

General Ainslie
COLLECTION

OF

PLAIN

AUTHENTIC DOCUMENTS,

IN

JUSTIFICATION OF THE CONDUCT

OF

GOVERNOR AINSLIE;

IN

THE REDUCTION OF A MOST FORMIDABLE

REBELLION

AMONG THE

NEGRO SLAVES IN THE ISLAND OF

Dominica,

At a Crisis of the most imminent Danger to the Lives and
Properties of the Inhabitants.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY C. LOWNDES, MARQUIS COURT,
DRURY LANE.

1815.

COLLECTION

PLAIN

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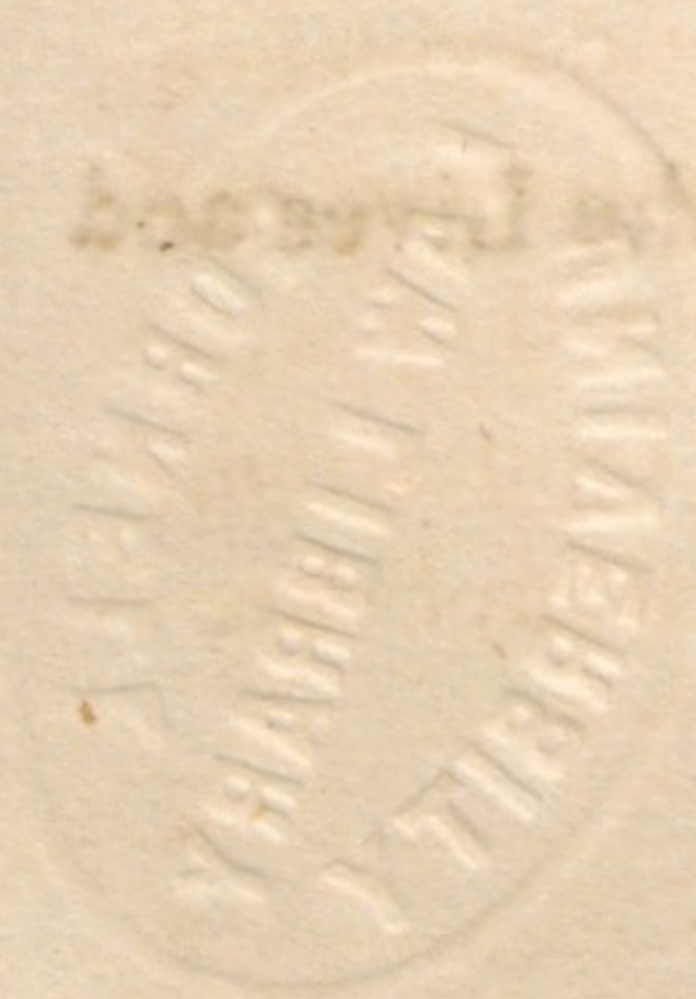
GOVERNOR ALBANY

REBELLION

NEGRO SLAVES IN THE ISLAND OF

EDMUND

At a Crisis of the most imminent danger to the lives and
Properties of the inhabitants.



LONDON

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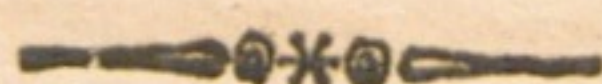
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PREFACE.

THE following pages exhibit so full and faithful a detail of facts attested by persons, many of them eye witnesses of the horrid scenes, and severe sufferers by the outrages and devastations there described, that they hardly need a comment or illustration. It may not, however, be amiss to make one remark that cannot fail to have considerable weight, and it is this, that several Gentlemen, some of whom are now in England, who subscribed the different Addresses to Governor AINSLIE, were at that very period at variance with him on some political questions, notwithstanding which, with a candour and liberality highly honorable to them, and impelled by a proper feeling of their obligation to him for the signal services he had rendered the Colony, and yielding to the irresistible force of truth alone, volunteered their attestations in his favour; attestations, therefore, that cannot be either suspected or impeached. From what authority Mr. Gordon, Sir S. Romilly and Mr. Smith derived their information we are unable to conjecture, but of this we are firmly convinced by our knowledge of the purity of those Gentlemen's principles and character, that the charges and insinuations with which they attacked General AINSLIE, could have originated only in the most flagrant misrepresentation, and that converted by the unequivocal evidence now offered them, they will, in justice to that Gentleman, retract their former injurious assertions of him, that they will endeavour to heal the wound they have made in his reputation, and will, on mature reconsideration of the subject, from being his accusers, become his advocates.

ROSEAU, September 7th, 1815.

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*To the Right Hon. Earl BATHURST, His
Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies, &c. &c.*

WE, the President and Members of his Majesty's Honourable Council of Dominica, cannot help observing with equal regret and surprise, after the unanimous and unqualified testimony which we have already borne to the meritorious conduct of Major-General AINSLIE, in his well-timed suppression of the rebellion among the negro slaves of this island, that the same injurious prejudices and misrepresentations which were, in part, the cause of his recall, still appear to exist in their full force, and to operate against him with unabated influence—prejudices, however, evidently originating in the most glaring error and mis-information; but error and mis-information little to be expected in the quarter where they appeared; for we find it roundly asserted in the House of Commons by a late Law Officer of the Crown, of distinguished eminence in his profession, that General AINSLIE, by a power vested in him as Governor, had reduced free men to slavery, and deprived nearly seven hundred negroes of their freedom, and that he strongly suspected that the war against these people was nothing more than a

pretext for recruiting the slave-gangs, since they could no longer be supplied by importation.

Now your Lordship well knows, that no Governor of a Colony where the British laws prevail, is invested with any power, either of reducing a free man to slavery, or of opposing the manumission of a slave; nor do we know of a single instance where General AINSLIE has ever made so violent and arbitrary an attempt. We therefore cannot but deem it extremely hard, that the Governor should thus have his feelings wounded and insulted, and his character blackened and loaded with unmerited reproach; that he should be held up to public odium as an oppressor of the slave, and an enslaver of the free, as a contemner and violator of the laws, an abuser of his authority, and an arbitrary, unfeeling tyrant—That he should meet with censure where he merits praise, and be denounced for punishment where he is entitled to reward. A portrait this, no one feature of which bears the least resemblance to that gentleman.

Under this strong impression we beg leave, my Lord, to renew the expressions of our gratitude and obligations to Governor AINSLIE, for the signal services he has rendered this Colony, by his reduction of those rebellious hordes which not long since threatened our lives and properties, and in refutation of the charges brought against him of inhumanity and undue severity in his prosecution of that object; we owe it to him to add, that he invariably acted on that occasion with marked lenity, forbearance, and moderation, and that the few examples of rigour which he made *in terrorem*

to the rest, were of those only who, by an extraordinary perseverance in their enormities and atrocities, and by a contempt of the offers of pardon on their return to duty, and in defiance alike of threats, had forfeited all claim to mercy, and were such examples only as sound policy dictated, and imperious necessity demanded. It is our decided opinion, therefore, that General AINSLIE is as much entitled to the thanks and approbation of his Majesty's Government on the subject of the war against the negro slaves, as he is of this community.

ARCHIBALD GLOSTER,

President of Council.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, Aug. 16, 1815.



Dominica, August 17th, 1815.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to enclose an Address to your Lordship, unanimously voted by his Majesty's Board of Council of this Island yesterday.

It is with much satisfaction that I am directed to transmit this tribute of applause to your Lordship, through his Excellency Governor AINSLIE, as it will, I trust, not only evince to his Majesty's Ministers the sense entertained by this branch of the Colonial Legislature, of his merits and services in the successful extinction of a most dangerous rebellion of the runaway slaves, but may also tend to remove any unfair representations of his motives

and conduct which may have been made in the Imperial Parliament.

I have the honour to be,

with respect, my Lord,

your Lordship's most faithful

and obedient Servant,

ARCHD. GLOSTER, President.

