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**P A P E R S**

RELATING TO THE

MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE LEGISLATURES

OF

J A M A I C A,

BRITISH GUIANA, DOMINICA, GRENADA, AND TOBAGO,

FOR THE

**A B O L I T I O N**

OF THE

**S Y S T E M O F A P P R E N T I C E S H I P**

ON THE

1st AUGUST 1838.

[PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY HER MAJESTY'S COMMAND.]

*(In continuation of the Papers presented to Parliament 26 June 1838, No 535.)*


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

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SCHEDULE.

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## J A M A I C A.

JAMAICA.

### — No. 1. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*, Bart, K.C.B., to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Spanish Town, Jamaica, 17 May 1838. No. 98.

No. 1.

YOUR Lordship's circular despatch of the 2d ultimo, enclosing a copy of the proposed Amended Abolition Act, together with your private and confidential letter of the same date, communicating to me the measures which had been taken in Parliament, and the state of the public feeling in England on the apprenticeship question, all reached me on the 13th instant.

Accounts from the Windward Colonies also communicated that Barbados, Tortola, Nevis and Montserrat, had passed Acts of general emancipation, on the 1st of August next, for all classes.

The packet also brought accounts from England, that several landed proprietors had sent out orders to give general freedom to their negroes on the 1st of August next.

I assembled the Council yesterday, who were unanimous in opinion, that the House of Assembly should be immediately convened, and have the opportunity given them of providing for the expected crisis; and I am happy to say the Council were equally unanimous, that the only measure to carry the country through its difficulties, on this great question, would be by the general release of all the apprentices on the 1st of August next, and they will come to a legislative resolution to that effect, when the Legislature is assembled.

The House of Assembly stands prorogued to the 29th instant, and I have ordered it to assemble for the despatch of business on the 5th proximo.

### — No. 2. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Lionel Smith*, Bart. K. C. B., to Lord *Glenelg*, dated The King's House, Jamaica, 7th June 1838. No. 114.

No. 2.

My previous reports will have informed your Lordship, that I had resolved on calling upon both branches of the Legislature to take into consideration the state of the island, consequent upon several of the Windward and Leeward Colonies having agreed to abolish the apprenticeship system, in respect to all classes, on the 1st August next.

The Legislature accordingly met on the 5th instant, when I addressed to the Council and Assembly the enclosed speech; and I have the honour also to transmit their replies.

After some little discussion in the House of Assembly, the question was referred to a committee, and I believe I can safely promise your Lordship, that the most desirable object of general abolition will be agreed to, to take place on the 1st August; and I confidently expect to have the happiness of forwarding your Lordship the Bill by this packet, the House having requested me to detain the packet, for 48 hours, for this purpose.

The British Amended Abolition Act comes into operation on the 9th instant.

## JAMAICA.

## Enclosures in No. 2.

(No. 1.)

Encl. in No. 2.

Gentlemen of the Council,

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

I HAVE called you together, at an unusual season, to take into your consideration the state of the island under the laws of apprenticeship for the labouring population.

I need not refer you to the agitation on this subject throughout the British empire, or to the discussions upon it in Parliament, where the honourable efforts of the Ministry were barely found sufficient to preserve the original duration of the law, as an obligation of national faith.

I shall lay before you some despatches on this subject.

Gentlemen, General agitation and Parliamentary interference have not, I am afraid, yet terminated.

A corresponding excitement has been long going on amongst the apprentices themselves, but resting in sober and quiet hopes on your generosity that you will do them justice, and not deny to them that boon which has been granted to their class in other colonies.

Gentlemen of the Council,

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

In this posture of affairs, it is my duty to declare my sentiments, and distinctly to recommend to you, early and equal abolition of apprenticeship for all classes.

I do so in confidence that the apprentices will be found worthy of freedom, and that it will operate as a double blessing, by securing also the future interests of the planters.

I am commanded, however, to inform you, that Her Majesty's Ministers will not entertain any question of future compensation; but should your views be opposed to the policy I recommend, I would entreat you to consider well how impracticable it will become to carry on coercive labour. Always difficult, it would in future be in peril of constant comparison with other colonies made free, and with those estates in this island made free by individual proprietors.

As Governor, under these circumstances, and I never shrink from any of my responsibilities, I pronounce it physically impossible to maintain the apprenticeship with any hope of successful agriculture.

Gentlemen of the Council.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly.

Jamaica is in your hands; she requires repose by the removal of a law which has equally tormented the labourer and disappointed the planter; a law by which man constrains man in unnatural servitude.

This is her first exigency.

For her future welfare she appeals to your wisdom to legislate in the spirit of the times, with liberality and benevolence towards all classes.

(No. 2.)

## JAMAICA SS.

To His Excellency Sir *Lionel Smith*, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Hanoverian Order, a Lieutenant-General in Her Majesty's Land Forces, and Colonel of the 40th regiment of Foot, Captain-General, Governor, and Commander of the Forces, in and over Her Majesty's Island of Jamaica, and other the territories thereon depending in America, Chancellor and Vice-Admiral of the same.

The humble Address of the Council.

May it please your Excellency,

We, the Council of Jamaica, beg leave to thank your Excellency for the speech with which you have been pleased to open the present session.

Unusual as the period of the year is for the assembling of the Legislature, and inconvenient as it undoubtedly is for us to be absent from our respective houses at this moment, still we feel grateful to your Excellency for having called us together for the purpose of taking into our consideration the state of the island, under the laws of apprenticeship, for the labouring population.

We are aware of the agitation on this subject throughout the British empire, and of the discussions on it in Parliament, and duly appreciate the honourable efforts of Her Majesty's Ministers to preserve the original duration of the law as an obligation of national faith.

When it shall please your Excellency to lay before us any despatches on this subject, your Excellency may rely on their receiving our most attentive consideration.

We

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JAMAICA.

We feel confident that the hopes of the apprentices will not be disappointed, and that the wisdom and generosity of the Legislature of Jamaica will not hesitate to extend to them that boon which has been granted to their class in the other colonies.

We cordially concur in your Excellency's wise and humane recommendation of an early and equal abolition of the apprenticeship of all classes, and feel pleasure in recording our perfect conviction that the apprentices will be found worthy of freedom in every respect, and will so conduct themselves in their altered condition as to insure the future interests of the planters.

