reserve their money until the time arrives when they will be at liberty to employ themselves wholly for their own benefit. Four persons have purchased their discharges this quarter: Jackson Edwards has hired himself to a clergyman as his servant; Richard Panting resides with his father; James Duncan, a cooper, informs me that he purposes to hire himself to the attorney of Gray's Inn estate, at the same rate as he was valued; and Marina Thomas continues to live with the person with whom she cohabited before she was valued.

The seasons for the last four months have been very favourable for making sugar, as well as for promoting the growth of the young canes intended for next year's crop. There will be a falling off in the quantity of sugar on most of the estates in my district this year; but

JAMAICA.

from the large quantity of plants put in, and the care that has been bestowed in cultivating and cleaning the fields, there is every probability that the ensuing crop will give above an average return if the seasons continue favourable.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. E. Fishbourne*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 29, in No. 567.

Enclosure 29,  
in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *Richard St. John*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Mount Holstein, St. George's, 31 Dec. 1836.

IN compliance with the instructions contained in circular letter, No. 63, dated 23d Sept. ult. respecting the general heads upon which it is desirable I should afford information in my general quarterly report upon the state of my district, I have the honour to state as follows:—

1. The general conduct of the apprentices in my district since my last report has been favourable in regard to their attention to their masters' work; but I am at the same time sorry to say they will not work their grounds; in consequence, robbery is carried on to a very great extent.

2. I am not aware of the existence of any bad feeling between them and their employers, no complaints having been brought forward by the apprentices against their masters last quarter.

3. Making allowances for the natural disinclination for a man to work for another, without remuneration proportionate to the extra exertions, the people work as willingly as can be expected, they knowing that they can be compelled to do fair work.

4. The apprentices work in my district upon the nine hours system; they get an hour and a half in the day; they commence at six and are drawn off about half-past four every day, and are allowed every alternate Friday; the hours must vary with the seasons.

5. Task-work is not resorted to; the question has never been asked by either party.

6. Working for wages is at present very uncommon in my district; 1s. 8d. and 2s. 6d. are offered, but they are too lazy.

7. Indulgences on many properties are withheld, and on others increased.

8. The free children are totally unemployed; they are supported by their families, who will not let them do any kind of work.

9. There is but one school in my district; it is supported by the Church Missionary Society; the attendance, I understand, is very bad; education is very little resorted to.

10. There are many quite able to purchase their discharge, but they do not like to part with their money; no discharge has been effected since my last report.

11. I am quite unable to state to what employment those who have been discharged betake themselves. Very few have been discharged in my district, and they have always left it.

12. The season has been rather favourable, and a favourable crop is expected, but it is impossible to state what quantity will be made, as a great quantity of coffee is still on the trees; the cultivation is in good order, and a fine crop is expected next year.

13. I think that if a party of police were stationed in my district, it would be the means of stopping the extensive robberies now going on. Many applications have been made to me by the proprietors to apply for a party, particularly as it would put a stop to stolen produce being carried to town.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Richard St. John*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 30, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *George Gordon*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Crawle River, Clarendon, 8 Jan. 1837.

Enclosure 30,  
in No. 567.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, my usual quarterly report on the state of this district.

The orderly conduct of the apprentices and the good feeling between them and their employers continue uninterrupted. The period of Christmas is generally chosen for any manifestation of feeling, and during no holidays in the memory of the oldest inhabitant has there been a greater propriety of behaviour among the peasantry.

The crop or harvest season is now commencing, and the arrangement of labour of those employed in the factory is necessarily changed. Different spells are appointed, and extra work is paid for at the rate of ten-pence for every eight hours. There has been a public meeting of managers to arrange an uniform scale of labour and of wages, and there seems every desire to act on that principle as soon as the terms proposed shall meet his Excellency's approbation.

There has been, I am sorry to say, no improvement in the moral condition of the free children.

In addition to the former places of education and religious instruction, there is to be built a church at Chapelton by one of the missionary societies, from whose labour much is expected.

expected. Only one person has purchased his discharge since the last report. The season is very favourable for the manufacture of sugar.

There appears to be a want of emulation among the apprentices; and I would beg leave to suggest that prizes should be awarded to those who are the most exemplary in their conduct; if small medals were given to the most deserving, it would convince them of the interest taken in their welfare by the Government, and it would induce a desire to maintain a reputation which they had once obtained; this would pass to their children. The pupils also of the parochial and missionary schools, and those taught privately, might be assembled on certain days and publicly examined by the clergyman, and medals given to the most proficient; this would add one motive for the apprentices to have their children instructed.

I have, &c.

(signed) *George Gordon*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 31, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *Samuel Lloyd*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Chapelton, Clarendon, 4 January 1837.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, with the following statement of this district.

Enclosure 31,  
in No. 567.

The apprentices appear to be much improved since my last report, and, with few exceptions, a fair portion of work is performed, but not willingly. The proprietors and managers treat them kindly, and are anxious to encourage industry by giving them extra allowances, and high wages for labour in their own time, which, I am sorry to say, they are unwilling to profit by, and demand extraordinary indulgences for any portion of their own time; this I conceive in a great measure owing to the great advance in the wages which the proprietors of jobbing gangs are now demanding, which is well known to the apprentices generally, who value their labour accordingly.

I beg leave to assure his Excellency, I have reason to attribute the unwillingness of many of the apprentices to hire themselves during their own time to the very bad example shown them by the white emigrants, who, in this parish, are a drunken, indolent and insubordinate class.

The former indulgences are in general given throughout this district more as an encouragement to good behaviour than as a component part of legal dues, and are often withheld when idleness or other insubordination is shown.

The Christmas holidays have just passed over, and it has been acknowledged by every respectable inhabitant, they never witnessed a more orderly demeanor; the old customary African gambols of John-canoe, &c. &c., are replaced by festivities more European and civilized, and every day gives me some instance of the general improvement even in their mode of address; many make use of shrewd terms, quite unknown to them two years ago.

The apprentices are anxious to purchase the unexpired term of their apprenticeship, but few are able to do so, unless aided by persons anxious to procure their labour afterwards.

The only school in this district is the parochial one at Chapelton, under the superintendence of the rector of the parish, and which is well attended. There is an extensive building fitting up, capable of containing 1,000 children, at a place called Arthur's Seat, for which the bishop has, from the general education funds, contributed with the parish.

I am sorry I cannot give his Excellency a general satisfactory description of the manner the free children are brought up.

In conclusion, I am happy to assure his Excellency the sugar crop looks well, and will be what is thought an average one. The recent ravages occasioned by measles having caused field labour to be a little behindhand, the manufacture of crop is delayed.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Samuel Lloyd*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 32, in No. 567.

ANSWERS to Circular.

Port Royal Mountains, and upper part of St. David's,  
31 December 1836.

1. GENERALLY good; there is a good deal of pilfering going on, and a neglect of their provision grounds.

2. There has been, but those feelings are gradually softening down; and I feel very certain, ere August 1840 arrives, there will be a perfect understanding established.

3. I do not think they work cheerfully, or with spirit; they are naturally an indolent race of people, and require sharp looking after.

4. On the greater part of the estates in this district, they work five days of nine hours one week, and four days the next; some few work regularly four and a half days; only one estate, "Clifton Mount," continue to work on the eight hours system, the negroes preferring it to working regularly four and a half days; they are in the field 10 hours, being allowed an hour to their two meals.

5. Task-work has only been occasionally resorted to, from the irregular and rugged state of the fields having so many gullies as in many situations to render it altogether impracticable.

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6. I have

Enclosure 32,  
in No. 567.

JAMAICA.

6. I have never known them to refuse, but they will not work under 2s. 1d. per day, which is considered too high, having their grounds, clothing and medical attendance. "They are always paid in silver."

7. Fish and salt are withheld, but not their Christmas allowance. Medical attendance to the free children is withheld, but they are never denied medicine.

8. They are running about wild in the day, the parents being at work in the field, and who are very unwilling they should be apprenticed out, or do any work for the estate.

9. None as yet, that I have heard of. Some few families are instructing the children to read, and are establishing Sunday schools, so that a number of the grown-up apprentices can now read. There is only one small chapel in this district.

10. Most certainly a desire prevails amongst the apprentices to purchase their discharge, but few have the means. None have applied this last quarter.

11. In every case that has come to my knowledge, those who have purchased their discharge have gone as grooms or domestics.

12. The present crop will certainly double that of last year, and on some properties will treble it, but will not turn out so well as was expected when I made my last report.

13. None.

(signed) *H. Kent*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 33, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *John Daughtrey*, Esq., Special Justice.

St. Elizabeth's, 10 January 1837.

Enclosure 33, THE general features of my district are so much the same as they were three months ago, that the statements of my last report would not be inapplicable if introduced in this.

With partial exceptions, the conduct of the apprentices has continued to be favourable. They are gradually performing their labour with more apparent willingness and good humour.

Though the feeling between them and their masters is not universally cordial, there is scarcely any instance in which a decidedly bad feeling exists, and on some few properties the harmony and mutual confidence are extremely gratifying. It is much easier to discern the causes of the confidence than of its opposite.

Task-work has not been resorted to here to any great extent; I am not aware, however, of any prevailing objection to it in the minds either of masters or people, but like every deviation from the beaten track, its fancied difficulties have been allowed to prevent any considerable attempt to introduce it. The steps at present in progress, under the auspices of his Excellency the Governor, will, I trust, issue in an extensive application of this most desirable mode of carrying on the labour of the island.

The disposition to work for money-wages is increasing. Some plantations which had been suffered to run almost into a wilderness before the commencement of the apprenticeship, by the diversion of the strength to other objects, as, for instance, the cultivation of ginger, have been nearly restored during the last few months, solely by labour obtained from apprentices in their own time. It has become now, I think, a matter of general observation that they do more on a free labour day than on a compulsory day, and yet on occasions of this sort they are often far less strictly superintended. They appear actually ashamed to skulk on a hired day. The rate of wages depends upon the nature of the work, and varies in this neighbourhood from 2s. 1d. to 3s. 4d. currency. The smaller sum is the rate for all ordinary purposes. The payment is in money, daily.

Our arrangement of time is upon the nine hours plan, giving from nine to ten for breakfast, and drawing off at four or half-past four, according to the hour at which work commenced. In the short days the sun does not rise till half-past six. In some instances every half Friday is given, and in others every alternate Friday.

There are not more than two or three properties in this district that afford to the people all the usual indulgences, with the exception, perhaps, of a distribution of fresh beef at Christmas, which I believe is still pretty general. The discontinuance of "salt," as the negroes concisely term the herrings, &c., formerly dealt out to them, is felt to be a severe privation. I know nothing that at first contributed more to their discontent, and, undoubtedly, the best tone of feeling must still be sought on those few estates where, from the wealth or the liberality of the proprietor, this valuable indulgence has never been withheld. To many of the worn-out and "thrown-up" class, the loss of this boon is especially felt, for salt in some form or other seems to be almost a necessary of life (and nowhere does it seem half so grateful as in a tropical climate). These poor creatures, many of them Africans, and much diseased, cannot, as others can, supply extra wants by the sale of provisions, and some have not "family," as their phrase is, to extend to them even a little precarious bounty. It would be scarcely right, however, to make these remarks without also stating, that their circumstances appear to have some natural mitigations. Disease here, I observe, is not always personally distressing in proportion to the external appearance it presents, and the climate shields them greatly from the severe pressure of outward discomforts; still they are not always in the condition in which one could wish to see them.

With regard to the free children, I discover nothing within the range of my observation that would lead me to think that any considerable number of them were suffering from neglect. If they have lost the care of the estate, which they have not every where done, the father, often by marriage or other means, has acquired new views of the parental obligation, and for the first time, with his wife and his children around him, has a feeling of home.

Had

Had they been indifferent about their children, they would have been apt to apprentice them, to be relieved of a burthen. I see very few that do not look healthy and well fed; of course it must be expected that the children of the most base and worthless parents will suffer in many ways.

Education and religious instruction are still inadequately provided for here; some of the places of worship are frequented by more than can possibly gain admission to them, and there are several intervals of inhabited country, of the extent of eight or ten miles, without a school or a chapel. The negroes think much of having a place of worship and a school near them, and a minister they can call their own—a clear proof of advancing civilization; formerly they preferred rambling to a distance. Some gratifying instances have lately occurred of their devoting considerable portions of gratuitous labour towards the erection of chapels, the improvement of roads leading to them, or of the grounds around them. This I conceive to be the strongest proof of the influence of christian instruction; for the last thing an emancipated slave appears able to do is a deed of disinterestedness.

The desire to purchase their discharge has received a check from the high valuations that were known to be taking place in the adjoining districts; only seven discharges have taken place here during the last quarter. Some of those released have settled upon land of their own, which they are industriously cultivating; of one or two so good an account cannot be given; but the greater number, whether domestics, field people or tradesmen, have entered into new engagements, many of them under indenture, and are pursuing their former occupations.

Three of the sugar estates in this district have the prospect of making excellent crops; the weather at this moment is highly in their favour. On the other estate, the excessively wet weather that prevailed here from July to December seems to have had the effect of checking the growth of the cane, and the promise is consequently not so good.

To refer again to the subject of education: it cannot be sufficiently lamented that the machinery for this purpose was not more prepared before the commencement of the apprenticeship, and that it should be seen, even now, to be brought into action so very slowly. Whatever care negro parents may take of the animal part of their young offspring, others must obviously care for the mental, or it will be entirely neglected. From present appearances, it is much to be feared that the benevolent resolution of the British legislature in providing for general instruction will be very partially realized during the apprenticeship, and the probable employment of the children afterwards in hired labour will present obstacles of another kind. This is the golden opportunity; and I must still think, that, had the attendance of the free children at schools been made in some way or other compulsory, and had a training in light manual labour formed part of their education, the benefits would have been greatly increased, both to themselves and the community.

If we are to have an efficient order of teachers, they must be supplied from the parent country; it is in vain to look for them in any considerable number among natives. A teacher should be sent out with every missionary; he would be quite as useful as the minister, and (as a consistent white person) scarcely less respected by the negroes.

Middle-aged females, coming out under the protection of a missionary family, would make most available teachers, especially of the girls and younger boys, and of course at a much less charge upon funds than men; they would also have the advantage of bearing the climate better.

(signed) *John Daughtrey*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 34, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *Edmund B. Lyon*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Palmetto River, Blue Mountain District,  
St. Thomas in the East, 31 December 1836.

In taking a review of the interval that has elapsed since my last quarterly report, I am happy to have the opportunity of asserting that nothing has occurred to indicate any alteration in the general good conduct and industrious disposition of the apprentices of this district—a grateful fact, which furnishes me with no opportunity of original remark; I therefore comprise every thing that can be said on the treatment and conduct of apprentice, (master and apprentice,) when I observe that each party are performing their relative duties as well as can be reasonably expected from men in their peculiarly anomalous situation.

The sugar crop has commenced with the season remarkably propitious for its operations, but the late and still continuing dryness of the atmosphere, so very unusual in this locality, it is feared will seriously affect the growth of canes intended for the crop of the ensuing year; in fact, I believe a check to vegetation, too severe for remedy, has already taken place.

The most convincing testimony I can adduce that serious crimes are not on the increase in this extensive and populous precinct, is in the fact that at the time I now write, there is but one apprentice committed for trial at the quarter sessions to be held on the 3d of January ensuing.

Much of my attention having been directed to the conduct of those individuals who have released themselves by purchase from the trammels of uncompensated servitude, and being forcibly impressed with the importance of their example in the effect likely to be produced in the feelings of the peasantry, and in the determining and regulating their ideas of the advantages of freedom, it is with more than ordinary interest I have witnessed the steady and persevering industry of the majority of those manumitted in this district by their own



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accumulated savings. Several are pursuing their former agricultural labour, and some of that class have, since their enfranchisement, been preferred to the charge or superintendence of small plantations; while another class, and by far the more numerous, are receiving the highest rate of wages as mechanics and domestic servants; and nearly all of those who are not engaged in household labour are in the possession of a horse, or some stock of a similar description, and evince a strong desire to be distinguished, by the quality of their dress and their deportment, from the ordinary unthrifty apprentice, who has no desires beyond those of simple nature. The provident negroes of both classes, bond and released, are making the greatest exertions to become proprietors of land; in fact, the first object of solicitude and care, the moment an apprentice has effected the purchase of his term, is to buy land and build a house. In this parish, whenever good land is to be disposed of in small allotments, there are always numerous negro purchasers, who give from 5*l.* to 10*l.* per acre. In the easternmost part, upwards of 150 acres, and in this district, within my own knowledge, about 80 acres, have been so disposed of; and with a very praiseworthy prudence, many of the purchasers have had the conveyances made in favour of their children, thus ensuring a provision for their families in case of death happening to themselves before the expiration of the apprenticeship. These evidences of reflection are strong proofs of advancing civilization, and must remove all apprehension of the unrestricted negro sinking into listless apathy, content to live upon the spontaneous productions of the soil. The principle of acquisitiveness that first induced a careful thriftiness, and taught him to appropriate his earnings in the most profitable manner, must have been based on and supported by habits of persevering industry formed while a slave: will it then be reasonable to suppose, when all limits to the operation of his industry shall be removed, that the habit will be obliterated, and that the once thrifty bond-servant will become the brutish freeman, regardless of the decencies of life, and incapable of appreciating the circumscribed comforts that were secured to him in slavery?

But though I have the greatest confidence in the general industry and improved condition of the peasantry after August 1840, I do not think, from the present disproportioned number of the population, as compared with the quantity of land in cultivation, and its productiveness, that it will be possible to continue the manufacture of sugar to the same extent as at present: the feelings and dispositions of the unapprenticed labourers, being taken as indicative of the disposition of the peasantry at that period, is, I think, conclusive testimony on that point. The great number of negroes who will then be proprietors of small freeholds will render, probably, the major portion of those at present labouring on sugar estates independent of daily hire; while the remainder who will be so dependent, will be exposed to the temptations of the coffee planter and small settler, on whose lands the labour of cultivation will be less onerous, and not exposed at any season to the continuous exertion requisite about the boiling and distilling houses in the manufacture of sugar. In my opinion, the only probability the sugar planter has of continuing cultivation to any extent after the termination of the apprenticeship consists in his seizing the golden opportunity afforded him in the remaining term of compulsory labour, of creating in his labourers a strong local attachment to their present homes and land, and by identifying their interest with his own success.

I have hitherto indulged in hopes that the zeal of the ministers of the church, and the missionaries of the various societies in the island, who have been so liberally assisted by grants from the British Government, and donations from generous societies and individuals at home, would, long ere this, the third year of freedom, have done something in the rural districts of this parish for the attainment of an object of such paramount importance in the development of the intellect of the new-born freeman, and the establishment of a healthful state of society hereafter, by affording him the elements of moral and religious knowledge, by the erection of chapels and school-houses in the neighbourhood of the lands on which he is daily occupied; but hitherto, with one or two trifling exceptions, their ministrations and exertions have been confined to the towns. This district, comprising a population of about 5,000, has neither chapel or school-house, and the visitations of the catechist, which, during slavery, were regular and frequent, and productive of much advantage to the youthful negroes, have been discontinued. The apprentices are thus left to the ministration of preachers of their own class, and can only by God's especial providence be kept from imbibing erroneous maxims, and from retrograding instead of improving in mental acquirements.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Edmund B. Lyon*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 35, in No. 567.

EXTRACT from Mr. Special Justice *Walsh's* Quarterly REPORT, dated Windsor, Salt Gut, P. O., 1 January 1837.

Enclosure 35,  
in No. 567.

I HAVE the honour, in obedience to your demand, to transmit to your Excellency, for the satisfaction of the British Parliament, my general quarterly report on the state of my district.

With reference to the expected happy result at the expiration of the apprenticeship term, the final success of that grand object must depend on firmness and equal justice, and not to confiscate the rights of the labourers by too much conciliation, to gain popularity, or any other object; on this one point, and that only, does the whole measure depend.

I have

I have no hesitation in stating that I am fearful that the Abolition Act is not fairly put in force, not that I mean to impugn the magistracy, but my candid opinion is, that we are unable to do so, from want of support in the courts of law.

I thank your Excellency for the support I have received at your hands, as also that of His Majesty's officers in the law; and, to fully enforce my language on the English reader, I am fearful that the magistrates are afraid of actions and a jury-box of planters.

I acquaint your Excellency, with deep sorrow, that little or nothing has been done to educate the apprenticed labourers and their free offspring; all the persons in charge of properties are making as much money as they can, and leaving the future rising blossoms to hazard.

The missionaries have proved themselves most faithful to the colony, and their exertions most praiseworthy; they have suffered dreadfully from the climate, and the loss amongst them of late is frightful. The young clergymen of the established church seem pious, and do all in their power, both in letter and word, to convert the existing state of society amongst some of the gentry, who, I regret to say, in many instances live in a state of concubinage, and the attorneys set their face against married overseers; the only cure for this vice is at home, and must come out here in this way: the absentees in England must discharge all immoral men, both as attorneys and overseers; then they would be doing good, and civilization would rapidly increase; property would be enhanced, and the labourers would be happy under such domestic guardians.

If I were an absentee proprietor, I would arrange with my merchant, and rent the properties to a respectable married overseer, and let the produce be shipped through the merchant; by educating this plan, the merchant would gain in the end, and the proprietor could live, and the immoral and tyrannical attorneys would be expelled the society of the very men that they now keep low.

I earnestly call your Excellency's attention to the approaching period of freedom for the non-prædials, and impress on you, with all possible force and firmness, as I am decidedly of opinion that much discontent and confusion will ensue in August next year on this question; all discerning men expect it. The proprietors and attorneys are themselves to blame for opposing the Marquis of Sligo's proposition in having the non-prædials classed long since.

I beg to point out the second section of the first Act in aid of the Abolition Act, and to state that many labourers now in the field were domestic servants for twelve months previous to the 28th of August 1833, and after; their employers think that they must serve out the apprenticeship till 1840; such cases, as well as various circumstances, will cause very great confusion, and, I fear, disorder.

The proprietors have no right to complain; things are working right well for them.

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Enclosure 36, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *G. Ouseley Higgins*, Esq., Special Justice, to  
*C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Spanish Town, 7 January 1837.

I HAVE the honour to forward the usual quarterly report on the state of the district under my charge.

Enclosure 36,  
in No. 567.

I have much pleasure in being able to state that in the part of this parish where my duties are performed, the behaviour of the negroes and the state of labour are most satisfactory. On the great majority of estates in it, since my last report, I have had but few complaints, and, amongst those, none of a serious nature. The general disposition of the apprentices is good; they not only give the time the law requires, but during that time they give a fair portion of work, and give it with a degree of cheerfulness. They are more reconciled to the system than they were, and are daily becoming more and more sensible of the great boon that awaits them, as also of the necessity which exists for their conducting themselves faithfully and honestly towards their masters during the remaining term of their apprenticeship.

I am of opinion that there cannot now be a doubt in the minds of even the most determined opposers of the apprenticeship system, that it does work and will work well to the end of the six years; whether after that period the labourers will work on the several estates mainly depends, I think, on the planters themselves, and on the mode in which they may conduct themselves to their apprentices during the term of probation. In that respect, I am happy in being able to state that a great change for the better has taken place during the last few months. Anger and coercion have had their day. But a feeling of self-interest is now beginning to introduce milder and more conciliatory measures; and the proprietors and managers generally are showing a more ready disposition to meet the new system in a liberal and honourable manner.

The holidays at Christmas have passed over in a most orderly manner; and I have heard of no instance of riot or outrage occurring. Labour was cheerfully resumed on the 28th instant.

I have, &c.

(signed) *G. Ouseley Higgins*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 37, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *William Ramsay*, Esq., Special Justice.

Sir,

Spanish Town, 20 January 1837.

Enclosure 37,  
in No. 567.

IN conformity with the instructions contained in the circular of the 23d September (No. 63), I have now the honour to forward to your Excellency my report of the state of my district for the quarter ending the 31st of December.

The general conduct of the apprentices in my district has been that of persons feeling they have protection under the law in favour of certain rights conceded to them; their aim appears to be the preservation and use of those rights, whilst they are not unmindful of the obligations which they owe to their masters, and which the law has power to compel them to observe. Their conduct, therefore, as far as they understand the reciprocal obligations of master and servant, is not marked by any serious opposition to the law, except in the single occurrence at Crosses Pen estate. It is, however, perceptible that in most if not all cases, they give little, if any, more than the law enforces, under an impression that their time is improperly encroached upon by those entitled to their services; the fact of which, in most cases, they have no means of ascertaining, except from the conclusions they draw from the appearance of the day.

The want of good feeling between the employer and servant, I fear, must, to a great degree, unavoidably exist; if any exception holds, it is when the people are under the immediate control of their former owners. Whilst they have the misfortune to be under the charge of representatives of absentees, there can scarcely be other than a want of good feeling, as they cannot reside on all the properties under their care; and the former system of frequent changes still prevailing, has the effect of producing a feeling of uncertainty on all sides. The overseer dreads the loss of his situation if the crop be deficient, and a desire to extract the most labour, at the least expense to the property, actuates him in the management of the plantation; he is thus rendered in a great degree regardless of the future welfare of the property, which in a few months may no longer be under his charge; he does not therefore conciliate the apprentice by allowing him those trifling comforts and indulgences which would be the means of inducing him permanently to fix himself on the property to which he is attached.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *William Ramsay*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 38, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *W. H. Alley*, Esq., Special Justice.

Sir,

Mile Gully Pen, 2 January 1837.

Enclosure 38,  
in No. 567.

I HAVE the honour to inform you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that this district is perfectly tranquil; the apprentices have returned to their work cheerfully after Christmas; they are, with very few exceptions, behaving well, and complaints on both sides have decreased since my last report.

The confidence so necessary for the mutual advantage of master and apprentice increases daily; the apprentices perform their work willingly. There has been no desire expressed to me to work on the nine hours system; they receive one hour in the middle of the day for dinner; they turn out to their work at seven o'clock in the morning, and are called off at four o'clock.

I have strongly recommended task-work, and wherever it has been resorted to, the result has been favourable to the employer, as well as satisfactory to the apprentice. In many instances, the apprentices work for wages in their own time, but, generally speaking, they prefer having their days. I do not know one estate where wages have not been offered.

The allowance of salt and herrings is rarely withheld. The free children are supported by their parents, who are very anxious to have them instructed; but I am sorry to observe they are not disposed to teach them habits of industry. I have observed children, on their return from school, sit down in total idleness; those who have not been sent to school left the whole day to themselves, and refused offers of reward if they would hand-pick coffee, or do any work they were capable of.

I feel great satisfaction in being able to state that the religious instruction of the apprentices is performed with zeal by the clergy in this district; and that their desire to do good is equalled by the anxiety of the apprentices to receive such important information. I do not entertain a doubt that the instruction of the rising generation, and very particularly religious instruction, will be productive of industrious habits, and a dutiful obedience to their future employers.

It has given me much pleasure to observe the decorum with which the apprentices attend at church. Marriages are very numerous, and I must say their conduct on such occasions is worthy of praise.

It would be a happy circumstance if one or two schools more were added to the three already in this district.

There is a great desire among the apprentices to purchase their freedom where they have the means; I have had three this last month, of which I shall make a report when the money is paid. I have not observed any instance of apprentices who have purchased.

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their discharge willing to return to field labour; there are some, however, who have had their discharge purchased for them, perform work for the sum paid.

On many estates the crops are abundant, but generally producing little more than half the crop of last year. The season has been favourable, but the cleaning of the coffee pieces is not so forward as last year.

I beg leave to close this report by stating that the excellent management and the humane conduct of the proprietors and overseers have been productive of the good feeling and good conduct of the apprentices.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *W. H. Alley*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 39, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *S. Pryce*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Trelawny, Jamaica, 1 January 1837.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that the holidays have passed by quietly, and that the most profound tranquillity and order continue to pervade this district.

Enclosure 39,  
in No. 567.

The apprentices were all at their duty early on Wednesday the 28th ultimo, every where, and I feel much satisfaction in being able to report, for the information of his Excellency, the total absence of all complaints, and to add my humble testimony to that of the whole of the managers, confirmatory of the extremely correct demeanor of the peasantry all round this beat (41 properties, and near 8,000 apprentices). That there should be no solitary instance of any irregularity will doubtless strike his Excellency as very pleasingly extraordinary.

I consider it my duty to report to his Excellency, the kindly good feeling and liberality of the gentlemen planters towards their apprentices on the celebration of the late festival, two working days having been added to their own time, viz. Monday and Tuesday, (excepting only two or three properties). The apprentices had also a very liberal allowance of salt fish, sugar and rum, and on some estates fresh beef also.

The seasons have continued favourable, and increased crops of sugar and rum are confidently expected, with but very few exceptions.

In contrasting the state of things generally at the commencement of the two previous years, it affords me great satisfaction to report to his Excellency the strikingly improved state of the district in every respect; and I beg to assure his Excellency of my continued zeal and best exertions for the good of the service and the country.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *S. Pryce*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 40, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *C. Hawkins*, Esq., Special Justice.

Sir,

Aberdeen, Rio Bueno, 3 January 1837.

IN compliance with his Excellency's circular of the 23d September (No. 63), directing special magistrates to send a quarterly report of the state of their district, I have the honour to enclose for his Excellency answers to the thirteen questions; viz.

Enclosure 40,  
in No. 567.

1. The general conduct of the apprentices in my district since my last report is, they have conducted themselves peaceably, quietly and orderly.

2. There does not exist any want of good feeling in general between the master and apprentice, and I can confidently report that, with the exception of one property, the mutual feeling which exists is good, and evidently on the increase.

3. The apprentices have, with few exceptions, performed their work much better than they did on my last report; the only complaint is of their not turning out in time on mornings; and more particularly the mothers of children seldom or ever turning out before half-past seven A. M.; and in case of their children (free) being taken into the hot-house, cannot be made to make up the time so lost to the estate, by the mothers being allowed to attend their children while sick.

4. The hours of labour in my district is the nine hours system ever since your Excellency's circular of the 16th September last (No. 45), and the apprentices are much more satisfied and contented than with the eight hours system, more particularly so in my district, as their mountain grounds are from 15 to 20 miles from their houses; and on most all the estates the apprentices get every other Friday, which they prefer to the half Fridays; they receive half an hour for breakfast, having cooks allowed them, and two hours for their dinner time.

5. Task-work is in general made use of in this district during crop, and all extra hours which may be agreed on between master and apprentice are paid for every Saturday morning, and no complaint has been made to me that they are not regularly paid. I have known task-work completed by twelve o'clock, and in general the apprentices perform double the quantity of work by task that they perform when working in their master's time.

6. The apprentices are most eager to work for hire, and can get employment most of the year; they sometimes leave their own estates and work on other estates; this I attribute to

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some estates giving higher wages; the wages which are given here are from 3 s. 4 d. to 4 s. 6 d. a hundred in digging cane-holes, 5 s. to 6 s. 8 d. a barrel for picking pimento, and for their extra hours in the mill and boiling houses, 1 s. 3 d. to 1 s. 8 d. per day.

7. On some estates they do not give the apprentices herrings weekly as usual, but these are few. On George Marrett's (attorney) property they have the same indulgences as before; on those estates which have withheld those indulgences, the apprentices do not work so freely, and complaints are more frequent; and I strongly suspect, that the properties lose more than the paltry saving of a few herrings is worth. On all the properties, with the exception of Retirement, the Christmas allowance has been given as usual; and on most of the properties in my district the apprentices had Monday and Tuesday given to them; and all gave Monday as a holiday; and no complaint has yet reached me of any one not turning out to their work as ordered.

8. I am sorry to inform his Excellency that the free children are very much neglected by their mothers, and in numerous cases young children have fallen sacrifices to the conduct of their mothers in neglecting to carry them to the hot-houses in time; that from information, there has been more coroner's inquests on young free children these last three months than had taken place in double the same time previous; no free children are refused to be allowed the hot-house on their mothers applying to the overseers. The medical gentlemen complain that in no instance will the parents of free children remunerate them for their prescriptions, and they are not paid by the estates for attendance.

9. I am sorry to say, that there are but few schools in my district—I know of but one, kept by the Rev. T. Knibb, a Baptist preacher; there was a branch school at Rio Bueno, but it has no master at present. G. Marrett, esq., would establish schools for two or three estates could he procure any persons fit for masters, which would be of great benefit.

The attendance at religious places of worship is excellent, and all churches and chapels have full congregations on Sundays, and most particularly so during Christmas.

10. Few apprentices have of late applied to purchase the remainder of their apprenticeship; several have been valued, but have not paid their valuation.

11. Some of the apprentices who have purchased their freedom, such as tradesmen, have employed themselves in their occupation, and are doing well; indeed, all can get employment if they will seek for it.

12. From every appearance, and the very fine rains we have received in this district this month past, there is a prospect of equal returns of last year's crop; at the commencement of crop I expect the estates will fall short of the estimate, but the middle and latter part of the crop will, I am assured, make up the general estimate; a much larger field of canes has been put in for the next year's (1838) crop than has hitherto been, and the prospect at present is good.

13. The formation of schools of industry would greatly tend to the benefit of the young free children in this district; the schools I would recommend would be those that combine teaching and industry; at present the children are not brought up to any habits of industry, but are made the servants of their father and mother, such as bringing wood and water; I have not seen a single free child employed in the gardens around their houses, nor are they employed in domestic duties, such as making or mending their own clothes; the negroes give their clothes to be made out to the poor white people in preference to learning their own children to work.

I have to mention the negro grounds in my district; the apprentices are not working them as they ought, and provisions are scarce and dear, and those that can now be got are from the free settlers in the mountain district, and if they would but work a little more, they have an excellent opportunity of making themselves comfortable at present.

(signed) C. Hawkins, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 41, in No. 567.

Copy of a LETTER from *Richard Hill*, Esq., Special Justice, to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Spanish Town, 8 January 1837.

Enclosure 41,  
in No. 567.

I BEG leave to lay before your Excellency my report for the quarter terminating the past year.

The town apprentices, the only persons placed under my superintendence as a special justice, can offer but few subjects for report. The inhabitants of an agricultural district, from their pursuits as husbandmen, their habits as a family people, and their conduct as a community, offer well-defined marks of progressive improvement. Their advancement severally, or in their associated character, can be traced and recorded; but in a town, beyond the fidelity of the emancipated bondman in his particular service, the general observer can do little more than state that the young are instructed at the public schools, and that those grown up in slavery either retain the vices inherent in the slave, or assimilate their manners and sentiments to the qualities of the freeman. Liberty, however, has its own corruptions, and, unfortunately for the example of the negro, West Indian freedom has too much been associated with licentiousness.

This town, more than all others of the colony, has been remarkable for a large community of free persons, extremely poor, and extremely degraded. Without commercial importance, and situated in a plain where little is gained from the soil, the people have subsisted precariously. The cockpit and the gambling table, which have their numerous votaries in the  
upper

upper classes of society, work with a pernicious force on such a community, and the law finds in these examples one of the sources of public vice. In proportion, however, as the labours of the religious teacher are effectual in detaching the commonalty from these pursuits, and directing their energies to the urgent calls of public and private duty, and in proportion as the benefits of freedom extend themselves in agricultural communities by rendering a life of labour profitable and honourable, the number of dependent poor are thinned in the town, the smaller settlers are increased in the country, and the influence of poverty and vice are sensibly diminished.

Among the number of debatable circumstances incident to the administration of the Apprenticeship Law, there is a new controversy about to be excited, at the instigation of the house of assembly. The refusal of the special justice to exercise jurisdiction over non-registered apprentices has operated as a release from apprenticeship, but without giving to the subject of it either the security or the importance of the freeman. This is an evil; and it is to be regretted, for the sake of that expediency which originated the apprenticeship as a preparation for freedom, that the merits of the claim have not been settled by something more determinate than a questionable condition of liberty.

The doctrine, that where a master resists a right of release under any incidents of the Abolition Law, the controversy can only be settled in the superior courts (for this is strenuously insisted on), is destined to work very prejudicial effects. The weaker disputant must have recourse to a difficult if not an expensive remedy; he views the stronger class as inimical to every concession that elevates him out of his degradation. The evil would not be much if the doctrine were confined to non-registered cases, but it is extended to questions of release, founded on the 3d clause of the Act, where the party claims exemption from service in consequence of having gone to England with the consent of the person who was his possessor at the time of his visit; and it is affirmed that the absence of a record, in which the classification of the emancipated slave may be ascertained, will leave every one of those cases exposed to a similar difficulty, if the master should insist on working his non-prædial apprentice over and above the time that the prædial term exceeds that of the non-prædial classification.

These controversies, by their nature and by the condition of the disputants, set the two extremes of society at issue, and destroy that state of mutual good feeling and confidence so essential to the future peace and prosperity of the colony: the question should be settled by the interposition of the mother country. The uncertainty, perplexity and ruinous responsibility which my duties, as assistant secretary for the special justice department, enables me to perceive to be prevalent among the magistrates, would lead me to recommend the subject to the earliest attention of Government.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Richard Hill*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 42, in No. 567.

REPORT of the State of District, 1 January 1837.

DURING the last quarter the apprentices have been behaving well, and the work going on regularly; and a good feeling continues to exist between them and their employers. Complaints have been few in number. The usual hours of labour per day are nine; task-work is always employed where it can be adopted, at the desire of the apprentice. They have been working generally for wages in digging cane-holes, the rate of wages being half a dollar per hundred. They receive the usual indulgences. The free children are supported by their parents, who have a strong objection to their being employed by the estate, and are therefore living in idleness.

The prospects for the present crop are decidedly favourable. Most of the estates have been about, and the yielding generally was considered good; and the produce manufactured better than usual. More produce will be manufactured on many estates than at last crop; and in the district generally an average return may be expected. The cultivation generally is in a forward state.

(signed) *John R. Hulme*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 43, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *S. R. Ricketts*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Lindas District, 2 January 1837.

I HAVE the satisfaction to report the state of this district as quiet and orderly.

The cultivation of the cane is in a very forward state; and, although this circumstance may, in some measure, be ascribed to the unusually favourable seasons, yet the sedulous attention of the apprentices to their prædial duties will be demonstrated from the few complaints of loss of work, and the small number of compensatory punishments awarded during the last quarter.

In the mountainous part of the parish of St. John the apprentices are chiefly unattached prædials, and those entitled to their services find a certain source of gain in hiring them to work on the sugar estates in the neighbouring flats. The evils of this system (as it is here termed of jobbing) are severely felt by the apprentice, who leaves his cottage for a temporary shed, unless he has friends who may allow him the shelter of their roofs; during his absence

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absence from home his little stock of animals and poultry are frequently injured, or totally destroyed, and his grounds, perhaps, trespassed on by stock. These people are generally employed in the most laborious field-work on the estates they are hired on; and females, with young children, are not exempted from such duties after their children are twelve or fourteen months old; if they do not then choose to leave their offspring to the care of another person, the infants are exposed to the casualties and hardships attendant on the occupation of the mother. Those employed in this manner lose their domestic habits, and become the most troublesome to their masters. In too many instances necessity urges the males to steal, and the females frequently acquire abandoned habits. Although all are not exposed to the same hardships, yet there are few of this class of apprentices who do not suffer under one or more of the evils I have enumerated.

The greater number of free children are in this district without the benefits of instruction; on one coffee property alone there are 50 in this situation.

In the higher mountains the apprentices are less civilized than where a greater facility of intercourse prevails. I have observed, in such situations, evidences of pagan rites (feasts to the manes of the dead) being carried on extensively where the people were supposed to be Christians.

The establishment of a school at Point Hill, for the free children of the apprenticed labourers, as there is already an able instructor resident there, would conduce more to the improvement of the rising generation, and consequently to the future welfare of the district, than any other measure I am aware of.

I have, &c.

(signed) *S. R. Ricketts*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 44, in No. 567.

Copy of a LETTER from *J. M. Crockett*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Maroon Town, St. James's, 31 December 1836.

Enclosure 44,  
in No. 567.

I HAVE the honour to enclose my quarterly report, in compliance with his Excellency the Governor's circular, No. 63, dated the 23d of September, and in answer to—

Query 1, I beg leave to state that the apprenticed labourers in this district are generally contented and cheerful, and have performed their work for the most part with alacrity and good feeling.

2. In a very few instances is there a want of good feeling between the apprentices and their employers.

3. Upon the greater part of the estates the apprentices are now working to the satisfaction of their managers.

4. Since his Excellency's proclamation, that the nine hour system should be adopted, the same has become universal; and the relaxation from labour allowed to the apprentices is an hour for breakfast and two hours for dinner, except when the days are short.

5. Task-work is generally resorted to, and where it is not, the objection more frequently lies with the apprentice than with the master.

6. It is very usual for the apprentices to dig cane-holes by job-work in their own time, at the rate of 3s. 4d. per 90 holes in this district, as also to work continually during crop-time from 15 to 16 hours per day, at the rate of 1½d. for their extra hours.

7. The attorneys and managers in this district are desirous of giving every facility towards cultivating a good and proper understanding with their apprentices, and have not, in any instance, withheld, to my knowledge, those allowances which were granted previous to the passing of the Abolition Law.

8. The condition of the free children is very indifferent; and even where it is difficult for the parents to support them, still they are very averse and have a great antipathy to their being apprenticed.

9. There is a great desire in my district for a place of public worship, the nearest chapel being 14 or 15 miles distant; 250*l.* has been subscribed by the proprietors of St. James's, and 400*l.* has been added by the Church Missionary Society, for the intention of erecting one; but this sum is considered very inadequate for the purpose; and I fear that, if no additional aid can be afforded, this laudable design must fail. The same facilities are wanted for the education of children.

10. Only one female apprentice has purchased her discharge this quarter, and that was effected by an agreement between herself and master.

11. To what employment those who have become enfranchised have recourse is out of my power generally to say.

12. From the best information I can obtain, the crops in my district will be generally rather better this year than last; that the seasons have been very favourable, and the cultivation is about the same as usual; perhaps more advanced this year than last.

13. The adoption of a general scale of labour is most desirable, and much required.

(signed) *J. M. Crockett*, Special Justice.

*P. S.*—It affords me much satisfaction to inform his Excellency, that the Christmas holidays have passed over with the greatest propriety, cheerfulness and good feeling among the apprentices of my district.

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Enclosure

## Enclosure 45, in No. 567.

## ANSWERS to Circular.

St. Dorothy's, 2 January 1837.

1. THE general conduct of the apprentices in my district during the last quarter has been satisfactory.

2. There is no want, as it appears to me, of a good feeling between apprentices and their managers.

3. The apprentices work as much and as well as their masters are entitled by the law to expect.

4. The apprentices work invariably on the nine hours system, and have two hours for dinner, and from half an hour to an hour for breakfast.

5. Task-work is almost as frequently resorted to as the nature of the labour will admit.

6. In this district extra labour of apprentices is almost confined to crop-time. I think they would not hesitate to do a great deal of extra work out of crop-time, if their masters offered them the same high wages that are received by jobbing gangs; but this has not yet been done. With regard to the price of the voluntary labour in crop-time, I think it may be estimated at about 1s. sterling for nine hours.

7. Indulgences are rarely withheld as long as the apprentices behave well.

8. The situation of the free children I consider to be, in a public point of view, a subject of the utmost solicitude. Scarcely one of these children has been apprenticed by the parent; they are known, for the most part, to live in a state of absolute idleness, and unless education is immediately employed to give them industry and morals, the consequences may be truly serious.

9. No great facilities are afforded by my district for education and religious instruction.

10. A great number of persons would naturally purchase their discharge from the apprenticeship if they could afford it; only seven persons have done so since my last report.

11. I know no instance of any person, after buying his discharge, working again in the field for wages, but they will work ground belonging to themselves. Tradesmen, as they are called, will work at their former calling for wages, but not field labourers.

12. Owing to an uncommon drought of near four months, the prospects of the crop are not very favourable, but the general state of the cultivation appears excellent.

13. I consider the education of the negroes to be of such paramount importance, that the consideration of all other objects should be postponed until that be accomplished. Were negro education extensively diffused, there would be no ground for any alarm as to the state of the colony at the end of the apprenticeship.

(signed) *Alexander N. Macleod*, Special Magistrate.

Enclosure 45,  
in No. 567.

## Enclosure 46, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *W. Carnaby*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Montego Bay, 3 January 1837.

I HAVE much pleasure in reporting that the apprentices in my district are well-disposed, and that their conduct for the last quarter has been both quiet and orderly; they perform their work cheerfully, and I have lately perceived a better feeling existing between the managers and the general body of the apprentices; they are treated humanely by the great majority of those placed over them.

The working hours are nine daily, by which the apprentices have it in their power to devote every Friday afternoon and Saturday to the cultivation of their grounds or to labour for hire. When the length of the day permits, they have one hour for breakfast and two for dinner; but when the day shortens, it is found necessary to curtail those hours a little, to give the estate the legal labour, and preserve to the apprentices the Friday afternoon.

Voluntary task-work is becoming more general, and in the digging of cane-holes and cleaning the cane-pieces, answers well.

I have, within the last few months, observed an improved disposition on the part of the apprentices to labour in their own time for hire, for which they receive from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 4d. per day.

The greater number of attorneys and managers give many of the old allowances. Those withholding form the exceptions, and do so either from the poverty of the property, or their own bigoted and illiberal notions.

Great efforts are making by every class in the island to extend church and school accommodation with considerable success, and attendance at church daily increases. As regards the free children, they seem to remain a burden on their parents, who, where localities permit, place them at the schools now daily opening. Though private munificence and benevolence have been great, there is still a wide field for national aid in those respects, the attendance at church, in this quarter particularly, being more than equal to the existing accommodation.

There is a general desire among the apprentices to purchase their freedom; and to show it daily increases, I need only state, that my paid valuations this quarter outnumber the last

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by nine; thirteen apprentices having purchased their release since 1st October last, while for the three months preceding, only four did so.

The crops in my district look well, and I trust that when the sugar-making this spring is completed, I shall have the satisfaction to be able to report a considerable increase on last year's produce. The prospects for next year are also cheering.

(signed) *William Carnaby*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 47, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *William Hewitt*, Esq., Special Justice, to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Hope Bay, St. George's, 3 January 1837.

Enclosure 47,  
in No. 567.

IN compliance with your Excellency's instructions, I have the honour to make the following report on the state of my district.

The apprentices are going on, as usual, remarkably well; there is no disagreement between them and their employers, and their work is done willingly. The nine hour system of labour has been lately generally pursued; some estates retain the eight hour system. On some properties task-work has been adopted, and is in general use for particular kinds of labour.

The apprentices seldom or ever refuse to work in the manufacture of sugar in their own time, at the rate of from 1s. to 1s. 3d. sterling per diem, but they generally refuse to do field-work. In almost all cases the former allowances of fish, &c., are continued.

The free children are in a most lamentable state; the mothers, notoriously bad nurses, neglect them very much; indeed, frequently, when children are ill, the mothers will not take them to the estate's hospital (where they are always admitted) lest they should have to pay the estate the time occupied in attending them there. There is abundant opportunity for education, but the indolence of the parents renders this of little avail.

There appears to be but little desire among the people to procure their freedom; I have only valued one girl since the 1st October last.

The weather has been tolerably favourable, and the district will make a good crop. One or two estates have fallen off a little, whilst others have exceeded their average.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *William Hewitt*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 48, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *Edward Dacres Baynes*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Aylmer's, 5 January 1837.

Enclosure 48,  
in No. 567.

I HAVE the honour to forward the general quarterly report of the district intrusted to my charge as special justice. Whilst I have the satisfaction to state that the conduct of the apprentices has continued orderly and tranquil, and that they have afforded, during the last three months, a quantity of labour fairly proportioned to the time which the law has guaranteed to the master, I lament to say that this satisfaction is greatly alloyed by a fact which cannot be concealed, that the negro continues to perform his daily task, not from any sentiment of affection or good-will to his employer, but from passive acquiescence in the provisions of the law, which will now, in a short time, raise this long-oppressed race to the common and indelible rights of humanity; he fears that a breach of the imposed conditions—for on his part it is no compact—on which his bonds are finally to be broken, may compromise the result, or defer the moment which he so anxiously and impatiently expects. The experience of three years enables me to assert with confidence, that mutual distrust and alienation have long been, and still are, on the increase between master and apprentice. I cannot point out three properties in the parish of St. John on which that reciprocal good feeling exists, which can alone hold out a prospect of the apprenticeship at its termination resolving itself into a social state, in which all distinction of colour, all prejudice of class shall give way to, and be absorbed in, one compact and well-cemented political edifice, prosperous and lasting, because based on the stable foundation of equal rights and mutual interests. From the period when I entered upon the execution of my difficult duties, as arbiter between the apprentice and his master, I have invariably found that the milder mode of management has produced the most successful results, and that the cultivation of the estate is usually in proportion to the indulgence shown to, and the comfort enjoyed by, the negro; in fact, I see nothing obtained by over-rigid and severe management but trouble and loss at present, and ruin in prospective. In making these remarks, it is by no means my intention to imply that, even on estates where the reins of discipline are tightest drawn, the negro is labouring under actual oppression and cruelty; my observations are limited to the short-sighted, perverse and unconciliatory system, but within the pale of the law, pursued by some, which, generating ill-will and resentment in the breast of the apprentice, will too surely be visited, to his cost, on the proprietor in the sequel.

The island Abolition Act is, unfortunately, very far from being explicit or consistent, and the special magistrate finds it a task of no ordinary difficulty to carry its provisions into execution, with a due regard to the rights of the negro on the one hand, and the interests of

of the proprietor on the other; hence various interpretations of the law by its different administrators, which have been, and still are, the fertile source of confusion and dissension in the community. I, however, am of opinion, that the construction of the law has, in most cases, been more favourable to the master than to the apprentice; when it allotted forty hours and a half weekly to the former, it certainly was never in contemplation to take more from the latter, without due compensation; yet from some unaccountable prepossession or inadvertence, this time is only reckoned, with the exception of the jobbing gangs, who have often many miles to go, from the commencement of actual labour in the field; as if walking to his master's work, sometimes for two miles, be not, really and *bonâ fide*, employment in his service, and should not, according both to the spirit and letter of the law, be considered as such. I have had frequent complaints from the negroes respecting the space allowed them for breakfast and dinner; they often imagine themselves defrauded of a portion of their time, which, as they have no accurate or consistent mode of measuring, they are very rarely able to prove. This cause of distrust and dispute might be avoided by the very simple expedient of obliging managers to furnish their people with hour and half-hour glasses, which, being carried into the field, would leave no room for doubt or suspicion on this head. I could point out many other sources of inconvenience which impede the satisfactory working of the system, which might be removed by means equally simple with the above; but all such propositions, to be successfully carried into execution, should be armed with the force of law. The special justices are the objects of so much undeserved jealousy and odium, that all suggestions coming from them are too generally disregarded or rejected, without any reference to their intrinsic merit or utility. Few services are so harassing and ungrateful as those of a special magistrate; regarded from the beginning with a malignant eye by the great majority of proprietors and managers, he finds his utmost efforts inadequate to give general satisfaction; if he endeavour to avoid or modify punishment as much as possible, he is instantly assailed and vilified in the public journals as endeavouring to relax the reins of discipline, with the malicious designs of disorganizing the apprentices and ruining the planters. Should he, on the contrary, be a strict disciplinarian, and in some districts such a character is highly necessary, he incurs the ill-will of the negroes, who flock by hundreds to the seat of government to complain of him. Nor are these the only discouraging circumstances connected with his duties: the event of every trial, in which a special magistrate has hitherto been concerned, has been uniformly his defeat, and some of them have thereby been put to ruinous expenses, far beyond the means supplied by their salaries to support. It is so obvious as to be quite unnecessary for me to proceed to show that similar efforts on the part of the special justices will, in this island, be always attended with similar results, unless some efficient plan be devised by the home government for protecting us in the upright and conscientious discharge of our arduous and dangerous duties.

I have, in former reports, alluded to the propriety and expediency of abolishing the corporal punishment of apprentices, as well as the practice of condemning them to hard labour in the house of correction, a sentence far more severe, (as some of these establishments are conducted,) than the former, for all such offences as do not subject a freeman to the same degrading punishments, and instituting in their place a system of penal labour on estates. The prior punishments are preposterous, as they relate to the peculiar offence of the apprentice, the withholding from his employer an adequate proportion of labour; still, as long as the compulsory law has to endure, some effective mode of coercion must obtain to ensure it. The establishment of penal gangs on estates would effect the desirable object of combining a punishment at once analogous and proportioned to the delinquency, with a due regard to the interests of the proprietor. The most obvious and suitable punishment for idleness, absence or refusal to labour, is manifestly labour continuous and compulsory. These gangs need only be established on the larger estates, which may receive and pay for the services of culprits from the smaller properties, and should work under the superintendence of a police constable. The hours of labour should be ten on working days, and on Sundays they should be closely imprisoned: food of course to be provided for them, and their grounds and gardens kept in order by their employer during the term of their sentence. The quantity and quality of their sustenance should be regulated by law, as well as the apportioning the duration of the restraint to the nature of the default. Misbehaviour in these gangs to subject the offender to prolongation of punishment, and, in aggravated instances, to hard labour in the house of correction.

The period fixed for the emancipation of the non-prædial is drawing close: I take the liberty of observing, that unless it be previously and speedily ascertained who will be entitled to their freedom in 1838, and the parties assured of their rights, much trouble and confusion, attended, too, with no little hazard, may be anticipated. It is by no means settled or decided on the different properties who are and who are not non-prædials. The present classification, it must be kept in mind, has been the work of the master; for the valuers, who, moreover, had no legal authority to decide in which of these classes the negro was to be enrolled, noted them down as prædials or non-prædials without any reference to the law, according as the proprietor was pleased to class them in the plantation books. The difficulty and opposition to be looked for, should this necessary step be deferred to the last moment, may be estimated by the general rejection of Lord Sligo's equitable recommendation on this subject. Many apprentices will no doubt pretend to freedom in 1838, who will not by law be entitled to it. Some masters will as certainly be, in like manner, desirous of retaining the services of dependents, whom the law will then emancipate.

As regards the education and instruction of the youthful part of the negro population, free as well as apprentice, I have nothing to add to my former reports. Not a single effective

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step has been taken ; and I am fully convinced that none will, until Government take the matter exclusively into its own hands. I take the opportunity of repeating an opinion I have expressed in a former report, that whatever system may be adopted, it will fail in the great end of enlightening and improving, at an early period, the negro population, if as many of the children as is practicable are not separated altogether from their parents, by the establishment of houses of industry, or of similar institutions, in the various districts of the island. A great length of time will otherwise elapse before the peculiar habits, vices and superstitions, the natural offspring of slavery, and a state still half savage, will be entirely extinguished in their posterity.

I cannot conclude this report without remarking on an assertion made by many individuals in this country, that crime is greatly on the increase. Nothing can be more contrary to fact. The disseminators of this opinion either purposely overlook or wilfully conceal, that infractions of the law have only lately, in these colonies, become, in all instances, a matter of judicial animadversion and public notice ; that, formerly, all but enormous and atrocious offences were visited by domestic discipline, and that, in multifold instances, even these were never punished at all ; the proprietor too often regarding with indifference aggression against the public, where he himself was not an immediate sufferer. He rarely, therefore, gave up to justice a delinquent slave, unless in cases which subjected him either to the penalty of transportation or that of death ; in both which instances he was reimbursed by law for his loss. He often esteemed it his interest to shield a minor offender, by whose punishment, by imprisonment or otherwise, he was liable to be, in any shape, himself damnified. Circumstances are now *toto celo* diverse. The magistrate before whom any case, not special, is brought for examination, must, if borne out by evidence, commit the accused for trial in the superior courts : hence the apparent increase of crime, about which so much has been so unjustly said, for the sole purpose of prejudicing and throwing disrepute on the general character of the negro population. The increase of cases brought before the tribunals is, therefore, in this country no indication of the increase of crime ; and as for the total sum of punishment now awarded by the sentence of the special magistrate on the apprentice, no one unbiassed, or unblinded by the spirit of party, will pretend that it amounts to the one-hundredth part of that inflicted by domestic discipline on the slave.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Edward Dacres Baynes*, Special Magistrate.

## Enclosure 49, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *Thomas Davies*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Highgate, St. Mary's, 2 January 1837.

Enclosure 49,  
in No. 567.

I HAVE the honour to write you my report on the preceding quarter, for submission to his Excellency the Governor.

1. The general conduct of the apprentices in this district, since my last report, is good for the last month, former two not so well ; but I cannot say that they are improved in industry, for, as far as I can see, they do little more than they are actually obliged by law to perform.

2. I do not think there is any want of good feeling between them and their employers.

3. I cannot say they perform their work willingly ; but they now know the law obliges them to perform, and they do it to avoid punishment, without giving much trouble.

4. From six in the morning till half-past five in the evening, with half an hour allowed for breakfast and two hours for dinner, say from twelve to two.

5. Task-work is not much resorted to, except in digging cane-holes. I do not think either master or many of the apprentices have any objection to it, but it has not been customary.

6. It is usual for the apprentices to work in their own time for money-wages ; there is no settled state of wages, each estate makes its own bargain ; an apprentice is by no means anxious to work for the wages, but seems to have got into the habit more by persuasion than otherwise.

7. Generally, no indulgences are withheld which were allowed during slavery ; but it is often found necessary to threaten to withdraw them, to induce the apprentices to work for hire the extra hours which the estates require, to enable the crops to be taken off.

8. Free children are generally in a perfect state of idleness, and in some cases, when the parents are careless, the children are much neglected ; they are supported by the parents. I have never known an instance of one being apprenticed.

9. There are no public schools, but most of the properties have a school. The attendance at the church is equal to the accommodation.

10. There is a very general desire of the apprentices to purchase their discharge ; but valuations are at far too high a rate, consequently their time of purchase is put off till the apprenticeship is farther advanced. Two since last report.

11. Those who have obtained their discharge become house or body servants of the higher class ; go about the country with articles for sale ; most of them remain living on the property from which they have been released ; and, by having wives or husbands there, retain the use of a house, garden and provision grounds. I have never known an apprentice so discharged work or stay in the field, nor would they do so for any hire.

12. The

12. The crops will be rather small. The cane cultivation is generally as usual; but the pasture lands and outskirts of the estates are considerably neglected, which is partly owing to the decrease of the effective strength by death and discharge,—the decrease in the number of working hours since the abolition of slavery. The season has been rather favourable.

The holidays have passed off very favourably; and I have not observed or heard of a single quarrel amongst the apprentices. All the estates gave Monday, Tuesday, and some, Wednesday, after calling the list. The usual Christmas allowances were given, and, I am happy to say, the apprentices are gone to their work, and with no complaints.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Thomas Davies*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 50, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *James Harris*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Santa Cruz District, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, 1 January 1837.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the following special report upon the state of my district, for the quarter ending the 31st ultimo, to be submitted to the consideration of his Excellency the Governor.

Having been but for a short period in charge of my present district, my observations and experience have in consequence not been very extensive, but the result of that experience I beg to note down.

I am infinitely pleased with the general good and friendly feeling and understanding which evidently exists between the master and apprentice. Labour is cheerfully performed upon the whole, and complaints seldom preferred; and when they are, on the part of the employer, deficiency of labour chiefly forms the nature thereof. As yet, I have had no complaints lodged by apprentices against their employers. A mutual and private adjustment of any trivial matters appears to be frequently resorted to, so that none but cases of some moment are referred to the special magistrate. This is a praiseworthy method of arranging differences, and manifestly tends to promote and preserve a desirable state of society. Infraction of the law by either party may occur, but yet of so slight a nature, that a compromising spirit exerts its healing influence, and the magistrate hears nothing of the matter until, perhaps, some time afterwards, and then it is related to him only as an anecdote.

The nine hours system of labour is generally in use in this district, the labourers getting about an hour or an hour and a half interval of relaxation during the day; this short period of rest the people prefer, on account of their having a longer afternoon to themselves. Every half Friday belongs to the apprentices, but on many properties, by mutual agreement, which is much to the advantage of both parties, the whole Fridays, alternately, are given to the planter and the people; so that there are five working days one week, and four the other, for the property; and the labourer has the advantage of a whole day extra every other week, instead of a half day a week.

There appears to be a mutual desire for task-work in all this district; and, in furtherance of the wishes of his Excellency the Governor on the subject, committees have met for the purpose of framing a workable system or scale of labour, which, if fixed upon a moderate and liberal basis, would be most beneficial. It would do away with the constant point in dispute, upon complaints of insufficient work, "What is a fair and reasonable proportion of work which should have been performed?" During my experience, upon every trial the differences of opinion upon this point have been great. I am of opinion that, for general purposes, and embracing main and principal points, a scale might be judiciously arranged; but it seems agreed there are many minutiae in the management of all kinds of property that cannot be restricted to rule; but these the good sense and liberal allowances of the managers can successfully and amicably provide for. Nothing, however, consequent upon the labours of the committees has been submitted as yet to the test of trial and experience. In many instances the planters and the people agree for a stipulated portion of labour, in picking coffee, clearing pastures, &c.; and should the quantity be completed or performed in less time than the nine hours, the rest of the day belongs to the people; and so cheerful and willing are the people when thus working, that it is of frequent occurrence, they will finish the quantum required in half or two-thirds of the day; in some instances, they have not finished their task in the day; but this must be owing to the unsettled and badly-digested groundwork of awarding a fair proportion of work for a day.

The demand for labourers in this district is great, and the apprentices most usually hire themselves out in their own time for money-wages; the ordinary rate thereof is from 1s. 8d. to 2s. 6d. a day—this money for field labourers; tradespeople can, of course, command a higher rate; they are paid in money.

There is abundance of land allotted to the apprentices for the cultivation of grounds; in some situations the quality thereof is unfavourable to the culture of certain kinds of provisions, such as cocoas and yams; but other kinds, such as casava, pigeon-peas and sweet potatoes, &c., thrive well. The district is frequently visited with severe dry weather, when the grounds of the people suffer much. About the commencement of last year, the drought was so great that the crops and the growth of provisions were much affected. In one case I had to enforce the enactments of the 48th section of the Abolition Law. I have heard it asserted that the people in general rather neglect the usual cultivation of their grounds, in order to job out for money-wages in their own time; this, no doubt, to a certain extent, is true, but I have

JAMAICA.

good reason to be satisfied, that although they do hire out for wages, yet that they bestow that attention to their grounds, which, if successful seasons could be ensured, would keep them in a constant supply of the means of support and comfort.

The indulgences usually granted during slavery are, to a more extended or restricted degree, still generally allowed the apprentices on every property; but this (as experience since I have been in the commission fully justifies me in asserting) entirely depends upon the managers being pleased or displeased with their dependents; an imaginary or momentary offence in the eyes of the attorney or manager is sufficient to deprive the people of all or any particular indulgences. The withholding or granting these indulgences is a power reserved in the hands of the employers to reward or punish the good or bad conduct of the people, according to their own ideas on the subject; were this power exercised free from the baneful influences of passion and prejudice, and which I trust is generally the case, it would be well, and perhaps might be attended with beneficial results. On a particular property in this district, the entire body of the people were deprived, at the caprice of the attorney, of their usual Christmas supplies of fish, &c., and those who were hitherto allowed the privilege of running a horse or other stock on the property, most unceremoniously denied the indulgence, and all this from the attorney's conceived ideas that the people had acted improperly; but in my opinion it was neither more or less than a splenetic attack upon me, as the special magistrate, over the backs of the people, for a certain decision I had recently made in favour of the people, when their grounds had been rendered unproductive by dry weather. Such an exercise of the power of granting or withholding the accustomed indulgences and privileges cannot but be productive of unpleasant feelings and bad results.

The condition of the free children should be particularly noticed, there are a great number in this district; they are much neglected by their parents, and most badly provided for by them, even in common necessaries; they are growing up in idleness, filth and ignorance; the parents will not allow them, on any consideration, to perform the slightest work, either on the property to which they are themselves attached, or elsewhere; upon being spoken to on the subject by the managers, they laconically reply, "them no free already." Their idea of freedom appears to consist in a total exemption from all labour and care. The baneful and desperate state of society which will ensue upon many thousands of children grown up in habits of idleness and ignorance, and every species of vice and iniquity, is too apparent to require comment. Something should be done to remedy this great evil to society hereafter; and also, on philanthropic grounds, for the due care, protection and instruction of the present helpless state of the rising generation; the provision of the 18th section of the law does not appear to provide for this existing emergency. As connected with this subject, I must take notice, and I do so with every pleasurable feeling, of the charitable and noble attempts made by Mr. James Miller, the senior magistrate of this parish, and his family, to rescue from misery and want the children on his own property. For some years before August 1834, Mr. Miller commenced a system of instruction of his young people, combined with labour in the field; and so well did the system succeed, that since the abolition of slavery he has been enabled, by obtaining the consent of the parents, still to persevere; a portion of each day is dedicated to instruction, moral and religious, and the rest to industrious labour. The consent of the parents in this instance being so easily obtained, is accounted for by the circumstance of their having for years been accustomed to the daily routine that was observed, and perhaps, more particularly, as Mr. Miller, from the commencement of the present system to the present moment, has continued to treat the free children as he had invariably done during slavery; they experience not even the slightest change; they are clothed, supported, taken care of and instructed with as much attention as formerly. This example is certainly worthy of imitation, and should the subject be similarly treated, similar results might reasonably be expected to follow. Mr. Miller and his family persevered in their laudable exertions through good report and through bad report; the success they have met with, and will to a certainty continue to experience, has been, and will be, a gratifying recompense to them.

I regret to observe that the district does not afford sufficient facilities for education and religious instruction; there is no church in the district. The Rev. Mr. Yates, once in a fortnight, performs divine service, and catechises the children and others afterwards at a temporary building (formerly used as a school-room) on the Savannahs; the Rev. Mr. Walters alternately officiates on certain properties, and at his own residence: both these gentlemen generally have the attendance of large congregations. Mr. Walters also superintends a school, where the apprentices' children are instructed gratis; there have been at this school about 50 children at a time, but so capricious are the parents that their attendance is neither regular nor continued. There is also a Moravian establishment in the vigorous exercise of all its energies; it consists of a chapel and school; Mr. Miller and others have lent their aid, and materially contribute to the support and efficient usefulness of this source of instruction and improvement of the negro population. There is another Moravian chapel near the line of this parish and Manchester, which is just finished being built. There is great necessity for more places of instruction, religious and otherwise.

There is a general desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge; I have made five valuations since my appointment to this district; three have been effectually completed by the amount being paid; the other two will shortly be so. A report has prevailed, and I believe with truth, that certain persons in the district and neighbourhood have induced and are inducing the apprentices to apply for their discharge, and advancing the money, and then, as soon as the apprentice becomes free, making him or her enter into articles of indenture to serve the lender of the money as a servant for a length of time, double the length of their previously remaining term of apprenticeship; thus, in fact, depriving the apprentice

apprentice of the term he has already served. The negro character is fond of novelty and change, and not understanding the nature and extent of the injury he inflicts on himself, and merely for the sake of change of owners and scene, consents to terms which I designate as being unfeeling, usurious and illegal, an unfair advantage being taken of the ignorant, unsuspecting apprentice. I have stated my settled purpose of opposing all such illegal proceedings to the extent of my power. I would be happy and would encourage the praiseworthy desire of assisting an apprentice to get released from the trammels of servitude, and the apprentice should honestly and religiously repay every farthing advanced, and, if required, with interest; but he must be left to his own free agency, or at all events not continued a bondman beyond the legal time made so by the law. The consequence of thus taking advantage of a negro's ignorance or desire of change will be very pernicious to all parties concerned hereafter, besides being, though indirect, an attempt to frustrate the humane intentions of the Abolition Law.

Those apprentices who obtain their discharge without entering into the usurious contract in the last paragraph alluded to, hire themselves out as servants at very reasonable rates, say 12*l.* a year, or should they happen to be tradespeople, they employ themselves at their respective callings; others, who can afford it, purchase small lots of land, build huts and cultivate gardens; these latter, I am afraid, too easily become a prey to sloth and indolence, scarcely vegetating; they have a bad example near them in the habits and manners of the Paratees or Savannah mulattoes, who are in many respects the inferiors of the apprentices, so long as the latter are industriously employed.

The prospects of the present crops are not of a very cheering nature; appearances in the first instance bade fair for good returns, which would have been ensured had not severe dry weather at the commencement of last year made the hopes prove fallacious; average of crops of last year is however expected to be made. The cultivation of the fields is fully as forward as usual for the time of the year; they exhibit a pleasing sight, indicating good returns for next year; but last year similar promising prospects existed, but the unpropitious seasons prevented their being realized; so, as experience has proved, the planter is dependent solely on successful seasons for large and plentiful returns.

I would most earnestly suggest, for the consideration of His Majesty's Government, that immediate legislative enactments should be made, enforcing a system of instruction and labour combined, for the benefit of the children of the apprentices; coercion is absolutely indispensable, as the parents throw so many obstacles in the way of their children's improvement. The proprietor of each property, I am confident, would gladly take care of and support the children of their apprentices as formerly, could they be assured of getting a proportion of labour in return; in fact, were this ensured, a proprietor might not only give employment and support to the children of his own apprentices, but to the children of apprentices of other people who might not be able, from various causes, to undertake such a charge; thus each property of any magnitude might have a gang of from 50 to 100 healthy children at labour. Places of instruction might be centrally situated, for the children of every six or more properties to attend at each place. Consecutive or alternate days should be devoted to instruction and agricultural pursuits, or to the learning of any trade or handicraft; consecutive or alternate days, I should think, would be preferable to having the moiety of every day apportioned for this purpose, as the pupils having some distance to walk to the school-room, and back again to their respective properties, could not attend to either instruction or labour properly.

I am happy to observe that the Christmas holidays have passed off most quietly, and the labourers have returned to their usual avocations with cheerfulness.

I am, &c.

(signed) *James Harris*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 51, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *Thomas J. Baines*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Retreat, St. Thomas in the East, Rocky Point  
and Port Morant District, 1 January 1837.

Sir,

In forwarding this my quarterly report for the information of his Excellency, I have the honour to state, that the conduct of the apprentices in this district has been generally good; the same kind feeling exists between the master and his dependents. During the short days, the people do not work nine hours; they all get half an hour for breakfast, and two and a half in the middle of the day for dinner. No agreements have as yet been entered into under the sanction of the special justice for the taking off of the crops. Task-work has not been tried upon any properties, except by jobbing gangs; unless that system was general they would consider that they were imposed upon. All the estates would cheerfully pay money for extra labour, but they prefer time, or extra allowance of "salt," &c.; 1*s.* British per diem is the sum given when willing to work for hire. The attorneys and managers are very liberal in their supplies, and careful of the free children, but the parents will not permit them to work upon the estate for money or other indulgences, so that the rising generation are brought up in filth and idleness, and will ultimately impoverish instead of adding strength and solidity to this colony. The people are fond of attending a place of worship, behave well, and expend much money upon dress. The established churches are too far distant from each other; it would be a great advantage to have one at Port Morant. A new school-house is being built at Morant Bay, a Sunday school at Retreat, and the top-house at Air

Enclosure 51,  
in No. 567.

JAMAICA.

Mount has been converted into a school under the Church Missionary Society. There is not a general wish to purchase their freedom in my district, nine apprentices only having done so since my last quarterly report. The men, on obtaining their free paper, resort to towns, doing little or nothing, live cheerfully upon the produce of some woman's grounds; and females all turn higglers; none of them will hire themselves to the estates. The canes look well, and better crops are expected than last year; the cultivation is in a much more forward state, so that there will be no difficulty in taking off the produce in good time. Difficulties must increase every revolving season: the old die off, the infirm become more so, and less equal to perform the same labour; in 1838 the non-prædials must be replaced from the field; and the rising generation are a clog upon the properties instead of adding to their strength. I much fear the prospects in 1840 are gloomy, Providence having so bountifully supplied the wants of the population of this island without the necessity of labour; and, considering the natural indolent habits of the people, who now only work from compulsion, the idle and bad characters will prey upon the more industrious. I have upon all occasions received every assistance from the managers in the execution of my duty, and my labours are now comparatively light. The Christmas holidays have passed over most quietly; the overseers most liberal in their allowances.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Thomas J. Baines*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 52, in No. 567.

Copy of a LETTER from *W. A. Bell*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Barton Isles Pen, Goshen, P. O., St. Elizabeth, 2 Jan. 1837.

Enclosure 52,  
in No. 567.

In compliance with his Excellency's instructions contained in circular No. 63, 23 Sept. last, I beg to send my quarterly report of the state of this district, and, in reply to the several questions contained therein, have to state:

1. That the general conduct of the apprentices has been quiet and orderly since my last report, with, however, a few exceptions, which arise either from some evil-disposed persons putting foolish ideas into their heads, or the want of education, and that obstinacy of disposition which is the characteristic of the negro mind.

2. There certainly exists in some degree, but more moderately, that want of good feeling between the master and apprentices which we usually find between master and servant in countries where slavery never existed; this arises from neither party being able yet to forget the relative situations they were placed in with regard to each other previous to the Abolition Act; this will, I trust, cease before the conclusion of the term of apprenticeship, as, for his own sake, the master will treat his servants well; and the apprentice must, if he wishes to be out of trouble, conduct himself properly towards his employer; emigrants also (working men of steady, industrious habits), by taking the lead in the different departments of a property, will materially correct, and in time do away with the feeling that formerly existed in his mind, more particularly if task-work were generally given, as the apprentice would then, if willing to exert himself, have much more time than at present at his own disposal.

3. Whenever they do not perform their work willingly, I consider it to arise from their independence of their master as to their support, if they attend to their grounds about a quarter of the time they now have; it also partly arises from the not having task-work, as the apprentice feels he must stay in the field a certain time, whether he does much or little work.

4. The working hours in my district are generally arranged upon the nine hour system, allowing in the long days, one hour for breakfast, from 10 to 11 o'clock A. M., and two hours for dinner, from 1 to 3 o'clock P. M.; and in the short days allowing half an hour for breakfast, and one hour and a half for dinner.

There are a few, and but a few, who give one hour for breakfast, and none for dinner; but who in the long days break off at half-past 4 o'clock P. M., and in the short days at 4 o'clock.

5. I am sorry to say task-work is not so generally resorted to as could be wished, except in digging cane-holes, which was always the case; the objection, I think, has been chiefly with the master; but as there has been a meeting in the parish of proprietors, attornies and managers of properties, for the purpose of fixing a scale, I trust it will soon be, wherever practicable, adopted.

6. On some properties, during crop-time, the apprentices appear willing enough to work for money some extra hours, particularly about the boiling-house, mill-house, cartmen, &c., at the rate of 1d. per hour, but not in the field, and never on their Saturdays. There are some who will work on their Saturdays on other people's properties, but not on their masters', these receive from 2s. 1d. to 3s. 4d. per day, for coffee-planting, digging cane-holes or falling lands; they are usually tasked, which they prefer.

7. The indulgences formerly given are only partly withheld on some properties, and those which are so withheld are given for any extra work, &c. on all; the indulgences which are not withheld are given as payment for watching, by a mutual agreement; some withhold none, but give them for watching.

8. The free children are generally, in my district, in a state of idleness; with few exceptions they are supported by their parents, or starve upon fruits, which they purloin from the different trees up to the very doors of their masters' houses. Work and money have in different places been offered them on liberal terms, and education for work, but refused by the mothers.

9. The great distances in my district render it impossible, without some good public institutions, to afford education generally and religious instruction to the apprentices; the clergy generally appear diligent and attentive. The houses used as churches and schools are not sufficiently large to afford accommodation to the attendants; this, however, will be remedied as churches and chapels are built (a church is about to be built at Appleton estate); and I should hope that some means will be adopted to oblige the younger branches of the community to attend the schools, and labour for remuneration.

10. The head-people generally are not very desirous of purchasing their discharge; it is usually the bad and idle, who have no money, and who always wish for change; it is also head-people, or those who have family reasons. I have given certificates of freedom since my last report.

11. If the apprentices who have purchased their freedom are tradesmen, they usually work at their trade; but all others prefer house-work or travelling employment, and seldom betake themselves to the field.

12. The prospect of the ensuing crop in my district is good, and it has been an improving one as to sugar for the last two years; there are 14 sugar estates. The weather is now favourable, and some estates have begun to grind.

13. I would make it, if possible, imperative upon masters of properties to give their apprentices task-work, wherever practicable; also, for the purposes of industry, I would further suggest that a regular allowance of bread-kind and salt provision should be given weekly to the apprentices, in the same manner as is at present, or was formerly, done in Demerara and Essequibo; his ground to be given up, and his four hours and a half to be taken by his master; this would make a certainty to every one, good, bad, sick or well, aged or otherwise, of having sufficient support. There are many worthless who will not make a ground, but will rob others to a ruinous degree, or if it is made for them according to law, will not keep it up; also there is much land given to the apprentices two hours distance from their homes, and that at their own choice, it being good land, where they may take as much as they like, which makes a loss of half a day's labour the going and coming, besides the loss of going to market; and though they may prefer it, time is money.

This plan of task-work, together with their Saturday (the whole of which is wasted in going to market), would enable them, if they wished it, to take money for the cultivation of produce to pay for their amusement, luxuries, &c., if they required them. It would not prevent some few of the very industrious from renting a piece of land from their masters any more than the emigrant, and would prevent the constant disputes of hogs, &c., and the constant thieving of the bad from the good, which on almost every property is the case, as these former, having no ground, would have no business there. This plan would take twelve months to be brought into practice, as it would be full that time before the master could have a ground sufficiently large and stocked to afford a weekly supply. Until that time, the apprentices would of course be obliged to keep their present lands in cultivation; and after that time, the land would of course become the property of their masters; it would also bring them nearer to that state in which labourers are in England; but I am sorry to say, for the sake of the labourers in England, that the apprentices here would be in a much more prosperous condition. This would also pave the way to doing away in time with giving clothing to the apprentices, and improve the revenue by the quantity of money which would be constantly changing hands in consequence of the necessities of the different classes of labourers, and also the greater quantity of produce which would be sent home by the greater quantity of labour given to the estates.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. A. Bell*, Special Magistrate.

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Enclosure 53, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *Walter Finlayson, Esq.*, Special Justice.

St. James's, 31 December 1836.

It affords me much pleasure to report, that a very obvious improvement has taken place during this quarter in the good feeling between the employers and the apprentices. Upon several properties the masters are acting with greater liberality; complaints, both in the town of Montego Bay and upon the estates, have essentially decreased, and the apprentices are performing their work willingly.

The working hours are fixed at nine daily. There is at present some limitation of the time for breakfast and dinner; but as the days lengthen, the usual periods of one hour for breakfast and two hours for dinner will be again allowed.

Task-work is not generally adopted in my district; though, where reasonable tasks are given, the apprentices willingly accede to them.

Where they can get adequate wages, the apprentices work readily for hire; but several estates do not require their employment on the Fridays or Saturdays. The wages usually given are from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 4d. per day.

Some estates withhold entirely the former supplies of salt fish to the apprentices; others have limited the number of cooks, nurses and watchmen to provision grounds; these are, however, usually granted.

The condition of the free children is in general bad, as they are burdens almost entirely upon their mothers; receiving no support from the estates, and only getting medical care in a few instances, unless when paid for.



JAMAICA.

The attendance of the apprentices, both at church and at schools, appears to be fully equal to the accommodation; and it is gratifying to report, that great exertions are making to provide additional accommodation.

There is, unquestionably, a general desire among the apprentices to purchase their freedom. During the last quarter, 25 valuations have been made before me, and 15 have been paid. It is not known how the parties afterwards employ themselves.

The prospects of the ensuing crop are good; upon a number of estates the cultivation has been extended, and the seasons have been very favourable.

In my district, including the town of Montego Bay, the holidays have passed over without tumult or disturbance of any kind. Indeed the apprentices have every where conducted themselves with the greatest propriety, and have resumed their usual labour without reluctance.

(signed) *Walter Finlayson*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 54, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *E. D. Philp*, Esq., Special Justice, to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Sav. la Mar, 3 January 1837.

Enclosure 54,  
in No. 567.

I HAVE the honour of forwarding, for his Excellency the Governor's information, the state of my district for the quarter ending the 31st day of December 1836; and, in reply to questions contained in his Excellency's circular dated the 23d of September last, I beg leave to make the following statement.

ANSWERS to Queries from No. 1 to No. 13 inclusive.

1. Good.
2. I know of none.
3. They do most willingly and cheerfully.
4. Nine hours system; allowing one hour for breakfast and two for dinner.
5. Generally, and encouraged by the managers.
6. Usual and general; the apprentices receiving at the rate of 2s. 1d. to 3s. 4d. per diem.
7. Not aware of any.
8. In most instances the estates supply them as before, and pay for medical attendance.
9. Four schools, and as many places for divine worship.
10. Yes; four.
11. I know not.
12. Very good; cultivation good; season favourable.
13. Not any.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. D. Philp*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 55, in No. 567.

COPY of a LETTER from *J. Woolfrys*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Islington, St. Ann's, Ocho Rios District, 31 Dec. 1836.

Enclosure 55,  
in No. 567.

IN obedience to his Excellency the Governor's command, I beg leave to report, that on my return (after my illness) to resume the duties of this district on the 1st October last, I discovered rather an unsatisfactory feeling, both with employers and apprentices, on many of the plantations, the masters and managers complaining that the apprentices had relaxed in their industry; and the apprentices, on their part, complaining that they were subjected to much annoyance, and were not protected; this unpleasant feeling, I am now happy to say, has in a great measure subsided, and a better understanding, combined with a more healthy state, is springing up again. On most of the properties, when I make the inquiry, "How are your people conducting themselves?" the reply generally is, "They are working very well." They are working as well as can be expected under the new order of things; upon a few of the plantations, however, where there is a want of proper system of management on the part of the employer or manager, the work is not carried on so satisfactorily.

On all the properties in this district, the nine hours system of labour is pursued since the promulgation of his Excellency's order; now that the days are short, the apprentices go to work at half-past six in the morning. The hours of relaxation allowed during the working hours, on properties where cooks are allowed, is half an hour for breakfast; and on others, one hour is allowed and no cook; some few allow cooks, and the hours, one to one and a half hours for dinner time; or, according to agreement on some properties, the work continues after breakfast time till half-past 4 o'clock, and when the dinner time is allowed, half-past five is the hour for retiring from work, so as to reduce the time of labour to nine hours.

Upon some estates, the four and a half consecutive hours for the further cultivation of the apprentices' grounds are given on the Fridays; and upon others, as it suits the employer's pleasure, on any day of the week, or a whole day any alternate week.

The only description of task-work performed here is digging of cane-holes; and during the pimento picking, 80 holes was the task during the eight hours' system, and is still, which is generally performed by 12 and 1 o'clock; but the employers have expressed themselves

themselves desirous that the deficiency under the nine hours system should be made up to them.

Five days of eight hours gave them, at 80 holes - - - - -	400
Four and a half days of nine hours now gives, at 80 holes - - -	360
	40

I have declined, upon my authority, adding to the task-work, as I am apprehensive that it will cause great dissatisfaction amongst the apprentices to make up the difference, and have suggested to the employers the propriety of waiting for the scale of labour contemplated by his Excellency.

The task-work in pimento picking, when in full bearing, is half a barrel each person, who are allowed loppers to break the limb off the trees with the fruit in its green state; when ripe it is of no value; the task is, by quick pickers, accomplished by one or two o'clock; during the crop, the apprentices cheerfully pick in their own time for money-wages, at the rate of 5s. and 6s. 8d., this currency, per barrel; they prefer picking pimento, on most occasions, for others than their employers.

The indulgences now withheld on most of the plantations, which were usual during slavery, are herrings, or salt, as it is usually termed, but which is continued by several of the sugar estates; the usual Christmas allowance is still continued, except upon one property, where the people have worked badly.

The free children are maintained and clothed solely by their parents, and in some instances medicine; many of the employers allow medicine, but no medical attendant, to these children; and where a mother happens to have a large family, she finds it a difficult matter to maintain and clothe them properly. I am sorry to say that, with some exceptions, as the apprenticeship diminishes, there is not now that kindly feeling extended to those unfortunate little beings as was formerly by the employers, which must claim the sympathy and commiseration of His Majesty's Government, as many of them will be reduced to a state of wretchedness, unless some provision is made to render them useful members of society.

There is only one school, recently established near Ocho Rios by the Wesleyan missionaries; the master being absent during the vacation, the Rev. Mr. Whitehouse has been unable to give me the necessary information connected with the institution, but which he promises to do as early as possible. There were a few petty schools, but which hardly deserved the name; they are discontinued. There is only a Baptist chapel at Ocho Rios, which has been recently repaired by that society. The materials are now being collected for the erection of a Methodist chapel: they have hitherto held their Sunday service under a cluster of cocoa-nut trees, since the destruction by fire of their former place of worship by the people here.

A very general desire prevails amongst the apprentices to purchase their discharge; 14 discharges have been effected during this quarter, and there would have been a greater number if they had the means; of those who have purchased their exemption from apprenticeship, some have gone into the employment of other estates, and others have left the district.

There is at present every appearance of the sugar estates realizing a greater average crop the ensuing year; as regards the pimento, present indication is very favourable; but it is an article of precarious dependence, being easily affected by wind and weather.

The state of the weather during this quarter has been exceedingly favourable to vegetation.

I would strongly recommend that the nine hours system of labour be continued, and the four and a half consecutive hours be given in a fixed day, instead of leaving it to the caprice of the employers.

His Excellency the Governor will observe by my last report herewith, that complaints and punishments have very materially decreased during this month, which has afforded me great pleasure and satisfaction.

The measles and intermittent fevers have been and still continue very prevalent for the last ten months amongst all classes, but I have heard of few cases proving fatal.

The apprentices generally are again, I understand, paying more attention to the cultivation of their grounds than they recently did.

I have, &c.  
(signed) J. Woolfrys, Special Justice.

—No. 568.—

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

My Lord,

The King's House, 3 May 1837.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have only this morning returned to the seat of government, from a tour of inspection of the greater part of the island.

No. 568.

I shall have the honour of reporting at the earliest possible date upon the state of the militia, the prisons, and such other points as have come under my notice;

JAMAICA.

in the mean time I have great satisfaction in acquainting your Lordship, that I have every where found a ready disposition on the part of the local authorities to comply with the suggestions which I felt it my duty to make, and to enter into my views on various subjects which came under my observation during my tour.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith.*

— No. 569. —

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

My Lord,

The King's House, 11 May 1837.

No. 569.

I BEG leave to enclose an abstract of punishments inflicted by the magistrates from the month of August 1835 up to February last, and I am happy to have it in my power to state, that while the average amount of punishment is now considerably less than at any period since the commencement of the apprenticeship system, the planters throughout the country, with the exception of the districts of two special magistrates, appear contented with the quantity of work which they obtain, and that a general good understanding exists between them and the labouring population. It is, indeed, to this satisfactory state of things that the extraordinary decrease of offences, and consequently of punishments, must be mainly attributed.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith.*

Enclosure in No. 569.