To the Right Hon. Earl BATHURST, &c. &c.

EXTRACT

*From the Minutes of the House of Assembly
of Dominica, August 15th, 1815.*

Mr. Lowndes moved, seconded by Mr. Fergusson. that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into consideration the Report of the Committee appointed by ballot to draw up a Statement of Facts, in order to counteract certain mis-statements relative to the administration of Governor AINSLIE.—Agreed to, Mr. Lowndes in the Chair.—After some time spent therein, the Chairman made the following

REPORT.

The Committee of the House of Assembly of this Island, appointed by ballot, to draw up a statement of facts, in answer to certain strange mis-statements made in the British House of Commons on the second of June last, concerning the conduct of his Excellency George Robert Ainslie, Governor of this Island, in the expeditions undertaken here against the revolted and runaway negroes,

and to report the same to the House: Do hereby report, that they have perceived with astonishment that the subject appears to have been intirely misunderstood in England; and that some of the Gentlemen who are reported to have taken part in the debate, appear to be entirely ignorant of the Constitution and Laws of a West India Colony. It is well known to the House, that by a long course of impolitic and unfortunate neglect, the woods of this Island had not been ranged for nearly fifteen years before, and that the late expeditions were not undertaken until the revolted negroes, no longer contented with simple impunity, had begun to commit active depredations upon the peaceable plantations, when prompt and vigorous measures became absolutely necessary upon the principle of self-preservation, to prevent the total ruin of the colony. Governor Ainslie, before the expeditions were undertaken, offered, by his proclamations, a free pardon to all runaway negroes, (murderers alone excepted) who should surrender themselves within a certain time, and the House full well remembers that the messengers who carried these offers of peace, were murdered by the runaways, after a mock trial, by what they called a council of war: after which their hearts were torn out, dried in the smoke of their fires, and exhibited at the entrance of their camps; as was detailed in evidence upon the trial of the Chief who ordered the execution. Here was active warfare begun by the runaways themselves, and not by the Governor—and even after this the Ranger Corps was constantly instructed by his Excellency, to take as many prisoners as possible, but to kill none, unless in self-defence, where the runaways attempted to defend themselves *vi et armis*. The extraordinary assertions of Sir Samuel Romilly, which seem to have passed uncontradicted in the House of Commons, are well known to the House to be totally false. That learned gentleman maintained that, more than seven hundred of the runaways had been reduced to slavery, and that the expeditions themselves

were undertaken with a view of obtaining slaves by capture, since they could no longer be obtained by importation. Whereas the whole body of the runaways was composed of slaves who had fled from their owners; there was not a free person among them except two deserters from his Majesty's regular troops, who were delivered up to their respective regiments, and afterwards shot as deserters by the sentence of a general court martial. Your Committee beg leave to remind the House, that a regular census of all the inhabitants is annually taken in this Island, and that every proprietor of slaves is obliged to deliver in a correct list upon oath, of all his slaves, their number and their names, and that in such list, the number of all his runaway slaves (if any,) must be distinctly noted, their names, their ages, their country, and the time that they have been absent; by means of which census, the right of proprietorship to each runaway slave can in most cases be distinctly traced and ascertained. The assertions of Sir Samuel Romilly are not only not true, but not possible, since no person of free birth, and no slave regularly and legally emancipated, can ever be reduced again to slavery for any offence whatever, freedom being an indelible right, of which, by the law of the colony, no man can ever be deprived. Your Committee are at a loss to conceive upon what principle of the law of England, Mr. Gordon founded his extraordinary assertion, that many of the runaway slaves in this island might by prescription be considered as free people. It appears to your Committee, that the law of England acknowledges no such prescription. If a man accept of his Majesty's bounty, enlist in one of his Majesty's regiments, and afterwards desert, he would never be allowed to plead prescription or length of absence in his defence—such a plea would be considered as adding contumacy to guilt. The law of England is in all cases the same. A man is liable to be tried for the commission of a felony more than an age after the offence, and is moreover subject to

all the risks attending the delay. All the witnesses who might have appeared in his defence, may be dead at the time of the trial, yet the absence of those witnesses cannot be pleaded in defence; as the law considers that the prisoner is the cause of his own danger, by not surrendering himself in due time to justice. It appears, therefore, clearly and decidedly to your Committee, that his Excellency Governor Ainslie, in planning and conducting the expeditions against the revolted negroes, did no more than perform his duty in the strictest sense to his Majesty and to this colony; that he never exceeded it in the smallest degree; that he always offered mercy in the first instance, and never had recourse to rigorous measures until mercy had been offered in vain. His Majesty's Government in England acted in the same manner about four years since, to that lawless body of men who assumed the name of Luddites, but the executions and the transportations were more numerous than they were among the revolted negroes, although your Committee are not apprized that the Luddites added murder to felony, and they were never accused of condemning and executing peace officers, carrying his Majesty's offers of mercy, by mock tribunals of their own creation. Upon the whole, therefore, your Committee hope that their Report will tend to counteract the false impression which seems to have prevailed partially in the House of Commons as to the conduct of Governor Ainslie towards the revolted negroes in this colony.

JOHN LOWNDES,
THO. H. FERGUSON,
R. H. NIGHTINGALE,

Members of the Committee,

Mr. Court moved, seconded by Mr. Lowndes, that the Report be confirmed. Agreed to unanimously.

Mr. Andrew Keay moved, seconded by Mr. Lowndes, That an extract of the minutes of this Day, with the Report of the Committee relative to the mis-statements made in the House of Commons, concerning the administration of Governor Ainslie, be printed in the Roseau Gazette, and that the Speaker be directed to sign and transmit a copy of the same, to the Right Honourable Earl Bathurst, his Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies. — Agreed to unanimously.

WM. ANDERSON, *Speaker,*

[A true Extract.]

E. H. BEACH, *Clerk of Assembly.*

—*—*—*—

Dominica, August 18th, 1815.

My Lord,—In compliance with the directions of the Honourable the House of Assembly of this Island, I have now, with the greatest personal satisfaction, the honour to hand to you a Copy of a Report of a Committee of that House, appointed by ballot on the 15th instant, unanimously confirmed, relating to the mis-statements that have taken place in the House of Commons, with respect to the administration of Governor Ainslie, in this Island.

This, with the Report, is transmitted through the hands of Governor Ainslie, whose speedy re-

turn to his Government, I, in conjunction with a large majority of this community, anticipate with pleasure.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your very obedient,

Humble Servant,

WM. ANDERSON, *Speaker.*

To the Right Honorable Earl Bathurst,
his Majesty's Principal Secretary of
State for the Colonies, &c. &c. }

DOMINICA.

WE, the Inhabitants, Planters, and Merchants of the Island of Dominica, respectively beg leave to convey to your Lordship our expressions of sincere regret that, after the clear and ample testimony we bore to the meritorious services rendered to this Colony, by Major General Ainslie, in his extinction of a most formidable rebellion among the Maroons, a copy of which testimony is hereto annexed, and that document reinforced by two others to the same effect, from the two branches of the legislature, should not have proved satisfactory and precluded as unnecessary, any further enquiry into his conduct on that occasion, a conduct which has justly gained him the affections and gratitude of every class of this community, which his well-timed and vigorous exertions rescued from the brink of ruin, and from the revival of those horrid scenes of 1785, when numerous estates

were set on fire and totally destroyed, and their owners massacred. Nor is there any thing idle or fanciful in this idea, for it has been lately proved, on the most incontrovertible evidence, that many valuable lives had been denounced, and would have been sacrificed by those desperate assassins, but for the very critical frustration of their diabolical purpose by Major General Ainslie's prompt and vigorous attack, and final suppression of them. A poor harmless Carib, a soldier of the 4th West India regiment, and a white man named M'Farlane, they actually did murder in the most wanton and cruel manner; and Mr Alexander Robinson, a respectable Planter, whom they were in the act of drowning as he was crossing a river, on the road near to his estate, providentially escaped out of their ruffian hands, in consequence of the accidental appearance of some people that alarmed them so as to abandon their almost strangled prey. These assassins were afterwards taken, tried, and executed.

