



Center *for* Research Libraries
GLOBAL RESOURCES NETWORK

The Center for Research Libraries scans to provide digital delivery of its holdings. In some cases problems with the quality of the original document or microfilm reproduction may result in a lower quality scan, but it will be legible. In some cases pages may be damaged or missing. Files include OCR (machine searchable text) when the quality of the scan and the language or format of the text allows.

If preferred, you may request a loan by contacting Center for Research Libraries through your Interlibrary Loan Office.

Rights and usage

Materials digitized by the Center for Research Libraries are intended for the personal educational and research use of students, scholars, and other researchers of the CRL member community. Copyrighted images and texts may not be reproduced, displayed, distributed, broadcast, or downloaded for other purposes without the expressed, written permission of the copyright owner.

Center for Research Libraries

Identifier: 040016b8-d018-4d1e-bdf2-e0f96670da28

Range: Scans 001 - 012

Downloaded on: 2022-05-25 01:16:51

SLAVERY (CEYLON).

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 7 August 1843;—*for*,

COPIES or EXTRACTS of any CORRESPONDENCE relative to the ABOLITION of SLAVERY in the Island of *Ceylon*, since the Date of the last Despatches laid before Parliament—(in continuation of the Papers ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, 31 July 1838, No. 697, and 29 July 1839 No. 467.)

Colonial Office, Downing-street, }
14 August 1843.

G. W. HOPE.

(*Mr. G. W. Hope.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
14 August 1843.

SCHEDULE.

No.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	PAGE.
1. Lord John Russell to Governor Sir Colin Campbell, K.C.B.	31 May 1841	That it is desirable to seize the first favourable moment for the Abolition of Slavery; that the Report required by Lord Glenelg, in his Despatch of 24 Nov. 1838 (No. 143), has not been made; repeating Lord Glenelg's instructions to forward the Report with the least possible delay.	3
2. Governor Sir Colin Campbell, K.C.B., to Lord Stanley. (One Enclosure.)	10 Mar. 1842	That the Governor is not at present enabled to make a full Report on the subject of Slavery; but informing his Lordship of the result of the Slave Registration Ordinance, No. 3, of 1837.	3
3. Governor Sir Colin Campbell, K.C.B., to Lord Stanley. (One Enclosure.)	19 Sept. 1842	Adverting to Lord John Russell's Despatch of 31st May 1831, that a revision of the Registries should take place before drawing up a Report; and transmitting for Her Majesty's sanction, an Ordinance for the Registration of Slaves in the Maritime Provinces.	4
4. Lord Stanley to Governor Sir Colin Campbell, K.C.B.	8 Dec. 1842	Reply to preceding Despatch; that the Report on Slavery not having been transmitted, Her Majesty's decision on the Ordinance, No. 7, of 1842, is suspended until more authentic information is received on the subject.	7
5. Governor Sir Colin Campbell, K.C.B., to Lord Stanley.	17 Mar. 1843	In reply; that Slavery in the Maritime Provinces is absolutely at an end; explanation of the Governor's motive for the course adopted for the extinction of Slavery.	8
6. Lord Stanley to Governor Sir Colin Campbell, K.C.B.	5 June 1843	Observations on the preceding Despatch; that Her Majesty has been pleased to approve and confirm the Ordinance for Registration of Slaves in the Maritime Provinces, and calling for a Report on the state of Slavery in the Kandian Provinces.	10

COPIES or EXTRACTS of CORRESPONDENCE relative to the ABOLITION of SLAVERY in the Island of *Ceylon*, since the Date of the last Despatches laid before Parliament.

—No. 1.—

CEYLON.

(No. 60.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord *John Russell* to Governor Sir *Colin Campbell*, K. C. B., dated Downing-street, 31 May 1841.

I AM anxious that you should seize the first favourable moment for the total abolition of all vestiges of slavery. The report, however, required by Lord Glenelg, in his despatch of the 24th November 1838, No. 143, has never yet been made. Unaided by the information which that report would supply, we should necessarily proceed on this subject in ignorance of the most material facts by which the decision of the Government ought to be guided. I must, therefore, repeat Lord Glenelg's instructions that the report in question be prepared and forwarded to me with the least possible delay. It should embrace a particular inquiry as to the practicability and prudence of enforcing the penalties for non-registration.