## ABSTRACT of PUNISHMENTS inflicted by the SPECIAL MAGISTRATES.

DATE.	Total Number of Punishments inflicted under the authority of Special Magistrates throughout the Island.	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.
			By Whipping.	Otherwise than by Whipping.				
1835:								
August - -	4,293	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	712	2,646	935	24	50	84 days.
September - -	5,531	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	640	2,367	2,524	22	50	6 weeks.
October - -	3,073	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	419	1,344	1,310	22	48	28 days.
November - -	3,051	1 $\frac{2}{10}$	364	1,319	1,368	23	50	5 months.
December - -	2,568	1	306	1,153	1,109	22	50	3 months.
1836:								
January - -	3,122	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	311	1,451	1,360	21	50	112 days.
February - -	2,324	— $\frac{0}{10}$	207	1,032	1,085	23	50	56 days.
March - -	3,032	1 $\frac{1}{6}$	259	1,466	1,307	21	48	84 days.
April - -	2,630	1	191	1,274	1,165	22	48	3 months.
May - -	3,398	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	236	1,618	1,544	22	39	3 months.
June - -	3,266	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	245	1,527	1,495	22	48	3 months.
July - -	2,767	1 $\frac{1}{10}$	208	1,370	1,189	23	48	3 months.
August - -	1,063	— $\frac{8}{10}$	326	354	383	24	50	14 days.
September - -	2,581	1	368	1,016	1,197	25	39	3 months.
October - -	2,551	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	384	933	1,231	25	50	3 months.
November - -	2,323	1	406	863	1,080	20	49	6 months.
December - -	2,470	1	319	987	1,146	20	40	3 months.
1837:								
January - -	2,847	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	458	996	1,372	25	40	1 month.
February - -	1,834	— $\frac{2}{3}$	332	706	796	20	40	1 month.

No. 570.

—No. 570.—

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

My Lord,

The King's House, 11 May 1837.

No. 570.  
(No. 1.)

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of the circular instructions which I have at various times issued for the guidance of the special magistrates, and I trust that they will meet with your Lordship's approbation.

I am not aware that these documents require any explanatory observations from me, with the exception of that dated the 28th September last. Finding that the system of requiring monthly reports only, had worked satisfactorily in Barbadoes, and to the approbation of your Lordship, and your Lordship's predecessors, I discontinued the weekly returns, which have been hitherto required, and which added considerably to the harassing duties of the magistrates, who, after the fatiguing labours of the day, were little qualified for the preparation of returns, which, moreover, were made up to each weekly post day (Wednesday and Thursday), so that they had not even the advantage of the repose which the Saturday and Sunday might afford them for that purpose.

In remodelling these returns, I took the opportunity of including in the return of punishments a summary of the evidence, which appeared to me precisely the information required to enable me to judge of the nature of the proceedings and decisions of the magistrates, and which was formerly only furnished quarterly; this point was, besides, particularly insisted on in the original instructions, establishing the Tables (A.) and (B.), from your Lordship's office.

For your Lordship's better information, I enclose two returns of punishments, according to the form now established, and also one of the diaries for which this return was substituted.

(No. 2.)  
(No. 3.)

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

## Enclosures in No. 570.

(No. 1.)

Sir,

The King's House,

1836.

I AM desired by the Lieutenant-governor to call your attention to the 5th clause of the Act in aid of the Abolition Act, fixing the period of labour on sugar estates and other plantations at nine hours daily, except in cases where the employer and the labourers may mutually agree upon some other arrangement, and to direct that you will cause the provision of that clause to be strictly observed, making it your particular duty to ascertain, in cases where the employer and the labourers may be mutually desirous of entering into an agreement for working upon any other than the nine hours system, that such agreement is fully understood by both parties.

Enclosures  
in No. 570.

I am also to request your attention to the 6th clause of the Act in aid, which provides that the commencement and close of the legal hours of labour shall be intimated to the apprentices by ringing a bell, sounding a horn or shell, or by any other signal distinctly visible or audible to the apprentices, and to point out how desirable it is that this clause of the Act should be strictly enforced according to the agreements which may exist upon the several estates within your district.

I have, &amp;c.

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

Sir,

The King's House, 23 September 1836.

I AM desired by the Lieutenant-governor to enclose the accompanying blank form of a return, which, in obedience to instructions from the Secretary of State, you will be pleased to transmit to me at the expiration of every month, in order to its being forwarded to the Colonial Office. Your first return will be made up for the present month (September), and transmitted by the first post in October. His Excellency trusts that, under any circumstances, the transmission of this return will never be delayed beyond the second post in the month following that for which it is made up.

I am

JAMAICA.

I am also to convey the Lieutenant-governor's instructions, that the general quarterly report upon the state of your district be regularly prepared in future at the expiration of every quarter, without waiting for particular directions to that effect. With a view to pointing out the general heads upon which the Secretary of State is anxious that this report should afford information, I am directed to annex the copy of a series of questions, which have been transmitted, by his Lordship's desire, to the governors of the Windward colonies, but which are not to be considered as superseding, in the case of Jamaica, the reports of the same nature which have hitherto been transmitted from thence. While, therefore, you will take care that your report embraces all the points enumerated in these questions, you will not consider yourself precluded from affording such other general information as you may consider calculated to throw a light upon the actual state of the apprenticed population and the working of the apprenticeship system.

I have, &c.

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

Downing-street, 15 July 1836.

1. WHAT has been the general conduct of the apprentices in your district since your last report?
2. Is there any want of good feeling between them and their employers, and, if so, to what cause do you attribute it?
3. Do they perform their work willingly, and, if not, to what do you ascribe it?
4. What are the working hours generally in use in your district; are any, and what, intervals of relaxation allowed to the apprentices during the working hours?
5. Is task-work generally resorted to in your district; if not, does the objection lie with the masters or the apprentices?
6. Is it usual for the apprentices to work in their own time for money-wages; if so, what is the ordinary rate of wages, and how are they paid; if not, have they been offered?
7. Are any indulgences withheld, which it was usual during slavery for the estate to supply?
8. What is the condition of the free children, and how are they supported?
9. What facilities does your district supply for education and religious instruction; is the attendance at church and in the schools equal to the accommodation?
10. Is there a general desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge; how many discharges have been effected since your last report?
11. To what kinds of employment do those who have obtained their discharge usually betake themselves?
12. What are the prospects of the ensuing crop, and what the general state of cultivation? has the season been favourable, or otherwise?
13. Have you any suggestions to make, or any practical measure to recommend?

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TABLE (A.)

[Name of Island, Province, or Government.]

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 18\_\_ to the first day of the Month of \_\_\_\_\_, 18\_\_.

Name of Special Magistrate.	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 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.
		Males.	Females.		By Whipping.	Otherwise than by Whipping.					

[Signature of the Governor, Lieutenant-governor, or Officer administering the Government.]

JAMAICA.

(No. 99.)

Sir,

The King's House, 28 September 1836.

SEVERAL instances having occurred of whole gangs of apprenticed labourers coming to the King's House to prefer complaints, I am directed by the Lieutenant-governor to request you will make known to the apprentices on the several estates within your district, that although his Excellency is always willing to hear any just complaints they may have, he strictly prohibits their coming in large bodies, or in number exceeding three at a time.

The prohibition is not intended to interfere with the apprentices in the disposal of their own time, but his Excellency trusts it may tend to check the bad effects resulting from large bodies of apprentices traversing the country, and neglecting their lawful work, which always ends in punishment.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) C. H. Darling, Sec.

(No. 100.)

Sir,

The King's House, 28 September 1836.

THE Lieutenant-governor having had under consideration the various reports and returns which the special magistrates are now required to furnish, with a view to reducing and condensing them, as far as practicable, without losing sight of the object they are intended to answer, I am directed by his Excellency to acquaint you, that all weekly returns are dispensed with, and that for the future the following quarterly and monthly reports must be sent in to my office by the second post at latest, after the expiration of the periods for which they are respectively made up; viz.

1. General quarterly report upon the state of your district, respecting which instructions have been already conveyed to you in my circular letter, dated 23d instant.

2. Monthly return of all cases brought before you for trial during the past month, according to the accompanying form marked (A.). As this return contains a summary of the evidence in each case, both for the complainant and defendant, his Excellency is enabled to dispense with the transcript of evidence which you have hitherto been in the habit of forwarding quarterly.

3. Monthly return of valuations, according to the accompanying form (B.); this return is to include only those valuations which have been completed by the payment of the sums awarded. Under the head "Date of Valuation," you will, however, state the dates on which the valuation was agreed upon, although not falling within the month.

4. Monthly return of properties in your district, visited and not visited, during the month, according to the form (C.) This return being necessary to enable the Lieutenant-governor to ascertain that the 54th clause of the Local Abolition Act has been complied with as far as practicable, his Excellency requests that you will be very particular in stating your reasons, when you may have been prevented from visiting an estate, and in enumerating, either under one head or the other, every estate within your district having more than 40 apprentices attached to it.

5. Table (A.)—A return of punishments inflicted on the apprenticed labourers during the month. Respecting this return, you have already received instructions in my circular of the 23d instant.

Your certificates of the amount of public postage received during the month, being required by the regulations of the Lords of the Treasury, must be sent in monthly as heretofore.

In transmitting your several monthly returns, you will accompany them with a brief report upon the state of your district, similar to that which you have been in the habit of sending in weekly, and you will at all times make a special report of any occurrence of importance within your district involving a serious breach of the law, such as combined resistance on the part of the apprentices to the lawful commands of their employers, or a perseverance on the part of the latter in denying or invading the rights of the former. You will at once perceive the necessity of a strict attention to this point of your instructions, when you consider that your periodical reports being now called for at much longer intervals than formerly, the Lieutenant-governor may possibly remain for some time uninformed of events which it might be desirable should be brought to his immediate notice.

I am, in conclusion, to express his Excellency's hope, that as you will henceforth be relieved from a great proportion of your clerical labours, so you will devote yourself with increased energy and zeal to the discharge of the more active duties of your office.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) C. H. Darling, Sec.

FORM (A.)

FORM (A.)

MONTHLY RETURN of COMPLAINTS brought before Special Justice during the Month of 1836, in the Parish of (Windward or Leeward, &c.) District.

No.	Date.	Name of Estate.	Name and Quality of Complainant.	Name and Quality of Defendant.	Substance of Complaint.	Names of the Witnesses on both sides, and Summary of the Evidence of each.	Decision and Sentence.	Whether carried into effect, and if not, the Reason why? General Remarks.
			<p><i>N.B.</i>—Be careful to specify the sex and class of the complainant and defendant, if an apprenticed labourer.</p>					<p>I certify that the foregoing is a true return of all complaints brought before me, and of the sentences awarded by me during the month of 1836.</p> <p>A. B. Special Justice.</p>

FORM (B.)

RETURN of VALUATIONS during the Month of 1836. Parish of (Windward or Leeward, &c.) District.

No.	Date of Valuation.	Name, Sex and Class of Apprentice.	Name of the Estate, and of the Proprietor.	Value awarded.
		<p><i>N.B.</i>—Specify under this head the trade of the apprentice, if a mechanic.</p>		
			<p>A. B. Special Justice.</p>	

FORM (C.)

LIST of PROPERTIES visited and not visited during the Month of 1836. Parish of (Windward or Leeward, &c.) District.

Names of Properties visited.	Dates of Visits.	Names of Properties not visited.	Reasons for not visiting.
			<p>A. B. Special Justice.</p>

(No. 148.)

Sir,

The King's House, 14 October 1836.

I AM directed by the Lieutenant-governor to suggest to you, that it is very desirable to avoid sentencing the apprenticed labourers to make good lost labour on Saturdays; on which day the apprentices' own time is so necessary to them for the cultivation of their provision grounds, or for going to market.

As you are required by law to visit every estate in your district having 40 apprentices attached once in 14 days, it cannot often occur that absence or neglect of work will accumulate to such an extent but that it may be made good on the ordinary working days, or on the half Friday; and your attention is therefore particularly pointed to that mode of compensating for lost labour.

Should, however, instances of protracted absence occur, you must do justice to the employer, and enforce the law accordingly.

I have, &c.

(signed) C. H. Darling, G. S.



JAMAICA.

(No. 202.)

The King's House, 29 October 1836.

Sir,

REFERRING to the second paragraph of my circular letter of the 28th ult., No. 100, I am directed by the Lieutenant-governor to acquaint you, that the certificates of postage incurred by you on official letters are in future to be sent in quarterly instead of monthly.

As it is necessary, however, that the number of letters and the amount of postage should be specified for each month, the following form of return is transmitted for your information and guidance.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *C. H. Darling, Sec.*

STATEMENT of Amount of POSTAGE incurred on OFFICIAL LETTERS by Special Justice during the Quarter ending the 1836.

Months.	Number of Letters.	Amount of Postage incurred.
October - - -		
November - - -		
December - - -		
		Total - - - £.

I certify that I have paid the above-mentioned sum of [state the sum in words] for postage of letters solely on official business during the quarter ending the 1836.

Special Justice.

(No. 360.)

## MEMORANDUM for the SPECIAL JUSTICES.

THE special justices are directed to enumerate in the monthly report which they are required to send in (see paragraph 3, in the circular of the 28th September last), the several monthly returns which they may transmit with that report, and if prevented from forwarding any of the said returns, they will take care to explain the cause of such deficiency.

They are also particularly requested not to write on the inside of the envelopes of their official communications.

It is expected that every official communication will be acknowledged by the first post after its receipt; and in referring to any letter from the Governor's secretary's office, they will be pleased to take care always to quote its number as well as date.

By command.

The King's House, 24 Dec. 1836.

(signed) *C. H. Darling, Sec.*

(No. 361.)

The King's House, 23 December 1836.

Sir,

It appearing to the Lieutenant-governor, from communications which have been received from some of the special justices, that a misunderstanding exists as to the circumstances under which official directions from his Excellency are transmitted through Mr. Special Justice Hill, I am desired by his Excellency to acquaint you, that that gentleman is employed, under the express authority of the Secretary of State, as an assistant to the Governor's secretary in the special justice's department; and that therefore all communications from him, purporting to be by his Excellency's commands, are entitled to the same prompt attention as if they were addressed to you by myself.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *C. H. Darling, Sec.*

(No. 436.)

The King's House, 11 January 1837.

Sir,

It appearing to the Governor very desirable that the special magistrates should be apprized of the sentiments of His Majesty's Government as to their liability for expenses and penalties attendant upon prosecutions to which they may become exposed in the course of their official duties, I am desired by his Excellency to acquaint you that the Secretary of State has declared that he regards with great jealousy any act which should cherish the belief that the British Treasury would indemnify the special magistrates against the costs of actions at law; and that while there is every reason to believe that, where the magistrate has been made the subject of prosecution for proceedings which may have been unavoidable in the proper discharge of his duty, he will be remunerated for the expenses incurred, the most strict inquiry will be instituted in every case, not only whether he acted in accordance with law, but whether there was such a probable ground of defence to the action as justified him in omitting to tender amends, and in taking his chance of obtaining a verdict; and further, whether

whether he would seem to have been influenced by zeal for the public service, and to have conducted himself with prudence and moderation.

JAMAICA.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *C. H. Darling, Sec.*

(No. 458.)

Sir,

The King's House, 16 January 1837.

I AM desired by the Governor to acquaint you, that in consequence of the reduced strength of the police force, his Excellency cannot permit any policemen to be attached to the special justices; and his Excellency further directs that they may only be sent for from their stations when urgently required, and that they may on no account be employed in carrying letters unless in cases of emergency.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *C. H. Darling, Sec.*

(No. 486.)

Sir,

The King's House, 2 February 1837.

I HAVE the Governor's commands to direct, that in every case of an application made to you for the removal of apprentices under the 14th clause of the Abolition Act, or for transfer of the services of apprentices by sale or contract under the 15th clause of the same Act, you do report the application made to you before the removal be sanctioned, and transmit a copy of the evidence taken by yourself and an associate special justice, for ascertaining whether the removal will disunite families, or prejudice the existing interests of the apprentices.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *C. H. Darling, Sec.*

(No. 638.)

Sir,

The King's House, 16 March 1837.

I AM desired by the Governor to acquaint you, that, as the object of conferring the commission of a local magistrate upon the special justices was principally to enable them to act as general justices of the peace in cases where it might be necessary to remove a complaint into the superior courts, or in cases not cognizable by a special justice where apprentices are immediately concerned, his Excellency desires that your proceedings in your general capacity may be strictly limited to cases of the nature alluded to, and that you particularly abstain from voting at vestries, or interfering in any way in the internal affairs of the parish.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *C. H. Darling, Sec.*

(No. 732.)

Sir,

The King's House, 7 April 1837.

You will have received from the clerk of the peace for the parish in which your district is situated, a copy of the Act for the classification of apprenticed labourers.

It having been reported to the Governor that the proprietors, managers or overseers of properties have in some instances stated, that they have no lists of non-prædial apprentices to furnish, as directed by the 1st clause of the Act in question, I am directed by his Excellency to instruct you, that, in the case of every plantation, pen or other settlement in your district from which you shall not have received such a list by the 1st day of June next, you will proceed in the same manner as if you had received from that property a statement that there were no non-prædial apprentices belonging to it, by making known that fact to the apprentices in the manner prescribed by the 2d clause of the Act.

You will also make a report, for his Excellency's information, of every case in which the employer of an apprentice and yourself have disagreed as to the classification of such apprentice, and in which you have either called in a third party, or the employer has had recourse to another special justice; such report to state the name, sex and habitual occupation of the apprentice, the name of the property, and of the employer or his agent, the name of the third party called in, or of the special magistrate who may be appointed referee, and the decision come to in the case.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *C. H. Darling, Sec.*

(No. 2.)

FORM (A.) — MONTHLY RETURN OF COMPLAINTS brought before Special Justice *William Ramsay*, during the Month of March 1837.

No.	Date.	Name of Estate.	Name and Quality of the Complainant.	Name and Quality of the Defendant.	Substance of Complaint.	Names of the Witnesses on both Sides, and Summary of the Evidence of each.	Decision and Sentence.	Whether carried into effect, and if not, the Reason? General Remarks.
1	March 4	-- Petty Sessions, Spanish Town.	-- R. L. Aitcheson, proprietor.	- Ellen Champeny, non-prædial.	For desertion - - when she said she was going away; that the accused gets with food; that she gets no food or maintenance from the house, or allowance of money; she gets the same time now as when a slave. Her case was submitted to special justices Moresby and Higgins, and they decided that accused was only to be allowed the same time as when she was a slave. The accused is a non-prædial. <i>Defence</i> :—The accused states in her defence that she went away to Kingston in her own time; fell sick there, and could not return until Monday the 27th instant; that on her return she offered her master restitution in money for the lost time, 6 s. 8d., but her master refused to receive it; that in cleaning the house, the string of her petticoat broke; she went out to mend it; a complaint was made to her master that she was idling; he ordered her to be locked up; he kept her three nights in confinement, but not in succession; that she is without clothing; she has three children, and the time allotted to her is not sufficient to support her children.	-- <i>Robert Aitcheson</i> sworn, and saith, That the accused left his employment on Monday the 20th February, and did not return until Monday the 27th; she remained from the 27th to the 3d March, every other Saturday only to provide herself with food, or allowance of money; she gets the same time now as when a slave. Her case was submitted to special justices Moresby and Higgins, and they decided that accused was only to be allowed the same time as when she was a slave. The accused is a non-prædial.	- - Sentence: complaint dismissed. Mr. Aitcheson is directed to allow the accused, every Saturday, to provide for herself, or else give her suitable allowance in money, and not to keep her in confinement, without reasonable cause, again.	
2	- - 6	Healthful Hill -	Miss Brice	-- Lucy Gale, non-prædial.	-- For taking biscuits at various times without permission, and obtaining the key of the canister in which they are kept without the knowledge of her mistress.  Lucy Gale take the key of the tin case out of the wardrobe, go to the case where the biscuits are kept, and help herself to biscuits without any order from her mistress; witness has seen accused do this twice; the first occasion she took a towel-full; the second, she filled her apron and her pocket; witness has only seen accused go twice; she might have gone oftener without accused seeing her; accused asked witness not to tell upon her; the biscuits she took to her house, and never brought them back again; her mistress promised to forgive witness, who acknowledged that she had taken some as well as the accused. <i>Defence</i> :—The accused has no questions to put to this witness; she acknowledges her crime.	-- <i>Ann Williams</i> , non-prædial, sworn, and saith, That she knows Lucy Gale; that she is employed with witness as a servant about the Great-house at Healthful Hill; that her mistress had a canister of biscuits, which she divided with Mr. Lounds; the half she kept was in a tin case, locked up in her mistress's room, under the basin-stand; the key was kept in her master's wardrobe, which was locked, and the key of it kept by Lucy Gale, who had the care of the wardrobe. Witness has seen the care of the wardrobe. Witness has seen Lucy Gale go to the case where the biscuits are kept, and help herself to biscuits without any order from her mistress; witness has seen accused do this twice; the first occasion she took a towel-full; the second, she filled her apron and her pocket; witness has only seen accused go twice; she might have gone oftener without accused seeing her; accused asked witness not to tell upon her; the biscuits she took to her house, and never brought them back again; her mistress promised to forgive witness, who acknowledged that she had taken some as well as the accused.	- - Sentenced to 14 days' hard labour in the house of correction.	
3	- -	- - ditto	- - ditto	-- Ellen Palmer, non-prædial.	-- The same cause of complaint in this case as above.	-- <i>Ann Williams</i> , non-prædial, sworn, and saith, That she has seen the accused, Ellen Palmer, with some of the biscuits, and asked her how she got them; she replied, out of the tin case, but did not tell how she got the key. The accused has no questions to put to this witness.	- - Sentenced to seven days' solitary confinement in the house of correction; to be fed on the usual allowance.	

4	<p>handkerchief tied up, containing sweet biscuits; witness asked her where she got them, but she did not tell; witness told Lucy Gale what she had seen, and she asked accused not to say any thing about it; Lucy Gale did not say that she had given the biscuits to the accused.</p> <p><i>Defence</i>:—The accused makes no defence to this complaint, but admits her crime.</p> <p>-- Alexander Lorrington, overseer.</p> <p>-- Pheeba Walters, prædial.</p> <p>accused insulted him in the field without his saying a word to her; she said witness was a bad man, for he was pushing the apprentices to work for his master; that before she would work with witness she would work under the direction of the smallest child.</p> <p><i>Susannah Bullock</i> sworn, and saith, That she heard the accused make use of improper language to George Howell, and threaten to curse him; witness cautioned her to be quiet; her conduct was not proper.</p> <p><i>Defence</i>:—The accused admits her errors.</p>	<p><i>Elizabeth Simpson</i>, a free girl, sworn, and saith, That she saw the accused, Ellen Palmer, with a witness, ask her where she got them, but she did not say any thing about it.</p> <p>-- <i>A. Lorrington</i> sworn, and saith, That the accused refused to go to her work on Monday the 30th January; that she was ordered to go to Williams's pen and refused; that after she had been persuaded by the constable, she went on the 1st of February, and did not get to her work until twenty minutes after twelve in the middle of the day.</p> <p><i>George Howell</i> sworn, and saith, That the accused refused to go to her work on Monday the 30th January; that she was ordered to go to Williams's pen and refused; that after she had been persuaded by the constable, she went on the 1st of February, and did not get to her work until twenty minutes after twelve in the middle of the day.</p>	<p>-- Sentenced to repay the half day lost, on Friday next.</p>
5	<p>-- George Williams and Samuel Ellis, two boys, attending cattle.</p> <p>-- ditto</p> <p>-- ditto</p> <p>Mount Pleasant Plantation. No complaints preferred.</p> <p>Keith Hall Plantation. No complaints preferred.</p> <p>Hampstead Plantation. No complaints preferred.</p> <p>Cedar Valley Plantation. No complaints preferred. Gates locked, no admittance, the overseer having taken the keys with him.</p> <p>Orange Grove Plantation. No complaints.</p> <p>Tredager Park Pen. No complaint.</p> <p>Bushy Park Estate } Making further inquiry into supposed murder.</p> <p>Ditto - - - - } 8</p> <p>9</p>	<p>-- <i>George Howell</i> sworn, and saith, That the two boys who are accused of destroying the coffee trees are employed taking care of cattle in the pastures, and instead of minding them, they went into the coffee field adjoining, and were breaking the twigs of the coffee bushes whilst they were in full bearing; that he cannot tell what they did it for, it must have been mischief. If the coffee flowers are destroyed, it destroys the bearing of coffee. Witness detected them in the fact, and has brought them to his overseer.</p> <p><i>Defence</i>:—The two boys have no defence to make, except that they are very sorry for what they have done, and will not do so any more.</p>	<p>-- Sentenced to receive a switching with tamarind stripes each of them, as a lesson to them not to destroy property again.</p>

(No. 2.)—FORM (A.)—MONTHLY RETURN OF COMPLAINTS BROUGHT BEFORE SPECIAL JUSTICE *William Ramsay*, DURING MARCH 1837—continued.

No.	Date.	Name of Estate.	Name and Quality of the Complainant.	Name and Quality of the Defendant.	Substance of Complaint.	Names of the Witnesses on both Sides, and Summary of the Evidence of each.	Decision and Sentence.	Whether carried into effect, and, if not, the Reason? General Remarks.
6	March 9	-- Worcester Park Pen.	-- John Grey, overseer.	-- The great and second gangs on pen.	-- For disobedience of orders, absenting themselves for two days without leave, and neglect of labour by late turning out.	-- <i>George McGlashan</i> being duly sworn, saith, That he is the plantation constable; that he remembers having given the apprentices on the property orders to turn out on the day after New-year's day, and they did not obey the orders; that New-year's day was on a Sunday, and the two gangs took the next day, Monday, as a holiday; they turned out on Tuesday; the gangs took the half of Friday, the 13th January, without any leave; they are not exact in time at turning out; they are always late, accordingly neglect their work; when they are at work, they work well; that when they are late in turning out in the mornings, they are not dismissed exactly at four o'clock in the afternoon. When Mr. Grey, the overseer, is at home, he blows shell regularly at four o'clock, but when he is absent witness does not draw them off until late; that he has no watch to regulate the time by; that he could draw off the people when Mr. Grey is absent by the neighbour's shell, but fears to do so without orders. When they go to work soon, they draw off soon; when they go late, they draw off late. <i>John Grey</i> sworn, and saith, That to his knowledge the apprentices are not earlier in the field than seven o'clock in the morning, and then only three or four come; that this late turning out takes place every morning, the apprentices having told complainant to his face that they would not turn out; that he blows the shell in the morning at six o'clock, and times the apprentices as they go out to their work.	-- Sentenced to repay a day for lost time.	
7	-	- ditto	- ditto	Adam, prædial	-- For disobedience of orders, absenting himself two days, and refusing to execute magistrate's order.	-- This old man complains of pain in his hip, from the shaft of the wooden leg running into him whenever he stoops, and that he is unable to pick up the wood after he has cut it; the complaint is therefore postponed until the medical practitioner examines into his complaint.		
8	-	-- Petty Sessions, Port Henderson.	-- Horatio Tuertado, wharfinger.	-- Alexander Wilson, prædial	-- Disobedience of orders, and insolence.	-- <i>Horatio Tuertado</i> sworn, and saith, That the accused, about two weeks ago, went into the sugar store and helped himself to molasses contrary to complainant's orders. Complainant had given positive orders that no one should go into the store; notwithstanding this, the accused repeatedly entered the store and took molasses; the store was open at the time; that when the accused is spoken to, he answers very improperly; cannot state any particular remark. <i>Defence</i> :—That he only took a small quantity of molasses, and begs pardon for his fault.	Admonished.	

9	11	<p>-- Petty Sessions, Spanish Town.</p>	<p>-- James Grant, prædial to Twickenham Park estate.</p>	<p>-- Alexander Renalls, prædial to Mr. J. Smith, of Spanish Town.</p>	<p>-- For being a deserter from his master's service.</p>	<p>him; witness warned him to keep away from the property; that on Friday the 10th instant he returned to the estate again, when witness apprehended him. The accused begged hard, and witness let him go; but at seven o'clock in the evening he returned, and stole a bundle of witness's wood, which witness took from him, and secured him to bring him before the magistrate; witness knows the accused to be a deserter, and complains against him as such.</p>	<p>-- James Grant sworn, and saith, That he has seen the accused for the last three or four weeks walking about Twickenham Park estate; witness asked him why he had left his master's work to walk about; he replied, that his master had not treated him well, which was the cause of his leaving him; that on Friday the 10th instant he returned to the estate again, when witness apprehended him. The accused begged hard, and witness let him go; but at seven o'clock in the evening he returned, and stole a bundle of witness's wood, which witness took from him, and secured him to bring him before the magistrate; witness knows the accused to be a deserter, and complains against him as such.</p>	<p>-- James Grant, on behalf of Mary Davis, a non-prædial to the estate of Jane Brown, to purchase the remaining term of her apprenticeship. Notice issued to Nathaniel Wright, esq. the executor of Jane Brown.</p>	<p>-- Sentenced to the house of correction under the Act, in aid of an Act for building workhouses, &amp;c. &amp;c.</p>
10	-	-	-	-	-	<p>-- James Heighington, overseer.</p>	<p>-- Richard Jones, prædial.</p>	<p>-- For neglect in not obeying the orders given to him, to take a letter to Cherry Garden to Mr. M'Cook.</p>	<p>-- Complaint dismissed.</p>
-	-	-	-	-	-	<p>blamed; that complainant has been informed that the accused did not arrive at Mr. M'Cook's pen until two o'clock on Thursday, and did not return to complainant until three o'clock the next day; that when apprentices are sent as messengers, they are allowed time in lieu of their own time, or money, whichever they please; that the letter given to the accused to carry was of consequence, and the object of the letter was not obtained, in consequence of the delay in the delivery of it; for instead of cattle, which complainant wanted to see, being ready for his inspection when he visited the property, they were not.</p>	<p>Deference:--The accused states that he went to the pen to inquire for Mr. M'Cook, and was told by his housekeeper that he had just gone out from home, and it was useless for him to go on to Cherry Garden, as he would not be found there; that the letter was delivered to him by a little girl, who did not tell defendant to go to Cherry Garden; she only told him to take it to Mr. M'Cook's, and he did so, for he resides at his pen; defendant left the letter at his pen; he did not receive his orders from Mr. Heighington; he was going to him, but was met by a little girl, who gave him the letter, and told him where he was to go; he has been to Mr. M'Cook's pen before with cattle, but never took any letter for him.</p>	<p>-- Complaint dismissed.</p>	
-	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Application made by John Grant, on behalf of Mary Davis, a non-prædial to the estate of Jane Brown, to purchase the remaining term of her apprenticeship. Notice issued to Nathaniel Wright, esq. the executor of Jane Brown.</p>	<p>Application made by John Grant, on behalf of Mary Davis, a non-prædial to the estate of Jane Brown, to purchase the remaining term of her apprenticeship. Notice issued to Nathaniel Wright, esq. the executor of Jane Brown.</p>	<p>Application made by John Grant, on behalf of Mary Davis, a non-prædial to the estate of Jane Brown, to purchase the remaining term of her apprenticeship. Notice issued to Nathaniel Wright, esq. the executor of Jane Brown.</p>	<p>Application made by John Grant, on behalf of Mary Davis, a non-prædial to the estate of Jane Brown, to purchase the remaining term of her apprenticeship. Notice issued to Nathaniel Wright, esq. the executor of Jane Brown.</p>
-	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Petty Session.</p>	<p>Saddler's Wells Pen. No complaints.</p>	<p>Union Pen. No complaints.</p>	<p>Great Salt Pond Pen. No complaints.</p>
-	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Reid's Pen. No complaints.</p>	<p>Government Pen. No complaints.</p>	<p>Twickenham Park Estate. No complaints.</p>	<p>Taylor's Caymanas. No complaints.</p>
-	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Ellis's Caymanas. No complaints.</p>	<p>Farm Pen. No complaints.</p>	<p>Farm Pen. No complaints.</p>	<p>Farm Pen. No complaints.</p>

## (No. 2.)—FORM (A.)—MONTHLY RETURN of Complaints brought before Special Justice William Ramsay, during March 1837—continued.

No.	Date.	Name of Estate.	Name and Quality of the Complainant.	Name and Quality of the Defendant.	Substance of Complaint.	Names of the Witnesses on both Sides, and Summary of the Evidence of each.	Decision and Sentence.	Whether carried into effect, and if not, the Reason? General Remarks.
11	March 16	Crosse's Pen Estate	R. F. Dundas	- - Cecilia Grant and Amelia Francis, prædials.	- - For neglect and insufficiency of work; for spoiling two skips of sugar by not keeping a good fire.	- - <i>Alexander Ross</i> sworn, and saith, That the two females accused were employed to carry trash from the trash-house to the man at the fire-hole. The fireman complained about nine times during the day that he was not supplied. The trash-house is near the fire-place; it is closer than any other he has seen; there is only one fire to keep up, and the two women are quite capable of supplying the trash well to keep up a good fire; there is no want of trash in the trash-house; that in consequence the sugar was spoiled, which would not have been the case had a good fire been kept up by the two females accused. <i>Defence</i> :—The accused female, Cecilia Grant, saith, That the trash is too dry; it sticks together, and is hard to dig. The accused, Amelia Francis saith, That as soon as the trash is put into the fire, it is so dry it burns away immediately.	- - Complaint withdrawn, and the females admonished.	
-	-	Bushy Park Estate, Parish of St. Dorothy.	Special duty and inquiry.					
-	17	Retreat Estate	Parish of St. John.					
-	18	ditto	Special duty and inquiry.					
-	19	ditto						
-	21	Petty Sessions, Spanish Town.	- - Arthur Bucknell, proprietor of the parish of St. Mary.	- - Casar Browne, prædial.	- - For desertion for the space of five months and upwards.	- - <i>Arthur Bucknell</i> sworn, and saith, That on visiting his property in the month of October last, he found that the accused had left the property; he was reported to have run away; that he heard from the property afterwards that he had a look-out to be kept, and sent a young man and another to apprehend him, and he was this day apprehended in the parish of St. Catherine. <i>Defence</i> :—The accused saith, That since his master first owned him, he has only found fault with him once; he sent him to town; he went and returned; his master then forgave him, on a promise of better behaviour; and he was then endeavouring to behave as well as he could, until he left Happy Retreat with his master, who went to take charge of Brimmer Hall estate; his master then left him with some hired people to work; that he was willing to do any thing; one of Mr. Buckley's hogs came into the place; that the hog was killed; when Mr. Buckley's housekeeper and another man abused him, and he was abused by all parties; his master stated that he hated him, and said he would sell him for a trifle, and that he might go and look for another owner, provided he took his Saturdays and Sundays to do it in.	- - Sentenced to the house of correction as a deserter.	

13	23	Epping Pen	- - W. H. Parker, proprietor.	- - William Wilson, prædial.	- - General neglect of duty, and loss of labour.	<p>- - <i>William Henry Parker</i> sworn, and saith, That in October last the accused was sent to cut stoccardoes, and he cut three for a whole day's work; the next day he took to bring them out from the wood to the house; the house is not 200 yards from the wood; the third day he cut only six; and the following day brought them home. On another occasion he was employed cutting grass with two women; the first day they cut 16 bundles, the next day they cut 20, and the next day 24. About three weeks ago he was employed with the same women, tying wood which was already cut into bundles; they tied 13, at the rate of four bundles each; the females are old. The same old women were sent to cut bundle-wood, and accomplished 10 bundles each. The conduct of the accused is negligent and careless.</p> <p><i>Defence</i>:—The accused in his defence saith, That the wood he is sent to cut stoccardoes in, does not belong to his master, it belongs to Dovehall estate, and there is a watchman in it; that he walked all over the wood to find trees of the description required, but could not find them; the day closed, and he came out.</p>	- - Sentence: complaint dismissed.
14		- ditto -	- ditto -	- - Robert Mornson, prædial.	- - Neglecting stock placed under his charge, and when re-monstrated with gives insolence.	<p>- - <i>William Henry Parker</i> sworn and saith, That he has been compelled to pay large sums to take his cattle out of the pound, through the carelessness of the accused, who, when spoken to, either gives no answer, or an insolent one; the accused has the charge of the stock, and gets up so late, that the milk cannot be sent into town early enough, and customers have discontinued to take it in consequence.</p> <p><i>Defence</i>:—The accused saith in his defence, That he has no assistance; that he looks after the goats and cows himself; that when he gets assistance, the milk is ready early; but on Saturday and Sunday, when the people have their days, he alone attends the cattle; then the milk is late; that he has 11 cows to take care of.</p>	Dismissed.
		Visited Angel's Pen.	No complaints.				
		Orange Hill Plantation.	No complaints.				



(No. 2).—MONTHLY RETURN of Complaints brought before Special Justice *William Ramsay*, during March 1837—*continued*.

No.	Date.	Name of Estate.	Name and Quality of the Complainant.	Name and Quality of the Defendant.	Substance of Complaint.	Names of the Witnesses on both Sides, and Summary of the Evidence of each.	Decision and Sentence.	Whether carried into effect, and if not, the Reason? General Remarks.
15	March 23	-- Healthful Hill Plantation.	-- Charles Brown, constable.	-- Walter Taylor, prædial.	-- Neglect of labour, insolence, and setting a bad example to the gang.	<p>Complainant repeated the question: he answered, that he could not work; that complainant had sent cows to his grounds to eat up his provisions, and that he had no food to eat. Complainant told him not to give him any jaw; accused replied, "Who are you? are you the Lord Jesus Christ, that I am not to give you any jaw?" Complainant went up to him and arrested him, telling him that he would send him into confinement; he laid hold of complainant, and they scuffled; the by-standing apprentices encouraged the accused by stating that he had no right to collar him; witness told him that if it was not for the law he would punish him, but as he was on his master's work he would act otherwise. Accused then walked up to complainant with his fist doubled, asked who he was, and said he would not take it from him. Complainant never let any cows or cattle into the accused's grounds, or were they destroyed; that Mr. Henry, the former overseer, had given them grounds by a coffee-piece, and their master said it was given to them without his permission; and this year the apprentices have cut down some of the coffee trees; does not know that this man has cut down any trees; and as they have not insulted complainant for finding fault, he considers it hard that the accused should take upon himself to do so; the whole gang raised themselves against complainant, from the conduct of the accused.</p> <p><i>Defence</i>:—The accused saith, That he went into the field to work; the constable called to him, asking him why he did not work; he replied, that he was working; he called again, and received the same reply; he called four times altogether; when accused said, "How can you expect me to work, as all my victuals are to be rooted up, and cattle turned into the ground?" Constable ordered the accused to hold his tongue, and do his work; accused said, "Since morning I have been satisfied to work without eating;" constable said, "Hold your tongue;" accused said, "You are going to turn cows into my provisions;" there were no cows in the grounds at this time; Mr. Henry permitted accused to plant victuals there; he can prove it; accused's victuals have not been destroyed, but he has been told not to plant them again in that place, but somewhere else; accused admits that he made use of the expressions stated by the complainant; the place where he was told to plant his provisions in next year is just as good ground as the place he is desired to leave, and just as near his house.</p>	-- Sentenced to 14 days' hard labour on the treadmill in the house of correction.	
16		ditto	ditto	Eliza Thomas	-- For setting the constable's authority at defiance, by telling her brother, William Thomas, not to obey him.	<p>-- <i>Charles Brown</i> sworn, and saith, That William Thomas, the brother of the accused, was working at a lime-kiln, carrying stones; that he picked up a few and put in his basket; complainant said, "Before you carry so few, leave off entirely, and carry none;" he persisted in carrying them; complainant took the basket and threw the stones into his hat; they scarcely filled it; the accused then told her brother not to obey complainant's orders, but to do what his strength would allow him.</p> <p><i>Defence</i>:—The accused admits the charge, and makes no defence.</p>	-- Sentenced to five days' solitary confinement, on the usual allowance.	

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-- Petty Sessions, Spanish Town.

-- R. F. Dundas, overseer, Crosse's Pen estate.

-- Wm. Daniel, prædial to Elizabeth Jane Cowan.

-- For cutting canes on Crosse's Pen estate, resisting a constable, and attempt to injure him with a knife.

-- Robert F. Dundas sworn, and saith, That after calling the list in the field on Thursday, complainant was riding up to one of the other fields, and observed a basket on the road; he did not at first pay much attention to it; but on his return perceiving it still there, he thought that every thing was not right; he saw the accused standing by the side of the canes, and on seeing complainant he jumped into the canes, called the head constable, and mentioned the circumstance to him, directing him to go in search of and try and catch the person; the constable did not succeed in taking him; but at night, when he came for orders, he stated the man's name, and mentioned the female who was his reputed wife; complainant ordered the constable to go and bring him down, and put him in confinement until he could send to the special justice the following day. The accused drew a knife to stab the constable; the knife was taken away, and he was locked up until the following day, when he was sent down to the special justice; complainant did not see the accused cut any canes; he did not hear him make any threat to cut the constable with a knife; but was standing at his door when he heard the constable say that the accused had a knife, and they must take it from him; did not see him make any improper use of it.

-- Complaint dismissed.

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-- John Sewell constable.

-- John Sewell sworn, and saith, That the accused was in the field, and instead of attending to her work like the rest of the people, she stood up eating canes; complainant spoke to her about it, and threatened to send her home to the overseer; she drew herself off, saying, "What can he do to me?—let me go;" she was then locked up for 24 hours; she was then let out, and again abused complainant; he spoke to her for her conduct; she drew her bill across his foot, and would have cut him, but for the leather of his sandal.

Catalina, prædial

-- For disobedience of orders, neglect of duty, insolence, and striking the constable.

-- Crosse's Pen Estate.

-- Sentenced to four days' solitary confinement in the house of correction.

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-- John Sewell sworn, and saith, That he was attending the gang on Thursday morning, and the overseer, Mr. Dundas, called him, and said he had seen a new hand-basket on the road, and a person inside the canes, and if witness saw the person, he was to bring him home; witness went to look for him, but did not see him; he saw his track and followed him, but he had got out of his reach; he hailed to a watchman, asking who had passed him; the watchman said he saw no one but William Daniel, but he did not observe the hand-basket, although he saw him eating a cane; witness hailed out twice, but no one made him an answer; he returned home, and stated it to Mr. Dundas, who ordered him to take the accused up, which he did; the accused, when taken before the overseer, commenced talking to him, and he directed witness to take him off; the accused said, witness was not to hold him; witness said, "I am ordered to do so, and I must;" accused began to scuffle, and Duncan M'Daniel, the other constable, held his right hand, in which there was a knife; there was a stick in the left hand; complainant may have been using the knife to cut the stick.

-- John Sewell sworn, and saith, That the accused was in the field, and instead of attending to her work like the rest of the people, she stood up eating canes; complainant spoke to her about it, and threatened to send her home to the overseer; she drew herself off, saying, "What can he do to me?—let me go;" she was then locked up for 24 hours; she was then let out, and again abused complainant; he spoke to her for her conduct; she drew her bill across his foot, and would have cut him, but for the leather of his sandal.

Catalina, prædial

-- For disobedience of orders, neglect of duty, insolence, and striking the constable.

-- Crosse's Pen Estate.

-- Sentenced to four days' solitary confinement in the house of correction.

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I do certify, that the foregoing is a true and faithful record of all complaints heard and determined by me, and of punishments inflicted during the past month.

William Ramsay, Special Justice.

(No. 2.)—FORM (A.)—MONTHLY RETURN of COMPLAINTS brought before Special Justice *Edward E. Fishbourne*, during the Month of April 1837, in the Parish of *St. George, Leeward District*.

No.	Date.	Name of Estate.	Name and Quality of Complainant.	Name and Quality of Defendant.	Substance of Complaint.	Names of the Witnesses on both Sides, and Summary of the Evidence of each.	Decision and Sentence.	Whether carried into effect, and if not, the Reason? General Remarks.
1	April 1	Dover	- Elizabeth M'Kay, proprietress of Epsom.	- George Edwards, apprentice.	- Absence one week, and plundering.	- E. M'Kay. This lad is continually absenting himself from his employment about the house; he has been away since Monday last; he is a notoriously bad character. <i>Eliza Lewis</i> . On Monday morning I locked my door and hid the key; went to my work; as soon as I returned, the people near me told me they thought they had seen a fire, and were watching. I found this lad on the top of the dresser asleep; he had made fire, cooked a good piece of pork and a hog's foot, and ate them; he has been away ever since that day; he has robbed others before. <i>Defence</i> :—Charge admitted.	- Six weeks' labour in Buff Bay workhouse.	- Carried into effect.
2	-	Hart Hill	- Alex. Browne, apprentice, prædial.	- D. Matthewson, overseer.	- Depriving him of his breakfast-time and shell-blow.	- A. Browne. Since Christmas, busha never gives us any breakfast-time nor shell-blow; never take any of the busha's time; we got no breakfast-time this week. Witnesses:— <i>William Mayes</i> . I am one of the gang with Browne; we did not get breakfast-time enough on Monday; got it on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; we always get some. <i>Richard Robison</i> . We got good breakfast-time on Thursday and Friday; not enough on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; we always get some; we draw off at four o'clock. <i>Defence</i> :— <i>James Allen</i> , constable. We always get half an hour for breakfast-time, sometimes more; never less. I swear that we got half an hour every day this week. I carry a watch. The watch produced, and the exact time shown. <i>James Hislop</i> , head constable. I have my watch set every morning with the overseer's; we get half an hour every morning for breakfast; on Wednesday and Thursday we had five minutes more; on Monday, Tuesday and Friday we had exactly half an hour. There is no reason to complain. The overseer is very regular. <i>D. Matthewson</i> . I am quite ready to swear that since 1 Aug. 1834, I never did willingly cheat the people out of one moment. I do, and shall still, overlook many things rather than make myself and them uncomfortable by complaining. The people, generally, behave very well indeed; but this is a gross charge, and totally unfounded.	- Complaint discharged, being frivolous and vexatious. Alexander Browne, one week hard labour in the parish penal gang.	- ditto.
3	-	ditto	- D. Matthewson, overseer.	- Thomas Allen, prædial apprentice.	- Disobedience of orders.	- <i>James Hislop</i> , head constable. The overseer was desirous of finishing the planting of a piece on Friday; one day would do it; he sent me to order the gang to turn out on Friday; when I gave the orders in the field, this man called out, "Oh! we are to turn out to-morrow—to work to-morrow—do you hear me?" All the rest turned out without a word, except this one. <i>James Allen</i> , constable. This boy is a runaway and thief; when at home he does very little work when he can skulk. When I gave the orders in the negro-houses, after field-work was over, this lad called out, "We are to work to-morrow—do you hear that?—to work to-morrow." He did not come to work. <i>Defence</i> :—I had no victuals; did not tell the overseer or constables; did not ask for the day; did not go from home all day; was tired, and did not go to my grounds.	- Three days' solitary confinement.	- ditto.

4	-	- ditto	- - Ann Cumming, prædial apprentice. I got to Buff Bay, three miles; on Wednesday Mr. M. had me locked up in the nasty hospital, without food, for one and a half week; I was let out an hour every day to wash my foot and come back. <i>Defence</i> :— <i>William Gilmour</i> , hospital attendant and constable. My wife was in the hospital and confined exactly as this woman was; we supplied her with food; she was out four hours each day. <i>Dr. Rapkey</i> . I ordered this woman to be closely confined for an ulcerated leg; it was absolutely necessary to confine her closely.	- - Confining in hospital without food.	- - <i>A. Cumming</i> . About a month ago Mr. Matthewson gave me a note one Monday morning to hire me to Mr. Jones, supervisor of the workhouse, as cook for the gang. I could not stop, my foot was sore; came home on Thursday, without food, for one and a half week; I was let out	Discharged.	
5	-	10	Annotto Bay	- - Margaret Hill, proprietress. me; came out and abused me in the most infamous language; told me my father was now roasting in hell; she then lay down in the grass-piece and slept till eleven A.M.; she appeared sober. I gave her several articles, in value about 1 l. 1 s. 8 d.; she was brought home on 3d April without my basket, towels, goods or money, and she abused me again as before. <i>Defence</i> :—The goods were stolen; did not abuse mistress; she found me sleeping on her sofa; drank very little.	- - Running away and insolence, &c.	- - <i>M. Hill</i> sworn. On 7th Feb. I went into my parlour; I found Patience sleeping on my sofa; she was drunk. I mentioned the matter to my mother; Patience heard	Done.
6	-	11	Dover	- - David Eaton, proprietor, Ep-som. - - Molly Browne, prædial. - - Abusing the driver, and improper performance of work.	- - Abusing the driver, and improper performance of work.	- - Ten days' labour in the parish gang.	- ditto.
7	-	-	Woodstock	- - William Hosack, proprietor. - - Edward Giscomb, cattleman. - - Neglect of duty, and disobedience of orders.	- - <i>William Hosack</i> . On Saturday morning last this man kept the cattle in the pen until long after sun rise, although close to his house; he also allowed one of the steers to wander away into a cane-piece, where it remained a long time; he ought to have it under his charge; I ordered him to come here last Tuesday; he did not come; he has done so three times before. <i>Defence</i> :—When master ordered me to come here last Tuesday, I went to look for a steer, and could not quit my work.	Ten days, as above	- ditto.
8	-	-	- ditto	- - Richard Jones	- - Neglect of duty	Discharged	- ditto.
9	-	10	Buff Bay Court	- - Edward Maypoth, overseer. - - Absence from 28th March to the 16th April.	- - <i>James Bell</i> , constable. He had day on 31st March. Charge admitted	- - Fourteen days in the parish gang, and fourteen days to the estate.	- ditto.

(continued.)

(No. 2.)—FORM (A.)—MONTHLY RETURN of Complaints brought before Special Justice Edward E. Fishbourne, during April 1837, in the Parish of St. George, Leeward District—continued.

No.	Date.	Name of Estate.	Name and Quality of Complainant.	Name and Quality of Defendant.	Substance of Complaint.	Names of the Witnesses on both Sides, and Summary of the Evidence of each.	Decision and Sentence.	Whether carried into effect, and if not, the Reason? General Remarks.
10	Apr. 10	Buff Bay Court	- - A. H. Browne, proprietor.	Betsy Burgess	- - Not paying any wages since 30 Oct. 1836; 8 l. 5 s. due.	- - On 30th Oct. I gave her a ticket to work out till 31st Dec. 1836, and to have it then renewed; she has not been to me since; she has paid me no wages, and she says she will run away again if punished. No defence.	- - One month in the penal gang, and five months service to her master after the expiration of her apprenticeship. To pay one - - ditto.	Done.
11	-	Woodstock	- - William Hosack, proprietor.	Lettice Bell	- - Absence from work two days.	<i>Defence</i> :—I have paid one - -	To pay one - - ditto.	- ditto.
12	-	- ditto	- ditto	Richard Jones	Neglect of duty	- - On Monday morning the cattle were not turned out until 20 minutes past six; the wamman had taken eight steers from the pen, yoked them, and was one mile from the pen before this man let the others out; he was in charge. No defence.	Eighteen stripes	- ditto.
13	- 20	Dover	- - H. Melville, overseer.	Samuel M'Kenzy	Neglect of duty	- - This boy carried only eight instead of twelve loads of grass yesterday. <i>Defence</i> :—I carried all that was cut for me. <i>Betsy Lewis</i> . He carried all I cut; I could not get any more; the grass is scarce now. Acknowledged	Discharged.	
14	-	- ditto	- ditto	Ben Forbes	Absence one week	- - <i>George Taylor</i> , head constable and driver. This woman was, with the gang, billing bush; she was throwing her bushes upon the work on the next woman; I told her to throw it behind her in a row, to burn, like the other people; she said she would do it as she liked; I told her I would send her home if she did not obey me; she answered, "Bring me before the magistrate—do so, he can only send me to the tread-mill, I don't care for that; I was in there before, and am not dead yet; I'll make you send me home." She then commenced singing and dancing about, shaking her clothes in an indecent manner. When I ordered the second constable to take her home, she ran up brandishing her bill at me; I had to keep her off with my stick, she was so very violent.	A switching	- ditto.
15	- 25	Buff Bay	- - M. F. G. Limesney, overseer of Kildare.	- - Nelly More, prædial.	Insubordination	<i>Defence</i> :—I did not jaw when constable bawled after me about my work and the bushes; he struck me with his stick. <i>William Allen</i> . She was making a terrible racket; the constable hit her to keep her away, when she came with her bill at him.	- - Seven days' solitary confinement in Buff Bay workhouse.	- ditto.
16	-	- ditto	- - John M'Lean, overseer of Birnam Wood.	- - Alexander Aikman, prædial.	Neglect of duty	- - This man and two assistants have 20 cattle and 7 mules in charge; they allow them to wander all about the neighbours' coffee-fields; last week, in the middle of the day, I turned them out of Mount Holstein coffee, and this man I never informed me; he is exceedingly negligent. <i>Defence</i> :—I am not able to stop the people from making grounds in the pasture; did not tell busha or book-keeper; I cannot keep the stock from trespassing, they are so troublesome; I want to go to field; busha wants me flogged.	- - Fourteen days' labour in the parish penal gang.	- ditto.

17	-	- ditto	- Robert Baugh, proprietor of Rectory.	William Taylor	- Absence from 17th March to 19th April 1837.	- It cost me 1 l. 7 s. 8 d. to release him from Portland workhouse, where he was confined 13 days before he would tell to whom he belonged. Defence:—I had the gentleman's complaint, and took a walk (30 miles), for change of air. Charge admitted -	- Fourteen days in the penal gang; 20 days to the estate.	- ditto.
18	-	Woodstock	- William Hosack, proprietor.	James Cooper	- Running away one month.	- ditto	- Ten days' solitary confinement.	- ditto.
19	-	- ditto	- ditto	Lucy Thomas	- Running away two weeks.	- ditto	- Five days' solitary confinement.	- ditto.
20	-	Dover	- G. B. Vidal, overseer of Fort Stewart.	- Ann Eliza Beckford.	Skulking in hospital	- ditto	- Twenty days' hard labour in the parish gang.	- ditto.
21	-	Fort George	Hugh Gordon	Elsie Ellice	Absence three days	- This woman came to hospital on 23d instant; Dr. Maxwell visited and examined her; he discharged her, and certified that "She is healthy, and able to work." Defence:—I have my own flesh and feelings; I do not run away or steal; can spell no more. - I have frequently forgiven this woman for absenting herself from work; she is becoming worse every day. Robert Willock, constable. This woman does very little work; she is constantly going away, and busha forgives her; she was away all last Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Defence:—I had a sore toe; did not go to hospital; went into the bush and lay down; busha is very good to me.	- Seven days in the penal gang of the parish.	- ditto.

I certify that the foregoing is a true report of all complaints brought before me, and of the sentences awarded by me, during the month of April 1837.  
E. E. Fishbourne, Special Justice.

(No. 2.)—FORM (A.)—MONTHLY RETURN of COMPLAINTS brought before Special Justice Edward E. Fishbourne, during the Month of April 1837, in the Parish of St. George, Coffee Mountain District.

1	Apr. 12	Orange Vale	- Edward Maypothor, overseer of Orange Vale, and proprietor of Mayfield.	Daniel Rowland	- Disobedience of orders.	- Edward Maypothor sworn. I have hired this boy from Mrs. J. Kernan; on Monday last I ordered him to go to my property in Mayfield; he positively refused to go. J. Kernan. This is my apprentice; he has been hired out for about 11 years as a jobber in the field; I have hired him to Mr. Maypothor for one year. Mayfield is about 5 1/2 miles from Hopeton, where he resides. Defence:—D. Rowland. I want my owner to give me a paper to hire myself out; I have been always a jobber, long before 1 Aug. 1834; mistress will not agree. - Bernard Laselve. These men have been this week three days absent from my work; I hire them from Mrs. Sarah Anderson, of Hopeton, three miles from my place. Defence:—While master was alive, we always jobbed out; mistress hired us for one year to pay a debt; when the year was out, we wanted to come home. Mistress wishes to hire us out again.	Explained the law.
2	-	- ditto	- Bernard Laselve, proprietor of Free-field.	- Simon Gillespie, Thomas Dyce, William Ray, Joseph Haughton, Geo. Gillespie.	- Loss of three days' labour.	- To return the three days; explained the law.	

(continued.)

(No. 2.)—FORM (A.)—MONTHLY RETURN of Complaints brought before Special Justice Edward E. Fishbourne, during April 1837, in the Parish of St. George, Coffee Mountain District—contd.

No.	Date.	Name of Estate.	Name and Quality of Complainant.	Name and Quality of Defendant.	Substance of Complaint.	Names of the Witnesses on both Sides, and Summary of the Evidence of each.	Decision and Sentence.	Whether carried into effect, and if not, the Reason? General Remarks.
3	Apr. 12	Hopeton	-- Sarah Barnes, apprentice.	-- Mrs. E. Gillespie, proprietress.	Beating her twice -	-- Sarah Barnes. I quarrelled with Georgy and beat her; mistress slapped me twice; Georgy danced on my foot and mashed it; it was not cut nor marked; I walked to Dover the same day to complain. -- <i>Georgiana Stephen</i> . On Monday last Sarah's child was crying in the kitchen; mistress bid me take it to her house; Sarah was away; I did so, and set it down at the door; told Sarah; she said, "If any jackass mashed it, mistress must give her another." I told mistress so. Sarah came up, and was sitting in the kitchen; Jane was there too; I was dancing about, and my foot accidentally struck Sarah's; she blackguarded and cursed me. My young mistress came; Sarah told her, if she did not go back into the house she must be mad; Sarah continued for about an hour abusing me; my mistress, the defendant, came out; they quarrelled; mistress boxed her; she said she would choke me if mistress boxed her again; mistress did box her again; Sarah then ran at me, knocked me down, bit me on my arms, forehead, cheek and hand; she put her two knees on my stomach and held my throat with her two hands; mistress and young mistress pulled her off me; she was boxed first for saying mistress bid me curse her.	-- Sarah ten days' labour in the parish penal gang. Mrs. E. Gillespie fined 2 l.	Done.
4	--	-- ditto	-- Mrs. E. Gillespie, proprietress.	-- Mary Stephen, non-prædial.	Petty theft -	<i>Defence</i> :--Mrs. E. Gillespie. Sarah's child, which had been left alone for about three hours, was crying in the kitchen; I could not hear my children reading; I told Georgy to carry the child down to Sally; if she could not find her, to bring it back; she brought it back, and Sarah came too; she said I encouraged Georgy to curse her, and it was a pity I had not something better to do. I asked her if I had not other matters to think of; she said I did encourage Georgy to curse her; I told her I would give her a slap in the mouth if she said so again; she said it, and I slapped her; she repeated it, and I again slapped her; she said she would be the death of Georgy; rushed at her, knocked her down, bit her as described, and attempted to choke her; I tried to separate them; she attempted to throw Georgy down the gully; I called for handcuffs; Sarah ran away.	-- On Sunday last I gave out a leg of pork for dinner; this girl and Sarah Barnes were in the kitchen; Sarah went out for a minute; when she came back, a large piece was cut off the pork. <i>Sally Barnes</i> . I left the pork with Mary for a moment; when I came back a big piece was gone; she said she had cut it off. Many things were stolen so before. Charge admitted.	-- ditto.
5	-- 13	Lovely Grove	-- William Hunt, overseer.	Valentine, prædial	Careless use of fire	-- <i>William Hunt</i> . This man has destroyed 50 coffee-trees from using fire without proper precautions, such as I directed him to take; he was burning ground for himself. On Saturday last he again set fire to the guinea-grass in a careless manner; had I not come, great damage must have ensued. He is a well-disposed man, and industrious. <i>Valentine</i> . I did not do it on purpose to burn the coffee; I will pay eight days.	-- Agreed to by both parties.	

fee; I will pay eight days.

6	-	- ditto	-	Lindo, prædial	-	- Neglect of duty as watchman, and absence seven working days.	- On the night of 17th March this man was watchman over the store; he allowed it to be broken into, and about four dollars' worth stolen; he said he saw Cudgo running away. He himself remained one day, and then ran away for seven working days; when he returned, he said that he knew nothing about it. <i>Defence</i> :—I do not work, I only watch; I do not know who robbed the store, as I went asleep.	-	Done.
7	-	Balcarres	-	George Spalding	-	Absence one day	Admitted	Two days	- ditto.
8	-	13	-	D. Archibold	-	Neglect of duty	-- This man is watchman with me at the corn-piecc; he has not been at his hut for a long time at night; when I ask him why he goes away every night, he says he has no hand; when I ask him to help to mend the fence, he says he has no hand; he only skulks away for idleness. Charge admitted.	-	- Ten days' solitary confinement in Buff Bay.
9	-	Mount Pleasant	-	Joseph Teape, overseer.	-	-- Running away from 17th to 20th March, and from 31st March to 4th April 1837.	-- On 17th March she heard Mr. St. John was coming; I intended to complain against her; she absconded till 20th; when she heard he was coming on 31st, she again absconded, and did not return till 4th April; she is always running away, and always abusive beyond expression. <i>Defence</i> :—I ran away because I have no grounds.	-	- Ten days' labour in Buff Bay workhouse.
10	-	ditto	-	Patience Coberan, prædial.	-	Stealing yams' heads	-- On Friday busha bid this woman go cut grass; she went away to my ground and stole a large cloth full of yams' heads; produced; they are mine; she had them on her head; she allowed they were mine. <i>Auboine Minot</i> , constable. This woman is always stealing. <i>Defence</i> :—I pulled them; they were Juliett's.	-	The same as above
11	-	Mount Holstein	-	Henry Barnes	-	-- Insolence, and disobedience of orders.	-- This man has been corporally punished four times, by Mr. St. John's order, for assaulting people in the negro-houses; never so when I complained; and yet I can never speak to him about his work that he does not tell me in a very loud voice that I follow him to have him punished; I once complained of him and the whole gang for neglect of duty; he has been flogged for beating his mother and sister; 16 days ago all the gang, except he, picked a bushel of coffee; he did not do so. I refused to receive his coffee, and bid him take it out of the store; he would not take it out, and said again I was following him to have him punished, and that he would quit the property. <i>Defence</i> :—My coffee was only one quart less than the rest; I would not take it away; bid him let it stand till I got more. Busha never got me punished alone; busha owes me two days for working on Fridays.	-	- Fourteen days' hard labour in Buff Bay workhouse. Two days to be paid to the defendant.
12	-	ditto	-	Richard Minot, prædial.	-	-- Disobedience of orders.	-- I ordered this man to go with the sawyers; he went to the coffee-field; he went afterwards; he is generally well-conducted.	-	Reprimanded.
13	-	ditto	-	John Anderson	-	-- Neglect as watchman.	-- This man is watchman at the provisions; quantities have been stolen lately, and cattle have greatly damaged them; he is very negligent. I caught a mule there yesterday, at 7 A.M., close to his hut, about 50 yards; he has been repeatedly punished. <i>A. Oliver</i> , constable. This man is very negligent. No defence.	-	- Seven days' labour in Buff Bay workhouse.

(continued.)



(No. 2.)—FORM (A.)—MONTHLY RETURN of Complaints brought before Special Justice *Edward E. Fishbourne*, during April 1837, in the Parish of *St. George*, Coffee Mountain District.—*cont'd.*

No.	Date.	Name of Estate.	Name and Quality of Complainant.	Name and Quality of Defendant.	Substance of Complaint.	Names of the Witnesses on both Sides, and Summary of the Evidence of each.	Decision and Sentence.	Whether carried into effect, and if not, the Reason? General Remarks.
14	Apr. 14	Silver-hill	-- S. Lamothe, apprentice.	-- Henry Mason, proprietor.	Assault	-- On Saturday morning I was cooking breakfast; the children came and bid me send it in; I bid them tell master to wait; he came out and asked me what message I sent him; I said nothing at all, nothing impudent; he struck me with a supple-jack on the arm, shoulder and leg. <i>Defence</i> :-- <i>John M'Lean</i> , overseer of Birnam Wood. I have heard this man so exceedingly insolent and provoking, that I could not have borne it; he is generally saucy. <i>H. Mason</i> . A short time ago an old woman of this man's family died; I gave him the materials, and bid him make a coffin; he always makes the coffins; he first refused to do it; he then followed me down to the coffee-store, and bid me come teach him; I turned him out, and was no sooner back than he was beside me going on in the same manner; he would not go away, make a coffin, or keep silent. I admit that I hit him with a supple-jack, because he gave an impudent reply.	H. Mason fined 3 l.	
15	--	ditto	-- H. Mason, proprietor.	-- S. Lamothe, non-prædial.	-- Disobedience of orders.	-- I have a close grass-piece; I gave orders that no person should encroach upon it; this man has fenced in a large piece of it; not content with this, he cut down a large piece of the dog-rose fence, and enclosed another piece; I ordered him positively not to do it; he does just as he pleases. <i>John M'Lean</i> . I was in charge of this property before Mr. Mason came; this man commenced extending his garden into the grass-piece; I ordered him not to do it; he did it in defiance; he then cut down 60 yards of an established dog-rose fence, and made another garden on ground forbidden to be touched; I was present when Mr. Mason ordered him to replace the fence, and heard him ( <i>Lamothe</i> ) bid him to come and show him the way to do it. <i>Defence</i> :--The places were near my house, and I wanted to have them; I have put up the dog-rose fence again.	Thirty stripes.	
16	--	ditto	-- ditto	-- Charles Notice, constable, prædial.	-- Riding mules at night.	-- I have lost 15 head of horse-kind lately from ill-treatment; one mule was taken away, and after some weeks it was taken out of the pound near Stoney-hill (20 miles hence); I had to pay 2 l. 15 s.	-- Fifty stripes, and deprived him of his constable's commission.	
17	--	ditto	-- ditto	The great gang, 16 men 18 women 34	Insufficient work	-- <i>J. Feep</i> , overseer of Mount Pleasant. I examined the work done by these people, it is done very badly; in two instead of four days they could have done it properly. <i>John M'Lean</i> . I examined the work; it is done very slovenly; 60 people could have done it well and easily in two days; 15 to the acre is a good allowance. <i>Henry Francis</i> , constable. The first day the work was well done, the other three days it was done shamefully, and not near enough. <i>Defence</i> :--We did as much as we could.	To pay two days.	

I certify that the foregoing is a true report of all complaints brought before me, and of the sentences awarded by me, during the month of April 1837.  
*E. E. Fishbourne*, acting for Mr. *St. John*, Special Justice.

(No. 3.)

PARISH OF ST. GEORGE.—SPECIAL MAGISTRATE'S REPORT.

Date.	Place.	Miles.	Complainant.	Defendant.	Complaint.	Decision.	No. of Constables sworn.
10 & 11	No duty.						
12	Windsor Castle	3	{ No cases.				
-	Hart Hill	3	{ ditto.				
-	Dover	-	ditto.				
13	Dover, Court-day	-	ditto.				
14	Sunday.	3	ditto.				
15	Iter Boreale	4	ditto.				
-	Gibraltar	1	- - George Davidson, proprietor, Reddington.	James Clarke	- - Neglect of duty, allowing the horses to stray away.	Admonished.	
-	Annotto Bay	-	Ditto	- ditto	Taking day without permission	Dismissed.	
16	Dover	5	- - G. B. Vidal, overseer, Fort Stewart.	Samuel Beckford	- - Taking a mule off the estate, without permission, to carry his own provisions to Kingston.	- - Ten days' hard labour on Port Maria tread-mill, and to repay lost time by extra work, at 15 hours per week.	
-	"	-	ditto	Peter Dyce	- - Taking a mule, when sent to town, without orders; neglect of duty as constable.	- - Five days' hard labour on Port Maria tread-mill, and reprimanded.	
-	"	-	ditto	George Batiste	- - General neglect of work, and disobedience of orders.	- - Three days' extra work, at 15 hours per week.	
-	"	-	- - Adam Gray, attorney and overseer, Iter Boreale.	John Mahoney	Neglect of duty as cattleman	Admonished.	
-	"	-	No cases.	James Schomberg	Giving a mule a sore back	Dismissed, not being proved.	
-	Buff Bay River	7	Honourable John Bell	Joe Aird	Running away from 19 July to 8 August	Thirty lashes.	
-	White River	1	Ditto	Jane Littlejohn	{ - - Destroying the young canes while cleaning them, from carelessness	{ Jane, three days in Buff Bay workhouse.	
-	Buff Bay Court	2	Ditto	Susan Dallas	- - Two days' absence from work	{ Susan, five days in Port Maria workhouse.	
-	Woodstock	1	Ditto	Amelia Bell	- - Cutting and stealing canes from the field	To repay two days by extra work.	
-	Dover	5	Ditto	Robin Kirkland	- - Cutting and stealing canes from the field	- - Three days in Buff Bay workhouse, and to repay lost time by extra work.	
		32 1/2					

E. E. Fishbourne.

16 August 1836.

JAMAICA.

—No. 571.—

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

No. 571.

Sir,

Downing-street, 1 July 1837.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 11th May, enclosing copies of circular instructions issued by you for the guidance of the special magistrates, and I have to signify to you my general approbation of these instructions. There are, however, some points to which I wish to draw your attention.

1st. In No. 100, dated September 28th, the special magistrates are instructed to include, in the monthly return of valuations, "those valuations only which have been completed by the payment of the sums awarded."

It has occurred to me that, under this regulation, no record will exist of those cases in which the object of the law may be defeated by the extravagantly high rate of the valuation; I am not aware that any other instruction has been issued by which this deficiency will be supplied; if not, I have to request that you will direct that a record be kept of all cases in which the valuation has been made, to be transmitted periodically to you, in whatever form and at whatever intervals you may consider most convenient.

2d. In No. 436, dated 11th January, you have accurately stated the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government as to the liability of special magistrates for expenses and penalties attendant upon prosecutions to which they may become exposed in the course of their official duties. While, however, it is indispensable that Her Majesty's Government should be satisfied of the propriety of the conduct of any special magistrate, against whom a verdict may be obtained for an act done in the performance of his duty before he can receive an indemnity out of the public funds of this country, it will, I trust, not fail to be understood, that where the conduct of the magistrate has been really unexceptionable, he may confidently rely on a full indemnity from the Government against any vexatious prosecution to which he may be subjected.

3d. In No. 638, dated 16th March, the special justices, to whom a local commission has been issued, are directed particularly to abstain from voting at vestries, or interfering in any way with the internal affairs of the parish.

I fully assent to the position, that the object of conferring local commissions on the special justices is to give them jurisdiction over cases not cognizable by a special justice where apprentices are immediately concerned; and I am well aware that an unnecessary and injudicious interference on the part of the special magistrates with the ordinary affairs of the parish in which the apprentices are not interested might materially impede the useful exercise of their peculiar and appropriate functions; but I entertain very considerable doubt of the expediency of prohibiting them from taking any part in the proceedings of the vestries. The vestries have an important duty to discharge with reference to the regulations of gaols and workhouses, in the latter of which, especially, many of the apprentices are confined by sentence of the special magistrates. I have already had occasion to advert, more than once, to abuses alleged to exist in these places, and I have intimated an opinion, that, unless some remedy should be applied to them, it might be necessary for the special magistrate to abstain from committing apprentices to the workhouses. It appears to me, therefore, obvious that the influence of the special magistrate might be most beneficially exercised, as it respects the interests of the apprentices, by their taking a part in such of the proceedings of the vestries as relate to the regulation and discipline of workhouses in Jamaica. There are also, as I have reason to believe, other questions affecting the apprentices, subject to the decision of the vestries, such as the amount of clothing which is to be deemed sufficient, in which it may be extremely desirable that the special magistrates should occasionally take a part. I am not disposed to think that you intended the prohibition to extend to cases of this nature, but I would suggest to you the expediency of so qualifying the concluding sentence of the circulars to preclude the possibility of any misapprehension on this point.

4th. The reasons which you have assigned for the substitution of monthly for weekly returns from the special magistrates appear to me quite satisfactory, and I fully approve of the summary of the evidence being included in the return of the punishments, a point to which I think too great importance cannot be attached.

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

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 No. 572.

—No. 572.—

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

My Lord,

The King's House, 26 May 1837.

HEREWITH I have the honour to enclose, for your Lordship's approval, the copy of a circular letter which has been lately addressed to the special justices, with a view to recalling their attention to the injunctions which they have so frequently received upon the subject of corporal punishment.

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

No. 572.

Enclosure in No. 572.

COPY of a LETTER from *C. H. Darling*, Esq., Secretary, to the Special Justices.

Sir,

The King's House, 16 May 1837.

THE Governor having, in some instances, observed the severe effects of corporal punishment upon apprenticed labourers (not in consequence of the illegality of the amount of punishment awarded, but of its application to offenders who had been subjected to previous flogging), I am directed by his Excellency to repeat the injunction which has been so strongly urged upon the special magistracy from the very commencement of the apprenticeship system, and pointedly impressed upon them, in numerous individual instances, by his Excellency himself, that the use of corporal punishment should be restricted as much as possible, and in fact rigidly confined to offences of a disgraceful or highly aggravated nature. I am further to desire, that it may on no account be inflicted on offenders who are not entirely recovered from the effect of previous punishment; and that you take care that in all cases the apprentices are perfectly cured before they are removed from the hospital, and required to resume their work.

His Excellency is induced to advert the more strongly to this subject, from observing that while the total amount of punishment throughout the colony, as collected from the returns of the special magistrates, is considerably less than it was during the earlier part of his administration, the amount of corporal punishments has not decreased in a corresponding ratio. His Excellency is, however, gratified to find, by the returns for the month of February last (the latest period to which they are compiled), that there was a considerable decrease of this description of punishment, as contrasted with the returns of the preceding month. He confidently trusts that this desirable diminution will steadily continue, and he relies upon your zealous exertions (so far as your means extend) to maintain the industry and contentment which now so generally prevail, and which can never be effected by any injudicious recourse to a mode of punishment to be resorted to at any time with the greatest caution and discrimination, but totally inapplicable for the enforcement of those objects among a labouring population fast passing into perfect freedom, and with whom, therefore, every other incentive to good conduct should be employed rather than the dread of a degrading punishment to which they must shortly cease to be subjected.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *C. H. Darling*, Secretary.

Enclosure in  
No. 572.

—No. 573.—

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

Sir,

Downing-street, 19 July 1837.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 26th of May last, and I beg to convey to you my entire approval of the circular letter therein enclosed, which you addressed on the 16th of that month to the special magistrates, enjoining them to pay strict regard to the injunctions which they had received on the subject of the restriction of corporal punishments among the apprentices.

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

No. 573.

—No. 574.—

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

Sir,

Downing-street, 31 May 1837.

I HAVE recently had under my consideration a communication from the committee of the Prison Discipline Society in this country, in reference to Lord Sligo's despatch of the 5th March 1836, enclosing the reports of the custodes on the state of the gaol and prison discipline in the island.

521.

The

No. 574.  
For Reports of the  
Custodes, *vide* Ap-  
pendix to the Report  
from the Committee  
on Negro Appren-  
ticeship, 1836,  
No. 560, p. 167.

## JAMAICA.

For Gaol Act of 1834, *vide* Parliamentary Papers relating to the Abolition of Slavery, 1833-5, Part II. p. 294.

The Gaol Act of the Jamaica legislature, passed in 1834, recognizes in the preamble as the basis of prison regulations, classification, separation, superintendence, regular labour and employment, and religious and moral instruction, as essential to the discipline of a prison, and to the reformation of offenders; but the salutary provisions of this statute appear to have been imperfectly administered, and these principles would seem in practice to be almost entirely disregarded. I trust to be able to point out to you how much of the imperfections of the present system is to be attributed to this cause, and how much arises from other difficulties for which no legal remedy has as yet been provided, and in conclusion, to give you such instructions as will enable you, with the means at your disposal, to introduce a more perfect system.

The first defect which I have to notice is a want of uniformity in the management of the different gaols in the island. The law enacts the same penalty to be inflicted for the commission of the same offence, but the degrees of punishment, from the want of uniformity in prison discipline, are totally different, the punishment being in some places severe, in others so trifling as scarcely to be regarded. To prevent so obvious an injustice, the Gaol Act of Jamaica lays down certain rules and regulations to be observed in every gaol or house of correction, or hospital or asylum, so far as they can be applied to the particular discipline or class of persons confined in such places. Nothing seems to be so conducive both to uniformity of system and executory efficacy as attention to this point of throwing into a general law whatever may not inconveniently be so dealt with. The Act in question, though wanting in some important provisions, is not perhaps open to any objection on this score; but previous habits and opinions may for a time present unforeseen and stubborn obstacles to the execution of enactments tending to the public good, and it is sometimes long before prejudices against innovations are sufficiently subdued for the regulation of the laws to have their proper and full effect. It may probably be owing to causes of this nature that in the codes adopted in the different gaols, not only has uniformity of system been entirely disregarded, but in many instances the spirit as well as the letter of the law has been lost sight of.

The second defect to which I beg leave to direct your attention arises from the construction and arrangement of the gaols, &c.; on this head it will not have escaped your notice that the Jamaica Gaol Act contains a provision which enables the parochial authorities to raise a tax sufficient for the purposes of the Act, having a due regard to the separate compartments necessary for the accommodation and classification of prisoners; but besides that, many of the gaols and buildings are defective for the purposes of the Act, as is evident from the reports of the custodes; I have to observe, that this provision is inadequate for the introduction of that complete separation of individuals requisite to enforce silence, which the reports of the committee of the House of Lords, transmitted to you for your information and guidance, in my circular despatch of the 28th November, recommend, and which I consider to be necessary for the attainment of an effective system of prison discipline.

Another defect which I have to notice refers to the nature of the labour and employment of the prisoners. It is enacted by the Gaol Act, that due provision shall be made in every prison or house of correction for the enforcement of hard labour in cases of such prisoners as may be sentenced thereto, and for the employment of other prisoners; and that the means of hard labour shall be provided, and the materials, tread-wheels or instruments requisite for the employment of the prisoners shall be erected or purchased. It appears, however, by the reports of the custodes, that the prisoners are frequently employed out of the prison on public works, repairing the roads, clearing the streets, &c., and are also let out for hire to dig cane-holes, &c. It is evident that these practices are totally incompatible with a proper system of prison discipline, if on no other account than that they have a direct tendency to counteract the benefits expected to result from the operation of the principles of silence and separation in making the punishment of imprisonment more irksome, and the condition of the prisoner more unlike that of the community at large; but a greater objection is, that they associate the idea of mere labour with that of punishment, thereby destroying whatever moral effect the connexion of punishment with an act of disobedience to the laws is calculated to produce. These considerations come with peculiar force when applied to a country where compulsory labour is exacted from the community at large, and where, consequently, the distinction between punishment and the

the daily duty of life would be marked by none of those external circumstances which are particularly necessary to make every penalty appropriate and efficacious. Labour on the tread-wheel, breaking stones, and other employments of the same kind within the walls of a prison, if silence is strictly enforced, might be employed with effect.

The last defects I have to notice are the neglect of frequent periodical and casual visitations by the magistrates, and the want of adequate provision for the religious and moral instruction of the prisoners.

It remains for me to advert to the means which may exist or appear to be attainable for remedying these evils.

As regards uniformity in the management of the gaols, you will observe that the 5th, 11th, 12th and 14th rules of the Act are discretionary, and that the rest are positive. The positive rules, I conceive, should be adopted, without any variation, in all the prisons in the island. In respect to the discretionary rules, there should be observed as close an approximation to uniformity as local circumstances will admit. I find a reference to this principle to be more especially wanting in the practice as to dietaries under the 11th rule. A scale of diet should be established in each prison, approximating as much as possible to the dietary of every other prison, and it should be a fixed rule that convicted prisoners should not be permitted to receive, without an order from the surgeon, other than the gaol allowance; and if in any case of very urgent and special necessity the surgeon should order any increase of diet to a prisoner not in the infirmary, he should be required to state in his journal the cause and extent of such order. In respect also to the discretionary provision for the admission, at proper times and under proper restrictions, of persons with whom the prisoners may desire to communicate, it would be expedient that some uniform regulation should exist, such as that recommended in the 14th resolution of the committee of the House of Lords, namely, that convicted prisoners be not permitted to receive visits during the first six months of their imprisonment, unless under peculiar and pressing circumstances.

The Act also gives to the common council of Kingston, five justices of the peace assembled in quarter or special sessions, power to frame additional rules, provided such rules be consistent with and conformable to the Act. For the sake of securing uniformity of discipline, it is expedient that all such additional rules and regulations should be in future submitted to you; and I am persuaded that you will shrink from no toil of deliberation or exertion which in the end may lead to the establishment of a good and uniform system in every gaol in the colony.

With a view to remedy some of the defects, particularly as to the state of the buildings, it would be desirable, if you have the means at your command, that you should obtain and transmit to me correct plans of the gaols, &c., in order that an improved system of construction may be pointed out for the consideration of the local government, in reference to such new buildings as it may be found necessary to erect, or, as regards alterations it may be expedient to make in the present gaols. I am perfectly aware that, to effect these improvements, considerable expense would have to be incurred, and that it may not be possible to do at once all that would be desirable in this respect. But if, as is observed by the committee of the House of Lords, the adoption of a more strict discipline should add to the actual weight of punishment, its duration may be proportionately diminished. The curtailment of its duration will necessarily effect a curtailment in the expense, by diminishing the future aggregate charge of maintaining prisoners in proportion to the restriction of the usual period of confinement; and, I may add, by the diminished time for which, in the case of an apprentice, his master would be deprived of the benefit of his labour; and, furthermore, by the diminution of the number of offences and of convicted persons which may be expected to result from an improved system of prison discipline. On this point, I have also to refer you to the evidence given before that committee by Mr. Samuel Hoare, who states, as his opinion, that "an efficient system of prison discipline might be attained if there is a separate cell for each prisoner, with a number of officers one-third less than where the prisoners are congregated without separate cells; and that it would be in the end economical on the part of a country, or any portion of a country, which had not a gaol sufficient for the accommodation of the prisoners, in this manner to increase the prison to the extent of furnishing separate cells."

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The committee of the Prison Discipline Society urge the necessity of local inspectors being appointed to visit the prisons at frequent intervals, in which suggestion I entirely concur. The clause in the Gaol Act of Jamaica which relates to the appointment of visiting justices to inspect each prison, house of correction, hospital and asylum, if necessary, once every day, seems to have been almost entirely disregarded in all the institutions. The situation of inspector is one to which constant and laborious duties are attached, and it cannot be supposed that competent persons will be found to undertake the office, and discharge its duties efficiently, without some remuneration. The Gaol Act makes no provision for the charge which would have to be incurred on this account; and it would, therefore, be necessary, in order to adopt this suggestion, to bring the subject before the legislature. As I am unable to form an opinion as to the probability of a successful issue to an application of this nature, I must leave it to you to make the application or not, as may seem best in your discretion and judgment.

For Code of Regulations, *vide* Lord Glenelg's Circular, 5 July 1837.

I enclose a copy of a code of regulations which have been adopted in the Bahamas, and which appear highly deserving of imitation. I also enclose an enlarged form of return [*see* Table (B.) p. 345], which I propose to substitute in future for the annual return comprised in the Blue Book; and I request that the answers to the inquiries therein contained may be accompanied by copies of the laws and regulations which have been or are about to be established in each colony.

I cannot hesitate to place the fullest confidence in the zeal with which your endeavours for the moral and religious instruction of the population of Jamaica will be animated, in reference to a portion of that population so peculiarly in want of it, the inmates of the prisons. Your endeavours will no doubt be sedulously aided by the Bishop of Jamaica, and the ministers of the gospel of all denominations.

I cannot close this despatch without adverting in a more direct and especial manner than I have hitherto done, to the evidence afforded by a comparison of the law respecting prisons with the practice and the actual condition of them, that the legislature on the subject is paralysed throughout by the fatal circumstance of the Act containing no adequate executory provisions. Its execution depends upon the parochial authorities and the justices; and it appears to be proved by experience, that so long as it shall be solely intrusted to those functionaries, it will be inoperative. Were it possible to anticipate that a fair degree of operation would be obtained for such enactments through this agency, there is no way in which His Majesty's Government would more gladly see the objects accomplished; for it is of great importance to every community that the gentry and other persons of respectability should be engaged in voluntary efforts of this nature, and that those efforts should be assisted by the Government rather than that any other agency should be substituted; but if no such efforts can be relied on, it then becomes the duty of the Government to consider what other means can be adopted for the accomplishment of purposes which cannot be abandoned or neglected without incurring a grave responsibility.

The present Act will expire in the year 1840; and at that period, if not before, it will devolve upon you to give your most serious consideration to the improvements which may be introduced into it.

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

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— No. 575. —

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

My Lord,

The King's House, 12 June 1837.

No. 575.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the quarterly reports of the special magistrates for the quarter ending the 31st March last.

I have caused these reports to be arranged by parishes, in order that your Lordship may be better enabled to judge of the state of the different magistrates' districts into which the island is divided.

The reports of special justices Baynes and Hill, I beg to recommend to your Lordship's perusal; the first as containing an enumeration of what appears to Mr. Baynes to be sources of dissatisfaction to the apprenticed population, and the

the latter containing a very able exposition of the principles upon which valuations ought to be conducted.

The first seven and the 9th and 10th heads of grievance enumerated by Mr. Baynes are all within the jurisdiction of the special magistrate; and numerous instances have occurred since my administration, in which the authority of the magistrate has been exercised effectually to their suppression or remedy; the eighth, which relates to valuations, is, in the present state of the law, in a great measure beyond the control of the executive. The subject is now under my anxious consideration, with a view to devising such remedies as may appear practicable to apply to the evils complained of. The 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th all relate to the houses of correction. Having lately returned from an inspection of the greater part of those buildings, I am enabled to report that, in most instances, I found them well-regulated and under a careful supervision, from which the special magistrate is by no means excluded; and I have every reason to believe, from the disposition manifested by the local authorities, that I shall have no difficulty in obtaining such modifications of the existing rules as may appear to me desirable.

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

Enclosure 1, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *Richard Hill, Esq.*, to Sir *Lionel Smith.*

Special Justice Department, Spanish Town,  
15 May 1837.

May it please your Excellency,

IN the correspondence of this department for the last quarter, I have observed that the release of apprentices has been rendered difficult by the inequitable way in which valuations are conducted. The special magistrates complain of the obstructions they encounter, in consequence of the general justices of the peace associated with them in these duties being unwilling to admit deductions from the gross value proved, for those casualties and risks which result from the liabilities of health and the probabilities of life. From 1st August 1834 to 1st November 1836, 1,480 apprentices were released by valuation, and paid 52,216*l.* The desire to break from the obligations of further service, by similar sacrifices of money, still prevails, but the excessive high rate of appraisements has increased the difficulty of meeting this desire proportionally with the decrease of the term of apprenticeship. I confine my remarks to the effect of these obstructions on the prospects of plantation labourers. On the class of domestics and artisans, it is scarcely a grievance, for the competition with which they are pressed has worked a continued diminution in the value of their labour; the termination of their apprenticeship has nearly approached, and the anticipation of cheap labour has established very generally in their case a low rate of valuation.

The usual resort for evidence of the worth of plantation labour is to the masters of unattached prædials to estimate the value of job labour.

The proprietor of a jobbing gang gives evidence that he obtains 3*s.* 4*d.* for the hire of his people per day, and having made this statement, proceeds to declare that the worth of his jobbers by the year is to him the sum of 39*l.* each, there being 234 working days conceded to him by the Apprenticeship Law.

Before this evidence is applied to the worth of the prædial attached labourer, let its fallacies be examined with reference to the jobber himself, or the prædial unattached, the value of whom, estimated by the price of day labour (the ordinary mode of charging his hire), is unquestionably considerable.

The conclusion does not follow that the jobbers each are worth to him 39*l.* per annum, because the price of a day's labour is 3*s.* 4*d.*, even if the whole of them should be able to work the 234 days in the year, because 3*s.* 4*d.* is the maximum result of their labour, and there is a certain outgoing necessary to realize that result; these are the houses and gardens with which the employer must provide them, the occasional supplies with which he must help them, and the clothing with which he must furnish them.