Coercive labour has at all times been obtained with difficulty, but under the present peculiar circumstances of this island we fear it might be impossible to maintain the apprenticeship with any hope of successful agriculture.

Jamaica does indeed require repose; and we are sanguine in the expectation that, under Divine Providence, such laws will be passed by her Legislature as will evince their desire to act with liberality and benevolence towards all classes.

We also rely on that sound and safe discretion, and that firmness of purpose, which have ever characterized your Excellency in the administration of the government of this important and valuable colony.

(No. 3.)

Gentlemen of the Council,

I THANK you for this Address, and beg to assure you, that I feel the highest confidence in your anxious desire to promote the true interests of the country at this important crisis.

I gratefully acknowledge your reliance upon my humble efforts to secure the tranquillity and welfare of all classes of Her Majesty's subjects.

(No. 4.)

JAMAICA, SS.

To his Excellency Sir Lionel Smith, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, a Lieutenant-general in Her Majesty's Land Forces, and Colonel of Her Majesty's 40th Regiment of Foot, Captain-general and Commander of the Forces in and over this Her Majesty's Island of Jamaica, and the Territories thereon depending in America, Chancellor, Ordinary, and Vice-admiral of the same.

The humble Address of the Assembly.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Assembly of Jamaica, thank your Excellency for your speech at the opening of the session, and we duly appreciate the consideration evinced by your Excellency, in convening this General Assembly on the earliest day consistent with the public welfare on the present emergency.

On receiving the despatches alluded to by your Excellency, we shall proceed, in the critical posture in which the island is placed, to give to the momentous matters submitted to us our most serious consideration. Jamaica does indeed require repose, and we anxiously hope, that should we determine to remove an unnatural servitude, we shall be left in the exercise of our constitutional privileges, to legislate for the benefit of all classes, without any further parliamentary interference.

The apprenticeship was forced on the acceptance of the House, as one of the precautionary measures to be adopted in the transition from slavery to freedom, and was a portion of our compensation; while therefore we discuss the propriety of its abolition, we neither assume the responsibility nor exonerate the public faith.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

I RECEIVE this your Address with great satisfaction, feeling confident that you will give a calm and dispassionate consideration to the important question upon which you have been specially convened.

— No. 3. —

(No. 120.)

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

No. 3.

My Lord,

The King's House, Jamaica, 16 June 1838.

I HAVE the sincere satisfaction to acquaint your Lordship that I this day assented to an Act which had passed the Council and Assembly for the total abolition of the prædial apprenticeship on and from the 1st August next.

727.

I anticipate

## 6 PAPERS RELATIVE TO THE ABOLITION OF

JAMAICA. I anticipate the happiest results from this event towards all classes of Her Majesty's subjects.

No. 1. I beg to enclose your Lordship the Act passed on the occasion, which I hope may be found sufficient to secure the rights of the labouring population in their free condition, and to protect the aged, diseased, and infirm. I have further the honour to transmit a copy of my speech, by which I prorogued the session to the 17th of next month.

No. 2.

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

## Enclosures in No. 3.

Encl. in No. 3.

(No. 1.)

JAMAICA ss.

AN ACT for Abolishing the Apprenticeship of the Prædial Labourers within this Island, for giving Summary Power to Justices of the Peace, and providing for Infirm and Diseased Persons for a limited time.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it hath now become expedient to terminate the apprenticeship created by an Act for the abolition of slavery in this island, and to allow the apprenticed population to pass into a state of absolute and entire freedom on the 1st day of August next; be it therefore enacted, by the Governor, Council, and Assembly, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that all and every the persons who on the 1st day of August in the present year 1838 shall be deemed, holden, and considered within this island as prædial apprenticed labourers, shall from and after the said 1st day of August in the present year 1838, become and be to all intents and purposes whatsoever absolutely freed and discharged of and from the remaining term of their said apprenticeship raised and created by the above-mentioned Act for the abolition of slavery, and are hereby declared to all intents and purposes free subjects. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that from and after the said 1st day of August next, all Statutes and Acts, or parts and portions of Statutes and Acts, now or then to be in force in this island, which have reference to or in anywise affect the relations now subsisting between masters and apprenticed labourers under the Abolition Acts or Statutes, or Actssupplemental thereto, or which in anywise relate to or affect the enforcement of the duties of such relation, be and the same are hereby repealed and declared to be of no force or affect, except as to anything done, or any privilege or immunity granted for anything done, under the authority of any or either of the Statutes or Acts by this clause repealed, and except also so far as any clauses or provisions of any other of the Acts of this island is or are repealed or made of no force by any or either of the said Acts or Statutes. And be it further enacted, that from and after the 1st day of August next, if any person now an apprenticed labourer, having received three months notice to quit, in the form hereinafter mentioned, shall refuse or omit to quit and deliver up possession of any land, dwelling, or building which he or she shall have been permitted or suffered to occupy, to his or her employer or employers, his servants or agents, or the party entitled to receive possession of the same, such person so refusing or omitting as aforesaid shall be deemed and considered a trespasser; and it shall and may be lawful in such case for any two justices of the peace associated together, upon complaint made upon oath, to summon the party or parties so offending before them, and on conviction thereof, by warrant under their hands to authorize any lawful constable, or any person or persons employed in the police of this island, summarily to eject such offender or offenders from such land, building, or dwelling. Provided always, and be it further enacted, that no complaint shall be entertained by the authority aforesaid during the continuance of any agreement entered into between an employer and a labourer by which the said labourer is to have, hold, or enjoy the possession of his house and ground for a period not expired at the time of any application to such magistrate to act as aforesaid. And be it further enacted, that the notice hereinbefore-mentioned shall be in the form following:

Apprenticed labourers declared free on the 1st August 1838.

Repealing laws affecting the relationship now subsisting between masters and apprenticed labourers.

Persons refusing to quit, and deliver up possession of lands, &c. after due notice, considered trespassers.

Proviso, complaints not to be entertained during the continuance of any agreement.

## FORM.

Form of notice to quit.