For our hair-breadth escape from these dangers, and these horrors, for our happy return to our present state, and secure establishment of tranquillity and repose, we feel and gratefully acknowledge ourselves indebted solely to the judicious measures, and unremitting activity of Major-General Ainslie, who we anxiously pray may be speedily restored to us.

Roseau, July 29th, 1815.

Right Hon. Earl Bathurst, his Majesty's Principal }
Secretary of State for the Colonies, &c. }

SUBSCRIBERS' NAMES.

Robert Garraway,
 Thomas Court,
 H. C. C. Newman,
 Wm. Anderson,
 T. H. Fergusson,
 A. Meuboucher,
 F. Landat,
 John Reynolds,
 E. Sorhaindo,
 P. B. Moore,
 F. Maurillon,
 Thomas Vidal,
 James Pradon,
 M. Girault,
 F. Girault,
 A. M. Whitaker,
 G. Dupueir,
 David Wells,
 D. Le Blanc,
 D. L. B. Bour,
 J. B. Roux,
 J. B. Le Blanc,
 George Deputy,
 A. Dufrayer,
 Charles Sablon,
 M. Vidal,
 F. Vidal,
 J. B. Levelloux,
 J. B. Riviere,
 G. Riviere,
 Joseph Court,
 Peter Philips,
 Edward Court,
 Thomas Shillingford,
 James Wilson,
 Archibald Taylor,
 Martin Welch,
 William Shillingford,

John Stewart,
 J. Kirkwood,
 M. Patterson,
 John Dunn,
 J. Kerr,
 John Appleton,
 John Champion,
 William H. Grano,
 L. Chevalier D'Origney,
 J. B. Petit,
 B. Chopin,
 Mathew Myler,
 S. Buraurau,
 R. De Lamar,
 J. B. Gautier,
 A. Fontaine,
 J. P. D'Anglebermes,
 Roderick Baird,
 Nicholas Moreau,
 A. Sorhaindo,
 J. A. Laronde,
 L. A. Laronde,
 L. Sorhaindo,
 L. Chasot,
 M. Botro,
 J. Hieurtault,
 E. L. Blee,
 John Charurier,
 William Payne,
 Thomas Crawford,
 Quintin Osborne,
 Thomas Myler,
 John Cubbin,
 Peter F. Fontaine,
 J. Giraudel,
 J. Molinie,
 L. Sorhaindo,
 J. J. Létang,

R. Keltie,
 William Collier,
 John Atkinson,
 — Moreau,
 A. Boyer,
 — Serrant,
 Samuel Gray,
 M. Ogston,
 J. L. Belotte,
 T. B. Guest,
 R. Dunoyer,
 John Madey,
 J. B. Dupegnay,
 L. Cenecour,
 A. Cenecour,
 — Gachet,
 Randal Righton,
 John Foreman,
 P. Ellisonde,
 J. Gordon,
 William F. Stewart,
 C. Gaume,
 F. B. X. De Beltgens,
 W. Fournier,
 John B. Fournier,
 A. Lamarque,
 J. B. Delor,
 P. F. Bignon,
 Joseph Buret,
 Alexander Dunbar,
 G. Demaray,
 J. B. Pelle,
 G. Demaray, jun.
 Simon Mattee,
 Thomas Farrenden,
 A. Patterson,
 J. Monboucher,
 W. H. Mason,
 Edward McCraith,
 A. Desmarinre,

Pierre Jolly,
 — Arnaud,
 J. B. De Ravariere,
 B. De Lamar,
 J. B. P. Létang,
 James Johnstone,
 John Hedley,
 J. Le Baron,
 Henry Rhoads,
 Z. Baker,
 John Spencer,
 Eloi Pent,
 — Renault,
 W. B. Renault,
 Charles Harrison,
 S. Savarin,
 B. Marceau,
 Alexander Belair,
 L. A. Belair,
 George Belair,
 P. Motard,
 P. Motard, Jun.
 S. Caret,
 R. De Caratis,
 F. Renault,
 Q. Fonqual,
 M. Motard,
 Francois Gresant,
 J. B. Perrier,
 P. Hortique,
 L. Labadie,
 Julian Langlais,
 C. Plifford,
 J. B. M. Dubue,
 G. St. Ville,
 T. Roques,
 Charles Courtney,
 Nicholas Welch,
 J. P. Courtice,
 Joseph Langlais,

A. F. Desmarinire,
 J. L. Desmarinire,
 Julian Desmarinire,
 D. Pacquet,
 A. M. Whitaker,
 Richard Seamen,
 A. Mourillon,
 J. Seamen,
 J. B. Misherau,
 D. Le Blanc,
 R. Grano,
 M. J. Brumaut,
 J. Laville,
 John Keay,
 Andrew Keay,
 Ralph Cantrell.
 Edward M. Gray,
 Robert Nightingale,
 B. Blanc,
 P. Courche,
 John Lowndes,
 John Jardin,
 A. F. Demarinier,
 Thomas Philpot,
 Edward H. Beech,
 L'Abbe Jean Jos. Piron,
 F. Menier,
 Charles Vaughan,
 J. Le Baron,
 J. Y. Seyner,
 F. Avraud,
 E. M. Casey,
 C. Middleton,
 Wm. Hamilton,
 J. Cross,
 John Sharpley,
 William Wright,
 William Goldsmith,

L. Langlais
 A. Lirxin,
 ——— Romain,
 Thomas Simpson,
 Edward L. Noble,
 G. Stephenson,
 J. Nixon,
 Isaac Atkinson,
 C. Johnston,
 James H. Denbow,*
 Charles Sydenham,
 F. V. Mourillon,
 George Jeffery,
 Walter Burke,
 J. Stukey,
 John A. Nisbitt,
 Christopher Hirriart,
 D. Letang,
 Jack Mercier,
 J. Williaus,
 Ralph Ashton,
 Thomas Hawthorn,
 William Hewitt,
 J. H. Newman,
 Joseph Burton,
 John Chalmers,
 William Miller,
 F. Gourd,
 J. Trocard,
 Thomas Trocard,
 J. B. Fort,
 N. R. Belair,
 G. Gosselin,
 F. R. Belair,
 William Narrale,
 P. Roudet,
 P. Clavelle,
 R. Romain,

* On a letter from this person, "who now anxiously prays that I may be restored to my Government," did Mr. Robert Aberdein, now living at Brighton, found a frivolous and contemptible charge!!!—Geo. R. Ainslie.

Martin O'Brien,
 William Cannonier,
 P. Lamothe,
 J. B. Lamothe, Jun.
 M. Robin,
 Alex. Royer,
 Royer Belair,
 F. R. Belair,
 George R. Belair,
 J. Larocque,
 P. Larocque,
 J. H. Nock,
 Alexander Watson,
 John D. Howell,

E. Romain,
 R. Roduet,
 George Cunningham,
 Thomas Sisson,
 Daniel Constable,
 Stephen Blanchard,
 Francois Long,
 J. R. Brioland,
 A. Deseore,
 J. F. Deseore,
 Henry Gloster,
 Thomas Murphy,
 John Dominique Long,
 B. Berard.

DOMINICA.—*To his Excellency GEORGE ROBERT AINSLIE, Esq. Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over the said Island, Chancellor, Vice-Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c.*

WE, the Planters, Merchants, and Inhabitants of the Island of Dominica, penetrated with a just sense of the important services which your Excellency has rendered generally to the inhabitants of this colony, and more particularly to the Planters and owners of slaves, by your judicious and salutary measures, for the suppression of a most alarming and dangerous rebellion among the Maroons, that has for a long series of years existed, and was daily increasing in number, force, and audacity, to the great terror and annoyance of the community, feel it an act of justice, and a debt of gratitude due to your Excellency, to bear our unqualified testimony to your meritorious and well-timed exertions on this very serious and critical occasion.