The worth of the jobbing gang to the proprietor is the profit after that amount of expenditure shall be deducted, which is necessary to realize the result of 3*s.* 4*d.* per day. This is the highest benefit that can accrue to the master of the jobbers by his right to their uncompensated and coerced services.

These services, estimated as property having a certain and determinate value, are beyond all this, however, subject to contingencies and casualties, and to the risk of extinction by death; for these the custom has been to allow one-third; whether this allowance be properly considered can only be ascertained by a patient inquiry into the probabilities to which the life, health and vigour of a labourer are exposed.

According to the best physiologists, the probabilities of life, deduced from a careful investigation of facts concerning the age in which the greatest number of individuals have died, are stated to be, that nearly one-half of mankind perish before they reach the age of eight years, that two-thirds die before they arrive at thirty-nine, and three-fourths before fifty-one. These facts have led to a calculation that a child at fourteen years may expect to live for thirty-three and a half years more, an adult at thirty, twenty-eight more, and so on till



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the probabilities end in the person who has reached the usual term of human life, whose chance of living can only be reckoned from day to day.

The chance of death during the term of the apprenticeship in any given age of an apprenticed labourer may be arithmetically determined. The casualties of sickness and permanent disability, however, are a great and constant liability, and tend to diminish, in a proportion quite equal to one-third, the estimated value of the aggregate of apprenticed labourers. These casualties comprise the diseases of the men, and the infirmities and wants of the women as mothers and wives, which, in speaking of a beneficial interest, are a worse result to the planter than the death of the labourer, inasmuch as, in addition to an extinction of productive labour, they decrease the profit derived from the able workpeople, by the subsistence, care and aid requisite to be drawn from out that profit for the necessities of unproductive labourers.

Besides this, there is an allowance to be made for the interest of money. The person released from the apprenticeship on a valuation pays at once that which cannot be realized before the termination of his service. Six per cent. is the annual interest of money in the colony. Taking, for example, a calculation on the whole six years of the apprenticeship, a person released in August 1834, paid a per annum value at once, when the sums of that per annum value could not have been realized before the termination of the sixth, fifth, fourth, third, second and first year of his service progressively.

I have reasoned on the value of jobbing labour, because that, as I have remarked, is the criterion by which the value of an apprentice is estimated; but the estimate of a plantation labourer by the price paid for jobbing workmen is not a fair consideration of the question. Recourse to the jobber is an expedient to obtain labour in those agricultural emergencies when the greatest profits are to result from the most effective application of manual toil. It is altogether an extreme case, and can never be permitted, without manifest injustice, to form the sole ground of estimate, to the exclusion of those ordinary and less urgent duties which never require this outlay.

The prædial attached is not a jobber, and, by the prohibitions of the law, cannot be made a jobber; in him value can result only from what the plantation to which he is permanently attached can realize by his productive industry.

The real value of the prædial attached plantation labourer, then, is the profit of the material derived from the land, to which he is fixed as a chattel interest, and on which he creates a commodity by his industry. The greater quantity of price expended on labour without a commensurate return of value, the less becomes the profit of a labourer's industry. If wages continued the same, profits would remain the same; but it is absolutely certain that if wages rise, in all those emergencies in which it is necessary to command extra labour without any increase of commodity, the profits must necessarily fall. It is the profit of labour which constitutes the interest and value of the apprenticeship, and it is this which is appraised when the labour of an apprentice is estimated.

It may be said that as the abstracting from him his labourer throws the planter on the necessity of seeking an expensive resource to supply what he has lost, he has a right to have this immediately allowed him. This remark is more specious than just, and does not apply to the question.

The whole advantage of the apprenticeship is the profit in the commodity raised by it; if the labourer pays for that when he seeks his release from the apprenticeship, the planter has already realized by that release all that it would have been worth to him had the apprentice continued to work for him to the termination of the apprenticeship. He has reaped his harvest by anticipation.

If these positions be true and incontrovertible, as I believe them to be, the magistrates ought not to allow any abatement of the one-third deduction for the casualties to which continued and uninterrupted toil is liable, and for the risks to which life is subjected, while they ought to be guarded against admitting the extreme instance of a jobber's value, as an average estimate of the productive labour of a plantation apprentice.

I do not comment on another principle of appraisal for which the employer has sometimes contended when he has insisted on having an estimate made of his liabilities to loss and incommodity, present, future and contingent, by being deprived of his workmen, because His Majesty's Government have already declared such appraisal unjust in principle, and inconsistent with the intention of Parliament: it had been long previously condemned by the King in Council, as inadmissible in repeated instances in which it had been brought forward in the compulsory manumission of slaves in the Crown colonies. "It would throw," says the Secretary of State, in a despatch (*vide* Parliamentary Papers, 1835, No. 273, Part 2, page 258), "many and insuperable difficulties in the way of that class of apprenticed labourers who would in general be the most desirous of purchasing their discharge, the most likely to furnish the means of effecting such purchase, and the best fitted for the performance of the duties of free citizens." I would advert to this sentiment for the purpose of moving His Majesty's Government to the adoption of some general regulation founded on fair and equitable principles for the valuation of apprentices, that the motives which prevail among them, in which prudence, orderly habits, domestic association, family affection, a proper appreciation of the advantages and interests of civil society, animate them to industry, may be left to a free and unimpeded operation, and carry them onward to renewed exertion by the certainty that all they desire and all they hope are within their own means of attainment.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Richard Hill*, Assistant Secretary,  
Special Justice Department.

Enclosure

## Enclosure 2, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *Edward Dacres Baynes, Esq.*, to *C. H. Darling, Esq.*

Sir,

Spanish Town, 14 April 1837.

I HAVE the honour to forward the customary quarterly report on the state of the district intrusted to my charge as special justice. So little change has taken place since my last, in which I dwelt rather fully on some points, that I shall at present confine myself to a cursory reply to each of the questions *seriatim*, as transmitted in your circular of the 23d September 1836.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 575.

1. The general conduct of the apprentices since my last report has been good; the only exceptions are those attached to Belmont and Retreat estates.

2. There is, and always has been, a great want of good feeling between the apprentices in this district and their employers. I have never sent in a quarterly report, either to his Excellency, or to his Excellency's predecessor, without adverting in strong terms to this melancholy and discouraging fact. I scarcely know two estates in this parish on which master and servant are mutually influenced by sentiments of good-will and regard. It matters not whether their interests are in reality incompatible with each other or not; it is sufficient that they are reciprocally considered so. The origin of the evil must be sought for in this impression, which, whether well founded or erroneous, is firmly rooted in the minds, and plainly manifested in the conduct of both parties. This bad feeling, however it may be concealed or coloured, is, without doubt, extremely prevalent, and it menaces the reverse of a favourable termination of the apprenticeship. It has proceeded to such extent, its tone is so decided, and the period when it may be manifested with security by the party which is now the weakest so near, that it may be reasonably doubted whether the time at which an effectual remedy might have been applied have not passed over, and whether the promptest interference can now succeed in doing more than mitigating its force, or modifying its expression. Close observation, and the experience of three years, justify me in expressing my opinion, that less blame attaches to the apprentice than to the master; for the unfortunate position in which they now relatively stand; the total want of conciliation on the part of the latter; the indifference, too general, to the bodily comfort of his dependent; the distressing apathy manifested towards his moral improvement; the rigid exaction of the whole law from him, with the imprudent and discreditable anxiety too often exhibited for the infliction of its severest penalties, have produced the corresponding and inevitable result, by rendering the negro,—instead of confiding, satisfied and cheerful,—suspicious, reserved and discontented. All doubtful points of the Abolition Law have been construed in favour of the master; others, by no means dubious, have been conceded to him. He receives for the six years of the apprenticeship more than three times the whole value for life of the slave, as estimated by commissions of planters themselves, appointed for the purpose in 1834. The compensation money has cleared his estates; the price of sugar has been doubled, and he will, in fact, derive more profit from the six years of the apprenticeship than he would have obtained from 20 years of slavery. I shall now, with due deference, discharge my duty, by stating the immediate sources of the dissatisfaction of the apprentices, as far as I have been able to trace them, leaving their justice, and the necessity of applying a remedy to them, to the consideration of others better qualified than myself to decide on points of so much importance.

1. The continuance of subjection to the lash for faults which, though delinquencies under the Abolition Law, have not the moral turpitude of crime, such as insufficiency of labour, idleness, disrespect to their employer, with many other offences under the above Act, equally venal.

2. The custom by which the apprentices are compelled to go to their master's work in their own time, as if working and walking on the business of another are not, both in law and reason, an equal sacrifice of time in his service.

3. The obliging the apprentices to remain at their work in the field during heavy falls of rain, a practice not less prejudicial to the interests of the master than pernicious to the health of the apprentice.

4. The withholding from the apprentices, on many properties, all the indulgences accorded to the slave, a custom which, with the eight hours system of labour, and the very proper discouragement of the cultivation of their grounds on the Sabbath, places them, as regards time and the means of subsistence, in a worse condition than when slaves, as they then had the half of the Saturday and the whole Sunday to work for themselves. Thus is the increase of time accorded by the Abolition Law neutralized, and the beneficent intentions of the imperial legislature evaded and defeated.

5. The frequent division of the forty and a half weekly hours of labour into five days of eight hours, instead of four and a half of nine hours, by which, as I have shown above, half a day in each week is lost to the negro, without any corresponding advantage to his employer.

6. The removal of the sick from their own houses, where they have often many comforts about them, to the hospital of the estate, a place generally devoid of accommodation, not being even provided with mattresses or palliasses, though the patients are, for the greater part, accustomed to these necessaries, when in health, in their own houses.

7. The difficulty too often thrown in the way of apprentices who cohabit together as man and wife, an evil unavoidable in the present backward state of negro civilization,

tion, living with, or visiting each other, when accidentally attached to different properties.

8. The extravagant and unreasonable rate at which the remaining term of the apprenticeship is valued, which does not decrease with the fall in the price of sugar, as it in justice should. The valuation courts are composed of one special and two local magistrates, the latter generally holders of apprentices, and interested in keeping up a high rate of valuation; the special justice is in consequence constantly outvoted. I have said above, that the proprietor is at present receiving, as the price of the six years' servitude of the apprentice, more than three times the whole life value of the slaves; this is a matter of calculation.

	Currency.		
	£.	s.	d.
Amount of compensation - - - - -	51	-	-
Three years and four months of the apprenticeship to run, at 3s. 4d., the present rate of valuation for each working day, equal to 39 <i>l.</i> per annum - - - - -	130	-	-
Two years and eight months of the apprenticeship unexpired, at the same rate - - - - -	104	-	-
Value received by proprietor for the six years of the apprenticeship - - - - -	285	-	-
Whole life value of the slave, as appraised by commissioners in 1834 - - - - -	95	-	-
Surplus in favour of proprietor - - - - -	£.	190	- -

9. The practice of bringing apprentices accused of offences under the Abolition Act before the special magistrates on a Saturday, in their own time, and still more, the enforcing the attendance of witnesses on that day, by which they are prevented from employing it in the necessary cultivation of their grounds, is also a source of complaint, as it not unfrequently happens that the apprentice is not convicted of the alleged offence; it even turns out often that the charge is vexatious. Thus we have here several innocent persons harassed by a long journey, and injured by the loss of a day, of which they are deprived with impunity, at the caprice of an overseer, who would not fail to bring them to trial for encroaching only five minutes on their master's time.

10. The manner in which the manager exercises the power of detaining an alleged offender in confinement for the space of 24 hours. The detention for that period is only, as in England, intended to afford time to bring the accused before a magistrate for examination, not as a mode of punishment, which the law has altogether removed from the hands of the master. Now as it rarely happens in Jamaica that an apprentice prisoner is brought before a special justice within 24 hours, the lawful application of this clause, which is so often acted on, is extremely limited; its abuse is general.

11. The illegal commitment of apprentices to the houses of correction by the local magistrates, a practice prevalent throughout the island, though a manifest violation of the first principle of the Abolition Law.

12. The chaining and working in the penal gang, in the same manner as convicts, of apprentices, male and female, unconvicted of any crime, and only committed to the house of correction as suspected deserters, who are afterwards subject to trial and further punishment at the instance of their master. This practice seems to be the more unjustifiable, as the utmost extent of punishment, at hard labour, is by law limited to 14 days; whereas by this custom, though many of the individuals committed turn out after all not to be deserters, they are often kept at hard labour for many weeks, until it suit the convenience or caprice of the master to send for them, or of the committing magistrate to discharge them, in default of claimant.

13. The chaining of females by the neck, in couples, in the houses of correction.

14. The flogging, chaining and otherwise punishing of apprentices, when imprisoned in the houses of correction, by the local magistrates, without any reference to, or association with, the special justice.

3. The apprentices do not work voluntarily; labour cannot, at the same time, be voluntary and compulsory; nor is it in accordance with any of the ascertained motives of human action that a society of labourers should expend their existence and their energies—in other words, their time and labour—in the service of others, without any adequate remuneration.

4. The hours of labour on some properties are eight, on others nine. The apprentices consider the former system one of their chief grievances, as it deprives them of half a day in each week.

5. Task-work is not general; the apprentices manifest a decided objection to it. They suspect that the task may, when occasion offers, be considered by their employers as a minimum of labour for the time actually employed by them in its completion.

6. The working for wages is not very prevalent; where it does exist, the apprentices do not usually receive from their master more than 1*s.* 8*d.* per diem, though the jobbing employer is paid at the rate of 3*s.* 4*d.* for each able hand. This diversity of remuneration between the master and the apprentice for the same quantity and quality of labour is a sufficient explanation of the reluctance often visible in the negro to work for wages in his

own time. He is clear-sighted enough to perceive that his labour only earns for himself half the amount that it brings to his master; and he knows this to be neither just nor reasonable.

7. On most estates, the indulgences formerly accorded to the slave are withheld from the apprentice—another fertile source of ill-will and discontent.

8. The free children are supported by their parents; they are not in general ill-fed, and in this climate they require but little clothing. The antipathy, not unnatural in their circumstances, which they observe in their seniors to labour, because compulsory and unrequited, is inherited by them; and unless the British Government interfere, and ensure them generally the means of suitable instruction, it will be long before they make a progress in civilization, corresponding to, and commensurate with, the great change effected in their social condition.

9. The means of religious instruction and general education are equivalent, in this parish, to the wants of about one-twentieth part of the population.

10. One manumission only has taken place since my last report. I have noticed above the present unreasonable rate of the valuations. A maximum should be established by law; one dollar, or 4s. sterling, per week, would, I think, be equitable as such.

11. The individuals who have purchased or otherwise obtained their discharge, in cases where it has not been a mere transfer of services to the person advancing the purchase-money, have not, as far as has come to my knowledge, returned to the cultivation of the cane, or to the manufacture of sugar. Their distaste for these descriptions of labour has been the inciting cause of the pecuniary sacrifice made by them, to which the ends, at the existing rate of valuation, taking into consideration the approaching termination of the apprenticeship, are entirely disproportioned.

12. The prospects of the crop in progress are very indifferent; the state of the cultivation is, notwithstanding, good. The falling off is, therefore, to be attributed solely to the seasons.

13. I have already submitted several suggestions for consideration, and I could offer a few others, but the very indifferent state of my health, and the almost total absorption of my time by the immediate duties of my office, prevent my detailing them at present.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Ed. Dacres Baynes.*

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Enclosure 3, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *C. B. Ricketts, Esq.*, Special Justice, to his Excellency the Governor.

Sir,

Lindas District, 1 April 1837.

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that this district is in a state of industry and tranquillity; the apprentices on the estates are cheerfully engaged in the labours of the crop, but in Lindas Vale none of the field people can be induced to work extra hours for money, although half a dollar weekly has been offered on Worthy Park and Swansea estates. Only one instance of a whole gang of prædials being fined in time, for insufficiency of work, has occurred in this district during the last quarter.

With regard to the feelings subsisting between master and apprentice, much has undoubtedly been said, and had I not the advantage of comparing the improvements in the social system in other West India colonies with this island, and in noticing a routine subject, I hope to place some of its relations in a novel point of view. The Crown colonies have had the advantage of being in a systematic state of progressive improvement for a much longer period than the chartered colonies; in the latter, the working population were relieved from slavery by the Abolition Act, without any preparatory measures; the existence of a vindictive spirit had exhibited itself in a recent rebellion, which, though partially subdued, is still kept alive by the system now pursued, grounded on the general despair which is entertained of the prosperity of the country after 1840.

The desire to make the most of the present, without considering the future result, is particularly exhibited in exorbitant valuations: at the beginning of this year an able prædial apprentice's term of service was valued at 60 *l.* (deducting one-third for casualties, this sum was left), and the valuation was calculated by weekly hours of labour; the apprentice should of course be entitled to the same scale of wages for extra labour, but some planters think 5*d.* currency a sufficient remuneration for four hours of labour to able hands, and 2½*d.* for the same period of time to second-rate labourers. The apprentices feel this manifest injustice, and are not inclined to respect or place confidence in the authors of it.

Small as the remuneration may appear, I have always used my best endeavours to persuade the apprentices to work for money, considering it the only manner in which a proportion of the circulating medium can be retained by this class of the community, as, from the general desire to buy out the remaining term of their apprenticeships, the small share they formerly held must be rapidly diminishing. The rewards for extra labour (from inadequate allowances) are generally consumed in purchasing the necessaries of life, and do not tend to make up the deficiency occasioned by parting with the savings of years; extra labour will therefore only enable them to keep what they have already saved, but scarcely to increase it.

With the small settlers these evils are magnified, and in many instances the master and apprentice live in a state of mutual aggression; and although the absence of complaints may lead to the supposition that perfect harmony exists between the parties, it is frequently

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a deceitful calm; reciprocal offences may have been so repeatedly committed that both parties are doubtful which way the scale may turn.

I conclude, then, that if the system were in any way dependent on good feelings, it would, like an ill-constructed arch, be in a tottering condition, were it not for the supports of penal enactments and compulsory labour, as undoubtedly a long apprenticeship, combined with inadequate allowances, "has a tendency rather to repress than promote a love of industry, the apprentice being excluded from the greatest incentive to voluntary labour, namely, a proper proportion of the fruits of his exertions;" he will therefore remain a coerced and unwilling cultivator to the end of the system. When free from all bondage, he will most probably reject the then obviously interested advances of those who took every advantage of him in his state of progress to freedom.

On the whole, therefore, although there is not more cause for ill feeling than between the opposite grades of society in any other country, yet from the systematic pursuit of present gain, without due consideration of the changes which must take place in the agricultural system in a very few years, I do not think it progresses as it should do. The narrow policy I have described will, if persisted in, have the same effect as over-taxation on the poor of any other country; instead of fostering industrious habits, it drives them to despair. It is not at all calculated to conciliate the peasantry, and consequently will not tend to advance the future prosperity of those who employ them at present.

If I may be allowed to hazard a suggestion from the facts I have mentioned, it would be, that, in fair justice to the apprentice, the remuneration given for extra hours of labour should be in strict accordance with the valuations of apprenticeships.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. B. Ricketts*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 4, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *Stanley Rawlinson*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Brownstown, 31 March 1837.

WITH reference to the circular No. 63, of 23d September, calling for the usual quarterly report, I must with great deference refer you to my letter of the 31st December last, as it would be exactly similar, with this difference, that complaints of proprietors and overseers against apprentices have not averaged more than 13 per month for the last quarter; on the part of apprentices only three.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Stanley Rawlinson*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 5, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *T. A. Dillon*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Retirement, Great House, Parish of St. Ann, 4 April 1837.

I HAVE the honour to report, for his Excellency's information, that this district continues orderly; that, with a few exceptions, managers and apprentices cannot possibly be on better terms. During this month there has been but one corporal punishment, or 20 lashes, inflicted, and the two previous months have been, if not equally, yet creditably, exempt from similar inflictions.

Sugars, I anticipate, in this district will be of good quality, and the crop about an average one. Coffee has been very backward in ripening, and the curing necessarily slow; the state of cultivation and the present blossom promise well for next year.

Ten apprentices have purchased their freedom since my last quarterly report; the total amounts to 449*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* currency, being an average of 44*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* each, or at the rate of 14*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.* annually to the termination of the apprenticeship.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. A. Dillon*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 6, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *J. Woolfrys*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Islington, St. Ann's, 31 March 1837.

I BEG leave to confirm my last quarterly report, under date of the 31st December last, and to state that since that period I have very little to add for the information of his Excellency the Governor.

The apprentices generally are behaving themselves very well.

On very few of the properties where the apprentices are subjected to petty annoyances from their master and manager; there is not that cordial good feeling which is so essential to the welfare and interest of both.

The nine hours system of labour is in operation on every property in this district, and the intervals of relaxation as advised in my last report.

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The task-work of 80 cane-holes is still continued on the sugar estates; there are only four small ones in my district.

The pimento crop will not commence till July or August next, when I have no doubt but that the apprentices will again work for money-wages, at the rate of 5s. or 6s. 8d. per barrel, which is generally performed in a day and a half or two days.

As regards indulgences during slavery, they are withheld on many of the properties, and allowed on some.

The condition of the free children is as stated in my last report.

No facilities are offered in my district for education or religious instruction, except one at Ocho Rios, lately established by the Reverend Mr. Whitehouse, Wesleyan minister; there are no churches, and only one chapel belonging to the Baptist Society.

There is still a great desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge, but to effect this has been rendered more difficult in consequence of the advance in the price of labour since the latter part of last year; in 1835 and part of 1836 the rate of labour was 1s. 8d. per day here, since which, and up to this period, the advance has been 50 per cent., and the valuations have consequently increased in a proportionate ratio; 14 discharges have been effected since my last report.

Of those who have purchased their exemption, some have gone into the employ of other persons, and others have left the district.

The weather for the last month has been exceedingly dry, and if continued will materially affect the favourable prospect of the ensuing crop, but there appears every indication of its raining soon.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Woolfrys*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 7, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *Henry Laidlaw*, Esq., to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Crescent Park, St. Ann's, 11 April 1837.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the following report on the general state of this district, for the quarter ending on the 31st ultimo.

It has been a source of great gratification to me in all my recent reports, to bring under his Excellency's notice the good feeling that has lately sprung up between the employer and apprentice in this district, which it has been an object of my most anxious solicitude to encourage as much as possible, as promising to be eventually attended with the most happy results, and I have now the satisfaction of stating, that this improved state of feeling has in no respect diminished since the period of my last report. The general conduct of the apprentices is very satisfactory, and I beg to state, as the best test of the increase of industrious habits among them, that, with the exception of those located on small settlements, very few complaints have lately been preferred against them.

The labourers uniformly prefer working on the nine hours system, as they thereby secure to themselves an additional half day for the cultivation of their grounds; and as I have always considered this division of the hours of labour to be in unison with the spirit, at least, of the Abolition Law, if not absolutely compulsory, I have endeavoured to impress on the managers the propriety of conceding this point to the apprentices, which has accordingly been done in this district for a considerable time past.

It has been found inconvenient to resort to task-work, from the diversity of employment which is necessary upon pens, of which this district is almost entirely composed, and there is also very little occasion for extra labour beyond that provided by law, but when required, no difficulty has been experienced in procuring it, and the rate of hire on these occasions varies from 2s. 1d. to 2s. 6d. currency per day.

I have seen no indisposition on the part of the managers of the larger properties to extend to the apprentices those indulgences not provided for by law, but which were usual in the state of slavery; but on the smaller settlements a very different feeling prevails, and it is not customary on these latter properties to allow either cooks or nurses for the children.

The free children are supported by their parents, but I regret to say that they are generally brought up in idleness, and there are no means of education whatever provided for them. The people generally are extremely anxious for religious instruction, but the provision for that purpose in this parish is lamentably deficient.

Twelve discharges have been effected since the period of my last report, and as the termination of the apprenticeship approaches, the people appear to be animated with an increased anxiety to purchase their freedom.

In concluding my report, I am happy to state that I see nothing to diminish the confidence I have frequently expressed in my former reports, as to the progressive improvement of the people, and their eventual fitness for entire freedom.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Laidlaw*.

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Enclosure 8, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *William Marlon*, Esq., Special Justice, to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Bishop Mount, St. Mary's, 1 April 1837.

Enclosure 8,  
in No. 575.

I HAVE the honour to forward my report on the state of my district, for the quarter ending the 31st March 1837, and to represent to your Excellency that the general conduct of the apprentices in the district since my last report has been satisfactory to their employers.

It is a mere matter of form on my part to go into the points required by the series of questions on which I am instructed to report, as a transcript of my last quarterly report contains every thing I can say on the subject calculated to throw a light upon the actual state of the apprenticed population.

I do not observe any new feature in the nature of the complaints made against the apprentices. Desertion, trespass or petty theft, and neglect of duty, are the usual complaints made, and generally against the same set of people.

The labourers work willingly, and a very good feeling exists between them and their employers, with one or two exceptions. The working hours are not regulated by the Abolition Law, but a mutual understanding prevails on the properties generally, that the apprentices have their fish and old allowances, and work a full day; it is, as a matter of form, called the nine hours system. I consider the system called the eight hours, a delusion; on sugar properties it is ridiculous, and the planters know it.

A sugar estate worked to advantage on the eight hours plan, without the old allowances to the negroes, is a daily robbery of the apprentices' time. I have found by more than two years' experience, that the attempt strictly to enforce the Abolition Act in the country would be attended with injury to both parties; all I can do is to obtain liberal allowances for the apprentices, and make them do as much as I fairly can in return. The power placed in the hands of a special justice is a very dangerous one, if he is inclined to abuse it for the advantage of either party, master or apprentice. The Abolition Law is so often contradictory in its enactments that the special justices even cannot agree on many of its clauses; and I hesitate not to say, that I look more to the happiness and comfort of the apprentices, and the welfare of the country, than to the strict letter of the Island Law.

Task-work is not resorted to in my district, nor should I wish to see such a mode of labour enforced by law. Where the management is good, sufficient labour is obtained from the apprentices. Cane-hole digging may be considered, indirectly, a description of task, but the labourers settle the point with their employers, 70 cane-holes daily being a fair and easy day's labour for an able person.

When the apprentices are employed in their own time, they are usually paid half a dollar (3s. 4d. currency) for 70 holes. For mill labour 6s. 8d., 5s. and 3s. 4d. per week, according to the size of the property, are the wages paid to the week's spell for keeping the mill about 18, 16 or 14 hours, as may be required, including the old allowances; the half Friday, or alternate Friday, out of crop season, being also allowed to the apprentices, except on two or three properties where the people work the full five days weekly, in consideration of having their free children attended by the estate's medical gentleman, and the mothers receiving allowances for the children. The free children are easily supported by their parents, and the missionaries instruct them, as well as any others desirous of instruction, in their own time. There is a general desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge, but the valuation tribunal does not always award a sum to meet the views of the apprentices. I fear there is no probability of an alteration in the mode of valuation, which throws too much weight on the side of the proprietors. About ten valuations have been effected since my last report: when free, the parties generally reside with those who assisted to effect their discharge.

The season has been unusually dry; a deficiency is expected, and the crop will be a late one; but there is no want of industry on the part of the labourers, who have readily sold much of their time to obtain money for the purchase of provisions in consequence of the deficiency in their grounds. I punished eight male apprentices and one female, during the last month, for trespasses, and sentenced all the males to be whipped. From peculiar local causes in this parish, we are much subject to trespass.

Having been instructed to make any suggestions, or recommend any practical measure, I consider it my duty to make the following observations for your Excellency's consideration.

I had the honour, in my report for the quarter ending 30th September 1836, to represent to your Excellency the very defective state of the Abolition Law of the island. I believe it was the intention of the British people that the special magistrates should have exclusive jurisdiction in all matters arising out of the relation between master and apprentice, and of any conduct on the part of the apprentice tending to injure the property of his employer. The Right honourable Lord Glenelg, in a despatch to the Marquis of Sligo, requested his Excellency to furnish every special magistrate in this island with a copy of a certain portion of the despatch for the guidance of the magistrate in the execution of his duty. My object in alluding to that despatch is to make it apply to the view which I take of certain parts of the Abolition Acts passed in this island.

I was present, not long since, in Port Maria, when the overseer of Hopewell sugar estate, in this parish, brought an apprenticed labourer from that property before the two sitting magistrates in petty sessions at the court-house. The manager complained that the apprentice had taken away canes (about five) from the mill-board. The parties had been before

before the special justice of the district, but he declined interfering, as a law lately passed in the assembly made such an offence cognizable by two magistrates. The two sitting local justices heard the case, and committed the apprentice for fifteen days to the tread-mill in the house of correction, not being able to pay the fine under the Act. The Island Law appears to me to have superseded the views of the British Act. If the overseer of Hopewell had taken the apprentice before the special justice for cutting one cane in the estate's cane-piece, the special justice would be authorized by the Island Acts to award a sentence, on conviction of the trespass, of 50 stripes, or three months' hard labour in the house of correction, because one local justice, under the Trespass Act, can take cognizance and punish; but the Hopewell apprentice (who had been working at the sugar-mill from daylight until ten P. M. and carried away a few canes, after grinding off, so termed) must be taken before two local justices, as the special had no authority. The taking the canes is as much an injury to the property as the cutting would be, and I believe the British Act intended to give the special justice jurisdiction in both cases. I imagine, from the passing of the late Police Act, the Act called Panton's Act, and the Classification Act, that the British Act has been superseded, and I have met with so many invasions of the British Act that I consider it an imperative duty to bring it to the notice of Government. I have known apprentices flogged by the local magistrates for offences at quarter sessions, and for which no free man could be flogged; I brought the same under the notice of the Marquis of Sligo. The 18th clause of the British Act is rendered useless by many of the Island Acts. It appears to me the most palpable injustice to prevent an appeal from an apprentice to a special justice for wrong and injury done to him by a person not his employer, when the 44th clause of the Island Act authorizes the special justice to award a punishment of 50 stripes, or three months' hard labour, for a crime or misdemeanor committed by an apprenticed labourer against a person not entitled to his services. If an apprentice from Esher is found trespassing or cutting a cane on Hopewell estate, the special justice has jurisdiction; but if the Hopewell manager beats or confines in the dungeon the Esher apprentice, the special has no jurisdiction.

I never will dismiss a complaint from either party if I can possibly bring it within the intention of the British Act, satisfied, as I am, that prompt trial and punishment is most salutary and merciful; and that the law rights of the apprentices are best secured to them by the decision of the special magistrate in all cases of dispute arising on the estate, in the relation of employer and servant.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *William Marlton*, Special Justice,

Enclosure 9, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Sydney Lambert*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

S. E. Division, St. Mary's, 31 March 1837.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you the following report, required by your circular of the 23d September last (No. 63), on the state of this district, the affairs of which I may confidently assert, as respects the charge I hold, assume a favourable and improving aspect, and although, as compared with the immediately preceding quarter, there may be found an increase in the number of complaints, yet that fact may be traced to causes not at all reflecting on the general body of that portion of the population referred to in this document, and the examination of the periodical reports in detail, which it has been my duty to transmit to your office, will show a decided improvement in the nature of the offence charged against the many, leaving it only to the few to draw on themselves punishments of severity.

Touching the existence of a mutual good feeling between the master and apprentice, I may observe, that a skilful and experienced manager feels no difficulty in its establishment; and the fact of the accomplishment of satisfactory arrangements for the performance of extra labour wherever they may have been proposed by the former, leads me to the conclusion, that were this system (as, also, that of task-work, both which are but partially adopted at present) more generally aimed at, no opposition would be offered by the apprentice to the terms which now produce them wages in their own time to an amount of from 2s. 6d. to 4s. 2d. per day, and from 2½d. to 5d. per hour, with the enjoyment of the old usual allowances.

Under these circumstances, no difficulty will be found in securing the coming crops, on which the long unprecedented prevalence of dry weather must have a disastrous effect in respect to sugar estates, whilst, should it still continue, great apprehensions are entertained that the coffee prospects, which are now highly satisfactory, may also considerably suffer.

The improvement in the general conduct of the apprentices has produced the natural consequence in a corresponding advancement of the state of cultivation, which, notwithstanding the extension of land so employed, is still satisfactorily carried on, as is also the working of the negro provision grounds, which are, without exception, in this district most assiduously cultivated, and thereby become sources of great profit, affording ample means to the apprentices to purchase their discharge; to effect which a considerable desire is entertained, though many are therefrom deterred by the high rate obtainable for their services as agricultural labourers. During this quarter four persons only have effected their discharge, and of these, the whole have devoted themselves to the cultivation of provision grounds, in which, having a direct interest, they display no ordinary degree of industry and exertion. Unhappily,



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pily, such praiseworthy example is not followed by the rising free population, who are still allowed most culpably by their parents to remain in a state of total idleness; that these habits of inactivity are encouraged by a determination on the part of the parent to prevent the child, in his ameliorated condition of freedom, from earning his subsistence by the sweat of his brow, I fear, admits of no doubt; and I likewise fear that endeavours other than those of the master (too often represented by managers with by far too circumscribed powers, and too transitory a connexion with those immediately under their charge to effect any moral improvement in the mass of the people, who look with great suspicion at overtures coming from a source capable of deriving any advantage from the step) must be adopted to secure the benefits of religious instruction, which, when tendered from that source, I have known on more than one occasion to be rejected; did not this feeling of suspicion exist, much progress might be made in this last all-important subject; whereas through its influence, and the local impediments to inter-communication presented in a mountainous district, but little increase has arisen in the ranks of those receiving the advantages of moral and religious improvement since I had last the honour of reporting on this subject.

The hours of labour generally adopted throughout this district are from six A. M. to six P. M. whereby the apprentice secures a relaxation during three hours in the middle of the day, though on coffee properties, the daily labour of nine hours ceases at four o'clock P. M. On only two properties is the eight hours system (or that under which the week's labour is equally apportioned through the first five days) still carried into effect, one by mutual arrangement, the apprentices receiving certain considerations as agreed on; the other contrary to the wishes of the apprentices; and I may in reference hereto observe, that not only on this last-mentioned property has arisen a far more than proportionate number of the complaints reported, but also that on all occasions the withholding of the half Friday from the apprentices has been the primary cause to which can be traced a great majority of the improprieties in their conduct.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. Sydney Lambert*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 10, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *Thomas Davies*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Highgate, St. Mary's, 1 April 1837.

Enclosure 10,  
in No. 575.

I BEG to send you, for submission to his Excellency the Governor, my quarterly report on the state of this district.

The conduct of the apprentices since my last return has been good.

There is not, generally, any particular want of good feeling between the apprentices and their employers.

The apprentices are performing their work without giving much trouble.

The working hours are generally from sun-rise to sun-set, with time allowed for breakfast and dinner; where liberal allowances are given, I think rather more work is given by the apprentices.

Task-work is not resorted to, it has never been the custom; but neither apprentice nor employer appears to have any objection to it.

The apprentices occasionally work for hire in their own time, and on estates generally during crop, each estate making a separate agreement, for which time they are paid in money.

Generally there are no indulgences withheld which were usual during slavery.

The free children are in a very bad condition; they are supported by their parents; I know of no instance of their being apprenticed.

There are no public schools, but most of the properties have a school. The attendance at church is quite equal to the accommodation.

There is a very general desire of the apprentices to purchase their discharge, and a more laudable one in purchasing their wives in preference to themselves, thereby adding to their domestic comforts; but valuations are too high.

Those who have obtained their discharge frequently go through the country selling small articles; others, such as are married, attend to the domestic concerns of their household. Twelve apprentices have purchased their discharge since last report.

The crop this year will be the same as last, and the cultivation of estates pretty good. The effective strength is falling off fast by death. By the apprentices purchasing themselves and the children, gangs will soon cease.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Thomas Davies*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 11, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *Henry Waddington*, Esq., Special Justice, to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Port Antonio, Portland, 31 March 1837.

Enclosure 11,  
in No. 575.

IN conformity to your Excellency's orders, I now have the honour to transmit answers to the series of questions contained in your circular, No. 63, and date 23 Sept. 1836.

1. The general conduct of the apprentices in this district has been orderly and good.

2. There is no want of good feeling between the apprentices and their employers.

3. Some

3. Some instances occur of deficiency of labour, but there is no apparent unwillingness to work.

4. On most properties nine hours, during which three hours are allowed for relaxation from labour, commencing at sun-rise.

5. Task-work is not generally resorted to, but a good understanding exists respecting the quantity of labour each should perform.

6. On some properties the apprentices work in their own time, and can earn from 3s. 4d. to 6s. 8d. a day.

7. No indulgence is withheld.

8. The condition of the free children is extremely to be lamented, passing their time in idleness, stealing canes, corn, fruit, &c., worrying hogs or goats, and destroying fences; many are of an age to do light work, but this their mothers invariably oppose.

9. There are schools, but not at all well attended. The parish church is too small; it is always crowded; a larger church is to be erected, and a chapel is nearly completed; there is also a Wesleyan chapel well attended.

10 and 11. There does not appear to be a general desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge; only two have done so since my report to the 31st December; many, to my knowledge, possess the means. Of the two above mentioned, one a woman, non-prædial, lives with her brother, a freeman; the other a male prædial supports himself by labour. Of former discharges, one man, a carpenter, is overseer of a small property; and another, an able man, earns a livelihood by fishing.

12. The prospects of the ensuing crop are very promising; the state of the cultivation is beautiful, and the seasons have been very fine.

13. I have nothing particular to suggest. I have further to observe that, in this part of Jamaica, the system is working admirably, more so than the most sanguine expectation could have imagined.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Waddington*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 12, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *William Ramsay*, Esq., Special Justice, to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Spanish Town, 31 March 1837.

Enclosure 12,  
in No. 575.

WITH my monthly returns I beg to forward to your Excellency my general report for the quarter ending at this date.

1. I have to inform your Excellency that the apprentices in my district have, generally speaking, conducted themselves well.

2. Wherever a want of good feeling exists between the apprentice and his employer, I regret to be obliged to attribute it to the want of good faith on the part of the latter, producing suspicion in the mind of the former.

3. The apprentices can hardly be expected to work cheerfully for their employers, as their grievances are not attended to, the infirmities of the old receive no consideration, the allowances they were accustomed to receive during slavery are altogether withheld, or made to form question of litigation before the special justice, and when, from dry weather or other causes, their grounds are rendered unproductive, they are prohibited from cutting wood and grass to supply that deficiency.

4. The apprentices in my district work what is termed the nine hours system, allowing an interval of one hour for breakfast, by which they gain every alternate Friday.

5. I am not aware that task-work is resorted to on any property in my district; it is strictly prohibited by the 51st clause of the Abolition Law, unless sanctioned by a special justice, and I have not been required to give my assent to such a mode of working.

6. There is only one property in my district which offers the apprentice the opportunity of working for money-wages, it is the pen called Great Salt Ponds, under the management of a Mr. Edward Leeson; on that property the apprentices have, by cutting wood in their extra hours during the week, and on Fridays, received as much as from 8s. to 15s. sterling, exclusive of the Saturday, to go to market; a convincing proof that they do and will work cheerfully for their own benefit.

7. I have already stated that indulgences are withheld; no property gives a weekly allowance of salted fish, sugar or rum, or of oatmeal and flour to the sick in hospital. The mothers of six children are not exempted from labour, and do not receive a weekly or daily allowance, according to their respective cases, of rice, sugar, &c. Where cooks are allowed to prepare the labourers' meals, additional labour is exacted for the accommodation.

8. The free children are supported by their parents; I observe no sympathy for them, or interest in their welfare; and whenever a mother neglects her work to attend to the imperative calls of her free infant, it forms matter of complaint before me. I had several complaints of this nature during the prevalence of the measles.

9. My district affords facility for education and religious instruction, and all the places of worship are crowded on Sunday, but they are not adequate to the population.

10. There is a great desire on the part of the apprentices to purchase their discharge when the appraised value comes within their means; I have had four appraisements since my last report.

521.

11. Instances

JAMAICA.

11. Instances have occurred within my knowledge where, after obtaining his discharge, the free labourer has quitted his former master, under whom he was not contented, and at present cultivates the soil for other proprietors.

12. The drought will, I fear, in a great measure destroy the prospect of the crop. The apprentices complain of the state of their grounds from the want of seasons, and they appear to dread the want of food; my attention is now frequently called by them to the difficulties which are thrown in the way of their cutting grass and wood on those properties which profess to allow them this mode of assisting themselves when their provisions fail; and I regret to be obliged to state, that it appears to me, as the time of freedom draws nearer, the apprentices are less conciliated, although a contrary course ought, in common sense, to be adopted.

13. I recommend that the women be all released from their apprenticeship in August 1838, as the only chance of raising the free black infants; that the general magistrates be restrained in their authority over apprentices committed to the house of correction by special justices, as I have represented abuses committed by them; and lastly, that the eight hours system be altogether abandoned, as it fritters away the time of the apprentices, and precludes their enjoying any half Friday.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *William Ramsay*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 13, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *George Ouseley Higgins*, Esq., to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Spanish Town, 2 April 1837.

It affords me great pleasure to be able to state to you, for his Excellency's information, that the conduct during the last quarter of the apprenticed labourers throughout this district has been most satisfactory, no alteration having taken place in their behaviour since I had the honour to forward my report, on the same subject, of the 9th January.

On the greater number of estates in the district during the last three months, I have had scarcely one complaint, and on those on which there have been complaints, none were of a serious nature.

The apprentices work extra time cheerfully when required to do so, and at moderate rates; and I am not aware of any property where they have refused to do so.

The crop has commenced throughout the district, and will, I think, present a very gratifying return. The prospects, also, for next year are as flattering as can reasonably be expected.

Whilst I am able thus to bear testimony to the general good conduct of the negroes, I have much satisfaction, also, in having it in my power to commend the proprietors and managers generally, for conducting themselves towards their apprentices in a kinder and more conciliatory manner. Some of the subordinate planters, it is true, still cling to the old system, and cannot divest themselves of their former prejudices towards the negroes; they at present, however, I am happy to say, compose but a small section of the general body of planters of this district.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Geo. Ouseley Higgins*.

## Enclosure 14, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *Thomas M. Oliver*, Esq., Special Justice, to *Richard Hill*, Esq.

Sir,

Hertford, 31 March 1837.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting my return, for the information of his Excellency the Governor; at the same time to report that every thing in the district appears to be well conducted, both as to the management of the estates and the kind treatment of the apprentices, who, generally speaking, conduct themselves very well; the dry state of the weather is somewhat against the present young plant, though favourable for the taking off the remainder of the crop, which is considered rather good, and, provided we shortly get seasonable rain, there is every appearance of an average crop next year.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Thomas M. Oliver*, Special Justice.

## ANSWERS to the 13 Questions.

1. Good.
2. None whatever that I am acquainted with.
3. Generally speaking, they do.
4. Usually nine hours, allowing one for breakfast, and two for dinner-time.
5. On some estates they work task by the wish of the apprentices.
6. On many and most estates they work for hire, if required, at the rate of 2s. 6d. and 3s. 4d. per diem.
7. I am not aware of any, not having any complaint made.

8. Good

Enclosure 13,  
in No. 575.Enclosure 14,  
in No. 575.

8. Good ; on some properties they receive the same allowances and medical attendance as heretofore.

9. Maning's free school, Rev. D. Fidler :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
On the foundation - - - - -	55	40	95
Not on the foundation - - - - -	64	31	95
School at parish church, open Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday ; James Campbell catechist - -	56	69	125
At Carrowena estate, James Shepperd - - -	93	69	241
Adults - - - - -	75	4	
Shepperd's private school - - - - -	16	7	23
Mesopotamia estate, newly opened.			

10. Not so many as formerly ; only one since last report.

11. Principally domestics.

12. The general appearance is good, also cultivation ; and the season remarkably fine for the taking off the crop.

13. None.

(signed) *Thomas M. Oliver*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 15, in No. 575.

Copy of a LETTER from *Daniel W. Kelly*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Parish of Westmoreland, Mt. Edgecombe Pen,  
Robin's River, P. O., 31 March 1837.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that, since my last quarterly return, the apprentices in this district have in most places been conducting themselves well, and are at present giving much satisfaction to their several employers.

Enclosure 15,  
in No. 575.

In general, the working hours are nine per day, the apprentice getting the usual time for breakfast and dinner. On some sugar properties the apprentices work in spells, eight hours each.

I am of opinion that the apprentices are every day getting more inclined to work for hire ; the general rate of hire is from 1 s. 8 d. to 3 s. 4 d. and 2 s. 6 d. per day.

On most properties the apprentices receive the same indulgences as formerly, such as fish, salt and grass for their stocks.

With regard to the free children, I think most of them are brought up in idleness ; this, perhaps, is much to be attributed to the limited means of receiving instruction. The principal school in this district is established at Hopeton Pen, Mr. Scott proprietor.

The accommodation at the several churches is not at all equal to the attendance.

There is not such a desire now on the part of the apprentices to purchase their freedom as some months ago ; those who have obtained their freedom in general either hire themselves, or purchase grounds to work on.

The prospects for the ensuing crops are very favourable, and on the sugar estates in this district there will be an increase of produce from the last returns ; the season has been very favourable for the taking off the present crops.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Daniel W. Kelly*, Special Magistrate.

Enclosure 16, in No. 575.

Copy of a LETTER from *E. D. Philp*, Esq., Special Justice, to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Westmoreland, 4 April 1837.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting for your Excellency's information, in reply to the several questions from No. 1 to 13, as required by your Excellency :

Enclosure 16,  
in No. 575.

1. Good.
2. I know of none.
3. They work willingly and cheerfully.
4. The nine hours system, allowing one hour for breakfast and two for dinner.
5. Frequent, and encouraged generally by their masters.
6. Usual, the apprentices receiving at the rate of 2 s. 1 d. to 3 s. 9 d. per diem.
7. I am not aware of any.
8. On almost all the estates they are supplied as before, and medical attendance found them.
9. Four schools, and as many places for divine worship.
10. Yes, seventeen.
11. I know not.
12. Good ; cultivation good ; season dry.
13. None.

I have, &c.

(signed) *E. D. Philp*, Special Justice.

JAMAICA.

## Enclosure 17, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *W. Bedford*, Esq.Enclosure 17,  
in No. 575.

Sir,

Fair Prospect, St. David's, 22 Jan. 1837.

I HAVE the honour to forward the duplicate of my reports.

It is with pleasure I have the honour to inform you, that the conduct of the apprentices, particularly on the sugar estates, has much improved since my last report, and that arrangements have been generally entered into between the masters and apprentices for taking off the ensuing sugar crop.

The working hours on the coffee properties is generally the nine hours system, with an interval of one hour for breakfast; on the sugar estates the apprentices generally work by agreement.

The apprentices do not generally work in their own time for hire.

The condition of the free children in the mountains is not generally good; the parents show an indisposition to send them to school; it is much better on the sugar estates.

I believe the allowances served to the apprentices in the mountains are not the same as formerly on some properties; on the sugar estates it is a matter of agreement between the masters and themselves.

No apprentices have purchased their discharge since my last report.

The coffee crop in this district, I believe, will be short; sugar crop will be as good or better than last year.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *W. Bedford*.

## Enclosure 18, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *Geo. Gordon*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.Enclosure 18,  
in No. 575.

Sir,

Clarendon, Upper District, 4 April 1837.

It is with much gratification that I am again enabled to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, of the orderly and continued good conduct of the labouring population in this district, an excellent understanding continues to exist between them and their employers.

The crops are far advanced, but they will, I am sorry to say, be very much curtailed from the effects of the late severe drought.

The eight hours system is at present universally adopted on estates (being crop-time), and extra labour is paid for at the rate of 10*d.* for every eight hours, with all the usual indulgences of former times, which, I am happy to say, in this district have never been withheld.

I regret being unable to report favourably of the moral condition of the free children; this evil is greatly to be attributed to the carelessness and indifference shown by the parents. There appears to be no great desire on the part of the apprentices to purchase their discharge, as only one valuation has taken place since my report. I have no suggestion or any practical measure at present to recommend.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Geo. Gordon*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 19, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *James Kennet Dawson*, Esq. Stipendiary Special Justice.Enclosure 19,  
in No. 575.

Sir,

Clarendon, 3 April 1837.

It is with the highest satisfaction I have the honour to report, that the conduct of the apprentices in this district has greatly improved, and that a mutual good feeling between them and their managers is nearly re-established. The natural consequence is, that the estate's labour is performed more cheerfully; there has been no alteration in the working hours, or in the time allotted for relaxation.

Task-work is more general, which has caused a great diminution of complaints, and is found beneficial to all parties. It is worthy of remark, that there is not a single apprentice attached to this district now undergoing punishment in any house of correction; nor has there been occasion to make use of corporal punishment during the last month. I am sorry to add, that the stealing of horses and produce, the killing of cattle and sheep, is very prevalent.

The tradesmen on sugar estates, as well as those on coffee plantations, work for wages, and are paid in money at the rate of 2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 2*d.* per day. It is not usual for field labourers to work for hire in their own time, except in cleaning coffee, as stated in my last report.

None of the former indulgences have been withheld.

The condition of the free children is deplorable, and they are supported partly by plunder, and partly at the expense of the estates.

No additional facilities have been afforded for religious and moral instruction. There is a much greater desire on the part of the apprentices to purchase their discharge, nine having done so during the last three months. This is much retarded by the apprentices demanding high wages when employed in their own time, which causes the proprietors to value them at a similar

a similar rate, and brings the valuation frequently to an enormous sum; as the law now stands, there is no remedy for the evil, and evil it is of the greatest magnitude, and will tend greatly, if not checked, to prevent the cultivation of properties after the term of the apprenticeship.

I would therefore suggest, that an enactment be passed, forming a scale of wages according to the several employments of each labourer; and that it be imperative upon the magistrates to deduct one-third or more for contingencies, according to the age and health of the apprentice. The special magistrate has no power at present, should he consider the valuation given by witnesses exorbitant, to diminish the amount, and the apprentice, not being able to come forward with the money, is left without remedy.

Another suggestion I would make is, that some alteration be made in the 49th clause of the Abolition Act, which does not give jurisdiction to the special magistrates of punishing, in a summary manner, any other than the person entitled to the service of the apprenticed labourer for any wrong or injury done, although the 42d clause gives the power to other than the master to seek redress against the apprentice to whose services he is not entitled.

It is impossible, at this early part of the season, to form an accurate idea of the prospects for next year's sugar crop; but those for the coffee are very flattering.

Owing to the long drought, and the apprentices greatly neglecting their grounds, there is every expectation that a general scarcity of provisions will ensue in this district.

(signed) *James Kennet Dawson*, Stipendiary Special Justice.

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Enclosure 20, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *Philip O'Reilly*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Chapelton, Clarendon, 3 April 1837.

I BEG leave to state, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that the short period I have held the commission precludes the possibility of my giving any accurate information on the state of my district. I may, however, observe, that the general conduct of the apprentices appears quiet and orderly, with the exception of one or two estates, on which a misunderstanding seems to exist, and for which I cannot at present account; but I beg leave to assure his Excellency, that no endeavours on my part shall be wanting to restore confidence and good feeling between master and apprentice.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Philip O'Reilly*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 20,  
in No. 575.

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Enclosure 21, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *C. Hawkins*, Esq., Special Justice.

Sir,

Aberdeen, Rio Bueno, P. O., 31 March 1837.

IN compliance with his Excellency's circular of the 23d September, (No. 63), directing the special magistrates to send a quarterly report of the state of their districts, I herewith enclose for his Excellency the answers to the questions as ordered.

1. The general conduct of the apprentices in my district since my last report is, that they are conducting themselves peaceably, orderly and quietly.

2. The feeling that exists between master and apprentice is kind, considerate and attentive on the part of the master, and obedient on the part of the apprentice.

3. The apprentices are working willingly in taking off the crop, and on all the estates they are working for hire in their extra hours; on several estates they are making from 14 to 16 hogsheads per week, and of a very fine quality.

4. The hours for working in my district is the nine hours system out of crop, but in crop they generally work the eight hours in the mill and boiling-house, and paid for their extra hours; the cane-cutters are paid for their Fridays, at the rate of 2s. 6d. first gang, and 1s. 8d. second.

5. Task-work is only made use of in crop-time, and when the apprentices are called up before the special magistrate to ascertain if they agree to the terms offered. In digging cane-holes, a quantity is given for the sum mentioned; they prefer having task-work, which is often accomplished by one or two o'clock in the day; the masters wish to pay the watchmen for watching by night, instead of giving them days in lieu, and the generality of them take money.

6. The apprentices in this district are most anxious to work for hire, with the exception of Braco estate, which was reported to me on my arrival as the worst disposed in the parish, and I am sorry to say that they still remain so. I have, in conjunction with George Marrett, esq., the attorney, tried every means to bring them into a different manner of conduct with but little effect. The wages given for hire in extra time is, viz. head people 2s. 6d., mill-house and boiling-house, 1s. 8d., cane-carriers 1s. 8d., green trash carriers 1s. 8d., dry trash carriers 1s. 3d., boy 10d., and the cane-cutters in the field 2s. 6d., for their Friday; the apprentices work alternate Fridays for their master during crop.

7. Indulgences are not withheld in general; and on those estates which have done so, the work is not so cheerfully done as on those who still give the same allowance as formerly,

## JAMAICA.

when slaves; on the estates of Messrs. Marrett and Miller the old allowance has been continued, and the free children received last Christmas the same allowance as the young apprentices did; and I have great pleasure in mentioning, that those gentlemen's estates are making excellent weeks' work, with but few complaints; I consider that stopping their old allowance of salt fish is most injurious to those estates who have so done, and the people do not work with the same energy.

8. The condition of the free children is very bad, their parents not bringing them to any kind of industry; nor will they place them out so as they may be maintained, but employ them in attending on themselves; and in case of sickness, were it not for the kindness of their former masters, in allowing them into the hot-houses, and the medical gentlemen attending them (although not paid), a dreadful mortality must ensue; and seldom can the mothers be got to repay the days allowed them while nursing their free children after they are recovered.

9. There is a branch school at Rio Bueno, and I have been informed by the Honourable W. Frater that a schoolmaster has arrived from Kingston to take charge of it. There are about 40 young children under tuition, but at present it is in want of books, &c., which I understand has been applied for to the Lord Bishop; no other of any consequence is in my district at present. G. Marrett, esq. intends having a school near the church now erecting on Swanswick estate as soon as possible, the place being central; I trust it will be a benefit to all classes, and one much wanted in the Windward district of this parish. The attendance at church and places of divine worship by the apprentices in my district is most exemplary; and as soon as the present church and chapels are finished, there will be ample accommodation for all and every denomination of religious worship.

10. I have not had of late so many applications from apprentices to purchase their discharge as formerly. None have paid their valuations since my last return.

11. I have not been enabled to ascertain exactly how those apprentices employ themselves after receiving their discharge from servitude. Some that have remained on the estates they formerly belonged to, are hired at liberal wages, and are doing extremely well.

12. The prospect of the present crop, I rather think, will be short, which can only be attributed to the excessive dry weather we have had for these last two months, with the exception of some rain last week, and which did but little good, the weather setting in again dry. The canes are very dry, and the grass-pieces completely burnt up, and on several properties little or no water for the cattle; that it was impossible to stop cutting canes to enable them to feed their cattle. There is a large field in for the next year, but the drought has been most injurious to the young plant; had the seasons been at all favourable, I have no doubt but an average crop of last year would have been taken off.

13. I should recommend that the parents of the free children be compelled to bring them up in habits of industry.

(signed) C. Hawkins, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 22, in No. 575.

Copy of a LETTER from S. Pryce, Esq., Special Justice, to C. H. Darling, Esq.

Sir,

Trelawny, Jamaica, 31 March 1837.

Enclosure 22,  
in No 575.

In conformity with the instructions of his Excellency the Governor, I have the honour to report that this district continues to remain tranquil and orderly.

The apprentices generally are doing their duty every where, I believe, very satisfactorily, and working extra time cheerfully in crop for a reasonable monetary hire; and I am happy to report that the mills are all about, and that the manufacture of sugar is going on very satisfactorily on every estate (35) in this district.

The produce is of a very superior quality; but there is a falling off in the planter's estimates, arising from the extreme drought and a series of dry years in Trelawny, which requires a great deal of moisture to ensure good returns.

In consequence of the want of seasons, this and the next year's crops will suffer considerably, notwithstanding the manifest increased exertions of all parties.

There is almost a total absence of complaints against the managers, and but few this quarter against the apprentices. On only two estates, Lansguenet and Peru, have the apprentices been a little disorderly, but were soon brought to a sense of their duty, and are now going on well.

Amongst themselves there are numerous complaints from private quarrels, petty thefts, and the plunder of each other's provision grounds; and I respectfully submit to his Excellency the Governor the expediency of a more implicit law for the protection of the mountain grounds of the apprentices, which, in this parish, though abundant in quantity and quality, are, in most instances, very distant from the estates.

Assuring his Excellency of my undiminished exertions for the welfare of the apprentices and the district,

I have, &c.  
(signed) S. Pryce, Special Justice.

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Enclosure

## Enclosure 23, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *Joseph Rawlins Thomas, Esq.*, Special Justice, to  
*C. H. Darling, Esq.*

Sir,

Falmouth, Trelawny, 4 April 1837.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, according to the instructions of his Excellency the Governor, my quarterly and monthly returns, ending 31st March, last month; and I sincerely hope each document will meet his Excellency's expectations and wishes.

It affords me considerable satisfaction and gratification, the power of reporting most favourably to his Excellency the Governor, the continued and uninterrupted good conduct of the apprentices delegated to my charge in the Falmouth district; also, that the most cordial feeling continues to discover itself between the apprentice and his employer; the labourer performing his work willingly, though requiring the superintendence, at all moments, of the employer's eye or that of his deputy, and this owing to the innate propensity of the negro to laziness. The working hours generally observed—I may say universally—in this district are in the nine hour system in the field; relaxation from labour being half an hour for breakfast and one hour for dinner. At the works, some estates work the spell; but on the same system, nine hours' task-work are frequently resorted to in this district, and where not, the objection is, most unreasonably, on the part of the apprentice. Money-wages are generally, very generally, sought after by the apprentices, the average of which is  $2\frac{1}{2}d.$  per hour to the great gang (I had men receiving perquisites additional), and  $2d.$  to the second gang per hour.

In justice, in common justice, to the proprietor and every his representative on the estates within the Falmouth district, I am bound to say that the staple indulgences usually allowed during slavery are still freely dispensed, and when circumscribed, the cause is the absolute poverty of the property. Of the condition of the free children, I hear no moving representation about them; and they still continue under the fostering care of the property to which their parents are attached. This town and district generally afford ample facilities for education and religious instruction, and the accommodation at church and in the schools is equal to the congregation at either, so far as my means of observation and general report admit me to decide. There certainly appears an increasing desire among the apprentices to purchase the remaining term of their apprenticeship, particularly among the class of non-prædials. The number of valuations since my last report for month of February have been 17, discharges 10. The apprentices thus manumitting themselves betake to their accustomed trade, having articulated themselves to fresh masters, who have afforded them the means of paying the amount of valuation. The prospect of the ensuing crop, I am sorry to say, is most sombre, owing to the long serious drought, which will cause a full falling off of one-third, compared with the short crop of last year; the produce, however, is universally of the very best quality. Cultivation has throughout been ahead, and considerably so of the last year; and seasons have been alone wanting to grant a splendid and most abundant return from the soil.

Deeply and sincerely interested as I profess myself, and do most religiously feel, in the well, most successful working and result of this portentous measure of projected emancipation, I would only venture to suggest universal and unerring enforcement of that law which is intended to secure the rights of the master and apprentice. I would recommend (with the utmost most humble deference and respect to that law and the framers of it) only one or two points, namely, the competent, indefatigable master of the soil, superintendent of every minutæ of work on the estate under his charge, encouraging, by observance, the good and deserving apprentice in the fullest extent; 2dly, the marked support of the faithful and exemplary constable and head man; 3dly, uniform unflinching discipline with the ungrateful and lawless apprentice, against that code which is framed for his present, and intended for his future, happiness and welfare.

In so long a communication, and touching a subject which I can only say occupies no less than my most sacred thoughts and feelings, I am sure many errors, in various ways, must discover themselves, and I must pray his Excellency's excuse for them.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Joseph Rawlins Thomas, Special Justice.*

## Enclosure 24, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *Edmund B. Lyon, Esq.*, Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling, Esq.*

Blue Mountain District, St. Thomas in the East,  
25 March 1837.

Sir,

FROM the commencement of the apprenticeship I have been anxiously and unremittingly watching the development and the beneficial progress of freedom. In superintending the administration of the Abolition Law in this district, during a period of more than two years and a half, I have had the gratification in each quarter to report favourably of the conduct of the apprentices, to speak well of the condition of the estates, and, in announcing that crime had decreased, to represent that the decorum of social life was daily being better understood and observed by the labouring population, and that the example of those who were released by purchase from their apprenticeship was likely to have a beneficial influence upon the habits and feelings of the remaining bond-servants.

Enclosure 24,  
in No. 575.

On



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On this, the last opportunity afforded me of reporting the state of this district, and the condition of the peasantry (my services being transferred by his Excellency's command to a distant part of the island), I am happy that I am enabled to repeat what on so many occasions I have had the pleasing satisfaction of detailing by a reference to facts; that the conduct of the apprentices and the condition of the plantations continue satisfactory, the number of offences against the provisions of the Abolition Act having diminished to a degree hardly possible to admit of further reduction. The few cases that do occur are chiefly of the most trifling description, and such as happen among agrarian labourers in the most favoured nation of the world.

I confidently hope that the habits of industry and decorum, which have conduced to so favourable a state of things among the working classes of this district, founded as they are upon an increase of religious knowledge, are too firmly rooted to admit of the possibility of disorganization or rupture; and that they with whom, and for whom, I have so long and so anxiously laboured may live to enjoy, and by their conduct to promote, a happy and prosperous condition of society on the termination of the apprenticeship in 1840.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Edmund B. Lyon*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 25, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *D. Ewart*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Morant Bay, 12 April 1837.

Enclosure 25,  
in No. 575.

IN my last quarterly report I had the satisfaction to transmit a favourable account of the conduct of the apprentices, and of the good feeling which prevailed between them and their employers. In this report I have nothing to add which could further illustrate the topics on which I have already reported.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *D. Ewart*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 26, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *Thomas J. Baines*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Retreat, St. Thomas in the East,

Port Morant and Rocky Point District, 1 April 1837.

Enclosure 26,  
in No. 575.

IN making my quarterly report for the information of his Excellency the Governor, I have nothing of moment to communicate. My district remains in nearly the same state as when I had last the honour of making my periodical report. The crops are being taken off without any difficulty, and a mutual good understanding exists between the master and the apprentice, as is evinced by my not having been called upon to sanction any agreement between the parties; last year every estate was bound under a written agreement signed by the special justice. Religious instruction remains in the same state, and I again beg to express my hope that a place of worship might be erected at Port Morant; it would be of infinite advantage to the apprentices and the established church. The long dry weather has much injured the canes and plants, which it is feared will make the exports this year and next short. Cattle have also suffered from the same cause. I have taken the first necessary step according to the Classification Act, and hope to finish my labours this month. Crime is much the same as in my last report. Runaways, and injury to the properties from neglect of duty on the part of watchmen and cattle men, are the principal cases brought for adjudication. A steam-engine is coming out to this estate (Retreat), which evinces confidence. I find no great wish in this district to purchase the remaining period of the apprenticeship term.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Thos. J. Baines*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 27, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Chamberlaine*, jun., Esq., Special Justice, to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

St. Thomas in the East, Manchineal District,

10 January 1837.

Enclosure 27,  
in No. 575.

So little time has elapsed since my removal from Clarendon, that the present report will not embrace that particular information respecting the working of the apprenticeship in this district, which is only to be acquired by experience and observation.

As far as time and opportunities have permitted me to judge, the apprentices of Manchineal are in general well conducted, but there does not seem to exist much confidence between master and labourer; the distrust and suspicion of the latter, and strong prejudices of the former (engendered by slavery), it will require the soothing hand of time thoroughly to eradicate. I grieve to state, however, that the improvement in the feelings and habits of the employers is not so proportioned to the alteration of the times as might have been expected. It is difficult to efface the recollection of their former undisputed power, and extensive exercise of authority; hence the magistrate has innumerable obstacles to contend with whilst engaged in the faithful performance of his duties.

The

The Abolition Act being every day better understood by the apprentices, and finding that industry is strictly enjoined, and that exemption from labour forms no part of its concessions, their work is willingly and cheerfully performed. It is no uncommon circumstance for apprentices to offer, voluntarily, to make up deficiency of work rather than be taken before the magistrate, where they have been reasonably convinced by their employers that a fair proportion has not been performed.

The alacrity and industry with which the apprentice labours for himself in his own time, and when less exertion would suffice for his sustenance (if not burthened with the support of a family) speaks favourably for his future industrious employment. In this district they work willingly for hire in their own time, and are by no means unreasonable in the wages demanded. They are employed on the estates, with one or two exceptions, five days of the week all through the year, for the benefit of the proprietors, and are engaged at work during crop-time (a very irregular season in this district) between 50 and 60 hours per week; on other occasions not less than 45 hours per week; for this they receive the "usual indulgences" of slavery, viz. salt food, &c. They have of late evinced a disinclination to resume this agreement on several estates; my own opinion is, that the equivalent is quite inadequate to the sacrifice of time made by the labourers.

The state of the free children is very lamentable; the parents support themselves and children with but one day's labour per week (all the spare time they have, except the hours of relaxation from work). It is deplorable to relate that, with a population of nearly 5,000 apprentices, there is not a single school for the education of the free children in the district of Manchioneal.

Sanguine expectations are entertained of a good crop; the general state of cultivation is forward and promising, and the seasons have been favourable for the agricultural interests.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. Chamberlaine, jun.,* Special Justice.

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Enclosure 28, in No. 575.

Copy of a LETTER from *R. Chamberlaine, jun., Esq.,* Special Justice, to *Richard Hill, Esq.*

Sir,

Manchioneal, St. Thomas in the East, April 1837.

I REGRET that a more intimate acquaintance with the working of the apprenticeship in this district does not enable me to send forward a favourable report of the system pursued by those to whom, in a great degree, is confided the direction of this magnificent measure, and upon whose skilful and liberal management mainly depends its successful operation.

One of the great errors into which the gentry of the country have fallen is the preposterous idea that this probationary state was established for the exclusive advantage of the proprietary, and as part of the ransom for the emancipation of the slaves; its paramount importance as a preparatory system for elevating the former serf, and instructing him in moral duties, and in the obligations of freedom, has been rendered of secondary consideration. The sole object of the master's deliberations is the increase of his crops, and the furtherance of his pecuniary resources. The moral or intellectual welfare of the people, chiefly intended to be benefited by the abolition of slavery, must give way to this selfish consideration. The special magistrate can expect to succeed with, and receive co-operation from, the master, only when he renders himself an object of terror to the apprentices; any manifestations of confidence in his impartial administration on the part of the people subjects him to the clamorous opposition and abuse of the managers. The feelings of these do not keep pace with the improved and improving aspect of society. Hitherto accustomed to manage by fear and coercion, it is difficult to reason them into the belief, that, according to the known constitution of man, the greatest security consists in attaching him by conciliation and regard. The honourable few who adopt this wise mode of management derive present advantage in the quiet and industry of their people, and will reap the greater benefit of securing their services in the cultivation of their estates under unrestricted freedom. Most of the present managers required themselves an apprenticeship to prepare them for the management of freemen.

The "indulgences of slavery," such allowances as were considered necessary to assist in the support of the slaves, those they had been accustomed to receive from time immemorial, which universal custom had sanctioned as a necessary maintenance, and to which the people conceived they had a prescriptive right, were on most properties withdrawn, unless the apprentice consented to give up, in return for their continuance, an exorbitant portion of the additional time granted by the Abolition Act. This they could ill afford to do, from the maintenance of all their children under six years of age, on the 1st of August 1834, being thrown on them, and the increased wants which an improved condition called into existence. The extent to which this payment in labour has been demanded will be made manifest when I state, that in too many instances is charged, as a set-off, the time lost to the master's service by a parent while engaged in performing the natural obligations she owes to her infant, or in ministering to the necessities of her sick children.

The system pursued in this district heretofore in this respect was intolerable. The accompanying scale of comparative advantages will show that this description is not exaggerated; that if, to enable the mothers of children to do as much work as those differently circumstanced, a nurse was allowed to attend on the infants during the performance of field labour, the apprentices generally were required to sacrifice a portion of their time in return for this indulgence.

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indulgence. Such practices cannot be in accordance with the spirit of the Abolition Act, which was intended to ameliorate the condition and extend the liberty of the subject. If the apprentice's feelings as a man prompts him to resist, by word or deed, these tyrannical invasions on his common rights, he is accused of insubordination and rebellion, and the district in which the magistrate refuses to sanction the perpetration of these or similar outrages is declared to be in a state of confusion and anarchy. To tolerate such a system would be to render the apprenticeship superior to slavery, only in the respect of punishment being taken out of the hands of the capricious manager.

Difficult as it comes on the parents to support their children, they have, in few or no instances, acceded to the terms of the master to assist them in consideration of a return in labour, either on the part of the parents, or of those children old enough to perform certain portions of the duties of plantations. This disinclination proceeds from distrust and suspicion, the indulgences of slavery being continued at a heavy cost to the apprentice. The time in which a parent is occupied in performing natural and indispensable duties being required to be paid for in extra labour, the apprentice naturally conceives that all propositions of this kind emanating from the manager are dictated by motives of personal advantage. It would be a hard matter to convince him that they are the result of disinterested kindness, or are based on equitable principles.

It is a subject for congratulation that the people will work for wages in any extra time they may have beyond what is necessary for the cultivation of their grounds.

In this populous district, except the limited assistance received from the missionaries, there is not one establishment for the instruction of the apprentices; those enjoying the advantage of this assistance make a wonderful proficiency, and are generally the best-conducted people. Since my appointment to this district, none such have been charged with offences requiring punishment, nor has one apprentice from Manchioneal been sent to the superior courts.

The precarious nature of slavery, its existence being held together by ties at variance with the first principles of civil polity, renders it at all times a dangerous and uncertain institution. One of the great advantages of its abolition in these islands is already manifest in the great increase in the value of property within the last few years. With all the facilities which these mountains afford for the perpetration of unlawful designs, travelling by day or night is done with the most perfect security, and it is a rare occurrence to hear of acts of lawless aggression or violence.

The great respect which the apprentices evince for law, and the influence which it has over him, augur favourably; they manifest an anxiety to be informed on their legal obligations, and study to regulate their conduct in conformity therewith. The intelligent man who displays this feeling, is necessarily obnoxious to the employer, and the acme of an apprentice's delinquencies consists in being a "lawyer."

It is reduced to an axiom, that the women have always been the most turbulent and refractory; the substitution of the tread-wheel and solitary confinement for corporal punishment has been attended with the most beneficial results; the abolition of this latter punishment in the case of males must be attended with similar success. My own experience confirms me in its inutility; the other modes of punishment are more efficacious, because attended with less permanent degradation, and consequent despondency and recklessness.

The oppressive system of locking up sick persons in the hospitals on estates is generally resorted to in this district; any remonstrance with the managers against this unjust procedure produces the reply, that it is a sanatory restraint desired by the medical attendants. It is little less than an unnecessary and unjust confinement of persons whose diseases or infirmities entitle them to far different and more lenient consideration.

For the credit of the apprentices of this district, I cannot help repeating, that not one of them has been sent to the superior courts since my administration; the offences are chiefly of a venial nature, and occur in all human societies.

The condition of jobbing gangs alluded to in the Abolition Act as "unattached prædials," is in general hard and miserable, required frequently to work at a distance from home; they are compulsory wanderers, deriving time scarcely sufficient to support their physical necessities. The Saturday is employed in cultivating and collecting provisions for the sustenance of themselves and children for the first five days of the week, during which they are worked at a distance from their homes; they are strangers to domestic comforts, and theirs is only the life of mechanical drudges.

A long drought has retarded the progress of the manufacture of sugar in this district, and few plants have been established for the ensuing crops. The returns from this quarter for the present year will be better than the last.

I cannot conclude this report without alluding to the condition of the infirm and aged people who will become free as non-prædials in 1838; worn out in the service of their masters, they have not been enabled to lay by a competency to support them in the winter of their days; they will be rendered homeless, and their situation forces itself on the humane consideration of the Government. Some legislative provision must be made for these people, many of whom are helpless, and no longer able to toil for their support, and cannot be reduced to the precarious alternative of seeking eleemosynary aid.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. Chamberlaine, jun.*, Special Justice.

MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM of EXTRA ALLOWANCE formerly granted to SLAVES, say to a Gang of 100; with a comparative view of Labour which ought to be returned, if continued, to Apprentices and Free Children under Six Years of Age; say to—

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
34 barrels herrings, at 33 s. currency	56	13	4	By the hire of 35 able people for 52 half days, once a week, or 26 whole days, at 1s. 8d. - - }	73	-	-
100 gallons rum - 3s. - -	15	-	-				
10 cwt. sugar - - 30s. - -	15	-	-	By the hire of 20 second class ditto, at 10d. - - - - - }	20	16	8
Extra allowance of Osnaburghs to 12 head people, domestics, &c. 72 yards, at 10d. - - - }	3	-	-				
Half a dozen head people's hats -	4	-	-	By the hire of 12 grass gang and cutters, at 5d. - - - }	6	5	-
25 yards check - - - - -	1	12	-				
Four great coats or coatees - -	5	-	-	SUPPOSED NUMBER AT WORK.			
100 caps - - - - -	7	5	-	By hire of 13 able people for mill and boiling-house, from four o'clock A. M. till eight P. M., seven extra hours a day for five months, or 20 weeks of five days, is 700 hours, or 77 1/2 days of nine hours, at 1s. 8d. - - }	84	-	-
One tierce fine salt - - - - -	2	10	-				
One puncheon oatmeal - - - -	12	-	-	By hire of three dry trash carriers, and one child cleaning the mill-bed for the same time, at 10d. - }	13	-	-
Medical attendance on 12 infants, supposed number under six years of age, at 5s. - - - - - }	3	-	-				
Clothing for same - - - - -	7	13	4	By balance in favour of the negroes	2	8	8
231 days of a nurse sitting down in field attending infants - - - }	19	15	-				
Probability of 12 infants being sick, one for 100 days, and mother attending, at 1s. 8d. - - - }	8	6	8	N. B.—Boiler-men and distillers, who work continually, to be paid extra.			
Two hogsheads fish, one at crop over, and one at Christmas - }	27	-	-				
Two dozen port wine - - - - -	3	15	-				
Hot liquor from coppers, and canes from mill, to one-third hogshead of sugar at least - - - }	8	-	-				
	£.	199	10 4		£.	199	10 4

Enclosure 20, in No. 575.

Copy of a LETTER from C. Hamilton, Esq., Special Justice, to C. H. Darling, Esq.

Sir,

Gardens, Port Royal District, 8 April 1837.

In reporting upon the state of my district during the quarter ending 31st ultimo, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, it is exceedingly gratifying to my feelings in stating that which the most sceptical would not attempt a denial of, as to the fact of the continued good working of the system. The apprentices, as far as I can judge of their general conduct and that of their managers towards them, are in a state of perfect tranquillity and happiness. It is obvious that my assertions are borne out in fact, owing to the many cases, and the nature of them, brought under my observations, as will more fully appear by my monthly return of complaints.

Enclosure 29, in No. 575.

Crimes have certainly increased, but of a minor nature, that of daily and continued depredations on the grounds of other apprentices, although every means has been resorted to for the purpose of checking so great an evil, and compelling them to cultivate their grounds, but of no avail.

With respect to the crops, the planters were fostering the hope of an abundant crop, and, to all appearance, very favourable; but I regret to state that their hopes have been blighted in some respects, and which cannot but be ascribed to the very great drought; in fact, every parish has suffered in some degree, more or less.

The apprentices in my district are now perfectly acquainted with their relative position, in regard to their managers and themselves; in that case I augur the best possible results.

I have, &c.

(signed) C. Hamilton, Special Justice.

Enclosure 30, in No. 575.

ANSWERS to Circular.

Port Royal Mountains and upper part of St. David's, 31 March 1837.

1. THEIR conduct generally good; there is a great deal of pilfering of the provision grounds still going on.

Enclosure 30, in No. 575.

2. Those feelings of distrust are gradually softening down, and a better understanding between them becoming established.

3. They do not work willingly or cheerfully; they are naturally indolent.

4. On the greater part of the estates they work five days of nine hours one week, and four the next; some few work regularly four and a half days. Only one estate on the eight hours

## JAMAICA.

hours system (Clifton Mount); they are allowed one hour in the middle of the day to their meals.

5. Task-work is seldom adopted in this district, arising, as I imagine, from the rugged and rocky state of the ground in the mountains.

6. They do work in their own time, but never under 2s. 1d. per day; they are always paid in silver.

7. Salt is withheld, and allowances to the lying-in women; also medical attendance to the free children, but I have never known them denied medicine.

8. They are running about wild in the day, having no one to take care of them; their parents are very unwilling that they should do any work for the property.

9. There is but one small chapel (St. Michael's), and which is crowded every Sunday; there are no schools in this district.

10. There is a great desire to free themselves, but few have the means. Three valuations have taken place, but I have not heard whether the money has been paid or not.

11. Invariably as domestics; I have not known one instance where they take to agriculture.

12. It will fall short of an average crop, but will on most properties double that of the last year. The season has been too dry.

13. None.

(signed) *H. Kent*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 31, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *J. Reynolds*, Esq., Special Justice, to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Rodney Hall, St. Thomas in the Vale, 5 April 1837.

Enclosure 31,  
in No. 575.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Excellency's circular, No. 63, bearing date the 23d September last, I have great pleasure to inform your Excellency, that I do consider confidence is perfectly restored between the proprietors, also attornies and the apprentices of this once disturbed district. I do not know of any instance that the people have refused to work for wages in their own time. I find, on an average, the wages are about 2s. 6d. per day of nine hours, which is very high; but I attribute this to the high scale of valuations generally fixed throughout this parish during the last quarter. I think 11 apprentices only purchased their freedom in my district, and out of that number I believe only one or two became really free. The others, I imagine, were transferred to fresh masters.

With regard to the crops, particularly the sugar estates, I have heard from many managers, that every thing bids fair for the planters, therefore they anticipate good returns; with regard to task-work, there is not much in my district, and I have not heard that the people object to it. I have to add, that the people in general turn out very clean and orderly on Sundays.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Reynolds*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 32, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *R. S. Cooper*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to his Excellency the Governor.

Sir,

St. Thomas in the Vale, 12 April 1837.

Enclosure 32,  
in No. 575.

IN drawing up a quarterly report of the state of this district, I have but little to add to my statement transmitted three months ago; the only perceptible change being exhibited in a progressive advance of the apprentices in habits of order and industry.

Complaints are now comparatively few in number, and the faults out of which they arise are rarely of such a nature as to affect materially the interests of the properties on which they occur; and there is scarcely an estate in the district on which the conduct of the people, as a body, does not now give satisfaction to the managers. I do not even except Tulloch and Berwick, heretofore the worst in the district.

Of the amount of the present crops, I cannot yet say any thing with certainty; the sugar estates are in many instances suffering severely in cattle from the excessive drought, which will in some degree retard the "taking off" of the present, and, by destroying their "plants," materially affect their prospects with regard to the next crop.

The vestry having advertised for tenders towards the erection of a parochial school, it is to be hoped that some means of instruction will be provided for the free children of apprentices; but at present, things are, in that respect, precisely as I reported in January.

Valuations are rarely completed in my courts; the local justices, who are appointed by the masters to assist in them, insist upon amounts which I cannot possibly agree to; and the evils arising from the present mode of valuation are daily becoming more evident. The apprentice, in short, can never hope for a fair estimate of his value while apprentice masters are to assess it.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. S. Cooper*, Special Magistrate.

## Enclosure 33, in No. 575.

## ANSWERS to Circular.

St. Dorothy's, March 1837.

Enclosure 33,  
in No. 575.

1. THE general conduct of the apprentices in this district during the last quarter has been highly satisfactory.

2. I consider the feeling between apprentices and their employers to be as good as can, under all the circumstances of the case, be reasonably expected.

3. The apprentices have, generally speaking, worked cheerfully and industriously.

4. The apprentices, except during the crop, are worked on the nine hours system, having their usual time for refreshment.

5. Task-work is resorted to very generally in every case in which it is practicable. I have never ceased to exhort to the adoption of this system where the apprentices agree to it.

6. The apprentices do not appear, generally speaking, to have any objection to work for wages, but wages are at present extremely high. Cane-hole digging, even on the most favourable ground, cannot be had at less than half a dollar for a day's work. This circumstance prevents the employment of negroes in their own time to the extent which would otherwise have place.

7. The employers have scarcely, in any case, shown a disposition to withhold ancient indulgences from the apprentices, provided the latter display an accommodating spirit in return.

8. The situation of the free children is, in a public point of view, a subject of no small anxiety. They are supported by their parents, but are brought up, generally speaking, in perfect idleness. The future prosperity and even safety of the island depend, as it appears to me, in a great measure, on the adoption of efficient means to train the rising generation.

9. Hitherto the situation of my district in regard to education has been lamentably bad; but a large school is now erecting, from which the most beneficial results may be expected. In consequence of the number of people who attend the chapels of dissenting ministers, the accommodation in the buildings of the established church is for the present sufficient for their congregation; but in regard to schools, an increase in their number will infallibly produce a corresponding increase in the number of scholars.

10. There is a natural desire, on the part of apprentices, to purchase their discharge, but the price of apprenticeship, in consequence of the great height of wages, has been so considerable during the quarter, that only five have purchased the remainder of their apprenticeship.

11. Those apprentices who buy their freedom invariably betake themselves to some species of handicraft. I do not know a single instance, as yet, of a freeman working in the field for wages.

12. In consequence of the severe drought to which this district has been exposed nearly eight months, the crop of sugar will be very short. This will, however, be wholly and entirely owing to the weather, and in no respect to any bad conduct on the part either of the apprentices or their employers.

13. A general diffusion of education among the negroes appears to me to be the one thing needful for Jamaica.

(signed) *Alex. N. Macleod*, Special Magistrate.

## Enclosure 34, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *James Harris*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Santa Cruz District, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, 1 April 1837.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the following special report upon the state of my district, from the 1st January to 31st March last, for the consideration of his Excellency the Governor.

Enclosure 34,  
in No. 575.

My experience for the last three months enables me to confirm the favourable report I last made of the friendly understanding between the employer and apprentice. I have been most sensibly struck with the good feeling and consideration of the managers towards the labourers, and pleased with the inevitable natural results, a reciprocity of feeling on the part of the apprentices. I was thus struck, when contrasting this agreeable state with the unhappy feeling and disposition which I experienced and had to combat in a late district. My feelings could not but be gratified, and I was grateful that I had been changed to a station where order and good feeling, consideration and kindness, were the prevailing characteristics of the people; where the general desire is cordially to co-operate with, and further the humane provisions of, the Abolition Law.

The industry of the apprentices during the last quarter has, I believe, been pretty satisfactory, very few complaints of insufficiency of labour having been preferred; few complaints of any description have been adjudicated upon in the district, which contains about 5,000 apprentices; the nature of the very offences shows the good state of the district; occasional absences and minor inattentions to duty have formed the usual character of the complaints that have been made. I have not heard of a single case of crime against an apprentice having been sent to the quarter sessions or to the superior courts for trial from the district.

The nine hours system of labour prevails in this district; in fact, I should consider it my duty not to give any other system my consent and support. During the long days, labour commences

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commences at 6 o'clock and terminates at 4 o'clock P. M. ; an hour's cessation being given in the middle of the day. In the short days of the year, labour commences about half an hour later, and of course continues proportionably longer in the afternoon.

The apprentices are decidedly inclined to undertake task-work, and the proprietors and others are, I believe, anxious that a fixed plan should be adopted, and although scales of labour have been prepared, at the suggestion of his Excellency the Governor, yet the same have not been submitted to the test of practice or the approval of experience. I have heard in conversation, with certain managers, that in certain particulars they have tried the labourers and found that they could accomplish the quantum of work considered sufficient; but no scale having been introduced, it is impossible to say whether the scale of labour, which it is said has been agreed upon by the committees appointed for the purpose, will contain a workable system or not. I have not seen this scale so prepared, but I have heard something thereof, and in some respects it would require actual personal experience to convince me of the reasonableness of the amount of labour required. I should respectfully suggest that the scale be brought into use, and by the constant attendance, for a day or any longer portion of time, of the manager, book-keeper, or even if necessary, of a policeman, to prevent idleness, to test whether the specific quantum of work fixed in any and every respect can fairly and reasonably be performed, and what can thus be done should be considered the maximum of labour to be always enforced: this point once fairly ascertained, it would create a very satisfactory understanding between all parties as to any and every species of work, and prevent many, if not all, complaints for insufficiency of labour. The apprentice and his employer would each be able to inform himself or herself, without doubt, what work should be done.

The apprentices ordinarily hire themselves out in their own time for money-wages, receiving from 1s. 8d. to 2s. 1d. and 2s. 6d.; they generally hire themselves away from the properties to which they are attached, not but what they would employ themselves in the service of their masters, but I believe they are not very frequently required. I have known of several instances where they have cheerfully laboured on their Fridays and Saturdays in the service of their managers, and so good is the existing feeling, that I am sure, if they were required, and due notice given them, to provide an increased quantum of provisions, no gang of apprentices would decline to labour in their own time, in reason, for the benefit of the property to which they are attached.

The indulgences which were most usually shown and allowed the people during their state of slavery are pretty generally still given, but they are entirely and wholly dependent upon the will and pleasure of the owner, attorney or overseer. The withholding these customary indulgences is the only method which the unamiably-disposed has of gratifying any unfriendly feeling, and there are those who would capriciously use this power; but on the other hand, there is a great majority who would nobly and generously continue, with their usual kind conduct, these kindnesses, although they might have occasion to be displeased with their dependents.

As to the condition of the free children, I beg most particularly to refer to my last report respecting them; my subsequent experience has tended, most fully, to corroborate and support such the view I then took of their case; they are lamentably neglected in a moral and religious point of view, wretchedly fed and supported and clothed; they will not work, neither will they be permitted by their parents to do so. I have conversed with many gentlemen on the subject; they would gladly employ them, and take care of them, if they could get a proportion of labour, but this not being acceded to, and there being no remedy, the evil remains in its full force, and, I fear, unless the system of instruction and labour combined can be enforced, and that early, we shall be plunged into a desperate state of society.

The district does not afford sufficient facilities for education and religious instruction; the clergymen of the established church have large congregations of apprentices on each occasion of their officiating, as also the clergymen of the Moravian persuasion. Schools are much wanted in the district; there is some mention made of a chapel being erected in the neighbourhood.

The desire of the apprentices to purchase their discharge still continues prevalent; a good many have availed themselves of the provisions of the law in this respect. More have effected their liberation from their apprenticeships in this district than in my late one, during the same period of time; those who have obtained their discharge during the past quarter have, some, left the parish, and gone to make establishments elsewhere; others have taken up their abode with their friends or acquaintances, and others have gone into service.