Jamaica ss. } Take notice that you will be, as you are hereby required, immediately at the (Parish.) } expiration of three months after this notice, peaceably and quietly to surrender, quit, and deliver over to me (or us) the possession of all that lot or lots, piece or pieces, or parcels of land, as well as of the dwelling-house or premises, with the appurtenances, situate at \_\_\_\_\_ in the parish of \_\_\_\_\_ which you have been heretofore permitted by me (or by us) to occupy, under the penalty, on your failing so to do immediately after the expiration of the time aforesaid, of your being deemed and considered a trespasser.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 18  
To \_\_\_\_\_ of the parish of \_\_\_\_\_ in the county of \_\_\_\_\_

Proprietors, &c. not to turn away or discard any aged or

And whereas it is expedient to provide temporary accommodation for the aged and infirm persons now in the apprenticed class; be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that no proprietor or person in possession of any estate, penn, plantation, or settlement on which are

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are now domiciled or are attached any apprenticed labourer or labourers afflicted with any disease, or mental or bodily infirmity, as may render them permanently incapable of earning sufficient subsistence, shall be at liberty, after the 1st day of August next, to discard or turn away such diseased or infirm labourer or labourers, but shall and they are hereby required to allow such diseased and infirm labourers to retain possession of their present houses and grounds on the respective estates, pennis, plantations, or settlements until the 1st day of June next, under a penalty not exceeding five pounds for each offence, to be recovered in a summary manner before any two justices of the peace for the parish in which the offence shall have been committed, such penalty to be applied to the use of the poor of such parish, and in default of immediate payment of such penalty, the said offender to be committed to and confined in the nearest gaol for a term not exceeding ten days. And be it further enacted, that all such infirm and destitute persons shall be entitled to apply by complaint to the justices and vestry of the parish in which such persons reside for such relief as is provided by the several Acts of this island for the relief of the poor and destitute; and the justices and vestry, when so applied to as aforesaid, shall be and they are hereby required to grant such relief as shall be determined on by such justices and vestry according to the circumstances of each case. And be it further enacted, that the 1st day of August next shall be and is hereby declared a holiday throughout this island.

infirm apprenticed labourers before the 1st June next, under penalty.

How penalty is to be recovered.

Such infirm and destitute persons entitled to apply, by complaint, to the justices and vestry for relief, which shall be granted. The 1st of August next considered a holiday.

Passed the Assembly this 8th day of June 1838.

*Rich. Barrett, Speaker*

Passed the Council this 16th day of June 1838.

*W. G. Stewart, Clerk to the Council.*

I consent, this 16th day of June 1838.

*Lionel Smith.*

(No. 2.)

Gentlemen of the Council,  
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I CONGRATULATE you and the whole country on the Act for the abolition of the apprenticeship from the 1st of August next, and most fervently do I hope that it may ensure to the colony those advantages which equal liberty, under wise laws, has ever been found to produce.

I am happy that I can now grant you a recess, as I am most anxious that you should, by returning to your houses, be enabled to make such arrangements as may give encouragement to the industry of the free labourer; and by your example prepare all ranks to meet the approaching change, in a spirit of kindness and mutual good will.

Gentlemen of the Council,  
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

It will, I am convinced, prove a source of lasting satisfaction to you, that this final declaration of unrestricted freedom has been the Act of the Legislature of Jamaica; and I cordially thank you for the great boon it confers upon those whose former condition has long been the cause of painful discontent both here and in the mother country.

I do now, in Her Majesty's name, prorogue this General Assembly, to Tuesday, the 17th day of July next, and it is hereby prorogued accordingly.



BRITISH  
GUIANA.

## BRITISH GUIANA.

— No. 4. —

No. 4.      EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Colonel *Bunbury* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated  
Camp House, Demerara, 22d June 1838. No. 86.

I have herewith the honour of transmitting to your Lordship extracts of the Minutes of the Court of Policy, in which will be found a notice of motion for the abolition of the apprentice system, and the observations to which that measure gave rise; these, alone, cannot lead your Lordship to any conclusive opinion; neither is it from what passed in court, but from the result of conferences which I have since had with the members and other influential persons, that I am at this moment enabled, unreservedly, to state to your Lordship, that the unconditional and total emancipation of the apprenticed labourers in this colony will take place on the 1st of August next.

The Honourable Colonel M'Turk's motion, by which this glorious measure is to be effected, is to be brought forward on Monday next the 25th instant.

I am in hourly expectation of the arrival of my successor, Mr. Light, who will, I have no doubt, take the first opportunity of informing your Lordship of the consummation of this great event.

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Enclosure in No. 4.

Encl. in No. 4.      EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of British Guiana, at its adjourned Assembly held, at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, Wednesday, 20th June 1838.

The Honourable Colonel M'Turk here rose, and addressed the Court as follows:  
May it please your Excellency,

In rising to give a notice of a motion for the future consideration of this Court, having for its object the greatest change in the social order of society that was ever mooted in this colony, it is necessary, I should say, that as such it should be received with caution, listened to with attention, and judged of with temper after mature deliberation. I know there are many in the community who support me in the views I entertain of the proposed measure, while at the same time I am aware that there are others of a different way of thinking. To reconcile both parties is my most earnest wish and ardent desire for that purpose, and impressed with the belief that if a mutual understanding could be come to, whereupon it would be safe to legislate, much future good would accrue to the community at large, and all irritation and excitement in the minds of the negroes and the whites allayed. To attain this most desirable end, I see only one way in which it can be done, and that is by making it imperative on parties holding contrary opinions to state their reasons in a constitutional way, and by so doing, enable this Court to arrive at a safe, just, and equitable conclusion, previous to attempting any legislative enactment. The standing rules of this Court happily afford me the means of putting these conflicting opinions to the test. The Court is aware that any Bill not brought forward by his Excellency, after a first reading, must be published in the Royal Gazette for a time, for general information, for the purpose of inviting the opinion of the community as to the propriety or impropriety of the measure contemplated. What I then contemplate is, to bring in a Bill to abolish the apprenticeship as it now exists in this colony, which, when published, will elicit that information which I am so anxious to obtain. For the present, it is not necessary to say more, as I shall hereafter enter more fully into detail, if I am permitted to bring in my Bill. I therefore now give notice, that I will, at an early day to be fixed, bring in a Bill having for its object the abolition of the negro apprenticeship as at present existing in the colony, to take effect on the 1st of August next ensuing, under the proviso that all the labourers shall have to remain and work at their usual occupations until the 1st of January, for reasonable wages to be fixed by this Court.

