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SLAVE BOUNTIES.

RETURN to an ORDER of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 25 March 1839;—for,

COPIES of any APPLICATIONS made on behalf of the Captors of the *Spanish* and *Portuguese* Vessels *Lafayette*, *General Ricafort*, *El Mismo*, *Cantabra*, *Tridente*, and *Matilde*, for Payment of the several Bounties under the Act 1 & 2 Vic. c. 47; and also Copies of any REPLIES that may have been given to the same.

Whitehall, Treasury Chambers, }
27 March 1839.

F. B A R I N G.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 8 April 1839.

COPIES of any APPLICATIONS made on behalf of the Captors of the *Spanish* and *Portuguese* Vessels *Lafayette*, *General Ricafort*, *El Mismo*, *Cantabra*, *Tridente*, and *Matilde*, for Payment of the several Bounties under the Act 1 & 2 Vic. c. 47; and also Copies of any Replies that may have been given to the same.

Lafayette.

No application whatever has been made to the Treasury for bounty under the Act 1 & 2 Vic. c. 47, nor if made, could any bounty be granted, inasmuch as the captors were only entitled to bounty under the Act 1 Will. 4, c. 55, amounting to 2,205*l.* This sum was paid to Messrs. Hallett & Robinson, the agents for the captors, on the 22d January 1838, and distributed by them on the 1st April following.

General Ricafort, El Mismo, Cantabra, Tridente, Matilde.

The only application made to the Treasury for bounty in these cases is one by Messrs. Hallett, Robinson & Maude, a copy of which is hereto annexed, together with copy of the Treasury Minute thereon, dated 26th March 1839.

Sir,

Great George-street, 2 Oct. 1838.

As agents to Commander late Lieutenant Mercer, the officers and crew of Her Majesty's Brig *Charybdis*, who were present at the capture of the following empty vessels, which have been condemned by reason of being fitted out for slaves, viz.

	Spanish Tons.	Proceeds.
	—	—
		<i>l. s. d.</i>
The <i>Matilde</i> - - - - -	106	527 17 10
<i>Cantabra</i> - - - - -	50	66 15 1
<i>Tridente</i> - - - - -	123	929 6 -
<i>El Mismo</i> - - - - -	128	63 6 -
<i>General Ricafort</i> - - - - -	-	3,017 4 11

We are to solicit of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that their Lordships will be pleased to order payment of the moiety of the
169. several

APPLICATIONS FOR BOUNTIES

several proceeds above stated, to which the captors are entitled under the Act of 1 & 2 Vic. c. 47.

We are further to request, that their Lordships will be pleased to order payment of the bounties of 5*l.* 10*s.* per ton fixed by the same Act of Parliament; but we must respectfully draw their Lordships' attention to the fact of the tonnage stated in the condemnation being Spanish tonnage, and, from the information of many naval officers who have served on the coast of Africa, we believe it is well known that the amount would be considerably greater in Britishtons.

In the case of the General Ricafort, the tonnage does not appear to have been certified in the condemnation, but Captain Mercer states it at 238 tons from the papers of the captured vessel, which he presumes have been forwarded to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and can be referred to in his office.

As the whole of these vessels were captured long before the Act passed which prescribes the kind of evidence to be adduced in proof of the tonnage, and as it will now be quite impossible to obtain that description of evidence, the vessels being broken up, and many of the parties employed being dead, we are induced to hope their Lordships will be satisfied in these cases with such proofs as we are enabled to produce, more particularly as it is a matter of notoriety, that the tonnage stated in the papers of the captured vessels is in all cases much below their real tonnage by admeasurement.

We have, &c.

(signed) *Hallett, Robinson & Maude.*

A. Y. Spearman, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

COPY OF TREASURY MINUTE of 26 March 1839.

My Lords read a Report from Mr. Rothery, dated 23d instant, on a letter from Messrs. Hallett, Robinson & Maude, soliciting, on behalf of Commander Mercer and the officers and crew of Her Majesty's brig Charybdis, payment of the moieties of the proceeds, and also of the bounties of 5*l.* 10*s.* per ton, allowed under the Act of the 1st & 2d Vic., c. 47, to the captors of the Matilde, and four other vessels hereafter mentioned, captured and condemned on the ground of their having been fitted out for the slave trade, but not having any slaves on board.