No. 1.
Lord John Russell
to Governor Sir
Colin Campbell,
31 May 1841.

For Lord Glenelg's
Despatch, 24 Nov.
1838, No. 143,
vide Papers ordered
by the House of
Commons to be
printed, 29 July
1839, No. 467, p. 2.

—No. 2.—

(No. 38.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Colin Campbell*, K. C. B., to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord,

Pavilion, Kandy, 10 March 1842.

I AM not in a condition at this moment to make a full report in reply to the Secretary of State's despatches upon the subject of slavery; but, I am sure, it must be highly satisfactory to you to be informed of the result of the Slave Registration Ordinance, No. 3 of 1837.

The first renewed registration under that Ordinance has been made, and I enclose an abstract of the result, showing that, in the Kandian portion of the colony, slavery is almost at an end.

I have caused to be prepared and laid before the Executive Council the draft of an Ordinance for a renewed registry in the maritime provinces, such a measure appearing to be absolutely necessary as a preliminary to the consideration of any measures connected with slavery. I have no doubt that the renewed registry will show a great decrease in the number of slaves, and that consequently any measure which may be considered necessary for the final extinction of slavery will be attended with little difficulty.

I have, &c.
(signed) *C. Campbell*.

No. 2.
Governor Sir
Colin Campbell
to Lord Stanley,
10 March 1842.

For Slave Regis-
tration Ordinance,
No. 3 of 1837,
vide Papers ordered
by the House of
Commons to be
printed, 31 July
1838, No. 697,
p. 600.

CORRESPONDENCE ON THE SLAVE TRADE,

Enclosure in No. 2.

AN ABSTRACT showing the Number of SLAVES originally registered in the under-mentioned District Courts, their Increase by subsequent Births, and their Diminution by Death, Emancipation, or non-renewal of Certificate.

	Kandy North.		Kandy South.		Three Korles.		Four Korles.		Seven Korles.		Matelle.		Saffragam.		Badulla.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Registered up to 30th June 1838 -	18	33	139	147	9	9	113	115	42	28	106	146	190	138	161	177
Since born - - - - -	-	-	2	7	-	1	5	4	-	-	2	5	1	2	18	15
Died - - - - -	18	33	141	154	9	10	118	119	42	28	108	151	191	140	179	192
	1	1	7	2	-	-	5	6	-	1	3	3	-	1	8	10
Emancipated - - - - -	17	32	134	152	9	10	113	113	42	27	105	148	191	139	171	182
	-	-	5	5	-	-	11	4	2	-	9	15	184	133	31	28
Certificate not renewed - - -	17	32	129	147	9	10	102	109	40	27	96	133	7	6	140	154
	13	19	64	53	9	10	102	109	40	27	60	83	5	4	94	87
Remaining on 31st December 1841	4	13	65	94	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	50†	2	2	46	67

* Of which 13 Males and 22 Females dispute the right of their alleged masters.

† Ditto 1 ditto.

P. Anstruther, Col^l Secretary.

—No. 3.—

(No. 149.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Colin Campbell*, K. C. B.,
to Lord *Stanley*.

The Queen's House, Colombo,
19 September 1842.

My Lord,

ADVERTING to the instructions contained in Lord John Russell's despatch, No. 60, of the 31st May 1841, that I should report upon the present state of slavery in the maritime provinces, I have now the honour to transmit for Her Majesty's sanction an Ordinance "for making further Provision for the Registration of Slaves in those parts of the Island formerly termed the Maritime Provinces."

The regulation for the registry of slaves in the maritime provinces, No. 9 of 1818, contained no provision for any revision of the registry; and in consequence it is believed that the number of slaves now existing falls very short of the number shown by the registers. It seemed, therefore, a very essential preliminary to any report that the registries should be revised, as well as a very useful and necessary measure under any circumstances.

I have already in my despatch, No. 38, of the 10th March last, reported the result of the first revised registry of the interior. The Ordinance which I laid before the Council was very nearly copied from that now in force there; it was very much changed in form and words in the Council, but not in principle.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. Campbell*.

Enclosure in No. 3.

ORDINANCE enacted by the Governor of *Ceylon*, with the Advice and Consent of the Legislative Council thereof.

(No. 7.—1842.)

C. Campbell.

Encl. in No. 3.