While we highly admire and applaud the moderation and forbearance which you evinced in the first instance, in your benevolent endeavours to convince these deluded and misguided wretches of their error, and bring them to a sense of their duty, by issuing proclamation after proclamation, offering a free pardon to all such as should voluntarily surrender themselves, and return to their owners, we sincerely lament that these mild and lenient measures, instead of producing the desired and naturally expected effect on these poor infatuated people, were not only treated by them with defiance and contempt, but evidently served to heighten their boldness and insolence, and to encourage them in their atrocities and enormities; they perhaps attributing, if we may judge by their subsequent increased violence, and by the reinforcements which flocked to them, this moderation on the part of your Excellency, either to the weakness or timidity of your Government.

We were particularly gratified in observing the humanity and consideration of your Excellency, in not only ordering the delivery to their owners, of all children immediately after they were taken, but in repeated instances granting a full and unconditional pardon to the mothers of children, although the lives of some of them were forfeited to the laws of their country, and the others subject to banishment.

What will their most specious and partial advocate attempt to plead in defence or palliation of these desperate and daring rebels, when he is informed, that in return for your most gracious offer

of mercy and pardon, on condition of their contrition and promise of future good behaviour, they barbarously murdered two men, the bearers of your Excellency's commission ; and that, not content with this act of savage ferocity, they had the unparalleled audacity to *offer a reward of Two Thousand Dollars for your EXCELLENCY'S HEAD ?* What will he say, when he is told, that they have been known to enter the town at midnight ? That they have broken open and robbed private houses ? That they have made violent irruptions in numerous bodies, armed with cutlasses and guns, and committing depredations and murders, both by night and day, on the surrounding estates, and plundered them of all kinds of provisions and live stock ; that they have even forcibly carried away slaves, and put to death those who attempted to make their escape from them ; and that they have made their camp an asylum for deserters from his Majesty's troops, three of which description were lately tried by a Court Martial, under the orders of the Commander of the Forces, and sentenced, one to receive a thousand lashes, and to be branded in the arm with the letter D. and the two others to be shot.

After this short and unexaggerated recital of their crimes and enormities, the catalogue of which might be greatly enlarged, we should have felt as much disposed to censure your Excellency had you not adopted the necessary measures you have done for the reduction of this dangerous intestine enemy, as we now are to testify our warmest approbation and perfect satisfaction at the energy and

perseverance with which you have acted. We are convinced that your acts in this respect, have been no less acts of mercy than of justice, and that many valuable lives would have been sacrificed, had your Excellency exercised much longer forbearance; nor do we even think it improbable, that a general insurrection of the negroes, and an indiscriminate massacre of the whites, and free people of colour, might have proved the result of such excessive lenity.

We therefore cannot refrain from acknowledging our great obligations to your Excellency, for the wise and hitherto successful policy you have pursued on this pressing emergency; a policy, which has rescued our lives and properties from the impending horrors and dangers which but lately threatened them.

The examples which imperious necessity required you to make of a few notorious offenders, have had the desired effect, by striking a proper terror into the minds of all those turbulent and mutinous slaves, who had before betrayed a disposition to revolt, and threatened to join the Maroons. We now enjoy blessings to which we had long been strangers, security, confidence, and repose, the fruits of your Excellency's vigilance and exertions; in which we are persuaded you were influenced by no other view than that of promoting the tranquillity and welfare of the colony over which you preside.

It is with regret we learn your Excellency's intended departure, particularly when we contemplate the possible consequences of your leaving

the colony at this critical juncture ; and, our most earnest desire is, that your Excellency could be induced to remain among us until such time as the object, so nearly brought to a termination, shall be finally accomplished.—Should you, however, Sir, have reasons for deciding otherwise (an event we shall deeply regret), accept our best wishes for your Excellency's speedy return to your Government.

(Signed by) H. C. C. NEWMAN,

Rector of the Parish of St. George, CHAIRMAN.

And 162 Planters, Merchants, and Inhabitants.

Roseau, June 18th, 1814.

*To the Right Hon. Earl BATHURST, his
Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies, &c.*

WE, the Coloured Inhabitants of the Town of Roseau, Island of Dominica, having heard that General AINSLIE is represented in England as our oppressor,

Humbly beg leave to inform your Lordship, that during his administration here, we had not any cause to complain of him, less so than of any former Governor, and must impartially avouch, that he neither was oppressive nor injurious to us ; therefore, in a strict sense of honour, do unanimously assert he has been falsely accused.

We most gratefully express our thanks to General AINSLIE for the vigorous measures he adopted,

to suppress the runaway slaves, as our lives and properties were in imminent danger, and particularly that of appointing one or more Commissioners in the different parishes to receive the grievances of the slaves, and to alleviate, as much as possible, the state of those in the employ of their owners.

We conclude with our good wishes to Governor AINSLIE, hoping his affairs may meet a speedy termination, and that his return to this Government may not be protracted.

We have the honour to be,

Your Lordship's most humble

And obedient Servants.

SUBSCRIBERS' NAMES.

Pascal Laudar,
Aime Blondel,
Wm. Cubbin,
Thomas Vings,
John Vings,
Michael Boland,
F. Fontaine,
Peter Finn,
J. Firet,
L. Urbain,
J. B. Belotte,
R. Giraudel,
Noel l'Abbé,
A. Eloriel,
George Galon,
E. Fynard,
Laurent Poulaint,

Edward Seignoret,
—— Severin,
J. B. Maximin,
J. L. Lazaranne,
Noel Dejean,
J. B. Asser,
J. B. Riviere,
Charles Mels,
A. Gerote,
Rigi Baugo,
A. Renolds,
B. Sergenton,
B. Darroux,
Peter Giroux,
Ceril Jolly,
Benjamin Dyer,
James Rastock,

J. B. Thoro,
 P. Dubuison,
 J. B. André,
 Joseph André,
 S. Lawny,

F. Cerille,
 J. Dominique,
 L. Moulque,
 — Botil.

*To the Right Hon. Earl BATHURST, his
 Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
 for the Colonies, &c.*

WE, the Free People of Colour, Planters, of the Island of Dominica, most humbly beg leave to express to your Lordship, as an act of strict justice to our best friend Major-General AINSLIE, the concern we feel, to learn the injurious prejudices which are entertained, and misrepresentations which have been circulated of him at home as an oppressor of us, and as hostile to our order, than which a greater calumny was never uttered or invented, as he has invariably treated us with the greatest consideration, has always been ready to listen to our complaints, and to redress our grievances, and made us the objects of his peculiar care; in proof of which, among various others, that he has our welfare and interests at heart, and not less those of the slave population, he has appointed gentlemen of the first respectability in every parish of the island as Commissioners to hear complaints, and to report all instances of oppression, cruelty, or ill-usage, that they may come to the knowledge of—a plan, perfectly original and unprecedented, calculated to check and

keep in awe the ill-disposed, and to produce the most beneficial effects.

For these and many other reasons, we cannot resist the impulse that actuates us to repel the unwarrantable attempts that have been made to prejudice our Governor in the eyes of the British nation, by depicting him as an enemy to the coloured classes of the community, of which not one solitary instance can be adduced ; and for the same reasons we cheerfully re-echo our former testimony of our unanimous approbation of the general administration of his government, and of his considerate attention in particular to us, and to our Order. Accordingly it is our ardent wish and prayer, that he may be speedily restored to us.

Dominica, July 30th, 1815.

SUBSCRIBERS' NAMES.