The Honourable Colonel Dougan considered such a motion as that of which the honourable member had just given notice, highly unnecessary and inexpedient, and could not conceive how it would be possible for so limited a representation as that which this Court presented, to entertain a question of such vast and general importance, without previously ascertaining the sentiments and opinions of the community at large. Some discussion took place in reference to that part of Colonel M'Turk's notice of motion which implied that any "Bill not brought forward by his Excellency, must, after a first reading, be published in the Royal Gazette."

The

## THE APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM.

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GUIANA.

The Honourables the Attorney-General Warren and Macrae, with his Honor the Chief Justice, differed with the honourable member as to there being any such rule or regulation.

The honourable Colonel M'Turk had no doubt that the mere notice of motion which he had this day given would soon have the effect of eliciting the opinions of all who differed with him, and of the many likewise who coincided with his own view of the subject. The most prudent course, in his opinion, was to meet the question at once fearlessly and openly, and to bring it to a decision one way or the other.

His Excellency stated that several gentlemen had expressed to him their intention of terminating the apprenticeship upon their properties on the 1st of August next, and questioned how far it would be practicable to avoid a general measure if these partial concessions were made.

The discussion here terminated, his Honor the Chief Justice stating, that when the motion came before the Court would be the proper time to discuss the merits of it, and that he should reserve what he had to say on the subject until then.

(A true extract.)

W. B. Wolseley, Acting Secretary.

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Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of *British Guiana*, at its adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, Thursday 21 June 1838.

THE bill to amend an ordinance, intituled An Ordinance for the Classification and Registration of Slaves hereafter to become and be Apprenticed Labourers, having been brought up for a second reading, the honourable Colonel M'Turk stated, that as the motion of which he had yesterday given notice might in some measure interfere with the Bill now before the Court, and as the present vacancy among the elective members would so immediately be filled up, he would take leave to suggest the expediency of postponing the further consideration of the Bill for the present, declaring it to be his intention to bring forward his proposed Bill without any unnecessary delay.

His Excellency stated that he should have no objection to defer the further consideration of the Classification Bill, if the honourable member would name as early a day as possible for the introduction of his Bill; to which the honourable member agreed, and the Bill was deferred accordingly.

(A true extract.)

W. B. Wolseley, Acting Secretary.

— No. 5. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Colonel *Bunbury* to Lord *Glenelg*; dated  
Camp House, Demerara, 26 June 1838. No. 87.

No. 5.

THE term of my administration of this government having drawn to a close, by the arrival of Governor Light, I hasten to enclose to your Lordship an extract minute of the proceedings of the Court of Policy, containing the speech I had the honour to address to that body on the occasion of Colonel M'Turk's giving notice of the day on which he proposed the Court of Policy should take into consideration his motion on the vital question of the abolition of the apprenticeship system on the 1st of August next.

I beg to assure your Lordship that I entertain no doubt whatsoever as to the termination of this debate in the total extinction of the apprenticeship on that day.

I trust that the part I have taken, at this momentous crisis, will meet your Lordship's approbation.

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Enclosure in No. 5.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of *British Guiana*, at its adjourned Assembly, held at the Guiana Public Buildings, George Town, Demerara, Monday, 25 June 1838.

Encl. in No. 5.

Gentlemen,

I HAVE determined to take upon myself the responsibility of again delaying the Classification Bill until Monday next, in order that the Honourable Michael M'Turk may, on that day, bring forward his motion for the abolition of the apprenticeship.

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GUIANA.

Although I fully concurred in the views entertained by your late Governor, as to the continuance of the apprenticeship to the term originally fixed by law, yet recent events, and the public announcement of such a motion in this court, render its abolition unavoidable.

It would now be both impolitic and useless to offer opposition to this measure, supported, as it is, out of doors by a majority of the proprietary body.

I would, therefore, implore the colonial section of this court to remember, that the destiny of this magnificent colony depends on the vote they shall give that day; and I would entreat them to come forward, and unanimously support a measure which the course of events has rendered inevitable, and which the voice of the community loudly demands at their hands.

## DOMINICA.

## DOMINICA.

— No. 6. —

No. 6. EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government-House, Antigua, 3 July 1838. No. 145.

No. 1.

I HAVE the satisfaction to enclose to your Lordship a report which has been made to me by the President of Dominica, with the resolutions of the Council and Assembly, to terminate the system of apprenticeship in that island on the 1st of August next, a Bill to effect which object had passed the Assembly.

No. 2.

I enclose also a letter which I had previously written to the President in anticipation of this measure.

By its accomplishment the change will be simultaneously effected throughout all the islands under this Government, and under circumstances which I hope will be favourable to their future prospects.

## Enclosures in No. 6.

(No. 1.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the President of Dominica to Sir *William Colebrooke*, dated Roseau, 19 June 1838.

Encls. in No. 6.

YOUR Excellency will undoubtedly learn with feelings of high satisfaction that the wish so often expressed of a simultaneous termination, on the 1st of August next, of the apprenticeship in all the islands under your command, is about to be realised by the concurrence of this colony. I have the honour of enclosing an extract from the minutes of the legislative council, by which your Excellency will perceive that a Bill for the abolition of the apprenticeship, on the 1st of August next, will be immediately introduced, without opposition, into one or other of the Houses of Legislature.

## Extract from the Minutes of the Legislative Council, 12 June 1838.

Present; The Honourable Symonds Bridgwater, President; William Blanc, Alexander Robinson, D. S. Laidlaw, T. H. Garraway, James L. Bremner, Thomas Bell.

The following resolutions were adopted:

*Resolved*, That a committee of this board be appointed to prepare the laws that may be deemed necessary to meet a state of entire freedom in this colony, and that the Honourable William Blanc and D. S. Laidlaw be named as members of this board to form such committee.

*Resolved*, That a message be sent to the House of Assembly to request their concurrence and that they will be pleased to name members of their body to join the committee of this board for the above purpose.