For making further Provision for the REGISTRATION of SLAVES in those parts of the Island formerly termed the Maritime Provinces.

Preamble.

WHEREAS by the Regulation No. 9 of 1818, and other enactments subsequent thereto, provision was made for the registration of all slaves in those parts of *Ceylon* which then constituted the Maritime Provinces of the said Island, but none for the periodical renewal of

of the same: And whereas there is great reason to believe that many of the persons whose names appear on the registers as now actually existing as slaves, have either died, or by the default of their proprietors to comply with the provisions of the enactments referred to, have become free: And whereas it is necessary to make provision for ascertaining the facts as to such persons, and that a true and perfect account of the actual number of slaves shall at all times henceforth be afforded in the registers:

1. It is therefore hereby enacted by the Governor of Ceylon, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, that every proprietor or person in charge of a slave registered under the provisions of the Regulation No. 9 of 1818, or of any subsequent enactment relative to slavery in the maritime provinces, who may wish to retain such slave, shall, on or before the First day of January One thousand eight hundred and Forty-three, and within Three months after that same day in every successive third year thereafter, or within Three months after the termination of every successive third year from the registry of the birth or acquisition of a slave, either by himself in person, or by some person duly authorized by him in writing in that behalf, appear before the District Court in which such slave was last registered, or in which the last registry of such slave is deposited of record, and shall there apply to the Judge thereof for a renewal of such registry.

Party anxious to retain slave to apply triennially for renewal of registry.

2. And it is further enacted, That every such application shall be in writing, and shall bear a stamp of Three shillings, and shall be as near as is material of one or other of the forms hereunto annexed, and that every proprietor or person in charge of a slave making the same shall at the same time produce, or cause to be produced, before the District Judge, except in cases hereinafter excepted, the slave whose registry he applies to renew, together with a certificate of the last registration of such slave, and shall set forth clearly and distinctly in such application that the person referred to therein and in such certificate of registry is one and the same person, and that he is the *bonâ fide* slave of the applicant: And every such proprietor or person in charge of a slave, or person duly authorized to apply in his behalf, shall make solemn affirmation or oath according as he may be a person professing or not professing the Christian religion, or a Moravian or Quaker, to the truth of the matter contained in such application: And such application shall be read and such affirmation or oath made in the presence and within the hearing of the slave, to whom they have reference, except in cases where it shall appear to the District Judge either by the solemn affirmation or oath of the applicant, or by that of any third person, to be produced by him, that, owing to the sickness, flight or unavoidable absence of such slave, the same cannot be done.

Application to be affirmed or sworn to, and slave to be produced in Court.

3. And it is further enacted, That the District Judge shall thereupon cause to be explained to such slave, if present, the nature and object of such application and affirmation or oath, and shall compare the slave with the description given at his or her last registry, and shall thereupon make an entry in the original register of such slave, in a column to be provided for that purpose, of the date of such application or oath being made, and shall note any alteration that may have taken place in the description of such slave since his or her last registration, and he shall affix his initials to every such entry and notice, and such entry shall be deemed and taken to be the renewal of the registry of such slave: And he shall forthwith cause to be given two certified copies of such entry (one to the applicant and the other to the slave) free of all charges whatsoever.

Judge to explain to slave the object of such affirmation or oath, and to make entry of date of application in original register.

4. And it is further enacted, That if it shall appear to the District Judge that the party claiming to be proprietor of a slave has failed to comply with any of the provisions of the Regulation No. 9 of 1818, or of any subsequent enactment relative to slavery in the maritime provinces, and that by reason thereof he has forfeited all his right in and to such slave, or has incurred any pecuniary penalty; or if the District Judge shall have reason to believe, either from the statement of the person produced to be registered as a slave, or from any other cause, that the person so brought before him is not the person intended to be registered, or that he is not the slave of the person claiming to register him as such, he shall forthwith give notice of the same to the Queen's Advocate, or some representative of the Queen's Advocate in his district.

Judge to inform Queen's Advocate if he shall suspect that the applicant has not just grounds for his application.