As touching the state of the negro grounds, in point of quantity, the apprentices are well off, but the quality in many parts is very indifferent, and only favourable to the growth of certain kinds of provisions; with favourable seasons, however, they have a tolerable supply of food; but the whole of the mountains are at times severely afflicted by the want of rains, which affects all products of the earth. During a great portion of the last three months, there has been very severe dry weather, and unless rains are shortly had, much prejudicial effects will ensue. The apprentices, I believe, pay a proper attention to the cultivation of their grounds; only one complaint to the contrary has been made; and from the advice I have given the people, I do not think the complaint will be renewed; if it is, the provisions of the 38th section of the Abolition Law must be enforced. Fears are expressed that the people hire themselves out, to the hindrance of their paying a proper attention to their grounds—these are but fears; only in the one case mentioned has any actual complaint been made. It would be, I should think, an advisable plan to recommend the apprentices

on every property, devoting the Saturday in every alternate week steadily and regularly to the due cultivation of all produce that their grounds will yield; this would reasonably be providing against future want; and should their grounds then become unproductive, by reason of long continuance of dry weather or other casualties, the aid of the provisions of the 48th section can, with the greater conscience, be invoked.

The crops have not generally been as great as were at one time anticipated, and the falling off is accounted for by the great dry weather which prevailed last year, at a momentous period of the year, for coffee, when there should have been a copious supply of the watery element to ensure an abundant crop. The coffee fields are now in good cultivation; and from the state of the trees, if due seasons are had between this present time and the months of August and September, a good ensuing crop in quantity and quality may be expected.

I am, &c.

(signed) *James Harris*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 35, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *W. A. Bell*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Barton Isles Pen, St. Elizabeth, 1 April 1837.

IN sending this quarterly report of my district, I have to remark that I do not find much improvement in the conduct of the apprentices since my last report, but I have not quite so much loss of labour as to whole gangs as before, though I have much cruelty to cattle to complain of, and neglect of watching, amounting to dishonesty, as the watchman is never at his post to hinder robbery. They do not do their work as cheerfully as I would wish, and I ascribe it to the want of task-work, which, not being general, understood or practised, for all kinds of work practicable, the negroes do not like it, as not being used to it, though they soon would; they are also mistrustful of any thing that is not settled, but which may be changed at the caprice of the manager or master.

The nine hours system is generally pursued in my district, with breakfast and dinner time, and working until sunset, as the days are long or short.

Task-work is not in much use in my district, except for cane-holes, and that it always was in old time.

The apprentices on some properties do work for wages offered to them; at others they will not; and at some properties the proprietors at home will not permit the offer.

Herrings are withheld on some properties, on about half, that is, they are the means of payment on all, for some kind of extra service, sometimes watching, sometimes extra time at the mill during crop, &c. Cattle and hogs are also kept.

The free children are generally doing no good either to the revenue or themselves; their mothers will not allow them to work on the young canes at all, though wages, and advantages of education, &c., have been offered to them, and the very young ones are dying, a few of them, from the obstinacy of the mothers, who even grudge to pay back time consumed in attending on them when sick, which is offered them, as well as the use of the hot-house, and had it not been for the charity of many ladies and planters lately, during the measles, few would have recovered; they are supported, of course, from the lands of the proprietors of their parents' services.

There are very few chapels or churches in my district to what is necessary, and schools fewer in number; the proprietors and attorneys are usually very willing to find the latter, if a regular compact should be made for labour of the young or old in payment.

The house-servants on estates or other properties appear anxious, and are buying themselves very fast; in fact, there will soon be a great want of house-servants; some tradesmen prædials, and some field, are also doing so; twenty apprentices have purchased during the last quarter.

The tradesmen who purchase their freedom sometimes work at their trade, but there is much of the following practice going on: if a man is discontented, he can easily persuade some of the people undertaking the building of churches, &c., to purchase him, and then bind himself to work out the time after. The house-servants do nothing but lose their time after their freedom.

The present crop does not exceed the last, and I am afraid that on some properties it will be rather less, owing to some very dry weather latterly, and some very wet weather last crop on the ratoons, directly after cutting, which chilled them; there have been some changes of attorneys, &c., on two or three properties' estates, which is always, for the moment, a very ruinous business. As to the quantity of sugar or rum, I am happy to state that three of the estates of my district, out of 14, which were descended to a very small crop in 1834 and 1835, have, in 1836 and 1837, increased to double, with every appearance of keeping on, and the others are none of them more than from two to twenty hogsheads short of last year, and that not certain, until the end of crop.

I should suggest an amended Act to enforce the nine hours system, and task-work when the apprentice is willing to agree; also to compel apprentices to work for hire on Saturdays, unless they can show any employment (cultivating their grounds at seasons, or gaining money) on which they are engaged, or about to be engaged; also to compel the employers, on demand of the apprentices, to employ them at a certain rate of hire on the Saturdays; all this to be under the sanction of the special justice, &c.; this would prevent



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much robbery by the evil-disposed, and never prevent the industrious from working where he pleased, or in what manner he liked best.

Also, I have to suggest, that it should be obligatory on owners to sell, at a fair valuation, the services of the wife to the master of her husband, or *vice versâ*, under proper regulations.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. A. Bell*, Special Magistrate.

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Enclosure 36, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *Thomas Matthews*, Esq., Special Justice.

Success House, 31 March 1837.

Enclosure 36,  
in No. 575.

THE conduct of the apprentices in my district is much improved since I commenced my official duties; the feeling manifested between them and their employers is good, and in most instances they perform their work willingly. The hours for work are from six o'clock in the morning until four in the afternoon; they are allowed one hour for breakfast and two for dinner. The negroes are often employed with task-work, and are paid 10*d.* currency for their breakfast, and two bits for their dinner-time; no indulgences are withheld from them that they used to enjoy during slavery. The free children are supported by their parents, and their appearance is healthy and promising; their attendance at church and school is astonishingly regular, and the facilities afforded them are excellent. The desire of the apprentices to purchase their discharge seems to increase as the time for their emancipation approaches. Four discharges have been effected since my last report; if they are qualified to work as mechanics, or any trade, they follow it; if not, they hire themselves as servants. The prospects of the ensuing crop are more favourable than a short time ago; the dry weather has had a dreadful effect on the state of cultivation.

(signed) *Thomas Matthews*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 37, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *John Daughtrey*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

St. Elizabeth's, 11 April 1837.

Enclosure 37,  
in No. 575.

THE general conduct of the apprentices of this district continues to indicate improvement. I am aware the opinion is distrusted by many, but there are others quite as competent to judge, and perhaps less under the influence of prejudice, who support my view of the subject. Those who place the lowest value upon the means of their improvement are most disposed, I observe, to deny the improvement itself.

They appear to work less unwillingly than at an earlier period of the apprenticeship, but still not always very willingly; there are, however, gratifying exceptions, and when I state that these are to be found where they are under the authority of managers who combine personal respectability with firmness, judgment, self-command, and a perfect knowledge of their duty, I suggest what appears to me to be the chief cause of sullenness and discontent among the negro labourers where these exist.

Task-work is still but partially resorted to; it is not often proposed to the people; were this to be done judiciously, and upon an equitable scale, I think a little patient explanation would bring them into it. They must of course see their advantage in it, or rather, be made to feel it, in the gain of time, or the gain at least of increased cordiality on the part of the master.

It has become very usual now for the apprentices to work in their own time for money-wages; in some instances extended cultivation, and in others various improvements are being carried on by this means. The rate of ordinary labour is from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.* per day; when the latter price is given, it is for a task, and one that demands either above the usual hours or increased exertion; it is generally accomplished upon the latter plan, affording unequivocal evidence of what they can effect where there is an adequate motive.

In a few instances the old indulgences are continued, but generally they are withheld, or an equivalent in labour, or other services, demanded for them.

The free children have no appearance here of being neglected, except in what regards their minds and manners, and I regret to say, that too many of the parents still evince great indifference in this respect; they are jealous of every thing that seems to place their free children within the power of others. There is, however, an advance towards a better and more correct feeling even in this respect; too many of the parents themselves are very partially alive to any interests of a perfectly rational and intellectual nature; they remain just what original depravity, ignorance and slavery have made them; happily, the number of this class is fast diminishing. The provision for public worship and education is still inadequate; several of the chapels overflow. The erection of others in intermediate places would relieve them, and afford an inducement to the population of more remote localities to place themselves under instruction, and, what is of equal importance, under discipline.

Every chapel should have a school, and a master or mistress from home; however humble their pretensions there, they would be incomparably more useful here than almost any to be found among the natives, supposing them to be persons of consistent character, and devoted to the task they undertake.

Seven discharges from apprenticeship have been purchased since my last report. The higher rate of valuations has repressed the disposition in many.

Those hitherto discharged have generally resorted to the avocations to which they were trained; most of them are creditably employed and well conducted.

The sugar crop here is considered a favourable one, both in quality and quantity. Ginger has failed considerably, from causes that appear not very obvious. The season is at this moment considered too dry; stock is suffering severely in some places from want of water; but for all the purposes of sugar-making, the weather here has been propitious.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Daughtrey*, Special Magistrate.

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Enclosure 38, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *W. H. Alley*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Mile Gully Pen, 7 April 1837.

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that since my last report complaints between master and apprentice have decreased.

It is with very great satisfaction that I am able to say, speaking generally, that the working class in this district behave well, and are obedient to their employers; this I attribute to the conciliatory conduct of the proprietors and managers towards the apprentices, who encourage that feeling of confidence and good-will so necessary between master and man.

The apprentices work on the eight hours system; they are allowed an hour, and frequently an hour and a half interval of relaxation during the day.

In mountain districts such as this, a good deal of labour has at all times been done by task-work, and I think both managers and apprentices seem better pleased. The manager is satisfied because a fair proportion of work is performed, and in many, I would say a majority of cases, the apprentices not occupied half the legal working time in performing the work assigned; for example, coffee is picked in general by task, three bushels being the maximum required from an able negro when the crop is abundant; at this work industrious negroes almost universally do double the task required in eight hours, many three times the quantity. For all extra work they are paid in money.

In many instances the apprentices work in their own time, but not generally; the ordinary work of a property, when they can earn more money than can be afforded for the general labour of a property, such as in falling wood or building stone walls, they can earn from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 4d. a day, they work, but not continuously.

With very few exceptions, the indulgences usual during slavery are given by the estates.

The condition of the free children is not at all encouraging; I have known the parents to be offered wages if they would allow their children to work, and they have invariably refused; they are allowed to grow up in habits of total idleness, except where schools afford them opportunity of getting taught to read, for which their parents seem very anxious; any thing like labour they never think of; they are supported by their parents from the grounds, &c., given them by their managers. Some proprietors, to show the necessity of labour, have proposed to the parents of free children to pay 10s. a year for each free child, to have medicine and medical attendance continued to them; as to apprentices, the 10s. to be taken in labour; 6s. 8d. per head is paid to the doctor, and 3s. 4d. is the nominal sum for medicine and nourishment when sick. I found this agreement entered into in several instances, and sanctioned for one year by my predecessor. With few exceptions, I have found that the labour was given unwillingly, and discontinued after the first year, although I believe the proprietor's part of the contract was adhered to.

The facilities for education and religious instruction are increasing, but are not by any means adequate to the number of the people; the attendance at church far, very far, exceeds the accommodation. I have heard the clergy complain of the difficulty of getting well-situated school-houses, and also procuring persons fit to be employed as schoolmasters.

Education in Jamaica has hitherto been little sought after by that class of persons who would be otherwise fitted for country schoolmasters or mistresses: in fact, the free population of colour, except those who have had the means of going to England for their education, are generally in utter ignorance. The great difficulty in this parish is procuring proper teachers; it has prevented the establishment of three additional schools in this district.

Though I suppose the desire on the part of the apprentices to purchase the remaining term must be general, I have only three discharges effected since my last report. Discharges are principally effected by means of third persons, who supply the money, and retain the apprentice in their service.

I am not aware of a single instance where the discharged apprentice has returned to agricultural labour, except where the money has been supplied as above, and this is done for women and tradespeople.

I am happy to add to this report, that the prospects of the ensuing crop are most favourable.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. H. Alley*, Special Magistrate.

Enclosure 38,  
in No. 575.

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Enclosure 39, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *J. W. Grant*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.Enclosure 39,  
in No. 575-

Sir,

Mandeville District, Manchester, 12 April 1837.

It affords me much pleasure to have to state, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that since my last quarterly report the apprentices generally in this extensive district have conducted themselves with very great propriety, paying strict attention to their duty, and respectful and obedient to persons in authority over them in almost every instance where persons by conciliatory and kind acts show themselves deserving of and entitled to respect and obedience.

There is in general a good feeling between the apprentices and their employers. To an intelligent manager it is very evident that on the cultivation of a good feeling between himself and his apprentices, altogether depends the success of his endeavours for the benefit of the property under his charge; yet there are men who imagine that nothing can be done but by coercion, who watch every action of an apprentice in the endeavour to find something wrong, and for this have him or her (if possible) punished. The exceptions, however, to a general good feeling between both parties in my district are, I am glad to say, very very few; in those few instances, however, where a bad feeling does exist, I have no hesitation in attributing its cause to the irritability of the managers, in whose minds no thought of conciliation ever enters. The apprentices generally perform their work willingly, and well; they know that they have a duty to perform, and far from evincing any desire to elude that duty, they seem to perform it with pleasure. I know properties where the second gang clean in foul coffee at the rate of two to an acre; this is no small work, and I very much question whether under the slavery system so much was ever done. I am persuaded, from all I can observe and learn, that there is more work now done in the same space of time than before the apprenticeship system came into operation.

The eight hours system of labour in a day is the one most used here; the hours of relaxation are different on many properties; some allow one, and others two hours, about the middle of the day.

On a number of properties task-work is doing exceedingly well; I do not think that where the task given is reasonable and fair, the apprentices will object to work in this way; on the contrary, I think they would prefer doing so, knowing what they have to perform, and that they are able to do it.

Many of them work in their own time for hire, at the rate, I understand, of 3s. 4d. currency per day.

There are only two properties where, I am aware, the indulgences the apprentices were accustomed to receive in the time of slavery are withheld, and this not for improper conduct, as they are among the best-behaved people in the district. It is a matter of regret that allowances made in a manner necessary, from their having been so long accustomed to receive them, should in this way be withheld.

The free children are supported by their parents, and in no one instance have I found them willing to apprentice them to their former masters.

There are few facilities afforded for education; with regard to religious instruction, I believe the accommodation is quite equal to the attendance.

There is, generally, a desire among the apprentices to purchase their exemption from the remaining term of the apprenticeship, but in consequence of the high rate at which they are valued by some of the local justices, few are able to effect it; only three since my last report. When they have obtained their discharge, I believe they hire themselves out to any one who will employ them; or, if they have the means, purchase a small quantity of land, on which they build a house, and there settle themselves comfortably.

I am happy to state that there is every prospect of an abundant crop next season, and that the state of cultivation is at present forward.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *J. W. Grant*, Special Justice.

Enclosure 40, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *John Gurley*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.Enclosure 40,  
in No. 575-

Sir,

May Hill District, Manchester, 1 April 1837.

In transmitting the general quarterly report on the state of the district under my superintendence, I beg to observe that my experience in this parish is but limited, having recently removed from St. Andrew's. From the report I have had from my predecessor, and the observations I have been able to make during the month I have been here, I consider the conduct of both masters and apprentices exemplary, and that a better feeling prevails throughout the whole community than I have observed elsewhere. Indeed it is hardly possible to be otherwise, where the comforts and indulgences are continued to the people as heretofore, and pains taken by all classes for their general instruction.

The system of labour generally adopted has been the eight hours for five days weekly, giving one hour relaxation about noon each day. But recently, task-work has been resorted to, in many instances, by choice of the apprentices themselves, who are also in the habit of taking a task in their own time, at from 1s. 8d. to 2s. and 2s. 6d. currency per day, according to the nature of the work. The free children are supported by their parents on the

the property of their masters. There are several schools established on the estates for the benefit of all children, which are adequate to the demand for instruction; I am sorry to say that the accommodation at church is not at all adequate. The church is usually crowded to excess, and an equal number are excluded, and compelled to remain outside in consequence. I am informed that the crops throughout this district will be abundant; at present the cultivation and the appearance of the fields are luxuriant, and the season favourable.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *John Gurley*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 41, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *J. M. Crockett*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Maroon Town, St. James's, 31 March 1837.

AGREEABLY to his Excellency's directions, contained in circular, No. 63, dated 23d of September 1836, I have the honour to forward such observations thereon as I trust may meet with the Governor's entire approbation.

Enclosure 41,  
in No. 575.

1. Since my last report, I have the gratifying pleasure to state that my district is much improved, and the apprentices, with a very few exceptions, behaving well; the apprenticeship system is evidently now so well understood by all parties, and in consequence there is less disorder, with a decided diminution of complaints.

2. I have had no reason to find fault as regards good feeling between master and apprentice; and it is a great additional satisfaction in being enabled to say, that since taking charge of my district, I have not had cause to impose a single fine upon any overseer for illegal conduct towards those under their charge.

3. The apprentices appear now perfectly happy and content, and generally perform their labour with a good disposition.

4. The nine hours system is general throughout this district; and the intervals of relaxation are an hour for breakfast and two hours for dinner.

5. Task-work is generally resorted to.

6. It is customary for the apprentices to dig cane-holes in their own time, at 3s. 4d. per 90 holes, and to work continually during crop-time, from 15 or 16 hours per day, at the rate of a penny halfpenny for their extra hours.

7. The usual indulgences during slavery have not been withheld, to my knowledge, such as clothing, hospital attendants, cooks, nurses, watchmen for their grounds, rum, sugar, herrings or salt-fish.

8. The free children, I am sorry to say, for the most part, still continue to be brought up in idleness; and no consideration will induce their parents to place them under the charge of their former owners.

9. It affords me much pleasure to inform his Excellency the Governor, that since my last report, a very praiseworthy exertion has manifested itself among the proprietors and gentlemen of this district towards the immediate erection of a place of worship, and also of giving every facility for education and religious instruction.

10. In this district, two apprentices only have been valued by me, but have not had their certificate of discharge, being unable at present to pay the amount of valuation. The very few apprentices who demand their manumission by valuation appears to me a convincing proof of their being generally satisfied with the treatment of their employers.

11. It is out of my power to say to what employment the apprentices betake themselves after the purchase of their freedom.

12. The present crop in this district will average considerably more than last season; and the prospects of the ensuing crop are still more favourable.

13. A general scale of labour would be of great utility.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. M. Crockett*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 42, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Cocking*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

St. James's, 3 April 1837.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, with the following quarterly district report.

Enclosure 42,  
in No. 575.

Some sugar estates in my district will fall off a little from last year, while others will somewhat exceed last year's crop. Such falling off can only be accounted for by the long drought from the beginning of the year to the present period, on soils more liable to suffer from dry weather than others, thereby greatly checking the growth of the late cut canes and spring plants of last year, from which the planters' expectations, in many instances, have not been realized. The quality of the produce generally is equal to former years, and the crops in a forward state.

It is pleasant, however, to say, that the apprentices in my district are apparently contented and happy, and cheerfully performing their duty to their masters, and working for liberal wages in their own time.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. Cocking*, Special Magistrate.

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## Enclosure 43, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *John Odell*, Esq., Special Justice, to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

Western Interior District, comprising parts of the Parishes of St. James's, Hanover and Westmoreland, 1 April 1837.

Sir,

Enclosure 43,  
in No. 575.

IN making my report for the quarter which has just terminated, it affords me much gratification to have it in my power to renew my testimony as to the general good conduct of the apprenticed labourers in the district. On all estates under just and judicious management, they continue to work cheerfully in the employers' time, and appear equally willing, in most instances, to accept employment in their own time, for reasonable compensation; that is to say, at a rate of wages occasionally varying from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 4d. per day.

Between many of the managers and their apprentices there seems to exist a tolerably good feeling; and whenever such a feeling is altogether absent, it is most frequently to be attributed to the indiscreet and hasty conduct of the employer.

Although task-work is not unfrequently resorted to, the nine hours system of labour is that generally practised throughout the district. When worked in this way, the apprentices are allowed half an hour at breakfast, and two hours at dinner-time.

It would not appear that any general desire prevails amongst the apprentices to purchase their manumission, but one valuation and discharge from apprenticeship having taken place since my last report.

The gathering in of the crop, for which the weather has been most seasonable, is fast drawing to a close. To what amount the anticipated decrease of produce, as stated in previous reports, will be, there is as yet no correct mode of ascertaining.

Preparations for the ensuing crops are being made on an extensive scale; but the dryness of the weather, it is to be feared, will operate much against the exertions of the planter.

In conclusion, I have to add that a great decrease of complaints has taken place during the quarter, as contrasted with that which preceded it.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *John Odell*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 44, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *R. B. Facey*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Montego Bay, 4 April 1837.

Enclosure 44,  
in No. 575.

I HAVE much pleasure in reporting, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that the apprentices in this district are perfectly tranquil, and in general well-behaved.

The disposition to labour in their own time for money appears to have increased, particularly where they have been fairly remunerated.

The usual time for labour commences with sun-rise, and terminates at sun-set, allowing time for breakfast and dinner. On some estates, it is absolutely necessary, for taking in the crop, to continue their labour during the whole of Friday, for which they are either paid 1s. 3d., or allowed days in return, when the crop is over.

Voluntary task-work is now generally resorted to in this district; a circumstance to which I attribute, in a great measure, the considerable decrease of complaints, and consequently a much better understanding between both parties than there used to be.

There is, and so long as the apprenticeship system continues, it must be expected that there will be, a desire on the part of the apprentices to be released; seven have obtained their discharge since my last return, but to what description of labour they betake themselves I cannot say.

The free children are, as far as I can learn, supported by their parents. I have seen many of them very cleanly dressed, and in excellent spirits, going to school at the Rev. Mr. Burchell's, a minister of the Baptist persuasion.

The prospect of the present crop is flattering, as also the preparations for the next, which is pretty far advanced; although I am apprehensive that the dry weather, however favourable it may be for the gathering in of the present crop, will considerably retard, if not materially injure, the immense quantity of plants already springing up in the fields.

With the exception of the Montpelier estate, there will in all probability be an improvement, not only in quantity but in quality, of the produce. Hazelymph promises an excellent return. Belvidere is considerably improved, and affords a fair specimen of what the apprentices will do when properly treated, and well managed.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. B. Facey*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 45, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *William Carnaby*, Esq., Special Justice.

Montego Bay, Jamaica, 4 April 1837.

Enclosure 45,  
in No. 575.

I HAVE much satisfaction in reporting, that the apprentices generally continue well-disposed, and labour willingly. I perceive an improved feeling between them and their managers, and they seem to be kindly treated by the great majority of the overseers.

The

The working hours are nine daily, by which the apprentices can devote the Friday afternoon to their grounds, or labour for hire; though during this period of the year it occasionally becomes necessary, for taking off the crop, to labour all Friday. For this extra time, the apprentices are paid in money, or compensated by repayment of the days after the crop is finished.

Voluntary task-work becomes more generally, and is in some matters advantageous to both.

I continue to notice an improved disposition to labour for hire by the apprentices, for which they receive, for one day of their own time, from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 4d. currency.

The great portion of the attornies give many of the old allowances.

Great efforts are making in this part of the island to extend church and school accommodation, and attendance at both daily increases. There is, however, ample field still for national or other aid, for their farther extension.

The free children appear to remain a burden on their parents, who, for the most part, place them at the nearest schools.

There is a general desire among the apprentices to purchase their freedom; though in my district this quarter the number of valuations has decreased. I cannot say to what employment they afterwards enter.

The canes this season are yielding well, and crop operations proceed with rapidity. My former reports as to an increase are already realized; and I hope by next quarter, when crop shall be about finished, to be able to state specifically how much it is beyond that of last year.

The preparations for next crop are also upon an augmented scale; but I fear the unusual continuance of dry weather this spring will affect very considerably the prospects of the planter, and which his exertions entitled him to calculate on.

I regret to say that, within these few months back, a spirit of hostility towards the special magistrates resident here has particularly manifested itself in several parts of the parish, and especially in this town. To this charge, however, there are, in my particular district, many honourable exceptions, among whom it gives me much pleasure to class George Gordon, Henry Hunter and George Cragg, esquires. Those gentlemen continue to give every aid and facility to the Abolition Law, and to render the magistrate all assistance. The best proof of their exertions which I can give is the fact that the different estates belonging to them, and others under their care and management, are prospering. The first-named gentleman is the most extensive attorney on this side the island.

For attempting to make the law respected and supreme, I have had, very lately, notice served upon me of two actions of damages, at the instance of an overseer, whom I found it necessary to fine, and who chose, rather than obtemper the decisions, to walk into prison, and remain for two hours, and then pay; and this for no other object than to found plausible grounds to harass the special magistrate with proceedings at law, and against which I will be compelled to defend myself.

(signed) *William Carnaby*, Special Justice.

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### Enclosure 46, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *Walter Finlayson*, Esq., Special Justice.

St. James's, 31 March 1837.

In general there has been a good feeling between the employers and the apprentices; but there have been exceptions upon two or three estates. Complaints have essentially decreased during the quarter, and the apprentices are performing their work willingly.

Enclosure 46,  
in No. 575.

The working hours are fixed at nine daily.

Task-work is not generally adopted in the district, though, where reasonable tasks are given, the apprentices readily accede to them.

Where adequate wages are offered, the apprentices work readily for hire. The wages usually given for Fridays and Saturdays are from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 4d. per day.

Some estates withhold the former supplies of salt-fish to the apprentices; others have limited the number of cooks, nurses and watchmen to provision grounds. These are, however, usually granted.

The condition of the free children is in general bad, as they are burdens almost entirely upon their mothers, receiving no support from the estates, and only getting medical care in a few instances, unless when paid for.

The attendance of the apprentices, both at church and at school, is fully equal to the accommodation; and it is gratifying to report, that great exertions are making to provide additional accommodation.

There is a very general desire among the apprentices to purchase their freedom. During this quarter 16 valuations have been made, of which 13 have been paid.

The prospects of the present crop continue to be good; the canes are yielding well, and the people are industrious. It is, however, to be regretted, that a disposition has manifested itself in this parish to interfere with the special magistrates in the impartial discharge of their official duties.

(signed) *Walter Finlayson*, Special Justice.

JAMAICA.

## Enclosure 47, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *Arthur Welch*, Esq., Special Magistrate, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.Airy Castle, St. Andrew's, Western Mountain District,  
3 April 1837.

Sir,

Enclosure 47,  
in No. 575.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that, as far as I have been able to judge, this district appears in good order, and the people well-disposed.

Severe domestic calamity and deep mental anxiety, added to my having been only a very short time in the district, has prevented my exerting myself since my arrival as much as I otherwise should have done; I am, therefore, unable to give a detailed statement.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Arthur Welch*, Special Magistrate.

## Enclosure 48, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *Stephen Bourne*, Esq., to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Enclosure 48,  
in No. 575.

Grecian Regale, 17 May 1837.

THE general conduct of the apprentices in my district since the commencement of the year has been very good. There has been a great scarcity of provisions, and consequently more petty thefts than ordinary; but those thefts are committed by two or three bad and idle persons on those plantations which are the worst managed. They not only rob their fellow apprentices on the same plantations, but travel in the night to distant properties. There are many very young thieves on a plantation called Clifton Mount, who are continually annoying and plundering the apprentices on the neighbouring properties. I have been compelled to send three of them lately to prison, very much against my will, as there can scarcely be a worse training; but switching has been found ineffectual, and I do not know how to punish them so as to deter others, except by sending them to the house of correction. It seems to me a great misfortune for the apprentices on that property, that the proprietor does not visit it and set on foot a school of industry, in which the free children and young apprentices might be taught that lying, theft and perjury are infamous crimes, and at the same time trained to labour for their own support.

The good feeling between master and apprentice, except in a very few cases, does not seem to me to be increasing, but the contrary. I attribute this, in a great measure, to the want of temper and good management on the part of the overseers, and to the extreme uncertainty of their continuance in their stations. Marriage amongst them not being encouraged, and their being often dismissed at a few hours' notice, tends very much to lower the character of the overseers, and to destroy that confidence on the part of the apprentices in their employers which is alike necessary to the comfort and prosperity of all parties, and to the requisite improvement in the character of the apprentices. The constables, too (old head drivers), have been frequently selected for their qualifications as slave-drivers; and they are not generally respected by the people under them as they ought to be. The qualifications which recommend them to many of the overseers render them objects of suspicion and dislike to the apprentices; there are, however, many honourable exceptions to this remark. Few of the constables can read and write; I scarcely know two who can do so in my district. It would be much better to give those who conduct themselves well a payment in money proportioned to their merits, than, as is now customary, allowances of rum, &c., although it is only due to the blacks to state, that few of the better class of them drink to excess.

I think the apprentices, with some few exceptions, perform their labour more willingly than could have been expected; but when they are free, and rewarded for their labour according to their skill and industry, there can be no doubt of their performing a great deal more work than they now do in the same time.

The working hours in my district are from six to four, allowing one hour for meals, and half the Friday. In a few cases every alternate Friday is given.

Task-work is not generally resorted to; the objection lies for the most part with the apprentices.

It is usual for the apprentices to work in their own time for money-wages. The rate is generally 2s. 6d. currency, or 1s. 6d. sterling per day.

On many estates indulgences afforded during slavery are withheld, and old persons, pregnant women, and those who have had many children, allowed to do little, if any thing, in the olden time, are now, on some estates, pressed into the field.

The free children look healthy, and are supported by their parents; as they are too young to labour, and schools have not been established on the estates, they cannot be well trained. In time, the proprietors, as well as the Government, will find out their mistake in this respect. There ought to be a good school of industry, similar to the orphan schools in the neighbourhood of London, under the superintendence of the special justice, in every district, in which teachers might be trained for estate schools.

My district supplies few facilities for education and religious instruction, and they do not appear to me to increase in it. So far as we are concerned, the Parliamentary grants have been thrown away; but in the large towns, great advantage has no doubt arisen from them. There is only one small chapel of ease in my district, that is always filled with black and coloured people, and perhaps half a dozen whites. There ought to be at least four such chapels, of equal size, to afford opportunities of instruction to the people. The service is tediously long for illiterate persons, and few of the attendants have any distinct idea of the meaning

meaning of the phrases employed by the ministers. If half a dozen intelligent young men and women trained in the Borough-road school were sent to me, and their expenses paid for the first year, the negroes would soon build school-houses, and pay for their support in a decent manner. I am persuaded there is no hope for the island but in a mild and conciliating conduct towards the blacks, and schools for all within easy distances of the negro residences. If the proprietors at home, who seem to be ignorant of their own resources and situation here, could be aroused from their lethargy; if they would lease their estates to married virtuous persons, or appoint such as their managers, who would set a good example to the apprentices, and raise them in the scale of morals and intellect, they might derive large and secure incomes from estates which have been long productive of little else than expectation, disappointment and disgrace.

The prices at which apprentices have of late been valued put it out of the power of many, who desire to do it, to purchase their discharge; but few have taken place since my last report; less, I think, than in any preceding quarter.

I do not see any want of industry in those who have obtained their discharge; some go out to service; some betake themselves to washing; others to traffic; and others work grounds for themselves, wives, husbands or children.

The crop of coffee will be less than last year, owing to the state of the weather, but the prospect is good for next year. The state of cultivation seems to me to be very good.

I have no suggestions to make in addition to those contained in former reports. I would, however, most earnestly entreat the attention of the Government here and at home to the education of the free children, and the establishment of district courts for the magistrates, instead of their visiting the estates, as also the increase of their salary, without which they can scarcely be independent, or long continue in the country. I know several magistrates who cannot make their salary defray their necessary expenses.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Stephen Bourne.*

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Enclosure 49, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *E. E. Fishbourne*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Dover House, St. George's, 10 April 1837.

I HAVE the honour to forward the following report upon the state of my district, as directed by your circular, No. 63, dated 23d September 1836.

It is unnecessary for me to offer any observations upon the several points enumerated in the first eight questions of the series forwarded from Downing-street, dated 15 July 1836, as I could only repeat what I stated in my last report.

In reply to the ninth question, I am happy to be able to state, that a considerable change has taken place since the commencement of this year. In the school at Fort Stewart there are now, as I am informed by the Rev. Mr. Forbes, in regular daily attendance about 40 free children, and about 30 children and adults every evening; they are instructed by a school-master sent by the Lord Bishop from the central school in Kingston. About 500 persons from all the neighbouring estates assemble three times a week for divine service. In the day and Sunday schools at Annotto Bay, about 20 children attend rather irregularly; and in the episcopal chapel the congregation has increased to about 400, principally composed of apprentices; arrangements are being made for catechising upon the various estates during the week.

Four persons have effected their discharges since my last report; I have not been able to ascertain to what employments they intend to resort.

The prospects for this year's crop were, up to the beginning of the year, very favourable; but the last quarter has been exceedingly warm, and the quantity of rain unusually small. The canes upon the light sandy soils have suffered, and some of the fields must be planted over again. The cultivation is as forward as usual.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. E. Fishbourne*, Special Justice.

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Enclosure 50, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *William Hewitt*, Esq., Special Justice, to *Sir Lionel Smith*.

Sir,

Buff Bay, St. George's, 4 April 1837.

SINCE I made my last report to your Excellency on the state of my district, I am happy to say it has undergone no change, every thing continues in a prosperous condition. The crops which were made for the last year have averaged those of the years previous to 1834; many have exceeded them. The negroes work well, are civil, and generally well-conducted; the managers are therefore disposed to continue the indulgences allowed them formerly.

Your Excellency will no doubt have observed by the monthly returns, that of a population of nearly 6,000 apprentices, the average number of complaints for some months past has not been above 10 per month, and there has been but one complaint against a manager for many months.

I have observed that there has been a strong disposition among the apprentices to purchase their freedom lately; I have given their discharge to nine persons this year. I do not think that the number of those who applied for valuation in this district for two years prior to Christmas last amounted to more than five.

Appearances are in favour of the ensuing crop; we have had the finest weather during this spring that has been known for many years.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *William Hewitt*, Special Justice.



## JAMAICA.

## Enclosure 51, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *H. Moresby*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Kingston, 4 April 1837.

Enclosure 51,  
in No. 575.

I HAVE the honour to enclose three returns for the month of March 1837; viz., a return of valuations, a return of punishments, and a return of complaints.

It is with much gratification I have to report a decrease in the number of punishments inflicted, as compared with the previous quarters.

The apprentices continue to perform their work as cheerfully and willingly as their free brethren, and although much cannot be said in favour of the activity of the free mechanics and labourers in this town, they certainly do not excel, either in skill or industry, the same class who are still held in servitude. The domestic servants, especially the females, have sunk to the ultimate point of depression; the scale can fall no lower; it is only to be hoped that in the extensive plans of education which this town at present affords, some measures will soon be adopted to teach the lower and middling classes, in addition to reading and writing, that there is no crime or degradation in menial services, and that habits of order, decency and industry are essential to the qualification of a good domestic.

The apprentices most willingly work for wages, and are glad to have the opportunity of earning in their own time money to support their increasing families; in fact, if such was not the case, it is impossible to conceive how the numerous free children of apprentices exist; except in a few instances, the burden of their maintenance falls upon the parent, and much consequent distress and hardship arises. The apprentices take very little advantage of the facilities of education which this town affords; they have in fact no time, and few can spare money sufficient to keep their children in decent clothing to gain them admittance into the numerous schools now open for the education of the lower orders. The attendance of apprentices at church is numerous and orderly.

There have taken place only seventeen cases of valuation during the last quarter, and although many have been discharged by amicable arrangements with their owners, yet so few in number, that it cannot be inferred there is any great anxiety amongst the apprentices for obtaining their freedom.

I am of opinion that in this town the apprenticeship system is working as quietly and satisfactorily as could well have been anticipated.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *H. Moresby*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 52, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *John R. Hulme*, Esq., Special Justice.

Hanover, 4 April 1837.

Enclosure 52,  
in No. 575.

THE general conduct of the apprentices in this district during the last three months has, with a few exceptions, been good, and a good feeling exists between them and their employers. They are worked nine hours per day, and are allowed three hours' relaxation. Task-work is generally preferred by them, and is always resorted to where it can be effected. They generally work in their own time for wages, earning 3s. 4d. per hundred for cane-holes, and in other kinds of work 2s. 6d. to 3s. 1d. per day. They receive their usual indulgences. The free children are mostly supported by their parents, who seem to have a great objection to their being employed in any kind of labour for the estate. A few only have purchased their discharge, one only having been effected during the last six weeks.

Most of the properties are about finishing crop; and there will be a considerable reduction in the quantity of produce manufactured, owing to long-continued dry weather. The state of cultivation, as regards field labour, is pretty forward; but the growth of the young cane has been much impeded from the long-continued drought.

(signed) *John R. Hulme*, Special Justice.

## Enclosure 53, in No. 575.

COPY of a LETTER from *Hall Pringle*, Esq., Special Justice, to *C. H. Darling*, Esq.

Sir,

Lucea, 11 April 1837.

Enclosure 53,  
in No. 575.

IN accordance with the orders I have, to transmit a report of the state of my district quarterly, I have the honour to forward to you, for the use of his Excellency the Governor, the following information. The planters have been occupied during the past three months in taking off the sugar crop, now nearly concluded; and I have to report that the amount of the crop in this district will considerably exceed that of last year, and the prospects for the succeeding crop are very favourable. There are nearly 10,000 apprentices in my district; and I can confidently state, from my knowledge of the island, that the conduct of 7,000 of these, located on sugar estates and large pens (with the exception of the apprentices on one estate) is not exceeded, in point of propriety of conduct or in habits of industry, by the apprentices in any part of Jamaica. I am sorry I cannot report so favourably of the apprentices of the small settlers, or of the prædials unattached, working in jobbing gangs; I have in former reports attempted to account for this fact.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Hall Pringle*, Special Justice.

T A B L E ( B . )

RETURN of the Number and Effect of the Returns of PUNISHMENTS received by the Governor of Jamaica from the Special Magistrates, from the 1st June 1836 to the 30th April 1837.

COLONY.	D A T E.	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 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.	
Jamaica	1836 :										
	June	261,087	3,456	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	245	1,527	22	48	Three months	{ - - It is difficult to decide which may be considered the severest, varying as are the different modes of punishment from each other. Three months' house of correction. Two months' hard labour. Three months' penal gang. Three months' house of correction and hard labour. - - ditto - - ditto. Three months' house of correction. Three months' penal gang. - - Thirty days' hard labour in the penal gang, half hour each day on the treadmill, and then punished with thirty stripes. Three months.	
	July	261,087	2,767	1 $\frac{1}{16}$	208	1,370	23	48	Three months		
	August	259,740	1,029	$\frac{3}{8}$	309	347	24	50	Ten days solitary		
	September	255,995	2,581	1	368	1,016	25	39	Three months		
	October	238,088	2,551	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	384	933	25	50	Three months		
	November	246,806	2,323	1	466	863	20	49	Six months		
	December	251,609	2,470	1	319	987	20	40	Three months		
	1837 :										
	January	261,495	2,847	1 $\frac{1}{12}$	458	996	25	40	One month		
	February	267,013	1,834	$\frac{3}{8}$	332	706	20	40	One month		
	March	241,705	1,900	$\frac{1}{4}$	296	735	20	40	Three months		
April	240,801	1,766	$\frac{1}{4}$	275	730	24	40	Two months on estate			

## B A R B A D O S.

— No. 576.—

(No. 20.)

BARBADOS.

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

No. 576.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbados, 9 March 1836.

Vide Circular  
Despatch, (R.)

No. 1, 7 Mar. 1836.

No. 3, 5 Mar. 1836.

As the most effectual mode of complying with that part of your Lordship's circular despatch of the 18th November last, which calls for a report upon various points connected with the state of the prisons in this colony, I beg to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a letter addressed to me by the commissioners for regulating the gaol in Bridgetown, in reply to a communication from myself (copy also enclosed), forwarding a copy of your Lordship's despatch, and of the accompanying volumes of Reports on the Prisons in England. These volumes I have placed in their hands, considering that they will be more usefully disposed of than by being transmitted to the Legislature, who have but very recently passed a Bill for regulating the gaol, which will, I trust, be considered satisfactory by your Lordship, to whom it was transmitted for His Majesty's gracious allowance, with my despatch of the 30th December last, No. 57, Barbados.

Vide Papers relative  
to the Abolition of  
Slavery, 1836,  
Part 3 (2), page 22;  
and Appendix to ditto,  
page 44.

In addition to the gaol in Bridgetown, there are six police stations in the island, one in each district of the rural police; the buildings are, however, not yet completed, and we have therefore not been able to establish so great an uniformity of practice as is desirable. I shall on a future occasion have the honour to report upon them; and, in the mean time, beg to refer your Lordship to the following Acts passed by the Legislature of this island, which bear upon these establishments:—

AN ACT for the temporary Establishment of a Rural Police for this Island.—  
(Passed 24 April 1835.)

AN ACT to provide for the building of Houses of Correction and Police Establishments.—(Passed 14 Sept. 1835.)

AN ACT for the Establishment of Rules and Regulations for the Government and Discipline of the Rural Police of this Island.—(Passed 9 Dec. 1835.)

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

Vide Papers relative  
to the Abolition of  
Slavery, 1833-5,  
Part 2, Appendix,  
page 341.

Vide ditto ditto, 1836;  
Part 3 (2), Appendix,  
page 41.

Vide ditto ditto, 1836,  
Part 3 (2), Appendix,  
page 48.

Enclosures in No. 576.

(No. 1.)

Enclosures in  
No. 576.COPY of a LETTER from the Commissioners for regulating the Gaol in *Bridgetown*,  
to Sir *Lionel Smith*.

May it please your Excellency,

Common Gaol, 7 March 1836.

In answer to your desire, that we should make a report to you on the present state of the prisons of this island, we, the undermentioned members of the board of superintendence of the common gaol of this island, have, at our meeting this day, endeavoured to make such a statement to you, as it is at present in our power to do.

Every attempt to suppress crime by a course of prison discipline is so novel an undertaking in this island, that we find ourselves under the necessity of adverting more to what we hope to effect, than to what has already been effected. Hitherto, our gaol has been so wholly inadequate to our wants, and has been so neglected, that only the worst results could have been expected from such a vicious system. We have to plead in apology for the neglect of such important duty, the mal-conduct and want of judgment permitted in this same department in the mother country, as elicited by the able and voluminous reports of the late commissioners of inquiry; the long distracted state of our colony during the agitation of the slavery question, now happily terminated; and the alienation of the four and a half per cent. duty, on which the support and maintenance of our gaol was, from the first settlement of the colony, contemplated. We can, therefore, show you the results of no past experience; as a proof of our good intentions for the future, we refer you to the present Gaol Bill, lately established

established into law ; by that you will find that the religious instruction of the prisoners is provided for, not only by the appointment of a chaplain, but the Lord Bishop of the diocese is made an *ex officio* member of this Board. The health of the prisoners is under the care of a highly competent surgeon, a matron is appointed for the superintendence of the females, and we are making the most strenuous efforts, at an expense we are little able to sustain, to arrange the building, and fit it for the classification of prisoners, to as great a degree as our funds will permit us. An exact journal is kept of every transaction, of the reception and discharge of prisoners, &c. We are aware that there is no department of political science more important than that which relates to the statistics of crime ; without an accurate knowledge of facts, the business of legislation on this head becomes an unprofitable and hazardous course of experimenting in the dark ; we shall therefore not fail to have kept a faithful register. A treadmill of good construction is kept on the premises, the use of which, alternately with stone-breaking by task for the roads and streets, constitute the punishment for criminals sentenced to hard labour. It must be obvious to you, Sir, that few public institutions can succeed merely by their own merits and the industry of their conductors ; the strong connexion which exists between many departments powerfully affect each other. We have received all the aid we could have expected from the Town-hall committee, for which we make our acknowledgments. The lunatic asylum in this town being a parochial and not a general establishment, we have no co-operation with the governors of it, and are at present burthened with two maniacs, with whom properly we have no concern. On the co-operation with us by the surveyors of the highways much of our internal economy will depend ; we look to them for a supply of stone to be broken, and to take away that which is prepared for their business, which is likely to be to an amount that will render the maintenance of the prisoners far from being a total loss. Close as is the connexion between this gaol and those of the five districts in the interior of the country, we cannot fail to be powerfully affected by the manner in which those penitentiaries are conducted ; without a uniformity of system and a generally effective restraint on crime and idleness, the effect of one gaol's discipline in a country can avail but little. We cannot allude to those penitentiaries without offering thanks to your Excellency, which are felt by the whole country, for your unwearied efforts to make them all that they were designed for. A catalogue of all the inmates, with the crimes for which they are committed, now resident in this gaol, is handed to you. We have only now to add, that from the zeal and activity of the provost-marshal, we fully expect our Gaol Bill will be ably and profitably carried into effect, and that our next report will prove satisfactory to you.

We remain, &c.

(signed) *C. Barrow.* *E. H. Moore,*  
*Benjamin Ifill.* *Rob. Hendy,*  
*Joseph Evelyn.* *Christopher Gill,* } Police  
*George N. Taylor.* } Magistrates.

(No. 2.)

RETURN of Prisoners committed to the Gaol for Hard Labour or Treadmill by the respective Authorities, between 1 December 1835 and 29 February 1836.

Sentenced by the Court of Grand Sessions, Dec. 1835.	Committed by the Police Magistrates.		Committed by the Stipendiary Magistrate for												Committed by the Parochial Magistrates.	Whole Number received.	Whole Number released.	Remain in Gaol 29 Feb. 1836.		
			District A.		District B.		District C.		District D.		District E.		District F.							
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.					M.	F.
15	-	22	5	68	29	36	15	7	1	7	1	7	3	33	52	23	9	333	232	101

Of which 104 days' labour have been employed breaking stones ; the balance performed on the treadmill.

(No. 3.)

Government-House, Barbados,  
 5 March 1836.

Gentlemen,

I HAVE the honour to enclose you a despatch from the Secretary of State, calling upon me to report on the prison discipline and state of the gaols in this island.

I am aware how little time there has been to effect those improvements in our prison system in this island, which it has been the object of our Legislature, even in anticipation of this communication from home, to adopt ; but I shall feel myself very much obliged to you if you will, as far as possible, give me information to enable me to answer the various queries contained in the despatch, and stating, at the same time, the principles in progress to assimilate

18 Nov. 1835.

BARBADOS.

assimilate our prison system, as far as local circumstances may allow, with the system of the mother country; and if you have any suggestions to offer, by which the home authorities may be able to aid your praiseworthy exertions in this department, it will give me great pleasure to support them.

I have to beg you will enter the enclosed circular on your records, as a guide for the annual reports I shall anxiously expect from you, and I have further the pleasure to lay before your Board three reports from the Lords' Committee, which may eventually tend to assist your labours.

To

The Honourable *C. Barrow*, }  
The Honourable *B. Hill*, } Members of Council.

*J. P. Evelyn*, Esq. }  
*G. N. Taylor*, Esq. } Members of the House of Assembly,

and the Police Magistrates present, Commissioners for regulating the Gaol.

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

## — No. 577. —

No. 577. EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*, K.C.B., to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government-House, Barbados, 17 March 1836.

(No. 22.)

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for his Majesty's most gracious consideration, the transcripts of the following Acts passed by the Legislature of this colony, viz. :—

*Vide App. No. 187.* No. 590.—An Act to provide a Medical Practitioner and Matron for the Benefit of the Prisoners at each of the Police Stations in this Island.

*Vide App. No. 188.* No. 591.—A Supplemental Act to an Act, intituled "An Act for the better regulating the Common Gaol in this Island."

*Vide App. No. 189.* No. 592.—An Act to provide an Office in Bridgetown for the Special Justice, &c.

## — No. 578. —

No. 578. EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*, K.C.B., dated Downing-street, 21 June 1836.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you an Order of his Majesty in Council, dated 15th instant, leaving to their operation the following Acts passed by the Legislature of Barbados :—

*Vide App. No. 187.* No. 590.—An Act to provide a Medical Practitioner and Matron for the Benefit of the Prisoners at each of the Police Stations in this Island.

*Vide App. No. 188.* No. 591.—A Supplemental Act to an Act, intituled "An Act for the better regulating the Common Gaol of this Island."

*Vide App. No. 189.* No. 592.—An Act to provide an Office in Bridgetown for the Special Justice, &c.

## — No. 579. —

No. 579. COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., to Lord *Glenelg*.

(No. 39.)

My Lord,

Government-House, Barbados, 7 December 1836.

I do myself the honour of transmitting, for your Lordship's information, the enclosed report, obtained from the commissioners of the gaol of Bridgetown, and of a communication addressed to them by me after visiting that establishment.

Such suggestions as it occurred to me to offer upon that occasion were readily acceded to. Solitary cells are about to be erected, and will afford a resource evidently salutary, at least in the case of females. An hospital, with suitable apartments

No. 1.  
10 Nov. 1836.

No. 2.  
6 Dec. 1836.

apartments for the reception of prisoners of both sexes, is to be added; and I have reason to expect that arrangements will be made for eventually removing lunatics into an institution exclusively appropriated, under medical superintendence, to patients of that class.

The only obstacles impeding the progress of these improvements seem to arise from the limited pecuniary means at the disposal of the Legislature; and it is to be hoped, therefore, at no very distant period these obstacles will be successfully, although gradually, surmounted.

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

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Enclosures in No. 579.

(No. 1.)

May it please your Excellency,

WE have devoted this our stated day of meeting, according to the requisition of the Gaol Act, to the execution of your commands.

When we state to your Excellency that this is only the second report which has been made by this Board of Superintendence, and that the law which commenced the reform of this prison, and under the provisions of which we now act, has not been in force quite one year, and that full six months of that time have been occupied in fitting up this imperfect prison, you will see that this institution is in its infancy, and that much of that great result which is expected from it cannot have been accomplished. We refer your Excellency to the reports on the state of the prisons in the mother country, by which you will see that the amount of success obtained there in prisons long constructed, and on the greatest scale, is not considered to have been great.

The circumstances which have proved impediments to us, are, first, our being as yet without proper means of coercion; we have obtained the permission of the late Governor in Council to apply to the Town-hall committee to erect 18 solitary cells, and from the ready accordance and co-operation we received from the gentlemen forming this committee, in our last building and repairs, we feel assured that they will speedily supply this want. In the absence of solitary cells, the prisoners have been well aware of our difficulties and inefficient equipment, and of the responsibility under which we authorize the use of the cat; and as they do not lack for seditious communication, they have frequently opposed the discipline of the house, have refused to stand on the treadmill, or to perform their task of stone-breaking. On these occasions, although we are aware that a sentence from a court of competent authority implies the power to carry it into execution by the best means that are available, we have consulted the English reports, ever desirous of adhering to the example of the mother country, and find that solitary cells, whipping, and irons are the punishments resorted to for disorderly conduct, but solitary cells generally. In our cases we had no alternative but to sanction the use of the cat, as sparingly as was possible, or to permit the sentences to be turned into mockery. As instances of the many difficulties which surround us, we must observe that solitary cells, when we obtain them (although they will doubtless be of great use) are not likely to be generally the aid here that they are in an European country; the solitary cell is a punishment most keenly felt by the active and, to a degree, enlightened mind, when shut out from all external objects, and forced upon reflection. The gross natures and obtunded intellects of our convicts will sleep away the time, and suffer comparatively little. We in like manner are deprived of the power which is possessed in an English gaol, of addressing exhortation to the prisoners by the means of letters; few or none of our prisoners (the greater part of whom are apprenticed labourers) can read; it is not only useless to give them little plain religious tracts, but they cannot read rules hung up in their cells, nor see, was it constantly placed before their eyes, as it would be, that they will benefit by and be treated more kindly for orderly behaviour. As a preventive to crime, we are deprived of the effect (most powerful in England) of the fear of loss of character, by having been imprisoned. The English prisoner knows when he is committed, he incurs, with present punishment, loss of future employment, at least in his old calling. No farmer or shop-keeper will hire a convict. Our apprenticed labourer knows he will go back to his employment uninjured in this respect. Indeed, there has been no legal necessity till lately for character for the exercise of many gainful trades, which afforded great facility for committing crime. Persons alternately lived in gaols, and sold spirits, or were hawkers or pedlars, or even sold the great necessary of life as butchers. Potter, the white man, and the two blacks whipped with him last session for stealing stock, had been several times convicted of stealing animals to slaughter, and were at once known in the market-place as thieves and butchers. Our great reliance has been on prison discipline, which is effective only to a certain extent; and in conducting this we have had another great impediment to our exertions, in the difficulty we have had to obtain faithful and competent servants. This is sometimes experienced in England; but here, where the salaries are smaller and the choice circumscribed, we almost despair of success. The gaoler should not only be a man of correct habits and true religious feeling, but he should be a man of good understanding, competent to use the many petty discretions with which he must be trusted to advantage, and incapable

Enclosures in  
No. 579.

No. 2.

No. 3.

No. 4.

## BARBADOS.

of deceiving us. The subordinate turnkeys are impatient of restraint, and regardless of being discharged. We can only say, that we shall always endeavour to have employed the best that can be obtained. It must be allowed to be some proof of cleanliness and ventilation, that to this time we have had only one case of typhus fever, and no other epidemic in the gaol, notwithstanding the extreme heat of the season and the prevalence of disease. We are able to state that our prison discipline, imperfect as it may be, does not seem to have been wholly inoperative; the number who have been recommitted a second time for hard labour, during the 10 months the present Bill has been in force, have been very few out of the whole number committed. The work performed in stone-breaking, between the days of the profitless treadmill, has been generally about 15 baskets a day to each prisoner, on an average, including females, old and feeble persons; the stone being very refractory, and the tools very soft and bad. The total quantity of stone delivered to the surveyors of roads to this time has been, from 20th June, 168 cart loads, with which several of the principal streets and cross streets of the town have been much improved.

No. 5.  
No. 6.

And here we must observe, that no other work that the prisoners could have been put to could have been so valuable, and at the same time so compatible with restraint and prison discipline, and particularly the enforcement of silence, as far as it is practicable. The pavement of the streets of the town cannot be worse than it is, without intending to censure the surveyors, who had not means, and we hope in time to remedy this evil.

In the Appendix annexed to this, we furnish your Excellency with a review of the present inmates of the gaol, and of the commitments since the last session and gaol delivery.

No. 7.

With regard to the dependence which the public may place on this gaol as the means of suppressing crime, we think it an erroneous opinion that crime can be kept down solely by the terrors of prison discipline, ever so skilfully and faithfully enforced. The gaol is only a necessary part of the system of government, an aid, and final resort; the most important part of this system is wise legislation, based on statistics, tending to the prevention of crime, the abstraction of temptation, and the wholesome and constitutional regulation of the actions of individuals. To permit, by the omission or laxity of laws, the facility of committing crimes, and the ability of persons destitute of regular employment or estate to live in idleness, is the sure way to fill this prison with tenants, who will go hence rendered worse by contamination.

The speedy and certain punishment of crime, which the proper establishment of quarter sessions would afford, would lessen the work of the provost-marshal, and assist our efforts. The Legislature have shown such good intentions to protect the community, that we feel assured they will not stop short in the work. Combined with wise legislation and a vigorous police, we trust that this establishment will fulfil every reasonable expectation of it, and will perform its part in suppressing the crime of the country.

(signed)	<i>C. Barrow.</i>	<i>E. H. Moore.</i>
	<i>B. Ifill.</i>	<i>R. Hendy.</i>
	<i>Joseph P. Evelyn.</i>	<i>C. Gill.</i>
	<i>John Bovell.</i>	

Town-hall, 10 Nov. 1836.

*Notes and References to the Lords' Reports.*

- No. 1.—1st Report, p. 14.—Evidence, Wm. Crawford, esq., 28th July 1835.  
4th & 5th Report, p. 478.—Evidence, G. T. Buller, esq.  
4th & 5th Report, p. 478.—Evidence, Sir Peter Laurie, on Giltspur-street Compter, Borough Compter, and Newgate.  
4th & 5th Report, p. 479.—Evidence of J. M. Straghn, esq.
- No. 2.\*—1st Report, p. 280.—Evidence, H. Capper, esq., superintendent of convict establishment. Head of office of Home Department, criminal business.  
1st Report, p. 173.—Evidence, T. C. Neale, esq., governor of Springfield gaol, Essex.  
1st Report, p. 246.—No. 15. Evidence, Mr. Chesterton on Coldbath-fields, said to be the best prison.
- No. 3.—1st Report, p. 245.—Evidence, Mr. Chesterton on solitary cells, and their effect on different prisoners.
- No. 4.—1st Report, p. 43.—Evidence, Rev. W. Russel respecting gaol servants.
- No. 5.—This is exclusive of the labour performed during the building and repairs of the gaol, amounting to a great deal of work, but not capable of being returned; certainly equal to the stone broken since, and having saved the country a very great expense.
- No. 6.—We have sent to England for well-tempered hammers, which are not to be had here.
- No. 7.—1st & 2d Report, p. 482.—Evidence of J. M. Straghn, esq., on the inefficiency of gaol discipline without preventive laws.

\* On the impossibility and impolicy of doing away with corporal punishment in some cases, to obtain discipline in gaols.

*Gaol Report from 20 June to 5 November inclusive.*

13 prisoners for debt.	3 trespasses.
18 imprisonment, hard labour, and stripes.	101 disobedience.
7 imprisonment alone.	54 insolence.
8 ditto with hard labour.	84 idleness and neglect.
9 not tried.	95 desertion.
2 charged with murder.	14 injury to property.
1 ditto with rape.	6 soldiers under Mutiny Act.
1 bestiality.	1 nuisance.
19 burglary.	31 assaults.
15 larceny.	10 want sureties for the peace.
1 perjury.	7 vagrants.
10 sheep-stealing, over 25 s.	4 selling without licence.
1 arson.	12 seamen deserters.
34 stealing under value 25 s.	2 soldiers for transportation.
156 petty thefts.	3 insane.
7 stealing poultry.	1 stealing manure.
41 stealing roots, trash, fuel, &c.	1 exciting sedition.

(No. 2.)

Government-House, Barbados,  
6 December 1836.

Gentlemen,

ON having an opportunity of comparing the statements contained in your communication of the 10th ultimo, with the actual condition of the common gaol, the Governor recognizes with pleasure the evident pains which have been bestowed on the arrangements of that prison, not only in the promotion of cleanliness and ventilation, but in many other essential points connected with its interior economy and discipline. It is peculiarly satisfactory to the Governor to have learnt likewise from the right reverend prelate and members of the Board of Superintendence, whom his Excellency had the pleasure of meeting at the Court-house yesterday, that their views coincide with the Governor's respecting the progressive removal of imperfections noticed in your report as still affecting this important institution, and his Excellency cannot but participate in your anticipation, that the Legislature will readily contribute, in support of your zealous and meritorious exertions, every liberal assistance towards its amelioration consistent with the means at their command.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *J. H. Ponsonby*, Acting P. S.

Commissioners for superintending the Common Gaol.

— No. 580. —

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

No. 580.

(No. 14.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 14 February 1837.

I HAVE received, and have read with attention, your despatch, No. 39, of the 7th December, enclosing the second report of the Board of Superintendence on the state of the Gaol of Bridgetown in Barbados, and a copy of a letter addressed to them by yourself after visiting that establishment.

I consider the report as honourable to the judgment and industry of its authors, and am the more encouraged to look forward to the ultimate success of their efforts for the improvement of prison discipline, when I observe that the gentlemen composing the commission combine so clear a view of the difficulties with which they have to contend, with so firm a resolution to encounter them with perseverance. I am much impressed with the truth of their remarks on the difficulty of rendering the restraints of a prison effectual for the improvement of those who do not enter it with some previous education, and with some self-respect, and value for the respect of others. This appears to afford a collateral and unexpected argument in favour of diffusing Christianity and elementary knowledge amongst all classes of society, since it becomes necessary, with regard to delinquents destitute of those advantages, to substitute, for a discipline dreaded by others, a recourse to punishments by which submission and authority are obtained at the expense of bodily suffering and mental degradation.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.



BARBADOS.

— No. 581. —

No. 581.

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

(No. 24.)

My Lord,

Government-House, Barbados, 13 April 1836.

*Vide App. No. 190.* I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for his Majesty's gracious allowance, the transcript of an Act (No. 603), intituled "An Act to fix and confer Settlement or Right of Paupers to dwell irremoveably in some one particular Parish, &c.;" together with the report of the Attorney-general, pointing out certain objections, which, however, I did not think of sufficient importance to induce me to dissent to the Act.

26 March 1836.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

## Enclosure in No. 581.

EXTRACT of a REPORT of Mr. Attorney-General *Sharpe*, dated Bridgetown,  
26 March 1836.Enclosure in  
No. 581.

I HAVE perused an Act of the Legislature, forwarded by your Excellency for my consideration, intituled "An Act to fix and confer Settlement or Right of Paupers to dwell irremoveably in some one particular Parish of this Island, &c."

Some of the provisions of this Act I consider to be very objectionable, but I do not deem myself authorized to recommend your Excellency to withhold your assent from it, as it contains others of a very salutary kind.

It embraces three objects: the introduction of paupers' settlements, and the maintenance of the aged and infirm poor; the punishment of disorderly persons, rogues, and vagabonds; the maintenance of bastard children. Clauses 1. 3. 4 and 14 apply to the first object of the Bill.

The second object is provided for by clauses 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13; these, with the exception of clause 11, are unobjectionable; against this clause it may fairly be urged that the person described as an offender having committed some one of the offences enumerated in clause 7, he ought to be subjected to the ordinary form of trial preparatory to receiving so severe a sentence. For a second offence this summary proceeding may be adopted; but, in the peculiar situation of the great mass of our population, a little mildness shown, for the present, in fixing the punishment of their vices, may not be misplaced.

Clauses 14 and 15 provide for the better protection of magistrates in the execution of their duty.

The remaining clauses of the Bill apply to the third object of it.

Of these, 20 and 22 appear to be objectionable; the former, because it confers an authority too extensive on the churchwardens over such children, being illegitimate, as are born and brought up in their parishes. Unhappily, under the debasing influence of slavery, the morals of the adult portion of the black and coloured population are not so improved as to lead either sex to view fornication as criminal; children of this description, consequently, are very numerous, and will be so until the habits of these classes improve. If the parents of an illegitimate child are willing to support it, there can be no good reason for removing it from the parents, and such authority should be expressly confined to cases only of desertion by the parents of the child, or where the parish may have borne the cost of maintaining the child. The words "Indenture of apprenticeship," should be erased, and the words "Indented apprentices" substituted.

The other clause, from containing, in the first and second lines the words "deserted and unprovided," seems to be restrained to cases only where the parents shall be guilty of any of the offences stated in the preceding clause, and it may admit of some doubt whether its provisions can be applied to putative fathers of children upon whom orders for maintenance may be made under clause 14; in which case there will be no means of compelling the putative father to pay for the maintenance of the child, which may, therefore, be left absolutely without food. I may appear over anxious upon this point, but the experience your Excellency has had of the suffering which the little children have had to bear, will justify me with you. Nothing ought to be left uncertain or insecure where they are concerned; the parish officers will not voluntarily admit any legal obligation upon their parishes to support these children. The English statutes will be denied operation, and I am not aware that there are any means of compelling the parishes to maintain such children.

Clause 2 does not belong to either of the heads of arrangement under which I have classed the provisions of the Act. It provides for the safe custody, or otherwise for the punishment of persons committed for want of surety for good behaviour, and brought before the court of grand sessions to be discharged under the commission of gaol delivery. Besides being improperly placed in this Act, it is objectionable, as it may authorize an imprisonment  
for

or an indefinite term without previous trial; persons included in the description stated may never find security, and their imprisonment would be perpetual. I think it would be sufficient to declare all such persons for a second offence vagabonds, and to punish them accordingly, if the circumstances under which they are committed should, in the opinion of the court, authorize it so to deal with them.

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— No. 582. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart  
(No. 5.)

No. 582.

Sir,

Downing-street, 28 November 1836.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir Lionel Smith's despatch (No. 24) of the 13th April last, transmitting an Act (No. 603) for settling the right of paupers to dwell irremovably in some one particular parish; accompanied by a report from the Attorney-general, raising certain objections to the said Act.

The second clause of this Act provides, that when any person shall be brought before any justice of the peace or sessions, and shall be required to find security for good behaviour to keep the peace, and shall not be able to find such security, he is not to be discharged, even at a gaol delivery, but is to be committed to the house of correction until such security be found.

My first objection to this clause is, that it is foreign to the general objects of the Act in question. It is a general regulation for the guidance of courts and justices in administering the criminal law, introduced into a series of provisions for the prevention of vagrancy, for the settlement of the poor, and the maintenance of bastards.

Secondly, the rule itself is drawn up in terms which probably do not coincide with the real intention of its authors. If a man be committed for want of security to keep the peace, or for good behaviour, it is the usual, if not the invariable, custom to assign a period beyond which the imprisonment is not to last. But this clause would justify, if not require, the confinement of such a prisoner until some sufficient bail could be found, which, in many cases, would be precisely equivalent to a sentence of imprisonment for life.

The 22d clause enables the ordinary justices of the peace to sentence prædial apprenticed labourers, in certain cases, to perform extra labour in the service of their employer. It is repugnant to the Act for the Abolition of Slavery that such a jurisdiction should be entrusted to any justice of the peace not holding a special commission.

For these reasons, his Majesty would not be disposed to sanction this Act, unless the objections to which I have adverted were obviated by the necessary amendments; but even if so amended, his Majesty would be unwilling to confirm this statute at present, but would suspend his decision until the arrival, or the near approach of the time appointed for the close of the apprenticeship. I shall best explain the motives for this hesitation by the following extract from the Report presented to the House of Commons by the Committee which was appointed, during the last session, to inquire into the execution of the law for the abolition of slavery. They express their opinion, "that such enactments as are intended to come into operation after 1840, should, as much as possible, be delayed till that period shall arrive; and, at all events, be postponed till the time which more immediately precedes it."

Under these circumstances, you will acquaint the Council and Assembly that if the amendments which I have mentioned be introduced into this Act, his Majesty will acquiesce in the operation of it for the present, although reserving his final decision to a future period. On the other hand, should the Legislature decline to make those amendments, his Majesty will, although very reluctantly, be advised to disallow the Act, so soon as that refusal is ascertained.

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

BARBADOS.

— No. 583. —

No. 583.

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

(No. 53.)

My Lord,

Government-House, Barbados, 27 July 1836.

I VERY anxiously submit the following questions to your Lordship, which are indeed of great importance to this island, but which I have discouraged being brought before the Legislature until I was acquainted with your Lordship's sentiments how far they could be recommended for the Royal approbation.

I shall take this opportunity of saying, that in the present state of our condition, too strict an adherence to the constitutional principles of the British Government would, in many instances, be misplaced, and that we must have strong, though just laws, for the proper control of people coming out of slavery, that they should not abuse liberty.

Question 1st. The regulation of land allotments to Negroes, whether in lieu of allowances or rewards for good behaviour. The Legislature is desirous to pass an Act, compelling that one-third of such allotments should be planted in vendible articles, such as sugar, ginger, arrowroot, &c., and two-thirds in food. This is a most serious question; for the landlords allowing provision ground, if it is not so cultivated, have no means of subsisting their people, and famine must follow. Would your Lordship approve of a Bill for this object?

Question 2d. Transportation of felons. Many of the ablest bodied men in the island are now transported annually to New South Wales at a great expense to the colony. The Legislature wish to give me the power of commuting transportation in particular cases for an equal number of years to hard labour. To effect this, however, they must be leg-fettered to prevent their running away, as we should not have police enough, or any military guard to take care of them. Certain it is, many desperate characters do not care for transportation, and if your Lordship would approve of a Bill to the effect stated above, much useful labour might be saved to the colony, and a better example of punishment be shown.

Question 3d. The children became free under the Abolition Act; some of them are now eight years old; I have complaints from all parts of the country of their dissolute, idle habits. They will not go to school; but the little work they do is stealing for their parents. Would your Lordship approve of a coercive Bill to compel their attending schools, and giving what assistance they could to field labour, so as to give them habits of industry; and if it was feared the planters would appropriate their labour unjustly, it might be restricted to the cultivation of the Negroes' allotments.

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

— No. 584. —

No. 584.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray*  
*MacGregor*.

(No. 4.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 28 November 1836.

I HAVE received Sir Lionel Smith's despatch, dated the 27th July, in which he proposes for my solution certain questions, which I will transcribe, with the answers which they appear to me to require.

1st. Sir Lionel Smith asks whether his Majesty would object to the enactment of a law, of which the effect should be to compel the cultivation of the lands allotted to the Negroes, according to the following rule, viz. that one-third of such lands should be planted in vendible articles, and two-thirds in food. I answer, that it would be impossible to approve a law prescribing positively, and without reference to the change of times, the rise and fall of markets, and other circumstances, the cultivation of a certain definite amount of land with any particular kind of produce. It is too evident to require any formal proof that such  
a law

a law must either be continually violated, or must involve the cultivator in ruinous losses, and society at large in extreme inconvenience. I see no reason to doubt that these matters will adjust themselves much more advantageously by the ordinary resource of judicious contracts between the landlord and the tenant, than by the direct intervention of the Legislature.

2dly. It is inquired whether objection would be made to substitute the compulsory labour of convicts within the island itself for their transportation, the difficulty anticipated being, that in order to render their labour profitable, they must be worked beyond the precincts of the gaol, and that to prevent their escape when so worked, they must be confined with fetters. I answer, that I perceive no objection to this plan, if it be extended only to the case of able-bodied men, with an express exclusion of females, and of the young, the aged, and the infirm, and if effectual security can be taken that the fetters be neither in their form nor their weight more distressing than may be indispensable for preventing the escape of the offender. I should not, however, be disposed to sanction the use of any fetters more galling than those which are in use for convicts employed at the hulks, or in public works in this country. Of course also it must be understood that irons are not to be used in substitution for a proper police guard, but only in aid of their exertions to prevent escape. With these precautions, I should regard the change favourably, as the objections to transporting convicts to New South Wales are daily becoming more urgent.

The third question is, whether there is any objection to a law compelling the attendance of Negro children at school, in cases in which they may refuse or neglect to attend voluntarily. I answer, that not only would his Majesty's Government not object to such an enactment, but they would receive it with the utmost satisfaction. No member of society has any moral right to bring up in ignorance even his own children, when the means of a religious and moral education are placed within his reach, and if this parental duty be neglected, the State has the most unquestionable title to enforce the performance of it, for the general security and welfare of society at large. In this country, indeed, there have been found sufficient reasons for not resorting to measures of this kind; but in the present state of the British West Indies those reasons are either inapplicable, or are overborne by the force of the motives which demand coercion when other means of imparting knowledge fail.

Finally, Sir Lionel Smith inquires whether objection would be made to a Bill compelling idle children to labour, either in the fields, or in the provision grounds of their parents. Upon this subject it is at once difficult and hazardous to express an opinion until the question assumes a more definite shape. I may state, however, that compulsory field labour is a remedy for the idleness of children to which his Majesty's Government would most reluctantly give their sanction. The tendency of such a system, if once established, is too obvious for argument or illustration. It would prepare the way for a new, though milder form of prædial slavery; and obstruct the growth of those habits and motives which are essential to the formation of a free and independent peasantry. On the other hand, the idleness of children, if carried beyond the limits of the recreation, of which at that time of life a very large measure is not only blameless but useful, may be so injurious to society at large, as well as to themselves, as to demand the interposition of the Legislature. It seems to me, however, that so long as the resource remains of sending such idlers to school, and of placing them when there under wholesome scholastic discipline, there can be but little occasion for more severe measures.

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

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— No. 585. —

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

No. 585.

(No. 6.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 30 November 1836.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the despatch from the officer administering the government of Barbados of the 17th September last, (No. 4.) enclosing

BARBADOS.

enclosing copies of the indictment and judge's notes of evidence in the case of Nicholson, an apprenticed labourer, who had been convicted of felony, and sentenced to transportation for life.

Having considered the papers transmitted, I find no reason to doubt the lawfulness of the conviction in this case. Considering that Nicholson had been formerly convicted and punished for larceny, I fear that he must be regarded as a hardened offender, and that the severity of the sentence of transportation for life may, therefore, not be excessive. I entertain, however, very strong doubts whether this kind of secondary punishment is well adapted to prevent the commission of crime in the West Indies. The Negro population can hardly be supposed to possess any definite notions respecting the place to which criminals are sent, or the penalties awaiting them there. Great as is the existing demand for labour in the West Indies, the removal even of criminals would seem to be inexpedient, as subtracting the work which they might perhaps be compelled to perform in the public roads; while the introduction of any considerable number of the Negro race into the Australian colonies is to be deprecated for many reasons, applying to that part of his Majesty's dominions, though inapplicable elsewhere.

This subject having already been taken into consideration by Sir Lionel Smith, in reference to Barbados, I would recommend it to the serious consideration of the respective Governments and Legislatures of all the Windward Islands, who might perhaps concur in the adoption of some general scheme of secondary punishment, producing a more wholesome terror, subjecting the revenues to a smaller charge, and relieving the Australian colonies from an inconvenience to which they ought not to be subjected.

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

— No. 586. —

No. 586. EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart. to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government-House, Barbados, 30 December 1836.

*Vide App. No. 191.* I HAVE the honour herewith to forward to your Lordship copy of the under-mentioned Act, together with its summary; viz.

No. 610.—An Act, intituled an Act to authorize the employment of Prisoners on Public Works.

Enclosure in No. 586.

Enclosure in  
No. 586.

No. 610.—An ACT to authorize the Employment of Prisoners on Public Works.

*Opinion.*

*Summary.*

THE impossibility of finding employment for the prisoners sentenced to hard labour and confined in the common gaol has given rise to this enactment, and as the mode of employment, and the regulations for enforcing the performance of labour, are placed by the Act under the immediate control of the Executive, I consider it a beneficial law. It also only gives to the commissioners for the gaol the same powers as to the work to be performed by the prisoners as the several special justices have over the apprenticed labourers, the difference being only in requiring the more immediate sanction of the Governor for their rules and regulations.

It will much lessen the labour on the treadmill, and may, if effectually put into operation, also diminish the number of persons transported, which I consider of great importance, as there is no great fear among the labouring population of that kind of punishment.

(signed) *R. Boucher Clarke.*

The first clause of this Act authorizes the commissioners appointed under "An Act for better regulating the Common Gaol of this Island," to work the prisoners confined there under sentence of hard labour on the public works of the island in the town of Bridgetown, or within the distance of one mile from the limits of the town, or in cleaning and repairing the streets and roads as above.

The second clause authorizes the commissioners to prepare certain rules and regulations for working the prisoners, and which must be submitted to the Commander-in-Chief for the time being for his approval.

30 Dec. 1836.

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— No. 587. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., dated Downing-street, 29 April 1837.

No. 587.

I HAVE the honour to transmit an Order of his Majesty in Council, dated 26th instant, leaving to its operation the following Act passed by the Legislature of Barbados:

No. 610.—An Act, intituled an Act to authorize the employment of Prisoners on Public Works. *Vide App. No. 191.*

— No. 588. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart. to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government-House, Barbados, 24 Feb. 1837.

No. 588.

(No. 43.)

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatches of the 28th and 30th November last, Nos. 4, 5, and 6, the copy of a message from the House of Assembly is enclosed upon the subject, 1st, of convicted felons; 2d, of the Act (603), for settling the rights of the paupers, &c.; 3d, of the education of free children of apprenticed labourers.

No. 1.  
21 Feb. 1837.

It is satisfactory to observe the importance attached by the House of Assembly to the education of the free children of apprenticed labourers; and I hope to be enabled, by an early opportunity, to report further to your Lordship upon this subject.

Enclosure in No. 588.

EXTRACTS of a MESSAGE from the House of Assembly to Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., dated 21st February 1837.

Enclosure in No. 588.

THE House of Assembly has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of his Excellency the Governor's communication of the 24th and 31st of January last.

The House requests his Excellency's acceptance of their best thanks for the promptness with which he has been pleased to convey the information contained in these extracts from the despatches of the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, which he has laid before them, and beg to offer the following remarks on the several subjects to which they refer:

1st. In reference to his Lordship's despatch of the 28th of November 1836, the House receive with satisfaction the answer of Lord *Glenelg*, that there is no objection on the part of his Majesty's Government that convicted felons should be worked in this colony in a penal gang, instead of being transported; they have to express their thanks to his Excellency for the readiness with which he has sanctioned, and indeed commenced, the execution of this salutary measure; they fully confide in the discretion with which the commutations of sentences of transportation will be permitted by his Excellency, being satisfied that he will extend it to those cases only in which it will be equally a boon to the individual and to the community; and they express a hope that, through the zealous exertions of the board of superintendence of the gaol, they may speedily witness the efficient operation of a system which, if properly carried into execution, is calculated to confer lasting benefits on the colony.

*Vide No. 584.*

The House also will readily accede to the suggestions contained in his Lordship's despatch of the 30th of November, to take into consideration, in conjunction with the other Legislatures of the Windward Government, the adoption of some general scheme of secondary punishments, but they are not at present prepared to express an opinion as to its practicability.

*Vide No. 585.*

2d. In reference to the Act, numbered 603, "For settling the rights of paupers to dwell irremovably in some one particular parish," the House will proceed to take the same into its consideration, with a view to making such amendments as will obviate the objections mentioned by his Lordship in his despatch on that subject.

5th. On the subject of the education of the free children of apprenticed labourers, the House receives with the greatest pleasure the promise of co-operation contained in Lord *Glenelg's* despatch of the 28th of November. Feeling deeply the importance of the subject, being fully aware of the erroneous impression unfortunately engendered in the minds of the parents of these children, and knowing the difficulties which attend the successful accomplishment of their undertaking, they have deemed it most prudent to appoint a committee to collect such evidence on the question as will truly inform the House of the real condition and wants of this the most unprotected class of our peasantry, and thus enable them more effectually to remedy the great and growing evils of their present situation. In the prosecution of this inquiry the House has sought the aid of his Majesty's Council, and feel that it may rely with confidence on obtaining from your Excellency your valuable advice and assistance.

*Vide No. 584.*

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— No. 589. —

No. 589. Copy of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart.  
(No. 30.)

Sir;

Downing-street, 28 April 1837.

I HAVE received your despatch (No. 43) of the 24th February, in acknowledgment of my despatches of the 2d November (circular) and of the 28th and 30th of November last, and I have to acquaint you, in answer, that it is highly satisfactory to me to perceive, from the enclosures accompanying your despatch, that so cordial a concurrence of opinion subsists between his Majesty's Government and the Assembly of Barbados on the various questions which have formed the subject of your communications with that House. It is particularly gratifying to me to observe the manner in which the attention of the House has been directed to the important subject of education.

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

— No. 590. —

No. 590. Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*, K. C. B., to Lord *Glenelg*.  
(No. 30.)

My Lord,

Government-House, Grenada, 20 May 1836.

*Vide App. No. 192.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for his Majesty's gracious allowance, the transcript of an Act of the Legislature of Barbados, intituled, (No. 595) "An Act to authorize the Killing or Impounding of Sheep, Goats, Hogs, and Feathered Stock when found trespassing on the Lands of any Plantation or Place," together with the observations of the Attorney-general thereon.

I have only to observe, that although this law may at first sight appear severe, it is in a great measure called for by the nature of the country (which, though cultivated throughout, is perfectly unenclosed), and the extremely negligent habits of the lower classes of the population, white as well as coloured.

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

Enclosure in No. 590.

Enclosure in  
No. 590.

OBSERVATIONS upon an Act to authorize the Killing or Impounding of Sheep, Goats, &amp;c.

THE object of this Act appears to be to extend the authority which proprietors of plantations have, under clause 30 of the Barbados Abolition Act, to kill or impound the cattle, hogs, goats, sheep or stock, of their apprenticed labourers, to the killing or impounding of sheep, goats, hogs, and feathered stock generally.

This authority, so far as it extends to enable a party to kill domesticated animals of the above kind is novel; and it is remarkable that the necessity for conferring it, which by the preamble of the Act is stated to exist, has not manifested itself before, as the apprenticed labourers, in their condition of slaves, were extensive owners of this description of stock.

The Act will operate, virtually, as a repeal of the above clause. It authorizes the killing of sheep, goats, and feathered stock, and the above-mentioned clause authorizes the killing of hogs and feathered stock only.

It is, moreover, partial in its effect, as no corresponding right is given to tenants or apprenticed labourers to kill the sheep of the landlord or master when trespassing upon their humble allotments.

Small freeholds in this island, whereon no sugar-works are erected, are called places.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) *H. E. Sharpe*.

— No. 591. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*, K.C.B.  
(No. 85.)

No. 591.

Sir,

Downing-street, 28 September 1836.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 20th of May last, (No. 30,) enclosing the transcript of an Act passed by the Legislature of Barbados to authorize the killing or impounding of sheep and other stock found trespassing on any plantation.

Upon the questions controverted between yourself and the Attorney-general of Barbados with reference to this Act, I would observe, that while that officer maintains, without any doubt, but also without any explanation, his own judgment that this is a law of needless severity, you have not pronounced a decided opinion in its favour, but have stated only that it is a law which is "in a great measure called for." The authority of the Council and Assembly is of course entitled to great weight on such a question; but it is impossible to forget that the members of those bodies have all a direct personal interest in regard to any subject debated between the proprietary and the poorer classes. I could therefore have wished for a more full and precise exposition of the reasons for and against this measure.

The Attorney-general further maintains that the word "place," as employed in this Act, is not to be understood in the general and comprehensive sense which it ordinarily bears, but in a technical and much narrower meaning, which custom has assigned to it in Barbados. Hence he draws the argument that the effect of this law will be to shelter from waste the estates of the planters, while it leaves unprotected the small pieces of land occupied by the apprentices. As you have not noticed this remark, I am unable to ascertain whether you concur in it, and whether the objection itself is well founded.

Under these circumstances, his Majesty's decision on this Act will be suspended until I shall be in possession of your further report respecting it.

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

— No. 592. —

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

No. 592.

(No. 37.)

My Lord,

Government-House, Barbados, 6 December 1836.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your Lordship's despatch of the 28th of September, (Barbados, No. 85,) addressed to Sir Lionel Smith, on the subject of an Act (No. 595) passed by the Legislature of this island to authorize the killing or impounding of sheep or other stock found trespassing in any plantation.

Vide App. No. 192.

Being unable to ascertain Sir Lionel's sentiments upon the points connected with this Act, adverted to by your Lordship (although Mr. Attorney-general Sharpe's report is transcribed in the books of enclosures), I have considered it advisable to obtain a report from his Majesty's Solicitor-general, which will be found enclosed, and whence it clearly appears, that, in this learned gentleman's opinion, the law in question is calculated to afford protection to the poor as well as to the rich; and if this construction shall be pronounced accurate by your Lordship, the principal objection against the enactment, urged by Mr. Sharpe, will necessarily be removed.

4 Dec. 1836.

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

Enclosure in No. 592.

REPORT from HIS MAJESTY'S SOLICITOR-GENERAL.

Enclosure in  
No. 592.

Sir,

4 December 1836.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for his Excellency's information, my opinion on the Act for killing or impounding stock while trespassing, and to which his Excellency's attention has



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has been drawn by my Lord Glenelg's despatch on the subject, of the 28th September, (No. 85.) The following are, I apprehend, the reasons for enacting it: There are no hedges or any sort of inclosure to the fields in this island, and constant damage was done to the growing crops by sheep, goats, and hogs, which were commonly let loose in the night in order that they might supply themselves in this manner with food; this is not merely complained of by the planters, but by the apprenticed labours themselves; and as it is impossible to catch and impound them, or even to identify them in the night, the party injured was without remedy. Again, the damage in each case being generally small, the manner prescribed by the 30th clause of the Abolition Act for assessing it is deemed impracticable; for the loss of labour to the employer, and of time to the three freeholders in investigating each case, is the greater evil of the two.

All the inquiries I have made on this subject convince me of the necessity for the law, while it has been gratifying to find that the instances of killing have been extremely rare, the knowledge alone that they may be killed while trespassing being sufficient to induce the owners to keep them tied up.

I cannot consider that the operation of this Act will be to leave unprotected the lands occupied by apprenticed labourers. They are not excluded from its protection by the words of the Act; and as they are in all respects entitled to the protection of every general law, unless they are so excluded, I think it would be impolitic to suppose that they can be exempted by inference, in any case, which is not a necessary consequence of their present condition.

F. H. Ponsonby, Esq.  
Acting Private Secretary,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *R. Boucher Clarke.*

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— No. 593. —

No. 593.

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

(No. 34.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 15 May 1837.

On the 28th September last I addressed a despatch to Sir Lionel Smith, requesting an explanation of certain parts of an Act (No. 595) passed by the Legislature of Barbados to authorize the killing or impounding of cattle found trespassing on any plantation.

I have had the honour to receive your reply of the 6th December (No. 37), transmitting a copy of a letter from the colonial Solicitor-general, who appears to differ in opinion with the Attorney-general, both as to the effects which are likely to result from the Act in question, as well as in the interpretation which would be put in the colony upon the term "place," as used in the Act.

The Solicitor-general obviously entertains the opinion that the word "place" neither requires nor admits of that narrow and technical sense which Mr. Sharpe has ascribed to it; and, although I could have wished that opinion to have been more fully explained, I have no reason to doubt the accuracy of it, and therefore, in reliance on the judgment of Mr. Clarke, I have advised his Majesty to leave the Act to its operation.

I had the honour of transmitting to you an Order to that effect in my despatch of the 29th ultimo, but was prevented at the time from accompanying it with these observations.

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

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— No. 594. —

No. 594.

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

(No. 39.)

My Lord,

Government-House, Barbados, 1 July 1836.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the address which I made to the Legislature at the annual opening of the session on the 28th ultimo.

I shall

I shall have the honour of forwarding to your Lordship in a future despatch any reply which may be received from either branch of the Legislature.

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

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Enclosure in No. 594.

COPY of Sir *Lionel Smith's* ADDRESS to the Legislature of *Barbados*, on opening the Session on the 28th June 1836.

Enclosure in  
No. 594.

Mr. President, my Lord Bishop, and Gentlemen of the Council,

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the General Assembly,

I HAVE called you together as early as I could for the dispatch of public business.

It is with pleasure I congratulate you on the general tranquillity of the island. Considering we were exposed to a severe tempest in the early part of the season, the general agriculture has returned a good average crop of your most valuable products, from which I hope I may infer there has been no diminution of industry among the labouring classes.

Although I am sincerely interested in the welfare of this colony, I never indulge in those political flourishes on future prospects, which are always more liable to deceive than inspire confidence. I cannot, however, advert to the singular advantages of the locality and vast population of this colony, without expressing my sanguine hopes that, under a kind Providence, and wise laws, they will become the guarantees of a lasting prosperity.

With regard to the working of the apprenticeship system, my anxious desire has been to render its operation of mutual benefit to masters and servants.

While I express my acknowledgments to many proprietors and attornies, who have conducted their estates with great kindness and forbearance towards their dependents, and who, I trust, are thereby laying the foundation for the security of their properties in time to come, by the settlement of a contented peasantry, I have, on the other hand, to complain of a class of small proprietors, who resort to nothing but severity and coercion for the government of their labourers.

The journals of the magistrates report no less than 65 cases of assaults by employers against apprentices between the months of January and May last.

If my warning voice could reach these violent spirits, it would tell them they are working their own ruin. It is for the general interests of society to put down these unlawful acts; and if I find they are continued, I must appeal to the Legislature for larger penalties for their more effectual punishment.

The labours of the last sessions have been highly beneficial to the community, by the enactment of several laws calculated to restrain all classes within the bounds and blessings of civil liberty.

