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EXTRAORDINARY.

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COLONIAL DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, February 22, 1832.

THE following Communication from the Governor of Jamaica was received at this Office on Sunday last :

*King's-House, Jamaica,
January 6, 1832.*

MY LORD,

I HAVE a painful duty to discharge, in detailing to your Lordship the substance of accounts I have received, by which you will learn that an extensive and destructive insurrection amongst the slaves in the western district of this island, has followed a season of unusual sickness and distress, and that I have felt myself compelled to resort to the most active measures, even that of proclaiming martial law, to arrest the progress of so great a danger.

It was not until Thursday, the 22d ultimo, that I received any accounts to excite alarm. The apprehensions which appeared to disturb the public mind during the summer had nearly subsided. The planters complained of poverty and distress—the delegates sent forth an ambiguous declaration, deprecating (as they expressed themselves) “the insidious attempts to undermine and render valueless what little remains of their property”—but the brink of danger on which they stood formed no part of their deliberations.

On the 22d of December, I received a dispatch from Colonel Lawson, a magistrate, and commanding the Saint James's regiment of militia, dated the 20th, stating, that, on the Friday preceding, he met the overseer of Salt Spring Estate, who informed him, that on the previous day the negroes had

behaved with great insolence to Mr. Grignon, the attorney or chief manager of the estate ; that two constables, who had been sent to convey the ringleaders to Montego-Bay, had been assaulted and deprived of pistols, with which they were armed, as well as their mules, and that the negroes had expressed their determination not to work after New Year's-day. Mr. Grignon having repaired to Montego Bay, a special session of magistrates was assembled, when he and other persons employed on the estate gave information of the circumstances which had occurred, and of the riotous and disorderly state of the slaves ; in consequence of which an order was issued by the magistrates to Major Coates, as the nearest field-officer of militia, to send a detachment of the Saint James's regiment to Salt Spring estate, for the purpose of restoring order. Major Coates immediately communicated the directions he had received to Colonel Lawson, commanding the Saint James's regiment, and who, anxious to avoid the necessity of having recourse to the militia, and being for many years well known to the negroes of the estate, delayed the detachment from marching, and accompanied by Mr. Tharp, a neighbouring proprietor, proceeded to the estate in the hope, by his influence, to prevail on the negroes to return to their duty. He found the negroes assembled in groups about the buildings on the estate, and was informed that the senior book-keeper had suffered ill-treatment, and that his life had been threatened. He endeavoured to expostulate with the negroes, telling them he came as their friend, and asked them to listen to him ; they would not, however, suffer him to

approach them, and walked off; and finding all his endeavours to restore order ineffectual, he left them. Soon after, a party of fifty men of the militia arrived, when almost every negro on the estate disappeared. The next day they began to return, and when Colonel Lawson wrote his dispatch, the principal offenders only, amounting to six persons, were absent. This conduct of the negroes on Salt Spring Estate, and information which the magistrates had received that the negroes on other estates would not return to work after New Year's-day, induced the magistrates, assembled at Montego-Bay, to forward a requisition to Major Pennefather, commanding the 22d regiment, at Falmouth, to order a detachment to march to that town, which Major Pennefather immediately complied with. On the following day I received an application from certain magistrates and inhabitants of the parish of Portland, desiring that a vessel of war might be ordered to Port Antonio, on account of some unpleasant rumours which had reached them of discontent amongst the slaves in that quarter.

Being in Kingston when these accounts arrived, I immediately communicated the information I had received to Sir Willoughby Cotton. I applied to Commodore Farquhar for a ship-of-war to proceed to the port of Port Antonio, and, as a precautionary measure, I also recommended that ships-of-war should be dispatched to Montego Bay and Black River, which Commodore Farquhar, with his usual promptitude and attention, immediately complied with. I directed circulars to be addressed to custodes of parishes, inclosing the King's proclamation, and also letters to be written to the Major-Generals of the militia, copies of which (Nos. 1. and 2.) I inclose.

On the morning of the 28th, I received a dispatch from the Custos of Trelawny, (No. 3.) inclosing one forwarded to him by Colonel Lawson, (No. 4.) containing certain affidavits, copies of which (Nos. 5. and 6.) I herewith inclose, and further stating that he considered the information they contained so convincing of impending danger, that he had determined to assemble the whole strength of his regiment, and referring to me for further instructions. From Mr. McDonald, the custos of Trelawny, I also learned that he deeply regretted to find a strong spirit of insubordination amongst the slaves. That, on the 23d instant, the trash-houses on York Estate, in Trelawny, had been purposely burnt down, and that the attorney, who lives on the property, was strongly impressed with the idea that they intended to burn the rest of the works. One company of militia was ordered to proceed to this estate, but before they arrived the negroes had cut down the plantain walk belonging to the overseer, and both men and women had fled.