5. And it is further enacted, That the notification of the deaths of slaves and of the birth of children of female slaves, required by the 20th clause of the Regulation No. 9 of 1818, to be made by the proprietor to the schoolmaster of the parish, or to the principal headman of the Pattoo, shall in future be made by the proprietor or person in charge of such slave, personally or in writing, to the Secretary of the District Court in which the slave is registered, or in which the last registry of such slave is deposited of record: And every such Secretary shall be required thereupon to do and perform all things by the said clause required to be done and performed by schoolmasters and headmen, and shall be liable, in case of failure, to a fine of Five pounds, to be recovered from him by distress and sale of his property: And every person who would have been liable, under the 23d clause of the said last-mentioned Regulation, to any penalty for failing to make any notification, referred to in the beginning of this clause, to any schoolmaster or headman, shall be liable to the same penalty for failing to make a like notification to such Secretary.

Things required to be done by certain persons under 20th clause of Regulation No. 9 of 1818, hereafter to be done by the Secretary of the Court in which the slave is last registered.

6. And it is further enacted, That such Secretary, or any person appointed by the District Judge of the said Court to act on behalf of such Secretary, who shall neglect or refuse to

Penalty on Secretary neglecting or refusing to do his duty.

6 CORRESPONDENCE ON THE SLAVE TRADE,

CEYLON.

to perform any duty imposed upon him by this Ordinance, or by the Regulation No. 9 of 1818, upon the Secretary of the Provincial Court or Magistrate, to the powers and authorities of which or of whom the Court of which he is Secretary shall have succeeded, shall be liable to a fine of Five pounds, to be recovered from him by distress and sale of his property: And every person who is required by the said last-mentioned Regulation to give any notice to the Secretary of a Provincial Court, or to a Magistrate, shall henceforth be required to give the like notice to the Secretary of the District Court, which shall have succeeded to the powers and authority of such Provincial Court or Magistrate: And every such person failing so to do shall be liable to the same penalties as are imposed by the said last-mentioned Regulation upon persons failing to give such notices to Secretaries of Provincial Courts or Magistrates.

Proprietor to support sick slave.

7. And it is further enacted, That every proprietor or person in charge of a slave shall be held liable to support every sick or infirm slave registered as his property or in his charge, and it shall be lawful for any court of competent authority, on complaint being made by or on behalf of any sick or infirm slave registered therein, to make such inquiry as may be necessary to ascertain the truth of the complaint, and to make such order as it shall deem fit, to provide for the due support of such slave, and for medical assistance to such slave if required, at the cost of the proprietor or person in charge, to be recovered from him, if necessary, by distress and sale of his property.

Slave of party failing to make triennial application to be free.

8. And it is further enacted, That if any proprietor or person in charge of a slave shall fail to apply to renew the registry of such slave, and to make or procure to be made the required affirmation or oath within the time prescribed by this Ordinance, the slave in respect of whom such omission shall have been made shall be and is hereby declared to be absolutely free: Provided always, that if any slave shall be sick or infirm at the time of becoming free in consequence of such omission on the part of the proprietor or person in charge of such slave, such proprietor or person shall nevertheless be liable to maintain and provide medical assistance for such slave until his or her complete recovery from such sickness or infirmity: And provided further, that if any slave being fifty years of age shall become free in consequence of a like omission, the proprietor or person in charge of such slave at such time shall in like manner be liable for the maintenance and care of such slave until his or her death: And provided also, that no proprietor or person in charge of a slave shall have any right or power to emancipate such slave during his sickness or infirmity, or after he has attained the age of fifty years, except the consent of such slave shall first be had and obtained thereunto in writing.

Provisoes.

Translations of every registry to be hung up in conspicuous places.

9. And it is further enacted, That a translation of every original registry of a slave, and of every renewal or alteration thereof, shall be made into the native language of the district, and hung up in some conspicuous place at the court-house, for Three months after every such registry, renewal or alteration.

Penalties.

10. And it is further enacted, That the penalties provided by the 29th clause of the Regulation No. 9 of 1818 shall be applicable to all like offences against this Ordinance.

Transcript to be sent to the Colonial Secretary.

11. And it is further enacted, That the District Judge shall send to the Colonial Secretary's office a correct transcript of all renewed registrations made under this Ordinance, immediately after the same shall have been completed; and also a correct transcript of all new entries or alterations made in the registries for every Three months subsequent thereto, within One month after the termination of each quarter.

FORM.

APPLICATION of Proprietor or Person in charge of Slave when appearing in Person.