Two members from the House of Assembly with the following message:

His Honor the Speaker and House of Assembly to his Honor the President and Council.

The House inform your honourable Board that they concur in the propriety of appointing a committee for the purpose stated in the message of your honourable Board of this date, and

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and have appointed Messrs. Joseph Fadelle, Lewis F. Bellot, and James Garraway, to meet the members appointed by your honourable Board.

DOMINICA.

House of Assembly,  
12 June 1838.

(signed) *William Thomas Rainy*, Speaker.

(A true copy.)

(signed) *Theodore Gordon*,  
Acting Clerk of Council.

Sir, Dominica, Government House, Roseau, 23 June 1838.

I HAVE the honour of announcing to your Excellency that a Bill for terminating the apprenticeship of the prædial labourers in this island on the 1st of August 1838, was yesterday passed unanimously by the House of Assembly. The Legislative Council meet on Wednesday, and as I before stated, no opposition to the principal enactment is anticipated.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke,  
Antigua.

(signed) *S. Bridgwater*,  
President Administering the Government.

(No. 2.)

Sir, Government House, Antigua, 14 June 1838.

WITH reference to my circular letters of the 26th and 28th of May, with the copy of Lord Glenelg's circular despatch of the 16th of April, enclosing the Act for amending the Slavery Abolition Act, I request that you will inform me on what day these communications were laid before the Council, and that you will forward to me a copy of the minutes of proceedings thereupon, and of the proclamation that was issued by the Lieutenant-governor's notification of the execution of the Secretary of State's instructions having reached me from all the other islands under this government.

Bills for terminating the apprenticeship of the prædial labourers after the 1st August 1838 having passed in all the islands under this government with the exception of Dominica, I have also to request that no delay may take place in communicating to the Legislature the sentiments of the Secretary of State and my own in favour of the adoption of a similar course, transmitting to me copies of the proceedings of the Council and Assembly at the close of each meeting and by the earliest opportunity, pursuant to an arrangement recently adopted in some other islands under this Government, and which will supersede the necessity of transmitting them quarterly in future. You will, however, transmit them for the period in arrear since the beginning of the year.

I have, &c.

The Officer administering  
the Government of Dominica.

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

— No. 7. —

(No. 156.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke* to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 7.

My Lord, Government House, Antigua, 11 July 1838.

I HAVE the satisfaction to report to your Lordship that a Bill has passed the Council and Assembly of Dominica for terminating the prædial apprenticeship in that colony on the 1st of August next, in which provision has been made for the aged and infirm apprentices.

It is my intention to confirm this Bill in person, after the adjustment of some details with the Council and Assembly of that island.

I have, &c.

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

GRENADA.

## GRENADA.

— No. 8. —

(No. 129.)

No. 8. Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart., to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord, Government-House, Barbados, 5 June 1838.

Nos. 1, 2, 3.

FROM the enclosed copies of his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor's correspondence with me, your Lordship will perceive that the Legislature of Grenada has passed "An Act for the Abrogation of the present System of Prædial Apprenticeship upon the 1st day of August next."

It is the more agreeable to me to have the honour of communicating this intelligence to your Lordship, that the provisions of the Antigua Act for the Abolition of Slavery are very closely adhered to in the Grenada Bill, which will be forwarded when received and assented to.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Governor.

Enclosures in No. 8.

(No. 1.)

Encls. in No. 8.

(No. 27.)

Sir,

Government-House, Grenada, 28 May 1838.

27 May 1838.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the transcript of a Bill, intituled, "An Act for the Abrogation of the present System of Prædial Apprenticeship upon the 1st day of August next," together with the report thereon by Her Majesty's Attorney-general for this colony.

I earnestly hope your Excellency will see fit to allow me to assent to this Bill, as I should view with anxiety any delay, as I know many of the employers of apprentices have already made them acquainted with its provisions, or with the fact that the Legislature intended to abrogate the apprenticeship. I have of course been silent on the subject, and have not allowed the special magistrates to make any communication to the people until after I should have received your commands as to assenting to the Bill. As the matter is, in my opinion, of such importance, and I am desirous of addressing the people myself without loss of time, to prevent the chance of misconception on their part, I have deemed it expedient, on my own responsibility, to send an express vessel with the Bill to Barbados, with directions to await your Excellency's answer and return forthwith; a measure which, I trust, will meet your approval.

In consequence of the passing of this Bill, it is not my intention to proclaim the "Act to amend the Act for the Abolition of Slavery in the British Colonies, 11th April 1838," unless I receive your Excellency's further instructions.

I have, &amp;c.

His Excellency the Governor-general,  
&c. &c. &c.(signed) *C. J. Doyle*,  
Lieutenant-Governor.

(No. 2.)

Sir,

Grenada, 27 May 1838.

I HAVE perused the Bill submitted to my consideration by your Excellency's desire, intituled, "An Act for the Abrogation of the present System of Prædial Apprenticeship upon the 1st day of August next." I find that the provisions of this Bill are substantially the same as those comprised in the Act of the Legislature of Antigua, passed in the year 1834, for relieving the slave population of that colony from the apprenticeship imposed by the Imperial Act. In the second clause your Excellency will observe that delinquents who are blind, and of unsound mind, are not liable to expulsion from their habitations for the delinquencies provided against by that clause in the case of other persons not subject to those infirmities. This wholesome exception is not contained in the Antigua Act.

In

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In the latter part of the third clause is a recognition of the rights of the proprietors, in which it is provided that, from the stipulated wages of the labourer, such rent shall be deducted for the habitation occupied by him as may be agreed upon between the owner and director, and the labourer. I consider this deviation in form from the Antigua Act as merely introduced from the excessive caution of the owners of property, and that it does not create any substantial difference between the two Acts.

The wages of the labourer in Antigua being equally liable to a deduction for the habitation which he occupies (these are the only variations from the Act of Antigua), I feel, therefore, every confidence in stating to your Excellency that there exists no legal objection to this Bill becoming the law of the colony.

I have, &amp;c.

His Excellency Col. Chas. Joseph Doyle,  
Lieutenant-governor, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *William Darnell Davis*,  
Attorney-general.

GRENADA.

(No. 3.)

(G. No. 168.)