Mr. Rothery states that the balance of the net proceeds have been long since paid into the registry of the High Court of Admiralty, in every one of these vessels, and the following will show the amount of the net proceeds, the sums paid therefrom for captors' expenses, and the balance so paid, together with the dates of Mr. Rothery's several reports on each case; viz.

Name of Vessel.	Amount of Proceeds.			Captors' Expenses paid thereout.			Balance.			Date of Mr. Rothery's Report.
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
Matilde - - -	527	17	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	14	-	488	3	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 May 1838.
El Mismo - - -	63	6	-	33	5	-	30	1	-	7 -
Cantabra - - -	66	15	1	36	10	8	30	4	5	8 -
Tridente - - -	929	6	-	80	-	8	849	5	4	14 -
General Ricafort -	3,017	4	11	75	9	8	2,941	15	3	25 -

With regard to the application for tonnage bounty on these vessels, Mr. Rothery submits, that their Lordships are aware, that by the 2d section of the said Act, it is enacted, that whenever the slave vessel is entirely demolished or broken up, the captors are, in addition to the moiety of the said proceeds, entitled to a bounty of 1*l.* 10*s.* per ton, to compensate them for the estimated loss they would sustain by the vessel being destroyed; and as these vessels were all seized, without having slaves on board, the captors are, by the 3d section of the said Act, also entitled to an additional bounty of 4*l.* per ton, making in the whole 5*l.* 10*s.* per ton bounty for the capture of these vessels.

FOR CAPTURE OF SLAVE VESSELS.

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He states, however, that it is proper to observe, that this clause of the Act directs that the tonnage shall be estimated or ascertained according to the admeasurement of British vessels, either by the principal officer of the Customs at the port where the vessel may be at the time of condemnation, or in default thereof, by the best evidence which can be obtained, to be certified by the Commissioners by whom such condemnation shall be pronounced.

Messrs. Hallett & Co. in their letter state the Spanish tonnage of some of the vessels, and observe that, from the information of many naval officers who have served on the coast of Africa, it was well known that the amount would be considerably greater in British tons, and as the whole of these vessels were captured long before the Act passed which prescribes the kind of evidence to be adduced in proof of the tonnage, and as it would be impossible to obtain that description of evidence, the vessels being broken up, and many of the parties employed being dead, they were induced to hope their Lordships would be satisfied in these cases with such proofs as they were enabled to produce.

Mr. Rothery further reports, that soon after the receipt of this application, Mr. Hallett called upon him, and he then represented to Mr. Hallett the necessity of his procuring some evidence to show the British tonnage of each vessel, either by affidavit or otherwise; for that although the vessels had been broken up, yet the Spanish tonnage, and probably the build of the vessels, might appear among the ships' papers, and therefore the Commissioners at Sierra Leone, or some persons deputed by them, could easily give satisfactory proof of the admeasurement of the British tonnage of each vessel; and that if Mr. Hallett would forward the same to the Treasury, he had no doubt my Lords would give directions for the bounties to be paid, their Lordships being authorized so to do by the fifth section of the said Act, upon such documentary or other evidence as they may deem satisfactory; and as he has reason to know that Messrs. Hallett & Co. have taken steps to procure information and evidence as to the British tonnage of these vessels, Mr. Rothery states that he did not intend to report on this application until such documents had been forwarded, but from what passed in the House of Commons on the 22d instant, he now begs to report, that there being no proof as to the tonnage or either of these vessels according to British admeasurement, no directions can at present be given as to the payment of the bounties in question.

Mr. Rothery adds, that Messrs. Hallett & Co. are quite incorrect in their representation that the admeasurement of these vessels will be considerably greater in British tons than in Spanish tons, for from the best information he has been able to procure, there will be a considerable diminution of the tonnage of these vessels when computed according to British admeasurement, as directed by the said Act of Parliament.

Under the circumstances stated, my Lords do not consider that they can issue any directions until the further evidence is submitted to them.

SLAVE BOUNTIES.

COPIES of APPLICATIONS on behalf of the Captors of certain *Spanish* and *Portuguese* Vessels for Payment of Bounties; and also of any Replies thereto.

(*Captain Pechell.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
8 April 1839.