A people emerging from slavery, and who have been long governed by individual power, require time and strong general laws before they can justly estimate their change of condition, and licentiousness is almost a consequence of such change.

Under this allowance for the errors of ignorance, I am not alarmed at the amount of crime brought before the last court of grand sessions, as compared with an equal population, even in countries that have long enjoyed liberty.

The ministers of religion are doing their duty in establishing the only remedy, the moral improvement of the people; but their labours cannot be expected to effect much with the adult population.

On this subject I have to call your attention to my message, dated the 25th January last, enclosing two despatches from the Secretary of State.

The measure now before the Imperial Parliament for the improvement of the civil and criminal judicature will, I anxiously hope, meet your cordial support.

There are two subjects which are sources of great anxiety to me, in my endeavours to administer this government with advantage to all classes of his Majesty's subjects.

Your militia laws, framed for a state of society which no longer exists, have become oppressive, without in any way conducing to efficiency.

I entreat your consideration towards the revision of these laws.

The next is the state of the elective franchise, which I pray to have extended, by equal qualifications, to a deserving portion of the community, who are now only partially admitted to its enjoyment.

Your attention to this will strengthen my means of equal and just government.

Early in the last session I called the attention of the Legislature, by three different messages, to the state of the law, which made apprenticed labourers, after trial, and whether acquitted or convicted, subject to imprisonment until they paid certain fees; and also the state of poor debtors in prison, who have no subsistence allowed them, either from the country or from their creditors. I was informed the Gaol Bill, then under consideration, would provide against these defects; but nothing having been done to correct them, I beg to bring those messages again under your consideration, as well as to a Bill then promised for

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formally vesting in the Crown the forts and batteries which I took in charge more than two years ago, to save the colony a useless expense.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the General Assembly,

The Tax Bill having been assented to by the President in my absence, but with my previous sanction, I earnestly hope you will be able to provide for the public expenses of the current year, and that you will cause them to be regulated by a strict regard to economy.

The police establishments, which are improving in efficiency, have, I hope, proved worth the great additional expense they have occasioned.

I am satisfied with the establishments in the rural districts; but earnestly recommend an addition of five policemen to each division of the town police, and that the whole of that force should be immediately furnished with new clothing.

You will receive in due course the copies of several communications from the Secretary of State, to which I beg your earnest and early attention.

Mr. President, my Lord Bishop, and Gentlemen of the Council,

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the General Assembly,

The changes now working in the social condition of the great body of the people will require your watchful attention, and great application to the duties you have to perform.

I anxiously hope that a spirit of union and good understanding may guide your councils, and you may rely on my prompt co-operation in all measures proposed for the public good.

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— No. 595. —

No. 595. COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*, K.C.B., to Lord *Glenelg*.

(No. 49.)

My Lord,

Government-House, Barbados, 26 July 1836.

No. 1.  
(Without date.)

REFERRING your Lordship to my letter of the 1st July 1836 (No. 39), enclosing my address to the Council and Assembly, I have now the honour of enclosing copies of their replies; and your Lordship will be glad to see they are in a tone of moderate contentment and good temper.

No. 2.  
19 July 1836.

I must not, however, conceal from your Lordship that there is still a great deal of violence and cruelty practised on the unfortunate apprentices by low whites, which I have not had the means of preventing.

It struck me that public exposure would have the best effect, and your Lordship will perceive I consequently introduced the fact in my speech.

I did not wish to irritate by sending forth the proofs; but as this harsh and unjust treatment is so lightly adverted to by the legislative branches, I am bound at least to satisfy your Lordship I had good cause for my complaint against the infraction of the law by low proprietors, and I therefore enclose an abstract from the magistrates' journals of the apprentices' complaints against their employers.

No. 3.

I originally protested against the small fine of 5*l.* currency (3*l.* 6*s.* sterling) for beating the apprentices, because I knew there were many owners who would most gladly pay it for the pleasure of maintaining the exercise of an old right over slaves.

The extreme fine under the Consolidated Slave Act was 100*l.*, and even that did not always restrain parties from violence and cruelty.

The magistrates having been in error in seldom even adjudging the extreme penalty of 5*l.*, I sent for them all and remonstrated with them, so that I hope the frequency of the crime may be checked for the future.

The common charge against the apprentices is insolence, which your Lordship will see the Legislature took care to provide against by the 67th clause of the Abolition Act, which gives, however, no corresponding protection to the apprentices against the scandalous and disgusting abuse used by whites against them.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Lionel Smith*.

## Enclosures in No. 595.

(No. 1.)

REPLY of the COUNCIL to the Governor-General's Address on opening the Session of 1836.

Enclosures in  
No. 595.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, the members of his Majesty's Council, in Legislature assembled, do present to you our hearty thanks for the gracious speech delivered to us by you on the opening of our Parliament, for the comprehensive view contained in it of our policy, and for your attention to our interests in thus early calling us together to resume our labours for the public. We do most cordially unite with your Excellency in the testimony you bear to the zeal and diligence of the ministers of religion of all ranks and degrees: their efforts have produced in this community perfect confidence that every expenditure which we can undertake in the cause of Christianity will be most faithfully employed, and under this confidence our churches are rising up, and our schools enlarging. If we are, nevertheless, forced upon the fact, that we still have to deal with a peasantry very little altered in morality, whilst they connect with their ideas of freedom the hardship of labour, we do but state what every day's experience confirms, and what every statesman, conversant with the mind of man, and the slowness of its progress from the savage to the civilized state, must have expected, unless he ascribed to our ministers the power of miracle. The position just laid down cannot fail to rouse us to a proper sense of our difficulties, and to lead us to the contemplation of the great probable cause of our future failure. Our advantages of locality, and of dense population, are, as your Excellency observes, circumstances in our favour; but these, we are aware, will avail us little, unless we can effectually make use of the few years which are to intervene between this and the general freedom to superinduce in our peasantry the habits of cheerful industry. On our parts, we have pressed on us the necessity for the utmost diligence and prudence, for perfect union and good understanding between all the branches of our Legislature, and for that fostering care and protection which have been extended to us by his Majesty's Ministers and yourself.

We acknowledge with gratitude the protection spread over our agriculture by your guidance and instruction of the special magistrates, and assure you that a continuation of the same equitable government can alone secure to us (with the blessings of Providence) harvests similar to that you so kindly congratulate us on.

It is with unfeigned sorrow we understand from you that the reports of the justices announce a number of assaults committed within the last four months by employers on apprenticed labourers. Nothing can be more foreign from our intention than to palliate or apologize for such imbecile and vulgar conduct on the parts of our numerous lower classes; but we feel it due to the community to declare, that should this circumstance be taken by strangers as a proof of a general harsh disposition towards our labourers, (which we are sure your Excellency did not intend it should,) such a conclusion will be erroneous. Assaults embrace a wide range of offence, from the slightest touch to the infliction of serious injury; they form a large portion of the aggressions of the population against one another at all the quarter sessions and assizes of England and Ireland; we cannot flatter ourselves that we shall be exempt from these offences amongst the class they are confined to, under any line of conduct that can be adopted; they are the results of unbridled insolence and provocation on one side towards the grade just above them, and want of control of temper, the invariable consequence of deficient education, on the other; thus it happens that similar intemperance rarely or never happens under the dignified and well-established discipline of the navy, but frequently occurs in the merchant service. We cannot imagine any greater power to be requisite to suppress such follies than those which already exist. The special justice has the power to fine the offender in the sum of 5*l.*, or, if he thinks the offence deserves it, to send it to the sessions, where there cannot be the smallest doubt that it would receive a punishment fully equal to its deserts. We presume, from the fact of only one such offender having been indicted to the sessions, that all the rest were of a trifling description; that offender, for an assault which between two free men in Europe would not have probably found its way into a court, could not have incurred less than 80*l.* expenses.

With regard to the Act of the 9th June 1831, so frequently complained of, we regret that any difference should have arisen out of it (however temporary), in the qualifications of any two descriptions of our fellow citizens. We have no hesitation in saying, that the Act was truly intended for the purport it expresses, a "removal of restraints and disabilities by law on his Majesty's free coloured and black population in this island." We have little doubt but that the attention of his Majesty's Ministers to this matter has been more attracted by the petitions presented respecting it, than by a strict examination of the Act, and the discovery of real partiality in it. When the restraints and disabilities were abolished, it was wisely considered proper to raise the qualification on houses in town to 30*l.*, to form an equivalent to the landed qualification; and it was also considered just and equitable not to disfranchise the old freeholders of 10*l.* houses at the existing time. The prospective action of the Bill fell alike on all persons without distinction; whilst the list of old 10*l.* freeholders was daily diminished by the laws of mortality and the change of property. In reserving and respecting the rights of ancient freeholders, our Legislature acted on the same principle as the mother country lately did in the Reform Act, 2 Will. 4, c. 45, where it is

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expressly enacted that every person formerly entitled to vote in a city or borough shall be still entitled to vote, if duly registered. In a reform so entire as the one we have undergone, embarrassments have presented themselves at every step; and in the case before us, the balancing of conflicting interests, and the difficulties of legislation, have been, by a feverish and morbid jealousy, construed into an affair of colour.

It is highly satisfactory to us to learn that the mode adopted by the representative branch, and accorded to by us, for raising the taxes for the present year has received your approbation. The plan not only took expenditure in horses, carriages, &c., as the sure indication of ability to contribute to the wants of the country, but commenced a system of regulation of trades, by requiring a character, with licences, the moral effect of which on the community is worth even more than the revenue it raises.

We shall cheerfully unite with the Honourable House of Representatives in such measures as their wisdom shall dictate to them, for increasing the strength of that meritorious body, the town police; for reducing the labours and expenditure of the militia, and adapting them to the circumstances of the present day; and for carrying into effect the improvements and alterations in our judicature which are contemplated by his Majesty's Ministers.

We are, with best wishes for your Excellency's health and long life,

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(No. 2.)

ADDRESS of the ASSEMBLY to the Governor-General, in reply to his Speech on opening the Session of 1836.

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

May it please your Excellency,

THE House of Assembly, duly appreciating the motives by which your Excellency was actuated in convening the Legislature at this early period for the dispatch of public business, thanks your Excellency for the speech with which you were pleased to open the session, and for the congratulations thereby conveyed on the general tranquillity of the island; a state very desirable in all communities, but more especially so in a community in which society is undergoing a complete and thorough reorganization.

Notwithstanding the severe tempest to which we were in the early part of the season exposed, the soil has yielded to the skill and industry of the agriculturist a fair average crop of its most valuable products; and although we cannot entertain hopes which would warrant an inference that there has been no diminution of industry among the labouring classes, yet may we conclude that the intelligence which has developed itself in bringing into action an improved system of husbandry will be further exerted so as to counteract the evils resulting from this baneful source.

Sincerely interested as your Excellency is in the welfare of this colony, prudence and wisdom alike dictate the policy of refraining from creating illusory visions of future prospects liable to deceive, where confidence should be inspired; but we trust we may participate in the sanguine hope expressed by your Excellency, that the singular advantages of the locality, and vast population of this colony, may, under a kind Providence and wise laws, be guarantees of lasting prosperity.

The desire which your Excellency has evinced to render the working of the apprenticeship system mutually beneficial to master and servant calls forth the warmest acknowledgments of the House of Assembly, which are most respectfully and cordially tendered to your Excellency; and we take leave to add, that we are impressed with a firm conviction that were the appointment of the stipendiary magistrates vested in the hands of your Excellency, that the machinery of the establishment would move in better accordance with the interests of all parties involved in its operation.

The exception which your Excellency makes to the characteristic kindness and forbearance of employers towards their dependants establishes the general rule, frankly acknowledged by your Excellency, in terms very flattering to the character of the country; and although we do not intend to palliate crime, a commission of which necessarily involves an infraction of law, yet would we ask that some allowance be made for the juxtaposition in which the parties of whom your Excellency complains are placed with their servants. Should these individuals, however, notwithstanding the administration of your Excellency, continue to trample on the offended laws of their country, the House of Assembly is satisfied that they possess within themselves sufficient power for the effectual vindication of their insulted sanctity.

That the labours of the last session should have been so highly beneficial to the community as to induce your Excellency in an especial manner to make mention of them, cannot fail to be other than matter of gratification to the popular branch of the Legislature.

Making every allowance for the errors of ignorance, the calendar of the last court of grand sessions exhibited a frightful picture of crime; and licentiousness, being consequent on a change from a servile state to that of freedom, requires to be repressed, as your Excellency justly observes, by strong laws, vigorously enforced by the executive and the ministerial functionaries of Government.

The House of Assembly bears willing testimony to the zeal with which the ministers of religion are doing their duty; and we hope that the sacred labours of our pious bishop and his clergy

clergy may be so successfully exerted as to superinduce on the minds of the people religious impressions, which may ultimately lead to their moral improvement; and on this subject we beg to assure your Excellency that we are willing to yield our most cordial co-operation in furtherance of the object contemplated by the Secretary of State in the despatches referred to in your Excellency's message of 25th January last, funds for which purpose, we are sure, will be liberally supplied by Government out of our four-and-a-half per cent. duties.

The measures now before the Imperial Parliament for the improvement of the civil and criminal judicature shall have the best attention of the House of Assembly.

During the last session a joint committee of the Honourable Board of Council and of the Assembly had made a revision of the militia laws, on which a Bill was framed, having for its object the measure commended by your Excellency; this Bill had progressed one stage through the House when a close of the session rendered the labours of the joint committee and of the House alike abortive. This will, however, form a subject of our earliest deliberation.

The enjoyment of the elective franchise, may it please your Excellency, is not denied to any portion of his Majesty's subjects in this island who may be duly qualified to exercise this political right: the law is in this respect equal in its operation on all classes of persons in the community, and, being prospective in its operation, respects existing rights; to abrogate any of which rights would be to give to the law a retrospective effect, not at all in accordance with the established principles of legislation.

The House of Assembly failed not, pursuant to the recommendation contained in your Excellency's several messages of the 16th July 1835, to take into consideration the subjects to which its attention was thereby called; and as the Gaol Bill could not be passed so as to embrace the points alluded to, the House of Assembly will again, in compliance with your Excellency's wish, bring the objects of these messages again under consideration. As regards the batteries, the House of Assembly long ago directed that a Bill should be prepared for the purpose of vesting them in the Crown, which a great pressure of other business has hitherto prevented, but which will be carried into effect without further delay.

The very heavy duty of four-and-a-half per cent., levied by the mother country on the gross produce of the exhausted lands of this old colony, renders further taxation a grievous burthen to the people. The change in our institutions, however, requires sacrifices which have not been unwillingly made; and your Excellency may be assured that the expenses of the current year will be regulated by a strict regard to economy.

In adverting to the police establishment, the House of Assembly has to thank your Excellency for the efficient state of organization towards which this necessary engine of good government is approximating, and will, in accordance with your Excellency's recommendation, take into immediate consideration the subject of increasing the number of the town force, and of furnishing the whole with clothing.

The communications from the Secretary of State, copies of which we have the honour to acknowledge, having been laid before us, shall receive our earliest and most earnest attention.

The momentous changes now in operation in our social system require the united efforts of the several branches of the Legislature to impart to the elements of society an impulse favourable to its reorganization; and with this view the House of Assembly, alive to the best interests of the country, are very desirous of cultivating a good understanding with the other branches of the Legislature, and relies with confidence on your Excellency for a prompt co-operation in all measures proposed for the public good.

(No. 3.)

ABSTRACT of Cases of ASSAULTS committed by Employers against Apprenticed Labourers in the Island of Barbados, between 1 January and 31 May 1836, as extracted from the Journals of the Special Magistrates.

No.	Date.	Name of Complainant.	Name of Defendant.	SUBSTANCE OF COMPLAINT.	Decision.
DISTRICT (A.)—Rural Division :					
1	18 Jan.	Adam	J. T. Seal	-- That the complainant is a field-man; that Mr. Seal this morning was attending the mill, and that Seal beat him cruelly; that he ran off, when defendant threw two large stones at him, which struck him; that Seal a second time attacked him, and struck him with a stone.	Fined 40 s.
2	26 Jan.	Richard	J. H. Whitehall	-- That complainant was beaten in a most severe manner yesterday by Mr. Whitehall; that he cut him severely with a horse-crupper, and gave him several severe kicks and cuffs.	ditto.
3	9 Feb.	Sarah	Susanna Lucas	-- That defendant struck her yesterday a violent blow over the eye.	Fined 10 s.

(continued)

No.	Date.	Name of Complainant.	Name of Defendant.	SUBSTANCE OF COMPLAINT.	Decision.
DISTRICT (A.)—Rural Division— <i>continued.</i>					
4	11 Feb. -	Quaco -	John Packer -	- - That complainant being cook, and occasionally in the boiling-house, he was there yesterday afternoon when defendant came home, who asked him where he had been? on complainant telling him, he struck him several blows and kicked him.	Fined 30 s.
5	16 Feb. -	John -	Wm. H. Green	- - That defendant had given him a pass, that he may obtain employment and pay him wages; that he had got business, and therefore came to defendant's house to tell him the same; that on entering the gate-door Mr. Duke, defendant's brother-in-law, ordered him away, and immediately kicked and cuffed him severely. During this time defendant came and ill-used complainant in a more violent manner than Mr. Duke; and that as defendant is master of complainant, he seeks redress now for assault and battery.	- ditto.
6	11 Mar. -	Sam Abraham	Wm. Connell	- - That last evening defendant took occasion to find fault with complainant when waiting on him, and in the act of bringing him a knife and fork; that complainant was not rude to defendant, who beat him severely with his fist, and struck him with a whip, seized him by the throat and threw him down.	- ditto.
7	17 Mar. -	Jacob -	John Packer -	- - That on Monday afternoon complainant was cutting off the rotten canes, when defendant accosted him in a violent manner, struck him on the back of the neck with a cane, gave him a cuff in the face and kicked him.	- ditto.
8	22 Mar. -	Jem. Green	Jas. Williams -	- - That on Wednesday evening last complainant went to defendant to ask him for the amount due him for working at extra hours; at that defendant abused him, ordered him away, and struck him two severe blows on the back of the neck.	Fined 20 s.
9	8 April -	Celia -	F. Callender -	- That yesterday morning she was ordered to milk the cattle as usual; she obeyed and took the milk into the house to be measured; this was done by Sarah Dummett, who said something to her about bread; that she then accused complainant of being drunk. This she denied, and was on her way out of the house to sell her milk, when the defendant seized her violently by the throat, and attempted to drag her into the house, &c.	- ditto.
10	21 April -	Trist. Shandy	Robert Mayers	- - That without provocation, on Tuesday last, defendant struck complainant more than five times with a horsewhip, and last Saturday week struck him three blows with his fist.	Fined 50 s.
11	23 April -	John Thomas	Geo. T. Robert	- - That about three weeks ago he was sent by his mistress to get meat for the house, but he did not return, and the next day was brought home, when defendant tied him by the hands to a beam in the kitchen with a rope, in such a manner that he scarcely could touch the ground with his toes flat. Defendant then came and beat him till he got into fits; left him, returned and beat him till he got into fits again.	Fined 5 l.
<i>N. B.</i> —This is the worst case that has come before me since my arrival in the island. I should have sent this case to the sessions, but that the boy is a very bad character and a runaway.					
12	9 April -	Richard -	Henry Allemby	- - On Friday afternoon complainant was at work in the field; defendant came there and ordered two apprentices of the estate to take possession of complainant's house; turning to complainant he said to him, "Did not I, sir, forbid Renn from coming into this place?" Complainant answered he had not: defendant immediately knocked him down and kicked him, &c.	Fined 40 s.

No.	Date.	Name of Complainant.	Name of Defendant.	SUBSTANCE OF COMPLAINT.	Decision.
<b>DISTRICT (A.)—Rural Division—continued.</b>					
13	11 April -	Sarah -	Cath. Brown -	- - Complainant being sick on Saturday last, went to lay down on her bed, and her daughter, a young girl, came and lay by her side, as requested by complainant; shortly after defendant came in and gave complainant, without any provocation, two slaps on her jaws; that complainant is a very weak old woman, and unable to do her quantity of work as hitherto; that on Monday morning last, while complainant was at work in the field, defendant came to her and struck her on the back with a stone, &c.	Fined 30 s.
14	13 April -	Jack Nell -	Geo. F. Harte	- - That yesterday morning he was employed in packing trash, and while so doing he discovered a snake in it; and that being much afraid of reptiles he immediately came from the trash-heap and went into the boiling-house to call Mr. Deane, the book-keeper, to catch it for him. On his entering the same, one of the men, aware of complainant's alarm, put something round his neck, which he supposed was the snake; but complainant knowing what was done to him was in joke, made a blow as if to strike the man, when defendant came into boiling-house and flogged complainant with a horsewhip.	Fined 50 s.
<b>DISTRICT (A.)—Town Division:</b>					
15	13 Jan. -	Edward Jack	James King -	- - That the complainant is the apprenticed labourer of the defendant, and that he struck him twice; once on the lip and once on the back of the head.  <i>N. B.</i> —From the drunken, irritating, and insulting conduct of the complainant, this lenient fine is awarded the defendant.	Fined 5 s.
16	18 Jan. -	Nancy -	Wm. Healis -	- - That the defendant gave her a cuff and beat her on the head with a chain. She is employed by the accused.	Fined 2 l.
17	1 Feb. -	Blossom -	Bash. A. Walsh	- - That complainant is apprenticed labourer to defendant, and that she directed her to scour the house, when she replied she was not able; and she then boxed her face, and gave her four kicks.	Fined 10 s.
18	2 Feb. -	Adam -	Geo. Thompson	- - That complainant is apprenticed labourer to defendant; that last Sunday, in consequence of being sick, he was absent from his business; on Monday he and his master had some words about it, and defendant struck him four blows with his fist.	Fined 2 l.
19	9 Feb. -	Francis -	Wm. Christie	- - That the complainant is employed by the defendant; that he was sweeping the back shop last Sunday morning, when Mr. Christie called him, and said Jemmy had told him he had refused to sweep before the front door; upon which defendant caught him by the shirt and beat him, first with his fist and then with the handle of the broom.  <i>N. B.</i> —This small fine is awarded in consequence of the insolent conduct of the complainant.	Fined 5 s.
20	2 Mar. -	Joseph Thorn	Henry Dyrrell	- - That the complainant is employed by the defendant, and that he was struck by him several times with his fist, and also with the key of a boot-tree, and was abused very much.	Fined 30 s.
21	23 Mar. -	Isabella -	Benj. Burney	- - That from the jealous feelings of his wife defendant struck her several times.	Fined 3 l.
22	27 April -	Jack Langan	Arch. Lamont	- - That yesterday evening, in consequence of the fire getting too hot and burning some bread, he was struck four times by the defendant.  <i>N. B.</i> —From the insolent and irregular conduct on the part of the complainant this mitigated fine is awarded.	Fined 10 s.

(continued)



No.	Date.	Name of Complainant.	Name of Defendant.	SUBSTANCE OF COMPLAINT.	Decision.
<b>DISTRICT (A.)—Town Division—continued.</b>					
23	28 April	B. Charles -	Arch. Lamont	-- That yesterday complainant was sent to bring three coppers' worth of plantain leaves, which from their being short for the purpose required, the defendant got a horsewhip, and gave him half-a-dozen stripes with it; shortly afterwards he came back and gave him another half-dozen.	Fined 15s.
24	28 April	James -	J. B. Grissett	-- That a piece of wood yesterday slipped from complainant, and in consequence defendant beat him with a strap, which had a buckle upon it, and gave him two kicks, but left no mark.	Fined 10s.
25	30 April	Hugh -	Wm. Cragg -	-- That complainant is apprenticed labourer to defendant, and in consequence of complainant not picking up stones properly, the defendant horsewhipped him, and gave him about nine stripes.	Fined 1l.
<b>DISTRICT (B.):</b>					
26	14 Jan. -	Jno. Thomas	James Williams	Assault and battery - - - - -	Fined 2l. N.B.—14 days given.
27	26 Jan. -	James -	Budding Dash	- - ditto - - - - -	Fined 1l.
28	1 March	Isaac -	Rob. Jackman	- - ditto - - - - -	Fined 2l.
<b>DISTRICT (C.):</b>					
29	18 Jan. -	Jenny Bess	Thomas Kerr	Committing an assault on complainant - - - ditto.	
30	4 Feb. -	Jas., Henry, and Ben.	M. B. Gooding & J.R. Gooding.	-- Having inflicted unlawful punishment on complainants.	-- J. R. Gooding fined 1l.
31	8 Feb. -	John Joseph	W. P. Rodgers	Having committed an assault on complainant -	Fined 1l.
32	17 Feb. -	Joseph -	Geo. Boryne	Inflicting unlawful punishment on complainant -	Fined 6s. 3d.
33	9 March	Townsend -	Eyan Wood -	Having committed an assault on complainant -	Fined 3l.
34	14 March	Solomon -	Jno. Tempro -	Having struck complainant - - - - -	Fined 1l.
35	15 March	Georgiana -	S. Gunnidge -	-- Having inflicted unlawful punishment on complainant.	Fined 2l.
36	29 March	Queen Anne	T. N. Gooding	- - - - - ditto - - - - -	Fined 5l.
37	3 May -	Fanny -	R. A. Rogers	-- For striking complainant several times with a rope.	Fined 2l.
38	6 May -	Hestor -	J. B. Seale -	-- For inflicting corporal punishment 3d of May on complainant with a piece of hoop.	- ditto.
39	6 May -	Peter -	J. B. Seale -	-- Charged with inflicting corporal punishment on 3d May on complainant's person with two twigs.	Fined 1l.
40	16 May -	R. Charity	S. Massiah -	-- Charged with maltreating complainant three weeks ago.	Fined 5l.
41	16 May -	Loveless -	Jno. H. Baker	-- Charged with maltreating complainant 10th instant.	Fined 2l.
42	17 May -	Clysta -	A. B. Thorne	-- Charged with beating defendant with a stick 10th instant.	- ditto.
43	17 May -	R. Charity	S. Massiah -	-- Charged with inflicting corporal punishment on complainant's person with a horsewhip four times on 11th instant.	- - Complainant discharged from service of employer.
44	19 May -	Rebecca -	Ralph Olton -	-- Charged with inflicting corporal punishment on complainant's person on 17th instant.	-- Defendant, as police officer, has made a breach of the law, consequently is dismissed from the service, & to lose his pay, should his Excellency approve.
45	23 May -	W. Gittens	Jos. Connell -	-- Charged with having tied and whipped complainant with a horsewhip.	Fined 5l.

No.	Date.	Name of Complainant.	Name of Defendant.	SUBSTANCE OF COMPLAINT.	Decision.
<i>DISTRICT (C.)—continued.</i>					
46	24 May -	Betty Maine	Wm. Young -	-- For beating her with a briar, and leaving sundry marks of the assault.	Fined 50 s.
47	25 May -	Mazow -	Jas. Fleming -	-- For beating, inflicting sundry bruises on, and cutting his head.	Fined 5 l.
48	26 May -	Jacob Maule	J. H. Lord -	For violent assault and battery - - - -	-- Abstained from inflicting penalty; sent with defendant's recognizance of two others, Thomas Briggs, esq., and Heath, esq., to appear at court of grand sessions, the former in 100 l., two latter 50 l. each.
49	26 May -	Jacob Maule	J. H. Lord -	- - - - ditto - - - -	- - Complainant discharged from service of employer.
50	30 May -	Jack - -	Mr. Rent -	Assault and battery - - - -	Fined 2 l. 10 s.
<i>DISTRICT (D.):</i>					
51	18 Jan. -	S. Williams	Edward Worm	For beating him - - - -	Fined 10 s.
53	28 Jan. -	H. Criss and Ph. Grace.	Joshua Birch -	For causing them to be flogged - - - -	- ditto.
54	26 Feb. -	Nanny Buck	John Drayton	For beating her - - - - <i>N. B.—Complaint admitted by prisoner. No marks visible on plaintiff.</i>	Fined 3 l.
55	14 March	Harriet -	Mrs. G. F. Gilkes	For assaulting her - - - -	Fined 50 s.
<i>DISTRICT (E.):</i>					
56	11 Jan. -	J. Thomas	J. E. Armstrong	For beating him - - - -	Fined 5 l.
57	11 Jan. -	Ann - -	J. E. Armstrong	For whipping her - - - -	- ditto.
58	12 Jan. -	Jimmy -	Thos. Walton	For whipping him - - - -	Fined 1 l.
59	29 Feb. -	M. Phillis -	Wm. Agard -	For striking her - - - -	Fined 3 l.
60	29 March	Butcher -	James Cozier	For beating him - - - -	Fined 2 l. 10 s.
61	19 April	Jno. Francis	Jas. Whitehead	For beating him (second offence) - - - -	- - Complainant to be discharged from defendant's service.
62	16 May -	Geo. James	Wm. Corbin -	For beating him - - - -	Fined 2 l.
<i>DISTRICT (F.):</i>					
63	11 Jan. -	Jno. Nelson	A. M'Clean -	Assault and battery - - - - <i>N. B.—The most equivocating trial I ever investigated.</i>	Fined 3 l.
64	25 Jan. -	Henry -	Dr. Walton -	Assault and battery - - - -	Fined 1 l.
65	28 Jan. -	C. William	A. A. M'Clean	- - ditto - - - -	Fined 2 l.
66	28 April	M. George	T. E. Grogan	- - ditto - - - -	- ditto.
<i>(Should have been inserted between Nos. 16 and 17:)</i>					
67	21 Jan. -	Polly Anne	A. Ashurst -	-- That complainant is apprenticed labourer to defendant, and that she beat her on the head with a rock. This case was omitted to be entered in the month of January, for District (A), Town Division.	- ditto.

BARBADOS.

— No. 596. —

No. 596.

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

(No. 86.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 29 September 1836.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your despatch of the 26th July (No. 49), enclosing your address to the Council and Assembly of Barbados, with copies of their replies thereto, and I have not failed to notice with satisfaction the favourable disposition evinced by those bodies towards your government, and the prospect which is afforded of the public business being promptly and efficiently transacted.

I deeply regret, however, to learn, from the return of cases of assault enclosed in your despatch, that there should be so large a class of persons who still continue to exercise over the apprentices a system of violence and cruelty; and, although you represent that this is applicable only to white persons of a low rank in society, I nevertheless am of opinion that you cannot adopt too decisive measures for arresting the evil. You will, therefore, have the goodness to lay immediately before the Council and Assembly, an abstract, similar to that which you have transmitted to me, from the magistrates' journals, of complaints preferred by apprentices against their employers, as affording the most conclusive proof of the inefficacy of the present law for the protection of apprenticed labourers, against the personal injuries to which they are exposed at the hands of their employers.

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

— No. 597. —

No. 597.

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

(No. 38.)

My Lord,

Government-House, Barbados,  
6 December 1836.

I HAVE no means of access to a copy of Sir Lionel Smith's despatch, acknowledged in your Lordship's of the 29th of September last (No. 86); and in the books of enclosures, which his Excellency has left, the abstract of assaults is alluded to as follows, but no transcript of it is recorded.

"No. 3. Enclosure with Sir Lionel Smith's despatch to Lord Glenelg, (No. 49, Barbados), dated 26th July 1836."

"Abstract of cases of assault committed by employers against apprentices during the period from 1st of January to 31st of May, as taken from the journals of the special magistrates."

It was, therefore, impossible that a table of such cases could be accurately or satisfactorily laid by me before the Council and Assembly, in execution of your Lordship's commands to render it similar to that transmitted by my distinguished predecessor to the Colonial Office.

Under these circumstances, it seemed to me expedient to cause the accompanying Returns (A.) and (B.), to be prepared, as well as to call for a Report (C.) in reference to them, from the law officer of the Crown; and the inquiry exhibits a result so opposite to that contemplated by your Lordship, that I think it prudent to suspend any message to the Legislative Houses until honoured with such further instructions as your Lordship shall think fit to prescribe, after having had an opportunity of considering the additional information upon this question herewith submitted.

In the meantime, should symptoms of violence and cruelty towards the apprenticed labourers be manifested by any class of persons, no exertion will be spared on my part to protect the oppressed; and in that endeavour, as far as my short experience enables me to judge, I am disposed to count with confidence on the support, if requisite, of the constituted authorities of this island.

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

Enclosure 1, in No. 597.

BARBADOS.

(A.)

THE Number of Slaves on the 1st of August 1834, and for whom com- pensation has been claimed - - - - -	83,146
The Number of Children under six years of age - - - - -	14,738
	<hr/>
Total number of Apprentices - - - - -	68,408
	<hr/>
The number of separate lots of slaves is - - - - -	5,349-

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 597.

Certified by  
(signed) *John Mayers,*  
Sec. to Assist. Comm<sup>rs</sup> of Compensation.

Enclosure 2, in No. 597.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 597.

(B.)

RETURN of the Number of Complaints against Apprenticed Labourers, and of Assaults committed by Employers, from 1 January to 31 October 1836, as returned by the Special Magistrates.

DISTRICTS.	Gross Amount of Complaint.	Number of Assaults committed on Apprenticed Labourers.	Amount of Fines imposed for Assaults on Apprenticed Labourers.	Number of Cases of Assaults sent to Sessions.
(A.) Town - - -	1,081	27	£. 58 17 6	—
(A.) Rural - - -	2,707	26	61 10 -	—
(B.) — - - - -	2,086	9	22 - - -	—
(C.) — - - - -	1,533	34	86 12 6	3
(D.) — - - - -	3,166	3	5 10 -	—
(E.) — - - - -	858	10	31 10 -	—
(F.) — - - - -	796	14	32 10 -	—
Total - - -	<hr/> 12,227	<hr/> 123	<hr/> £. 298 10 -	<hr/> 3

Extracted from Returns to the 31st October 1836.  
(signed) *T. H. Ponsonby,* Acting P. S.

Enclosure 3, in No. 597.

Enclosure 3,  
in No. 597.

(C.)

MEMORANDUM on Lord *Glenelg's* Despatch of 29th September, relating to Assaults committed by Employers against Apprenticed Labourers.

4 December 1836.

IN order to arrive at a correct conclusion on this subject, we must consider, 1st, The peculiar connexion between the parties, and whether, under all circumstances, the number of assaults is greater than might reasonably have been expected.

2d, Whether the law is inefficient for the protection of apprentices. The Returns called for, and which accompany this, throw much light on the subject.

1st, With regard to the first point, the number of apprenticed labourers on the 1st of August 1834, was 68,408; and allowing for their decrease by freedom and death, it may be now fairly stated at 65,000. Return (A.)

The number of separate proprietors is 5,349, of whom at least 4,000 are "small proprietors." When, therefore, it is remembered, that these were so many petty governments in which there was an absolute and unlimited power of inflicting corporal punishments, that it was the ordinary means for enforcing the performance of their duties, that it was suddenly put an end to, and a new connexion between the parties substituted,—in which, while the obligation to perform the same duties was permitted to remain, the power of enforcing them was taken away,—it was impossible not to see that advantage would be taken on one side, which would lead to complaints and dissatisfaction on the other, and that indolence and insolence (which almost make up the sum of complaints before the special justices) must be the necessary result, and thus provide constant causes of provocation to the commission of this offence.

BARBADOS.

Again, the penalty prescribed by law for an assault on an apprenticed labourer by his employer, is not to be regarded as a mere pecuniary mulct of 5 *l.*, as its infliction is in every case a step, and a most important one, to the obtaining that freedom which follows as a necessary consequence on the conviction of another offence; and although nothing could be devised which so effectually prevents the commission of these offences by employers, no one can deny that the hope of freedom which is thus held out, will often lead to great provocation on the part of the apprentices; while, therefore, the proper severity of the law operates to restrain the one, it offers to the other the strongest inducement by which the mind of man can be influenced to provoke to a commission of the offence.

Now the returns above alluded to show the number of complaints before the several special justices, from the 1st of January to the 31st of October last, to have been 12,227, and the great mass of them will, on inspection of their journals, be found to have been made for the indolence, insolence, and insubordination of the apprentices; while the number of assaults on them for the same period is 126, all of which have been of a nature to be decided on by themselves, with the exception of three sent to the assizes. Every one, therefore, who is at all acquainted with the character and habits of the parties, and considers the peculiar nature of their present situation, and the great provocations which daily occur, will be surprised rather at the few assaults that have actually occurred, than at their alarming amount.

2d, Whether the law is inefficient for the protection of the apprenticed labourers from assaults?

The Return marked (B.) will satisfactorily enable us to answer this question.

It cannot for a moment be supposed that the special justices exercise the discretion which is given them by the Act, to impose the whole amount of penalty, or so much of it only as they conscientiously think is a sufficient punishment for the offence in each particular case, in a manner unjust to the apprentices or favourable to their employers; if, therefore, we find that the amount of fines, when compared with the number of assaults for which they have been imposed, does not give an average of 5 *l.*, or something near it, for each case, the law cannot be said to have been inefficient in its operation.

Now it appears that during the period included in these remarks, there have been 123 assaults, which have been punished by penalties amounting to 298 *l.* 10 *s.*, giving an average under 2 *l.* 9 *s.* for each offence; the amount therefore of the penalty for the first offence is proved to be sufficient, as on an average of the whole number of complaints, it has not been found necessary to impose the half.

But this Return proves something more, it shows that if even the number of these offences be admitted to be greater than might have been expected, the offences themselves are not of an aggravated or cruel nature, for first, only three cases are sent to a higher tribunal; and, secondly, the low average of the penalties imposed, shows that there have been faults on both sides, and circumstances in each case which have called for lesser punishment than the law itself warranted; it therefore is clear that the inference which has been drawn from the mere number of these offences, to prove that a system of violence and cruelty is continued to be exercised against the apprentices, cannot be sustained on a due inquiry into all the circumstances which bear upon the point.

This will, I trust, be to his Excellency, as I sincerely feel it to be to my mind, a most satisfactory result from this inquiry; and I shall merely add, that it is one which the united testimony of every respectable person would confirm; for while it is unfortunately true that occasional instances of oppression and cruelty may occur, it is equally so that they are rare exceptions to the general rule.

(signed) *R. Bowcher Clarke.*

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— No. 598. —

No. 598.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*,  
Bart.

(No. 9.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 30 January 1837.

I HAVE received your despatch (No. 38), of the 6th December, and with reference to the statement therein contained, that you have no means of access to the copies of your predecessor's despatches, I hope to be enabled shortly to suggest an arrangement which will prevent the recurrence of the inconvenience to which you advert. I fully concur in the opinion that the Returns enclosed in your despatch, with the comments of the Solicitor-general upon them, sufficiently disprove the justice of the apprehension which I had been led to entertain respecting the number of the assaults committed by the employers on the persons of their apprenticed labourers.

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

— No. 599. —

BARBADOS.

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

No. 599.

(No. 47.)

Government House, Barbados,  
16 July 1836.

No. 1.

My Lord,  
At the request of Mr. J. Rycroft Best, a member of his Majesty's Council, I have the honour to enclose, for your Lordship's perusal, and for the opinion of his Majesty's law officers, if your Lordship should think fit, the accompanying copy of a correspondence which has passed between that gentleman and myself, arising out of the question, whether the employer of an apprenticed labourer is entitled to a return of the labour lost to him by the imprisonment of such apprenticed labourer, on the warrant of a special justice, for trial at the grand sessions, upon a charge of which the apprenticed labourer is acquitted.

27 June and 5 July  
1836.

No. 2.

7 July 1836.

No. 3.

11 July 1836.

No. 4.

14 July 1836.

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

Enclosure 1, in No. 599.

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 599.

District (F.)

27 June 1836.

Sir,

I HAVE to request the opinion of his Majesty's Attorney-general.

When a prædial apprenticed labourer is sentenced to imprisonment before the court of grand sessions, or a colonial magistrate, is it imperative upon a special justice to see that the time such apprenticed labourer has been imprisoned is to be made up to his employer in Saturdays, without any knowledge of the case, further than a certificate stating that the apprentice was imprisoned?

C. H. Darling, Esq.  
&c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Geo. Kennedy, S. J. P.*

Enclosure 2, in No. 599.

5 July 1836.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 599.

By the 59th clause of the Act for the Abolition of Slavery, the labourer is required to make good the time of his imprisonment under sentence of the special justice or court, that is, after trial; and unless the special justice enforces the performance of this obligation, the employer is without any redress.

In transmitting the foregoing opinion for Mr. Kennedy's guidance, the Governor-general desires it may be pointed out, that it is only in cases of conviction that the lost time is to be made good to the employer. In cases of acquittal the apprenticed labourer must not be called upon to undergo the double punishment of imprisonment and extra labour.

By command,  
(signed) *C. H. Darling, Priv. Sec.*

Enclosure 3, in No. 599.

Enclosure 3  
in No. 599.

May it please your Excellency,

Blackman's, 7 July 1836.

If I venture to appeal to your Excellency in a case in which you have already promulgated an order to a special magistrate, I feel confident that you will not attribute it to any want of respect, either for your Excellency's rank or person, having only yesterday in my public capacity expressed in council the confidence I feel in your disinterestedness and the impartiality with which you distribute justice to all classes of persons. It is the reliance I feel in this character that induces me to lay before your Excellency my case with two of my apprenticed labourers, and to pray your re-consideration of the order alluded to; and I am assured if you can discover, in the statement of facts which I shall now lay before you, cause for revising and rescinding the order, you will not be prevented by any previous directions given under different impressions.

The facts are these: After an examination before a justice of the peace, Prince and Sandy, my two apprenticed labourers, were committed to gaol by the sentence of the magistrate's court, Prince on the 30th of September, Sandy on the 10th of October.

At the December sessions a true bill was found against them by the grand jury, and they were re-committed by the sentence of the court of sessions, that they might take their trial at the June sessions. Whether they obtained their acquittal by the ignorance or wickedness of the petit jury avails nothing. Certain it is, that although his Majesty's Attorney-

general

BARBADOS.

general informed the members of it, that he had more evidence to produce if they wished to hear more, they did not ask for it, but acquitted the prisoners.

The 59th clause of the Abolition Act states, "that every apprenticed labourer shall make good, out of his or her extra days, to his or her employer, the time that his or her employer shall have been deprived of his or her services, by the sentence of any special justice of the peace or court."

The 108th clause places exclusive jurisdiction, in all matters arising out of the relationship existing between employers and apprentices, in the hands of the special magistrates. Now, may it please your Excellency, I am entitled to the labour I have lost from my apprenticed labourers, under the 59th clause, they having been committed for trial by the sentence of a magistrates' court, from the period of their committal to the holding of the December sessions; and from the December sessions, a true bill being found against them, to the sessions in June, under the same clause, they having been re-committed by the court of sessions, to their final discharge.

Of the special justice alone can I, and I did, claim satisfaction and justice, under the protection of and in conformity with the law. And what was the result? Instead of administering the law, I am shown Mr. Attorney-general Sharpe's opinion, simply confirming my mode of proceeding as the only one by which I can seek redress; and what next? your Excellency's order prohibiting the law being put in force in all cases when conviction does not take place!

Sic volo, sic jubeo, in the administration of law to one bred up under a limited monarchy, and esteeming law as superior to all other authority, cannot settle down into practice without an appeal to that authority, which although it has no just power to stop the progress of law, it is its duty to see that the laws are impartially administered. I owe a duty to myself, and to my country, which does not allow me to acquiesce in your Excellency's present decision; it urges me to remonstrate to you, and to ask for a revision.

The individual case affects not only this island, but every British colony; here are persons committed to trial on evidence, a true bill found against them on evidence, and acquitted when more evidence was offered and not asked for; acquitted to the surprise of every lawyer present, and I believe every member of the court, save one, who, as he expressed none, I conclude felt none,—I mean the chief justice. These persons, my apprenticed labourers, were hired to work in the gaol, and their labour paid for, not to me, to them, according to the information of the chairman of the prison committee (who happened to be also the chief justice who presided at the trial), at the rate of a bit a day, according to other information I have received, 15 bits per week, yet I am denied the return of this labour.

By me the loss can be sustained without any inconvenience arising out of it; but the moral effect on my apprenticed labourers especially, and the apprenticed labourers generally, if by the hand of power, in the face of the notoriety of the acts of these thieves,—for Prince was punished 11 years ago for breaking into the same boiling-house the molasses was stolen from, which sent him to trial, and Sandy was notorious for thieving as for other acts of misconduct,—they are protected from the legal consequences brought on them by their own acts, because they were not convicted, there is no knowing how far plundering will prevail; a material check, well devised to meet their feelings, being removed.

To assimilate or attempt to simulate laws made for persons half civilized, in a state progressing towards freedom, to those fit for a state of civilization and freedom, cannot be expected; to stop the course of law, at the fountain head, by power, must have the worst effect, because it brings it into disrepute and contempt with those who it is of the greatest consequence to teach to respect the law themselves, and the administration of it.

If in this appeal to your Excellency I have expressed myself strongly, I beg you will believe it is because I think I cannot do justice to my case in any other language. I must ask the favour of your Excellency to carry along with the wording, the remembrance that it applies to the case, and not to the person they are addressed to. Nothing is further from my wish than to approach you with disrespectful language.

Hoping for a favourable consideration of this appeal by you, who possess the power of enforcing the duty of the special magistrate, and praying, if you see reason for recalling your order, that you will direct Mr. Special Justice Kennedy to entertain my complaint, and act in conformity to the Abolition Act,

I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. Rycroft Best.*

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Enclosure 4, in No. 599.

Government House, Barbados,  
11 July 1836.

Sir,

I AM directed by his Excellency the Governor-general to acknowledge the honour of your letter to his address, dated the 7th inst., respecting two of your apprenticed labourers who were tried at the last grand sessions on a charge of larceny, upon which the jury came to a verdict of "not guilty."

Whatever the facts of the case were, you must be sensible a governor can neither revise, amend, nor alter any decision pronounced by a jury, and his Excellency could not therefore with propriety discuss the question whether the verdict was just or unjust.

When

When these apprenticed labourers were released and returned to you, you demanded of the special justice of their district that they should make good to you the loss of their labour, in consequence of their confinement and trial.

Upon all doubts in law, the special magistrates are ordered to refer such doubts to the King's Attorney-general, which was done in this case, and that officer's opinion was sent to the special magistrate, for his "information and guidance," as usual in all difficulties of applying the law; and his Excellency himself took no part whatever, either in the reference or decision, beyond being the channel of communication between the magistrate and law officer of the Crown, by whose opinion of the law he is bound to govern himself.

Nothing can be clearer than the operation of the 59th and 108th clauses of the Abolition Act, which you have quoted, in cases of conviction; but it is not so clear that your apprentices came within the provisions of those clauses.

They were not tried by the special magistrates, but as free men by the grand sessions, under the 67th clause, which enacts that no such apprenticed labourer shall be liable to be sued or prosecuted both under this Act and under the general law.

Now in order to recover the loss of time, they must of course be again prosecuted before a special magistrate, to prove the fact of absence; and if these men cannot be tried by both laws, and have been acquitted by one law, how is it possible they can be punished by both laws; or, having endured upwards of six months' imprisonment under the general law, how can they be called upon to make good their labour under the Abolition Law, for an offence which a jury of their country has declared them innocent of?

His Excellency commands me to assure you, that he has no feelings on the subject but those which belong to the conscientious discharge of his duty; and if you think he has abused his authority, or been swayed by partial motives, and that you have been injured by the decision emanating from the Attorney-general, it is open to you, his Excellency believes, to appeal to the Governor and Council.

I have, &c.

The Hon. J. R. Best,  
&c. &c.

(signed) C. H. Darling, Priv. Sec.

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Enclosure 5, in No. 599.

Enclosure 5,  
in No. 599.

May it please your Excellency,

Blackman's, 14 July 1836.

I HAVE been honoured with a reply from your Excellency to my address of the 7th inst., for which I have to thank your Excellency. I beg to be permitted to make a few short observations, and I shall cease to occupy that time which is so valuable.

Reference has been made to the opinion of Mr. Attorney-general Sharpe for the guidance of the special justices of the peace in my case. His opinion, which was shown me, was confined to the simple statement, that in applying to the special justice I had pursued the right course; and I am at a loss to know, thus expressed, how his opinion is against my claims.

I beg to decline appealing to the Governor in Council. Supposing judgment to be given in my favour against the opinion of your Excellency, it would be thought that the members of the court, being owners of apprenticed labourers, were not free from partial bias. It is the law I wish to be defined by unbiassed persons. I do not consider Mr. Attorney-general Sharpe as less biassed than the members of the court, not including your Excellency. Of course I do not mean a corrupt bias in either. It is a prejudice, if it exists at all, which neither party is conscious of.

If your Excellency considers the subject of sufficient importance to merit so grave a consideration, I should be gratified to know the opinion of the law officers in England on the case, and what construction they put upon the law, which was framed to protect the rights of planters, as well as to effect the abolition of slavery. I think I could state a short simple case, which would bring its merits into a small compass.

An apprenticed labourer of A. is committed to prison for trial at the sessions by a magistrate, the King prosecutes him for receiving stolen goods, and the grand jury find a true bill. The court recommend him for trial at the next sessions, and he is acquitted. A. makes an application to the special justice, under the 59th and 108th clauses of the Abolition Bill, for a return of his lost labour while his apprenticed labourer was imprisoned, considering the prosecution by the King as perfectly distinct, and an entirely separate case, from his complaint under the Abolition Bill, which the Legislature provided for, he conceives, under all circumstances.

*Quere?* Will any other law, presuming that a verdict of acquittal exonerates a person tried from all responsibilities, or the provision of the Abolition Law to protect property by a return of the master's lost labour, prevail?

If your Excellency thinks proper to send such a case, which I have endeavoured to draw with the utmost fairness, for the opinion of the law officers of the Crown, it will set the question at rest without a doubt remaining.

I have, &c.

(signed) J. Rycroft Best.



— No. 600.—

BARBADOS.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to the Officer administering the Government.

No. 600.

(No. 90.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 14 October 1836.

I HAVE received Sir Lionel Smith's despatch of the 16th of July last, No. 47, enclosing a correspondence with Mr. Best respecting his right to receive from his apprenticed labourer an indemnity, in the form of extra labour, for loss of his services during the period passed by the labourer in gaol, awaiting his trial on a charge of theft, on which charge the prisoner was subsequently acquitted.

Viewing the case divested of all technical considerations, and of all questions connected with the critical examination of the words of this statute, I should suppose that there could not be two opinions as to the decision respecting it.

The apprenticed labourer was charged with a crime of which a jury of his country declared him innocent. I am bound, therefore, not merely to presume, but to conclude, that the imputation was unfounded. The apprentice for six months laboured under the injury and distress of being thus unjustly accused; during the whole of that period he was detained as a prisoner in the public gaol. If the question in debate were, whether he should be indemnified at the public expense for these unmerited sufferings, it might not, perhaps, be easy to make a very satisfactory defence of the refusal. But the question really agitated is, whether he shall not sustain an additional punishment, and forfeit every Saturday for the next three years, as an indemnification to his employer for the loss of the services which, if this misfortune had not befallen him, he might have rendered. Such a question seems to me sufficiently answered by the mere statement of it. That a man should be most severely punished, not for having inflicted, but for having undergone, an undeserved and protracted imprisonment, is a proposition so extraordinary, that nothing short of the most peremptory, distinct, and precise declaration of such a purpose, could justify the construction of a legislative enactment in this sense.

But when I turn to the Act, I find the rule to be, that the apprentice is to indemnify his employer by extra labour in respect of any time passed by the apprentice in prison under the sentence of any magistrate or court. Nothing can be more plain than the meaning of this rule. If an apprentice, by his own misconduct, deprives the employer of his services during his imprisonment under a judicial sentence, he is not thereby to escape the duty of domestic or prædial service, but must perform it after his discharge.

But an order of commitment for safe custody is not a "sentence," and a man proved to be innocent is not to undergo the same penal consequences as if he had proved to be guilty.

Such being the whole of this case, I can find no reason for the proposed reference of it to the Attorney and Solicitor general.

No doubt Mr. Best is a sufferer, as well as his apprentice, but his loss, which I sincerely regret, is not without some advantage to the public at large. I cannot but think it desirable and convenient that the employer should have a direct personal interest in the protection and defence of his labourer against unfounded charges. In all relations of life there is, and must be, so much of identity of interest, that it is impossible but that the sufferings, whether merited or unmerited, of those with whom we are nearly connected, should closely affect ourselves, nor do I wish that the Legislature should attempt, by positive rules, to defeat the security which is thus obtained for the mutual vigilance and attachment of those whom it has placed towards each other in the relations of employer and apprenticed labourer.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

—No. 601.—

BARBADOS.

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

No. 601.

(No. 50.)

My Lord, Government-House, Barbados, 26 July 1836.

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith an Act, intituled "An Act to regulate the Emigration of Labourers from this Island," for his Majesty's most gracious consideration. *Vide App. No. 193.*

A complete system of kidnapping had commenced, by which a considerable number of our labourers have been seduced away, after, in some instances, the contractors had purchased the legal term of apprenticeship for such labourers, who were then made to sign articles to give their services for three years, the contracting parties taking care not to sign to any conditions of remuneration.

The crimps have been principally from Demerara, and a respectable mercantile house here has opened an agency office to purchase out their legal apprenticeship, to supply Berbice.

Internal policy, as well as justice and humanity, demanded that we should promptly protect these people, and the colony, from the inevitable consequences of having numerous families to provide for by poor laws, which will eventually be much heavier in this than in any other colony, on account of our numerous whites.

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

—No. 602.—

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., dated 15 December 1836.

No. 602.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order of the King in Council, dated 30th ultimo, leaving to its operation the following Act passed by the Legislature of Barbados: No. 597. "An Act to regulate the Emigration of Labourers from this Island." *Vide App. No. 193.*

—No. 603.—

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

No. 603.

(No. 21.)

Sir, Downing-street, 15 March 1837.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you copy of a despatch and enclosures which I have received from Lieutenant-governor Light, relating to the subject of the emigration of labourers from certain colonies under his government to British Guiana. *28 January, No. 92. Vide Antigua Correspondence.*

The Order recently passed by his Majesty in Council for the prevention of proceedings similar to those reported by Lieutenant-governor Light (which Order was transmitted to you in my circular despatch of the 13th instant), will have put you in possession of the course which ought to be pursued under circumstances of this description; but with reference to the particular transaction detailed in the accompanying enclosures, I have to inform you, that I have instructed Sir C. Smyth to ascertain whether it be true that the frauds mentioned by the President of Montserrat have really been practised on the Negroes withdrawn from Antigua, and whether their services have been the subject of transfer and sale, and especially whether the sale has ever realized the sum of 80*l.* for the services of a single apprentice, or any similar sum. If such should prove to be the fact, as it would be a case of the most grievous injustice towards the persons that have been thus dealt with, I have desired Sir Carmichael Smyth to use the powers given by the late Order of the King in Council for effecting the enfranchisement of these persons

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persons, and for enabling them, if they shall be so disposed, to return to their native country. I have further desired Sir Carmichael Smyth to communicate to the governors of the British possessions in the West Indies the arrival from thence of emigrants in Demerara as often as it shall occur, in order that he may receive from them any information which may enable him to detect and remedy such frauds as have been reported by Lieutenant-governor Light.

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

## — No. 604.—

No. 604.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*, K. C. B., to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government-House, Barbados, 6 August 1836.

(No. 56.)

*Vide App. No. 194.*

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith the following Acts of this Island, for his Majesty's most gracious consideration :

No. 599.—An Act to make certain Alterations in the Police Force of this Island.

*Vide App. No. 195.*

No. 604.—An Act to amend an Act, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery, for the government of Apprenticed Labourers, and for ascertaining and enforcing the reciprocal Duties between them and their Employers."

The Act, No. 599, is an improvement on the Rural and Town Police Acts ; I consented to this Act only on the condition that the inspectors should have nothing to do with the prisoners, which your Lordship will find provided for ; and the special magistrates have so much to do, I found they could not attend sufficiently to the discipline of the police. I am satisfied, therefore, that this Act will do good.

With regard to the Act, No. 604, for amending the Abolition Law, it was called for by myself in experience of its necessity.

## — No. 605.—

No. 605.

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

(No. 92.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 31 Oct. 1836.

AN Act of the Legislature of Barbados of the 6th August last, in amendment of the Slavery Abolition Act, transmitted with Sir L. Smith's despatch of that date, No. 56, contains three distinct enactments, to the terms of which the Governor has in that despatch made no particular allusion.

They appear to me, however, to require a special report, which you will have the goodness to supply.

I do not perceive the motive which has recommended the taking away from the informer his proportion of the penalties recovered, in cases of an infringement of the law, respecting medicines and medical attendance.

There may be very good reasons for the change, but until they are explained his Majesty's confirmation of this Act cannot be given.

The second clause, which enables the Governor to remit or mitigate the penalties already mentioned, professes to be introductory, and not declaratory, of the law. It is, therefore, an indirect recognition of a principle at once important and objectionable ; the principle, namely, that the prerogative of pardon cannot be exercised in respect of penalties of this kind, except with the direct previous sanction of the Legislature.

Unless this clause shall be repealed, his Majesty will be compelled to disallow the Act, as the only practicable method of protesting against such an innovation.

You will, therefore, propose to the Council and Assembly the repeal of this clause.

The third clause appears very judicious, as the tendency of it is to diminish the amount

amount of punishments by the whip; I should, however, wish to know what were the circumstances by which it was suggested. In general, I may remark, that every Act altering the slavery abolition laws, should be accompanied by a full explanatory report.

His Majesty's decision on this Act will be suspended until I shall have received your answer to this despatch.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

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— No. 606. —

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

No. 606.

(No. 42.)

My Lord,

Government-House, Barbados, 10 December 1836.

IN obedience to the commands conveyed in your Lordship's despatch of the 31st of October (No. 92), I have the honour of enclosing a special report from his Majesty's Solicitor-general regarding an Act of the Legislature of Barbados of the 6th of August last, in amendment of the Slavery Abolition Act (No. 604). 9 December 1836.

In Sir Lionel Smith's sentiments, as well as in Mr. Clarke's, on the practical inconvenience of establishing rewards for informers, I am led to participate, having experienced great embarrassment upon one occasion in particular, in Antigua, when an individual was committed to gaol, owing to information evidently given against him, under peculiar circumstances, with a malevolent design. The recurrence of a similar difficulty might perhaps, however, be sufficiently obviated by leaving it to the Governor to remit, in the exercise of his discretion, the amount of fines otherwise payable to informers.

Whenever your Lordship's further pleasure shall be made known, I shall lose no time in proposing to the Council and Assembly the repeal of the second clause, and such other alterations in the enactment adverted to as your Lordship may think fit to indicate.

I have, &c.

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

Enclosure in No. 606.

REPORT from His Majesty's Solicitor-general of *Barbados*, dated 9 December 1836.

Enclosure in  
No. 606.

I do not think I can offer any more satisfactory information as to the reasons which led to the amendment of the Abolition Law, by the Act referred to in despatch of my Lord *Glenelg* of the 31st of October (No. 92), than by furnishing the following extract from a letter addressed by Sir Lionel Smith to myself, in which my attention was first drawn to the subject of the first and second clauses of the Act alluded to.

"When you have leisure, look at the 35th clause of the Abolition Act. It is operating harshly against poor proprietors, and there should be a discretion given to the magistrate or Governor to mitigate the fine, and to remove the odious system of rewarding an informer. I write this in consequence of several cases having come before me, where there was no intention to break the law, but want of means to comply with it."

With respect to the objection that the second clause professes to be introductory rather than declaratory of the right of the executive to remit penalties, I am satisfied it was not drawn with such an intention; its chief object was to give to the special justices the power to mitigate the penalty in such cases, if they should deem it proper; and in the event of their hesitation, to have the matter at once referred to the Governor; the objection may, however, be easily remedied in the manner proposed by his Lordship.

The third clause was introduced by myself into the Act, because it was imperative under the old law to inflict corporal punishment, for almost every offence, on watchmen, and I deemed it better to lessen this kind of punishment, by giving the special magistrates a discretion as to its infliction in all cases. I am glad to find its enactment has met with his Lordship's approval, and trust the reasons which led to it may be satisfactory also.

(signed) *R. Bowcher Clarke.*

BARBADOS.

— No. 607. —

No. 607.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart.

(No. 18.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 24 February 1837.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch (No. 42) of the 10th December, in reply to mine of the 31st October last (No. 92), calling upon Sir Lionel Smith for a special report upon the Act (No. 604) in amendment of the Slavery Abolition Act.

It appears, from the Solicitor-general's report, that Sir Lionel Smith's motives for taking away from the informer one half of the penalty in cases where the proper medicines and medical attendance were not supplied, were, first, that he regarded the system of rewarding informers as "odious;" and, secondly, that in some cases parties had been prosecuted who had violated the law, not from intention, but only from inability to obey it. The popular antipathy to an informer rests upon prejudices which scarcely merit the encouragement of the Legislature, or the countenance of the Government.

If the law itself be reasonable and just, the man who endeavours to enforce it by informing against delinquents, renders a public service for which he may properly be rewarded; for without a reward few men will risk the odium which frequently attaches to the discharge of this duty. If, on the contrary, the penalties are neither reasonable nor just, then the law imposing them ought to be repealed. Or if it be impossible to define the offence with such precision as not to leave scope for the exercise of some discretion, then the executive government ought to be authorized to remit even that part of the penalty which belongs to the informer, deducting only a reasonable compensation for his time and trouble.

Notwithstanding the remarks of the Attorney-general as to the intention of the Legislature in framing the clause for the remission of penalties, it is clear, on that officer's statement, that it is so framed as to justify, if not to require, the inference that this right is not inherent in the Crown, but can be exercised only when expressly granted by the Legislature. It is impossible that his Majesty should assent to an Act which would thus constructively abridge so essential a branch of his prerogative.

I trust that the Legislature of Barbados will readily alter the Act in accordance with these suggestions; if not, it will be my duty, however reluctantly, to advise its disallowance.

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

— No. 608. —

No. 608.

4 August 1836.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*, K. C. B., to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government-House, Barbados, 9 August 1836.

*Vide Papers laid before Parliament respecting the Abolition of Slavery, Sept. 1836. Part III.-2, p. 23.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a message which I have received from the House of Assembly, in reply to one addressed by me to that body, laying before them an extract from your Lordship's despatch of the 6th April 1836 (No. 63), pointing out certain objections to the Act of the Legislature for Regulating the Sale of Goods by Itinerant Vendors.

(Enclosure in No. 608.)

EXTRACT of the REPLY of the House of Assembly to the Governor's Message of the 12th July 1836; dated 4th August 1836.

Enclosure in  
No. 608.

THE House of Assembly has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Governor-general's message of the 12th July, together with an extract of a despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, pointing out certain objections to the Act for Regulating the Sale of Goods by Itinerant Vendors; and the House of Assembly will, pursuant to the recommendation of his Excellency, adopt such alterations in this Act as will, it is hoped, meet the views of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State.

BARBADOS.

— No. 609. —

No. 609.

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

(No. 60.)

Government-House, Barbados,  
18 August 1836.

Vide App. No. 196.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit enclosed for his Majesty's most gracious consideration an Act of the Legislature of this island, entitled as follows; viz.

No. 601.—“ An Act the better to regulate the Sale of Goods, Wares and Merchandize by Itinerant Vendors in and about the Roads and Streets of this Island,” which is amended agreeably to the recommendation contained in your Lordship's despatch, 6th April 1836 (No. 63).

For Lord Glenelg's Despatch, 6 April 1836, vide Papers relative to the Abolition of Slavery, Sess. 1836. Part III.—2, p. 23.

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

— No. 610. —

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

No. 610.

(No. 9.)

Government-House, Barbados,  
28 October 1836.

My Lord,

COPIES of an address, from the coloured inhabitants of this island, and of my answer, are herewith forwarded for your Lordship's information.

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

Enclosures in No. 610.

(No. 1.)

To his Excellency Sir Evan John Murray Macgregor, Bart., C. B., Governor-general and Commander-in-Chief of the Islands of Barbados, St. Vincent, Grenada, Tobago, and their respective Dependencies, Chancellor, Ordinary, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c. &c. &c.

Enclosures in No. 610.

The humble, respectful, and Loyal Address of the Committee of Free Descendants of Africa.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, his Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Committee of Free Descendants of Africa, beg leave respectfully to approach your Excellency with our sincere congratulations on your Excellency's safe arrival amongst us; and to assure your Excellency that we are not unmindful of the deep debt of gratitude which we owe to our beloved Sovereign for having made so judicious an appointment to the government of these islands.

We have long since, may it please your Excellency, felt the impolicy of anticipating futurity, and of suffering ourselves to be seduced into demonstrations of joy on occasions similar to the present; but we are firmly of opinion that we can now scarcely be mistaken. Your Excellency has been for several years administering the government of the neighbouring colonies, and connected as we are with those colonies, and in daily communication with them, we could not possibly be ignorant of your Excellency's public character.

We have seen, to admire, almost to envy, the good fortune of our brethren under your Excellency's administration in these colonies: We have seen your Excellency's even-handed justice in the strictly impartial exercise of the powers with which you have been invested, and your Excellency's liberal and paternal solicitude for the well-being of all classes and conditions subject to your Excellency's government. We receive your Excellency, therefore, not as a stranger, for by your official acts we have long known you; not as one with whose policy we are yet to be made acquainted, for that policy has already developed itself to the eyes of the colonies; not as a doubtful gift which we can only hope may prove worthy of acceptance, but as a real blessing, of which we shall endeavour to show ourselves not undeserving.

And here we beg leave to assure your Excellency, and we do so without the fear of contradiction from any quarter, that a practical veneration for the laws conservative of social order has ever been the characteristic of our body. Even when those laws have pressed with unequal weight upon us, we have endured the burden with patience, and if not always

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without murmuring, it has only been because we are men. Under every change of circumstance it has ever been our pride, as we know it to be our duty, to maintain, and by our general conduct to evince the most unshaken loyalty to the King our royal master, of whose unwearied solicitude for the welfare of these his colonial possessions, the recent humane and equitable measure of the abolition of slavery, and the present selection of your Excellency to watch over the immediate interests of the inhabitants of these islands, are to us indubitable proofs.

In conclusion, we beg to offer our sincere and fervent prayers for your Excellency's uninterrupted enjoyment of health and happiness, and unfeignedly to subscribe ourselves, for and on behalf of our brethren,

(signed)	<i>Samuel S. Prescod, Chairman.</i>	<i>Anthony Barclay, Jun.</i>
	<i>Joseph Hamilton.</i>	<i>Thomas Rt. Law.</i>
	<i>William Fitz-Thomas.</i>	<i>Benjamin Kennedy.</i>
	<i>Thomas Harris.</i>	<i>Nathaniel Roach.</i>
	<i>Joseph Kennedy.</i>	<i>James F. Reed.</i>
	<i>Andrew Fillan.</i>	<i>Samuel F. Collinson.</i>
	<i>John J. Cailliard.</i>	<i>Henry Hawkesworth.</i>
	<i>William Barrow, Sen.</i>	

Bridgetown, 27 October 1836.

(No. 2.)

Government-House, Barbados,  
27 October 1836.

Gentlemen,

I THANK you for the congratulations with which you are pleased to greet my arrival in this island.

Having but lately emerged from the depressed condition to which you advert, no premature effort can facilitate your attainment of those attributes of consequence, of riches, and of education, long, continuedly, as well as exclusively enjoyed by others. These advantages, if steadily pursued, will, at no distant period, equally extend, under the progressive influence of time, to you, and the more speedily in proportion to your praiseworthy observance of the persevering patience, respect for laws conservative of social order, and unshaken loyalty to the King our royal master, which you characteristically cherish.

It was by this principle that my proceedings were avowedly guided with respect to your brethren in the Leeward Islands; and I recollect with pleasure not only the valuable testimonials accorded to me of their esteem, but the liberal co-operation of his Majesty's Privy Councils of those colonies, in enabling me to advance to confidential situations several respectable individuals of your body.

In the selection of candidates for public employment, a highly important trust, demanding the most attentive discrimination of their claims and qualifications, is delegated to the executive; but, in whatever manner it may be my fortune to discharge the administration now confided to my care, a sincere intention, at least, will not be wanting impartially to exercise the duties of my station, without either overlooking or favouring the pretensions of any particular class, so as to derange that general well-being of all orders of society justly recognized in your addresses as the principal aim of government.

To Samuel T. Prescod, Esq. (signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Governor.  
and the Committee of Free Descendants of Africa.

— No. 611. —

No. 611. COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., to  
Lord *Glenelg*.

(No. 1.)

Government-House, Barbados,  
2 January 1837.

My Lord,

ON landing in Barbados, I could not be insensible to the delicacy of my position in regard to the question of complexion, so prolific of collision in West Indian society.

In the same degree that the countenance it was my duty to show, in accordance with the views of his Majesty's Government, towards their order in the Leeward Islands, rendered my new appointment acceptable to persons of colour here, it threatened to prove unpalatable to their white fellow-subjects, owing probably to the difficulty of giving a stranger credit for a disposition to pursue a steady and impartial course between two opposite political extremes.

This contrariety of feeling in the community might have become highly mischievous in its consequences if once excited into action; but the address presented by the coloured body fortunately furnished me with an early opportunity of endeavouring equally to remove undue expectations or apprehensions, on the one  
part

part or on the other, by a plain and distinct avowal of my sentiments, as laid before your Lordship with my despatch of the 28th of October last (No. 9).

That announcement was attended with the effect of averting public agitation; but, in the Leeward Colonies, the office of magistrate had been conferred, during my administration, on individuals of the coloured class; and, upon the same principle, their brethren in Barbados might consistently found pretensions justifying their admission to the like advantage, through my instrumentality, in the capacity of Governor of the Windward Islands.

Their claim derived additional force from the power confided to the officer administering the government, of appointing justices of the peace without reference to the Council; but the consciousness of possessing this salutary authority, by placing the means of doing justice at any time within my reach, left me at liberty to dispense with its immediate exertion, and to await a favourable opening for accomplishing the object in a manner better calculated to reconcile the general interests.

With this view, it was of importance that his Majesty's Council should participate in the adoption of the measure; and, having availed myself of the arrival of my commission to submit the subject to their consideration, I have now the satisfaction of laying before your Lordship an extract from the Minutes of that Board, purporting that the members unanimously concurred in the propriety of my nominating two coloured gentlemen in the new commission of the peace, issued according to usage upon that occasion.

I have, &c.

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

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(Enclosure in No. 611.)

At a Meeting of the Honourable Members of His Majesty's Council, in Council Chamber at Government-House, on the 29th day of December 1836, in consequence of the arrival of the Governor's Commission,

Enclosure in  
No. 611.

Present,

His Excellency Sir Evan J. Murray MacGregor, Bart., and the other Members of Council.

A NEW commission of the peace being requisite, the Governor will be happy to receive the suggestions of the Board, in the selection of such gentlemen as it may be proper to include therein, in addition to the present justices. Persons of colour being now eligible to serve upon the bench, this occasion affords an appropriate opportunity of countenancing their pretensions to a reasonable participation in that honourable employment; and it is consequently of particular importance that the Governor should be guided by the recommendation of His Majesty's Council, in favour of the individuals of that class who are best entitled to this mark of confidence.

Michael T. Corbin and George B. L. Barclay, Esqrs., were then recommended for the parish of St. Andrew; Robert Reece, senior, and Robert Reece, junior, Esqrs., for the parish of Christchurch; Thomas Ellis, Esq., a coloured gentleman, possessed of large landed property in the parish of St. Peter, for that parish; and Thomas J. Cummins, Esq., another coloured gentleman holding his Majesty's commission, as casual receiver for the parish of St. Michael; and Thomas G. King, Esq., for the parish of St. Philip.

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— No. 612. —

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

No. 612.

(No. 19.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 12 March 1837.

I HAVE received your despatch (No. 1.) of the 2d January, reporting the appointment of two coloured gentlemen to commissions of the peace in Barbados.

I have to express to you, in answer, the satisfaction with which I find that the Council of Barbados were so cordially disposed to second your wise and liberal views in favour of the advancement to the magistracy of gentlemen of African descent.

521.

I am



BARBADOS.

I am not unaware how strong were the feelings which opposed this recognition of the claims of all his Majesty's subjects to an equal participation in the offices and honours in the gift of the Crown; and I am happy to avow the high sense which I entertain of the title to public gratitude established by those who have thus overcome existing prepossessions, and lent their zealous aid in accrediting a more just and secure system of colonial policy.

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

— No. 613. —

No. 613. COPY of a DESPATCH from the Hon. *J. A. Beckles*, President of the Council,  
to Lord *Glenelg*.  
(No. 4.)

Government-House, Barbados,  
21 September 1836.

My Lord,

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, the general reports furnished by the special magistrates serving in this colony, for the month of August last, in obedience to the orders conveyed to the late Governor, Sir Lionel Smith, in your Lordship's circular despatch of the 15th July 1836, and have no observation to offer thereon.

(signed) *John A. Beckles*, President.

For Lord *Glenelg*'s  
Circular, 15 July  
1836, *Vide* (R.)  
p. 5.

Enclosure 1, in No. 613.

District (A.)—Town Division.

MONTHLY REPORT, from 1st to 31st August 1836; in reply to the Questions contained in Lord *Glenelg*'s Circular of 15th July 1836.

*Question 1.*—What has been the general conduct of the apprentices in your district since your last report?

*Answer 1.*—The conduct of the apprentices, during the last month, seems to be greatly improved; the most numerous complaints have been for insolence, and absence without leave.

2.—Is there any want of good feeling between them and their employers; and if so, to what cause do you attribute it?

2.—This district is chiefly composed of non-prædials, and a great proportion of them belonging to persons in needy circumstances, who have no employment for them, and who have been in the habit of sending them out to look for employment at a rate of wages frequently impossible to be got, and at same time to support themselves; in consequence of which many complaints were made against them. This I have endeavoured to correct, by insisting on the owners themselves either finding employment or employers, and fewer complaints against them on this head. There is no apparent want of good feeling between them.

3.—Do they perform their work willingly; and if not, to what do you ascribe it?

3.—There is scarcely any field-labour in this district, except gardening, and the cultivation of small patches of Guinea-corn, which labour is cheerfully performed.

4.—What are the working-hours generally in use in this district; are any, and what intervals of relaxation allowed the apprentices during the working-hours?

4.—From six o'clock, A. M., until four o'clock, P. M., with an interval of an hour, from nine to ten, no time being appropriated between ten and four for relaxation, seems to be the general desire of the apprentices.

5.—Is taskwork generally resorted to in this district; if not, does the objection lie with the masters or apprentices?

5.—This not being a rural district there is no taskwork.

6.—Is it usual for the apprentices to work in their own time for money-wages; if so, what is the ordinary rate of wages, and how are they paid; if not, have they been offered?

6.—It is very usual for the prædials in this district to work for money-wages on Saturdays, and there is a ready demand for them at from 10½d. to 1s. 1d. sterling per day, paid in cash.

7.—Are any indulgences withheld which it was usual during slavery for the estate to supply?

7.—There is no agricultural estate in this district.

8.—What is the condition of the free children, and how are they supported?

8.—They are in general supported by the parents; one or two complaints were made to me

me of being unable to do so, and in consequence I was about executing an indenture for the children's protection; but on no account would the parents listen to it, their aversion to the prolonged apprenticeship being so very great.

9.—What facilities does this district supply for education and religious instruction? Is the attendance at church and in the schools equal to the accommodation?

9.—The town is ecclesiastically divided into three districts: St. Michael's, St. Mary's, and St. Paul's. The free sittings at each church, during the forenoon service, are nearly as follows: St. Michael's, 350; St. Mary's, 800, and St. Paul's, 200; besides an evening service at each of the following churches, which is almost exclusively attended by the negro population, and may be said as follows:

At St. Michael's	-	-	-	-	1,200	} Each of these churches would contain 300 more.
St. Mary's	-	-	-	-	1,200	
St. Paul's	-	-	-	-	500	
Moravian	-	-	-	-	450	
Wesleyan	-	-	-	-	1,000	

The Daily School Attendance.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
At St. Mary's - - - - -	200	100	300
Ditto - Infant - - - - -	36	70	106
St. Paul's - - - - -	65	130	195
Various other schools - - - - -	371	351	722
	672	651	1,323

Besides weekly Sunday-schools at each of the churches, which are well attended. The attendance at school and the evening church service is not equal to the accommodation, except at the Wesleyan chapel, which is generally very much crowded.

10.—Is there a general desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge; and how many discharges have been effected since last Report?

10.—There is a very general desire, on the part of the apprentices, to purchase their discharge; but from the constitution of the justices for this purpose, viz. one special and two general justices, the latter are, or may be presumed to be, interested in high appraisements, which the special justice cannot, when persisted in, overcome; and the objects of appraisement are thereby frequently defeated. I have, however, suggested to many of the apprentices to appeal to the good feeling of their masters, and to make an amicable arrangement without appearing before the magistrates; and have, in many instances, been successful in obtaining their discharges at sums infinitely below what they would have been appraised.

	Males.	Females.
Manumitted by appraisement during the last month -	1	2
Ditto - by amicable arrangement - - - - -	15	16
Ditto - by free discharges - - - - -	6	6
Total - - -	22	24

The numbers during the two preceding months nearly in the same proportion.

11.—To what kinds of employment do those who have obtained their discharge usually betake themselves?

11.—Almost the whole of the apprentices in this district are tradesmen and domestics, and they generally continue to follow their previous avocations.

12.—What are the prospects of the ensuing crop, and what the general state of cultivation; has the season been favourable or otherwise?

12.—The prospect of the ensuing crop is highly favourable, and the general cultivation very good; the weather, for nearly the last two months, very favourable.

13.—Have you any suggestions to make, or any practical measure to recommend?

13.—If a fixed principle was laid down for the deductions to be made on all appraisements during the remaining term of apprenticeship, for the casualties of death, sickness and the interest of the money paid in advance, it would be extremely beneficial to the apprentices desirous of purchasing their discharge, and which, I think, might be fairly reckoned at one third of the estimated value of their services. The rest of the system seems to be working very well.

J. Elmes, S. J. P.  
District (A.) Town Division.

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Enclosure 2, in No. 613.

District (A.)—Rural Division.

Monthly Report for August 1836.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 613.

*Answer 1.*—Under all the circumstances consequent and attending a new state of things, the general conduct of the apprentices is excellent.

2.—On a good many estates this is the case; I attribute this, in nine cases out of ten, to the temper and habits of the employer or manager. Whenever those persons are not considerate, and sometimes kind, good feeling does not exist. On the other hand, when they happen to be men of sense and humanity, there is a very good feeling towards them, the work of the estate well done, and consequently few or no complaints. This good feeling is more common on the large estates than on the smaller ones.

3.—This question may be answered nearly in the same way as No. 2, namely, to the want of temper, consideration and good sense in the employer. The apprentices are generally inclined to be idle, and sometimes to be impertinent and disorderly, but the extent of either depends upon the disposition and temper of the employer; there are, however, a good many stubborn characters amongst the apprentices, both male and female; their principal failing is a childish impertinence to those placed over them; they pilfer in a small way.

*Sic.*

4.—The working hours vary upon different estates; these hours are often regulated by the employer, but more frequently by the wishes of the apprentices themselves, some from 6 to 10, from 11 to 4, others from 6 to 9, from 10 to 1, and 3 to 6; on the first the intervals are for breakfast and dinner, on the next for breakfast and dinner. The apprentices on the well-regulated estates get the refreshment of water, sweetened with treacle, once or twice in the day; on the others, water only, and indeed little other extra indulgence.

5.—Task-work is not often resorted to; both parties seem to have an objection to it; task-work sometimes induces the apprentice to over-work himself, and to be careless in the execution of it; little or no work done by task in my district. Indeed, I think it a bad plan on all accounts. The apprentices generally give more satisfaction when working in the usual way.

6.—Yes, the apprentices work in their own time; sometimes on other estates, and frequently on those to which they are attached. Those who have land in lieu of allowance, work this land occasionally as required. The rate of wages is one quarter of a dollar per day, and is paid in money.

7.—Yes, on some estates a part of the indulgences have been withdrawn, on others they are continued; these, as well as many other things, mainly depend upon the temper and consideration of the employer.

8.—By no means good; the parent-apprentices have a great objection to binding them, by which they would be fed and clothed; this objection is, I believe, general. These children are supported by their parents and friends. On some few estates they are maintained at the expense of the estate, and taken good care of during the working-hours of their parents. On some they have also the advantage of a school.

9.—I shall endeavour to answer this question as satisfactorily as I can. There are three schools established for the religious and moral instruction of free and other children; they are well attended. The churches and chapels are filled, and although several new places of worship have been built, there still appears to be more accommodation wanting. The conduct of the apprentices during Divine service is most respectable, as well as their general behaviour on the Sabbath.

There are 65 estates in my district over 25 acres. It appeared from my quarterly report ending 30th June last (and called for by his Excellency Sir Lionel Smith), that upon five of the larger ones, where the proprietors and managers permitted all their apprentices to receive religious instruction for one hour in each fortnight, out of the estate time, there were nearly as many legally married couples as upon the remaining sixty. Exclusive of this first step to civilization, lawful marriage, these five estates give little trouble, and few or no complaints made of the general conduct of the apprentices; this hour of estate time having produced such beneficial effects.

I considered it my duty to propose to other proprietors and managers, that they also should give up one hour of estate time in each fortnight for this important purpose, the good effects of which were so apparent. My application for this hour has been promptly complied with on 18 estates over 25 acres, and lectures have begun upon five, by a qualified person, a Mr. Thorne, of Bridge-Town, a licensed catechist, and man of colour, who was himself born in slavery, and is perfectly equal to the task. I gave in the return of those 18 estates to the bishop, who promised to make arrangements with his clergy that advantage should be taken of this permission. When those 18 estates are supplied, I mean to proceed with the others; I do not anticipate a refusal. Thus 65 hours, or five days and five hours of estate time, would be given up to religious instruction every fortnight in one district alone. Exclusive of the moral effects likely to be produced by these lectures, the people will have an hour's rest from labour, and insure their attendance. In the neighbourhood of the Moravian establishment, two of the large estates in my district are situated; on those estates the apprentices conduct themselves in a very orderly and decent manner, few complaints, and most favourable reports made of them by the police patrol; this is to be attributed

attributed to the moral and religious instruction afforded by this excellent establishment; above 1,000 persons receive instruction here during the week. This mission of the united Moravian brethren has been established here since 1765, and has effected much in their neighbourhood. Nearly a year has elapsed since I commenced my duties as special justice in this district; I have studied the character of the apprentices; they are open to conviction and sensible of kindness, and I am satisfied would very readily embrace any system of education proposed to them by persons in whom they have been in the habit of placing confidence. The employers seem to be little inclined to assist in this matter, on which so much depends; this is short-sighted policy. The year 40 approaches, and it is high time to think of civilizing these people, at least the young apprentices and free children, in the moral good conduct of whom their interest, and the peace and prosperity of the island, is so deeply involved.

10.—The desire to purchase discharge is very general in my district; five discharges have been purchased in the last month. The inclination of the general justices, who are necessarily associated with the special magistrates, to enhance the value of the remaining services of the apprentices, operates much against the demands for appraisements.

11.—They generally follow the occupations they have been most accustomed to, except where their means and connexions enable them to better their condition.

12.—The present prospect of the crop is very favourable; the season, for certain crops, is extremely so. The canes now advancing in growth require perhaps more rain; upon the whole all look remarkably well, and it is fully admitted that the cultivation, the general agriculture, and cleanliness of the land, was never in a better state than it is at present.

13.—Under this head of general observation, I should recommend strongly that critical inquiry be made into the actual state of the free children of apprenticed labourers; their situation is extremely precarious, the more particularly as the parents are disinclined to apprentice them, and are not moreover willing that they shall work in such necessary employments as are suitable to their age, and by which they may be enabled to contribute something to their own support. So great is this disinclination of the parent-apprentices to employ their free children in agriculture or otherwise, that they seldom make them work on the land they themselves have in lieu of allowances; it is therefore obvious, that something should speedily be done, or they will become a most useless and inconvenient burthen to the country.

Under this head also, I think it my duty to notice the defects in the estate-hospital system. On the very large estates this establishment is conducted well; it is far from being the case on the smaller ones; here the hospitals or sick-houses are wretched buildings, badly ventilated and attended, indeed in many instances the sick apprentice, on going into the sick-house, becomes a close prisoner; the windows (if there happen to be any), closely shut, the door locked and the key taken away; on inquiry, you are told all is done by the orders of the plantation medical attendant; this system is one of the remnants of slavery, and requires the constant attention of the special magistrate; yet all his exertion is scarcely sufficient to counteract an abuse that in some cases is intended as a punishment, any modification of which the planters have no right to inflict. It therefore sometimes happens, that the apprentice, though ill, will continue to work, to the injury of his health, sooner than go into hospital; if he does go he becomes a prisoner; and when the medical attendant says he is fit for labour he is compelled to resume it, whatever he may assert to the contrary as to inability; my interference upon this occasion has been often required, and I regret to say not without cause; sometimes, however, the apprentices, to escape labour, feign illness, which I do not fail to punish when proved to my satisfaction.

J. B. Colthurst,  
Special Justice Peace, District (A.) R. D.

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Enclosure 3, in No. 613.

Enclosure 3,  
in No. 613.

MONTHLY REPORT of the State of District (B.), for August 1836.

Answer 1.—Rather idle.

2.—Among the smaller class of proprietors a want of proper feeling exists, principally occasioned from their being deprived of the authority of inflicting summary punishment; others from the apprentice appealing to the special justice for redress when aggrieved, at which the employer becomes irritated, and endeavours to annoy the apprentice to the extent of his power.

3.—There is not a general willingness to perform their work. The work ordered by the justice to be performed on Saturday is very reluctantly done, knowing it is a day appropriated for their own use.

4.—In the well-regulated properties, the working hours are from six to nine, then one hour for breakfast; from ten to one, then two hours for dinner; from three to six, when the day's labour is finished. During the short days, the time allowed for repose is curtailed about three-quarters of an hour, to admit of the nine hours' labour being completed

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between sunrise and sunset. Some agree to work the same time all the year; therefore, what they lose one half the year they gain in the other.

5.—Taskwork is not generally resorted to; the objection lies with the master, the work being performed badly. Some properties follow the system with success.

6.—It has of late become more general for the apprentices to work for wages in their own time, but many proprietors complain that they cannot obtain extra labour. Wages are paid according to the labour the apprentice is able to perform; the highest rate is, generally, 1 s. 1 d. sterling in cash, and many receive, in addition, a dram of spirits. On many estates they will come out at any time to work for their masters.

7.—Since the additional pound of fish has been allowed, in some properties, former indulgences have been withdrawn; in others they are continued, but liable to be stopped for improper conduct.

8.—The condition of the free children is generally deplorable, the parents bringing them up in idleness, which will be the case during the apprenticeship. In some properties they are fed by their former masters, and in others by their parents.

9.—Some of the estates are visited once or twice a week by catechists, who teach those who are inclined. Many of the poor whites hold day-schools for children. There are two parochial schools, besides other private schools. The attendance at church is equal to the accommodation, and becoming more general; chapels are increasing. The attendance in the schools is not equal to the accommodation.

10.—There is a great desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge; but, in consequence of the present high price of labour, the appraisements are high. Nine males and nine females have been discharged this month.

11.—Those discharged in general follow their former occupations, except some of the women, who take to domestic work in their own families, and generally quit the occupation of field-labour.

12.—The prospects of the ensuing crop are good. Cultivation generally good; some estates in much better order than during the latter part of slavery. The season has been favourable.