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| F. Bellemey, | S. Paxrian, |
| F. Bougrnenon, | J. B. Dubuc, |
| J. Blullian, | E. Ravariere, |
| Renne Claud, | Leonard Gallis, |
| A. Dubuc, | S. Fournette, |
| J. Carellis, | St. Mark Royer, |
| J. P. Pichaud, | Joseph Marie, |
| M. Chavaroché, | Pierre Loyer, |
| S. P. Berseger, | J. B. Fournette, Sen. |
| G. Menier, | J. B. Fournette, |
| E. Lambert, | Remi Fournette, |
| C. Fanconier, | S. George Codoce, |
| L. J. Dubuc, | C. Certiff, |
| Jacques Luce, | F. Fournette, |
| J. P. Pacquet, | Henry Latail, |
| J. B. Memains, | J. B. Royer, |
| H. Vacher, | St. Andre Parvitte, |

L. Lecointe,
 J. B. Lecointe,
 P. Laudar, fils,
 J. F. Roudet,
 Wm. Coulby.
 B. Fermin,
 A. Fountra,
 Louis Royer,
 Alexander Deputy,
 George Royer,
 P. Littant,
 George Royer,
 G. Scipion,
 B. Royer,
 Thomas Champ,
 B. Royer,
 Louis Royer,
 George Royer,
 B. Roux,
 J. B. Littant,
 R. Desabaye,
 R. Dubois,
 M. Dubois,
 V. Royer,
 L. Ceneconr,
 P. Gacket,
 E. Tavernier,
 E. Laudat,
 C. L. Titre,
 J. M. Lafiel,
 Charles Pacquet,
 Robert Devie,
 F. Belott,
 E. Morise,
 P. Laudar,
 P. Chavaroché,
 J. P. Romains,

— Paville,
 D. L. Laville,
 — Paville, Jun.,
 A. G. Laville,
 D. Le Blanc,
 D. Le B. Ferant,
 J. B. Roux,
 M. S. Laville,
 Thomas Leslie,
 M. Chopin,
 G. Douglas,
 P. Pompone,
 A. Fontaine,
 L. Florant,
 D. Stewart,
 C. Le Maitre,
 M. Rouer,
 J. C. Serrant,
 L. Dubucq,
 N. Dubucq,
 George Dubucq,
 C. Barron,
 T. Anselme,
 Casimir Barron,
 E. Pacquitte,
 Louis Ceser,
 Jean Gisse,
 P. J. Titre,
 C. Durand,
 J. M. Titre,
 F. Morise,
 C. Baron, Jun.,
 Louis Titre,
 P. L. Titre,
 G. Paxrian,
 B. Loyer,
 B. Berard.

*Address from the Free Coloured Inhabitants
to Governor AINSLIE, dated June, 1814.*

WE, his Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Inhabitants of Colour of this Island, having heard of your Excellency's premature departure, beg leave to offer our sincere acknowledgments and grateful thanks for your Excellency's timely and judicious measures taken in suppressing the late rebellion among the runaway slaves of this island, and we say in almost extirpating them from the woods, where they so long inhabited, and which rendered our lives and properties in perpetual danger, until the wise steps adopted by your Excellency had restored peace and tranquillity to every individual in this community; under these circumstances we cannot but regret your Excellency's departure, and we sincerely hope that your Excellency's absence will not be of a long duration, as we feel in reflecting that all your Excellency's exertions have been for the well being, good policy, and welfare of this colony.

We therefore offer our most fervent prayers and cordial wishes for your Excellency's safe arrival in England, and a speedy return to your Government,

Roseau, June 21, 1814.

(Signed by) Wm. ROSSINGTON.

And 162 Free People of Colour.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR, to his Honour the PRESIDENT and COUNCIL, and his Honour the SPEAKER of the House of Assembly.

THE Governor informs the Honourable Board and House, that his Royal Highness the Prince Regent has signified his pleasure through Earl Bathurst, Secretary of State for the Colonies, that he should return to Europe to give some explanation relative to the operations carried on against the Maroons.

GEO. R. AINSLIE, Governor.

Government-House, 21st June, 1814.

His Honour the PRESIDENT and COUNCIL to his EXCELLENCY the Commander in Chief.

THE Board have to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Message of yesterday, and to express their regret, that any explanation which may be judged necessary respecting the operations lately carried on against the rebellious and run-away slaves in the woods of this island, should have induced his Royal Highness the Prince Regent to consider it necessary to signify his pleasure that your Excellency should return to Europe for that purpose.

When the Board look back to the alarming state of this Colony about six months ago, at which

period, notwithstanding your Excellency's repeated offers of pardon to these misguided people, their number not only continued rapidly to increase, but their previous depredations and outrages were followed up even by assassination, events which not only threatened the total subversion of order and discipline among the slave population, but highly endangered the lives of the white inhabitants. The Board consider that they have great reason to return thanks to your Excellency for the prompt and efficient measures, which, when clemency failed, you adopted to suppress, and bring to their duty such hordes of lawless banditti.

The exertions of the parties of militia ordered on service, and the Colony Rangers under your Excellency's able directions, the Board consider as highly commendable, as they have been in an eminent degree successful, and the Board cannot but lament, that your Excellency's departure will not permit you to bring this warfare to a final and favourable conclusion.

ARCHD. GLOSTER, President.

Council Chamber, 22d June, 1814.

*His Honour the SPEAKER and House of Assembly, to his EXCELLENCY the Commander in Chief.**

THE House have to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's message of yesterday, communicating to us the pleasure of his Royal Highness

* I dissolved this House, for neglect of their important duties to their constituents.—Geo. R. A.

the Prince Regent to have some explanation from yourself in person, relative to the operations carrying on against the Maroons.

The House cannot view without extreme regret, that the wise and salutary measures adopted by your Excellency, in a service of such vital importance to the safety and welfare of the Colony, should have been so far misconceived in the mother country as to render such explanation necessary. The state of alarm of this Colony when your Excellency entered on the command, from the increasing numbers and audacity of those lawless banditti, not only fully justified, but imperiously called for the most vigorous measures to suppress them. Regardless of the repeated offers of pardon held out to them in your several proclamations to that effect, these misguided people not only spurned at your offers, but, interpreting them as a proof of their weakness and inability to carry on offensive operations against them, actually became more and more turbulent and enterprising. Besides various predatory excursions on the plantations, and the most audacious threats, have they not imbrued their hands in the blood of a defenceless white inhabitant of this island, and one of his Majesty's regular soldiers, and mangled the bodies of their unfortunate victims? Have they not murdered the bearers of your Excellency's Proclamations inviting them to submission, and offering forgiveness for past offences—the harbingers of peace respected by the most barbarous tribes?

It would be superfluous to enumerate the various excesses of these unprincipled vagabonds,

whose daring conduct would have justified the severest retribution. In no instance, however, have their crimes been visited by severer punishment than what is daily inflicted in the mother country, for offences far less dangerous to the peace and security of society.

We trust, therefore, that when his Majesty's Government are correctly informed of the magnitude of the danger that threatened the Colony, and from which we have escaped through the wise and vigorous measures pursued by your Excellency for the suppression of the Maroons, your conduct on this occasion will appear fully justified by existing circumstances.

JOHN GORDON, Speaker.

House of Assembly, June 22d, 1814.

EXTRACT of an Address from his Excellency the GOVERNOR to the New House of Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN,

I Have directed returns of casualties since the commencement of the Maroon war to be laid before you, and I earnestly recommend a certain provision to be made for those men who have been maimed in freeing the country from bands, who carried desolation and terror wherever they appeared. I congratulate the House on the return to

their masters and habits of industry of so many Maroons, the interior (of which not long since they had entire possession) being almost free from those sanguinary marauders. The supreme head, as well as the principal chiefs, have been killed with arms in their hands, and the colony enjoys a security which it has not known for a long series of years. Justice has been appeased by the sacrifice of eight or ten lives at the place of execution, a necessity always to be deplored, but in this instance unavoidable, when we consider that this daring banditti was so formidable at the commencement of the year, as to cause the senior * Member of his Majesty's Council to seek refuge in town with his family, and ask for a party of regular troops to protect his property, although only half a mile distant. It is still fresh in the recollection of every person, that a short time previous to my assuming the Government, a body of twenty armed Maroons entered this town, the capital of the island, and after robbing a house in one of the principal streets to the amount of six hundred dollars in provisions, &c. retired unmolested.—Example was necessary to prevent a recurrence of these scenes,

GEO. R. AINSLIE, Governor.