Sir,

Windward Islands, Government House,  
Barbados, 5 June 1838.

I HAVE had the honour of perusing your Excellency's despatch of the 28th ultimo, received this morning, together with the transcript of a Bill, intituled, "An Act for the Abrogation of the present System of Prædial Apprenticeship upon the 1st day of August," in the island of Grenada, and the report of Her Majesty's Attorney-general for that colony.

It affords me sincere pleasure to be enabled, without delay, to request that your Excellency will be pleased to sanction the above-mentioned Act, and likewise to convey to your Excellency, as well as to the Honourable the Council and Assembly, my congratulations on the decision at which the Legislature of Grenada has arrived upon this most important subject.

With respect to the proclamation of the Imperial Act to amend the Act for the Abolition of Slavery in the British Colonies, I have the honour of referring your Excellency to the Right honourable the Colonial Secretary's despatches, and to the Act itself, adding, at the same time, for your Excellency's information, two proclamations issued by me here, and the transcript of a message which I have had occasion recently to address to the Legislative Houses of Barbados.

I have, &amp;c.

His Excellency  
The Lieut.-governor, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*,  
Governor.

Nos. 1 & 2, Proclamations.

No. 3, Message,  
22 May 1838.

TOBAGO.

T O B A G O.

— No. 9. —

(No. 149.)

No. 9. COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Bart., to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbados, 22 June 1838.

Nos. 1 to 8.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to your Lordship copies of a correspondence with his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor of Tobago, relative to an Act passed by the Legislature of that colony, intituled "An Act for terminating the apprenticeship of the prædial labourers within this island on the 1st day of August 1838."

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *E. J. M. MacGregor*, Governor.

Enclosures in No. 9.

(No. 1.)

Sir,

Government House, Tobago, 1 June 1838.

Encl. in No. 9.

IN my despatch of the 19th May (No. 37) I had the honour to acquaint your Excellency that the Council had unanimously declined to come forward with any proposal for the abolition of negro apprenticeship; and on the 24th May (No. 43) I spoke of certain resolutions which they had passed relative to Lord Glenelg's despatch of the 30th March, covering the opinion of the Attorney and Solicitor-general in England, on the claims of estates mechanics to be considered non-prædials.

While the joint committee of the Council and Assembly were debating upon the address to be presented to me, I determined, upon consideration of the deeply important nature of the late despatches from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, and the information I had received of the proceedings in the neighbouring islands, to address to both branches of the Legislature a message, of which I beg to enclose a copy to your Excellency.

No. 2.  
26 May 1838.

This message they abstained from answering, until possessed of my sentiments on the address which they had prepared, but had not then delivered. Finding by my answer, when received, that there was little prospect of obtaining the object of their wishes, namely, a suppression of the legal opinions transmitted with my Lord Glenelg's despatch, Mr. Campbell on the 29th ultimo, gave notice, in his place in the House of Assembly, of a motion for the following day for taking my message into consideration, with a view to the general abolition of the apprenticeship on the 1st of August. The result of the debate was yesterday communicated to me in a hasty resolution, of which I enclose a copy, the question having been carried against the dissentient voices of Mr. Gairdner and another.

No. 3.  
31 May 1838.

On this occasion some of the members thought it necessary to give in their speeches in writing, not trusting to their oratorical powers to do justice to their change of sentiments. The Bill was read twice yesterday, and has happily passed the Assembly: I shall be truly rejoiced if it pass the ordeal of the Council with equal rapidity, and that I may be enabled to send your Excellency a copy by the expected mail boat.

No. 4.  
29 May 1838.

I trouble your Excellency with a copy of the joint Address presented to me, and my answer, that you may judge of the importance attached to the loss of the services of the estates mechanics, who were considered by the island classification as prædials.

No. 5.  
30 May 1838.

To the loss of their services, is to be attributed chiefly the consummation of this most interesting object.

We should not have been very materially affected by the operation of the Act of 11th of April, though it is not to be doubted that it had its influence in the change of sentiments that has so happily taken place, it not having been communicated to the Legislature when I addressed your Excellency on the 19th ultimo.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Henry C. Darling*,  
Lieutenant-governor.His Excellency  
Major-general Sir *E. J. Mac Gregor*, Bart.,  
&c. &c. &c.No. 6.  
1 June 1838.

*P. S.* Since putting my name to the foregoing, I have received a communication from the House of Assembly, whereof copy is enclosed, officially announcing that the Bill had passed, and had been sent up to the Council.

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(No. 2.)

MESSAGE to the Honourable Board of Legislative Council, and House of General Assembly.

THE Lieutenant-governor has the honour to put the \_\_\_\_\_ in possession of two printed copies of an Act of the Imperial Parliament, dated 11th April 1838, intituled, "An Act to Amend the Act for the Abolition of Slavery in the British Colonies."

The Lieutenant-governor has to acquaint \_\_\_\_\_ that he has received peremptory instructions to carry this Act into operation, as soon as the necessary proclamation, and other arrangements connected with it, can be prepared.

The short interval that must thus occur before the Proclamation, appears to invite the Lieutenant-governor to a communication with the Legislature, on a deeply important measure, for the consideration of which the present moment appears peculiarly favourable, namely, the general abolition of negro apprenticeship at an early period.

In offering this question to the consideration of the \_\_\_\_\_, the Lieutenant-governor feels it proper to inform the \_\_\_\_\_, that although Her Majesty's Ministers may participate in the universal and deeply-seated feeling so prevalent in the parent State, for bringing the system of apprenticeship, established in 1833, to an early close, yet are they not unmindful of the pledge implied on the passing of that Act as to the period to which the proprietary body were to enjoy the services of their apprentices; and although a motion for a general emancipation on the 1st of August next was supported in Parliament by so large a minority as that of 217 votes, the measure was successfully resisted by Government.

It is therefore only as an appeal to the liberal feelings of the planter that this subject can now be brought before them; and it is for them seriously to reflect how long it may be practicable to resist the excitement that must naturally be engendered in the minds of those negroes who may be retained in a state of servitude in this island, when constant intercourse with the neighbouring colonies must bring to their knowledge the boon that has been conferred on their equals in other places, where (as the Lieutenant-governor will venture to assert), it has not been more deserved by general good conduct and obedience to the laws on the part of the apprentices than in Tobago.