13.—I have no suggestions to make at present.

*Joseph Hamilton, S. J. P.*

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Enclosure 4, in No. 613.

Enclosure 4,  
in No. 613.

MONTHLY REPORT of the District (C.), for August 1836.

*Answer 1.*—Improving, with the exception of petty thefts.

2.—On large estates, with some exceptions, no bad feeling exists; but, on small places, much

3.—The same, and it proceeds from bad feeling.

4.—None:

5.—Taskwork is resorted to partially; and, where resorted to, has succeeded.

6.—Apprentices work in their own time. A quarter of a dollar a day may be set down as the rate of wages; a dram, or molasses and water, commonly called “diversion,” is generally given on estates, in addition, gratuitously.

7.—Indulgences are sometimes withheld when the apprenticed labourers misbehave.

8.—Free children are supported by their parents; though, on some well-regulated estates, where the parents give their employers satisfaction, the children get their allowance the same as they did previous to the 1st August 1834.

9.—There are two churches, with resident ministers, in the district, each having daily schools well attended; and three chapels, with a school to each, well attended also: There are sundry Sunday-schools, which are well attended, and some estates have a school which a catechist attends, in all which accommodation must exist. There is a desire for educating their children amongst the apprentices.

10.—Yes; nine discharges have been effected by purchase, and six have been gratuitous.

11.—Tradesmen, *i. e.* mechanics, continue their usual occupation; domestics either hire themselves out, or take to trafficking, commonly called “huckstering.”

12.—The prospects, as regards the ensuing staple crop of sugar, are very promising, and the cultivation good, with the exception of the small places, where things are not so well managed as they are on estates generally. The season set in dry, which has injured the Indian corn crop, the sowing of which commences in May; favourable rains have now set in, and, if they continue, the ensuing crop of sugar is expected to be very good.

13.—None.

(signed) *F. D. Hutcheson:*

## Enclosure 5, in No. 613.

District (D.)—31 August 1836.

First MONTHLY REPORT of Special Magistrate of the above District, in Reply to the Questions submitted him by Lord *Glenelg's* Circular Despatch of 15th July 1836.

Enclosure 5,  
in No. 613.

*Answer 1.*—The greater number of the complaints exhibited before me for this month having been for idleness and petty theft, and this being my only source of information, I conclude that the general conduct of the apprentices of this district, for the last month, has been idle and disposed to theft, to both of which the negro character is especially prone.

2.—Not generally speaking, and indeed in but very few instances that have come under my notice, can there be said to exist a want of good feeling between the apprentices and their employers; and where such does exist, it is generally to be attributed to the idle habits of the apprentices.

3.—The apprentices cannot be said to perform their work willingly. On those estates where the apprentices in authority conduct themselves well, the others yield a more ready obedience to the law; but where these are wanting, the reverse is the consequence.

4.—The working hours, except in crop season, when the apprentices are required for obvious reasons to be up earlier, are from six o'clock A. M. to six P. M., three hours of relaxation being allowed within that period; viz. most commonly from the hour of nine to that of ten o'clock A. M., and from that of one to three P. M.

5.—Taskwork is not, I understand, generally resorted to, and when it is adopted, is rather as the ultimate resort against idleness than otherwise, consequently the objection lies with the apprentices. Yet even when it is resorted to, the apprentices frequently finish the task assigned them (as arranged by a scale of work, approved of and directed by the late Governor-general, Sir Lionel Smith, to be a standard for taskwork) before the nine hours of labour, their masters are by law entitled to, have expired.

6.—The apprentices can get abundance of employment for money-wages in this district, during their own time, would they be so employed, at the rate, to every effective labourer, of the sum of 1 s. 6  $\frac{3}{4}$  d. currency each per day, which sum is usually paid them at the expiration of their nine hours' labour; but such is their idleness and indolence of character, that it is difficult to induce them to work even for these wages.

7.—Where the apprentices conduct themselves well, none of the indulgences supplied during slavery are withheld.

8.—The free children for the most part are dependent for support on the allowances furnished their parents from the estates. Where, however, the parents conduct themselves well, none of the indulgences heretofore enjoyed by the free children are withheld.

9.—The only facilities afforded in this district for education, which I am aware of, are two weekly and three Sunday schools, the latter held at the places of Divine worship by the respective ministers, two being of the Established Church, and one of Moravians. The attendance at church is more than equal to the accommodation; but I am unable to state what that at the schools is.

10.—I should conclude, from the circumstance of several apprentices having had themselves appraised without being able to produce the amount of their valuation, that the desire to purchase their discharge is general amongst the apprentices, and that the means only are wanting to carry it into effect. This being the first report of this kind I have been called on for, I shall state all the discharges, of whatever kinds, that have taken place from 1st August 1834, to date; viz. 75 by the owners' voluntary acts, 30 by purchases of apprentices, and two by special magistrate in compliance with 88th clause of the Abolition Act.

11.—For the most part the discharged apprentices betake themselves to the calling of petty hawkers or hucksters; few or none can be got to engage in agricultural pursuits.

12.—The prospect for the ensuing crop is at present favourable; the cultivation, generally speaking, is not as extended as during the state of slavery; and on many estates the lands are not in the high state of tillage they were formerly kept. The seasons up to the present time have been favourable.

13.—None at present.

*John James Hough, S. J. P.*

## Enclosure 6, in No. 613.

Enclosure 6,  
in No. 613.

District (E.)—31 August 1836.

*Answer 1.*—Excessively idle, and much addicted to stealing.

2.—No bad feeling, except a wish on the part of the apprentices not to perform labour adequate to their power and ability.

3.—They do not perform their work willingly, and it is ascribed to their indolence.

4.—The working hours are from six o'clock in the morning to nine, and from ten to one, and from three to six, daily, except Saturdays and Sundays, when they are entirely unemployed.

5.—Taskwork is not generally resorted to, in consequence of the unwillingness of the labourers to perform it; but when it is, they often finish that prescribed by law in six or eight hours.

6.—The apprentices sometimes work for wages, but they generally prefer cultivating their own grounds; and it is difficult to obtain a succession of agricultural labourers on Saturdays, though they can get from 1 s. 3 d. to 1 s. 6  $\frac{3}{4}$  d. currency in cash per day.

7.—No

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7.—No indulgences are withheld from them which they enjoyed in a state of slavery; and the employers generally allow them many more privileges than the law does; most estates, in addition to their rations, give each labourer about one-eighth of an acre of land, for which no reduction of allowance is made, nor any price charged.

8.—The free children are in good condition generally, and supported by the overplus of allowance given to their parents by their employers; they are nevertheless bringing them up in habits of extreme idleness.

9.—The facilities afforded for their education and religious instruction are a free access to the churches at all times, and the Saturday and Sunday schools established by the clergymen of the district; but they generally prefer sending their children to small schools established by people of free condition, and not under the control of the clergymen; on some estates schools are established, but it is difficult to get them to attend in their own hours, and the parents will not send their free children; the objection is supposed to arise from an idea that it may give their masters some claim to their future services.

10.—There is a general desire to purchase their discharge; seven males and seven females have been effected since my last report in my district.

11.—In habits of idleness, and on no occasion do they employ themselves as agricultural labourers.

12. Tolerably fair; small properties indifferent; not favourable hitherto; for want of rain the grain crop has been almost lost.

13.—None at present.

*Frederick J. Mathews,*  
Special Justice Peace, District (E.)

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Enclosure 7, in No. 613.

MONTHLY REPORT for August 1836.

District (F), comprising Parishes of St. Andrew and St. Joseph.

*Answer 1.*—THE conduct of the apprenticed labourers in this district has been uniformly quiet and orderly, with a few exceptions, as my journal will prove.

2.—I think there is a want of good feeling in many instances between employers and their apprentices, particularly the small proprietors, as legal allowances are often withheld.

3.—The apprentices perform their work willingly, except as in the question cited above, &c.

4.—The working hours generally are from 6 A.M. to 10; then from 11 A.M. till 2 P.M.; then from 4 till 6 P.M., making nine hours.

5.—Taskwork is not in use: the objection generally lies with the apprentice.

6.—The apprentices work in their own time on Saturdays at the rate of 1 s. sterling for nine hours; during crop time, the prædial apprenticed labourers work over their own time voluntarily; but the wages are very small indeed, and often irregularly paid.

7.—Generally during slavery the prædial apprenticed labourers had land independent of their food, and their stock was not destroyed, in the manner it is customary, by law, to do so at present.

8.—The free children of the first class of prædial apprenticed labourers generally go to school, and are supported by their parents; but the children of the ordinary field-labourer are barely supported, and generally are kept away from the employers.

9.—There are few facilities supplied for the education of children, and no funds to pay a schoolmaster in this district; the school-house and church are one and the same. There is a night-school, attended by adults and children, but they all pay a small sum weekly for being taught to read, and this is the only instruction afforded to the black population. The clergymen attend on Saturday for religious instruction, but their time is chiefly occupied by baptisms and marriages. The church accommodation is far from being adequate to the wants of the parishioners, and such as it is, can only be called temporary.

10.—I do not think the desire is general among the apprentices of purchasing their discharge; during this month only four have done so in this district, as they are too poor. Those who can afford to purchase their discharge are chiefly tradesmen, and when free, they continue at their craft.

11.—The prospects for the ensuing crop are most favourable, and the state of cultivation of the very highest order. The season, as yet, has been most favourable.

12.—I would suggest, that in cases of appraisement, in place of having the attendance of two general magistrates, there should be another special magistrate, and only special justices of the peace to value prædial apprenticed labourers.

I should also recommend, that all special magistrates should be sworn in as general magistrates, and I can adduce many substantial reasons for the same.

In cases of appraisement, the law directs there should be two general magistrates, and one special; the consequence is, that the apprentice is frequently overvalued, and the dissent of the special magistrate is of no avail. Also, the Colonial Abolition Law and the Island Law frequently are so mixed, that it sometimes happens there exists a difference of opinion, whether the apprentice should be brought before the general magistrate or the special.

*Geo. Kennedy, Lieut. R. N.,*  
S. J. P.

—No. 614.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Hon. *J. T. Beckles*, President of the Council, to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 614.

(No. 6.)

Government House, Barbados,  
12th October 1836.

My Lord,  
HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, Answers to the Queries proposed in your Lordship's Circular Despatch of 15th July 1836, for the month of September last, as furnished by the Special Magistrates serving in this colony.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John T. Beckles*, President.

*P. S.*—No general Report has been received from District (E.), the Magistrate in charge of that district having died early in the month.

*J. T. B.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 614.

Enclosure, 1,  
in No. 614.

ANSWERS:—District (A.) Town Division.

- 1.—CRIME has very much decreased in this district since my last report.
- 2.—There is no apparent want of a mutual good feeling.
- 3.—The work seems to be cheerfully performed.
- 4.—From 6 A. M. to 4 P. M., with an interval of one hour from 9 to 10.
- 5.—This not being an agricultural district, there is no taskwork.
- 6.—It is very usual for the prædials in this district to work for money wages, at from 10 d. to 1 s. 1 d. sterling per day, which is paid in cash.
- 7.—There is no agricultural estate in this district.
- 8.—In general very poor, and supported by their parents.
- 9.—There appears to be ample means for education, and the accommodation at the different churches during the evening service is equal to the Negro attendance, except at the Wesleyan church, which is generally crowded.
- 10.—The great desire to purchase their discharge continues, and by the same means I formerly recommended, a great many discharges have been obtained on very moderate terms.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Manumitted by appraisement during the month	2	-	2
Ditto - - by amicable arrangement	16	29	45
Ditto - - free discharges	3	13	16
Ditto - - by me, in consequence of the cruelty of the owner	-	1	1
<b>TOTAL during the Month</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>64</b>

The average amount paid for those manumitted by amicable arrangement has been from 10*l.* to 15*l.* currency, in some instances much lower. The two by appraisement, 35*l.* and 25*l.*

11.—Being in general mechanics and domestics, they generally continue the same avocations.

12.—The crops look exceedingly well, and the cultivation is excellent. The seasons continue very favourable.

13.—I have nothing in addition to my last month's report to offer.

(signed) *J. Elmes*, S. J. P.

District (A.) Town Division.

1 October 1836.



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Enclosure 2, in No. 614.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 614.

ANSWERS :—District (A.) Rural Division.

1.—THE conduct of the apprentices in my district, since my last report, has been, generally speaking, excellent.

2.—There exist some instances in which there is a want of this good feeling, but I think that it is caused often by perhaps a want of temper and consideration in the employer or manager.

3.—This question may be answered nearly as the last. Wherever the apprentices are treated with kindness and consideration, and a steady system pursued, they work well and willingly.

4.—The usual working hours are from 6 to 9, from 10 to 1, from 2 to 5; these hours are sometimes varied, generally to meet the wishes of the apprentices; the first interval for breakfast, the second for dinner; indeed upon the large estates the regulations in this respect, as well as in many others, are, more or less, made at the request of the apprentices; on these estates the pregnant women and those having young children are treated with much humanity,

5.—Both masters and apprentices have an objection to taskwork; the masters often have to complain that the work is hurried over, and consequently badly done; if otherwise, the people are apt to overwork themselves; the apprentices object because they say the tasks are too heavy. In my opinion, the usual mode of working the nine hours is preferable on every account, as both parties always seem better satisfied.

6.—It is constantly the practice of the apprentices, with perhaps few exceptions, to work in their own time. Some are idle, and will not; those persons are few; the ordinary wages is a quarter dollar a day, paid in money.

7.—On the large estates none of the indulgences enjoyed in a state of slavery have been withdrawn. On some of the smaller ones they have been considerably curtailed; in all matters connected with the apprenticeship the large estates proceed well, when the smaller ones give considerable trouble.

8.—The condition of the free children is extremely precarious; they are supported, on some of the large estates, partly at the expense of the estate, but these instances are very few; they are usually supported by the parents and friends; their parents, I regret to say, have a great objection to their working on such works as are suitable to their age, and by which they may assist in supporting themselves. I am at present using every means in my power, on three or four estates, to introduce a regular system for those children, many of whom are now nearly eight years of age. What I propose is, that they shall work at light work from 6 to 9 o'clock, earn their breakfasts, and then go to school either on the estate or in the neighbourhood; this I hope to carry into effect.

9.—There are three schools established by the Bishop in my district, besides that by the Moravians; the attendance at these schools is numerous and respectable; the attendance at church is highly respectable in both instances; there seems to be a great want of accommodation; the Sabbath is respected.

10.—There is a very general desire amongst the apprentices to purchase their discharge; eleven persons have obtained it within the last month, five by purchase, and six by the voluntary act of the master; these last were house servants; two also of the first were domestics.

11.—In almost every instance to the employment they have been previously occupied in.

12.—The prospect of the ensuing crops is very favourable; rain has been wanting during the month, but as it has now fallen heavily, everything looks well; it is admitted generally that the state of cultivation is excellent, and the season upon the whole favourable.

13.—In my last report I mentioned the precarious situation of the free children of the apprenticed labourers; in my opinion instant attention ought to be paid to their condition; if this is not done, it is plain that they will hang a dead weight upon the country, untrained to industry, and wholly uneducated. As I said before, in my answer to question 8, my plan is, that the free, and some of the apprenticed, children, shall assemble at 10 o'clock on one estate, from perhaps two, three, or more estates, and there receive instruction for the remainder of the day, the free children having first earned their breakfasts; the expense to be paid by each estate according to the number of children attending such school.

(signed) J. B. Colthurst, S. J. P.

District (A.) Rural Division.

Enclosure 3,  
in No. 614.

Enclosure 3, in No. 614.

ANSWERS :—District (B.)

1.—STILL idle.

2.—The same improper feeling exists as described in the last month's report.

3.—A continued reluctance to work on Saturday, when ordered by the magistrate.

4.—The same as the last report.

5.—The same as the last report.

6.—Wages

6. Wages are on the increase, a competition existing amongst the proprietors; some apprentices get 13*d.* sterling and half a pint of rum, others get 15  $\frac{1}{2}$  *d.* and a gill of rum for the day's work.

7. Since the allotments of land have been issued to the apprentices for their support, the small gardens around their huts, which they formerly were allowed to plant, in some properties, have been taken from them.

8. The free children continue in the same state, and will so long as the apprenticeship lasts.

9. The same as the last report.

10. The price still continuing high prevents a number from purchasing their discharge. One male purchased and one voluntary; four females purchased. Total number of discharges effected, six.

11. Many children have been purchased by their parents, who have placed them out to school; those grown up employ themselves as in the last report.

12. The prospects of the ensuing crops are generally throughout the district pretty good; the season has generally been favourable; cultivation good.

13. In my next report some suggestions will be submitted.

(signed) *Joseph Hamilton, S. J. P.*

District (B.)

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Enclosure 4, in No. 614.

ANSWERS:—District (C.)

Enclosure 4,  
in No. 614.

1. IMPROVING, with the exception of idleness.

2. Generally speaking, as to the large estates, there is a very good feeling subsisting; but with a few exceptions as to the large estates, and nearly the entire of the small places, there is a bad feeling exists, principally, I consider, from the irregular method of calculating the time of labour by a glass, by which the apprentices can never ascertain whether they are kept longer than their legal hours or not; and where there are more than one gang, and the glass kept where one is, the other gangs are kept at work after the time the first gang is broke off from their work.

3. A great many complaints for indolent performance of work and turning out late have been made, which I attribute to the cause stated in reply No. 2.

4. None.

5. Taskwork is resorted to partially, and where resorted to has succeeded.

6. Apprentices work in their own time; a quarter of a dollar a day may be set down as the rate of wages; a dram, or molasses and water (commonly called "diversion") is generally given on estates in addition, gratuitously.

7. Indulgences are sometimes withheld when the apprentices misbehave.

8. Free children are supported by their parents, though on some well-regulated estates, where the parents give their employer satisfaction, the children get their allowance the same as they did previous to the 1st of August 1834.

9. There are two churches with resident ministers in the district, each having daily schools well attended; three chapels with a school to each, well attended also. There are sundry Sunday-schools which are well attended, and some estates have a school which a catechist attends, in all which adequate accommodation must exist. There is a desire for educating their children amongst the apprentices.

10. Yes; 11 discharges have been effected by purchase.

11. Tradesmen, *i. e.* mechanics, continue their usual occupation; domestics either hire themselves out or take to trafficking, commonly called "huckstering."

12. The prospects, as regards the ensuing staple crop of sugar, are somewhat diminished, owing to the want of rain.

13. I consider the present mode of appraising the remaining period of apprenticeships bad, inasmuch as two colonial magistrates are associated with one special justice; the consequence is, where high appraisements are advocated by the local magistrates, the apprentices suffer; I therefore submit that two special justices ought to be associated with one colonial magistrate, instead of two of the latter with the one special justice.

(signed) *F. J. Hutcheson, S. J. P.*

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Enclosure 5, in No. 614.

ANSWERS:—District (D.)

Enclosure 5,  
in No. 614.

1. IDLE and given to petty theft in almost a twofold degree to my last report, as will appear from the greater number convicted this month than the last, most of whom have received sentence for the above-mentioned offences.

2. In my reply to this, as well as several of the following questions, I must beg leave to refer you to my first replies to said questions in report for August last, nothing having occurred to induce me to think differently.

3. See reply for month of August.

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- 4 to 9. See reply for month of August.  
 10. See reply for month of August. Ten; three by purchase and seven by the voluntary acts of the masters.  
 11 & 12. See reply for month of August.  
 13. None at present.

(signed) *W. Ja. Hough, S. J. P.*

## Enclosure 6, in No. 614.

Enclosure 6,  
in No. 614.

## ANSWERS:—District (F.)

1. THE conduct of the apprenticed labourers has been uniformly quiet and regular, as my journal will exhibit.
2. I think there is a want of good feeling, particularly among the small proprietors; the cause generally from not receiving legal allowances.
3. The work is performed willingly, and when not, it arises generally from the apprentice not receiving his legal allowance.
4. The working-hours are from 6 A. M. till 10; from 11 till 2 P. M., and from 4 to 6 P. M.
5. Taskwork is not in general use; the objection generally lies with the apprentice.
6. The apprentices always work on their own day, Saturday, at 1s. sterling, nine hours. During crop-time they always work over their nine hours voluntarily, but the wages are generally very small indeed, and often most irregularly paid. The special justice of the peace has no control in cases of the above nature, as they are generally private between employer and apprentice.
7. During slavery the apprentices generally had land as well as provisions, and were allowed to keep stock. Now, by law, half an acre of land is a substitute for food, and all stock by law may be destroyed for any or whatever trespass.
8. Many of first-class apprentices send their free children to school, but the ordinary field people have neither time nor means, and they are generally wandering about the Negro huts, shunning their parents' employers; they are supported upon part of the legal allowance of their parents.
9. The district supplies no facilities for education, and with the exception of a night-school, attended by adults as well as children, there is no other; and even there they have to pay a small sum for attending at school. The church accommodation is very far from being adequate to the wants of the parishioners in every respect.
10. The desire to purchase their discharge is not very general. Since my last report four discharges have been effected.
11. After obtaining their discharge the apprentices work at the trade or craft they have a knowledge of.
12. The prospects for the ensuing year are excellent. The state of cultivation is first-rate, and the season has as yet been most favourable.
13. I would strongly recommend that all special magistrates were sworn in as general magistrates, and that only special magistrates should be employed in cases of appraisement; as the law now exists the proprietor fixes the value, and two justices of the peace, both planters, have the power of closing, without consent of special justice.

(signed) *George Kennedy, S. J. P.*  
for District (F.)

## — No. 615. —

No. 615. COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart.,  
to Lord *Glenelg*.

(No. 17.)

My Lord,

Government-House, Barbados,  
10 November 1836.

1 to 6.

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit the monthly answers of the stipendiary magistrates of Barbados for October last, in reply to the questions addressed to them by your Lordship's order.

For the present, it is out of my power to observe further upon the several points therein adverted to, than that the suggested alteration of the law of appraisement, does not appear to me calculated in any degree to prevent possible injustice, as it would but tend to substitute one influence for another, instead of better adjusting the

the conflicting interests of the apprentices, and the proprietors, from whom their discharges are to be purchased.

As a general rule, it does not seem to me by any means expedient that stipendiary magistrates should be invested with appointments in the magistracy at large, because such an extension of authority on their part, if indiscreetly managed, might seriously compromise them with other justices in the commission of the peace.

I have, &c.

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

Enclosure 1, in No. 615.

ANSWERS:—District (A.), Town Division. Monthly Report from 1st to 31st Oct. 1836.

Enclosure 1, in No. 615.

1. THE general conduct of the apprentices in this district, during the last two months, has greatly improved, and crime diminished nearly one half.

2. There are a certain class of owners in this district whose sole aim is to extort to the utmost farthing the amount of wages earned by the apprenticed labourers, and at the same time very dilatory in supplying food or clothing until forced so to do. When such is the case, the apprentice labourer cannot have much good feeling towards his owner; in other respects, the feeling seems pretty good.

3. What little field-labour there is in this district seems cheerfully performed.

4. From 6 A. M. until 4 P. M., with an hour's relaxation, from 9 to 10 A. M.

5. This not being an agricultural district, there is not any taskwork.

6. It is very usual for the prædials to work on Saturdays for money-wages, at from 10½ d. to 1 s. 1 d. sterling per diem, which is paid in cash.

7. There is no agricultural estate in this district.

8. In general, very poor, but supported by the parents.

9. There appears to be ample means for education in this district, and the accommodation at the different churches during the evening service appears to be equal to the Negro attendance, except at the Wesleyan chapel, which is in general greatly crowded. The clergyman reports to me there is another chapel intended shortly to be built by the society.

10. The general desire to purchase their discharge continues with the apprentices of this district, but the same difficulty in obtaining them by appraisalment continues to exist, and which amounts almost to a prohibition; by persevering in the same course I had previously suggested, it has not been resorted to by me during the last month; and those discharges obtained by amicable arrangement appear extremely reasonable, averaging from 10 l. to 12 l. currency.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Manumitted by appraisalment during the last month	-	-	none.
Ditto - by amicable arrangement	7	14	21
Ditto - by free discharges	2	10	12
<b>TOTAL during the Month</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33</b>

11. Being in general tradesmen and domestics, they generally continue to follow the same avocation.

12. Having, during the last month, been a good deal through the island, the crops and cultivation are, in my opinion, excellent, and the weather favourable. The surveyor-general of the island informs me that he has been nearly 50 years in this island, and that he has never seen such appearance of crops as the present promises to be.

13. I have nothing to offer in addition to my report for August last.

Bridgetown, Barbados,  
2 November 1836.

(signed) *J. Elmes,*  
District (A.), Town Division.

BARBADOS.

Enclosure 2, in No. 615.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 615.

ANSWERS :—Monthly Report of District (A.), Rural Division, ending 31 October 1836.

1. THE conduct of the apprentices since my last report has been exceedingly good, generally speaking.

2. On some estates, this want of good feeling does exist to a considerable extent; I attribute it, in nine cases out of ten, to the want of temper and consideration in the employer.

3. This question may be answered as the last; namely, whenever the employer is a man of temper and discretion, the apprentices work well and willingly; if not, the reverse is the case.

4. The working-hours in my district are generally from 6 to 10, and 11 to 4, or from 6 to 9, 10 to 1, and 3 to 6; the intervals for breakfast and dinner. The apprentices have no other intervals of rest, except that they are permitted to shelter themselves occasionally from rain during the working-hours.

5. Taskwork is not generally resorted to; the objection seems to lie with both masters and apprentices; when taskwork is resorted to, the apprentices are left to overwork themselves, and execute the work badly. I have not encouraged taskwork, as I consider it injurious to both parties.

6. The apprentices will not always work in their own time; when they do so for others, they work for money-wages; the ordinary rate is a quarter of a dollar per day, and paid in cash. Some small estates in my district are almost exclusively worked by this description of labour, and found profitable.

7. On almost all the large estates, all the former indulgences usual in a state of slavery are continued, and only withdrawn from individuals for bad conduct. On the very small properties these indulgences have been greatly curtailed.

8. The condition of the free children, both of apprentices and others, is exceedingly precarious, owing chiefly to the objection the parents have to their working at all; many of those children are now eight years old, and reared in habits of ignorance and idleness, which cannot fail to produce at the end of the apprenticeship most serious consequences, therefore no time should be lost in attending to their condition; they are at present usually supported by their parents and friends.

9. There are three schools established in my district by the Bishop; these schools are well attended: there is also an excellent one established by the Moravians, and well filled. The churches are respectably attended; in both cases the accommodation does not appear to be nearly sufficient.

10. There is a very general desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge, but many are deterred from making the application from the inclination the general justices evince to enhance the value of their remaining services. Six discharges have been effected since last report; five by voluntary manumission, and one from acts of cruelty inflicted by the owner; this person manumitted by me on this account.

11. The apprentices employ themselves, after having obtained their discharge, in the occupations they have been before accustomed to.

12. The prospect of the ensuing crops is very good. The canes are perhaps too soon beginning to arrow; these crops, however, are considered a fair average of crops. The state of cultivation is excellent, and the estates in clean order.

13. I beg leave to refer to my monthly report for September last for some observations I thought it my duty to make relative to the situation of the free children of apprentice labourers. I have only again to repeat, that their condition is exceedingly precarious, and ought to be attended to without delay. I also thought it right to make some general observations upon the defective state of the hospital system, particularly upon small estates. On the large ones, the hospitals are comfortable and airy buildings, and well attended in every respect; but it is far otherwise on the small ones; they are wretched in the extreme, where the patient is often locked up without the usual attendance of a sick nurse. I have done all in my power to rectify this evil.

(signed) *J. B. Colthurst*, Special Justice Peace,  
District (A.), Rural Division, Barbados.

Enclosure 3, in No. 615.

ANSWERS :—A General Report of the state of District (B.), for October 1836.

1. THIS month there have been many minor offences committed. Petty thefts have decreased, although the temptation is greater now, and increasing daily, by the canes ripening and yams. Two felonies have been committed.

2. I am sorry to say there still exists the same feeling between the apprentices and their employers as last reported; if any difference, it has increased, from the former daily becoming more acquainted with their rights, and the latter, from the former not humbling themselves to them to that extent as they have been accustomed to do.

3. They do not work willingly, knowing it to be compulsory labour.

4. The

Enclosure 3,  
in No. 615.

4. The working-hours are the same as last reported.
5. Taskwork is not generally resorted to, from the reasons already reported.
6. The apprentices generally work for wages in their own time, which is willingly done, being interested themselves. A manager informed me that he had last Saturday 94 hired labourers at work upon his estate, some belonging to the estate, and others to various other properties; the cause assigned was, that he gave them a dram of spirits extra; they did their work well.
7. Some proprietors do withhold former indulgences from the apprentices; some even go so far as to forbid their even keeping feathered stock.
8. The free children are generally much neglected, and it is my opinion that their parents will not compel them to work before the term of apprenticeship expires; some are well taken care of and sent to school.
9. Some properties are visited by catechists, who teach those who are inclined to read. The schools remain as reported by me in the month of August. The attendance at church increases.
10. There is a great desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge, but are prevented from causes assigned in Answer 13. Three males have effected their discharge this month.
11. The males appear to work willingly after they have obtained their discharge, and generally at the work they have been brought up to; I have seen many instances. The females generally shun field-labour, and betake themselves to domestic employment. They consider it a degradation to work in the field, I believe, from the circumstance of the employers formerly sending the domestics and tradesmen to work the hoe as a punishment.
12. The prospects of an ensuing crop are most favourable, and every appearance of making a large crop; the cultivation good. The season has been favourable.
13. I suggest, that when apprentices are appraised for the purpose of their purchasing their discharge, the valuers should be three special justices. As it is now conducted, it cannot be considered an impartial appraisal, the two colonial magistrates being interested in the value of apprentices, or they may be under some obligation to the proprietor of the apprentice brought before them to be appraised; therefore, if the two agree, the special justice's opinion is of no avail. Many would purchase their discharge were it not for the enormous rate they are appraised at. I have many discharges in my office, which the apprentices have not been able to pay for after the appraisal, owing to the high price fixed upon their services.

(signed) *Jos. Hamilton, R. N., S. J. P.*

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Enclosure 4, in No. 615.

District (C.), 7th November 1836.

Enclosure 4  
in No. 615.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for the information of the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the following replies to the questions contained in his circular dispatch of the 15th July, agreeable to the numbers therein.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. F. Hutcheson, S. J. P.*

1. Improving, with the exception of idleness.
2. Generally speaking, as to the large estates, there is a very good feeling subsisting; but with a few exceptions as to the large estates, and nearly the entire of the small places, there is a bad feeling existing, principally, I consider, from the irregular method of calculating the time of labour by a glass, by which the apprentices can never ascertain whether they are kept longer than their legal hours or not; and when there are more than one gang, and the glass kept where one is, the other gang are kept at work after the time the first gang is broke off from their work.
3. A great number of complaints for indolent performance of work and turning out late have been made, which I attribute to the causes stated in reply No. 2.
4. None.
5. Taskwork is resorted to partially, and where resorted to has succeeded.
6. Apprentices work in their own time; a quarter of a dollar a day may be set down as the rate of wages; a dram, or molasses and water, commonly called "diversion," is generally given on estates in addition gratuitously.
7. Indulgences are sometimes withheld when the apprenticed labourers misbehave.
8. Free children are supported by their parents, though on some well-regulated estates, where the parents give the employer satisfaction, the children get their allowance the same as they did previous to the 1st of August 1834.
9. There are two churches with resident ministers in the district, each having daily schools well attended, and three chapels with a school to each, well attended also. There are Sunday schools which are well attended; and some estates have a school which a catechist attends, in all which adequate accommodation must exist. There is a desire for educating their children amongst the apprenticed labourers.

10. Yes;

BARBADOS.

10. Yes; seven discharges have been effected by purchase, and three given voluntarily.
11. Tradesmen, *i. e.* mechanics, continue their usual occupation; domestics either hire themselves out or take to trafficking, commonly called "huckstering."
12. The prospects as regards the ensuing staple crop of sugar, though very promising, are somewhat diminished, owing to the want of rain in the month of September.
13. I consider the present mode of appraising the remaining period of apprenticeships bad, inasmuch as two colonial magistrates are associated with one special justice; the consequence is, where high appraisements are advocated by the local magistrates, the apprentices suffer. I therefore submit that two special justices ought to be associated with one colonial magistrate, instead of two of the latter with one special justice.

(signed) *J. F. Hutcheson, S. J. P.*

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Enclosure 5, in No. 615.

Enclosure 5,  
in No. 615.

ANSWERS :—District (D.)

Report of the Special Magistrate of the above District, for the month of October 1836.

1. IDLE, and given to petty theft.
2. See reply to same question for August last.
- 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. See reply for August last.
10. See reply for August last. Seven; three by purchase, and four by the voluntary acts of the proprietors.
- 11 & 12. See reply for August last.
13. None at present.

(signed) *W. Ja. Hough, S. J. P.*

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Enclosure 6, in No. 615.

Enclosure 6,  
in No. 615.

District (F.), comprising the Parishes of St. Andrew and St. Joseph.

ANSWERS to Thirteen Questions from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

1. THE conduct of the apprenticed labourers has been quiet and orderly, with a few exceptions, as my journal exhibits.
2. I think there is, particularly on the estates of small proprietors, for not giving the legal allowances.
3. Chiefly to the fact mentioned, not always receiving their allowances.
4. From 6 to 10 A. M.; and from 12 to 2 P. M.; and from 4 to 6 P. M.
5. Taskwork is not in general use, the objection generally lies with the apprentice; it may be as the tasks are very heavy.
6. Yes, on Saturday, at the rate of a quarter dollar, or 1 s. 1 d. sterling, per day, or nine hours. During crop-time, the apprenticed labourers work voluntarily over their nine hours; but the wages are very small, and often very irregularly paid, and in some cases not at all. The special justice of the peace has no control in the above, as it is generally of a private nature, and seldom entered into before the special justice of the peace as the law directs.
7. Yes; during slavery most if not all apprenticed labourers had small patches of land independent of their allowances, and they were also allowed to keep stock; whereas, by the present law, half an acre of land is a substitute for all food, and one day in a fortnight is a substitute for the fish and clothing; so that with these allowances the apprenticed labourer is compelled to work for his employer.
8. Many of the first class of apprenticed labourers (*viz.* tradespeople) send their free children to school; but many of the ordinary field people have neither time nor opportunity, consequently their children are running about idle. They are supported upon a pittance of parents' allowance.
9. These parishes supply little or no facilities for the education of children, as there is neither master nor mistress appointed, and the school-house is used almost exclusively as a place of worship. With the exception of night-schools, which are attended by adults as well as children, who pay a small sum weekly, there is no other instruction afforded the black population. The clergymen receive every Saturday all who come to them for religious instruction, which is generally catechetical. The church accommodation is very far from being adequate to the wants of the parishioners; but I trust this, in time, may be remedied, by the contemplated construction of a church which will afford room for two or three times the number of persons at present accommodated.
10. I think the desire is general to purchase their discharge amongst the apprenticed labourers, but they rarely have the means. No discharges have been made since last report.
11. Generally, they are tradespeople; and after procuring their discharge, they betake themselves to their different trades.

12. The

12. The prospects of the ensuing crop are most excellent, and the state of cultivation of the very highest order; the season has been very favourable indeed.

13. I would suggest that in cases of appraisement there should always be two special magistrates and one general magistrate (the law now ordains there shall be two general magistrates and one special). The consequence is obvious; the planter is always a general magistrate, and of course has it all his own way, as one dissentient voice goes for nought. I would also suggest that all special justices should be sworn into the general magistracy, as the law governing apprentices very frequently clashes with the general law, often to the detriment of the apprenticed labourer.

(signed) *Geo. Kennedy, S. J. P.*

Barbados, 4 November 1836.

— No. 616. —

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

No. 616.

(No. 57.)

My Lord,

Government-House, Barbados, 31 Dec. 1836.

RETURNS from the stipendiary magistrates of Barbados, for the month of November, in reply to questions from your Lordship, are herewith forwarded. From No. 1 to 7.

The interruption of intercourse between apprenticed females and their free children, the repugnance of the mothers to apprentice them, and the situation of this class of persons in general, form a most important subject, to which my attention is anxiously directed.

Upon the question of appraisement, adverted to in my letter of the 10th ultimo, No. 17, (80 apprentices having acquired liberty last month), as well as upon other points, I coincide entirely in the opinion expressed by Major Colthurst in a letter, of which a copy is enclosed, that "the fewer alterations of the original law that take place the better."

No. 2,  
17th Nov. 1836.

From Captain Hamilton's observations in his 13th answer, I am compelled to dissent. It seems equitable that employers should recover the time lost in consequence of the award of a special justice, or court, depriving them of the services of apprenticed labourers, under sentence. That the apprentices should be dissatisfied with this regulation is perfectly natural, but it rarely happens that offenders take pleasure in paying the penalty of their misconduct.

I have, &c.

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

Enclosure 1, in No. 616.

ANSWERS of Special Magistrate *J. Elmes, of District (A.), Town Division,* for November 1836.

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 616.

1. THE general conduct of the apprentices in this district during the last month has been good.

2. In some instances during this month acts of great oppression towards free-born children have occurred, by demanding the constant service of the mother, at same time ordering the child from the premises. The Colonial Abolition Act in this respect seems defective, and where any such occurrence takes place there cannot be any good feeling.

3. Apparently with very good humour.

4. From 6 A. M. to 4 P. M., with an hour's relaxation, from 9 to 10.

5. There is no taskwork in this district.

6. It is usual for the apprentices to work in their own time for money-wages at 1s. 1d. sterling per day, paid in cash.

7. There is no agricultural estate in this district.

8. In general very poor, but the abhorrence of the parents to an apprenticeship for their support is insurmountable.

9. This district is amply supplied with the means of education and religious instruction. The Negro attendance at church and in the schools is highly respectable.

10. There is a very great desire on the part of the apprentices, but the difficulty of obtaining it by appraisement cannot in some instances be got over. It seems only reasonable that the apprenticed labourer should be allowed to nominate on his part, as well as the owner, the special magistrate being the umpire, but such a measure would now in all probability meet with great opposition. Number manumitted at the end.

11. They in general continue to follow their previous avocations as tradesmen or domestics.



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12. The prospects of the ensuing crop are most abundant, the cultivation excellent, and the weather continues most favourable.

13. The situation of the free children requires the most paramount consideration; and a remedy for it the most easily obtained, to oblige the owner, during the apprenticeship, to find lodging at least for the child along with its mother. The cases of this sort of separation and cruelty are certainly rare, but the unfeeling owner in a moment of irritation does not hesitate to impose it.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Apprentices manumitted by appraisement during the month	1	2	3
Ditto - - by amicable arrangement - - - -	6	11	17
Ditto - - free discharges - - - - -	3	12	15
<b>TOTAL during the Month - - -</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>35</b>

(signed) *J. Elmes*, District (A.), Town Division.

Enclosure 2, in No. 616.

Sir,

Station-House, District (A.), R. D., 17 Nov. 1836.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 616.

IN answer to your circular of the 14th instant, and forwarded to me by command of his Excellency the Governor, relating to communications received by him from the special magistrates of this colony, stating opinions expressed by them on the difficulties they have experienced in arranging with the general justices the value on appraisement of the remaining services of apprenticed labourers under the 18th clause of the Colonial Act for the Abolition of Slavery.

This being pretty generally the case, amicable arrangement has been (in my judgment) properly proposed; this applies principally to the cases of non-prædial apprentices, particularly in Bridgetown and its neighbourhood, where almost the whole of the apprentice population are of that description; this is not of course the case in the rural districts, the apprentices being generally prædials attached, and consequently the value of their remaining services greatly beyond the others, therefore the difficulty of effecting discharge by appraisement is much greater.

With respect to the 18th clause in the Colonial Act for the Abolition of Slavery, care seems to have been taken to render the opinion of the special Justice, as to the value of the remaining services of the apprentice, of little avail, as he, in case of difference of opinion, is obliged to associate one other general justice of the peace, who seldom differs with his general brother.

The impression generally upon the minds of the special justices is unfavourable to the provisions of this clause, but as the evil is difficult of remedy, and may create feelings of irritation and jealousy, under the peculiar circumstances of the colony change had perhaps better be avoided. I sincerely wish that some more equitable mode of valuation had been originally devised for this purpose than that set forth in the clause alluded to, but a remedy at this late period of the apprenticeship may produce evils far beyond those complained of. Upon consideration of the subject, my conviction is, that however objectionable this mode of valuation is, it had better not be interfered with, but leave the matter to the discretion and address of the special justices, than place the Government at issue on the subject.

I should feel great satisfaction in respectfully making any proposition tending to rectify this matter; but in truth it is surrounded by so many difficulties, I do not consider myself at liberty to suggest anything which may go to the alteration of a law affecting interests so much at variance as those of the masters and apprentices of this island; while the unnatural tie that binds them together exists, in my opinion the fewer alterations of the original law that take place the better, the more particularly as the apprenticeship (notwithstanding all its difficulties) works well.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John B. Colthurst*, S. J. P.  
District (A.), R. D.

The Hon. F. Bedingfield,  
&c. &c. &c.

## Enclosure 3, in No. 616.

ANSWERS:—District (A.), Rural Division, November 1836, *J. B. Colthurst, S. J. P.*

Enclosure 3,  
in No. 616.

1.—THE conduct of the apprentices in my district since my last report has been generally good.

2.—On the large estates an excellent understanding seems to prevail between the employers and the apprentices; the contrary is the case on some of the small ones; however, on both occasions, it mainly depends upon the temper and discretion of the manager.

3.—This question may be answered as No. 2. I have found that wherever the manager was a man of sense and humanity the apprentices performed their work well and willingly.

4.—The working hours differ on estates; this is regulated generally by the wishes of the apprentices themselves; from 6 to 10, from 11 to 4, from 6 to 9, from 10 to 1, from 3 to 6; the apprentices are most generally allowed to take shelter from heavy rain; no other relaxation allowed.

5.—Taskwork is not generally resorted to in my district; the objection lies with both masters and apprentices; it has not been resorted to but in very few instances for the last year, from the misunderstanding produced by this description of labour. I have ceased to recommend it, for those reasons assigned by me in my last monthly report.

6.—It is usual for the apprentices to work in their own time, generally for money-wages; when they do, they are paid in cash at the rate of a quarter of a dollar per day.

7.—On the large estates none of these indulgences have been withdrawn, except perhaps in a very trifling degree; this is by no means the case on the small estates; here many of the former indulgences have been withheld; in all respects the apprentices are better treated upon the large estates than on the small ones.

8.—The condition of the free children of apprentice labourers is extremely precarious; they are generally supported by the parents and friends; thousands of those children are at present eight years old, and growing up in perfect ignorance and idleness; many more are attaining to this age daily; it is therefore obvious that something should speedily be done to arrest this evil, as it is plain that they will hereafter become a most inconvenient burden to the country.

9.—There are three schools established by the bishop in my district, and well filled; the accommodation is not nearly equal to the wants of the people.

10.—There is a general desire amongst the apprentices to purchase their discharge, but as the general justices (necessarily associate with the special magistrates) are inclined to estimate the value of their remaining services at too high a rate, many are deterred from applying for appraisement. However, this evil is difficult of remedy, and as it is late in the apprenticeship it perhaps had better not be interfered with, nor place the Government at issue upon the subject, the more particularly as the great experiment itself works most excellently well. Seven discharges have been effected since last report, two by purchase, five voluntary.

11.—Most generally to their previous occupations.

12.—It is fully admitted that the prospects of the ensuing crop are most favourable, it is also admitted that the general state of agriculture is most excellent; the lands under the hoe are in clean and beautiful order; the season has been highly favourable to the growth of every description of plant.

13.—Under this head I should strongly recommend immediate attention to the situation of the free children of apprentice labourers; their condition is both precarious and interesting. I beg to refer to my last monthly report upon this subject. Their particular state seems to have been entirely overlooked in legislative enactments, which has left them open to various circumstances of a very distressing nature; such, for instance, as compelling the parents to send them off an estate; this has been acted on, and in a case where some of the children were infants, and were only from eight to twelve months old, and at the breast. My interference, I trust, will have the effect of rectifying this matter in the case I speak of, but I respectfully submit that such notice of this circumstance should be taken as may prevent a repetition of it; this perhaps may be best effected by compelling the employer to find a lodging for the free child as well as the mother.

(signed) *John B. Colthurst, S. J. P.*  
District (A.), Rural Division.

## Enclosure 4, in No. 616.

ANSWERS:—District (B.), November 1836, *Joseph Hamilton, S. J. P.*

Enclosure 4,  
in No. 616.

1.—RATHER disorderly, which invariably is the case near or about Christmas.

2.—The improper feeling exists, and increases rather than otherwise.

3.—The labour which the apprentice is compelled to return to his employer during his time, for the loss of his services while imprisoned, is in almost every instance most reluctantly performed, and mostly is the foundation of a second complaint. *Vide* No. 13.

4.—Time for working, &c. still remains the same as stated in former reports.

## BARBADOS.

- 5.—Taskwork is not generally practised; the objection as stated in former reports.
- 6.—It is becoming more general for the apprentices to work for wages in their own time. One estate in this district from which I never have a complaint; the proprietor, who is very humane and kind to his apprentices, very often employs a great deal of free labour on Saturday; his own people most readily and cheerfully work for him; and were other proprietors and managers to follow his example in arranging all offences of a small nature amicably at home, a much better feeling would exist.
- 7.—The same as last report.
- 8.—The condition of the free children is the same, and is likely to remain so until the expiration of the apprenticeship.
- 9.—The same as the last report.
- 10.—There is a great desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge, but generally are prevented from the enormous high appraisement. Four males and four females have been discharged this month, out of which six were voluntary gifts of their employers.
- 11.—When discharged the men in general follow their former avocations, either at their trade or agricultural labour. The women generally quit agricultural employment.
- 12.—The present crop is expected to exceed that of any other for many years past. The cultivation is excellent, and the season most favourable.
- 13.—Clause 59 of the Island Abolition Act I consider a great evil, knowing that it creates more dissension and bad feeling between the employer and apprentice than any other part of the Act, and strongly suggest it should be repealed forthwith; it is as follows: "And be it further enacted that every apprenticed labourer shall make good out of his or her extra days, to his or her employer, the time that his or her employer shall have been deprived of his or her services by the sentence of any special justice or court." The apprentice, after undergoing the punishment of incarceration for one week, has then to undergo a second punishment, by having the only day in the week he is allowed by law to work for his own benefit taken from him for five successive weeks; this compulsion of returning labour to the employer causes two or more complaints before the number of days have expired; in fact, nearly one-third of the complaints recorded originate from this part of the law alone. If this clause did not exist there would not be half the number of complaints made against the apprentice, and it is well known that threats have been made to the apprentice that he shall not have a Saturday to himself during the apprenticeship.

(signed) *Joseph Hamilton, S. J. P.*

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Enclosure 5, in No. 616.

Enclosure 5,  
in No. 616.

ANSWERS:—District (C.), November 1836, *J. P. Hutcheson.*

- 1.—IMPROVING, with the exception of idleness on a few of the estates.
- 2.—Generally speaking, there exists a good feeling, and it has improved in consequence of some of the estates having adopted the plan of computing the time and making the signals in the yard instead of the field, as hitherto; any bad feeling that does exist proceeds from a less correct method of doing so by a glass in the field, by which it is impossible for the apprentices to ascertain whether they are defrauded of their time intentionally; but I am in hopes I will be able to persuade the whole to adopt the former method of doing so.
- 3.—A great number of complaints for indolent performance of work and turning out late have been made, which I attribute to the causes stated in reply, No. 2.
- 4.—None.
- 5.—Taskwork is resorted to partially, and where resorted to has succeeded.
- 6.—Apprentices work in their own time; a quarter of a dollar a day may be set down as the rate of wages; a dram of molasses and water (commonly called diversion) is generally given on estates in addition gratuitously.
- 7.—Indulgences are sometimes withheld when the apprenticed labourers misbehave.
- 8.—Free children are supported by their parents, though on some well regulated estates, where the parents give their employer satisfaction, the children get their allowance the same as they did previous to the 1st of August 1834.
- 9.—There are two churches, with resident ministers, in the district, each having daily schools, well attended, and three chapels, with a school to each, well attended also. There are sundry Sunday-schools, which are well attended, and some estates have a school which a catechist attends, in all which adequate accommodation must exist. There is a desire for educating their children amongst the apprentices.
- 10.—Yes. Twelve discharges have been effected by purchase, and one voluntary.
- 11.—Tradesmen, *i. e.* mechanics, continue their usual occupation; domestics either hire themselves out, or take to trafficking, commonly called huckstering.
- 12.—The prospects as regards the ensuing crops are very promising.
- 13.—I consider the present mode of appraising the remaining period of apprenticeships bad, inasmuch as two colonial magistrates are associated with one special justice; the consequence is, where high appraisements are advocated by the colonial magistrates, the apprentices suffer; and within the last month I have had an instance: an apprentice named Thomas Moore, belonging to Dr. Nathan Young, Marchfield, was appraised by the

two general justices at 27*l.* 10*s.*; I consider it beyond his value, but was obliged to accede as there were two against me; the consequence of this is, the apprentice has not been able to pay the amount. I therefore submit that some provision should be made for the alteration of the 18th clause of the Abolition Act, which gives so much power to the colonial magistrate, to the prevention of many apprentices purchasing the unexpired term of their apprenticeship; I beg to suggest that in doing so two special justices should be associated with one colonial magistrate instead of the present provisions of the above-mentioned clause, which would facilitate the purchase of apprenticeships at a fair value for both parties.

(signed) *J. P. Hutcheson, S. J. P.*

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Enclosure 6, in No. 616.

ANSWERS:—District (D.), November 1836.

Enclosure 6,  
in No. 616.

- 1.—IDLE, and disposed to petty theft.
- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.—See reply in report for August last.
- 10.—See reply in report for August last. Ten, viz. five by purchase and five by the voluntary acts of their owners.
- 11, 12.—See reply in report for August last.
- 13.—None at present.

(signed) *John James Hough, S. J. P.*

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Enclosure 7, in No. 616.

ANSWERS:—District (E.), November 1836, *Joseph Garraway.*

Enclosure 7,  
in No. 616.

- 1.—HAVE only had charge of district (E.) for the present month of November.
- 2.—No ill feeling appears to exist between the employers and apprentices, but the habitual indolence of the latter is the prevailing cause of the majority of complaints preferred by the former.
- 3.—In this district the apprentices have not of late performed their work willingly, and it may be ascribed to the absence of a magistrate for the district since the death of Captain Mathews (late S. J. P.) in September, until the arrival of the present magistrate in November.
- 4.—The working hours generally established on plantations are from sunrise to 9 o'clock, from 10 to 1 o'clock, and from 3 to sunset. The intervals are appropriated to their meals. On properties where taskwork is mutually agreed on (which is, however, seldom the case) the apprentices prefer continuous labour, and finish their quantum of work on an average of six hours and a half per day.
- 5.—Taskwork is not generally adopted. The employers are willing to resort to this system, but the apprentices are opposed to it.
- 6.—It is difficult to hire labourers on their own day, Saturday; a few of the more industrious may, however, be found who hire their services to estates, and receive 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* currency per day, independent of rations, but the great bulk dedicate the day to the culture of their ground and the sale of its produce. No complaint for the non-payment of hire is recorded in this office.
- 7.—The indulgences heretofore granted to the apprentices during their state of slavery still continue to be supplied, but they are occasionally withheld from the indolent as a means of stimulating them to equal activity and exertion with their fellow-labourers who perform their labour cheerfully and diligently.
- 8.—During the short period that the present magistrate has discharged the duties of this district, his time has been so absorbed with the apprentices themselves, that no leisure has been afforded him to look minutely into the condition of their free children. It is, however, understood that they derive their support mainly from the allowances and indulgences received by their parents, and are generally brought to the estate's hospital when sick for advice and medicine, the charge for which is defrayed by the proprietor.
- 9.—The Saturday and Sunday-schools established by the clergy for the education and religious instruction of the apprentices are not punctually attended. School-houses have been erected on some estates, but the free children are seldom sent by their parents, who fear that by so doing their children will become bound to the estate. Their instruction, however, is not totally disregarded, as some of the parents send their children to such small free schools as may be established in the neighbourhood.
- 10.—Although only in the district for one month, nine appraisements have been made, five of which were paid at the time by the apprentices, and a settlement of the remaining four daily expected. This will evince the desire universally entertained to effect the purchase of the remaining term of their apprenticeship.
- 11.—The greatest proportion of male apprentices who are enabled to purchase their discharge is to be found among the mechanics, who naturally betake themselves to their

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previous occupation. The females, however, seldom or never engage in agricultural pursuits after purchasing their discharge.

12.—The general prospects of the ensuing crop are considered to be extremely favourable, as regards the season and weather, but owing to the reason adduced in the third answer, the cultivation of some estates in this district has been materially retarded.

13.—Should any suggestions of a practical nature present themselves after the present special magistrate shall have a more minute investigation of the apprenticeship system in this district, they shall be duly noted.

(signed) *Joseph Garraway, S. J. P.*

Barbados, 30 November 1836.

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Enclosure 8, in No. 616.

ANSWERS :—District (F.) November 1836, *George Kennedy.*

Enclosure 8,  
in No. 616.

1.—THE conduct of the apprentices of District (F.) has been uniformly quiet and orderly, as my journal exhibits.

2.—I think there is a want of good feeling, more particularly among the small proprietors, which originates in the unwillingness to give the prædial apprenticed labourers the legal allowances.

3.—I think the work is performed willingly by the apprentice, and when not, it is to be attributed to the reason given above.

4.—The working hours are generally from 6 A. M. to 10, and from 11 till 2 P. M., and from 4 to 6 P. M.

5.—Taskwork is not in use in district (F); the objection is generally with the apprentice.

6.—It is usual for the apprentices to work on Saturdays, at the rate of 1s. sterling for nine hours. During crop time the apprentice works over his nine hours voluntarily, but the wages are very small, and often very irregularly paid, and sometimes no wages, but a promise of some rum or molasses; this matter is of a private nature, and when the prædial apprenticed labourer wishes to have his wages, there is no law to compel the employer to pay.

7.—Yes; during slavery there were several indulgences which at present are withheld; the apprentice was allowed to keep stock, and at present there is a law in force by which the employer can destroy the stock whenever he pleases, and the said stock is often so destroyed from malice. During slavery the apprentice was generally allowed a small portion of land as well as food; at present, by law, that small piece of land, half an acre, is a substitute for food. During slavery the apprentice was allowed clothing, but at present the law says a day in a fortnight shall be equivalent to clothing and fish.

8.—The children of tradesmen are generally sent to school in this district, but the ordinary field people have neither means nor opportunity, and their children are running about idle; they are generally supported by a pittance from their parents' allowance.

9.—This district supplies no facilities whatever for education and religious instruction, as there are no funds for the payment of a schoolmaster or mistress, and the school-house is used exclusively as a place of worship, having been licensed for that purpose. With the exception of night-schools, which are attended by adults as well as children, who pay a small sum weekly for learning to read, there is no other instruction afforded the black population. The clergyman of the district receives every Saturday, from the hours of 10 till 3, all who will come to him for religious instruction. The church accommodation is far from being adequate to the wants of the parishioners, being a temporary place of worship; but the contemplated erection of a church may obviate this in some measure in future.

10.—I think there is a general desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge, but they have not the means, they are appraised so high.

11.—The apprentice generally betakes himself to his trade after being appraised, and should he have no trade, they generally become domestics.

12.—The prospects of the crop for the ensuing year are excellent; the general state of cultivation is of the highest order; the season has been most favourable.

13.—I would suggest, in cases of appraisement, that two special justices and one general magistrate should be employed, as being more in accordance with the spirit of the Imperial Act than as the law regarding appraisement at present stands. I would also suggest that all special magistrates should be sworn in as general magistrates, as the local Act and the island laws sometimes are not sufficiently defined, as far as regards the term employer; I think in many cases this measure would be productive of benefit to the apprentice, as far as my observation has led me to believe.

(signed) *George Kennedy, S. J. P.*

District (F.), 1 December 1836.

— No. 617. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 617.

(No. 15.)

My Lord, Government-House, Barbados, 26 January 1837.  
 COMMUNICATIONS from the stipendiary magistrates of Barbados, relative to the questions they are required to answer monthly, are herewith transmitted to your Lordship.

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

Enclosure 1, in No. 617.

DISTRICT (A.), Town Division.

MONTHLY REPORT from 1 to 31 December 1836.

Enclosure 1, in No. 617.

- 1.—The general conduct of the apprentices in this district, during the last month, has been good.
- 2.—Adverting to my report of last month, there cannot be any good feeling where such occurrences take place.
- 3.—Apparently with good humour.
- 4.—From 6 A. M. to 4 P. M., with an hour's relaxation, from 9 to 10.
- 5.—There is not any taskwork in this district, not being an agricultural one.
- 6.—It is usual for the apprentices to work in their own time for money-wages, at the rate of 1s. 1d. sterling per day. Paid in cash.
- 7.—There is no agricultural estate in this district.
- 8.—In general very poor, but supported by their parents.
- 9.—This district is well supplied with the means of education and religious instruction. The Negro attendance at church and in the schools is very respectable.
- 10.—There is a very great desire on the part of the apprentices to purchase their discharge, but the difficulty of obtaining it by appraisalment still exists.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Manumitted by appraisalment during last month - - - -	1	1	2
— Amicable arrangement - - - - -	8	9	17
— Free discharges - - - - -	7	8	15
— By me, in consequence of cruelty of the owner - -	1	-	1
Total during the month - - - -	17	18	35

- 11.—Being in general tradesmen and domestics, they continue to follow their previous avocations.
- 12.—The present crop, I believe, is admitted to be the best that has been produced on the island for many years past; the cultivation is excellent, and the season very favourable.
- 13.—I have nothing to suggest in addition to last month's report.

(signed) *J. Elmes*, S. J. P.  
 Barbados, 2 January 1837. District (A.), Town Division.

Enclosure 2, in No. 617.

MONTHLY REPORT of DISTRICT (A.), Rural Division.

Enclosure 2, in No. 617.

- 1.—The conduct of the apprentices since my last report has been generally good, not however so much so as during the month of November. I attribute this change to the extra labour required by the masters and employers at the commencement of the crop.
- 2.—Whenever the employers are persons of judgment and humanity, the best feeling seems to exist. When this is not the case, the parties are naturally at issue, and consequently many complaints made.
- 3.—This question may be answered nearly as the last. The apprentices work always well and willingly when the employer is a person of sense and judgment; when this is not the case, they neither work well nor willingly.
- 4.—The working hours in use most generally are from 6 to 10, from 11 to 4; others from 6 to 9, from 10 to 1, and from 3 to 6. These hours thus differ on different estates, and are generally fixed on to meet the wishes of the apprentices themselves; the intervals are, first, for breakfast and dinner, the last for breakfast, rest, and dinner. The apprentices on most of the large estates get the refreshment of water sweetened with treacle

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treacle once or twice in the day ; on the others, water alone ; and, indeed, little other extra indulgence.

5.—Taskwork is not generally resorted to in my district ; both parties seem to have an objection to it ; the employers because the work is often badly done, the apprentices because the task marked out is heavy. I have found that taskwork induces the apprentice to overwork himself, that he may have time for his amusements, which are often more pernicious to him than the labour he has undergone. The women suffer much under this system, in endeavouring to keep pace with the men ; they are often taken ill in consequence. I think, upon the whole, taskwork is a bad plan ; the apprentices give more satisfaction working in the ordinary way.

6.—The apprentices usually work in their own time ; frequently on the lands they have in lieu of allowances, but most generally for others ; when this is the case, they are paid at the rate of one quarter dollar a day of nine hours.

7.—On the very large estates those indulgences are continued ; it is by no means the case upon the smaller ones.

8.—I beg that my last monthly report may be referred to upon this subject. The situation of the free children of apprentices is most extremely precarious ; they are generally supported by the parents and friends. It is supposed that there are at least 25,000 of those interesting persons in the island ; their condition is very critical ; many thousands are now eight years old, and others attaining to that age daily, without either occupation or education.

9.—There are three schools established by the bishop in my district, and one by the Moravians. The attendance both at church and in the schools is highly respectable. There seems not to be half accommodation in both these respects to meet the wants of the people.

10.—There is a very general desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge, but the inclination of the general justices (necessarily associated with the special justice) to enhance the value of the remaining services of the apprentices deters many from making application for appraisement. Six discharges have been effected since my last report ; two by purchase, three by voluntary act of the owner, and one discharged by me, he being cruelly beaten by his owner.

11.—They generally follow the occupations they were most accustomed to prior to obtaining it, except when their means enable them to better their condition.

12.—The prospects of the crop are most cheering. The season has been favourable in a very high degree for every description of plant. Cultivation clean and excellent ; and it continues to be admitted that the island was never in a higher state of agricultural prosperity.

13.—On this head of inquiry I beg to refer to my last monthly report on the subjects I considered it my duty to advert to. With respect to the situation of the free children of apprenticed labourers, I consider this by much the most important matter to remedy. I took the liberty of recommending an immediate enumeration of those children to be made without delay. His Excellency has thought fit to order it to be made, and it is now in progress.

(signed) *John B. Colthurst, S. J. P.,*  
District (A.), Rural Division.

PERSONS discharged by Appraisement in the Month.

SEX.		Prædials.	Non-Prædials.	Total.	Price.	By Appraisement.	By Agreement.	—
Males.	Females.							
-	2	-	2	2	£. s. d. 11 10 -	2	3	£. s. d. 28 - -

(signed) *J. B. Colthurst, S. J. P.*  
District (A.), Rural Division.

Enclosure 3,  
in No. 617.

Enclosure 3, in No. 617.

GENERAL REPORT of the State of DISTRICT (B.), *Barbados*, for the Month of December 1836.

- 1.—Very good.
- 2.—Same as last report.
- 3.—Same as last report.
- 4.—Same as last report.
- 5.—Not. Objection lies generally with the masters.
- 6.—Same as last report.
- 7.—Many, and other advantages taken of the apprentices.
- 8.—Deplorable ; some supported by their parents and a few by the masters of the parents.

9.—Same

- 9.—Same as last report.  
 10.—There is a very great desire, but the objection is as in other reports. Two males and two females discharged.  
 11.—As stated in former reports.  
 12.—The prospects of the ensuing crop are excellent ; season has been most favourable.  
 13.—In following up the subject of this number in my last report, the Saturdays thus taken from the apprentices creates a very bad feeling on their part towards their masters, and very many complaints are made with the sole purport of depriving them of those days ; consequently they imbibe a callousness, and become quite indifferent as to whether they fulfil their duty towards their employer or not.

(signed) *Josh. Hamilton, S. J. P.*

Enclosure 4, in No. 617.

Enclosure 4  
in No. 617.

DISTRICT (C.)

3 January 1837.

Sir,  
 WITH reference to the circular of the 15th July 1836, calling on the special justices for replies to thirteen questions therein proposed, I have the honour to submit that there has been no alteration in the last month to make it necessary for me to change the replies and suggestions I had the honour to transmit in the monthly report of the 1st December 1836.

I have, &c.  
 (signed) *F. J. Hutcheson, S. J. P.*  
 T. H. Ponsonby, Esq.,  
 Acting Private Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

DISTRICT (C.)

6 January 1837.

Sir,  
 WITH reference to my report of the 3d instant, relative to the circular from the Colonial Office for the last month, and your instruction of the 31st December, I have the honour to transmit the list of apprentices discharged during the last month as in the form directed.

I have, &c.  
 (signed) *F. J. Hutcheson, S. J. P.*  
 T. H. Ponsonby, Esq.,  
 Acting Private Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

LIST of APPRENTICES discharged for the Month of December 1836.

SEX.		Prædials.	Non-Prædials.	Total.	Price.	By Appraisalment.	By Agreement.	—		
Males.	Females.							£.	s.	d.
4	1	-	5	5	-	-	5	-	-	-
1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	35	-	-
1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	12	10	-
-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	30	-	-
-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	15	12	6
-	1	1	-	5	-	1	-	15	-	-
				10			Total	-	-	108 2 6

(signed) *F. J. Hutcheson, S. J. P.*

Enclosure 5, in No. 617.

Enclosure 5,  
in No. 617.

DISTRICT (D.), 31st December 1836.

MONTHLY REPORT of the Special Magistrate of the above District for the Month of December 1836, in reply to the following Questions.

- 1 to 9.—See reply to same for month of August last.  
 10.—See reply for August last.  
 Seven have been discharged within this month ; viz., by purchase, two males and one female ; voluntarily, four women.  
 11, 12, 13.—See reply for August last.

(signed) *John James Hough, S. J. P.*



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Enclosure 6,  
in No. 617.

Enclosure 6, in No. 617.

DISTRICT (E.)

Sir,

1 January 1837.

I HAVE the honour to enclose the monthly Table (A.) for this district, accompanied with duplicate of the December journal, to which is attached the quarterly affidavit, as directed by the Colonial Abolition Act.

As my replies to the 13 questions for the present month would be of the same purport as those contained in my late report for November (save with regard to appraisements, none of which have been effected), I have deemed it unnecessary to re-copy the same. You will, however, be pleased to state, for the information of his Excellency, that since the receipt of the circular respecting the number, condition, &c. of free children in my district, my immediate attention was directed towards this inquiry, and I now only wait the receipt of all the returns issued by me to the several estates, to enable me to forward the required information to your office.

To Taylor H. Ponsonby, Esq.  
Acting Private Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) Jos. Garraway, S. J. P.

Enclosure 7,  
in No. 617.

Enclosure 7, in No. 617.

DISTRICT (F.)

Sir,

2 January 1837.

ENCLOSED is my Table (A.) for the month ending 31st December.

Any answers I could submit to the 13 questions for the Right Honourable the Secretary of Colonies would be the same as already submitted for the former months.

I shall have the honour next month of sending in the required answers, &c.

T. H. Ponsonby, Esq., &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) George Kennedy, S. J. P.

— No. 618. —

No. 618.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor* to  
Lord *Glenelg*.

(No. 32.)

Nos. 1 to 7.

My Lord,

Government-House, Barbados, 13 February 1837.

COMMUNICATIONS from the stipendiary magistrates of Barbados, relative to the questions they are required to answer monthly, are herewith transmitted to your Lordship.

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

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 618.

Enclosure 1, in No. 618.

DISTRICT (A.), Town Division.

MONTHLY REPORT from 1 to 31 January 1837.

1.—The general conduct of the apprentices in the Town District is good; the most numerous complaints are absence from their employment, and insolence and disrespect to their owners and employers.

2.—Generally speaking, certainly not; there may be a few instances in which a good feeling between the owner and apprentice does not exist, and this in a great measure I attribute to the apprentices in this district being almost all non-prædials, and belonging, generally speaking, to people in needy circumstances, who, not having employment for them within themselves, hire them out, and try to extort from the apprentice more than he is able to pay. When circumstances of this nature come before me, I point out to the owners the wrong course they are pursuing with their people, and in many cases it is attended to.

3.—The apprentices generally perform their work willingly in this district; but I can perceive a feeling with many of the apprentices, as the year approaches to which their connection with their owner terminates, to perform their work without that feeling of dependence which they have heretofore regarded their owners with.

4.—The working hours in this district are from six in the morning until nine, and from ten until four in the afternoon, allowing an interval of one hour, from nine to ten, for breakfast. I understand it was by general request of the apprentices that no interval should be allowed

allowed them from ten to four, so that they might get home to their families one hour earlier.

5.—This is not a rural district, consequently very few of the apprentices are employed in field-work, except cultivating small patches of Guinea corn and in gardening, consequently task-work is not generally resorted to.

6.—It is usual for the prædials in this district to work on Saturdays for money-wages, and there is a great demand for them. The wages average from 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  *d.* to 1 *s.* 1 *d.* for nine hours' labour, and paid in money on the evening of the day on which the work is performed.

7.—There is not any agricultural estate in this district.

8.—The free children of this district are almost all, with few exceptions, supported by their parents, and most generally by the father, who, in most cases, is a free man; and although their condition is very poor, the parents are much averse to binding their children as apprentices by indenture.

9.—This district supplies abundant facilities for education and religious instruction; and the attendance at church and the schools is nearly equal to the accommodation afforded. The town is ecclesiastically divided into three districts, and the three churches in these districts provide free sittings for about 1,600 people at morning service, and nearly 3,000 at evening service, and principally attended by the apprentice population. The Wesleyan and Moravian chapels give accommodation to 800 more. The attendance at the schools of the three districts may be computed at 1,000 of both sexes, not including the Sunday and infant-schools, which are attended by 800 adults and children.

10.—The general desire of the apprentices to purchase their discharge is great, and generally obtained by private arrangement with their masters; very few indeed procure their discharge by appraisement, which I attribute to the apprentices (under the present system of appraisement) being valued at a higher rate than they are able or willing to pay, and higher than they can procure their discharge from their masters by private arrangement. Twenty-two apprentices effected their discharge this month; one by appraisement, 13 given gratuitously, and eight purchased by private arrangement.

11.—The apprentices of this district who obtain their discharge are generally tradesmen and domestics, and follow the same occupation that they did previous to their obtaining their discharge.

12.—The prospects of the present crop are most abundant. The season as yet has been most favourable, and the general cultivation has been good.

13.—I have not at present any suggestions to make, or practical measure to recommend.

(signed) *A. Cuppage, S. J. P.*

District (A.), Town Division.

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Enclosure 2, in No. 618.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 618.

DISTRICT (A.), Rural Division.

Sir,

Station-House, 2 February 1837.

I BEG to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that nothing worthy of notice or remark has occurred in my district since I sent in my last report, for the month of December, and to which I respectfully refer his Excellency. I therefore do not now forward one for January in detail, as it would be but a repetition of that for December.

The following is the return of the persons discharged for the month of January:

Four by appraisement and three by agreement; Total, seven.

I have, &c.

To T. H. Ponsonby, Esq.  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *John B. Colthurst, S. J. P.*  
District (A.), Rural Division.

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Enclosure 3, in No. 618.

Enclosure 3,  
in No. 618.

GENERAL REPORT of DISTRICT (B.), for the Month of January 1837.

1.—Good.

2.—The bad feeling still exists; faults on both sides.

3.—The same as former reports.

4.—The same as former report.

5.—Taskwork more generally resorted to during the crop.

6.—The same as former report.

7.—Many; one particular circumstance occurred this month, where the mother of an infant was deprived of the time she was usually allowed to attend upon the infant, viz. from six to seven in the morning.

8.—As in last report.

9.—The same as former reports.—*N. B.* A chaplain has lately been appointed to attend at the district prison casually, which is likely to produce great benefit to the apprentices.

10.—A very great desire. Voluntary, two males and one female; private agreement, two males and one female; appraised, one male and three females; Total, five males and five females.

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- 11.—Their usual occupation. Females more to domestic work.  
 12.—Very good. Cultivation very good. The season has been most favourable. Crop in some parts commenced.  
 13.—No suggestions to make.

(signed) *Josh. Hamilton, S. J. P.*Enclosure 4,  
in No. 618.

Enclosure 4, in No. 618.

DISTRICT (C.)

Sir,

1 February 1837.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for the information of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the following replies to the questions contained in the circular despatch of the 15th July 1836 :

- 1.—Improving, with the exception of idleness on a few estates.
- 2.—Generally speaking, there exists a good feeling throughout the district; even on the small places a considerable improvement has taken place; signals for the commencement and close of legal hours of labour have been adopted on those which had not done so before; time seems to be computed with more satisfaction to all parties, and there are few complaints from apprentices under that head.
- 3.—Indolent performance of labour and petty thefts are the principal complaints, the latter are gradually decreasing.
- 4.—Forty-five hours in the week; no relaxation allowed out of this time.
- 5.—Contracts for extra labour on a few estates by taskwork are resorted to during this crop.
- 6.—Apprentices work for a quarter dollar per day, which is the average rate of wages. Indulgences are sometimes given in addition.
- 7.—Indulgences are withheld when the apprentices do not give satisfaction.
- 8.—Free children are supported by their parents in general, though on some estates they get their allowance the same as heretofore.
- 9.—There are two churches and three chapels in the district; schools to each. The attendance in all is equal to the accommodation, I am given to understand.
- 10.—There is a general desire to purchase discharges, but the high appraisements preclude many from paying such; there are two instances of this in the last month. Fourteen discharges have been effected this month, four of them voluntary.
- 11.—Those discharged generally follow their former trades; servants, not employed as such, hawk goods about the country.
- 12.—The prospects of the present crop are good; the season has been pretty favourable.
- 13.—I have none, but on the subject of appraisements, which should be placed on the footing that would give the interests of the apprentice equal weight with that of the employer.

I have, &c.  
 (signed) *F. J. Hutcheson, S. J. P.*

Enclosure 5,  
in No. 618.

Enclosure 5, in No. 618.

DISTRICT (D.), 31 January 1837.

MONTHLY REPORT of the Special Magistrate of the above District, for January 1837.

- 1 to 9.—See reply to same questions in report for August last.  
 10.—See reply to same question in report for August last. Two; a male prædial and female domestic, both by the voluntary acts of their proprietors.  
 11, 12, 13.—See reply to same questions in report for August last.

(signed) *Jno. James Hough, S. J. P.*Enclosure 6,  
in No. 618.

Enclosure 6, in No. 618.

DISTRICT (E.)

Sir,

1 February 1837.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the duplicate journal for District (E.), together with Table (A.) for the month of January.

I have no material alteration to report on the state of this district since my last, the only difference exists in the number of appraisements and discharges, a return of which for the past month I also beg to enclose, agreeably to the form contained in your circular letter of the 31st December last.

Apprentices discharged during the month of January; viz. by appraisement, seven; voluntary discharge, three; Total, ten.

I have, &c.  
 (signed) *Joseph Garraway, S. J. P.*

Taylor H. Ponsonby, Esq.  
 Acting Private Secretary, &c.

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Enclosure 7, in No. 618.

Enclosure 7,  
in No. 618.

DISTRICT (F.)

3 February 1837.

Sir,  
I HAVE the honour to forward my journal for the month of January, also Table (A.)  
The answers to the 13 questions for the Right Honourable Secretary of the Colonies are  
the same as heretofore.  
No discharges from apprenticeship this month.

T. H. Ponsonby, Esq.  
Priv. Sec.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *George Kennedy*, S. J. P.

— No. 619. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor* to  
Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 619.

(No. 56.)

My Lord,

Government-House, Barbados, 21 March 1837.

COMMUNICATIONS from the stipendiary magistrates of Barbados, relative to the  
questions they are required to answer monthly, are herewith transmitted to your  
Lordship.

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

Enclosure 1, in No. 619.

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 619.

DISTRICT (A.), Town Division.

MONTHLY REPORT, from the 1st to the 28th of February 1837.

1.—THE general conduct of the apprentices, in the town district, has been good since our  
last report; and a considerable decrease in the number of complaints.

2.—Generally speaking, certainly not.

3.—The apprentices in this district generally perform their work most willingly.

4.—The working-hours in this district are from six in the morning until nine, and from 10  
until four in the afternoon, allowing an interval of one hour, from nine to 10, for breakfast.

5.—This is not a rural district, therefore very few of the apprentices are employed in the  
field, consequently taskwork is not resorted to.

6.—It is usual for the few prædial apprentices that are in this district to work on Satur-  
days for money-wages, and there is a great demand for them. The wages average from  
10*d.* to 1*s.* 1*d.* for nine hours' labour, and paid, in money, on the evening of the day the  
work is performed.

7.—There is not any agricultural estate in this district.

8.—The free children of this district are almost, with few exceptions, supported by their  
parents, and generally by the father, who, in most cases, is a free man; but the condition of  
these children, in many cases, is very miserable.

9.—The facilities for attending church and the schools in this district are most ample;  
and the attendance at church and the schools nearly equal to the accommodation afforded.

10.—The general desire amongst the apprentices to purchase their discharge is very great,  
and generally obtained by private agreement with their masters. Fifty-three procured their  
discharge this month; viz. two by appraisement, 33 by free gift from their masters, and 20  
by private agreement.

11.—The apprentices of this district who obtain their discharge are generally tradesmen  
and domestics, who follow the same occupation that they did previous to their procuring  
their discharge.

12.—The prospects of the present crop are most abundant; the season, as yet, has been  
most favourable, and the general state of cultivation very good.

13.—In justice to the apprentice labourer I beg leave to suggest, that in cases of assault  
by the master upon the apprentice, that part of the fine awarded by the special magistrate  
should be given to the apprentice labourer, at the discretion of the special justice, in consi-  
deration for the injury received; and particularly as, in many cases of assault, the clothing  
of the apprentice is torn and otherwise destroyed, and the apprentice labourer, under these  
circumstances, having no redress for loss of property but by action at law, the costs of  
which would, in all probability, amount to ten times more than the value of the property  
destroyed.

(signed) *A. Cuppage*, S. J. P.  
for District (A.), Town Division.

BARBADOS.

Enclosure 2, in No. 619.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 619.

DISTRICT (A.) Rural Division.

Sir,

Station-House, 3 March 1837.

I BEG to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that nothing of any importance has occurred in my district since I sent in my report for January; forwarding one now for the last month, February, more in detail would, therefore, be but a repetition of that for January, and to which I beg respectfully to refer him.

However, under the 12th head of monthly inquiry, namely, "What are the prospects of the ensuing crop? What the state of general cultivation? Has the season been favourable or otherwise?"

In answer to those questions I have sincere pleasure in having it in my power to report, that, in the memory of the oldest inhabitant, Barbados has not produced so fine a crop of canes as the present, and now in full progress of manufacture. Other crops are luxuriant; and the estates (generally speaking) are in a high state of agricultural cleanliness.

This information cannot fail to be satisfactory to his Excellency, as it is perhaps the best possible proof of the successful working of the apprenticeship system.

I transmit the return of persons obtaining their discharge by appraisement, &c., during the month of February:

Six by appraisement, nine by agreement; Total, 15.

To T. H. Ponsonby, Esq. (signed) *John B. Colthurst*, S. J. P.  
&c. &c. &c. District (A.), Rural Division.

Enclosure 3,  
in No. 619.

Enclosure 3, in 619.

A REPORT of the general State of District (B.), for the Month of February 1837.

- 1.—Very good.
- 2.—The same bad feeling exists as stated in former reports; generally by managers.
- 3.—They do perform their work willingly, except on the Saturdays; they have to return labour to their employers.
- 4.—Working-hours as in former reports.
- 5.—As in former reports.
- 6.—The apprentices work in their own time, especially now, in the crop; they work their extra hours, daily, for their employers; wages for those hours, on well-regulated estates, about 2 *d.* sterling.
- 7.—Many indulgences, such as gleaning the provision grounds which have had their crops reaped, and picking up wood, which is a very scarce article here.
- 8.—The same as in former reports.
- 9.—The same as last report. The attendance at church is good. One estate, called Newton, the owner an absentee, has a clergyman residing upon it, to whom he pays a fixed salary to instruct the apprentices.
- 10.—The desire to purchase their discharge has increased of late; 23 have been discharged this month, viz. nine males, and 14 females.
- 11.—They, in general, betake themselves to their usual occupations, except the females, who, in general, are more inclined to betake themselves to domestic work, such as washing and rearing stock, &c.
- 12.—The young plants, as yet, promise well; the present crop is the largest ever remembered; the cultivation is far superior than it was in time of slavery. The season has been most favourable.
- 13.—Clause 67 of the Island Abolition Act appears to me to be very partial. A punishment is provided for the apprentice for the most trivial offence committed by him against any one placed in authority over him; still, no punishment is laid down for the superintendent, who may, with impunity, abuse and assault the apprentice whenever he may think fit; and the special justice has not the power to give the apprentice any redress, but must seek it from a general justice, to whom he has first to pay 2 *s.* 2 *d.* sterling for a warrant; and if the apprentice has not this money to pay, he can get no redress. I suggest that some equitable provision should be made for the protection of the apprentice against the abuse and ill-treatment of the superintendent, and all subordinate officers, of the property to which he belongs.

(signed) *Josh. Hamilton*, S. J. P.Enclosure 4,  
in No. 619.

Enclosure 4, in No. 619.

DISTRICT (C.)

13 March 1837.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for the information of the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the following replies to the queries contained in the circular despatch of the 15th July 1836, for the last month:

1.—Improving, with exception of idleness on a few estates.

2.—Generally

2.—Generally speaking, there exists a good feeling. There are few complaints on the part of apprentices for defrauding them out of their time, which I attribute to the legal signals being made for the commencement and close of the hours of labour on some small estates now.

3.—Some complaints for indolent performance of labour.

4.—None.

5.—Contracts for taskwork, during the crop, are entered into on a few estates.

6.—Apprentices work for hire during their own time; quarter of a dollar, about 1 s. 0½ d., is the rate of wages; molasses or rum, commonly called "diversion," is given generally gratuitously.

7.—Indulgences are sometimes withheld when the apprentices misbehave.

8.—Free children are, in general, supported by their parents, though, on some estates, they get their allowance the same as they did the 1st of August 1834.

9.—There are two churches with resident ministers, besides three chapels of ease, with ministers to each, and schools to each, which are well attended to. The Sunday-schools are well attended. On some estates they have a school at which a catechist attends. There is a great desire for educating their children, as far as the present state of education allows.

10.—Fifteen appraisements have taken place during the last month, but only six have been paid for out of the 15, leaving nine in my hand. I cannot adduce a stronger proof of the present mode of appraisal being injurious to the purchase of discharges.

11.—Tradesmen continue their trades; the field-labourers their former occupations; domestics, not hired as such, become travelling hucksters.

12.—The prospects, as regards the crop, are remarkably fine.

13.—The only suggestion they submit is the alteration of the present mode of appraisal. By a reference to No. 10, it will be seen that nine have preferred remaining in the service of their employers to paying the sums they were appraised for by the magistrates, as there is undue weight given, under the present mode, to the colonial magistrates, to which I attribute the high appraisements.

I have, &c.

(signed) *F. J. Hutcheson, S. J. P.*

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Enclosure 5, in No. 619.

Enclosure 5,  
in No. 619.

DISTRICT (D.)

REPORT of the Special Magistrate of the above District, for the Month of February 1837.

1 to 9.—See report for August last.

10.—See report for August last. Eleven; seven by voluntary acts of proprietors, and four by purchase.

11, 12, 13.—See report for August last.

(signed) *Jno. James Hough, S. J. P.*

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Enclosure 6, in No. 619.

Enclosure 6,  
in No. 619.

REPORT of Special Magistrate for the month of February 1837, on the State of District (E.), in Answer to the 13 Questions contained in the Circular from Colonial Secretary, dated 15 July 1836.

1.—THE apprentices in this district have conducted themselves since the last report in a manner which gives the magistrate reason to hope that the heavy number of offences with which they have been hitherto charged will soon be on the decrease. The number of punishments inflicted in November last (the first month of the present magistrate's jurisdiction) amounted to 381; in December, to 181; in January, to 209; and in February to 137. This point is noted in consequence of the last month being that in which all the estates have seriously commenced crop, and it may be inferred that if the apprentices were really unwilling to exert themselves, this would probably be the period in which they would exhibit this propensity. The cases of indolence are materially on the decline, in a general sense, but it is to be regretted that many charges of petty theft still appear recorded in this month's journal.

2.—A good feeling prevails between master and apprentice; in the majority of complaints brought before me, the latter appear sensible of the misconduct which has elicited the disgrace of punishment, and, except in a few instances, have blamed themselves for their appearance before the magistrate, who has never omitted the opportunity of exhibiting to them their true condition, in a kind and temperate manner.

3.—The performance of stated duty assigned to them is pretty fairly accomplished. Some will be found of a perverse and indolent habit, but the small number of cases under this head, when contrasted with the number of apprentices in the district (12,000) is very satisfactory.

4.—The working-hours generally established on plantations are from sunrise to nine, from ten o'clock to one o'clock, and from three o'clock to sunset; the intervals are appropriated

## BARBADOS.

to their meals. On properties where taskwork is mutually agreed on (which is, however, seldom the case) the apprentices prefer continuous labour, and finish their quantum of work on an average of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  hours per day.

5.—Taskwork is not generally adopted. The employers are willing to resort to this system, but the majority of the apprentices are opposed to it.

6.—It is difficult to hire labourers on their own day (Saturday); a few of the more industrious may, however, be found who hire their services to estates and receive 1 s. 3 d. to 1 s. 6 d. currency per day, independent of rations; but the great bulk dedicate the day to the culture of their ground and the sale of its produce. No complaint for the nonpayment of hire is recorded in this office.

7.—The indulgences heretofore granted to the apprentices during their state of slavery still continue to be supplied; but they are occasionally withheld from the indolent, as a means of stimulating them to equal activity and exertion with their fellow-labourers, who perform their duty cheerfully and diligently.

8 & 9.—The magistrate has given much time and serious consideration to these questions. By his general return of the number, condition, &c. of the free children in District (E.), it will be seen that their bodily condition is reported to be generally healthy, still it is deplorable to read (and it is so clearly expressed in each particular return) that the parents entertain the fanciful idea of rearing their offspring for employments to which nature has not assigned them, for in no instance will they entertain the idea of agriculture as a pursuit; the thought appears humiliating to them, and it is rejected with ridicule. The magistrate himself has had opportunities of conversing with the parents on this subject, and although they intimated to him their willingness to be guided by his counsel on every other point, on this they were resolved and fixed. The evil consequences which must result from this policy are apparent; many of the children are now grown in stature, but still continue in a daily state of inactivity and idleness; the few parochial schools established by the clergy are not even attended, and thus the honest principles which a homely education would be the means of instilling, cannot be made available to counteract the demoralizing effects of continual idleness and confirmed ignorance. It gratifies me to add that the proprietors in this district entertain humane and kindly views towards the free children of their apprentices, but the consideration has forced itself upon me, whether in the course of another year (when a large number of them will be old and competent enough to earn something for their subsistence) they will continue to permit their residence on the plantations, if their whole time is to be passed in uninterrupted indolence. In a few solitary instances the parents send their free children to private schools, imagining that their employers' invitation to receive instruction in school-houses on the estate is offered with an indirect motive, having for its object the apprenticeship of the child. I have no doubt that this feeling, on the part of the parents, has prevented many liberal-minded proprietors from incurring the expense attendant on the erection of schools, which, judging from the few already established, would not be productive of the wished-for end.

10 & 11.—The desire to purchase their discharge continues in full force among the apprentices. The same remarks which were attached to their queries in the last report continue applicable to the subject. Since November last to the present month of February, the number of apprentices who have actually paid their appraisements, or otherwise voluntarily discharged from their apprenticeship, amounts to 34, 15 males and 19 females. The total number of apprentices who have been appraised during the same period is larger; but some have been unable, as yet, to pay the appraised value of their services. The return of appraisements will exhibit more particularly the number for the present month.

12.—The crop has commenced under most favourable circumstances, and a plentiful return is generally looked for on all the estates. The season has been altogether propitious, and it only requires a mutual feeling of confidence to subsist between employer and apprentice to carry it through with satisfaction to the former and with cheerfulness to the latter: to establish this important object the magistrate's exertions have been unceasingly directed.

13.—The subject which suggests itself as more particularly worthy of attention, is briefly alluded to in answers 8 & 9.; but the same having already engaged the attention of his Excellency the Governor, a full inquiry will no doubt ensue.

(signed) *Joseph Garraway*, S. J. P. for District (E.)