Government-House, October 14th, 1814.

* Hon Benjamin Lucas, now President of the Island.

EXTRACT from the Reply of the Assembly, to his Excellency GEORGE ROBERT AINSLIE, Governor and Commander in Chief, &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

WE are perfectly persuaded that the examples made by your Excellency were unavoidable—that the promptness with which they were made had the desired effect of saving many valuable lives, and that thereon ultimately depended the vital existence of the Colony.

We shall duly attend to your Excellency's commendation to provide for the public revenue, and the keeping up the Ranger Corps, of whose service this House is duly sensible; trusting that a reduction in that corps will take place, when the nature of the circumstances will permit: it being the wish of the House to give perfect efficiency to your Excellency's measures, and entertaining a perfect confidence that you will be the first to announce the time when a reduction in that corps will take place.

WM. ANDERSON, Speaker.

House of Assembly, October 10th, 1814.

EXTRACT of a Message from his Excellency the GOVERNOR, to his Honour the President and Council.

THE Governor thinks it right to inform his Honour the President, and the Honourable Board of Council, that he intends returning to England, and shall embark on the 8th of November for that purpose. The object of his going, is to give further explanation on the subject of the Maroons, than can be conveyed in a dispatch.

GEO. R. AINSLIE, Governor.

Government-House, Oct. 24th, 1814 *



EXTRACT of an Address from his Honour the President and Council, to his Excellency the GOVERNOR and Commander in Chief.

THE Board learn with regret your Excellency's intention of so soon leaving the Colony; but as the object of your Excellency's visit to England is merely to give further explanation to his Majesty's Ministers respecting the Maroons in this Colony, they are pleased to find that your Excellency's absence is likely to be of so short duration.

ARCHD. GLOSTER, President.

Council Chamber, October 25th, 1814.

* The same to the House of Assembly.

*EXTRACT from the Message of his Honour
the SPEAKER and House of Assembly,
to his Excellency the GOVERNOR and
Commander in Chief.*

THE House have received with regret the notification of your Excellency's so speedy intended departure, as they could have hoped that the object which your Excellency's prompt, energetic, and judicious measures have so nearly brought to a final termination (the Maroon war) had been previously completely accomplished; yet, when they reflect that the existence of this dangerous intestine evil is now nearly extinct, and that it is what forms the subject for which your Excellency's presence is required in England, they cannot refrain from expressing the high sense they entertain, and shall ever continue to entertain, of the eminent services your Excellency has rendered to this Colony, by restoring that quiet and security, which may be justly said to have been lately in such imminent danger.

The House trust, Sir, that his Majesty's Ministers will contemplate your Excellency's conduct through the arduous pursuit of this ferocious banditti in the same point of view as they do, and anticipate in the British Cabinet the most flattering testimony of the approbation of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

WM. ANDERSON, Speaker.

House of Assembly, Oct. 28th, 1814.

DOMINICA.---*The Roman Catholic Inhabitants of the Parish of St. George, in the Name of all those of the Colony, to his Excellency GEORGE ROBERT AINSLIE, Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over the said Island, &c. &c. &c.*

DEEPLY penetrated at your approaching departure for England, permit us to testify the regret we experience, and the sincere vows we make, that the voyage may be as fortunate as prompt, and that your return here may render us the security which we have the happiness to enjoy under your paternal government ; for without you, what should we have become !—the victims of the murderous runaways who desolated the country, and who menaced it with total ruin ; but thanks to your administration, you have succeeded in restoring the calm and tranquillity to this unfortunate Colony, of which it had been so long deprived. Deign to receive the assurance of the high esteem and consideration with which you have inspired all the Catholic inhabitants, who will never forget the benefits they have experienced from the probity of your government, and your paternal cares.

We are, with the most profound respect,

Your very humble,

And most obedient Servants,

Roseau, November 4th, 1814.

SUBSCRIBERS' NAMES.

Pierre Jally,
J. B. Mayne De Ravariere,
Claude Gaume,
E. Petit,
Arnaud,
J. Le Baron,
De Lamare Benj.
L'Abbé Jean Joseph Pirou,
P. Cuarche,

J. Marie,
Alex. L. Guay,
A. Desmarinieres,
F. H. De Beltgins,
L. Ch. D'Origm,
Lu. Sorhamdo,
J. B. Petit,
B. Chapiu,
J. J. Letang.

*His Honour the President and Council, and
the Speaker and House of Assembly, to
his Excellency the GOVERNOR in Chief.*

THE Board and House having come to the following resolution :—

“ RESOLVED—That the highly important services rendered to this Colony by the prompt and vigorous measures adopted by his Excellency Governor Ainslie, in subduing so large a number of Maroons, demand our warmest gratitude, and that in consequence he be requested to accept of Two Hundred Guineas, for the purpose of purchasing a SWORD, as a mark of their approbation of his conduct in the Maroon war, regretting, at the same time, that the state of the Colonial funds will not enable them to be more liberal in their grant, request your Excellency's assent thereto, and that you will be pleased to issue your warrant to the Treasurer for the payment thereof.

ARCHD. GLOSTER, President.

Council Chamber, November 17th, 1814.

WM. ANDERSON, Speaker.

House of Assembly, November 17th, 1814.

*His Honour the PRESIDENT and Council, and the
SPEAKER and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,
to his Excellency the GOVERNOR and Commander in
Chief.*

THE Board and House inform your Excellency, that
they have adopted the following as an inscription on the
SWORD :—

“ TO HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR GENERAL

AINSLIE,

GOVERNOR OF DOMINICA, &c. &c. &c.

This SWORD is presented by the Two Branches of the
Legislature, in testimony of his Meritorious
Conduct in the reduction of the Ma-
roons, in the Year 1814.”

ARCHD. GLOSTER, President.

Council Chamber, November 18th, 1814.

WM. ANDERSON, Speaker.

House of Assembly, November 18th, 1814.

To the Right Hon. Earl BATHURST, his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, &c.

WE, the undersigned Proprietors of Estates, Merchants, and others, interested in the Island of Dominica, now residing in London and its vicinity, consider it incumbent on us to represent to his Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, the sense we entertain of the essential services rendered to the Colony of Dominica, by Major General Ainslie, by whose spirited exertions, in dispersing and crushing a most dangerous horde of runaway negroes, the lives of many white people and others were saved, and much property preserved from total destruction.

These deluded people had become so numerous, *their plans were so well formed, their communication with the estates was so extensive, that there was much cause to apprehend a general massacre of all the white inhabitants, and free people of colour, who were not immediately under the protection of the garrison.* Such a plan was certainly *formed.* This dreadful catastrophe, we believe, was averted by the measures adopted by Governor Ainslie. The nature of the case, *unknown to the inhabitants of this country,* required prompt and decisive measures; and when the *number* of rebel slaves is considered, *the ferocity of their dispositions, and the almost innumerable strong holds they possessed,* the number of them which were killed is comparatively small, and the examples made, a still smaller proportion.

We are convinced that the Proclamation, of which so much has been said, was only issued to induce the fugitives to return to their duty, that the effusion of blood might be prevented ; it never was acted on, nor do we believe that any act of cruelty was committed either by order or sanction of Governor Ainslie. The few slaves who were executed, suffered by the laws of the Colony, and the example was most salutary, in preserving the lives of many of his Majesty's loyal subjects, and property to a large amount.