It is further worthy of the most serious consideration of the planters, whether it may not be highly advisable for them to conciliate the goodwill of the labourer, on whose disposition to work for fair remuneration in a state of unrestricted freedom, the proprietor must hereafter be in a great measure dependant.

To these considerations may be added the well known fact, that during the state of slavery Tobago was ever foremost in altering its laws and adopting any amelioration in the slave code when suggested, by which the condition of those unhappy beings was from time to time much improved; and will the island be backward in following the example so nobly set by many of the sister colonies, of annihilating all traces of bondage or compulsory service, within the circle of their influence, by declaring a general abolition of negro apprenticeship in this island on the 1st of August next, or as soon after as may be practicable with the existing circumstances of society?

The Lieutenant-governor would have some time since addressed the Legislature on this interesting subject, had he not preferred that a measure calculated to reflect so much credit on its authors should have emanated from the parties most interested in it. Having now found the necessity of bringing it into discussion, it is for the \_\_\_\_\_ to decide as their feelings and judgment may dictate.

(signed) *Hen. C. Darling,*  
Lieutenant-Governor.

Government House, 26 May 1838.

(No. 3.)

To His Excellency Major-General *Henry Charles Darling*, Lieutenant-Governor in and over the Island of Tobago and its Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

THE House of General Assembly beg leave to annex, for your Excellency's information, copy of a resolution agreed to by the House this day; viz.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee that it has become expedient that the apprenticeship system should cease and determine on the 1st August next.

(signed) *Hen. R. Hamilton,*  
Speaker.

House of Assembly, 31 May 1838.



TOBAGO.

(No. 4.)

To His Excellency Major-General *Henry Charles Darling*, Lieutenant-Governor in and over the Island of Tobago, and its Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

The Joint Address of the Board of Legislative Council and the House of General Assembly.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, the President and Members of the Board of Legislative Council, and the Speaker and Members of the House of General Assembly, beg leave to approach your Excellency on a subject of the most vital importance to the colony, and one on which we feel a difficulty in expressing our feelings, as it embraces not only the welfare of the apprenticed labourer himself, but involves the peace and safety of the colony.

Your Excellency may well anticipate the subject of this address from the tenor of your Excellency's message (covering the opinion of the Attorney-general and Solicitor-general of England) to both branches of the Legislature, of date the 17th instant, and which we regret to say has caused a ferment in the community which we want language to describe.

Although not professional men, we cannot but think that the opinion of the Attorney-general and Solicitor-general of England has been given on a case not correctly stated as to the operation of the different Acts passed for the relief of the apprenticed labourers; for we submit, with deference, to your Excellency, the following facts:

First, By the Classification Act passed on the 18th July 1834, it is enacted by clause first,

"That all persons who by force and virtue of the said recited Act, or of any Acts of the Legislature of this island, shall on the 1st day of August now next ensuing, cease to be slaves, and be freed and discharged of and from the obligations of slavery, shall be called and styled apprenticed labourers, and shall be divided into three distinct classes. The first of such classes to consist of prædial apprenticed labourers attached to the soil, and comprising all persons who in their state of slavery are now employed or worked upon any plantation or plantations in this colony belonging to persons entitled to their services; the second of such classes to consist of prædial apprenticed labourers not attached to the soil, and comprising all persons who in their state of slavery are employed or worked in agricultural labour upon any plantation or land in this colony, not belonging to persons entitled to their services; and the third of such classes to consist of non-prædial apprenticed labourers, and comprising all apprenticed labourers not included within either of the two preceding classes. Provided always, that no person of the age of 12 years and upwards shall be included in either of the said two classes of prædial apprenticed labourers, unless such person shall, for 12 calendar months at least next before the passing of the said recited Act, have been habitually employed or worked upon any such plantation or lands as aforesaid."

Secondly, That by the general rules sent out to the Assistant Commissioners of Compensation, confirmed by His Majesty in Council, and enrolled in the High Court of Chancery in England, and drawn up and framed in pursuance of 47 and 55 clauses of the Act 3d & 4th Will. 4, c. 37, for the guidance of the Assistant Commissioners in Tobago, all slaves were to be divided into three classes (distinct) or divisions.

1. Prædial attached.
2. Prædial unattached.
3. Non-prædial.

The prædial attached, the subject of our present address, are by these instructions divided into five classes; viz.

1. Head people.
2. Tradesmen.
3. Inferior tradesmen.
4. Field labourers.
5. Inferior field labourers.

By which your Excellency will perceive that two of the above-mentioned five classes are the parties to which the present case peculiarly alludes, viz. tradesmen and inferior tradesmen.

Your Excellency cannot but perceive that the intention and wishes of the British Government, confirmed by the instructions sent out to the Assistant Commissioners before alluded to, were to include all tradesmen attached to estates, as well principal as inferior, in the class of prædials.

We therefore think it impossible, and against reason, to consider the opinion of the Attorney-general and Solicitor-general of England at all applicable to this colony; that opinion having been founded without any reference to our Colonial Classification Act, which Act has received the Royal Assent, and been proclaimed in this colony, and thereby became the law of the land.

Were it necessary to place these facts in a stronger light, and to demonstrate that the feelings and intention of His Majesty's Government, at the time of framing the Abolition Act, were given effect to, we refer to the overwhelming fact, which we consider conclusive, that the appraisers appointed by the Assistant Commissioners of Compensation put a higher

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higher value of 10*l.* more upon the non-prædials than upon those attached to estates, taking into consideration the longer duration of their time of servitude.

In further proof of this, we refer your Excellency to Sir Lionel Smith's despatch and instructions, of date 14th December 1834.

We further add, that trusting to the operation of the above facts, and considering these tradesmen as belonging to the class of prædials, the usual allowances and days secured to prædials by law, besides payment for their extra labour, was given to these tradesmen, but which non-prædials were not entitled to.

Having thus laid before your Excellency the true state of the case, we feel confident that your Excellency will not adopt the opinion of the Crown officers, nor promulgate the same in this colony.