It happened that I had convened a council on the day I received this dispatch, for the purpose of enabling me to form regulations of quarantine, should such a measure become necessary, by which means an opportunity was afforded me of conferring personally with Sir Willoughby Cotton who came from Kingston for the purpose of attending the council, and being fully satisfied, from the information I had received, that nothing but prompt and decided measures would arrest the spirit of insub-

ordination which prevailed so generally in the parishes of Saint James and Trelawny, I strongly recommended Sir Willoughby Cotton to proceed to Montego Bay with as little delay as possible, taking with him such an amount of force as he might deem expedient, anticipating that his immediate presence would produce the most favourable effect. Sir Willoughby Cotton readily acquiesced in my proposal, and the following day he embarked on board His Majesty's ship Sparrowhawk, with two companies of the 84th regiment.

On Thursday the 29th, I received various dispatches by post, the substance of which I inclose, (No. 7.) which I lost no time in communicating to Sir Willoughby Cotton, and immediately issued the accompanying M. G. O. (No. 8.) On the same day, at 5 p. m., dispatches arrived by express, containing still more alarming accounts of the state of the country. The work of destruction had begun, and fires had been seen, both in Saint James's and Trelawny, to blaze the preceding night, in various directions. The custos of Trelawny stated, that, in his opinion, nine-tenths of the slave-population had refused to turn out to work, and Colonel Lawson, instead of being able to oppose these excesses, had drawn in his regiment to Montego Bay, and even there appeared to feel apprehension, acting only on the defensive. Not waiting to detail this information in a letter to Sir Willoughby Cotton, who, on account of the regular winds which prevail in this latitude, could not leave Port Royal until the following morning, I immediately dispatched Captain Ramsay, 77th regiment, my military secretary, on board the Sparrowhawk, with the letters I had received, not doubting that, on their perusal, Sir Willoughby Cotton would deem it advisable to order a stronger force to follow him. By this means also I communicated to Sir Willoughby Cotton my intention to convene a council of war, according to the 50th Geo. 3, ch. 17, cl. 74, on the following day, for the purpose of submitting to them such information as I possessed on the state of the country, in order to obtain their opinion on the necessity of declaring martial law. The next morning (the 30th) Sir Willoughby Cotton, with the detachment, embarked on board the Sparrowhawk, sailed from Port Royal for Montego Bay, and on the following morning, His Majesty's ship Blanche, Commodore Farquhar, proceeded on the same destination, conveying three hundred men from the 33d and 84th regiments, and sixteen artillery soldiers, with two 8 field pieces, rockets, &c.

I did not come to the resolution of assembling a council of war, for the purpose before stated, until I had thoroughly satisfied my mind that the immediate exigency admitted no middle measures, that more than any thing else, it would remove an impression, which had been made on the minds of the slaves, that the Executive Government and the King's troops would not oppose them. That speedy example, however greatly I must regret and deplore the necessity of resorting to it, could alone stay the destruction that had begun, and ultimately save a greater effusion of blood, and likewise, that under martial law alone I could obtain complete controul over the militia force, on whose services I must chiefly depend to put down this rebellion.

By the 72d clause of the Act above referred to, your Lordship will find the form directed for holding councils of war, and that no council shall consist of less than twenty-one members, on this occasion thirty-six persons were present. I communicated to them such information as I possessed, and laid before them the letters I had before transmitted by Captain Ramsey to Sir Willoughby Cotton, copies of which (Nos. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. and 14.) are inclosed; and in conformity with the unanimous opinion of this numerous council, on the 30th instant martial law was forthwith proclaimed. No time was then lost in issuing general orders, directing the Saint Ann's Western regiment to assemble at Rio Bueno, the Clarendon regiment on the confines of Trelawny, the Westmorland and Hanover regiments on the confines of Saint James, whereby I endeavoured to cut off all communication between the disturbed districts and other parts of the island with a force ready to act under Sir Willoughby Cotton on his arrival at Montego Bay. At the same time I addressed a private communication to Sir Willoughby Cotton, a copy of which (No. 15.) is herewith annexed.

Accounts arrived on the 31st December from Maurice Jones, Esq., Custos of the parish of Portland, the northeast extremity of the island, stating that the negroes on three estates had refused to work, and had betaken themselves to the woods. It is somewhat remarkable, that this same Gentleman, a few days previous, on learning that a man-of-war, as I have before informed your Lordship, had sailed for Port Antonio, appeared to consider the application of the magistrates had proceeded from ill founded apprehension of the hostile disposition of the negroes in that quarter, although he was not ignorant that some excitement remained in the minds of the negroes about their being made free, expressed his regret that such a precaution had been adopted, stating, that he never considered the negroes in that neighbourhood to be more peaceable and contented.