We also beg leave to state, that if any censure is passed on Governor Ainslie for his conduct on that occasion, it would encourage similar revolts in that and other colonies, the consequences of which it is unnecessary to point out.

London, 30th May, 1815.

(Signed)

James Laing,
W. T. Robarts and Co.
James Craufurd,
James Bourdieu,
William Fraser,
Wm. Max. Alexander,
Claude Neilson,
Henry Curry,
J. Montgomerie,
J. P. Lockhart,

A. Turquand,
Rich. Teasdale,
William Coles,
J. Ncave,
Thomas Pagan,
Kender Mason,
James Woodbridge,
William Robinson,
M. Welche.

*SPEECH of SIR ROBERT HERON, in Defence of
MAJOR-GENERAL AINSLIE, Governor of
Dominica, in the House of Commons, 2d June, 1815.*

I RISE, Sir, for the purpose of endeavouring to convince the House, that my honourable friend has failed to make good his charges against Governor Ainslie, and that he has not established any sufficient grounds for inducing the House to go into the enquiry. Sir, I do entreat the House, that forgetting on this occasion how little claim to their attention could be made by the individual who presumes to address you, they will grant that attention, in justice and in candour to the character of a veteran officer so deeply implicated in the present question. Sir, I willingly acknowledge the motives which have induced my honourable friend to bring this matter forward, indeed it is impossible to imagine any other motive, by which he could be actuated on this occasion, but I fear I shall not have it in my power to give him the same credit for discretion, which I sincerely give to his candour.

Before I proceed to state, in as few words as I am able, without exaggeration and without extenuation, what was the real conduct of General Ainslie, as far as regards the two principal charges against him, I must trouble the House with a few observations on another charge which, in my opinion, ought never to have been mentioned in this House;—I speak of that, in which he is accused of having flogged four black Soldiers; this charge, totally unsubstantiated by any evidence whatever, is contained in a letter signed I. Clapham; this person was first introduced under the title of *Colonel* John Clapham, but, for what reason I know not, has since been obliged, like the Chevalier D'Eon, to hide his manhood under female habiliments. Sir, I know something of the *illustrious* House of Clapham; John Clapham, who kept a gin shop, died about eighteen years ago; his widow, *Colonel Mrs. Joanna Clapham*, is now the only person of that name upon the Island; she is, I believe, unable to write*,

* This is since *proved* beyond a doubt by a person now in London.—Since the above was printed, Mrs. Clapham has, in presence of two respectable gentlemen of Dominica, denied all knowledge of the letter. An affidavit to this effect is now in possession of Major-General Ainslie.

and certainly is not capable of writing the letter ascribed to her. Had the honourable gentleman thought proper to have enquired respecting the supposed author of this anonymous, if not forged letter, he might certainly have found many respectable persons connected with Dominica who could have given him the information required. Amongst several others, are Mr. Lockhart, a most respectable proprietor, lately arrived, and Mr. Laing, who resided forty-eight years in Dominica, the latter gentleman is not very obscure, as he is now Sheriff for the county of Surrey. But it was not convenient to the honourable gentleman to enquire too deeply, he could not consent to deprive himself of it, it was wanted as colouring matter, to heighten the other charges, and to give them a complexion which does not properly belong to them.

A copy of this letter was sent to the Colonial Office, and as it contained a military charge, was, by Lord Bathurst, sent to his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief. Now as the honourable gentleman does not even pretend, that his Royal Highness has been wanting in his duty on this occasion, I think he has been guilty of very great impropriety in thus attempting to interfere with the exercise of his Royal Highness's discretion, and I hope I do not act contrary to the sense of this House, when I decline, as I think I ought to do, to say one more word upon that charge. I proceed to the accusation against Governor Ainslie for flogging Jean Michelle, a free negro—that he did flog him, I admit,—that he was free, I deny—and now, Sir, I must introduce to the House another character.

When the Governor entered on the government at Grenada, to which he was not appointed, but succeeded only in consequence of his military rank, he found the Island in a very turbulent state, many of the inhabitants, who are principally French, being much disaffected. He found also there a man named _____ an attorney, _____ and _____ of the Island. This man was united for purposes of iniquity with _____ formerly _____ but displaced by General Maitland, the predecessor of General Ainslie. Governor Ainslie dismissed Adye from the office of President of the Council, for which he received the full approbation of Ministers. Hence the eternal enmity of _____, without which, the House would never have heard of this charge. The question is not in fact between Michelle and Governor Ainslie, but between the dismissed _____ and the virtuous Governor, who protected the resources of his country. After all, Sir, for I wish to deal fairly by the House, I must acknowledge that the Governor, in flogging Michelle by his own arbitrary authority, was guilty of indiscretion, but let not error be magnified into crime, let the motive, the act, and its effects be considered, and impartial justice meted to the Governor.

Alexander Zenon, alias Jean Michelle is a runaway slave, a native of Guadaloupe, and the property of an old French Lady

at Guadaloupe; he landed at Grenada, (at a time when Governor Ainslie had received instructions to be particularly watchful respecting strangers), and, following the trade of shoemaking, took up his abode in the house of Lawrence, an old white shoemaker; the latter complained to Governor Ainslie that Michelle had obtained a false key and robbed him: Governor Ainslie ordered Michelle to be flogged, and then shut up in the cage, until an opportunity might arrive of sending him out of the Island. The punishment was so lenient, that it was reported to have been administered in dumb shew; severity could not have been the motive, because had he referred him to the ordinary tribunals, where the evidence of Lawrence would have been every thing, and his own nothing, he would have suffered more severely, and he might likewise have sold him as a slave. It having been reported that Michelle was flogged for refusing to take the oath of allegiance, and the Governor finding the beneficial effect of this report, which brought many to take that oath who had before declined, did not contradict it; Michelle, however, he well knew had taken the oath in another Island, and bore with him the certificate of that fact, that it might obtain him credit for being a free man.* If Jean Michelle was, as has been asserted, prevented landing in Dominica, the affidavits on your table prove that it was because he was thought a dangerous character, and not in consequence of any order from the Governor, then absent on a tour of duty, as appears from documents now on your table.

Soon after this, finding that he was blamed for this hasty act, he determined to make all the atonement in his power, and sent Michelle a sum of money, with which he declared himself perfectly satisfied; but he was afterwards prevailed upon by ——— to return the money, and commence a prosecution. Though this prosecution was carried on after the General had left the Island, though the presiding judge was the man who had also presided when the strong resolutions were passed against Governor Ainslie for this transaction, yet the damages given were only £.2 10s.!! It may be objected to me that the papers proving the servitude of Michelle were not moved for in time to have them printed; if there is any thing wrong in this, the error is mine; and as this does not seem the moment when errors are to be pardoned, the honourable gentleman will perhaps make it the subject of a charge against *me* in the next Session of Parliament!!!

Sir, I had seen the papers concerning General Ainslie printed, neglected, reprinted, and neglected again; I was pretty well acquainted with the sort of appetite gentlemen possess for such studies, and really thinking this affair had been expiated and set at rest, and that this was the general feeling of the House, I thought it best to confine the papers to those which related to Dominica, After this, several gentlemen ex-

* He had no certificate; he took the oath that he might obtain one to deceive the authorities in any other island to which he might afterwards go.

pressing a wish to see the servitude of Michelle proved, I moved for the papers in question, which now lie upon your table. And now, Sir, let me ask the honourable gentleman how often he would desire to punish the Governor for this offence? How often, by the spirit of the British laws, the same offence may be punished in the same individual? First, he made all the atonement in his power to the satisfaction of the injured person, he was then tried, (for the prosecution was virtually against the Governor) in the Colonial Courts! an action has been commenced against him in the courts at home, he has been censured by Lord Bathurst; and he is now persecuted in Parliament; really one might be at a loss to discover the cause of such unrelenting perseverance; but the honourable gentleman has told us, it is because Michelle was a *black*, because the soldiers, asserted to have been punished in John Clapham's letter, were *blacks*, and because the Maroons in Dominica are *blacks*, that the zeal of the honourable gentleman is incited. Sir, their motives are laudable, their feelings are honourable to themselves, but they should remember that enthusiasm may be carried to a pernicious length; there is a bigotry in politics as well as in religion, which ought equally to be avoided. Good God, Sir, I hope I shall never be thought capable of being wanting in what is due to that much injured race of men; I am ready to fight side by side with my honourable friend not only against the slave trade, but against slavery itself, but I cannot forget that I likewise owe something to my *white* fellow countrymen; I will not consent to export my whole stock of humanity in a foreign venture, without reserving any portion of it for home consumption.