I, A. B., of (residence), do hereby* solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm, that (name of slave) of (name of residence),† whom I now produce in court is my slave, and is the person referred to in the certificate which I now produce, and that he (or she) was last registered in my name on (date) in (place); and I do hereby apply for a renewal of the registry of the said (slave) as my slave.

(Signature of Proprietor.)

Affirmed (or sworn) before me (date)
(Signature of District Judge.)

FORM.

APPLICATION of Person authorized by Proprietor or Person in charge of a Slave to make Affirmation (or Oath) for him.

I, C. D., of (residence), having the due authority in writing of A. B., of (residence), which I now produce, to apply for the renewal of the registry of (slave), of (residence), as his slave, do hereby* solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm, that I believe the said (name of slave)† whom I now see in court, to be the slave of the said A. B., and to be the person referred to in the certificate which I now produce, and that he (or she) was last registered

as

AND MEASURES TAKEN FOR ITS ABOLITION.

7

CEYLON.

as the slave of the said A. B., on (date), in (place); and I hereby on behalf of the said (A. B.) make application for the renewal of the registry of the said (slave), as slave of the said (A. B.)

(Signature of C. D.)

Affirmed (or sworn) before me (date)
(Signature of District Judge.)

* In cases where the slave cannot be produced, these words must be omitted, and the following words added at the end of the affirmation (or oath), "And I do further solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm, that I am unable to bring the said (slave) before this court." (Here state fully the reasons of such inability.)

† In cases where an oath is required instead of an affirmation, these forms must be altered accordingly.

Passed in Council the First day of September One thousand eight hundred and Forty-two.

Kenneth Mackenzie, Act^s Clerk to the Council.

Published by Order of his Excellency the Governor,

P. Anstruther, Col. Secretary.

— No. 4. —

(No. 174.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Stanley* to Governor
Sir Colin Campbell, K. C. B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 8 December 1842.

I HAVE received your despatch, No. 149, of the 19th September last, submitting for the Queen's sanction an Ordinance passed by the Legislature of Ceylon, on the 1st September 1842, (No. 7.) "For making further Provision for the Registration of Slaves in those parts of the Island formerly termed the Maritime Provinces."

No. 4.
Lord Stanley to
Governor Sir Colin
Campbell,
8 December 1842.

On referring to the records of this office on this subject, I find, that on the 24th November 1838, Lord Glenelg, in his despatch of that date, No. 143, directed that a report should be transmitted on the state of slavery in Ceylon, and that it should embrace an inquiry into the practicability and prudence of emancipating the slaves in the maritime provinces, as having been forfeited to the Crown for want of registration. I further find, that this report not having been made, Lord John Russell, on the 31st May 1841, repeated Lord Glenelg's instructions, that the report should be prepared and forwarded with the least possible delay.

On the 19th September 1842, and not till then, you answered Lord John Russell's despatch; but the report so urgently required, both by his Lordship and by Lord Glenelg, has not been transmitted. Instead of it, you have forwarded a new Act for the registration of the slaves in the maritime provinces. Yet one of the chief objects, with a view to which the report in question was demanded, was to ascertain whether or not the previous omission to register the slaves ought to be followed up by insisting on their forfeiture and emancipation. The Act you have passed altogether supersedes and decides that question. It is impossible that the penalties of non-registration should be enforced when an opportunity of registering the slaves anew is thus given to the defaulter.

I cannot conceal from you the regret with which I have observed the delay which has taken place in executing the instructions of my predecessors, nor my still more serious concern, that instead of acting on those instructions, a measure should have been taken which waves entirely, and without the previous consent of Her Majesty's Government, the claim to freedom which the whole slave population might have founded on the neglect to observe the former registration law.

I do not mean to assert that it would have been wise, or even possible, to have enforced such a penalty. Perhaps it may have been wise to abandon the attempt. But to justify that course, far more ample information is necessary than you have afforded me as to the real state of the slaves in Ceylon, and as to the probable effect of this law. In fact, Her Majesty's Government are still in want of the information required in vain in November 1838 and in May 1841.

CEYLON.