28 February 1837.

Enclosure 7, in No. 619.

## DISTRICT (F.)

1.—THE conduct of the apprentices in this district has been uniformly quiet and most orderly.

2.—I think there is a want of good feeling between the apprentices and their employers; the chief reason arises from the absentee landlords, and the estates being left to the guidance of men who have no ultimate character to gain, and who wish to screw as much labour as they possibly can from the apprentice, which necessarily enriches them, and the absent proprietor receives his rent without knowing how his Negroes are abused. I think the above is the reason why a want of good feeling exists between the apprentices and their employers.

Also this colony differs from any of the other islands, having a race of whites descended for two centuries, and necessarily inheriting the prejudices of their fathers.

The

The other colonies being generally larger, and by no means so ancient, have frequently a number of settlers annually from Britain, &c., therefore cannot feel so keenly the operation of this present very humane measure, and are not so likely to have their vindictive feelings against the Negro, as exhibited here; they generally have had the advantage of residing for a time in Europe. No manager here has had that advantage.

3.—The apprentices perform their work most willingly.

4.—The working-hours generally are from six A. M. to ten A. M., and from eleven till two P. M., and from four till six P. M.

5.—Taskwork is not in general use in this district. I am of opinion the objection lies with the master.

6.—It is usual for the apprentices to work in their own time, at the rate of 1 s. sterling for nine hours. During crop-time the apprentice voluntarily works more than his nine hours, but the apprentice seldom receives any regular money payment, and when he does, it is paid most irregularly, and frequently not at all.

7.—During slavery the apprentices had many little comforts at present withheld, and their children all taken care of and clothed; at present many cases occur that a small proprietor or manager, not being able to annoy the parent, has turned the free child out of doors, and does frequently not allow any nurse to look after the same, whilst the parents are at work in the fields for the estate. There is no clause in the local Act which in any way causes the free child to be provided for.

8.—The answer to this question will be found in the annexed tabular return, which is correct, by which the free child has nothing, or no law even, to provide for its very existence.

ANSWER to Question 8, respecting the Condition of Free Children.

NAMES of ESTATES.	Number of Free Children.	Age.	Boys.		General Conduct of Mothers.	Food allowed by Estate.	Clothing allowed by Estate.	Health.	Medical Care found by Estate.	Education found by Estate.	Employment.
			Boys.	Girls.							
Cambridge -	49	7 to 1	26	23	good conduct -	food -	clothed -	1 out of health	medical care	2	none.
Bissix Hill -	19	6 to 1	10	9	ditto -	none -	none -	good health	none -	none	none.
Hope Well -	16	8 to 1	5	11	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	5	none.
Bell Plain -	34	8 to 2	15	19	ditto -	none -	none -	2 out of health	none -	5	none.
Swan's -	15	8 to 2	7	8	ditto -	1 fed -	1 clothed	good health	1 medical care	4	1 employed.
Senier's -	29	8 to 1	13	16	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Bruce Vale -	30	8 to 2	7	23	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Baxter's -	24	8 to 1	12	12	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Mount All -	16	8 to 6	9	7	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Friendship -	32	8 to 2	16	16	ditto -	none -	none -	4 out of health	none -	5	none.
Cane Garden -	9	6 to 2	4	5	ditto -	none -	none -	good health	none -	none	none.
Mellowes -	20	8 to 4	8	12	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	4	none.
Frazer's -	40	8 to 1	16	24	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Joe's River -	80	8 to 1	30	50	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Deacer's -	14	6 to 1	5	9	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	medical care	1	none.
Forster Hall -	35	8 to 1	20	15	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	ditto	none	none.
Vaughan's -	15	6 to 1	10	5	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Eclipse -	10	6 to 1	5	5	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Blackman's -	40	8 to 1	15	25	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Auborn -	3	6 to 6	1	2	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Indian Pond -	5	6 to 4	4	1	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Retreat -	9	6 to 6	2	7	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Walker's -	50	8 to 1	20	30	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Haggat's -	42	8 to 1	22	20	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Chimbrozo -	12	8 to 1	5	7	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	medical care	none	none.
Lamming's -	10	8 to 1	5	5	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Castle Grant -	18	8 to 1	8	10	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	medical care	none	none.
Harbington -	6	8 to 1	4	2	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Easy Hall -	30	8 to 1	12	18	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Saltram -	21	8 to 1	6	15	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Malvern -	53	8 to 1	20	33	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Union -	23	8 to 1	10	13	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Andrew's -	40	8 to 1	17	23	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Industry -	20	8 to 1	8	12	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Glemant Rock -	8	8 to 1	5	3	ditto -	fed -	none -	ditto	medical care	none	none.
Spa -	23	8 to 1	10	13	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Park's -	35	8 to 1	14	21	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Cheltenham -	18	8 to 1	6	12	ditto -	1 fed -	1 clothed	ditto	medical care	none	1 employed.
Gregg Farm -	25	8 to 1	10	15	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Grove's -	15	8 to 1	5	10	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	medical care	none	none.
Mallard's -	28	8 to 1	15	13	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Richman's -	5	8 to 1	3	2	ditto -	fed -	none -	ditto	medical care	none	none.
Sugar Hill -	11	8 to 1	10	1	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	ditto	none	none.
Spring Field -	26	8 to 1	16	10	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Horse Hill -	6	8 to 1	4	2	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Small Hope -	3	7 to 1	2	1	ditto -	fed -	none -	ditto	medical care	none	none.
Furner's Hall -	23	8 to 1	11	12	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
Bawden's -	25	8 to 1	13	12	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.
River -	8	7 to 1	3	5	ditto -	none -	none -	ditto	none -	none	none.

9.—Little or no facilities are supplied in this district for education and religious instruction.

There is indeed a school-house, but no funds whatever to pay a schoolmaster or mistress, and consequently none has been appointed, and the said school-house is used entirely as a place of worship.



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Night-schools are attended by adults as well as children, upon payment of a small weekly sum for learning to read.

There is no other instruction afforded in this district the coloured population.

The clergymen receive every Saturday, from ten till three, all who will come to them for religious instruction, which is chiefly catechetical.

The church accommodation is very far from being adequate to the number of parishioners, and in St. Joseph's parish there is no church whatever.

10.—The desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge is general; but from the manner of valuation the sum demanded is generally most exorbitant, which necessarily deters the apprentice from becoming a purchaser.

11.—Those apprentices who have obtained their discharge generally betake themselves to their trade, when they have one, and those who have no trade generally become domestics, &c.

12.—The prospects of the ensuing crop are most excellent, and the state of cultivation very superior to what it was prior to 1st August 1834. The season has been most favourable, and it is with certainty expected the crops will be more abundant this year than they have been for the last 25 years.

(signed) *Geo. Kennedy*, S. J. P., District (F.)

— No. 620. —

No. 620.

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

(No. 52.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 15 August 1837.

FROM Mr. Special Justice Kennedy's monthly report, enclosed in your despatch, (No. 56, Barbados,) of the 21st of March, I learn that some further instances have occurred of the separation of the free children from their mothers, by order of the employers.

The precise nature of the interference by which this has been effected I cannot distinctly collect from the terms of the report; but whatever it be, if its effect is to separate the mother from her child, so that she cannot discharge her necessary maternal duties without being absent from her work, you will remind the special magistrates that the law has not left her without protection against such interference. A mother absenting herself from the estate for the discharge of such duties, is not absent without "reasonable cause," and against any complaint which may be preferred against her for so absenting herself, such a plea ought to be admitted as a valid defence.

It is scarcely necessary to remind you that any attempt on the part of the employers to remove children from the houses occupied by their parents is illegal. The parent is tenant-at-will of the house, and pays rent in the form of service, and so long as there is no breach of any positive law, the apprentice has as good a right to receive inmates into his or her hut as the employer has to receive guests at his mansion.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 621. —

No. 621.

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

(No. 119.)

My Lord,

Government-House, Barbados, 27 May 1837.

COMMUNICATIONS from the stipendiary magistrates of Barbados, relative to the questions they are required to answer monthly, are herewith forwarded to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

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

## Enclosure 1, in No. 621.

Enclosure 1,  
in No. 621.

DISTRICT (A.), Town Division.

## MONTHLY REPORT from the 1st to the 31st March 1837.

1.—THE general conduct of the apprentices in my district since my last report has been good.

2.—Generally speaking, there is no want of good feeling between the employers and apprentices in the town district.

3.—The apprentices, generally speaking, perform their work most willingly.

4.—The working hours in this district are from six in the morning until nine, and from ten until four in the afternoon, allowing an interval of one hour, from nine until ten, for breakfast.

5.—Few of the apprentices are employed at field-work, from this not being a rural district; taskwork is therefore not generally resorted to.

6.—It is usual for the few prædial apprentices that are in this district to work on Saturdays for money wages. The wages average from 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  *d.* to 1 *s.* 1 *d.* for nine hours' labour, and paid in money.

7.—There is not any agricultural estate in this district.

8.—The free children are generally supported by their parents; but their condition in many cases is very miserable.

9.—The facilities for attending church and schools in this district are most ample, and the attendance nearly equal to the accommodation afforded.

10.—The general desire amongst the apprentices to purchase their discharge is great, and generally obtained by private arrangement with their masters. Thirty-two discharges have been effected since my last report, viz., four by appraisalment, 14 by private agreement with their masters, and 14 by free gift.

11.—The apprentices of this district who obtain their discharge are generally tradesmen and domestics, who follow the same occupation they did previous to procuring their discharge.

12.—The prospects of the present crop are most abundant; the season as yet has been most favourable, and the general state of cultivation good.

13.—I have not any suggestion to make, or practical measure to recommend.

(signed) A. Cuppage, S. J. P.  
District (A.), Town Division.

## Enclosure 2, in No. 621.

Enclosure 2,  
in No. 621.

DISTRICT (A.), Rural Division.

Sir,

Station-house, 4 March 1837.

I BEG to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that nothing worth particularly reporting has occurred in my district since my last for February. The apprentices continue to discharge their duty well, considering that greater demands are made upon their labour in crop-time.

I am pleased to have it in my power to state, that the number of complaints are fewer for March than for February; and the number of runaways to Bridgetown, from the various rural districts of the island, considerably less; this I consider a very favourable circumstance.

I enclose you Table (A.), and the monthly return of the amount of public labour performed by the penal gangs at this station, in which you will perceive a considerable balance remains to be placed to the public account. In the margin you also have the return of persons obtaining their discharge by appraisalment, &c.

5 by appraisalment  
2 by agreement.

I have, &c.  
(signed) John B. Colthurst, S. J. Peace  
District (A.), Rural Division.

## Enclosure 3, in No. 621.

Enclosure 3,  
in No. 621.

## REPORT of the State of DISTRICT (B.), for the Month of March 1837.

1.—CONDUCT of apprentices very good.

2.—The same as last report.

3.—They perform their work willingly, except on Saturday, which they are compelled by law to return to their employer.

4.—The same as in former reports.

5.—The same as last report.

6.—The same as last report. Estates where the managers treat them well have no difficulty in obtaining this labour. While writing this (Saturday) several mills in my sight are at work with hired labour.

521.

7.—The

BARBADOS.

- 7.—The same as last report.  
 8.—The same as last reports ; but their condition is now under the consideration of the Legislature.  
 9.—The same as other reports. Attendance at church good.  
 10.—A very great desire, and increasing daily. Six males and nine females.  
 11.—The same as in last report.  
 12.—The young plants for the ensuing crop have suffered from the want of rain ; and present crop has also suffered from the want of wind to work the mills.  
 13.—None at present.

(signed) *Jos<sup>h</sup> Hamilton, S. J. P.*Enclosure 4,  
in No. 621.

Enclosure 4, in No. 621.

## DISTRICT (C.)

31 March 1837.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that no change has taken place to require any alteration from my report for the last month, in reply to the questions contained in the despatch of the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

15 July 1836.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *F. J. Hutcheson, S. J. P.*

T. H. Ponsonby, Esq.  
 Acting Private Secretary,  
 &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 5,  
in No. 621.

Enclosure 5, in No. 621.

## DISTRICT (D.)

MONTHLY REPORT of the Special Magistrate of the above District, for March 1837.

- 1 to 9.—SEE report for August last.  
 10.—See report for August last. Eight discharges have been effected.  
 11.—See report for August last.  
 12.—See report for August last. The state of the weather, during the greater part of this month, has been unfavourable for sugar making.  
 13.—None at present.

(signed) *John Jas. Hough.*Enclosure 6,  
in No. 621.

Enclosure 6, in No. 621.

## DISTRICT (E.)

31 March 1837.

Sir,

HAVING nothing material to add to the February report on the state of this district, which I last had the honour of submitting to his Excellency's consideration, I beg a reference to the same, as illustrative of the present month in all respects, save with regard to the number of appraisements, eight of which have been effected in the month of March ; and I must at same time add, that the apprentices still continue to evince that strong desire for their discharge which I originally noted.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Jos. Garraway, S. J. P.*

Taylor H. Ponsonby, Esq.  
 Acting Private Secretary,  
 &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 7,  
in No. 621.

Enclosure 7, in No. 621.

## TOWN DISTRICT (A.)

1 May 1837.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the following replies (to the queries contained in the circular of the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies) for the month of April :

- 1.—The general conduct of the apprentices, who (with few exceptions) are domestics or tradesmen, has been good.  
 2.—None.  
 3.—They do.  
 4.—The apprentices in this district being non-prædials (with few exceptions), their labour is continuous, therefore have no relaxation but meal times and the hours of rest. Tradesmen have Sundays.  
 5.—This question does not apply to this district, as the class of apprentices here (non-prædial) are not employed in agriculture.

6.—Does

15 July 1836.

BARBADOS.

- 6.—Does not apply to this district for the same reason as No. 5.  
 7.—Does not apply to this district for the same reasons as Nos. 5 and 6.  
 8.—From the short time I have had this district, I cannot speak with accuracy of the condition of the free children, nor by whom they are supported.  
 9.—There is every accommodation for education and religious instruction, and, as far as I can judge, the attendance, particularly at church, is equal to the accommodation.  
 10.—There is a great desire; forty discharges have been effected this month, twenty-nine of which have been by private agreement, showing strongly that the apprentices prefer this mode of arranging it, in preference to applying to be appraised agreeable to the law.  
 11.—To the employments they followed previously; some become hucksters, and hawk goods about the country.  
 12.—The prospects of the crop are apparently good, as well as the general state of cultivation.  
 13.—I have no suggestions to offer, or practical measure to recommend.

I have, &c.  
 (signed) *F. J. Hutcheson.*

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Enclosure 8, in No. 621.

Enclosure 8,  
 in No. 621.

DISTRICT (A.), Rural Division.

Sir,

Station-house, 3 May 1837.

I BEG leave to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that nothing of any importance has occurred in my district since I had the honour of sending in my report for March, therefore entering into particulars now would be but a repetition of that report.

I have however great pleasure in stating, that the general conduct of the apprentices, for the last month, has been remarkably good, and consequently the manufacture of a noble crop of canes proceeding rapidly, and the district in a high state of agricultural cleanliness.

I have, &c.

To T. H. Ponsonby, Esq. &c. &c. &c.

(signed)

*John B. Colthurst, S. J. P.*

District (A.), Rural Division.

*N. B.*—Twelve apprentices discharged “by agreement” this month.—*J. B. C.*

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Enclosure 9, in No. 621.

Enclosure 9,  
 in No. 621.

A GENERAL REPORT of the State of District (B.) during the Month of April 1837.

- 1.—GOOD, with few exceptions.
- 2.—The same as last report.
- 3.—They do.
- 4.—Same as last report.
- 5.—Not. Objection lies with the masters.
- 6.—Same as last report.
- 7.—Same as last report.
- 8.—Same as last report.
- 9.—Continue the same.
- 10.—The desire increases as the term of apprenticeship decreases. Two males and three females have been discharged.
- 11.—Some to their usual occupations, especially the males, but the females generally to domestic employments.
- 12.—The present crop, partly reaped, is considered the largest ever produced. The ensuing crop middling, there having been a scarcity of rain lately.
- 13.—None at present.

(signed) *Jos. Hamilton, S. J. P.*

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Enclosure 10, in No. 621.

Enclosure 10,  
 in No. 621.

DISTRICT (C.), from the 1st to the 30th April 1837.

1.—THERE have been a good many complaints this month, principally arising from destruction of property through carelessness, idleness, disobedience of orders, and insolence; but generally the conduct of the apprentices has been good.

2.—In some instances there is a want of good feeling between the employers and apprentices, which I attribute principally to the commutation allowed by the 32d clause of the Abolition Act. The masters in many cases do not in the first instance explain to their apprentices that it is their intention to commute their allowance, and in other instances try to force the apprentice to conform to their wishes, which creates discontent and want of confidence in the minds of the apprentice labourers.

3.—The apprentices, generally speaking, do perform their work willingly.

521.

4.—The

BARBADOS.

4.—The working hours in this district are from six in the morning until nine, from ten until one, and from three until six, allowing intervals of relaxation from nine to ten, and from one to three.

5.—Taskwork is not generally resorted to in this district, which is the wish of both masters and apprentices.

6.—It is usual for the apprentice labourers in this district to work in their own time, and for money wages, which average from 10 *d.* to 1 *s.* 1 *d.* for nine hours' labour, and paid in money.

7.—From the short time I have been in this district, I am not prepared to say whether there are any indulgences withheld which it was usual for the estate to supply during slavery.

8.—The free children in most cases in this district are supported by their parents, but on some estates they are fed and taken care of the same as previous to the 1st of August 1834.

9.—There are two churches in this district, with resident clergymen attached to each, and three chapels, each having a school attached; both the churches and schools are well attended, and nearly equal to the accommodation afforded.

10.—There is a great desire on the part of the apprentice labourers in this district to purchase their discharge. Thirty-eight discharges were effected this month, viz. nine by free gift, and twenty-eight by appraisement.

Sic.

11.—Apprentices who obtain their discharge generally betake themselves to the same employment they followed previous to obtaining it.

12.—The crop that has been nearly taken off the ground has been more abundant than has been known for several years; the season has been favourable, and the general cultivation has been good.

13.—I have not any suggestions to make, or practical measures to recommend at present.

(signed) A. Cuppage, S. J. P.  
District (C).

Enclosure 11,  
in No. 621.

Enclosure 11, in No. 621.

DISTRICT (D).

REPORT for the Month of April 1837.

1 to 9.—SEE replies to same questions in report for August last.

10.—See reply to same question in report for August last:—

RETURN of Apprenticed Labourers discharged by Appraisement, or Agreement, in April 1837.

NAME.	SEX.		Pædials.	Non-Pædials.	Total.	By Appraisement.	By Agreement.	PRICE.
	Male.	Female.						
Sam - -	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	£. s. d. 20 - -

11, 12, 13.—See replies to same questions in report for August last.

(signed) Jno. Jas. Hough, S. J. P.

Enclosure 12,  
in No. 621.

Enclosure 12, in No. 621.

DISTRICT (E.)

30 April 1837.

Sir,  
WITH reference to the 13 questions proposed by my Lord Glenelg to the special magistrates for monthly replies, I beg to state, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that the last report which I had the honour of transmitting will serve to exhibit, generally, the present state of the district under my charge. The only alteration which I have to note is to be found in the number of appraisements, nine of which have taken place during this month. It gratifies me to add, that the majority of estates in these parishes have now almost finished their crops, and the returns are such as the most sanguine planters could hope for. This circumstance, I would submit, may be considered as a fair proof of the steady working of the new system, and bears strong testimony of the general good conduct of the apprentices in the discharge of their agricultural duties. By reference to my Monthly Journal and Table (A.) for the present month, it will be observed, that 139 punishments of various descriptions have been inflicted. A number so trifling, when compared with that of the apprenticed

apprenticed population of the district (12,000), that it would be almost superfluous for me to add, that their general behaviour continues to be satisfactory.

BARBADOS.

Taylor H. Ponsonby, Esq.  
Acting Private Secretary,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Joseph Garraway, S. J. P.*

Enclosure 13, in No. 621.

Enclosure 13,  
in No. 621.

DISTRICT (F.)

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS, 13 in Number, for the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

- 1.—THE conduct of the apprentices in this district has been uniformly quiet and orderly.
- 2.—I think there is a want of good feeling between the apprentices and their employers; particularly the small proprietors.
- 3.—The apprentices perform their work most willingly.
- 4.—The working hours are from six A. M. till nine, and from ten till four P. M., and from four till six P. M.
- 5.—Task-work is not in general use in this district; the objection generally lies with the apprentices.
- 6.—It is usual for the apprentices to work in their own time. The rate of wages is 1s. sterling for nine hours.
- 7.—There are many indulgences withheld, which, during slavery, the estate supplied.
- 8.—The condition of the free children is abject, and in this district they are entirely supported by a pittance from the parents' allowance.
- 9.—This district supplies very few facilities for education and religious instruction. The attendance at church and in the schools is generally greater than the accommodations afforded.
- 10.—There is a general desire among the apprentices to purchase their discharge; no apprentices have purchased their discharge since last report.
- 11.—Those apprentices who have purchased their discharge generally betake themselves to some trade, or as domestics.
- 12.—The prospects for the ensuing crop are excellent. The general cultivation of the very highest order; the season has been most favourable.
- 13.—I have no further suggestions to make, or any other practical measure to recommend.

2 May 1837.

*Geo. Kennedy, S. J. P.*

— No. 622. —

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

No. 622

(No. 24.)

My Lord, Government-House, Barbados, 26 November 1836.

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward to your Lordship the copy of an Act of this Island, intituled, "An Act to consolidate and amend the several Acts in force relating to the Rural Police of this Island."

*Vide App. No. 197.  
No. 606.*

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

— No. 623. —

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

No. 623

(No. 25.)

My Lord, Government-House, Barbados, 26 November 1836.

On the very first occasion of my meeting the Legislature of this colony it will be observed, (Enclosure, No. 1), that complaints were made in Privy Council respecting the rural police establishment, and on my questioning the Superintendent in the presence of the Board, it appeared that his appointment, created

25 October 1836.

521.

by

BARBADOS.

by a late Act, remained counteracted by provisions in former enactments not yet amended.

The interior arrangements, and promotion of the police sergeants and officers, having been intrusted to the special justices in each district, there were as many different systems as magistrates, and all respect for the authority of the Superintendent was lost sight of on the part of his subordinates.

I consider myself, therefore, highly indebted to the Solicitor-general, Mr. R. Boucher Clarke, who has been so good to prepare, and successfully to recommend, the new Bill for adoption by the Council and Assembly, which is transmitted in my former letter of this date.

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

Enclosure in  
No. 623.

Enclosure in No. 623.

EXTRACTS of MINUTES of His Majesty's Privy Council in *Barbados*, of the  
25th October 1836.

THE Speaker and House of Assembly having retired, Mr. Hinds addressed his Excellency, saying, he felt bound to represent the inefficient and insubordinate state of the police in Speight's Town; that the police were openly defied, and no notice taken, and concluded by requesting his Excellency to send a message to the House of Assembly, reminding them of the police force recommended by Sir Lionel Smith, for Speight's Town; which, his Excellency replied, he should be most happy to forward, but that he thought the superintendents and inspectors, appointed by a late Act, were too much mixed up with the magistrates, and he should prefer a more direct communication with those officers.

Sir B. Alleyne thought the magistrates might take cognizance of some recent riots mentioned by Mr. Hinds in the course of his address, and Mr. Best inquired whether any of the respectable inhabitants of Speight's Town could recognise the ringleaders, as in that case they might be punished at the court of grand sessions, by prosecuting them for a riot, and asked if the inhabitants of Speight's Town were prepared to meet the expense of supporting a police force. Mr. Humphry Jones, inspector of rural police, was then called in, and stated, in answer to the questions asked, "that having heard of frequent absences of sergeants of police, from their different districts, he had (as under the late Act he conceived he had authority) issued circulars to the different police stations, desiring reports to be made to him of the way in which the sergeants spent their time; such reports were refused to be made to him by Sergeants Johnston, Moore, and Alleyne; the other districts had done all in their power to forward his views; he had great difficulty in getting any complaints he made heard, and strongly suspected that secret influence was being used against his authority, and that he had also heard great complaints of the conduct of the prison-keepers and other persons connected with the police stations." Mr. Jones then withdrew.

— No. 624. —

No. 624.

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

(No. 13.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 13 February 1837.

Act, No. 606.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Despatches, Nos. 24 and 25, of the 26th November, the former enclosing an Act for amending the Rural Police Act, and the latter relating to the same subject.

The circumstances disclosed in the enclosure to your second despatch sufficiently evince the necessity which existed for some amendment of the police law; but I nevertheless regret that this Act is not accompanied by the usual report from the Colonial Attorney-general; an omission of the greater importance, because the assistance which that report would have supplied is almost indispensable, in order to ascertain with precision what are the alterations in the law which are effected by this consolidation and amendment of the Rural Police Act.

When I review the protracted discussions which attended the original introduction of the law of Barbados on this subject, I cannot but feel more than common solicitude to prevent the abandonment of any essential part of those principles to which my predecessors in office attached so much importance. The Act will not therefore be brought under the consideration of His Majesty in Council,

Council, until a report shall have been received from the Colonial Attorney-general, pointing out distinctly what are the changes in the law which this Act, if confirmed, will introduce; for although your Despatch, No. 25, explains in part what is the nature of the amendment proposed, it is not on that account the less necessary that I should be fortified by the security which, upon a subject of this kind, is not to be obtained, except by a report on the Act from a person practically conversant with the structure and working of the law in its former shape.

You will have the goodness to impress upon the several lieutenant-governors under your superintendence, and to observe yourself, on future occasions, the necessity of adhering to the regulation which requires from the Attorney-general, as well as from the Governor himself, a report upon every important alteration in the law by Acts of the Colonial Legislatures.

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

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— No. 625. —

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

No. 625.

(No. 75.)

Government-House, Barbados,  
12 April 1837.

My Lord,

In obedience to the commands communicated in your Lordship's despatch of the 13th of February, I have the honour to transmit a Report from the law officer of the Crown upon the Act (No. 606), "for amending the Rural Police Act;" and, at the same time, to express my regret at having omitted to procure and forward that Report originally.

(A.) No. 1.

In the small colonies, the existence of separate parties of police officers, under the several stipendiary magistrates, is not productive of inconvenience sufficient to outweigh that of an increased expenditure; but this consideration cannot safely be allowed to influence the organization of a police establishment suited to the extensive population of Barbados.

The office of inspector of rural police was created by an Act of the 5th of August last, about two months before my removal from the Leeward Islands; but the defects of the original enactments were not then so sufficiently cleared away as to leave room for the unembarrassed exercise of the new appointment, by means of which the detachments at the different police stations were intended to be embodied as a regular corps, under an officer exclusively responsible for its internal management and discipline. In this state of things it appeared to me, I candidly confess, on comparing the law as it stood with the discussions by which it had been preceded, that His Majesty's Government and Sir Lionel Smith, instead of getting all they wished, had been, in some respects, constrained to take what they could get on the occasion of that contest, and that, as the spirit of local opposition had fortunately passed away, it was right to take immediate advantage of that concurrence in my views, upon the important question of police, which the Legislative Houses thought fit to indicate.

The police of Bridgetown is most creditable, conducted by three magistrates, under whom the superintendents, officers, and sergeants are employed; but this plan would not answer in the country, where the district houses of the stipendiary magistrates are many miles apart; and although there were doubtless difficulties in duly defining the line of distinction between their relations, and that of the inspector, with the police officers and sergeants, which will be found adverted to in the enclosure (B. No. 10), they are gradually subsiding; and by bringing those officers frequently together at Government-house, in order that matters connected with the subject of their duties may be canvassed in my presence, I have every reason to believe that their cordial co-operation, in most instances, will be eventually ensured.

My communications with the commissioners superintending the common gaol, and the police magistrates of Bridgetown, with the commissioners of rural police, with the special magistrates, and with the inspector, are, on the whole, highly gratifying; and the enclosed documents, although evincing that these establish-

(B.) Nos. 1 to 1"



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ments, for the most part, are in their infancy, may perhaps serve to satisfy your Lordship that their amelioration is not unattempted.

Much certainly remains to be effected, and the number, as well as pay, of the police-officers, may possibly require to be augmented; but great allowance is to be made for the pecuniary wants of the Legislature; and while, uniting my efforts with theirs for the progressive improvement of the public institutions of the colony, I hope to be so guided by your Lordship's instructions, as to avoid any abandonment of principles to which your Lordship, in common with your Lordship's predecessors in office, may be pleased to attach importance.

I have, &c.

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

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Enclosures in No. 625.

(A.) (No. 1.)

OPINION.

IN obedience to his Excellency's desire, I proceed to supply the information desired by the Right Hon. the Secretary of State, respecting the Act for the Consolidation of the Laws relating to the Rural Police. This cannot be done without a short review of the several Acts on the subject.

The first Act for the establishment of a rural police was passed in July 1834, and assented to by Sir Lionel Smith; it was, however, disallowed by an Order in Council of 7th February 1835, which was communicated to the Legislature 25th March 1835.

On the 24th of April, an Act for the temporary establishment of a rural police was passed, by which the force raised under the first Act was kept on foot for six months. All rules for its government were to be made by the Council and Assembly, and approved by the Governor.

The appointment to all future vacancies was given to the special justices, in whom was also vested the sole power over, and responsibility for, the discipline of this body.

On the 19th of August following, another Act was passed, continuing the above till August 1840, increasing the number of horse, and diminishing the number of foot.

On the 9th of December in the same year, another Act was passed "For the establishment of Rules and Regulations for the Government and Discipline of the Rural Police," in which their duties were specified, and, following up the principle of the Act of April, the six special justices, in their respective districts, had the control, and were answerable for the efficiency of that portion of the police attached to their respective districts. Thus the executive had no direct authority over them, and could only act through the agency of the special justices, and by means of his authority over them. It is needless to advert to the causes which led to this anomalous constitution and working of a police; but great complaints being made of its inefficiency and want of organization and discipline, Sir Lionel Smith promoted the passing of an Act, which received his assent on the 5th of August 1836, sanctioning the appointment by the Governor of an inspector, to be under his immediate orders, and answerable to him for the discipline of the corps; and, on the passing of the Act, he promoted a superintendent from the town police to that duty.

Thus stood the law when his Excellency Sir E. J. M. MacGregor assumed the government of the island. His attention to the condition of the police was almost immediately called by complaints as to its want of discipline and inefficiency; and on looking to the state of the law, and the power of the Governor, with a view to remedy the evil complained of, it was found impracticable to effect it; and it was deemed advisable to consolidate the four Acts into one, and at the same time to invest his Excellency with full power and authority over it; in short, to place it "under the effective and constitutional control of the executive." His Excellency assigned that task to me; and the Act, which is the subject of the accompanying despatch, was passed by both Houses immediately after.

I have to apologize to his Excellency for not having furnished a proper report on it before; but, as the Colonial Secretary did not ask for my report, I did not send it; but from the arrangements made by his Excellency this cannot again occur.

The present Act commences with a repeal of all other Acts; it keeps on foot the same force at the same rate of pay; it takes the appointment of the whole body from the special justices, and vests it in the Governor; it specifies the power of the inspector, making him responsible to the Governor for the performance of the duties required of the police, its discipline and efficiency, and requiring his strict attention to the expenditure of the supplies furnished by the public; indeed, I may state this to be the most important duty of the inspector, and its great object was to relieve the special justices of duties which were assigned to them, but which, from their other arduous duties, they could not properly perform and, from which, I know from themselves, they were rejoiced to be freed. At the same time, a proviso, preventing anything like interference by the inspector with the prisoners, is added, and the duties of the keepers of prisons more accurately defined, while their appointment also is vested in the Governor. The Act then proceeds

Enclosures in  
No. 625.

to lay down the general rules and regulations for the whole corps, commencing with the inspectors, and concluding by declaring that the special justices shall at all times have the use of the whole force, for carrying the Abolition Act into operation, and vesting in the executive a discretionary power to sanction deviations from these rules when they interfere with the duties required of the special justices under that Act, or in cases of emergency, or otherwise.

In all these points, this Act materially differs from, and, it is to be presumed, materially amends, the old law. In remodelling the system, I looked to the despatch of the Colonial Secretary (No. 11, 10 January 1835), on this subject, and believe it will be found in all respects more in accordance with the wishes of His Majesty's Government, as therein expressed, than those Acts which have already received the sanction of the Government, and under which it existed from April 1835 till the consolidation by his Excellency's suggestion.

*Vide Papers*  
relative to the Abolition of Slavery,  
1833-35, Part 2,  
p. 75.

(signed) *R. Bowcher Clarke.*

11 April 1837.

(B.) No. 1.)

Sir,

Private Secretary's Office, 29 November 1836.

THE Act, intituled "An Act to consolidate and amend the several Acts in force relating to the Rural Police of this Island" having been published in the newspapers, I am directed to communicate, for your information and guidance, the enclosed copy of a circular letter, addressed by the Governor's desire to the special justices of the peace.

29 Nov. 1837.

H. Jones, Esq.,  
Inspector of Rural Police.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *T. H. Ponsonby, Acting P. Sec.*

(No. 2.)

Sir,

Private Secretary's Office, 29 November 1836.

By an Act recently passed, to "consolidate and amend the several Acts in force relating to the Rural Police of this Island," effect having been given to the appointment of the superintendent of rural police, the special magistrates are exonerated from an irksome responsibility, involving attention to minute details of that establishment, the interior economy and discipline of which are now entrusted to the exclusive management of the commanding officer of the corps.

You are requested, by the Governor's desire, to communicate with that officer in future on all matters connected with the conduct of the police serjeants and officers within your jurisdiction, it being distinctly understood, that the application of this force to the civil purposes of every district remains, as heretofore, at the sole disposal of the special justices; and that, in the selection and control of the individuals employed in the several detachments, it will be a constant object of the superintendent's careful vigilance, to maintain them in that efficient condition, by which they may be best enabled to execute the services required of them by each special magistrate.

I have, &c.

To the Special Magistrates. (signed) *T. H. Ponsonby, Acting Priv. Sec.*

(No. 3.)

Sir,

Private Secretary's Office, 21 January 1837.

THE Governor having visited the present rural police stations, requests you will be pleased to communicate the following observations to the commissioners.

The means of increasing ventilation in the cells, as well as in the large apartments, occupied by prisoners, are generally desirable; and the addition of iron-gratings to the doors of the latter, as in the common gaol, would, without diminishing their security, certainly tend to render them more healthy.

In Station (A), the keeper proposed that light should be admitted into some of the solitary cells, many persons in confinement there being able to read. This alteration might be easily effected, by placing windows with sliding shutters in the roofs, and, if found beneficial, may be extended afterwards to other districts.

More cells are called for by the keepers. Those of Station (A) are very incommodious; but at District (D), where the proper number is still incomplete, they are better finished, and perfectly well floored. Each cell would, therefore, seem to require a wooden floor, as well as the moveable benches, forming what is called a cabin.

At Station (E), the entrance into the women's chamber leads through that of the men's; a defect easily remedied by providing the former with a separate door-way.

Separate rooms are wanting for the matrons at District (C); the matron inhabits the room intended for sick officers of police.

In District (D) the stabling is particularly bad, and it would be an improvement were all the stables to open into the station yards, so as at all times to command, for the mounted policemen, access to their horses.

## BARBADOS.

The Board are requested to consider the propriety of facilitating the provision of forage and of water at the several posts, and of furnishing each with a flag-staff and signals, and, eventually, with a walled enclosure.

It being incumbent on the superintendent frequently to visit the respective districts, it is important that proper accommodation should be prepared in all of them for his convenient performance of that duty.

Medical aid being granted to the prisoners, it is to be presumed no very serious additional expense would be incurred by procuring the same attendance at each station for the police establishment, who would naturally appreciate this proof of attention to their comfort.

Under the head of clothing, it is to be remarked, that some detachments are still unprovided, although a supply was due in August. As the sergeants and officers obtain only one suit each per annum, it would be preferable to make arrangements for issuing the clothing upon the same day, in future, at the different stations.

In offering these suggestions to the commissioners of rural police, the Governor is aware that many or all of the points adverted to, have ere now probably attracted the notice of the Board; and his Excellency is confident, from the extent of the efforts already made in their department, that its further efficient progress will be ensured by the same public spirit with which it has been hitherto conducted.

I have, &c.

John Mayers, Esq.,  
Clerk to the Comm<sup>rs</sup> of Rural Police.

(signed) T. H. Ponsonby, A. P. S.

## (No. 4.)

Sir,

Private Secretary's Office, 20 February 1837.

THE rural police being liable to the performance of the following duties,

- 1st. That of summoning parties before the special magistrates.
- 2d. Escorting prisoners from one district to another, to gaol, or to their homes.
- 3d. Conveying despatches on service; taking charge of penal gangs.
- 4th. Mounting guard.
- 5th. Attending the special-magistrate's office.
- 6th. Patrolling.
- 7th. Apprehending runaways.
- 8th. Collecting information in furtherance of police objects.

You will be pleased, the Governor desires, to cause the sergeants and officers commanding detachments at the several stations, to furnish you, on the same day, to be fixed by yourself, with returns, specifying the number of police sergeants and officers actually employed in the above, or other avocations, who happen to be sick or on leave of absence, or whose situations are vacant, in order that the occupation of the whole establishment upon that day may be clearly accounted for and explained.

H. Jones, Esq.  
Inspector of Rural Police.

I have, &c.  
(signed) T. H. Ponsonby,  
Acting Private Secretary.

## (No. 5.)

RETURN of the Duties performed by the Police Force, between Six A.M. on the 27th, and Six A.M. on the 28th February 1837.

DISTRICTS.	Sergeants.		Strength.			Escorting Prisoners.			Patrolling.		Summoning Parties.	Conveying Despatches to other Districts.	Conveying Despatches to Head quarters.	In Charge of Penal Gang.	Mounting Guard at the Station.	Attending Special Magistrate's Office.	Apprehending Runaways.	Collecting information.	Sick.	Vacancies.	Absent on leave.	In Reserve.	TOTAL.
	Mounted.	Foot.	To other Districts.	To Gaol.	To their Homes.	By Day.	By Night.																
(A.)	1	11	4	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	2	-	3	-	-	1	1	3	-	15
(B.)	1	15	4	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	1	2	4	1	-	-	2	3	2	-	19
(C.)	1	15	4	-	-	3	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	3	4	-	19
(D.)	1	11	4	1	1	3	1	1	-	-	1	2	2	-	1	1	2	-	1	1	2	-	15
(E.)	1	15	4	-	-	1	1	2	-	1	-	2	4	1	1	1	2	-	2	-	4	-	19
(F.)	1	11	4	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	3	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	15
	6	78	24	2	1	11	4	4	4	2	7	12	14	8	-	1	6	8	18	-	-	102	

## (No. 6.)

Sir,

February 21, 1837.

THE mounted police force of this island requires 86 rations of forage for the use of their horses per diem, and is distributed in detachments as detailed in the accompanying Return.

The

The difficulty which the police officers experience in procuring sufficient forage for their horses out of the sum of 130 *l.* per annum allotted to the sergeants, and of 80 *l.* to the privates, would render it highly advantageous to the service if his Excellency would take the case into his consideration, with the view of effecting some arrangement, if possible, through the medium of His Majesty's Commissariat Department, for establishing a contract for the supply of the necessary forage for the mounted police force, and for its conveyance to the police stations monthly, at a moderate rate.

T. H. Ponsonby, Esq.  
Actg. Priv. Secy.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *H. Jones,*  
Inspr. of Rural Police.

DISTRICTS.	Mounted Forces.		No. of Horses to be foraged at each District.
	Sergeants.	Privates.	
(A.) - - - - -	1	11	12
(B.) - - - - -	1	15	16
(C.) - - - - -	1	15	16
(D.) - - - - -	1	11	12
(E.) - - - - -	1	15	16
(F.) - - - - -	1	11	12
Inspector of Rural Police - - - - -			84 2
Total - - - - -			86

No. 7.)

EXTRACTS of a Letter from the Deputy Commissary-General,  
dated Barbados, 25 July 1837.

"The price of the oats received from England for the military service is 6 *s.* 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  *d.* sterling per 100 lbs., delivered at Barbados free of all charges; and the quantity required for the rural police might, it is presumed, be obtained from home on similar terms; but on occasions where it has been necessary to purchase the article in this island, without such previous notice as would enable the parties furnishing it to procure it from England, its cost has been usually about a dollar per bushel of 40 lbs.; and this is the rate also at which the pecuniary allowance has been granted to officers, when they have not received the ration in kind."

"The commuted money allowance for the ration of green forage is 1 *s.* 2 *d.* sterling a day; this rate, however, does not refer to the value of the article in Barbados exclusively, but was the average of the cost throughout the command, at the time it was fixed."

"The contract price at which the Government animals in this island have been supplied with green forage in kind has, upon the average of the last five years, been 11  $\frac{1}{2}$  *d.* per ration of 50 lbs."

(No. 8.)

MEMORANDUM by the Special Magistrates.

Proposed Allowance for the Horses of the Mounted Police :				Barbados Curr.
8 Pints Oats, calculated to cost per diem	-	-	-	£. - - 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
10 Pounds Hay - - ditto - - ditto	-	-	-	- - 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
		£.	s.	d.
86 Horses at 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i> per diem	-	-	7	8 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto - - - - per week	-	-	52	- 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto - - - - per month	-	-	208	3 10
Ditto - - - - per year	-	-	2,498	6 -
Proposed reduction in pay of officers to meet this allowance, say				Difference to be made good by the Colony,
86 at 25 <i>l.</i> each - - - - First,				
		£.	2,150	- -
Ditto at 20 <i>l.</i> - - - - Second,				£. 348 deficit.
		£.	1,720	- -
				Second, £. 778 deficit.

BARBADOS.

(No. 9.)

Sir,

Private Secretary's Office, 2 March 1837.

I am directed by the Governor to desire that you will be so good as to attend at Government-house, on Thursday the 9th instant, at noon, in order to join a committee to consist of Messrs. Special Magistrates Colthurst, Hamilton, Garraway, and yourself, which has been formed for the purpose of framing, in communication with His Majesty's Solicitor-general, a code of regulations based upon the Police Act, for distribution to the sergeants and officers at the several stations.

You will be pleased to bring with you the Antigua police regulations, and to be prepared to submit to the committee any information or suggestions you may think proper. I am to add, that a memorandum, of which a copy is enclosed, was communicated yesterday to the special magistrates.

I have, &c.,  
(signed) T. H. Ponsonby, A. P. S.

H. Jones, Esq., Inspr. of Rural Police.

(No. 10.)

MEMORANDUM from the Governor for the Special Magistrates.

Government-house, Barbados, 1 March 1837.

A police force, divided into seven distinct bodies, under seven special magistrates, having been found inconvenient, because inevitably subjected to as many different systems, it was with the view of establishing uniformity of method throughout the whole, that an inspector came to be appointed to the general command.

Conformably with this principle, every detail relating to the equipment, arming, and mounting of the sergeants and officers, to their appointment, removal, promotion, quarters, and selection for duty, in short, the interior economy and direction of the corps, now devolves upon the inspector of rural police exclusively.

From the very nature of the institution, the observance of the strictest discipline is obviously important, and unless the sergeants and officers are taught to look up to the head of their department with deference and submission, by being made sensible of his power, that unity of action which is absolutely essential to the prompt and regular execution of the service, cannot be established and secured.

The special justices are peculiarly interested, therefore, in the creation and maintenance of the authority of the rural inspector, and in contributing, by a show of courtesy on their part, to render his position respectable in the eyes of the body organized under his immediate orders; and, on the other hand, it is equally the inspector's bounden duty to conciliate the countenance and support of those magistrates, whose control over the external application of the rural police for civil purposes is co-extensive with his own, in regard to its internal management.

In their official relations towards each other, elements of possible collision undoubtedly exist between the rural magistrates and inspector, not presented in the case of the town authorities of the same description. This difference of constitution is, however, unavoidable, and a determination to be governed by a spirit of mutual concession will speedily suffice to place the country police of the colony on a footing with the police of Bridgetown, by producing that good understanding and confidence which it is no less an obligation on the special justices and rural commanding officer reciprocally to cultivate, than on the Governor to encourage and enjoin.

(No. 11.)

(Circular.)

Sir,

Private Secretary's Office, 11 March 1837.

IN consequence of a late representation from the special magistrates, I am instructed to inform you, that the Governor approves of an arrangement, to which in future you will be pleased to give effect accordingly, for the release from confinement, on the afternoon of the preceding Saturday, of prisoners, the termination of whose sentences may fall upon a Sunday, so that the latter day may be preserved inviolate.

I have, &c.  
(signed) T. H. Ponsonby, A. P. S.

To the Special Magistrates.

(No. 12.)

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

THE duties of the rural police officers, in escorting prisoners to estates after the expiration of their sentences, having been found too onerous, with reference to the numerical strength of the force in each district, and, amongst other important avocations, that of day

day and night patrolling being thereby materially impeded, Notice is hereby given, that the practice of escorting liberated prisoners, by means of police officers, to the estates to which they are severally attached, will be discontinued from and after the 18th inst.

At the same time, with a view of ensuring the punctual return of such prisoners to their homes, the special magistrates have been instructed by the Governor to cause written passes to be given by the keeper of each district to the prisoners when about to be released, specifying the hour of their departure from the station; and as the period of liberation will be made known by the special magistrate to the complainant when the sentence is passed, it will be optional with the latter to detach an estate constable for the individual liberated, who, after the lapse of a reasonable time, is to be held amenable to punishment, as the special justice will not fail to explain, if found an absentee from the estate concerned.

By command of his Excellency the Governor,

(signed) *T. H. Ponsonby*, A. P. S.

Government-house, Barbados, 11 March 1837.

(No. 13.)

PUBLIC NOTICE.

THE Governor having taken into consideration the necessity of establishing greater regularity in the important duties of patrolling in the respective districts, more particularly as a portion of the duties hitherto performed by police officers has been relinquished, viz. the escort of apprentices, after punishment, from the several station-houses to the estates to which they may be attached, approves of the following routine for insuring the due escort of prisoners either to or from the common gaol, to be carried into effect, under the superintendence of the special magistrates and the inspector of rural police, from and after Monday the 17th day of April next, commencing with District (C.), and working inwards.

The six o'clock morning patrol of District (C.) will take charge of and escort prisoners for goal (if any) to the first patrol distance (Halton Estate Gap), where they will be met by patrol of District (B.) about seven o'clock, who will then take charge of (C.)'s prisoners, and conduct them to District (B.), where the prisoners will remain until the second patrol at ten o'clock, when they will be escorted to the patrol distance at "Lower Burney's Gap," and there met by the first patrol of District (A.) about 11 o'clock.

Should there be any prisoners at District (A.) to be returned either to District (B.) or (C.), such prisoners will be taken under escort by the 10 o'clock patrol of District (A.) and delivered over to the patrol of District (B.) at "Lower Burney's Gap," from whence they will be re-conducted to the station-house at District (B.), remain there for two hours, and then sent under escort of (B.)'s two o'clock patrol, to meet (C.)'s patrol at the appointed distance (Halton Estate Gap), about three o'clock, they will then be handed over to (C.) patrol for delivery at (C.) station-house.

The patrols escorting prisoners are to be instructed, that in the event of their failing to meet each other at the given distances, they are to proceed with their prisoners until such meeting takes place.

This regulation will also be observed between Districts (A.), (D.), (E.) and (F.), the given distances between which are to be as follows:

Between (A.) and (D.)	-	-	-	Lear's Gap.
Between (D.) and (E.)	-	-	-	Reid's Bay Estate.
Between (D.) and (F.)	-	-	-	Mount Wilton.

By command of his Excellency the Governor.

(signed) *Humphrey Jones*,  
Inspector of Rural Police.

Barbados, 23 March 1837.

(No. 14.)

Sir,

Private Secretary's Office, 25 March 1837.

I AM instructed by the Governor to transmit, for the consideration of the Commissioners of Rural Police, the copy of a letter from Major Colthurst, chairman of a committee of special magistrates appointed by his Excellency to report upon the length of engagement of police sergeants and officers entering the service, and upon the mode of supplying them with clothing.

Respecting the first point, the Governor is induced to recommend, that the duration of the term of enlistment should be regulated upon the principle of an annual contract; each individual serving upon the 1st of August in one year, being held bound to continue to serve until the 31st July in the next; or if entering during a broken period, to make it good; for example, that as a person engaging to-day would succeed to the clothing of some one who has left the force, he should be obliged to complete the unexpired portion of the year for which the present clothing has been issued, and consequently to do duty till the 31st of July next, on which day the suit now in wear would become his own; that he should be called upon to give notice, on or before the 30th of June, if he means to retire,

BARBADOS.

and failing to do so, as he would become entitled to new clothing on the 1st of August 1837, that he should incur the obligation of serving until the 31st July 1838.

To illustrate the soundness of the conclusion at which the committee of special justices has arrived, in pronouncing it, under the existing system, "a matter of impossibility that a competent nursery for steady and active officers can be created," copies of communications are enclosed, in which the inspector of rural police gives notice of the resignation in one district of six police officers.

With regard to the supply of clothing, the committee notice the discontent of the officers at the circumstance of the last set not having been issued until seven months overdue, and the Governor earnestly supports their recommendation for the observance, in future, of the utmost precision in the management of a detail so essential to the comfort and encouragement of the police establishment, as indispensably to require, that the inspector of rural police should be rendered exclusively responsible, under the direction of the honourable Board of Commissioners, for its punctual execution.

The observations of the special magistrates seem likewise deserving of attention, that there should be two contracts, one for making up the clothes, and the other for the regular supply of the clothing from Europe, through some respectable mercantile house in Barbados; and, as it might perhaps tend to increase their competition for the latter were the supplies for the town as well as for the rural police to be permanently obtained from the same source, a copy of this letter will be laid before the commissioners superintending the common gaol, in order that the two honourable Boards may have an opportunity of communicating with each other, if disposed to entertain the suggestion which it has been the Governor's duty to submit upon this subject.

I have, &c.

To John Mayers, Esq.  
Clerk to Comm<sup>r</sup> of Rural Police.

(signed) T. H. Ponsonby, A. P. Sec.

(No. 15.)

Sir,

Special Magistrates' Meeting, 23 March 1837.

IN answer to the queries which your Excellency was pleased to propose for reply by the committee of special magistrates, firstly, relative to the limited time prescribed by law for police officers to give notice previous to their quitting the force, and secondly, with respect to the method at present adopted for the clothing of the same force, I am requested by the committee to present the following remarks for your Excellency's consideration:

1st. The experience of each special magistrate has fully proved, that the option at present invested in each police officer to leave his situation by previously giving one month's notice, is highly detrimental to the formation of an efficacious corps of police. Under the present system men enter the service for no given time, and it frequently happens, that at the very period when their continued presence would be particularly advantageous, they form some imaginary opinion respecting their condition, and procure a discharge after the month's notice. Under this system, it is a matter of impossibility that a competent nursery for steady and active officers can ever be created; and it is submitted, that police officers should be bound to serve for a certain time after entering the service; or that the limited notice to quit, now in operation, should be extended to a period of twelve months; an alteration which, among other advantages, will remove one of the inconveniences at present experienced in the article of clothing, as illustrated below.

2dly. The want of punctuality in the distribution of clothing (the last supply, due on the 1st August 1836, was only served during the current month) may possibly be considered as one of the most cogent reasons for the discontent felt by the officers, which has in some instances led to their resignation; the committee respectfully submit, that the system which at present exists is objectionable, were no other cause preferred than the one just alluded to. They would however propose, by way of securing a due and punctual supply on the day appointed by law, that the contract for the supply of clothing should be placed on a footing which would give rise to public competition; the contractor to be bound, under a penalty, to make up annually, by the 30th day of June, each suit for the officers of the several districts; to be ready fitted, so as to be distributed on the 1st day of August in each year; after the expiration of which, the clothing will become the property of such officers as have been enlisted for the twelve months.

The committee also recommend, that the supply of clothing shall be divided into two separate heads, viz. one for the making up the clothes, and the other to be a permanent contract for the regular supply of the cloth, from Europe, through some respectable house in Barbados; tenders in writing to be submitted to the inspector of rural police.

The committee entertain a sanguine hope, that their proposition of annual enlistment, and a change in the supply of clothing, will be productive of material benefit in the permanent organization of the police force.

I have, &c.

To his Excellency  
Sir E. J. M. MacGregor,  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) J. B. Colthurst, S. J. P. District (A.),  
Chairman.

(No. 16.)

(Circular.)

Private Secretary's Office, 8 April 1837.

Sir,  
I AM instructed by the Governor to transmit, for your information and guidance, the following copy of a communication from the Board of Rural Commissioners, relative to the conduct of the police departments of their several districts, in cases of fire.

I have, &amp;c.

To the Special Magistrates of  
District (A.) Town and the Rural Divisions.

(signed) *T. H. Ponsonby,*  
A. P. Sec.

(No. 17.)

Sir,

Rural Police Department, 5th April 1837.

THE commissioners taking into consideration, at their meeting yesterday, your letter of the 23d February, conveying the wish of his Excellency the Governor to be favoured with their opinion :

1st. On the most eligible mode of rendering the exertions of the police departments available, in their respective districts, in cases of fire.

2dly. And whether such benefit might accrue to the public from providing each station-house with fire-engines, water-buckets, &c., and the means of transporting them to the neighbouring estates, as would warrant the additional cost of attaching establishments for this particular service to the rural police departments, desire me to request, that you will be pleased most respectfully to state to his Excellency,

1st. That in cases of fire, a detachment of the police of the district should immediately repair to the spot, and give their aid in extinguishing the fire, and more especially in the protection of property from plunder.

2dly. That, considering the expense of attaching engines, &c. to the district stations, and the difficulties of transporting them to any distance with sufficient expedition to be of much service, (the rapidity of fire being so great in this climate,) the Board do not regard the probable benefit to be derived from such establishment as warranting the additional cost of the undertaking.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *John Mayers,*  
Clerk.

*T. H. Ponsonby, Esq.*  
A. P. Secretary.

— No. 626.—

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

No. 626.

(No. 38.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 15 June 1837.

I HAVE received your despatch, No. 75, of the 12th of April, enclosing a report from the law-officer of the Crown on the subject of the Act, No. 606, for amending the Rural Police Act of Barbados, and I request that you will express to Mr. Clarke my obligations to him for his very clear explanation of the effect of this law, which will be submitted to His Majesty in Council for confirmation at the earliest opportunity.

I have much satisfaction in observing, from the other enclosures accompanying your despatch, your earnest desire to promote the improvement of the police establishment of the colony.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 627.—

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government-House, Barbados, 8 February 1837.

No. 627.

(No. 25.)

“ I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the undermentioned Act, passed by the Legislature of this island, together with its summary, and the Crown law-officer's opinion ; viz.

*Vide Appendix,*  
No. 198.

“ ‘ An Act to Assess the Proprietors of Apprenticed Labourers towards the Repair of the Public Roads.’ ”

No. 612.



## BARBADOS.

Enclosure in  
No. 627.

Enclosure in No. 627.

(No. 612.)

AN ACT to Assess the Proprietors of Apprenticed Labourers towards the Repair of  
the Public Roads.Summary.Opinion.

The first clause of this Bill enacts, that after its passing, all proprietors of apprenticed labourers are thereby charged and assessed for the repair of the public roads, in the proportion of two for every five they may possess, to be sent to work thereon, in such manner as owners of land furnish labourers; and on their making default, to forfeit for each labourer the same sum as is made payable for labourers assessed on the owners of land, to be recovered in like manner. Proprietors of both land and labourers are required, however, to send labourers for that only which will give the greatest returns; and satisfaction may be made by a money payment of 2s. 6d. currency for each day's labour for which they may be assessed; such payment to be made previous to the day fixed for working such labour. The second clause declares, that an annual return, on oath, shall be made to the churchwarden of the parish in which the apprenticed labourers are domiciled, by all proprietors possessing five or more, under a penalty of 5s. currency for each apprenticed labourer neglected to be given in, to be recovered, on complaint before a justice of the peace, as in the case of servants' wages, and applied to the repair of the roads.

Without this law, the whole charge for the repair of the roads, falls on the landowner; its object, therefore, is to tax the persons possessing apprenticed labourers, and thus make the charge more equal. It is, however, more than probable, that the whole system will be remodelled, there being a notice of a Bill to that effect now before the Legislature.

(signed) *R. Bowcher Clarke.*

7 Feb. 1837.

## — No. 628.—

No. 628. EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *Evan J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., dated Downing-street, 29 April 1837.

"I HAVE the honour to transmit to you an Order of His Majesty in Council, dated the 26th instant, leaving to its operation the following Act passed by the Legislature of Barbados:

*Vide Appendix,*  
No. 199.

"No. 612. 'An Act to Assess the Proprietors of Apprenticed Labourers towards the Repair of the Public Roads.'"

## — No. 629.—

No. 629. COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart. to Lord *Glenelg*.  
(No. 116.)

My Lord,

Government-House, Barbados, 24 May 1837.

No. 1 to 5.

THE enclosed papers relate to an appeal against the classification of a female apprenticed labourer, named Rebecca.

Mr. Special Justice Garraway (Enclosure No. 2) describes this case as having arisen in consequence of Rebecca's application to be appraised as a non-prædial, her owner claiming her services as a prædial apprentice; and the special justice "thinks that Rebecca should have been classed originally as non-prædial, according to the oath contained in clause 3 of the amended Act, and that the valuation of her unexpired term of apprenticeship should consequently be made as non-prædial."

The oath referred to is as follows: "I, *A. B.* do swear, that the distinctions made in the return now presented by me of the classes of apprenticed labourers, to which such of the respective slaves therein named belong, correspond with the occupations usually performed by such apprenticed labourers in their state of slavery for twelve months previous to the 28th day of August 1833."

The Solicitor-general, whose opinion is given at length in enclosure No. 4, observes,

observes, that for the greater portion of this time, she (Rebecca) has been hired to herself, an indulgence which ought not to be turned to the employer's disadvantage, and which, of course, put an end to her occupation on the estate. Now, the only occupation in which she has been employed is prædial labour; there is no proof of a day's employment, by those interested in her services, as a domestic; and this being the case, I do not see how she could have been registered as a domestic.

Had Rebecca been engaged in prædial labour for 12 months previous to the 28th of August 1833, the circumstance of her having been subsequently hired to herself could not have removed her from the prædial class: but I confess it does not occur to me, that the determination of this case should depend upon the question of hiring.

The point to be ascertained under the Act is, what class of apprenticed labour corresponds with the occupation usually performed by Rebecca, in her state of slavery, for 12 months previous to the 28th day of August 1833.

The manager, John Gilkes, deposes, "Rebecca was staying with her grandmother previous to her coming to the estate in June 1833." The positive statement of Rebecca herself, "that Mr. Oxley (the chancellor) inquired as to what she, Rebecca, was; and Mr. Rock, the manager, said a domestic," does not seem shaken by the evidence of this former manager, who "cannot remember whether Mr. Oxley inquired from witness of what class Rebecca was; nor does he think he could have said a domestic, because Rebecca, during the period he remained on the estate, was always hired out," first, because the recollection of the witness is admitted by himself to be indistinct, and, secondly, because the hiring out of Rebecca could not define her class as an apprenticed labourer.

Mr. Gilkes, certainly, further affirms, that, "in June 1833, Mr. Gaskin took over the estate, and Rebecca was called up. Rebecca remained on the estate until November 1833. Witness put her to pick meat when she came home; cannot say whether Rebecca continued in this employment until he left in November 1833." But the only portion of time interesting to this inquiry, is that between August 1832 and August 1833; and allowing that she did pick meat, or grass, and act as a prædial apprentice from the 1st of June to the 28th August 1833, it appears clear that Rebecca did not so labour during the preceding nine months, from the 28th of August 1832 to the 31st of May 1833.

As the special magistrate has very properly remarked, "numerous appeals of a similar nature are likely to result from the present inquiry," I, therefore, solicit your Lordship's instructions for my future guidance.

In the meantime, directions have been issued, of which I hope your Lordship will not find cause to disapprove, to Mr. Garraway (Enclosure No. 5) to decide this case, according to his own original view of it, and I am happy to mention, that Mr. Clarke fully acquiesces in the expediency of this course, to which my inability to subscribe to his opinion has induced me to resort.

I have, &c.

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

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Enclosures in No. 629.

(No. 1.)

Enclosures in  
No. 629.

Sir,

District (E.), 19 May 1837.

I HAVE the honour to enclose a certified copy of a case of appeal against the classification of registry, lately preferred by a female apprentice, and have respectfully to request that his Excellency will be pleased to submit the same for the opinion of his Majesty's Solicitor-general.

I have, &c.

T. H. Ponsonby, Acting Priv. Sec.

(signed) *Joseph Garraway, S. J. P.*

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(No. 2.)

APPEAL of Rebecca, apprentice on Colleton estate, against certificate of registration produced by Nathaniel Fodringham, owner; which states her to be a prædial apprentice appellant, claiming the classification of non-prædial.

*Rebecca*

BARBADOS.

*Rebecca* sworn: states, that she never worked in the field up to this hour, and that, consequently, she was not employed in agriculture, or in any other prædial labour, during the year beginning with 28th August 1832 and ending 28th August 1833; that in or about the year 1833 she was hired out to herself, and her father paid the wages of one dollar per month, and that she always considered herself as a domestic; appellant adds, that when Mr. Fodringham, the present owner of Colliton's, was about purchasing the estate, the field-labourers were put on one side, and the domestics on the other, in which latter she was included; that Mr. Oxley (the chancellor) inquired as to what she, Rebecca, was, and Mr. Rock, the manager, said a "domestic;" she has continued to pay Mr. Fodringham one dollar per month for wages since he took possession until now.

her  
Rebecca x  
mark.

Sworn before me, this 9th day of May 1837,

(signed) *Joseph Garraway, S. J. P.*

Witnesses summoned for Complainant: John R. Gilkes and Joseph Rock.

Station House, Tuesday, 11 May 1837.

Defendant appeared this day, pursuant to summons, and appellant's deposition having been read, states, that when he purchased the estate, in September 1835, the apprentice, Rebecca, was included in the list of prædials attached; produces certificate of registration.

*John R. Gilkes*, sworn: Was manager of Colleton estate from November 1830 to November 1833; for a period of about 15 or 20 months after his management witness did not see Rebecca. In June 1833 Mr. Gaskin took over the estate, and Rebecca was called up; Rebecca remained on the estate until November 1833; witness put her to pick meat when she came home; cannot say whether Rebecca continued in this employment until he left in November 1833. Mr. Gaskin, after some time, agreed to allow the people who had before hired themselves out to do so again; Rebecca was one of the number; this happened previous to witness quitting the estate in November 1833.

*John R. Gilkes.*

Sworn before me, this 11th day of May 1837,

(signed) *Joseph Garraway, S. J. P.*

By Defendant.] From June 1833 to November 1833, Rebecca was not employed by witness as a domestic; believes that Mr. Gaskin brought home Rebecca when he took it over, and put her in the field, as a prædial, before he allowed her to be hired out again.

By Special Magistrate.] Rebecca was staying with her grandmother previous to her coming to the estate in June 1833, when Mr. Gaskin took it over.

Station-House, Monday, 15 May 1837.

*Joseph Rock*, sworn: Was manager of Colleton estate from November 1833 to October 1835; Rebecca was hired during the whole of the time; cannot remember whether Mr. Oxley inquired from witness of what class Rebecca was, nor does he think he could have said a domestic, because Rebecca, during the period he remained on the estate, was always hired out.

*Joseph Rock.*

Sworn before me, this 15th day of May 1837,

(signed) *Joseph Garraway, S. J. P.*

Certified to be a true Copy,

(signed) *Joseph Garraway.*

This investigation has arisen in consequence of Rebecca's application to be appraised as non-prædial, her owner claiming her services as prædial apprentice, per enclosed certificate. The opinion of his Majesty's Solicitor-general is requested, on account of the numerous appeals of a similar nature which are likely to result from the present inquiry. As far as the special magistrate is enabled to judge, he decidedly thinks that Rebecca should have been classed originally as non-prædial, according to the oath contained in clause 3 of the amended Act, and that the valuation of her unexpired term of apprenticeship should, consequently, be made as non-prædial.

19 May 1837.

(signed) *Joseph Garraway, S. J. P.*

(No. 3.)

MEMORANDUM.

THE Solicitor-general's opinion is requested on the enclosed case of an appeal against the classification of registry, by Rebecca, a female apprentice on Colleton estate, as received this day from Mr. J. Garraway, S. J. P. of District (E).

By command,

Private Secretary's Office,  
20 May 1837.

*T. H. Ponsonby, Acting Priv. Sec.*

(No. 4.)

THE law declares that no person shall be included in the class of prædials unless such persons shall have been habitually employed in agriculture, &c. for 12 months preceding the 28th of August 1833; and it is certainly incumbent on the person declaring Rebecca to belong to the prædial class to afford some proof of her occupation during the probationary period. The evidence is very unsatisfactory; for the greater portion of this time she has been hired to herself, an indulgence which ought not to be turned to the employer's disadvantage, and which, of course, put an end to her occupation on the estate. Now, the only occupation in which she has been employed is prædial labour; there is no proof of a day's employment, by those interested in her services as a domestic; and this being the case, I do not see how she could have been registered as a domestic; while I think it would be extremely unjust, because her employer did not actually compel her to labour in the field during the period alluded to, but allowed her to purchase exemption from that labour, and to have the benefit of her own time to consider that permission as sufficient evidence to set aside her registration, which appears to have been originally made *bonâ fide*. So far as her employment on the estate went, it was prædial, it ceased only when she was hired to herself, and I do not think that cessation for her own ease ought now to change her class, or deprive the employer of the benefit to be derived from her valuation as a prædial. I have, in consequence of the remark of the special justice, deferred my opinion on this case, in order that I might consider it in all its bearings, and I confess that it appears to me that I should be doing an injustice to the defendant if I came to the conclusion which authorized an alteration of the registry, where it was manifest that the only cause of the strictest letter of the law not being complied with was an accommodation to the complainant, obtained at her own request, and for her own benefit, and therefore not to be turned to his wrong.

22 May 1837.

(signed) R. Boucher Clarke.

(No. 5.)

Sir,  
THE Governor has referred the case of Rebecca, a female apprenticed labourer, to the Solicitor-general, agreeably to the request preferred by you in your letter of the 19th instant; but notwithstanding that law officer's opinion, his Excellency approves of your acting on your own impression, that this female should have been originally classed as a non-prædial apprentice, which you will be pleased to do accordingly, leaving to the defendant, should he think proper, to appeal from your decision in the mode prescribed by the Abolition Act.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) T. H. Ponsonby,  
Acting Priv. Sec.Joseph Garraway, Esq., S. J. P.  
&c. &c. &c.

— No. 630. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord Glenelg to Governor Sir E. J. Murray  
MacGregor, Bart.

No. 630.

(No. 47.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 27 July 1837.

I HAVE received your despatch (No. 116) of the 24th May, with its enclosures, relating to an appeal against the classification of a female apprenticed labourer, named Rebecca.

It appears, from these papers, that Rebecca claims to be appraised as a non-prædial apprentice, and that Mr. Garraway, the special justice, concurs in the justice of that claim. On the other hand, her owner claims her services as a prædial apprentice, and he is supported in his view of the case by the opinion of the Solicitor-general of Barbados, who had been consulted on the subject.

You state, that directions have been issued to Mr. Garraway, the special justice, to decide this case according to his own original view of it; and, adverting to the probability that numerous appeals of a similar nature are likely to result from the present inquiry, you solicit my instructions for your future guidance.

I have to express my concurrence in, and adoption of, your opinion on this case, although opposed to that of the Solicitor-general of Barbados, from whom I must at all times differ with regret and reluctance. There is no proof that Rebecca was habitually employed as a field-labourer during the year which immediately preceded the enactment of the slavery abolition law. There is, on the other hand, conclusive proof that, during the greater part of that year, she was otherwise employed. It is admitted that, under these circumstances, the text and letter of the law entitled her to be classed as a non-prædial apprenticed labourer.

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But

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But it is urged that her former owner might have employed her in the field ; that her employment in a different manner was an act of kindness ; and that it would be unjust if she should be now permitted to found upon it a title injurious to his interests. To this argument there would appear to be more than one conclusive answer : First, considerations of this nature cannot be admitted to defeat the unequivocal and plain terms of a statute. Secondly, the alleged kindness of the motive for exempting Rebecca from field-labour is not very clearly established ; at least it is not shown that it involved any sacrifice of the owner's interests. Instead of exacting her services, he accepted from her a monthly payment of a dollar ; and it is not shown that she would have earned more for him by working in the field-gang. But, thirdly and chiefly, it is a mistake to suppose that Parliament intended to confer on the non-prædial slaves any advantage which was denied to the prædials, or that, by being classed among the former, Rebecca can be considered as obtaining any benefit, or her employer as incurring any loss. Whether the views of the authors of that statute may, in this respect, have been just or otherwise, it is for the present purpose needless to inquire ; as there can be no doubt of the fact, that the indefinite term of daily service, which they exacted from the non-prædial class, was considered as an equivalent for the shorter term of their apprenticeship. Therefore the Solicitor-general's argument, that the employer would be made the sufferer by his own kindness to Rebecca, proceeds on the inadmissible assumption that the one condition of apprenticeship was really more disadvantageous to the employer than the other.

For these reasons, I have to convey to you my approval of your decision in this case.

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

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— No. 631. —

No. 631. COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. Murray MacGregor*, Bart., to Lord *Glenelg.*  
(No. 49.)

Government-House, Barbados,  
26 Dec. 1836.

Nos. 1 and 2.

My Lord,  
I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the charge of the chief justice, and reply of the grand jury, at the sessions held in Bridgetown during the present month.

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

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Enclosures in No. 631.

(No. 1.)

Enclosures in  
No 631.

CHARGE of his Honor Mr. Chief Justice *Oxley* to the Grand Jury, and their Reply ;  
Sessions held in Bridgetown, between the 12th and 17th December 1836.

His Honor the Chief Judge's Speech.

Mr. Foreman, and Gentlemen of the Grand Jury,

I HAVE great pleasure in recognising in the grand inquest of the island gentlemen of such tried experience and sound judgment, whose characters stand high in this community for integrity and firmness, and who I feel assured will perform their important duties with satisfaction to the public, uninfluenced by prejudice or partiality.

It is a subject of sincere regret that the calendar exhibits so great a number of indictments, many of them of an atrocious nature. Whilst, however, I congratulate the country on the absence of that most heinous of crimes, rape, for the suppression of which it has been found necessary to inflict the severest penalties of the law, I feel it my duty to impress most forcibly upon your minds the great majority of offences charged for house-breaking and larcenies ; these crimes are more than likely to increase, if not timely repressed by exemplary punishment, and by stronger enactments than at present exist for their prevention.

I feel it almost unnecessary, gentlemen, to advert to the security with which ourselves and families have hitherto retired to our beds, without anxiety or uneasiness for our persons

sons or properties, and with a perfect conviction of safety and protection; when, however, we reflect that previous to the recent change in our social system most of those offences which now swell the calendar never reached the public eye, but were punished in a mild and summary manner by our former species of patriarchal government, it is not matter of surprise that crime has apparently been on the increase amongst our dense and unenlightened population since the abolition of colonial slavery.

An important change has certainly been effected in the moral and religious conduct and feelings of our apprenticed labourers by the zealous and persevering exertions of the Lord Bishop of the diocese, and his able assistants, the archdeacon and clergy of the island. Let us therefore indulge the hope, that, at no distant period, their continued pious labours will be crowned with the success which they so deservedly merit.

Our gracious Sovereign, endeared to West Indians by the reminiscences of his early life, with a paternal solicitude for the welfare of the whole, has been pleased to remove from the government of this colony to that of Jamaica his Excellency Sir Lionel Smith, at a period when, by his firm but conciliating conduct, everything was working well for the interests of all classes. Much as we must at this crisis deplore the loss of one of the best friends of the island, we have great cause of gratulation in the arrival of a successor in his Excellency Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor, a gentleman equally distinguished by his military reputation, and his civil political experience, and whose anxiety for the public good, so frequently evinced since his accession to this government, is an assurance to us that he will pursue that impartial line of conduct, which won our esteem, and produced such a general feeling of regret for the loss of his predecessor.

A bountiful and omnipotent Providence has been mercifully pleased, since the commencement of our new system of agricultural labour, to bless this productive little country with happiness, peace, and plenty; and the wisdom and energy of the several branches of the Legislature, seconded by the practical knowledge and discretion of many of our influential agriculturists, have provided, and reduced to practice, such remedies as are likely to insure a continuance of those blessings with which we have been so abundantly favoured.

We have for a considerable period been anticipating a change in our colonial jurisprudence, which will relieve the civilians of this island of those onerous duties which, from immemorial usage, they have to perform, in discharging the office of chief justice of our criminal courts. It is, however, gratifying to know that his Majesty's Solicitor-general, the Hon. R. B. Clarke, will, with his acknowledged probity and ability, solve any difficulties that you may feel it necessary to submit to his consideration.

It will be your duty, gentlemen, to examine into the state and discipline of the prison, to present all nuisances and other public abuses, and to suggest the adoption of such measures as are best calculated to increase the peace and prosperity of this ancient and loyal colony.

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(No. 2.)

The following is the Reply of the Grand Jury to the Charge of the Chief Justice.

May it please your Honor,

The duties for which we are selected on the opening of the court of grand sessions having been brought to a close, we now offer to your Honor our best thanks for the excellent charge you were pleased to make to us as the grand inquest of the island.

We cordially respond to your Honor's congratulation on the absence at the present court of that most heinous of crimes, rape; but we regret that the many examples which have been made of late for its suppression, in inflicting the heaviest penalties of the law on several criminals, have not had the effect of thoroughly checking the foul disposition to perpetrate the offence, an attempt to commit this disgraceful crime having been brought under our consideration.

It is to us a painful reflection that so many cases of housebreaking and larcenies have been the subject of investigation at the present court; and we fear that offences of this nature are likely to increase, from the circumstance of the lower orders of society being too much given to nightly meetings for dancing and gambling, which, leading them into expenses beyond their means, robberies are resorted to, to uphold them in their unlawful practices; and unless a check be put to these demoralizing meetings, it is doubtful whether "the security with which ourselves and families have hitherto retired to our beds" will much longer be enjoyed by us, without "anxiety or uneasiness for our persons or property."

Although the cases of offences placed on the calendar are numerous, yet they do not furnish the means of correctly ascertaining whether crime is on the increase, since the recent change in our social system necessarily brings under public notice many offences which, in slavery, were disposed of by the master.

We have much pleasure in concurring with your Honor, that the zealous and persevering exertions of our Lord Bishop, and his able assistants, the archdeacon and clergy of the island, have produced an important change in the moral and religious conduct and feelings of our apprenticed labourers; and we sincerely hope their continued pious labours will be crowned with the success which they so deservedly merit.

In deploring, as we do, the loss which this island has sustained, at a most critical period, in the removal, by our gracious Sovereign, of his Excellency Sir Lionel Smith from this

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government to that of Jamaica, yet we are consoled in having as his successor his Excellency Sir E. J. Murray MacGregor, who has, since his arrival amongst us, evinced such anxiety for the public good, that we augur the happiest results from his administration.

We are gratefully thankful to a kind and merciful Providence for the blessings of happiness, peace, and plenty, which we have enjoyed since the commencement of our new system of agriculture; and we look with confidence to the wisdom and energy of our Legislature to apply such remedies as may, from time to time, be found wanting to insure the successful working of the great experiment of slave emancipation.

Whilst we congratulate the country on the intended change in our colonial jurisprudence, to place a professional judge in the chair, which we have pleasure in remarking has been so ably filled by your Honor during the present sessions, we should do an act of injustice to those gentlemen who have hitherto been called on to preside at this court, were we to withhold from them our grateful acknowledgments of the integrity of purpose which has ever marked their conduct in the discharge of the arduous duties confided to them.

It is gratifying to us to assure your Honor that our labours in investigating the several cases submitted to us by the court have been greatly lightened by the clear and ready explanations of his Majesty's Solicitor-general, the Hon. R. Bowcher Clarke, in all cases of difficulty; and we beg to return to that highly-talented gentleman our heartfelt thanks for the valuable assistance he has on this occasion extended to us, and to the country at large, and we fervently hope that he may long live for the benefit of this his native isle.

We beg to report to your Honor, that we have minutely inspected the gaol, and we willingly accord to that most excellent public officer, Benjamin Walrond, Esq., and his under officers, our testimony of the cleanliness and excellent management we observed in the various departments of the prison. The country is much indebted to the Board of superintending commissioners for the very judicious arrangements which they have made in the building; and when the solitary cells, which are about to be constructed, shall be completed, so as to afford increased means of restraining the more refractory and hardened of its inmates, there can be no doubt that our prison discipline will be greatly improved.

In now taking leave of your Honor, we do so with the warmest good wishes for a continuance of health, to enable your Honor to give your native country the benefit of your valuable services.

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— No. 632. —

No. 632.

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

(No. 146.)

My Lord,

Government-House, Barbados, 24 June 1837.

Nos. 1 and 2.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the charge of the chief justice, and reply of the grand jury, at the sessions held in Bridgetown, during the present month.

Of six prisoners, continued from the sessions of December 1836, four were discharged for want of prosecution, &c., the indictment of one was ignored, and one sentenced to two years' imprisonment, with hard labour, and to be three times publicly flogged, 39 stripes each time.

Of 70 prisoners in June 1837, there have been

Discharged for want of prosecution, &c.	-	-	-	-	17
Indictments ignored	-	-	-	-	6
Bailed	-	-	-	-	1
Continued and remanded	-	-	-	-	7
Recognizances forfeited	-	-	-	-	9
Sentenced to two years' imprisonment, with hard labour, and to be three times publicly flogged, 39 stripes each time	-	-	-	-	8
Sentenced to two years' imprisonment, with hard labour	-	-	-	-	2
Ditto to 12 months' imprisonment, with hard labour	-	-	-	-	5
Ditto to six months' imprisonment, with hard labour	-	-	-	-	2
Ditto to three months' imprisonment, with hard labour	-	-	-	-	1
Ditto to 12 months' imprisonment	-	-	-	-	1

*Female Prisoners.*

Sentenced to two years' imprisonment, with hard labour	-	7
Ditto to three months' imprisonment, with hard labour	-	2
Ditto to six months' imprisonment	-	1

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Total - - - 69

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Conformably

Conformably with the Act authorizing the employment of the prisoners upon public works, those confined in gaol, and sentenced to hard labour, are divided into three distinct classes.

“ Class the first, to consist of all able-bodied, and convicted male felons, who, when employed on public works without the prison walls, shall be secured by such or similar fetters as are used for convicts in England, the same to be furnished at the public expense; the said felons also to be clothed in a party-coloured dress and cap, which they must be compelled to wear, and which are also to be furnished at the public cost.”

“ The second class, to consist of all able-bodied male prisoners, under sentence of hard labour, who are not felons, to be worked as aforesaid, without any fetters, or party-coloured clothing, but to be provided, at the public expense, with proper and suitable clothing, when necessary for decency and comfort.”

“ The third class, to consist of all female prisoners under sentence of hard labour, to be worked in the gaol alone, in the breaking of stone, or such other labour as the commissioners may from time to time direct.”

Of the prisoners sentenced to be flogged, the stripes have been entirely remitted in two instances, and the second and third portions of the rest will also be remitted, unless they very seriously misconduct themselves as prisoners. Fetters and party-coloured dress have been dispensed with in the case of four male convicts. The hard labour of one of the male, and of four of the female prisoners, has been remitted; half the time of one male has been remitted, and that of four of the female prisoners is likewise to be reduced, unless they shall seriously misconduct themselves.

No prisoners have been condemned to transportation; but one, I regret to say, is now under sentence of death, having been convicted of shooting, with intent to kill; and of those remanded, two are private soldiers accused of murder.

It is satisfactory, however, to be enabled to solicit your Lordship's attention to the observation of Sir Reynold Alleyne, who presided as chief justice, in that honourable baronet's charge to the jury, that “ whilst the calendar exhibits many serious offences, yet the great diminution, both in number of criminals and in capital offences, since the last assizes, justifies the conclusion, that by the salutary administration of the laws a great and radical reform is working in all classes of the community.”

I have, &c.

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

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Enclosures in No. 632.

(No. 1.)

The Chief Justice's Charge to the Grand Inquest, held at Bridgetown,  
Tuesday, June 13, 1837.

Enclosures in  
No. 632.

Mr. Foreman, and Gentlemen of the Grand Jury,

A COINCIDENCE of circumstances, over which I have had no control, has placed me once more in this chair. If an ardent desire to faithfully discharge the important duties of chief justice, if a mind unbiassed by any prejudices, and a firm reliance in an all-wise Providence to direct and guide me, can avail, I venture to hope, that with the assistance of an enlightened bench, my labours will be beneficial to my country, and that the sentences of the court will tend to correct crime and immorality, and thereby advance virtue and good order amongst all classes of society.

There is no country more famed than this is for the ability and integrity of its grand juries: and I feel confident, Mr. Foreman and Gentlemen of the Grand Jury, that you will give such unremitting attention to the indictments presented to you by his Majesty's Attorney-general, that you will neither suffer an innocent person to be arraigned at the bar of this court, nor a guilty one to escape a trial for any offence committed against the laws of the country. Should any legal difficulties arise in the course of your investigations, I refer you to the court, confident, as I am, that under its peculiar construction, it will receive every assistance and advice from my learned friend, his Majesty's Solicitor-general, who, to great patriotism, unites candour, firmness of character, and extensive legal knowledge. Whilst the calendar exhibits many serious offences, yet the great diminution, both in number of criminals and of capital offences, since the last assizes, justifies me in the conclusion, that by the salutary administration of the laws a great and radical reform is working in all classes of this community. I cannot, gentlemen, forbear to congratulate you on the present prosperous state of our island. We have lived in awful times, but whilst



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we have lived to deplore some of the dispensations of Providence, yet in His judgment He hath not forgotten mercy. Under the efficient and zealous labours of our highly-talented, learned, and justly-esteemed diocesan, assisted by an active and intelligent body of clergy, we have seen our parish churches raised from their mouldering ruins into edifices far better adapted than heretofore to the improved and changed state of our dense population. Chapels have been erected in every direction, and Christianity is spreading its benign and salutary influence throughout our native land. Under these very favourable circumstances, and blessed as we are with a Governor, whose valour as a soldier entitled him to the patronage and favourable consideration of his most gracious Majesty, and who has proved himself well worthy of the important trust confided in him, by exercising his talents and judgment to promote the best interests of all classes of this community, I venture to affirm we shall gradually emerge from our present state to the far more desirable one of free labour, without sustaining those serious losses, and witnessing convulsions, which under a less judicious, vigorous, and impartial administration, might justly have been apprehended.

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(No. 2.)

The following is the Reply of the Grand Jury to the Chief Justice's Charge.

May it please your Honor,

WE, the Grand Inquest, beg leave to return your Honor our unfeigned acknowledgments for the very comprehensive charge you were pleased to deliver to us on the commencement of this session, and sincerely hope it is the will of an all-wise Providence that you may live long to enjoy your health, and continue to preside as chief justice, when called upon, for the benefit of your native country.

As your Honor was pleased to call upon us to discharge the important duties of grand jurors, we accepted the trust, and have endeavoured to perform it to the best of our abilities, and, we hope, to the satisfaction of your Honor and the court, having suffered neither an innocent person to be arraigned at the bar of the court, nor a guilty one to escape the ends of justice for any offence he may have committed against the laws of his country. We also trust that the examples of punishment made during the sitting of this court may tend to the diminution of crime, and thereby promote religion and virtue among all classes of our society.

We cannot but respond to the sentiments expressed by your Honor, that through the zeal and energies of the Lord Bishop and the clergy, we have seen our churches once more raised from their ruins, and other places of worship erected for the promotion of Christianity. The Grand Inquest cannot fail equally to acquiesce with your Honor in the encomiums you have been pleased to pass upon our highly-esteemed and excellent Governor.

In conclusion, the Grand Inquest hope, by their own humble exertions, and the able assistance they have received from their very talented countryman, his Majesty's Solicitor-general, upon the delivery of the various indictments committed to their charge, they have prosecuted and terminated their labours with diligence, fidelity, and impartiality.

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— No. 633. —

No. 633.

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

(No. 50.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 12 August 1837.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch (No. 146) of the 24th of June, enclosing the charge of the chief justice, and the reply of the grand jury, at the sessions held during that month.

It is very gratifying to me to be assured, on the authority both of yourself and of the presiding judge, that there is reason to indulge the hope that a great diminution has taken place in the amount of crime committed in Barbados; a fact the more important, because the calendar, even in its reduced state, exhibits a most formidable catalogue of offences against the law.

I entirely approve, as far as I have the means of estimating, the measures taken by you for disposing of the prisoners, and I trust that their labour on the public works will be conducted under such a careful superintendence, as may render it effectual for the great end of deterring others from the commission of similar crimes. With this view, it will be necessary to maintain a strict discipline, and, if possible, the observance of entire silence, among the convicts, during the hours of labour.

I regret

I regret that you should have been subjected to the necessity of mitigating the sentences of the court in so many cases. I have not the least reason to doubt the propriety of those mitigations, or what is, in effect, the same thing, the undue severity of the sentences; but it appears to me unfortunate that the Executive Government and the judicial authorities should thus frequently be placed in a contrast invidious to the latter. Perhaps you will be able to enter into a confidential communication with the judges on this subject.

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

TABLE (B.)

RETURN of the Number, and Effect of the Returns of PUNISHMENTS, received by the Governor of Barbados from the Special Magistrates, from 1 June 1836 to 31 May 1837.

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.					
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	June -	68,552	1,124	1 1/2	16	573	535	14	30	3 months - - - -	6 weeks on the treadmill.
	July -	68,432	1,495	2 1/4	20	765	710	3	20	1 month - - - -	21 days' treadmill.
	August -	68,437	1,112	1 1/2	19	603	490	15	39	6 weeks - - - -	30 days' treadmill.
	September -	*57,135	1,223	2 1/2	14	598	611	12	20	1 month - - - -	6 weeks on treadmill.
	October -	*57,037	993	1 3/4	17	511	465	21	39	-- 1 month, with hard labour, and 14 days' solitary.	-- 3 months' hard labour, and 39 stripes on the estate.
	November	68,090	1,571	2 1/4	16	744	811	12	20	6 weeks on treadmill - -	2 months on treadmill.
	December	67,939	1,109	1 3/4	24	561	524	20	20	1 month, with hard labour -	-- To forfeit two months' extra wages; 1 month's hard labour on treadmill; 21 days' hard labour on treadmill, and deprived of 5 months' extra pay as watchman; to give 20 extra Saturdays.
	1837 :										
	January -	67,899	1,212	1 3/4	34	621	557	13	30	- - month's imprisonment, with hard labour; 6 weeks' solitary.	- 2 months' wages stopped; 1 month's confinement, with hard labour.
	February	67,755	1,060	1 1/2	38	498	524	16	30	-- 2 months' confinement, and to be worked on treadmill during that time daily; 60 days' hard labour, and one month's solitary confinement.	-- 6 weeks' hard labour on treadmill, with solitary confinement.
March -	67,682	868	1 1/4	14	438	426	15	30	-- 1 month's treadmill; 6 weeks' treadmill.	-- 8 Saturdays to estate; to forfeit 3 months' wages; prolongation of a female apprentice's term of apprenticeship, after the 1 August 1840, for 2 1/2 years, for absence from her employer since August 1834 to 17 February 1837.	
April -	67,549	1,111	1 1/2	50	551	510	16	35	- 1 month's treadmill; 1 month's labour on public roads; 21 days' confinement, with hard labour; 1 month's imprisonment, and to be worked on treadmill.	- - 3 weeks' confinement to hard labour; to forfeit 3 months' wages; to give 6 Saturdays' labour to the estate; 30 stripes, and 4 weeks' hard labour in penal gang.	
May -	67,264	1,193	1 1/2	36	537	620	17	35	- - 1 month's confinement, with hard labour; 2 months' ditto, ditto.	- 1 month on treadmill; 1 month on public road; to forfeit 1 month's wages; 30 stripes, and 4 weeks' hard labour in penal gang, for 2 months' absence, and resisting police officer with a drawn knife.	