The honourable gentleman has found great fault with the style of the proclamation for taking the oath of allegiance, and it is hinted that the proclamation itself was unnecessary. Sir, this was not the opinion of the legislature which advised the proclamation, and the style was adopted from those which had always been in use in the Island. The honourable gentleman has also endeavoured to prove the violent language and conduct of the Governor, by reading a proclamation in which he dissolves the House of Assembly at Dominica; I willingly consented to the reading of that proclamation, because nothing can be more strongly against the case the honourable gentleman wishes to make out. Can any thing tend more to prove the high esteem in which the Governor was held, than to find, that when he had thought it necessary in the discharge of his duty to dissolve the House of Assembly, for very sufficient and uncontradicted reasons, that very House, which with very few changes met again, repeated its former addresses of the most perfect approbation of the conduct of the Governor. Sir, I am highly grateful for the attention with which I have been honoured by the House, and can assure it, I am drawing to a conclusion. On the charge which respects the proclamation in Dominica, and the whole conduct of the Maroon War, I have no

indiscretion to acknowledge, I have not to deprecate censure, but to claim approbation and applause. The Governor is accused of having issued a violent proclamation against the Maroons; certainly the proclamation was bloody enough, but before any criminality can be attached to it, it must be proved that he acted upon it; words without an overt act constitute no crime. The question is not whether my honourable friend or I would have issued such a proclamation, but whether taken with all its circumstances, it was, or was not, contrary to the duty of the Governor.

I believe, Sir, that I am not myself capable in any possible situation, of uttering a menace, which I do not at the moment intend to execute, but I am sensible that instead of boasting of such a principle, I ought rather to apologise for entertaining an opinion so much at variance with the uniform practice of the civilised world. From infancy to age, menaces are amongst the principal means for the government of society.

How often does a general proclaim to a city which he besieges, that if it do not surrender by a certain day, he will give it up to massacre and pillage? yet was ever any general called to account for having gained a town by such a threat, which he, probably not very fairly, circulated amongst the soldiers and citizens!

What is the conduct of the British legislature? Why, Sir, every year you enact the barbarous code of the Articles of War? if they are strictly executed, the best soldier could not hope to live a month. Once in every year it becomes my duty to assemble as fine a body of men as can any where be found, 1200 youths drawn chiefly from the village peasantry, and free from the vices of towns—to these men, whose fine and cheerful countenances mark the goodness of their dispositions, I am obliged to read these Articles of War, threatening death in every sentence, and did any man ever yet dream of shooting a Local Militiaman! How then, can this menacing proclamation issued against the most ferocious Insurgents, for the purpose of preventing the effusion of blood, be charged as a crime against the Governor? Sir, the measures of the Governor were at once vigorous and effective. But I must first inform the House what were these Maroons; they were not like those in Jamaica; the Jamaica Maroons are a body of men originally composed of the Coromantyne Negroes, who fled from the Spaniards at the first conquest of the Island by the British, and establishing themselves in the difficult country in its centre, sometimes recruiting their number by runaway slaves, at other times giving them up, were acknowledged by repeated treaties, and obtained a political existence. The Dominica Maroons, on the contrary, more numerous and far more savage, consisted entirely of runaway slaves, never acknowledged by any treaty or truce whatever. It is very difficult for us to conceive that in an island only 29 miles by 12, there should be a territory in the interior

so strong, that I believe it would occupy more days to traverse its breadth than the distance contains miles; this country the Maroons inhabited, they cultivated some provision grounds, but their chief dependence was on plunder, robbery their subsistence, their occupation murder. Their numbers having increased to about eight hundred, by carrying away the slaves from the estates, the moment was arrived when the plantations could not have been cultivated, and the settlement must have been abandoned; all the efforts of former governors had been ineffectual, and attended with great loss, and to such a degree had the daring boldness of the Maroons increased, that they had murdered the messengers Governor Ainslie sent to them with the offer of pardon; had set a price upon his head; and in the open day had attacked the principal inn in the capital of the Island, and plundered it of provisions and ammunition. Governor Ainslie formed a corps of one hundred and twenty Black Rangers, men particularly calculated for this species of warfare, and at the same moment he began his operation, he published his proclamation.

It cannot be said that the Rangers might think themselves authorised by the Proclamation to commit acts of cruelty; it was not difficult to give precise instructions to 120 men; such instructions were given, and the men were collectively and individually, repeatedly enjoined to exert the utmost lenity and humanity: that they obeyed these instructions is evident from only twelve of the insurgents being killed in the whole warfare. The soldiers never fired but in self-defence, after receiving the fire of the enemy; they frequently parleyed with them from ridge to ridge, and often succeeded in persuading them to submission. It was common to see the Rangers carrying upon their backs with the tenderest care, the women and children whom they had found abandoned in the woods, and these were taken care of at the expence of the Colony.

I cannot agree with the honourable gentleman in thinking the execution of nine persons cruel in the course of such a war; and as to the giving up the slaves to their masters, what was to be done with them? He says, indeed, their masters could not know men who had been thirty-five years in the woods; true, but there were few of these, and they might know their masters. It is a remarkable proof of the humanity exercised towards them, that of six hundred so given up, one instance only occurred of a slave returning to the woods. The honourable gentleman has told us a romantic story of a head in a box; however, human blood was really shed, and I cannot treat it lightly. Sir, this story contains its own answer and explanation; the two men were condemned to death by a court-martial; after a fair trial, they were fully convicted of supplying the Insurgents with provisions and ammunition: instead of cruelty, the Governor shewed great lenity in putting only one of them to death. When the head was severed from the body, the manner of its disposal does not seem very important; the fact however is, that it was sent to the place where the crime was committed (in a box,) to

be exposed on a pole; this practice was frequent, because it was found beneficial. By the means I have described, the Governor succeeded in putting an end to the war, and saved the colony. His great services have been acknowledged by addresses from every rank and every colour, and he possesses a magnificent sword, the unprecedented gift of the legislature, the testimony of the high sense they entertained of his merit. But the honourable gentleman is of a different opinion, he says indeed that he does not desire his punishment, but that his object is to prevent his return to the West Indies. Is it then no punishment to see his honourable ambition thus early blighted, his prospects of his rising in his profession terminated, his hopes of serving his country annihilated? Is it nothing that with a broken constitution and a shaken reputation (shaken as it would be, if the House agreed to the proposition of my honourable friend,) he must abandon his family to that poverty, from which his disinterested character and his honourable principles have alone prevented him from emerging.

I have now, I think, sufficiently proved that his conduct in Dominica was highly meritorious, and that, if he was guilty of an error in Grenada, it cannot be attributed to any base or unworthy motive, and that besides it has been already more than sufficiently expiated.

If, Sir, one indiscreet act is to cancel the debt due to patriotic zeal, and essential public services, there will remain but little encouragement for the exertions of future governors. Bring before so rigorous a tribunal the greatest ornaments of humanity, and even they cannot hope to pass without censure.

Those whose hearts glow with the purest benevolence, whose minds are expanded by the noblest views, are still not exempted from the human frailty of error.

June 2d, 1815.

FINIS.