We have no authentic intelligence as to the real character of slavery in Ceylon. There is no evidence to show whether it is, as has been alleged, a mere nominal relation, maintained with a view to pomp and ceremony, or whether it is like slavery in the Western Hemisphere; a relation maintained with a view to profit, and of which the duties are enforced by severe and cruel discipline. It has been reported by your predecessor, that a new registration of slaves would be impolitic, as tending to revive dormant rights, and to create fallacious hopes of compensation, and to lead to the assertion of obsolete titles. To what extent these views are well founded you have not assisted me to determine. Neither have you supplied me with any information how far the slaves are or are not attached to the soil; and, therefore, how far it might be judicious to subject them all to the same law of registration. In short, on a subject, second in importance to none connected with the government of Ceylon, I am called on to advise Her Majesty, without any assistance from the local government.

You will, immediately on the receipt of this despatch, call on the Executive Council of Ceylon to take the most effectual steps for complying with the instructions of Lord Glenelg and Lord John Russell; and you will cause it to be made generally known that Her Majesty's decision on this Ordinance is suspended until Her Majesty shall be in possession of further and more authentic information on the subject of slavery in Ceylon.

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

—No. 5.—

(No. 62.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *Colin Campbell*, K. C. B.,
to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord,

Pavilion, Kandy, 17 March 1843.

No. 5.
Governor Sir
Colin Campbell
to Lord Stanley,
17 March 1843.

It was with sincere regret that I read your Lordship's despatch, No. 174, dated the 8th December last, disapproving of the measures which I had adopted in relation to slavery in the maritime provinces of this colony.

Although the result of those measures has been such that slavery in the maritime provinces is now absolutely at an end, not only without any compensation being asked for, but without the slightest dissatisfaction or remonstrance on the part of any person whatever; still I presume your Lordship will expect from me some more clear explanation of my motives in adopting the course the propriety of which has appeared to your Lordship so questionable.

At the period when Lord Glenelg's despatch of the 24th November 1838 was received, some excitement prevailed in the northern province upon the subject of slavery. Slaves had long been of little value, and they had in consequence been generally neglected by their masters; but some unguarded expressions on the part of Mr. Justice Jeremie had given rise to an expectation of an Emancipation Act being passed, and compensation granted to the owners. Slave-owners in consequence began to recall to their service their slaves, who had generally been left to seek their own subsistence, and to pay attention to the registrations which had been neglected.

Had the Government at that period interfered in any way, this opinion would have been confirmed, and the abolition of slavery deferred, or rendered unnecessarily difficult and expensive.

In consequence, however, of the studied abstinence of the local government from all interference, the rumour soon died away, and slaves were again generally neglected.

Upon the receipt of Lord John Russell's despatch of the 31st May 1841, there was no obstacle to the question being taken up.

The Government agent at Jaffna was then called upon confidentially for information as to the number of slaves in the province.

His reply was, that it was notorious that the provisions of the Regulation No. 9 of 1818, which required (under penalty of complete emancipation of the slave)
renewed

renewed registration upon every change of property, and on every slave child attaining the age of 14 years, had been very generally neglected, and therefore that any result gathered from the registers must be so fallacious as to be useless.

That to obtain any trustworthy information as to the persons who were legally slaves, it would be necessary to inquire in such case whether the conditions of the regulation above referred to had been duly complied with, which he had no means of doing; that the condition of the registers was such as to afford great facilities for improperly supplying omissions which entitled the slave to freedom; and that there was much reason to fear that in case of any inquiry, unless under a law providing precautions against fraud, slave proprietors might succeed in supplying such omissions improperly. This, it was considered, could only be effectually provided against by such a law as that which had answered so well in the Kandian provinces.

The Ordinance for a revised slave registry was therefore brought forward; it goes no further than to permit the renewed registry of slaves, who were still subject to slavery under the old law. The District Judges before registration were required to see that no forfeiture had occurred under the former regulation; and to prevent the registries being tampered with, they were required by special instructions to keep the old registers under their own key till the new one should be completed.

Provision was made that slave-owners should provide for sick and infirm slaves, and a slight stamp duty, amounting to 1s. per annum, was imposed, to defray the expenses of registry.

The absence of any provision for the periodical revision of the registers, appeared to be a great defect in the old laws; and it was confidently anticipated that the precautions taken would prevent the renewal registry of any slave entitled to freedom under the old law; while in the new law it was endeavoured to omit any expression which could be construed to render liable to slavery any individual registered under the new law, who was not legally a slave.

