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SLAVERY (EAST INDIA).

COPY of a LEGISLATIVE DESPATCH from the Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary at the India House, dated *Fort William*, 15 April 1843.

INDIA BOARD, 27 July 1843.

PRESENTED BY COMMAND OF HER MAJESTY.

COPY of a LEGISLATIVE DESPATCH from *F. J. Halliday*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to *J. C. Melvill*, Esq., Secretary at the India House.

Sir,

Fort William, 15 April 1843.

I AM directed by the Honourable the President in Council to transmit to you, for the purpose of being laid before the Honourable Court of Directors, the accompanying two printed copies of Act V. of 1843, passed by the Legislative Council.

Forty copies of the Act will be despatched to your address by sea.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Fred. Ja' Halliday.*

ACT No. V. of 1843, passed by the Honourable the President of the Council of India in Council, on the 7th of April 1843, with the Assent of the Right honourable the Governor-General of India.

AN ACT for declaring and amending the Law regarding the Condition of Slavery within the Territories of the East India Company.

I. It is hereby enacted and declared, That no public officer shall, in execution of any decree or order of court, or for the enforcement of any demand of rent or revenue, sell or cause to be sold any person, or the right to the compulsory labour or services of any person, on the ground that such person is in a state of slavery.

II. And it is hereby declared and enacted, That no rights arising out of an alleged property in the person and services of another as a slave shall be enforced by any civil or criminal court or magistrate within the territories of the East India Company.

III. And it is hereby declared and enacted, That no person who may have acquired property by his own industry, or by the exercise of any art, calling or profession, or by inheritance, assignment, gift or bequest, shall be dispossessed of such property, or prevented from taking possession thereof, on the ground that such person, or that the person from whom the property may have been derived, was a slave.

IV. And it is hereby enacted, That any act which would be a penal offence if done to a free man, shall be equally an offence if done to any person on the pretext of his being in a condition of slavery.

SLAVERY (EAST INDIA).

COPY of a LEGISLATIVE DESPATCH from the Secretary to the Government of *India* to the Secretary at the India House, dated *Fort William*, 15 April 1843.

(Presented by Command of Her Majesty.)

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