In the course of the night a despatch arrived from General Robertson, by which it appeared that the depredations committed by the negroes in the parish of Saint James had extended along the great river towards the parish of Saint Elizabeth, and that the estate of Ipswich had been threatened. The Officer commanding the Westmorland Regiment had posted two companies at an estate called Haddo, and orders were given for the Saint Elizabeth's regiment to hold themselves in immediate readiness. Further accounts from General Robertson informed me that "the rebels were proceeding in the direction of Ipswich and New Savanna, and that he had moved a large body of men to oppose them." The following day he communicated to me the destruction of Ipswich Estate, with several others, and thus concludes:—"I am of opinion that all the force in my district is unequal to suppress the incendiarism and destruction, without the co-operation of regular troops." At this time General Robertson was not aware that Sir Willoughby Cotton had proceeded with a force of troops of the line to Montego Bay. Fifty men of the 77th regiment, under the command of Major Wilson, with a supply of arms and ammunition, were embarked on board His Majesty's

ship *Rosé*, and proceeded, on the 3d instant, to Black River. On the 3d January I received another dispatch from General Robertson, inclosing the deposition of an overseer, who had been eight days a prisoner of the rebels. A copy of this document and of General Robertson's dispatches (Nos. 16. 17. and 18.) are also inclosed. The loss which the rebel negroes sustained at Ginger-hill, I have every reason to hope may check the depredations committed in that district. But I thought it proper to issue the accompanying proclamation (No. 19.)

On the 3d instant, I received a dispatch from Sir Willoughby Cotton, informing me of his arrival at Montego Bay, as well as the troops embarked on board His Majesty's ship *Blanche*. I shall not curtail the impression the Major-General has transmitted to me by making extracts from his dispatch, I therefore inclose it. (Nos. 20. 21. 22. and 23.)

On the morning of the 4th, I received unfavourable accounts from Portland, especially from Mr. Panton, a magistrate and proprietor in that parish, whose letter (No. 24.) I inclose. Mr. Panton appears to have laboured under feelings of much alarm. I had, however, anticipated the necessity of checking any insubordination which might appear in that quarter, having assembled the Portland, St. George, and St. Thomas in the East regiments of militia before his letter arrived. Forty men also of the 77th had been conveyed in the boats of the *Champion* from Port Antonio to Manchioneal, under the command of Captain Buchan; and Colonel MacLeod, also in the absence of Sir Willoughby Cotton, commanding at Kingston, had ordered Captain Tathwell, with thirty men of the 33d regiment, embarked on board of His Majesty's ship *Hyacinth*, to proceed to Morant Bay, and from thence to march through a populous, and as yet tranquil, district, where, however, the Saint Thomas in the East regiment were assembled, to Manchioneal.

The appearance of this force will, I trust, be sufficient to check any disposition to revolt in that quarter. It is obvious, however, from all the information that has been received, that the negroes have been impressed with a general and firm belief that after Christmas they were to be free. They will have much to answer for who have deluded these unfortunate people into expectations which have led to such scenes of devastation and ruin, and which now recoiling on themselves, numbers must expiate by their death. My chief attention, therefore, is directed to maintain good order where quiet still remains, to protect the well-disposed, and to be always prepared to assemble a strong disposable force, ready to act on the first appearance of insubordination.

To give greater efficiency in the direction of all military affairs in this part of the island, I have given Colonel MacLeod, Deputy Adjutant-General on the Staff in this island, the rank of Lieutenant-General of Militia, whereby I obtained the assistance of an able and experienced officer, and extended his command over the militia, as well as over the troops of the line.

I also received dispatches from Montego Bay, dated 3d instant (No. 25.) I have the honour to inclose a copy of one from Sir Willoughby Cotton, whereby it appears, that the burnings still continued

to be executed in concert, by signal from the heights. That the leaders who had suffered the day preceding had all declared that they had been told by white people that they were to be free at Christmas, and that by these people the plan of insurrection had been arranged. That, in concurrence with the custos of the parish (Mr. Barrett), prisoners to the amount of one hundred not actually implicated as incendiaries, with the woman, had been dismissed into the country with copies of the proclamation before alluded to, numbered 21.

A dispatch was also received from the custos of Saint James, of which I inclose an extract (No. 26). He speaks highly of the conduct of the militia; but, I lament to say, adds to the list of destruction contained in list numbered 23, intimating the number of plantations and settlements destroyed to the amount of one hundred.

