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FOREIGN SLAVE TRADE.

RETURN to an ADDRESS of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 3 August 1838;—for,

COPY of a MEMORIAL to The QUEEN, from the ASSEMBLY of *Jamaica*, on the
subject of the FOREIGN SLAVE TRADE.

Colonial Department, Downing-street, }
4 August 1838.

G. GREY.

(No. 231.)

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

My Lord, Spanish Town, 18 December 1837.
I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, to be laid at the feet of Her Most Gracious Majesty, the humble and dutiful address and memorial of the House of Assembly, complaining of the continued importation of African slaves into certain parts of the continent and islands of America, to the very great injury of all classes of Her Majesty's subjects in this colony.

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

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

(Jamaica, ss.)

The Humble Memorial of the Assembly.

Most Gracious Sovereign,
WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Assembly of Jamaica, gladly seize the present opportunity to renew the expression of our attachment to your Majesty's person and Government.

We approach your Majesty to complain of the very great injury caused to all classes of your Majesty's subjects in this colony by the continued importation of large numbers of African slaves into certain parts of the continent and islands of America, of the increased activity of a traffic which, on the part of Great Britain, has happily ceased to exist in her colonies for a period of 30 years.

To bring forward here detailed proofs of the magnitude of the foreign slave trade would be superfluous. The occurrences which continually take place in this quarter of the globe, as well as on the coast of Africa, render it impossible to deny that, since the period when the slaves in your Majesty's colonies were emancipated, that trade has acquired a vigour and an extent previously unknown. Even within these few days two slave vessels, captured by your Majesty's ships, have been brought into this colony with above 600 Africans on board.

The great and fertile countries of Cuba and Brazil, as well as other parts, are adding to their productive powers in a manner in which it is impossible for your Majesty's colonies to participate. Those countries have abundance of fertile land, and only require labourers to make it productive, even to an extent sufficient to supply cheaply all Europe with colonial produce. We respectfully, but at the same time most earnestly, call the attention of your gracious Majesty to the condition to which this island, and all the West Indian colonies of Great Britain, are likely to be by this cause reduced. It is only by the continued cultivation

MEMORIAL ON FOREIGN SLAVE TRADE.

cultivation of the staples of Jamaica, and more particularly of sugar, that the well-being and advancement in civilization of the freed labourers of the colony can be secured. If once those large industrial establishments which now employ such a great proportion of the labouring population be broken up, we state confidently that the prosperity of all classes will be seriously, if not irretrievably injured; capital will leave the island, and combination of labour being at an end, the peasantry may indeed cultivate each individually whatever is necessary for subsistence, and perhaps a small quantity of the less important exportable productions of the soil, but for anything further, their labour must be unavailing. All inducement for persons to bring here their capital and industry will be at an end, and commerce with our shores in a great measure annihilated, leaving this now valuable island comparatively unprofitable to its inhabitants, and quite useless as a colony to Great Britain.

Such must, however, be the certain result of a continuance of the evil of which we complain. The British colonist will be met in the market of the world by the competition of those other tropical countries, where not only is slavery still in existence, but an active slave trade is daily adding to the strength of labour; and, making every allowance for any supposed superiority of the labour of a free man over that of a slave, it is impossible that the man who has to pay wages for all the labour he requires, can compete with the slave-holder, who commands the whole energies of his labourers for the small sum expended in their clothing and maintenance. And we especially beg to point out to your Majesty how much the labouring classes are interested in this matter. As slaves, their share in the exported produce of the soil was almost as nothing; but even now, the proportion of that produce which they receive as wages is not inconsiderable; and when, after the expiration of the term of apprenticeship, they shall be paid for the whole amount of their labour, to them, and not to the landholder, will the principal part of the proceeds of that produce go. To them, therefore, the value of that produce will be of paramount importance, as by that value must the amount of their wages be regulated: they must suffer as much, or more, than the landholder; for, if he be unable to sell his sugar or other produce at a remunerating price, he cannot pay their wages, or continue his cultivation.

Nor can we forego the higher position to be taken in this matter, as a question of humanity. Representing all classes in this island, we consider ourselves entitled, under present circumstances, to offer to your Majesty our respectful remonstrance as to the continuance of this condemned traffic in human beings. As a community composed of the descendants of the children of Africa and of Britain, we feel anxious to protect the inhabitants of the one country from outrage, and to advance the character and prove the consistent humanity of the other; and we entreat your Majesty to exercise your influence with foreign powers to cause this trade to be at once declared piracy.

This, we humbly submit, is the only effectual means for accomplishing an object so worthy to grace the commencement of your Majesty's auspicious reign.

Passed the House of Assembly, 15th day of December 1837.

(signed) *Richard Barrett, Speaker.*

FOREIGN SLAVE TRADE.

COPY of a MEMORIAL to THE QUEEN, from the
Assembly of *Jamaica*, on the subject of the
FOREIGN SLAVE TRADE.

(*Sir Robert Harry Inglis.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
6 August 1838.

688.