\* The discrepancy in the return of population between this and last month's Abstract is occasioned by no Table (A.) having been received from District (E.), the magistrate in charge of that district having died early in the month, and the gentleman appointed to succeed him not yet having arrived in the Island.

## BRITISH GUIANA.

BRITISH  
GUIANA.

No. 634.

(No. 179.)

—No. 634.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *J. Carmichael Smyth*, Bart., K.C.B.,  
to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 27 June 1836.

Vide App. No. 199.

I HAVE great pleasure in laying before your Lordship the accompanying authenticated copy of an ordinance for the better regulation of the respective duties of masters and articed servants in British Guiana. I have very little doubt but that the several enactments of this ordinance (prepared as they are in a spirit of perfect equality and reciprocity in compelling the performance of the engagements by which the parties in question may severally be bound) will meet with His Majesty's most gracious approbation.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

No. 635.

(No. 163.)

—No. 635.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *J. Carmichael Smyth*, Bart., K.C.B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 31 October. 1836.

I HAVE received your despatch, dated the 27th of June, No. 179, enclosing an ordinance enacted by yourself, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy of British Guiana, on the 22d of that month, for the better regulation and enforcement of the relative duties of masters and employers, and articed servants, tradesmen, and labourers in British Guiana.

This ordinance has appeared to me to require more than ordinary attention, because the effect of it is to regulate the relations which are to subsist between the proprietors of estates and the labouring population after the close of the system established by the Act of Parliament for the abolition of slavery. Whatever measures may be taken, and whatever principles may be sanctioned on this subject in any one colony, will necessarily form a precedent for imitation in any other, and no question of this nature can therefore be viewed in its bearing upon the particular settlement only in which it may have originated.

The general effect of this ordinance may, with little inaccuracy, be said to be to continue, in respect of all persons who shall enter into indentures of apprenticeship, the existing relations between the employer and the apprenticed labourer, although without the intervention of a special magistracy. The most material exception is, that the apprenticeship to be constituted under this ordinance would not render the apprentice liable to personal chastisement in case of misconduct.

If any large proportion of the whole society should be placed in this new state of apprenticeship, I should regard the continuance of the special magistracy as an indispensable part of the scheme, and if, as is far more probable, the whole number of apprentices should be comparatively very small, yet still I should consider it necessary that a proportionate number of special magistrates should be maintained for their protection.

It should be an essential part of such a law as the present, to except from its operation any person brought as an apprentice from Africa. If, under that name, labourers should be recruited on any part of the African coast, the consequence would inevitably be a direct encouragement to the slave trade in the interior, and a plausible, if not a just, reproach against this country of insincerity in our professions on that subject.

A further condition must be, that no person imported as an apprentice from any other British colony should be liable to serve in Guiana for any longer period than that in which the value of his service should repay the cost of the advances made for his voyage; and upon the repayment of that cost, by that or any other means, such a person should always be at perfect liberty to quit the colony. In the absence of such regulations, the older colonies may be deprived

deprived of their adult and most valuable male population, by exaggerated or false accounts of the prospects awaiting them in Guiana. Hence, as I have ample cause to know, will arise extreme discontents amongst the proprietors in those colonies; and hence, also, will follow restrictive and vexatious laws, designed to prevent such emigrations. The principle must be that of a perfect freedom in the choice of the place in which the emancipated slave may think proper to settle himself and to earn his living. We have no right to confine him to a single colony, if his interests or inclinations are opposed to that confinement. But, on the other hand, it would be unjust to permit a Negro in the Bahamas, or Antigua, to whom Guiana is a remote, and unknown, and almost a foreign country, to fetter himself by an indissoluble contract for service there for a long course of years; he has nothing to learn as an apprentice, and can acquire, by removing to Guiana, no profitable art or knowledge. The single advantage must be that of earning better wages; and, if experience should teach him that even this advantage is unattainable, it would be unjust to hold him to a contract entered into on his part in inevitable ignorance.

The contract of apprenticeship is to continue as long as seven years. This, in the case of adults, seems a very protracted period, in a case where the labourer is to acquire no knowledge or skill which may not be completely taught in a very few months or weeks. There is no species of human labour more rude than that of a plantation Negro. An apprenticeship of three or four years would, I apprehend, fully answer every useful purpose.

I do not perceive that any security is taken in case of agreements entered into beyond the limits of the colony, against the terms of them being misunderstood by the apprentice, and inaccurately defined in the body of the instrument. Yet in such contracts, which are to affect the condition of the party for the whole of his life, such precautions are emphatically necessary.

Under these circumstances, I cannot announce to you at present His Majesty's confirmation of this ordinance. On an occasion of such importance, I think it probable that His Majesty will deem it right to consult his Privy Council, and to confirm this law, with such amendments as they may propose for His Majesty's approbation. In the meantime, it will have the effect of law in the colony; but it cannot be too generally known, that amendments, such as I have noticed, are not unlikely to be made. This may tend to check speculations, which, in the result, might be frustrated by a change in the law.

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

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— No. 636. —

No. 636.

(No. 264.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *J. Carmichael Smyth*, Bart., K.C.B. to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord, Camp House, Demerara, 22 December 1836.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 31st October, No. 163, relative to the ordinance passed in this colony on the 27th June last, regulating the relative duties of masters and articed servants.

I take the liberty of respectfully laying before your Lordship a detailed statement of the number of articed servants, who have been imported into this colony from the 1st August 1834 until the passing of the ordinance in question; as also from the period of the passing of the ordinance until the present date. Your Lordship will perceive that, out of a total of 1,336 individuals, only 15 are bound to serve for seven years; 22 are engaged for only six months; 320 for one year; 78 for two years; 78 for three years; 319 for four years; 432 for five years; only four for six years. The period of seven years is fixed in the ordinance as the maximum of the length of any engagement which the law will allow. Articed servants may and (as the Returns I have the honour to enclose clearly demonstrate) are, however, imported, subject to the shortest period of compulsory labour for which they may think proper to stipulate.

In the ordinance in question it has been my anxious endeavour to afford every protection to the articed servant, and, at the same time, to place in the power of the master the means of enforcing obedience, and of obtaining a reasonable quantity of work; some regulations were imperiously called for.

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No. 1.

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No. 2.



— No. 637. —

(No. 194.)  
COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *J. Carmichael Smyth*,  
Bart., K.C.B.

BRITISH  
GUIANA.

No. 637.

Vide App. No. 200.

Sir,  
I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an Order passed by His Majesty in Council, confirming, with amendments, as announced to you in my despatch of the 31st October last, an ordinance passed by yourself and the Court of Policy, on the 22d June 1836, intituled "An Ordinance for the better regulation and enforcement of the relative Duties of Masters and Employers, and Articled Servants, Tradesmen, and Labourers, in British Guiana."

Downing-street, 1 March 1837.

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

— No. 638. —

(No. 182.)  
COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *J. Carmichael Smyth*, Bart., K.C.B.,  
to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 638.

My Lord,  
I HAVE the honour to lay before your Lordship a circular letter addressed by my orders to the sheriffs and justices of this colony; the object of which, although not perhaps of any very great importance, yet, as being connected with the desirable object of doing away all remains and recollections of the former state of slavery, and introducing a kinder feeling between the employers and the labourers, has appeared to me as a matter not to be overlooked.

Camp House, Demerara, 7 July 1836.

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

Enclosure in No. 638.

Encl. in No. 638.

(Circular.)

Sir,  
THE Lieutenant-governor is very desirous that the word "Driver," as being so much connected with the former state of slavery, should be no longer made use of upon the estates; and that the word "Foreman," a term equally indicative of the duties to be performed, and more in unison with the present and future condition of the labourers, and more in accordance with their feelings, should be substituted.  
His Excellency requests of you to have the goodness to use your influence amongst the proprietors and managers in your district and neighbourhood, so as to bring about this desirable change with as little delay as possible.

Georgetown, 29 June 1836.

To His Honor the High Sheriff,  
and to each of the Sheriffs and Justices  
in British Guiana.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Henry John Baird*,  
Assistant Government Sec.

— No. 639. —

(No. 145.)  
COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *J. Carmichael Smyth*,  
Bart., K.C.B.

No. 639.

Sir,  
I HAVE had the honour to receive your despatch, No. 182, of the 7th of July, enclosing a copy of a circular letter which you had caused to be addressed to the sheriffs and justices of British Guiana, with a view to effect the substitution of a more appropriate designation than that of "Driver" for the persons entrusted with the supervision of the apprenticed labourers. In reply, I beg to convey to you my entire approval of this circular, and of the just and liberal motives by which it was suggested.

Downing-street, 29 August 1836.

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

— No. 640. —

(No. 184.)  
COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *J. Carmichael Smyth*, Bart., K.C.B.,  
to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 640.

My Lord,  
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 June.

Camp House, Demerara, 10 July 1836.

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

Enclosure in No. 640.

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 Henry Strutt, Esq.</i>	
1. Are the labourers in your district civil, contented, and cheerful?	Yes. I have visited and inspected the hospitals on 15 estates (names given in original report.)	They are.	Yes. I have visited 20 estates during the month (names given in original report.)
2. Have they performed their work during the last month with alacrity and goodwill?	In general the labour has been done willingly.	They have, with the exception of a small number of the people on plantation 'Clonbrock.'	Generally speaking, the work has been performed with 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.	On plantations 'Good Hope,' Mr. M'Turk, attorney; P. Ennis, manager;—'Spring Hall,' J. Jones, attorney; R. Trotman, manager;—'Strathhaven,' J. Stuart, attorney; G. Rankin, manager;—'Letter T', T. Rogers, proprietor, and J. Weespart, manager; the labour for a short time during the month was not readily performed.	On plantation 'Clonbrock,' as above stated, a few of the people have been very idle and obstinate, particularly during the early part of the month; they are, however, improving in their conduct.	Plantation 'Better Hope,' attorney, Dr. M'Turk; manager, J. Walker;—plantation 'Industry,' attorney, A. Simpson, Esq.; manager, J. Forte. On these estates the work has not been readily performed.
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?	Voluntary task-work is almost invariably performed by the apprenticed labourers, who however sometimes labour the seven and a half hours, as fixed by law.	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, from seven to half-past two. On plantation 'Fellowship' and 'Park Front,' the 45 hours is performed in five days. In case the labourers of plantation 'Helena' refuse to take task-work, they will have to lay-by in the middle of the day for an hour and a half. They now readily perform the task required of them.	The nominal hours are from seven to eleven, and from one to half-past four; but, on all the estates, the apprentices are allowed to leave the field when they have finished a reasonable portion of labour. I have known many to finish by ten or eleven o'clock.	Commence generally at seven, and go on until the finish.

Enclosure in No. 640.

SPECIAL JUSTICES in *British Guiana*, for the Month of *June* 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,	In general, they are. I have visited 10 estates and the hospitals thereon during the month (names given in original report.)	Yes, in general. I visited 26 estates during the month, (names given in original report,) and the hospitals belonging to 15, and many of them twice during the month; on all, the labourers, for the most part, seemed contented and happy, those on 'Schoonard,' 'Vive la Force,' and 'Potosi,' excepted.
With as much goodwill as might reasonably be expected.	Yes, generally. I have visited eight estates during the month (names given in original report.)	On some estates, they have not.	Yes, in most instances.
The work has been readily performed in my district.	Generally, no.	Yes. Plantations 'Peter's Hall,' 'Little Diamond,' 'Farm and Friendship,' and 'Garden of Eden,' (names of managers, &c., given in original report.)	The work has not been readily or willingly performed on plantation 'Schoonard,' or 'Potosi,' (names of managers, &c., given in original report.)
Task-work is resorted to on the estates in this division. The town mechanics work the legal time.	The seven and a half hours, as fixed by law.	The labourers prefer working the seven and a half hours per day, as fixed by law.	Task-work is generally resorted to.
On the estates in this division, the labourers usually begin about seven o'clock, or rather later, and lay-by as soon as their tasks are finished, which it generally is by one or two o'clock.	From seven A.M. to half-past two P.M. generally.	Generally from seven A.M. to half-past two P.M. There are no estates to which the latter part of this question applies.	Where task-work is not resorted to, from seven to eleven, and from twelve to half-past three.

(continued on page 448.)



June 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>J. W. Brittain, Esq.</i>
Answers to Question 1.  I have visited seven estates, and the hospitals thereon during the month (names given in original report); with the exception of the labourers on plantation 'Vreed-en-Hoop,' they appear contented and civil.	Perfectly so. During the month I have visited the hospitals of 22 estates on Leguan, 19 estates on Wakenhaan, and three on Hog Island, being all the estates in the district.	They are perfectly civil, and appear contented and cheerful. I visited 17 estates during the month, (names given in original report), and inspected the hospitals thereon, in which the sick, who are not numerous, are well taken care of.	Generally so, although on a few estates some attempts were made this month to resist the performance of the usual work, which were soon put down, without much severity.
Answers to Question 2.  Except on 'Vreed-en-Hoop,' the conduct of the apprenticed labourers has been most satisfactory.	Yes.	They have very generally.	With the before-mentioned exceptions, they have.
Answers to Question 3.  On 'Vreed-en-Hoop.'	No.	The work has not been unwillingly performed on any estate in this district.	On plantation 'Sparta' and 'Mainstay' several attempts were made this month on the part of both male and female apprenticed labourers to resist the performance of their accustomed and reasonable work. Thirty men belonging to Mr. C. Spencer's task-gang positively refused to leave this district, when ordered, both by their employer and by the magistrate, repeatedly. After three of them had received 15 stripes each, they all submitted peaceably. On the two estates the work required is now performed, after some examples of chastisement.
Answers to Question 4.  Except on plantation 'Vreed-en-Hoop,' task-work is generally resorted to throughout this district.	Task-work in general, and preferred by the labourers.	Task-work in general, and is preferred.	The scale of work for 7½ hours is general through the district; none remain the 7½ hours in the field, except on two cotton estates, and these only when picking or pruning.
Answers to Question 5.  With the exception of 'Vreed-en-Hoop,' the apprenticed labourers generally take task-work, and return home as soon as finished, or remain to work their Negro ground.	The hours are from six to twelve; one, two, three, four, five, and six, according to circumstances, and the bargain made: they work as they like.	They usually 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.	The day's work is never broken by the employer.

DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Macleod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Rijck de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. J. Candlin, Esq.</i>
They are generally, with the exception of the Balthayock people. Ill health and the horrible state of the roads prevented me visiting the whole of the estate this month.	They are. I have visited all the estates in the district, and have received most favourable accounts from most of them.	The labourers are civil, and tolerably contented.	Yes, with few exceptions.
Yes, with the exception of some idle characters, chiefly from Blairmount and the Balthayock people.	In most instances.	In general they have; and as it is now 'coffee pick,' the labourers make a good deal of money in their extra hours.	I have every reason to be satisfied with the manner in which they have conducted themselves.
Only with regard to a few, with the same exceptions as above.	On plantation 'High-bury.'	Generally it has; in the best gangs there are indifferent subjects; such of course excepted.	No.
Yes, generally; it is preferred by the labourers.	Task-work is generally resorted to.	On some estates task-work; on others, the labourers prefer the 7½ hours per day.	Task-work is general.
From seven or half-past seven, till their tasks are finished; and optional whether they rest or not.	From seven A.M. till the day's labour is performed.	From seven A.M. till the labour is completed.	Commence about seven, and finish without laying-by.

June 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>	
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.	Those employed in the manufacture of sugar invariably perform extra labour for hire, earning from 2s. 2d. to 4s. 4d. per week, paid on demand. Reasonable wages and prompt payment have been offered for the performance of field labour on 'La bonne Mère,' 'Strathhaven,' and 'Melville;' the male labourers at the former have accepted, at 2 guilders for a day's labour; on the others they have refused, where 1 ½ guilder has been offered.	On all the estates the people employed about the buildings and in the boiling-houses perform extra labour for hire. Their earnings are generally about two or three guilders per week each. The payments are usually made monthly.	On all the estates in the manufacture of sugar, and on the coffee and cotton plantations, during crop-time, the labourers work extra for hire; also in the punts.
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 instance of insubordination on plantation 'La bonne Mère,' where resistance was made by the individual to the authority of the constable.	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 the estates mentioned in Query 3, was so general, that I attributed it to combination.	Nil.	On plantation 'Better Hope,' 'Industry,' the misconduct of the labourers has been general; a combination not to perform a reasonable portion of work. On the other estates by 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?	The attendance of the labourers at church has not been very good; that of the children at school has been equal to the accommodation open to them.	It has.	It has been very 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 : One - - - 15 stripes. One - - - 30 ditto. One - - - 35 ditto.	Five : One - - 18 stripes. Two - - 12 ditto each. One - - 10 ditto. One - - 8 ditto.	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 1s. sterling per hour for each individual labourer been levied?	Two overseers have been fined during the month. One of plantation 'Helena,' for illegally placing a female in confinement, and the other of plantation 'Melville,' for beating a male apprenticed labourer.	There have been none.	None.

DISTRICT (C.)			DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN.	RIVER.	UPPER RIVER.	Capt. Allen.
George Ross, Esq.	Capt. Delafons, R. N.	Capt. Coleman.	
Extra work for hire is universally done about the buildings, during the grinding, at the rate of 1½ to 3 bits per day; payment prompt. On plantation 'Sophia' coffee is picked for hire during the crop season.	On 'Houston' there are some who work extra for hire, and are paid weekly. On the estates they have chiefly been employed picking coffee, and although they have not worked more than 7½ hours, yet a bit a basket for coffee is given to them that bring that quantity over on several estates.	Yes, generally about the buildings; and on some estates they have taken extra labour in the field at from three bits to one guilder per day's work; prompt payment.	On 14 estates during the manufacture of sugar; on 19 coffee estates, during crop time. Wages vary. (The names of estates given in original report.)
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.	I attribute the disposition latterly manifested by the whole of the women gang on plantation 'Schoonoord' (a disposition to insubordination, in not doing a reasonable portion of work, and not remaining in the field the 7½ hours prescribed by law) to a rooted dislike of their manager and overseers, and too much work being demanded from them, in consequence of which they did too little. On plantation 'Potosi' it arose from the same cause,
There has been no combination or conspiracy.	When such occurrences have taken place, it is to be attributed only to the idle and disorderly.  duce me to attribute it to combination not to perform a fair and reasonable proportion of labour.	There have been many complaints against idle and disorderly apprentices, and on some estates they have been so general as to induce me to attribute it to combination not to perform a fair and reasonable proportion of labour.  with respect to the manager, added to the general treatment of the sick, or of those who complained of being so. In all other cases complaints have only been made against a few disorderly apprentices.	On plantation 'Potosi' it arose from the same cause, with respect to the manager, added to the general treatment of the sick, or of those who complained of being so. In all other cases complaints have only been made against a few disorderly apprentices.
The places of worship and schools are well attended, and the accommodation quite sufficient.	Yes.	Yes.	It has diminished last month. Neither has been equal to the local accommodation.
None.	One - - 15 stripes.	Two : One - - - 20 stripes. One - - - 15 ditto.	One - - - 15 stripes.
None.	None.	No.	None.

(continued on page 452.)

June 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>
<i>Answers to Question 6.</i> Only about the buildings, such as boiler-men, firemen, engineers, &c. ; extra wages paid weekly, in silver.	Upon every estate in this district extra work is performed for hire; upon some the whole gang is paid, on others only the people about the buildings, and the cane cutters.	Extra labour for hire is general, but more universal in the boiling-house than in the field, and more willingly performed by the male than by the female labourers. I have, however, lately observed an increased inclination to work for hire, even in the field, which I attribute to the prompt payment now more generally adopted.	A great amount of extra labour is done in this district. Sometimes it is interrupted by ill-founded suspicions, arising from the labourers not being able to measure their own work or keep their own accounts. When these doubts are removed by the magistrate, they resume their work. This, I am happy to say, has been the case on one or two estates during the month.
<i>Ans. to Question 7.</i> On one plantation, 'Vreed-en-Hoop,' which, until within the last month, has been one of the most orderly estates in District (E.)	None.	None but individual instances of no importance.	As before stated, there are some cases of obstinate passive resistance to labour, but nothing like an attempt at forcible resistance.
<i>Answers to Question 8.</i> With respect to the above estate only.	It is only with respect to a few idle and disorderly labourers that complaints have been made.	Solely with respect to the latter.	At 'Sparta' and 'Mainstay' the resistance to labour was decidedly combined, although not general through the whole gang on either estate. On the former estate no cause has been assigned for the resistance. On the latter, it was expected as a not unusual consequence of a change of both the owner and manager of that property.
<i>Ans. to Question 9.</i> Yes.	The churches and schools are always well attended. There is a most lamentable deficiency of both.	As regular as, under all circumstances, can be expected.  dance at the evening schools not so general. The distances are generally too great for the children on week-days after their work.	The attendance of the apprenticed labourers at the parish church is great and regular. The attendance at the evening schools not so general. The distances are generally too great for the children on week-days after their work.
<i>Answers to Question 10.</i> Ten: Nine - - 39 stripes each. One - - 15 ditto. All on plantation 'Vreed-en-Hoop.'	Two - - 39 stripes each.	Four: Three - - - 39 each. One - - - 25 -	Twelve: One - 20 stripes. Nine - 15 ditto each. One - 10 ditto. One - 8 ditto.
<i>Answers to Question 11.</i> None.	No.	An employer up the River Essequibo and an overseer of a sugar estate have been punished for misconduct towards apprenticed labourers. There have been no instances of the latter.	None.

DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Macleod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Rijck de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. J. Candlin, Esq.</i>
Extra labour is not much required, except upon the sugar estates. Great encouragement has been given to it, however, by several; but by some, during the last month, it has been refused, on the plea that sufficient money is not offered.	On all sugar estates the persons employed about the buildings, and on all coffee estates.	The labourers are hired either to the proprietors to whom they belong, or to other estates, for reasonable wages and prompt payment.	Extra labour is general. Wages differ a little. In cutting canes the labourers can earn one guilder per diem.
Not by force; but several instances of resisting authority and insubordination, particularly by some of the Blairmount women and the Balthayock first-men gang.	No.	No.	None.
No, except with the Balthayock people; and they appear combined not to do their duty.	On Highbury the women have not been doing well.	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, within the pale of the Ordinance, No. 43.	No one instance of combination has appeared. The few complaints made are against idlers.
Yes.	It has.	I have heard nothing to the contrary.	The weather (and roads in the district) has been so bad as to prevent the attendance.
None.	None.	None.	None.
No.	One manager fined 14 guilders for confining an apprenticed labourer one night in the hospital. The foreman of the estate fined five guilders ten stivers for striking the same apprenticed labourer.	No.	No.

June 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>	
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 complaint was made by an apprenticed labourer of plantation 'Broom Hall' respecting his allowance of salt fish. Reference was made to me by the apprenticed labourers of plantation 'Helena' respecting their clothing. Justice was rendered to all the parties.	I have had a few minor complaints during the month, to each of which I gave my best consideration as they came before me; none were, however, of sufficient importance as to require particular mention here.	The complaints made to me have generally been by the idle apprentices, relative to being ordered to work by the medical attendant of the estates.
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?	They receive the same treatment as when in a state of slavery.	The free children are fed and clothed gratuitously, and have medical attendance in the hour of sickness.	They are fed and taken care of 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 on plantations 'Enmore' and 'Greenfield.' The former belongs to Mr. Porter, the latter to Mr. Glen.	No increase or decrease 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.	None.  (signed) <i>K. Heyland, S.J.P.</i>	I have none.  (signed) <i>Chas. Henry Strutt, S.J.P.</i>	The beginning of the month there appeared a little excitement among the people in this district. I attribute it in a great degree to a change of managers; it has, however, subsided, and everything remains tranquil and quiet at present.  (signed) <i>A. M. Lyons, S.J.P.</i>

DISTRICT (C.)			DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN.	RIVER.	UPPER RIVER.	Captain <i>Allen</i> .
<i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	Captain <i>Delafons, R. N.</i>	Captain <i>Coleman</i> .	
Four; three have been redressed, one in progress.	A complaint was made by an apprenticed labourer on plantation 'Werk-en-Rust' against Mr. J. Jones, proprietor; but as very heavy charges were made against the apprenticed labourer for ill-treating his horses and breaking his carriage, I advised a compromise, which was readily agreed to by the apprenticed labourer and by Mr. Jones, and consequently not entered into my record of complaints.	None.	Twenty-five complaints of different descriptions were made during the month; all have been inquired into (or are in progress of investigation) and redressed, to the best of my ability, when well founded.
None.	None.	No.	None.
The children are treated as formerly.	They are fed gratuitously from the stores of the estates.	As when in a state of slavery, except plantation 'Prosperity.'	No variation has taken place with regard to the answer to the above query during the last three months.
On two.	On 'Rome' and 'Houston,' and on 'Ruimveldt.'	On three; viz. 'Peter's Hall,' 'Perseverance,' and the 'Craig,' all under the management of the Rev. L. Strong.	Schools are established, or instruction given, on ten estates (names given in original report.)
Nil. (signed) <i>Geo. Ross,</i> S. J. P.	None. (signed) <i>Thos. Delafons,</i> S. J. P.	None. (signed) <i>Tho. Coleman,</i> S. J. P.	Recommends all sick houses to be put on one uniform regulation, &c. &c.  (signed) <i>J. A. Allen,</i> S. J. P.

(continued on page 456.)



June 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>Answers to Question 12.</p> <p>None, with the exception of plantation 'Vreed-en-Hoop,' inquired into by Mr. Special Justices Ross, Delafons, and myself.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Two complaints have been made, and two employers fined for assaults upon apprenticed labourers.</p>	<p>No complaints of this nature have been preferred.</p>
<p>Answers to Question 13.</p> <p>None.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Answers to Question 14.</p> <p>All the estates allow doctors to the unapprenticed children, and also nurses during the time the mothers are at work in the field. Plantations 'Best,' 'Vrees-en-Hoop,' and 'Lucken de Vrunden,' no food given to the unapprenticed children.</p>	<p>The children are taken care of as formerly on all estates in this district.</p>	<p>As when in a state of slavery.</p>	<p>A foolish opinion still prevails with many mothers of free children, which nothing I can say to them has as yet entirely dissipated, that by taking allowances of food and clothing for those children, they would compromise their freedom. Many have of late accepted these allowances, which are seldom refused when asked for by the mothers.</p>
<p>Answers to Q. 15.</p> <p>On six estates, (names given in original report.)</p>	<p>Two schools on 'Wake-naam'; three estates on 'Leguan' have a school between them.</p>	<p>On seven.</p>	<p>As yet only on one, 'Anna Regina'; preparations are, however, now making to establish them on other estates.</p>
<p>Answers to Question 16.</p> <p>Nil.</p> <p>(signed) <i>Spry Bartlet,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>Nil.</p> <p>report of the meritorious conduct of the apprenticed labourers generally, and of the harmony and good feeling prevalent amongst all classes in this district.</p> <p>no complaints; of the remainder, four sent only single cases each, and five estates, two cases each. Where they were most insubordinate, they appear now to have resumed their former industry and obedience.</p> <p>(signed) <i>George Killock,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>I have no observations to convey, unless to repeat my</p> <p>(signed) <i>G. Ball,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>Although considerable passive resistance to labour was offered last month, it was confined to very few estates. Half the estates in the district, as usual, sent</p> <p>(signed) <i>W. J. Brittain,</i> S. J. P.</p>

DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Macleod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A Van Ryck de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. J. Caudlin, Esq.</i>
<p>On the 21st, about twenty of the Balthayock first-men gang came to me, and stated they had too much work given them; I went to examine it carefully myself, and found they had not done half of a day's work for a week previous to the day they came to me, and that day they had finished their tasks in less than four hours, and the next day, when I went to the field, between eleven and twelve o'clock, I met them coming home, their work done (but very badly), and they did not begin before eight o'clock in the morning.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>None of any importance.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Generally the same as before the 1st August 1834.</p>	<p>As when in a state of slavery.</p>	<p>On most of the estates the children under six years old receive a 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; on all, the free children receive medical attendance.</p>
<p>On most of the estates there are schools among the labourers themselves. On several there are teachers engaged, and those where there is public worship.</p>	<p>Sunday-schools in chapels at New Amsterdam, Lonsdale, and Bleyendaal. A school has within the last month been established on Gladstone Hall, which is attended by the children of the neighbouring estates. A day-school in New Amsterdam, under the superintendence of the rector.</p>	<p>On five estates (names given in original report.)</p>	<p>One, on plantation Skeldon.</p>
<p>Nil.  (signed) <i>Geo. Rose,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>I cannot but express my regret that schools have  (signed) <i>J. Macleod,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>None.  (signed) <i>A Van Ryck de Groot,</i> S. J. P.</p>	<p>Nil.  (signed) <i>J. J. Caudlin,</i> S. J. P.</p>

(True Extracts.)

*Hv. D. B. Sidley,*  
Captain, 86th Regiment, Private Secretary.

BRITISH  
GUIANA.

No. 641.

— No. 641. —

(No. 193.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *J. Carmichael Smyth*, Bart., K. C. B.,  
to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 23 July 1836.

YOUR Lordship will be able to form your own opinion of the progress of religious and of moral feeling in this colony by an inspection of the enclosed Returns, showing the number of communicants who have received the Holy Sacrament during the last quarter; of the marriages which have taken place; of the numbers who have attended either daily, afternoon, or Sunday schools, according to circumstances, during the same period. To these documents I have the honour to refer your Lordship with much pleasure. The quarterly returns of convictions before the supreme criminal courts, and before the inferior criminal courts, will show your Lordship how very few crimes have been committed; and the returns of convictions before the special justices will afford to your Lordship data upon which the industry and regular habits of the apprenticed labourers may safely be appreciated. As connected with the last subject, I have, above all, to draw your Lordship's attention to the quarterly returns of the produce exported; of the goods imported; of the quantity of shipping; and of the number of seamen employed. The last document which I am anxious to lay before your Lordship is the state of the Colonial treasury. If ever there was a thriving and prosperous colony, British Guiana may fairly be ranked as such. Every branch of industry is equally flourishing.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

## Enclosure in No. 641.

Encl. in No. 641. (A.)—RETURN of Marriages in British Guiana, during the June Quarter of the Year 1836.

Marriages by special licence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
Ditto by publication of banns	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	276
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	304

(B.)—RETURN of Communicants at the Holy Sacrament in British Guiana, during the June Quarter of the Year 1836.

Church of England	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,508
Church of Scotland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	489
Reformed Church of Holland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
Lutheran Church	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	—
Roman-Catholic Church	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	—
Wesleyan Missionaries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,303
London Missionary Society	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,172
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,510

(C.)—RETURN of the Number of Young People who have attended Schools in British Guiana, during the June Quarter of the Year 1836.

Daily Schools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,046
Afternoon Schools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	593
Sunday Schools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,190
Infant Schools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	430
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,259

*N. B*—This Return is not so complete as could be wished, owing to the Returns from several schools not having been received.

(D.)—RETURN of Convictions before the Supreme Court of Criminal Justice in British Guiana, in the June Quarter of the Year 1836.

In the districts of Demerara and Essequibo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
In the district of Berbice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2—10

(E.)—RETURN of Convictions before the Inferior Courts of Criminal Justice of British Guiana, in the June Quarter of the Year 1836.

	Males.	Females.
Demerara	-	-
Essequibo	-	-
Berbice	-	-
Total	83	12

F.)—RETURN of Shipping, Tonnage, and Seamen, entered the Ports of British Guiana, in the June Quarter of the Year 1836.

BRITISH  
GUIANA.

	Vessels.	Seamen.	Tons.
Demerara and Essequibo - -	103	1,091	10,876
Berbice - - - - -	20	270	3,935
<b>TOTAL - - -</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>14,811</b>

(G.)—RETURN of Articled Servants imported into British Guiana, in the June Quarter of the Year 1836.

Males - - - - -	170
Females - - - - -	44
<b>TOTAL - - -</b>	<b>214</b>

(H.)—RETURN of Colonial Produce shipped from the Ports of British Guiana, in the June Quarter of the Year 1836.

	Sugar.			Rum.			Molasses.			Coffee.	Cotton.
	Hhds.	Tierces.	Barrels.	Punchns.	Tierces.	Barrels.	Hhds.	Tierces.	Barrels.	Pounds.	Bales.
Demerara	11,085	622	788	4,321	1,054	409	5,611	—	—	627,150	856
Berbice -	2,313	385	402	1,080	124	5	472	2	—	15,300	136
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,398</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>5,401</b>	<b>1,178</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>6,083</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>642,450</b>	<b>992</b>

(I.)—RETURN of the Value of Goods imported into British Guiana, in the June Quarter of the Year 1836.

Into the port of Demerara - - - - -	£.	155,111	17	-
Into the port of Berbice - - - - -	-	21,555	-	11
<b>TOTAL, Sterling - - - - -</b>	<b>£.</b>	<b>176,666</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>

(K.)—RETURN of Balance in the Colonial Chests on the 30th June 1836.

In the chest at Georgetown - - - - -	£.	21,336	14	4
— at New Amsterdam - - - - -	-	5,255	12	-
<b>TOTAL, Sterling - - - - -</b>	<b>£.</b>	<b>26,592</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>

Compiled from the Official Returns.

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

— No. 642. —

(No. 155.)  
COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Governor Sir *J. Carmichael Smyth*, Bart., K. C. B.

No. 642.

Sir,

Downing-street, 27 Sept. 1836.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your despatch, No. 193, of the 23d of July, and it has given me peculiar satisfaction to lay before His Majesty so favourable a report of the religious and moral state of the colony, and of the flourishing condition of its trade and agriculture. Ascribing to Divine Providence the success which has thus far attended the great measure of the abolition of slavery, His Majesty at the same time acknowledges, that to your unremitting zeal and exertion as one of the agents in that great work, the country is in no small degree indebted for the signal success which has attended the experiment in the important colony under your government.

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

— No. 643. —

(No. 202.)  
COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *J. Carmichael Smyth*, Bart., K. C. B., to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 643.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 10 August 1836.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Lordship the Epitome of the Monthly Reports of the Stipendiary Special Justices in British Guiana for the month of July.

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

Enclosure, in No. 643.

## EPITOME of the MONTHLY REPORTS from the FIFTEEN STIPENDIARY

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.)
	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, they are.	Yes, they are.	Yes, generally they are.
2. Have they performed their work during the last month with alacrity and good will?	Yes, except plantation 'La Bonne Mère.'	Yes, they have on all the estates.	The work has been performed 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 labour on plantation 'La Bonne Mère,' G. C. Bell, attorney and manager, has not been readily performed.	The work has not been unwillingly performed on any estate.	The first part of the month, 'Betterhope,' M. M. Tuck, Esq. attorney, J. Walker, manager; 'Non-parcil,' P. Rose, Esq. attorney, W. Roberts, manager; plantation 'Friendship,' J. G. Austin, proprietor, J. B. Clementson, manager, the work was not readily performed.
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?	Yes, the labourers prefer task-work.	Voluntary task-work is resorted to, the managers and apprentices taking the tariff as their guide.	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 are from seven A. M. to half-past two P. M. On Fellowship the labour is performed in five days.	The nominal hours are from seven to eleven A. M. and from one to half-past four P. M., but the labourers return home when they have performed a reasonable proportion.	The labourers generally commence work at seven A. M. and finish at one and two P. M.

Enclosure, in No. 643.

SPECIAL JUSTICES in *British Guiana*, for the Month of *July 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>
Yes, in general they are.	Yes, generally.	In general they are.	Yes, generally.
With as much good will as can be expected.	Yes, generally, with some few exceptions.	On two or three estates they have not.	Yes, in most cases.
No; readily performed.	No.	Plantation 'Little Diamond,' Messrs. Bishop and Rainy, trustees, Mr. Ross, manager; 'Garden of Eden,' Messrs. Manget and Luthers, attorneys, E. J. Oudkirk, manager; plantation 'Farm,' Messrs. Revers and Koolhas, attorneys, Mr. J. M'Kenzie, manager.	The work has not been performed readily by the women on plantation 'Schoon Ord,' N. M. Manget, proprietor, John Ross, late manager; and by the gang on 'Potosi,' Retemeyer and Schade, attorneys; D. Reid, manager.
Task-work is resorted to on the estates in this division. The town mechanics work the legal time.	They prefer working seven hours and a half, as fixed by law.	They generally prefer working seven and a half hours.	Task-work is generally resorted to.
The labourers generally commence at seven A.M. on the estates, and return when their task is completed.	From seven A.M. to half-past two P.M. on plantation 'Houston;' the last few days the gang have not complied with the regulations.	From seven A.M. to half-past two P.M.	Where task-work is accepted, the work commences at 7 A.M. and ends when the task is finished.

(continued on page 462.)

July 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>W. J. Brittain, Esq.</i>
<i>Answers to Question 1.</i> The hospitals were clean, the labourers contented, civil and well found.	They are.	They are.	With a few exceptions they are so.
<i>Answers to Question 2.</i> With the exception of a few of the women at Vreedenhoop.	Yes.	They have, with the exception of plantation 'Zorg.'	They do.
<i>Answers to Question 3.</i> 'Vreedenhoop,' Mr. Gladstone, proprietor; Mr. Steuart, attorney; Mr. D. Grant, manager.	No.	On none, except partially on 'Zorg.'	No.
<i>Answers to Question 4.</i> Generally task-work.	Task-work is preferred.	Task-work is generally resorted to.	Task-work is universally adopted.
<i>Answers to Question 5.</i> The bell usually rings at 7 A. M., and the apprentices return when the task is finished.	The labourers work as they like from 6 A. M. till 6 P. M., according to circumstances.	At half-past 7 A. M., and finish at their option.	No employers interfere with the hours of labour: all they look to is the completion of the task.

DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Macleod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Ryck de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. J. Caudlin, Esq.</i>
They are generally.	Generally.	More than hitherto.	Yes.
Yes.	In most instances.	They have.	Yes.
No.	Not.	Willingly performed.	No.
Yes, generally; it is preferred by the labourers.	Task-work is generally resorted to.	A moderate scale of work approved by the magistrate is preferred for seven hours and a half.	Task-work is general.
From 7 A. M. till their tasks are completed; it is optional with the labourers themselves whether they rest or not during the time.	From 7 A. M. till the day's labour is performed.	The signal is from 8 A. M. till 11 o'clock, and from 1 to half-past 4 P. M.	They commence work at 7 A. M. till their task is finished.



July 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.	The labourers on the sugar estate universally perform extra labour for hire, earning from six bits to a dollar per week.	On 'Greenfield,' the labourers work extra for hire; those employed in the boiling-houses work extra; they earn from one to two and three guilders per week.	On all the sugar estates extra work, at two stivers per hour; and on the cotton and coffee, in crop time. I have known them earn twenty guilders per month for ginning cotton.
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.	On plantation 'Spring-Hall.'	None.	On plantation 'Non-pariel,' they resisted 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 'La Bonne Mère' to conspiracy.	None.	I have found some of the labourers behave very rudely, when spoken to by those in authority over them, relative to 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?	Yes, in both cases.	It has.	Yes, very 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.	Two: one, 30 stripes; one, 15 ditto.	None.	One, 30 stripes.
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.	A few minor, but none of any importance, to require particular mention.	None.

DISTRICT (C.)			DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN.	RIVER.	UPPER RIVER.	Captain <i>Allen</i> .
<i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	Captain <i>Delafons, R. N.</i>	Captain <i>Coleman</i> .	
On sugar estates, during grinding, extra work is performed for hire, about the works, at 1 ½ to 3 bits per day. Coopers in town earn a dollar per week.	On 'Houston,' in digging trenches, they have earned great wages.	Extra labour is generally performed about the buildings, and sometimes in the field, at the rate of two to three bits per day.	They do. Wages the same as last month.
None.	None but 'Houston.'	A few instances of insubordination; none to resist authority.	One instance on plantation 'Vreedestein,' a labourer struck a foreman in the field.
None.	Only the idle and disorderly.	There have been complaints against idle apprentices, but no combination.	On 'Schoonord' the women were guilty of indolence, from a dislike to their manager, who has since been removed.
They are well attended, and accommodation sufficient.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.
None.	Seven: one, 24 stripes; six, 15 ditto each.	One, 20 stripes.	None.
None.	The manager of 'Werken Rust,' Mr. O'Brion, <i>st.</i> 12, for ill treatment to a woman; a complaint against the woman had previously been brought before me, but his improper conduct induced me to dismiss the case, although the charge was proved, which fact materially induced me to fine him so moderately.	No.	Yes; which have been inquired into, and arranged for the interests of the complainants.

(continued on page 466.)

July 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>W. J. Brittain, Esq.</i>
Answers to Question 6. Those employed about the works are paid for extra labour at 2 stivers per hour.	Upon every estate the labourers work for hire; upon many, the whole gang are paid for cutting canes.	Extra labour for hire is general. The rate of wages from st. 1 to 1½ guilder per day.	Extra labour is performed on most estates. Six bits for nine hours labour.
Answers to Question 8. The complaints are mostly against the same idle labourers.	Only a few disorderly apprentices against whom any complaints were made.	On 'Zorg,' in the early part of the month, a combination among the women to resist the due performance of work took place; it seems now to be subdued.	The apprentices on some estates occasionally attempt to resist the performance of the scale of work, but no combination to do so.
Answers to Question 10. Five:— Two - - 30 stripes. One - - 25 - One - - 20 - One - - 15 -	Two: 39 stripes each.	Twelve:— Three - 39 stripes each. Two - 30 - Three - 25 - Three - 20 - One - 15 -	Seven:— Four - - 15 } stripes Three - - 10 } each.

DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Macleod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Ryck de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. J. Caudlin, Esq.</i>
Extra labour is very much encouraged on most of the sugar and some of the cotton estates: the wages vary.	On all sugar estates, about the buildings; and during the last month, on the coffee estates. Wages, six bits per day.	The labourers hire themselves either to estates on which they are attached, or others. Wages reasonable.	Extra labour is general. Wages differ; in cutting canes, one guilder per day is paid.
No.	No.	No.	None.
Only a few individuals.	No.	No.	No combination; on 'Hampshire,' the labourers wished to reduce their day's work. The complaints are against idlers and old offenders.
Yes, and many of the labourers have voluntarily subscribed towards the building of a church about to be erected for a clergyman of the Church of England.	It has.	Yes.	Divine service is still suspended, in consequence of the roads not yet being passable.
No.	No.	No.	None.
No.	No.	None of any importance.	None.

July 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>	
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.	A few minor cases, but none to require particular mention.	A few cases, which on investigation were found to be unfounded.
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?	They are fed gratuitously from every estate, with the exception of 'Broomhall.'	The free children are fed, clothed, and have medical attendance when required, on all the estates gratuitously, and nurses to take charge of the infants.	The children are fed and well taken care of, with nurses for the care of infants.
15. On how many estates in your district are schools established? Name the estates, proprietors, and managers of estates having schools.	None.	Two: Plantation 'Enmore,' Mr. Porter; plantation 'Greenfield,' Mr. Glen.	No addition 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.	None.	None.	Generally speaking, every thing is going on well.

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>
Five cases, three of which were withdrawn; one fined for illegally confining an apprentice; and one case, for food and clothing, being under investigation.	Five cases, which were inquired into, and strict justice done to all parties.	One case, which was for an assault, but when inquired into proved to be in self-defence; both parties admonished.	Several, which were all inquired into, compromised, redressed where substantiated, or arranged, as seemed best calculated for the interest of the complainants.
None.	None.	No.	None.
On all the estates the children are allowed food, nurses, and medical attendance gratuitously.	On all the estates the children are fed; nurses and medical attendance allowed gratuitously.	With the exception of plantation 'Prosperity;' on the other estates the children are fed, clothed, have medical attendance and nurses.	The free children are reported to have the same treatment as when in a state of slavery.
Plantation 'Thomas,' Mr. Butts; plantation 'Kitty,' Mr. Manget; plantation 'Bellair' and 'Sophia,' Messrs. Shands.	Plantations 'Rome' and 'Houston,' plantation 'Ruimveld'.	Three: Plantation 'Petershall,' plantation 'Perseverance,' and plantation 'Craig.'	Ten: Plantations 'Good Fortune,' 'Versailles,' 'Nimes,' 'La Retraite,' 'Bellevue,' 'Good Intent,' 'Wales,' 'Vreesland,' 'Orangefield,' 'Lust-en-Rust.'
None.	None.	At the 'Little Diamond' the apprentices are much improved, but the three runaways are still absent.	None.

(continued on p. 470.)

<p>July 1836.] 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>W. J. Brittain, Esq.</i></p>
<p>Answers to Question 12. None.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>On 'Huis te Derien,' a complaint was made of the rood being too long, but, on inspection, it proved to be perfectly correct.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Answers to Question 13. None.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Answers to Question 14. Plantations 'Best,' 'Vreedenhoop,' and 'Tuchen de Vrienden,' no food is allowed to the unapprenticed children; all the estates allow doctors and nurses.</p>	<p>The children on all the estates are treated as formerly.</p>	<p>The children are fed and clothed the same as when in a state of slavery; in a few instances, (particularly 'Zorg,') the parents have refused to accept food and clothing for their children, under the impression of the proprietors having a claim upon them for it.</p>	<p>The children are fed, clothed, and have medical attendance, the same as when in a state of slavery.</p>
<p>Answers to Quest. 15. Five:—Plantations 'Vreedenhoop,' 'Haarlem,' 'Windsor Forest,' 'Jalousie,' 'Best.'</p>	<p>Four: 'Waterloo' and 'Maryvill,' 'Blenheim,' 'Meerzorg,' 'Sans Souci.'</p>	<p>On seven, as heretofore; and one lately established at plantation 'Cullen,' Mr. M'Kie, proprietor.</p>	<p>Two: viz. Plantation 'Anna Regina,' plantation 'Sparta.'</p>
<p>Answers to Question 16. None.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>Although the list of convictions presents an increase, the delinquents are incorrigible culprits, and ought not to be ranked with the other apprenticed labourers, who have behaved well, and worked assiduously.</p>	<p>None.</p>

DISTRICT (I) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John Macleod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>A. Van Ryck de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. J. Caudlin, Esq.</i>
No.	No.	None.	None.
None.	No.	No.	None.
Generally the same as before the 1st August 1834.	The children receive the same treatment as when in a state of slavery.	On most estates in the district, the children receive a gratuitous allowance of food and medical attendance.	On several, the children are fed; on some of the estates, the parents refuse the allowance; on all the estates, the free children receive gratuitous medical attendance.
On almost all the estates, there are schools among the labourers themselves; and on several teachers are engaged.	At the chapels on plantations 'Lonsdale,' 'Bleyendahl,' 'Goldston Hall,' supported by the proprietors and managers of the different estates.	On five estates: Plantation 'Welgelaegun,' 'Rossfield,' 'Zuidwyk,' 'La Fraternity,' 'Augsburg.'	On plantation 'Skeldon,' Sunday-schools at the church and chapel, when the weather permits.
None.	None.	None.	The roads are still very bad, and nearly impassable.

(True Extracts.)



BRITISH  
GUIANA.

— No. 644. —

(No. 204.)

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

No. 644.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 19 Aug. 1836.

*Vide Appendix,*  
No. 201.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Lordship, and, as I trust, for His Majesty's most gracious approbation, an Ordinance (No. 76) to repress the practice of enticing away apprenticed labourers from the employment of those persons to whom their services are legally due.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

— No. 645. —

(No. 206.)

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

No. 645.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 19 Aug. 1836.

*Vide Appendix,*  
No. 202.

I BEG to lay before your Lordship an Ordinance (No. 78) passed by myself and the court of policy of this colony, for the establishment of a river police, both here and at Berbice, for the suppression and detection of petty thefts and depredations upon the rivers.

I hope that this Ordinance will meet with His Majesty's most gracious approbation.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

— No. 646. —

(No. 162.)

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

No. 646.

Sir,

Downing-street, 30 Oct. 1836.

No. 204.—19 Aug.  
No. 206.— „

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Despatches of the numbers and dates noted in the margin, containing the following Ordinances which have been enacted by yourself and the court of policy of British Guiana:—

No. 76. An Ordinance to suppress the practice of enticing away, harbouring or concealing apprenticed labourers.

No. 78. An Ordinance for the more effectual prevention and detection of thefts and other offences committed upon the rivers and creeks in British Guiana.

I have the honour to convey to you His Majesty's gracious approbation of these Ordinances.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 647. —

(No. 207.)

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

No. 647.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 19 Aug. 1836.

*Vide Appendix,*  
No. 203.

I BEG to lay before your Lordship an Ordinance (No. 79) passed by myself and the court of policy of British Guiana for the better observation of the Sabbath, and otherwise to promote habits of morality and of decency. I hope that this Ordinance will meet with His Majesty's most gracious approbation.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

No. 648.

— No. 648. —

(No. 161.)

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

Sir,

Downing-street, 29 Oct. 1836.

No. 648.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 207, of the 19th August last, transmitting an Ordinance (No. 79) passed by yourself and the court of policy of British Guiana, entitled, "An Ordinance to ensure a better observance of the Sabbath-day, and otherwise to promote habits of morality and decency."

The third clause of this Ordinance authorizes labour on a Sunday, in picking cotton or coffee, in cases where the crop is likely to be lost if not immediately secured; it further sanctions the turning of coffee on the droghery on that day, to prevent its being heated or spoiled, and the shipping of produce. The last of these works cannot be justified by the plea of necessity; and, in the case of the two former, the enactment affords but too ready a pretext for the needless conversion of the day of rest into a day of labour. I fear, also, that this part of the Ordinance, however intended by its authors, will be regarded by others as enlarging very widely the existing right, not merely to hire voluntary labour, but to enforce compulsory labour on the Sunday.

The sixth clause distinctly authorizes the holding of markets on the Sunday, although they are to be closed at half-past nine in the morning. It is impossible that His Majesty should confirm an enactment sanctioning a practice which, even during the continuance of slavery, had been abolished and prohibited.

His Majesty, for these reasons, is pleased to disallow this Ordinance, but authorizes your assenting, on his behalf, to any other Ordinance which may be passed for the same general purposes, with the omission of the enactments I have noticed.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 649. —

(No. 263.)

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

No. 649.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 22 Dec. 1836.

WITH reference to your Lordship's Despatch of the 29th October (No. 161), I have the honour to state, that another Ordinance to ensure the better observance of the Sabbath, and otherwise to promote habits of morality and decency, will forthwith be prepared and transmitted to your Lordship, and in which Ordinance permission to cause various species of labour to be performed on that day, as enumerated and objected to in your Lordship's Despatch, will not be included.

To prevent the possibility of any planter conceiving that he will have a right to the compulsory labour of his people for the performance of such works of necessity on a Sunday, as will be specified in the Ordinance may be allowed, I will cause the words "voluntary and paid labour" to be inserted in that particular enactment. These words will prevent the possibility of any misunderstanding.

In obedience to your Lordship's instructions, the sixth clause or enactment, baving reference to Sunday morning markets, and directing such markets to be closed at half-past nine, A. M., will also be expunged from the new Ordinance. The subject of the Sunday morning markets is one which I have frequently revolved in my mind. I am perfectly aware that I can issue a proclamation doing away the Sunday morning markets forthwith; but as Sunday morning is the only morning the labourers have to themselves, the issuing of such a proclamation would be tantamount to prohibiting them from disposing of the produce of their gardens, and would be a sad blow to their happiness, and a great

BRITISH  
GUIANA,

great drawback to their industry. If the labourers had one working day in the week to themselves, that day might be selected as the market day; and the gates of the market might, under such circumstances, be kept open *ad libitum*. As soon as the apprenticed labourer system ceases, all marketings upon a Sunday can be strictly prohibited; in the meanwhile, however, as we cannot altogether prevent the evil, it appeared to me that it would be advisable to do the next best thing in our power, and so to regulate all Sunday morning marketing as to prevent any interference with the hours of Divine Service. By closing the gates of the market at half-past nine, A. M., I was in hopes that I had in so far palliated or lessened the evil. Until the labourers have a day in the week to themselves, I do not see how they can, either in policy or in justice, be debarred from encroaching upon their Sunday mornings for the short time necessary to dispose of the produce of their industry. I am anxious that your Lordship should be in possession of the sentiments by which I was actuated in causing the enactment relative to the Sunday morning market to be inserted in the Ordinance. I had a good deal of conversation with the most zealous and intelligent of the missionaries upon the subject, and we all agreed that so long as the present system continues in force, and that the labourer has no other morning at his disposal on which he can dispose of his little produce, the cause of religion would not be advanced by depriving him of those few early hours of his Sunday morning which at present (not having any other morning at his disposal) he is obliged to dedicate towards providing for his family.

I feel confident that your Lordship will not require any apology for my having entered into so much detail respecting a measure so intimately connected with the happiness and well-being of the labouring population of this province.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth.*

— No. 650. —

(No. 280.)

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

No. 650.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 13 Feb. 1837.

*Vide Appendix,*  
No. 204.

WITH reference to the Despatch of the 22d December (No. 263), which I had the honour to address to your Lordship, I have now to lay before your Lordship an Ordinance for the better observation of the Sabbath, in which those enactments of the former Ordinance, which were disapproved of by His Majesty, as communicated to me in your Lordship's Despatch of the 29th October, No. 161, have been omitted. I venture, consequently, respectfully to express my hope, that the Ordinance, as at present submitted, will meet with His Majesty's gracious approbation.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth.*

— No. 651. —

(No. 202.)

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

No. 651.

Sir,

Downing-street, 13 April 1837.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch (No. 280) of the 13th February last, inclosing an amended Ordinance "to ensure a better observance of the Sabbath-day, and otherwise to promote habits of morality and decency."

I have the honour to acquaint you that His Majesty has been pleased to approve and confirm this Ordinance.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

No. 652.

— No. 652. —

(No. 219.)

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

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 1 Sept. 1836.

No. 652.

WITH reference to the concluding paragraph in my Despatch to your Lordship of the 20th June 1835, in which I state that "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;"—I have now the pleasure of being able to report, that small painted bâtons have been supplied to the policemen, and have been substituted for swords, for nearly three months. Not the slightest inconvenience has been experienced by this change, which I respectfully submit may be considered as a very considerable step in the progress of civilization and improvement.

For Sir C. Smyth's Despatch, 20 June 1835, *vide* Papers relative to the Abolition of Slavery, Session 1836, Parts 3 (2), p. 24.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

— No. 653. —

(No. 167.)

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

Sir,

Downing-street, 8 Nov. 1836.

No. 653.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch (No. 219) of the 1st September last, in which you report that small painted bâtons have been substituted for the swords with which the policemen in Guiana used to be furnished.

In reply, I beg to express to you the satisfaction it has afforded me to learn the success of an experiment of which I am well aware that the indirect importance is much more considerable than the immediate and obvious results.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 654. —

(No. 234.)

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

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 17 Sept. 1836.

No. 654.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Lordship the returns from the special justices for the month of August; and I avail myself of the opportunity of stating to your Lordship that industry, happiness and contentment prevail throughout the whole of this province to as full an extent as in any part of His Majesty's dominions; all angry feelings have completely subsided; property has risen immensely in value. I am not aware that any part of the world can be quoted as being in a more flourishing state than British Guiana.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

Enclosure in No. 654.

## EPITOME of the MONTHLY REPORTS from the FIFTEEN STIPENDIARY

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>Captain Coleman.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>Charles Henry Strutt, Esq.</i>	
1. ARE the labourers in your district civil, contented and cheerful?	Yes, generally. Visited the estates in the district.	They are.	They are.
2. Have they performed their work during the last month with alacrity and goodwill?	Yes, generally.	With the exception of a few idle persons.	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.	No, with the exception of a few idle people.	The work has not been performed unwillingly.	No, with the exception of plantation 'Friendship'; J. G. Austin, proprietor, J. B. Clementson, manager.
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 in this part of the district.	Voluntary task-work is in use.	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 working hours are from seven A. M. to half-past two P. M.	The nominal hours are from seven to eleven A. M., and from one to half-past four P. M.	The labourers commence work at seven A. M., and continue until twelve and two o'clock P. M.

Enclosure in No. 654.

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

DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (N.)	DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R. N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	<i>Captain Allen.</i>
They are. Visited the estates.	Generally so. Visited estates.	Yes. Visited the estates.	Yes. Visited the estates.
Yes.	Generally they have.	In general.	Yes.
Yes, it has been readily performed.	From the number of complaints, it appears some persons are tampering with the apprentices.	The work has not been readily performed on plantation 'Blairmont,' C. Faloon, <i>qq.</i> , J. Stewart, manager; plantation 'Cotton Tree,' Bryant, <i>qq.</i> , J. M'Dougal, manager.	No complaint has been preferred from any estate.
Task-work is resorted to in the country; in town the mechanics work the legal time.	They work the seven hours and a half, as fixed by law.	Task-work is generally resorted to.	Task-work, without any agreement to that effect is resorted to.
They usually begin work between seven and eight o'clock in the morning, and continue till the task is finished.	From seven and eight A. M. to half-past two and half-past three P. M., with some exceptions.	When task-work is not resorted to, the hours of labour are from seven to eleven A. M., twelve to half-past three P. M.	From about seven A. M., which continues, according to circumstances, till from one to four P. M.

(continued on page 478.)

August 1836.] DISTRICT (E.) Captain Bartlett.	DISTRICT (F.) George Kellock, Esq.	DISTRICT (G.) George Ball, Esq.	DISTRICT (H.) W. J. Brittain, Esq.
Answers to Question 1. Yes. Visited all the estates.	Perfectly so. Visited 44 estates.	They are generally so. Visited 21 estates, and inspected the hospitals.	Unusually so.
Answers to Question 2. Yes; with the exception of some women at Vreedenhoop; Mr. Gladstone, proprietor, Mr. Grant, manager.	Yes.	They have, with few exceptions.	They are, with the exception of the women on three estates, who attempted to resist the performance of the established scale of work.
Answers to Question 3. Generally task-work; only the above exception of Vreedenhoop.	No.	No.	The three estates alluded to above are 'Better Success,' P. Hughes, manager; 'Sparta,' W. Bennett, manager; 'Mainstay,' James White, proprietor and manager. They are now performing their work with good will.
Answers to Question 4. Generally task-work.	Task-work is universal, and preferred by the labourers.	Task-work is preferred by the labourers.	Task-work is general.
Answers to Question 5. From seven A. M. until the task is finished.	From seven A. M. until the work is completed.	The labourers generally begin at half-past six or seven; finish at their option.	No vexatious division of time is practised in this district.

DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John M<sup>c</sup>Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>J. Van Rijk de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. J. Candlin, Esq.</i>
Generally they are. I have visited every estate and hospital in the district.	Generally.	- - - - -	They are.
Yes.	In most instances.	- - - - -	Yes.
No, except by a few idle persons.	On 'Highbury,' John Alves, attorney, John Innor, manager; and 'Lonsdale,' W. Henery, proprietor.	- - - - -	No.
Yes, generally; it is preferred by the labourers.	It is.	- - - - - ?	It is.
From seven A. M. to half-past two P. M.	From seven A. M. till the day's labour is performed.	- - - - -	Commence about seven A. M.; finish their task by one P. M.

(continued on page 480.)



August 1836.] QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.)
	EASTERN DIVISION. Captain Coleman.	WESTERN DIVISION. Charles Henry Strutt, Esq.	<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.	They perform extra labour for hire about the buildings, at the rate of from one to three bits per day.	On all the estates in this district the labourers work in the boiling-houses, and about the buildings, extra, for hire, and receive from two to three guilders per week.	The labourers in this district perform extra labour, at two stivers per hour in the manufacture of sugar, and, during crop-time, five stivers for picking 10 lbs. cotton, ten stivers for picking a basket of coffee.
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.	There have been some few instances of disobedience, but no attempt to resist authority.	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 complaints against idle and disorderly apprentices have not been so general as to attribute it to combination or conspiracy.	- - - - -	When they neglect their work they are very rude 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?	Yes.	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?	None.	Three { One - 10 stripes. One - 12 ditto. One - 15 ditto.	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 10s. sterling, and awarded to the labourer assaulted; money paid.

DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (N.)		DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R. N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	Captain <i>Allen.</i>	
Extra labour is performed about the works, at the rate of one and a half to three bits per day. Journeymen coopers earn three guilders per week by extra work.	When manufacturing sugar, extra labour is performed in the boiling-houses.	On two sugar estates the labourers perform extra work for hire; are paid from six bits to a dollar per week.	The labourers perform extra labour for hire, as detailed in the report of 1st July last.	
None.	On 'Houston' and 'Ruimveldt;' but the disposition to insubordination is quelled by the punishment of the ringleaders.	One on 'Blairmont;' very trifling.	None.	
None.	Attributed to some few worthless characters.	On two estates, 'Blairmont' and 'Cotton Tree,' attributed to conspiracy.	Only a few disorderly apprentices.	
Yes, they are.	Yes.	Yes.	The clergyman of this district was obliged to desist performing Divine Service, from indisposition.	
None.	Twelve { Three - 24 stripes. Four - 18 do. each. Five - 15 ,,	Yes, Three { One - 35 stripes. Two - 30 do. each.	None.	
None.	None.	No.	The complaints that have been made were inquired into and redressed, to the best of my ability.	

(continued on page 482.)

August 1836.] DISTRICT (E.) Captain <i>Bartlett</i> .	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Kellock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>W. J. Brittain, Esq.</i>
Answers to Question 6. Those about the sugar works, at the rate of two stivers per hour.	Upon every estate extra labour is performed about the works; upon the whole, gang are paid.	Extra labour for hire is pretty general, but principally in the boiling-houses.	Extra labour is done on most of the estates.
Answers to Question 7. None.	No.	None.	A few women, but none to resist authority.
Answers to Question 8. Principally those who were punished belonged to one estate, 'Vreedenhoop,' and the men old (and hardened) offenders.	It is only with respect to a few idle and disorderly apprentices.	With respect to the latter only.	On the estates before mentioned, it was a combination of the women, but by moderate punishment was easily put a stop to.
Answers to Quest. 9. Yes.	Yes, at all times.	At all times.	To the full extent of the accommodation.
Answers to Question 10. Five { Three - 30 stripes. Two - 20 each.	Six - 39 stripes each.	Seven { Two - - 30 stripes. Three - 25 each. One - - 15   " One - - 12   "	Two { One - - 20 stripes. One - - 10   "
Answers to Question 11. One against an overseer, Augustus Vos, for assault; fined 1 <i>l.</i> sterling; fine paid to His Majesty's Colonial Receiver-general. One against the overseer, Mr. M'Donald, of 'Windsor Forest,' beating a woman, compromised, Mr. M'Donald paying her 44 <i>f.</i>	One overseer has been fined 30 guilders to the King, for an assault on an apprenticed labourer.	None.	None.

DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John M'Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>J. Van Rijk de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. J. Candlin, Esq.</i>
On several estates extra labour is performed; wages paid weekly.	On most of the coffee estates, and on all the sugar estates, the persons employed about the buildings.	- - - - -	Extra labour is general in this district; wages vary.
No.	No.	- - - - -	None.
No.	On 'Lonsdale' the early part of the month.	- - - - -	Only against a few idlers.
Yes.	It has.	- - - - -	Yes.
None.	Six { Three - 20 stripes each. One - - 25 - ditto. Two - 15 - " "	- - - - -	None.
No.	No.	- - - - -	No.

(continued on page 484.)

August 1836.]  QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>Captain Coleman.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>Charles 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 your power? State the number and the nature of the complaints which may have been preferred to you in general terms.	Two; one from an apprenticed labourer of 'Broomhall,' for not receiving any fish one week: fined the manager double the value of the fish. One from an apprenticed labourer of 'Strathavon,' for hitting him with a souble-jack, which was compromised by the payment of two dollars.	None of any importance to require particular mention.	None but such as were 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.	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 on all the estates have an allowance of provisions, nurses and medical attendance.	They are fed gratuitously; have medical attendance, and nurses to attend upon them when the mothers are at work.	They are fed and taken care of, the same 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.	There are none but Sunday schools.	Two; one on 'Enmore,' Mr. Porter, proprietor; one at 'Greenfield,' Mr. Glen, proprietor.	There has been no increase or decrease since 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 superintendence? If yes, state the same.	- - - - -  (signed) <i>T. Coleman,</i> S. J. P.	None.  (signed) <i>C. H. Strutt,</i> S. J. P.	The district is tranquil, and every thing going on well.  (signed) <i>A. M. Lyons,</i> S. J. P.

DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (N.)		DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN, <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R. N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	<i>Captain Allen.</i>	
Three; two were compromised, the other dismissed.	One, against the manager of 'Little Diamond,' for destroying six fowls, which was dismissed.	Reference was made to me from plantation 'Balthazock,' respecting the allowance of salt fish, and from 'Cotton Tree,' to know the number of hours they were daily required to labour for their employer.	The complaints that have been made were inquired into and redressed.	
None.	None.	None.	None.	
On all the estates in this division, the children are allowed food, nurses and medical attendance.	They are fed gratuitously from the estates, have medical attendance, and nurses when the parents are in the field.	With the exception of 'Guelderland,' they are fed gratuitously, and receive medical attendance; nurses attend them when their mothers are at work.	They are fed, have medical attendance, and nurses while the mothers are at work.	
Three; 'Kitty,' Mr. Manget; 'Thomas,' Mr. Butts; 'Bellair,' Mr. Simpson.	Five; viz. plantations 'Craig,' 'Perseverance,' 'Peter's Hall,' 'Rome,' and 'Ruimveldt.'	On one estate, plantation 'Augsburgh.'	Thirteen; viz. plantation 'Kly Ponderoyen,' 'Malgre-tout,' 'Versailles,' 'Good Fortune,' 'Belle Vue,' 'Lagrange,' 'Nismes,' 'La Retraite,' 'Good Intent,' 'Wales,' 'Vreesland,' 'Orangefield,' and 'Lustund Rust.'	
- - - - -	On the estates up the river they are idly disposed; the 'Garden of Eden' and plantation 'Friendship.'	—	—	
(signed) <i>George Ross,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>Thomas Delafons,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>K. Heyland,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>J. A. Allen,</i> S. J. P.	

(continued on page 486.)

August 1836.] DISTRICT (E.) Captain Bartlett.	DISTRICT (F.) George Kellock, Esq.	DISTRICT (G.) George Ball, Esq.	DISTRICT (H.) W. J. Brittain, Esq.
Answers to Question 12. None.	None.	None.	Such complaints as were brought by the apprenticed labourers were satisfactorily arranged by the parties.
Answers to Question 13. None.	None.	None.	None.
Answers to Question 14. Plantations 'Best,' 'Tuchen de Vrienden' and 'Vrees-en-hoop,' no food is allowed the unapprenticed children; on all the other estates the children get the same as when in a state of slavery.	The children are treated as formerly.	The children have the same care as when in a state of slavery.	On some estates no food and clothing is given; but, on all, medical attendance, and nurses to take care of the children when the mothers are in the field.
Answers to Question 15. Six; viz. plantations 'Vreedenhoop,' Mr. Gladston, proprietor; 'Haarlem,' Mr. Goppy, proprietor; 'Windsor Forest,' Mr. Douglas, proprietor; 'Jalousie,' Mr. Watterton, proprietor; 'Union,' Mr. Milne, proprietor; 'Best,' Mr. Beete, proprietor.	Five; plantations 'Meerzorg,' Mr. Bishop, attorney; 'Sans Souci,' Mr. Simson, attorney; 'Waterloo, Mary's Villa,' Mr. M'Rae, attorney; 'Blenheim,' Mr. Lane, attorney.	Nine; as stated in a former report.	Seven; plantations 'Taymouth Manor,' Mr. Barlow; 'Land of Plenty,' 'Sparta,' 'Hampton Court,' 'Walton Hall,' 'Reliance,' 'Anna Regina.'
Answers to Question 16.  (signed) <i>Spry Bartlett,</i> S. J. P.	  (signed) <i>George Kellock,</i> S. J. P.	Nothing further, than to state the good conduct of apprenticed labourers generally.  (signed) <i>George Ball,</i> S. J. P.	- - - -  (signed) <i>W. J. Brittain,</i> S. J. P.

DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John M'Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>J. Van Rijk de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. J. Candlin, Esq.</i>
None.	One of assault, not yet decided.	The returns from this district not received; the magistrate supposed to be ill.	None.
No.	No.	- - - - -	None.
Generally the same as before the 1st Aug. 1834.	Children receive the same attention as when in a state of slavery.	- - - - -	On most of the estates, the children are fed, and on all they receive medical attendance.
There are schools on most of the estates among the apprenticed labourers themselves, and on several there are teachers engaged.	One in 'Caryie,' supported by the gentlemen resident there; it is attended by sixty scholars.	- - - - -	On 'Skeldon,' a clergyman, paid by the proprietor, is resident, and a school is kept, which is also attended by the children of the next estate.
- - - - -  (signed) <i>George Rose,</i> S. J. P.	On 'Vryheid,' the apprentices were under the impression the King had given them Saturday; they all came to town; I explained to them they were mistaken, and I have no doubt they will soon be convinced of their error.  (signed) <i>John M'Leod,</i> S. J. P.	—	—  (signed) <i>J. J. Candlin,</i> S. J. P.

(True extracts.)

*Henry John Baird, Private Secretary.*



BRITISH  
GUIANA.

— No. 655. —

(No. 236.)

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

No. 655.

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 29 Sept. 1836.

(A.)

I HAVE great pleasure in laying before your Lordship a copy of an address which was presented to me a few days ago, when at Berbice, by the inhabitants of that district; and also a copy of my reply. I understand that addresses of a similar nature are in progress both in Essequibo and Demerara. I believe I may venture to assure your Lordship that every thing like opposition or ill-will is completely at an end in this colony; nothing can be more satisfactory than the state of British Guiana.

I take the liberty of observing to your Lordship that I never doubted for one moment but that ultimately the inhabitants of this colony would do me justice. The good feeling is, however, more general, and the re-action more complete, than I had anticipated would have been the case in so short a period of time. I beg to offer my respectful congratulations to your Lordship upon the state of this important province.

(B.)

A number of the apprenticed labourers of the Berbice district also presented me with an address, a copy of which, together with my reply, I have likewise the honour to lay before your Lordship, and as I trust for His Majesty's approbation.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth*.

## Enclosure (A.) in No. 655.

Enclosure (A.)  
in No. 655.To His Excellency Major-General Sir *James Carmichael Smyth*, Bart. c. b., &c. &c. &c.

WE, the undersigned inhabitants of the district of Berbice, beg most respectfully to greet your Excellency with a loyal welcome on this occasion of your visiting us, and to tender to your Excellency our sincere congratulations upon the prosperity, union and harmony which you will find to prevail within this portion of your Excellency's government,—an order of things which we acknowledge with grateful satisfaction. Deeply-interested participators in the eventful scenes of the times, many of us may have felt it our duty to share in differences of opinion upon some of the measures of government with a warmth which, however great, seemed only commensurate to our personal anxieties, and to the magnitude of the stake which we judged to be in danger.

If, however, in a free and manly spirit these sentiments have been uttered, the like independence prompts us now to state that, with the causes which elicited the expression of such sentiments has passed away every desire to remember their occurrence.

We therefore now feel confident that the public welfare and interests will be best consulted by a fixed determination on the part of every member of this community to yield to your Excellency, without reference to party distinction, their best endeavours to carry through the remaining stages of the Emancipation Act, with the same happy and satisfactory results which have hitherto accompanied that measure.

In conclusion, we beg to reiterate our most respectful and loyal welcome to your Excellency, and to subscribe ourselves,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient humble servants,

(signed) *Charles R. Winfield*, Sheriff of Berbice.

Also 166 other signatures.

To this Address his Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:—

Gentlemen,

I THANK you for your friendly reception, and for your loyal and manly address; your congratulations upon the prosperity, union and harmony which prevail in the district of Berbice afford me peculiar gratification.

I beg to assure you, Gentlemen, that whatever difficulties and anxiety I may have experienced in conducting the Government of British Guiana, I am more than amply compensated in beholding the present flourishing state of this truly magnificent province—in witnessing the tranquillity, industry and happiness which prevail, even to our remotest limits. I cordially concur in the desire you have expressed to consign all past differences to oblivion.

I accept with pleasure the offer of your best assistance in carrying the Emancipation Act through its remaining stages; and, supported as I now am by the public avowal of the sentiments of so enlightened and intelligent a portion of the community, I look forward not only without apprehension towards the still greater change which will shortly take place,

place, but I feel assured that the last step in the Abolition of Slavery will be attended with the same happy and satisfactory results as have hitherto accompanied that measure in British Guiana.

BRITISH  
GUIANA.

Berbice, 22 Sept. 1836.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth.*

Enclosure (B.) in No. 655.

To his Excellency Major General Sir *James Carmichael Smyth*, Bart. C. B. &c. &c. &c.

WE, the undersigned apprenticed labourers, residing in New Amsterdam, district of Berbice, British Guiana, most humbly approach your Excellency; we heartily greet your Excellency on your visit to this district, and, having entire satisfaction in, and grateful alike to, our most gracious Sovereign King William the Fourth, the Government, and your Excellency, for the measures now progressing in our favour, we too participate in, and rejoice equally with our richer colonists in the peace, unanimity and prosperity of this district; we, having the fullest confidence in the equal administration of the laws, and looking forward, as we do, to the termination of the apprenticeship, do humbly assure your Excellency, that we shall do all in our power, by our example, in industry, honesty, and respect for our superiors, and so far as our influence extends, to induce others to do the same, so as to prove to our gracious King, your Excellency and the world that we are not unworthy of the great boon of freedom that has been conferred on us and our brethren.

Enclosure (B.)  
in No. 655.

We wish your Excellency health and happiness, and hope you may long continue to govern us.

New Amsterdam, Berbice, 25 Sept. 1836.

Thirty-three signatures.

To this Address his Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:—

Apprenticed Labourers,—I have listened to your address with no common gratification; the sentiments you have expressed are exactly those I wish you to entertain.

Be assured that in sedulously attending to the precepts of religion and morality; by providing for your wants, and for those of your respective families; by the exercise of honest industry; in scrupulously obeying the enactments of the laws;—you will best promote your happiness in this world, as well as prepare yourselves for your appearance in that which is to come.

That you will so conduct yourselves I feel every confidence.

Berbice, 25 Sept. 1836.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth.*

— No. 656. —

(No. 172.)

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

Sir,

Downing-street, 27 Nov. 1836.

No. 656.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch (No. 236) of the 29th September last, enclosing a copy of an address which had been presented to you by the inhabitants of the district of Berbice, expressive of their congratulations on the prosperity of the colony of British Guiana under your government.

In reply, I beg to express to you the great gratification which I have experienced at receiving the proof which is afforded by this address of the high estimation in which you are held by the different classes of society in the colony.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 657. —

(No. 244.)

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

My Lord,

Camp House, Demerara, 24 Oct. 1836.

No. 657.

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

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Carmichael Smyth.*

Enclosure in No. 657.

EPITOME of the MONTHLY REPORTS from the FIFTEEN STIPENDIARY

QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>Captain Coleman.</i>	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>Charles Henry Strutt, Esq.</i>	
1. Are the labourers in your district civil, contented and cheerful?	Yes.	They are.	Yes.
2. Have they performed their work during the last month with alacrity and goodwill?	Yes.	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 Farm;' Capt. Warren, proprietor, John Henry, manager.	The gangs have done their work well.	No.
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.	Voluntary task-work.	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.	From seven o'clock A.M. till two o'clock P. M.	From seven o'clock A.M. till eleven o'clock, and from one o'clock to half-past four P. M.	From seven o'clock A.M. until the work is finished.

Enclosure in No. 657.

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

DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (N.)	DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R. N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	Captain <i>Allen.</i>
They are.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.
Yes.	With few exceptions.	In general with alacrity and good will.	Yes, with a few exceptions.
No.	Complaints have been made against a few estates doing a very little work.	At one period on plantation 'Cotton Tree,' D. Melville, attorney, J. Mac-Dougal, manager; and on plantation 'Blairmont,' C. Faloon, attorney, J. Stewart, manager.	On 'Nimes;' M'Turk and Rose, attornies, J. H. Otterbein, manager.
It is, on the estates. In town the mechanics work the legal time.	Seven and a half hours, as fixed by law.	Task-work is invariably resorted to.	Task-work is generally resorted to.
From seven o'clock A. M. until the work is finished.	From seven o'clock A.M. till half-past two o'clock, three o'clock and four o'clock P.M.	From seven o'clock A.M. till half-past three P.M.	From seven o'clock A. M. till eleven o'clock, and from twelve and one o'clock P.M. till half-past three o'clock and half-past four o'clock P. M.

(continued on page 492.)

September 1836.] DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, 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 1. Yes.	Yes	Yes.	They are.
	Perfectly so.	Perfectly so.	They have, with the exception of one estate, 'Velvorden.'
Answers to Question 3. No.	No.	On 'Velvorden' only.	Plantation 'Better Success;' Messrs. Chandler and Evans, proprietors, P. Hughes, manager.
Answers to Question 4. Task-work almost without any exception.	Task-work is universal.	Task-work is generally preferred.	Task-work is universally adopted.
Answers to Question 5. From seven o'clock in the morning till the work is finished.	From about six o'clock A.M. until the work is finished.	From half-past six and seven o'clock A.M. until the work is finished.	No disposition has been made to annoy the labourers by any manager.

DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Rose, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John M'Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>J. Van Rijk de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. J. Candlin, Esq.</i>
Yes.	They are.	No return from this district, the magistrate being ill, and the duties performed by the magistrate of District (N.)	They are.
Yes.	In most instances.	- - - - -	Yes.
No.	It has, except plantation 'Highbury;' Messrs. Davidson, Barkly & Co., proprietors, J. Juna, manager.	- - - - -	No.
Yes.	It is.	- - - - -	Task-work is general.
From seven A.M. until their tasks are finished.	From seven in the morning till task is performed.	- - - - -	From seven o'clock in the morning, and finish their task about one P.M.

(continued on page 494.)

September 1836.]  QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.) <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. <i>Captain Coleman.</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.	They generally perform extra labour for hire, at the rate of from one to three bits per day, prompt payment.	On most of the estates they perform extra labour for hire; payments are made monthly; wages from two to three guilders per week.	They do; wages two stivers per hour; 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 to resist authority.	On plantation 'Clonbroke,' on the 24th of the month, by one or two individuals, when receiving their annual clothing.	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?	No combination or conspiracy.	None.	Only the idle are sometimes rude to those in authority.
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.	It has.	It has been very 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.	None.	Two - - 20 stripes 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?	No.	None.	None.

DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (N.)	DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R. N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	Captain <i>Allen.</i>
They do; wages two to three bits per day, prompt payment.	They do, when manufacturing sugar; payments weekly or monthly.	They do, when manufacturing sugar; wages from 3f. to 3f. 10. per week; payments weekly, or on demand.	No variation has taken place since the 1st July.
None.	At 'Peter's Hall,' a trifling act of insubordination.	Two trifling cases, 'Blairmont' and 'Balthyock.'	None deserving of notice.
None.	I do attribute this idle disposition to doctrines that are but too avowedly professed and disseminated, that the apprentices are not to work more than seven and a half hours, as thereby they sell their souls.	It was so general at one time that I attributed it to combination.	None.
They have.	Yes.	Yes, very good.	The attendance at church has increased.
None.	Eleven { Five - 30 stripes. Two 20 ,, each. Three 15 ,, ,, One - 12 ,, ,,	Three { Two - 25 stripes ea. One - 30 ,,	One - - 25 stripes.
None fined; one overseer on plantation 'Thomas' was discharged for ill-treating an apprenticed labourer.	None.	One attorney fined for misconduct towards an apprenticed labourer.	None.

(continued on page 496.)



September 1836.] DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Kellock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>W. J. Britain, Esq.</i>
<i>Answers to Question 6.</i> They do when manufacturing produce on all the estates, and on 'The Hague' in the field. Rate of wages about two stivers per hour; payment weekly.	Upon every estate extra labour is done for hire. Wages from two to three guilders per week.	Extra labour is done for hire. Rate of wages from one guilder to one and a half guilder per day; they are usually paid monthly.	Extra labour is very generally performed in this district; five bits is paid for the scale of labour for seven hours and a half.
<i>Answers to Question 7.</i> None of any consequence.	No.	None.	None.
<i>Answers to Question 8.</i> Of those punished, the majority were old offenders.	It is only of a few disorderly persons that complaints have been made.	At 'Hoff Van Holland' a combination existed, in consequence of having been deprived of Saturday; the gangs have now given up their opposition.	On 'Better Success,' the refusal to perform a reasonable day's work was so general as to indicate a very determined combination.
<i>Answers to Quest. 9.</i> Yes.	The churches and schools are well attended at all times.	As regular as can be expected.	The attendance at church still continues to the full extent of the accommodation.
<i>Answers to Question 10.</i> Three - 20 stripes each.	Four - 39 stripes each.	Twelve { <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two - 39 stripes ea.</li> <li>One - 30 ditto each.</li> <li>Five - 25 "</li> <li>Two - 20 "</li> <li>Two - 15 "</li> </ul>	Eight { <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Five - - 15 stripes.</li> <li>Three - 10 each.</li> </ul>
<i>Answers to Question 11.</i> Thomas Powell, overseer of 'Cornelia Ida,' fined 30 s. for an assault. Richard Ogle, manager of 'Vrees-en-hoop,' fined 10 s. for striking an apprenticed labourer.	One overseer has been fined 30 f. to the King for striking a labourer.	One manager has been fined for striking an apprenticed labourer.	None.

DISTRICT (I.) <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (K.) <i>John M'Leod, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (L.) <i>J. Van Rijk de Groot, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (M.) <i>J. J. Candlin, Esq.</i>
On several estates extra labour is performed; wages vary; paid weekly, or when asked for.	Those employed about the works; the rate of wages from two to three guilders per week.	- - - - -	Extra labour is general; wages differ; payments regular.
No.	No.	- - - - -	None.
Only a few idle and disorderly.	No.	- - - - -	Against a few idle and disorderly labourers that complaints have been made.
Yes.	It has.	- - - - -	Yes.
None.	Five { <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two - 39 stripes ea.</li> <li>Two - 15     "</li> <li>One - 20     "</li> </ul>	- - - - -	One - - 30 stripes.
No.	No.	- - - - -	No.

(continued on page 498.)

September 1836.]  QUESTIONS.	DISTRICT (A.)		DISTRICT (B.)  <i>A. M. Lyons, Esq.</i>
	EASTERN DIVISION. Captain <i>Coleman</i> .	WESTERN DIVISION. <i>Charles 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 your power? State the number and the nature of the complaints which may have been preferred to you in general terms.	No.	None to require mention.	A few, which were upon investigation found to be unfounded.
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.	No.	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 have all allowance, and medical attendance.	The free children are fed by the estates, and have medical attendance, and nurses when their mothers are at work.	The children are fed and have medical attendance, the same 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.	There are none but Sunday schools at the churches and meeting-houses.	Two; one on 'Enmore,' one on 'Greenfield;' the first, Mr. Porter, the latter, Mr. Glen, proprietors.	There has been no increase or decrease of schools since last return.
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.	No.  (signed) <i>Tho. Coleman,</i> S. J. P.	None.  (signed) <i>Cha' Henry Strutt,</i> S. J. P.	The district is quiet and tranquil, and every thing going on well.  (signed) <i>A. M. Lyons,</i> S. J. P.

DISTRICT (C.)		DISTRICT (N.)	DISTRICT (D.)
TOWN. <i>George Ross, Esq.</i>	RIVER. <i>Captain Delafons, R. N.</i>	UPPER RIVER. <i>K. Heyland, Esq.</i>	Captain <i>Allen.</i>
Four cases; three of which were dismissed; one for beating; the party accused fined.	None.	One, the attorney of plantation 'Blairmont,' who was fined.	All complaints have been inquired into, and redress given to the best of my ability.
None.	None.	None.	None.
On all the estates in this district the children are allowed food, nurses and medical attendance.	The children are fed, have nurses to attend them when their mothers are at work, and medical attendance.	They are fed and taken care of, the same as when in a state of slavery, except 'Gilderland,' where they receive an allowance of provisions.	The report on this subject has not varied in any particular.
Three; viz. 'Kitty' estate, 'Belleair,' and 'Thomas.'	Five; viz. plantations 'Craig,' 'Perseverance,' 'Peter's Hall,' 'Rome and Houston,' and 'Ruimveldt.'	One; viz. plantation 'Augsburg.'	Ten; viz. 'Klyn Poude-royen,' 'Malgretout,' 'Versailles,' 'Good Fortune,' 'I. a Grange,' 'Nismes,' 'La Re-traite,' 'Belle Vue,' 'Good Intent,' and 'Wales.'
- - - - -	I deem it my duty to state, that there is an evident hostile feeling towards the clergyman of the parish by a great many managers of estates, who attribute the idleness of their labourers in the field to the conduct and doctrines of those individuals.	None.	—
(signed) <i>George Ross,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>Tho<sup>s</sup> Delafons,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>K. Heyland,</i> S. J. P.	(signed) <i>J. A. Allen,</i> S. J. P.

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September 1836.] DISTRICT (E.) <i>Spry Bartlett, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (F.) <i>George Kellock, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (G.) <i>George Ball, Esq.</i>	DISTRICT (H.) <i>W. J. Brittain, Esq.</i>
Answers to Question 12. None.	No.	One, which was unfounded.	None.
Answers to Question 13. None.	No.	None.	None.
Answers to Question 14. The children are located, as formerly, on all the estates but plantations 'Best,' 'Vreesehoop,' 'Tuchen,' where no food is allowed.	The children are fed and attended as formerly.	They are taken care of in the same manner as when in a state of slavery.	On most of the estates the free children are fed and clothed; on all, they have medical attendance and nurses.
Answers to Question 15. Five; viz. plantations 'Vreedenhoop,' 'Haarlem,' 'Windsor Forest,' 'Jalousie,' and 'Best.'	Five; viz. plantations 'Blenheim,' 'Enterprise,' 'Endeavour,' 'Meirzorg,' and 'Sans Souci.'	Eight; as stated in former reports.	Six; viz. plantations 'Walton Hall,' 'Sparta,' 'Anna Regina,' 'Land of Plenty,' 'Hampton Court,' and 'Taymouth Manor,' besides Sunday schools.
Answers to Question 16. — (signed) <i>Spry Bartlett,</i> S. J. P.	— (signed) <i>George Kellock,</i> S. J. P.	The apprenticed labourers continue to work assiduously, and generally to conduct themselves with the most perfect propriety. (signed) <i>George Ball,</i> S. J. P.	— — — — — (signed) <i>W. J. Brittain,</i> S. J. P.