These measures might perhaps have proved insufficient in the case of West Indian slavery; but the great success of a similar measure in relation to slaves in the Kandian provinces led me to hope that it would serve of advantage in the maritime provinces; although I confess that I did not anticipate that it would have been effected for the complete emancipation, without remonstrance and without difficulty, of a slave population, estimated generally at many thousands, the number shown by the registers being upwards of 24,000.

Such, however, has been the case, and I hope your Lordship will no longer hesitate to recommend for Her Majesty's sanction a law which has completed a measure for which there is reason to believe the British Parliament would not have hesitated, if needed, to grant very ample funds; and in this hope I have deferred giving any public notification of Her Majesty's sanction to the Ordinance in question being suspended.

It is probable that the fact of not one slave having been re-registered may appear strange to your Lordship, and such a result was not anticipated by me; the explanation given of it by the Government agent of the northern province, however, seems to me satisfactory. The opinion as to what would be the probable result was given without a knowledge of the intentions as to stamp duty; the people in the northern parts of the island, as compared with those in many other parts of the country, are poor, and they are in character extremely parsimonious; trifling, therefore, as the payment of 3s. per head on each triennially recurring registration may appear, it is believed to have had some weight in the result. If there had been nothing to pay, some registrations would probably have been made; but the sum to be paid, and that periodically, was considered of some moment with reference to what it was to secure. Better evidence of the real value of this property in the estimation of the people could scarcely, I think, have been afforded. The obligation, also, to provide for the superannuated and sick is believed to have had a similar influence.

The tone of public opinion, too, is believed to have had some weight with some of the leading people of the country, who have of late years sought intercourse with the resident Europeans and the missionaries, whose opinions of them, in reference to this matter, they cared not to offend for such an object as was at stake, and the example of these people had its effect on others.

CEYLON.

But whatever may be the operating causes in each instance, the easy and complete extinction of slavery in the maritime provinces of this colony must be a subject of congratulation to Her Majesty's Government.

I have already reported the great diminution of slavery in the Kandian districts, and there can be little doubt that the next triennial registration will complete the extinction of slavery there also.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. Campbell.*

— No. 6.—

(No. 50.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Stanley* to Governor
Sir Colin Campbell, K. C. B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 5 June 1843.

No. 6.
Lord Stanley to
Governor Sir Colin
Campbell,
5 June 1843.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 17th March last, No. 62, reporting, in reply to my despatch of the 8th December, the effect of the Ordinance passed by you with the consent of the Legislative Council of Ceylon, on the subject of slavery in the maritime provinces of that island.

It appears to me that you have, to some extent, misunderstood the object of my despatch of the 8th December. It was not my intention in that despatch to pronounce any conclusive opinion on the Ordinance which you sent home in your communication of the 19th September, No. 149; but I felt compelled to express my disapprobation of the delay in executing instructions which had been reiterated by successive Secretaries of State, and which are not even yet complied with, to furnish a full report on the existing state of slavery, and of your having substituted for that report an Ordinance which appeared to afford facilities for a renewal of registration, and even for the forfeiture of rights to freedom which might have accrued; and this without explanation of the motives by which you were influenced, or the effect which you anticipated. If I rightly understand your present despatch, the period allowed by the Ordinance has expired without the registration of a single slave; and has thus far exceeded your anticipations by finally abolishing slavery in the maritime provinces. Under such circumstances I could no longer hesitate to advise the Queen to confirm the Ordinance, and Her Majesty having been pleased to approve that advice, the Ordinance is confirmed accordingly.

You have not transmitted with your despatch the explanation of the agent for the northern province as to the causes of the omission to register any slaves, to which you refer; and I am still without a detailed report, which I should wish to receive, as to the state of slavery in the Kandian provinces. But the information of which we are in possession leads me to hope that the remains of slavery are merely nominal, that they may be speedily and safely brought to a termination, and to feel very confident that in the intrinsic value of a slave there can be no valid ground for any expectation of compensation.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Stanley.*

SLAVERY (CEYLON).

COPIES or EXTRACTS of CORRESPONDENCE
relative to the ABOLITION of SLAVERY in the
Island of Ceylon, since the Date of the last
Despatches laid before Parliament.

(*Mr. G. W. Hope.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
14 August 1843.

568.

Under 2 oz.