We beg leave to call your Excellency's attention to the schism which would be created in the colony by the promulgation of the Attorney-general and Solicitor-general's opinion, and your Excellency, who is bound as the head of the Government to see that the peace of the colony is duly preserved by both the stipendiary and local magistrates, and to give effect to all laws in force, by promulgating such an opinion, authorizing the special magistrates to go upon estates, and declare any class of apprenticed labourers free on the 1st of August 1838, in direct violation of the Classification Act, would place the stipendiary and local magistrates in direct opposition to each other; for the local magistrate would feel himself called upon, by an imperious sense of duty, to repel any attempt on the part of the stipendiary magistrate to declare opinions which would tend to rebellion among the apprenticed labourers, and involve the colony in ruin and bloodshed.

Council Chamber, 28 May 1838.

(signed) *Jos. Scott,*  
President.

House of Assembly, 28 May 1838.

(signed) *H. R. Hamilton,*  
Speaker.

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(No. 5.)

ANSWER of the Lieutenant-Governor to the Joint Address of the Two Branches of the Legislature.

The Lieutenant-governor, in replying to the joint address of the two branches of the Legislature, received yesterday, has to make the following observations.

He considers a joint address of the Board of Legislative Council and House of General Assembly, although perhaps not unconstitutional, as somewhat irregular, and subject to many obvious objections, which it is not material to detail here. It is, moreover, without example in this government, and although it has been admitted on this particular occasion, such admission is not to be construed into a precedent for any future departure from the established routine of legislative duty.

With reference to the immediate subject of the address, the Lieutenant-governor need scarcely say how unwillingly he should become instrumental in producing the consequences adverted to, as likely to result from the promulgation of those official opinions, the validity of which it is the object of the address to dispute.

Consistently, however, with the sincerity which he has always observed in his intercourse with the Legislature, he thinks it advisable to declare that he has no discretion left to him in the business; but as several weeks have yet to elapse before the period when the instructions founded on the opinion, now the subject of controversy, are to come into operation, the Lieutenant-governor will willingly avail himself of the interval for communicating with the Governor-in-chief on the subject, to whom may possibly be confided an extension of that discretionary power which is denied to the Lieutenant-governor.

He does not, however, hold out any great hope of such a result as would be agreeable to the views of the Legislature, who, he apprehends, have based their address on somewhat treacherous authority, as the returns accompanying "The General Rules," adverted to in the address, if they appear favourable to the island classification of mechanics or tradesmen, will prove fatal to its correctness as respects domestics, who are there included in the class of non-prædials only, though always considered in the island as prædials.

(signed) *Henry C. Darling,* Lieutenant-Governor.

Government House, 30 May 1838.

TOBAGO.

(No. 6.)

To his Excellency Major-General *H. C. Darling*, Lieutenant-Governor, &c. &c. &c.

THE House of General Assembly have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's communication of the 28th ultimo, forwarding two copies of an Act of the Imperial Parliament, intituled, "An Act to amend the Act for the Abolition of Slavery in the British Colonies."

The House have lost no time in taking the same into consideration, and in reply beg leave to inform your Excellency, that a Bill, intituled, "An Act for the Abrogation of the Apprenticeship System in this Island on the 1st day of August next," was introduced yesterday, and passed through a first and second reading, and has this day passed the House.

(signed) *Henry R. Hamilton*, Speaker.

House of Assembly, 1 June 1838.

(No. 7.)

Sir,

Government House, Tobago, 2 June 1838.

I HAVE much satisfaction in transmitting to your Excellency the copy of an Act passed by the Legislature of this island, for the General Abolition of Negro Apprenticeship from the 1st of August next, to which I have not hesitated to affix my assent. This being market day, and the weather tolerably fine, the town is probably pretty full of negroes from the country; I have, therefore, directed the Provost-marshal to proclaim it without delay.

In taking upon myself the important step of giving this Bill the force of law, without previous reference to your Excellency's authority, I trust the weighty and deeply interesting considerations which it involves, will in some degree palliate my deviation from the prescribed routine, and accepted as my apology.

I presume, with reference to the 25th clause of the Act of the 11th April, "to Amend the Act for the Abolition of Slavery," that it will not be esteemed a forced or improper application of its meaning, to consider Tobago as an island "in which the Apprenticeship established under the said Act of Parliament shall be already lawfully determined," which will render the proclamation of the said Act unnecessary.

It has indeed very little application to this island, which judging by the events of the past four years, would only be affected by it (and that but partially) in three or four clauses.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry C. Darling*,  
Lieut.-Governor.

His Excellency Major-General  
Sir E. J. M. MacGregor, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

(No. 8.)

(T. No. 146.)

Sir,

Windward Islands, Government House,  
Barbados, 18 June 1838.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving, and will forward to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the earliest opportunity, your Excellency's Despatches, Nos. 47 and 48 of the 1st and 2d instant, with their several enclosures.

Your Excellency has acted in a manner perfectly agreeable to me, in assenting at once to the Act passed by the Council and Assembly, "for terminating the apprenticeship of the prædial labourers within the island of Tobago, on the 1st day of August 1838;" and I congratulate your Excellency and the Legislative Houses on the adoption of a measure destined, it is to be hoped, by obliterating the traces of slavery and apprenticeship, to infuse confidence and cordiality into the future relations of the United Kingdom with these valuable and important colonies.

In regard to the Imperial "Act to amend the Act for the Abolition of Slavery," I beg leave to state, that I am, equally with your Excellency, divested of discretionary power; and, accordingly, necessitated to refer your Excellency upon that subject to the Act itself, to the instructions

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instructions by which it was accompanied from My Lord Glenelg, and to the enclosed documents which explain the present position of the question in this island.

TOBAGO.

His Excellency  
the Lieutenant-Governor of Tobago,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. J. Murray MacGregor*,  
Governor.

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P A P E R S  
RELATING TO THE  
MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE LEGISLATURES  
OF  
JAMAICA, BRITISH GUIANA,  
DOMINICA, GRENADA, AND TOBAGO,  
FOR  
THE ABOLITION  
OF THE  
SYSTEM OF APPRENTICESHIP  
ON THE  
1st AUGUST 1838.

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[PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY HER MAJESTY'S  
COMMAND.]

*(In continuation of the Papers presented to Parliament  
26 June 1838, No. 535.)*

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

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