From Morant Bay I received a letter from Colonel Delpratt, inclosing a dispatch from Lieutenant-Colonel McCornock, of the Saint Thomas in the East regiment, containing nothing of sufficient importance here to notice, but by which I collected this important fact, that although the negroes on some estates had refused to work, no act of destruction had been committed in that quarter, with the exception of a trash-house, which had been burned, but not ascertained to have been destroyed by design; at any other time the information would have been sufficient to have created great uneasiness in my mind, but now contrasting it with what is passing in the west end of the island, I regarded it as rather satisfactory.

On the 5th I received further accounts from Sir Willoughby Cotton, dated the 4th, (No. 27.) and I am happy to say their contents began to wear a more satisfactory appearance. The active measures he had adopted, together with the proclamation he caused to be issued, he observes, "had produced an extraordinary effect;" the negroes were coming in fast and a communication opened to Maroon Town; the loss the negroes had sustained created a strong panic, and a movement which the Major-General proposed to make the following day, he imagined would stop any further depredations in that neighbourhood. By the same express a letter arrived from the custos of Trelawny, a copy of which (No. 28.) is inclosed. I should hardly think it necessary to transmit a copy of this letter from the custos to your Lordship, did it not refer to a person of the name of Box, who, I am informed, is a missionary from the Baptist Society, and who has since been reported in custody in this town. I have caused his removal to Falmouth to be delayed, and have directed a letter to be written to the custos, a copy of which (No. 29.) I inclose. I am as yet unacquainted with the charge on which orders were issued for his apprehension at Falmouth; but the information received from the custos renders it at all events necessary that he should be for the present detained; motives, however, of prudence and humanity caused me to interpose a delay in hurrying him to trial at a moment when so great excitement must necessarily prevail.

This morning, the 6th instant, I have had the satisfaction to receive a dispatch from Sir Willoughby Cotton, dated Montego Bay, January 5, 1831.

with still more favourable accounts, a copy of which (No. 30.) I enclose. Tranquillity, he states, is fast returning in the adjoining neighbourhood, and the negroes coming in from all directions, desiring to avail themselves of the promise of pardon offered in the proclamation. The roads to Lucca and Maroon Town were open, and many proprietors and attorneys proceeding to visit their estates. Provisions, he states, are scarce, but being informed of that yesterday, I caused letters to be written to the mayor of Kingston, and the custos of Saint Mary, from whence I have no doubt a supply, if not already, will be quickly sent.

Sir Willoughby Cotton expresses his astonishment I had not been made acquainted with the determination of the negroes not to work after New Year's day. Referring your Lordship to my dispatch of the 4th of August, I have now the honour to inclose copies of two letters (Nos. 31. and 32.) dated the 29th and 30th of July, addressed to custodes of parishes, from none of whom I received unsatisfactory accounts, nor has any complaint reached me of insubordination amongst the slaves, or any disposition to insurrection, although the members of Assembly, from all parts of the island, had only separated, on adjournment, from the seat of government on the eve of the insurrection.

I send your Lordship the copy of a letter (B No. 33.) I have this day received from Commodore Farquhar, and it is only due to that officer to declare, that, in all my communication with him, he has always afforded me the most active assistance and support in promoting the good of the public service. When it is considered how short a time Sir Willoughby Cotton has been in the disturbed district, it is astonishing what effect his presence and example have produced in the minds of the insurgent slaves, whilst the promptitude and decision of his operations, and the exemplary punishment he felt himself compelled to inflict on the most atrocious offenders, have convinced the great mass of the slave population that all further resistance is unavailing; and the colony must ever acknowledge the importance and value of his services.

Were I to indulge my own personal feelings I might express myself in a manner strongly indicating the consolation and relief I have derived from his energy, and at the same time discretion; but in bestowing my humble meed of praise on an officer of such distinction I fear that I should render myself liable to a charge of presumption in attempting to add any thing to a reputation standing on such high ground as that of Sir Willoughby Cotton.

I have, &c.

(Signed) BELMORE.

Right Hon. Viscount Goderich,

&c. &c. &c.

No. 1.—(Circular.)

Sir, King's-House, December 22, 1831.

HIS Excellency the Governor having received intelligence that a disposition to insubordination had manifested itself amongst certain slaves on a plantation in Saint James; his Excellency no longer hesitates to give every possible publicity to His Majesty's proclamation, which the uninterrupted tranquillity.

that has hitherto prevailed throughout the island had not seemed to render necessary.

I am directed, therefore, to transmit to you printed copies of this proclamation, and his Excellency requests that you will cause it to be read to the slaves by the persons in charge of the several plantations in your parish. I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) W. BULLOCK.

To the Custodes of the several Parishes.

By the KING,

A PROCLAMATION.

WILLIAM IV.

WHEREAS it has been represented to us, that the slaves in some of Our West India colonies, and of our possessions on the continent of South America, have been erroneously led to believe that orders have been sent out by us for their emancipation; and whereas such belief has produced acts of insubordination, which have excited Our highest displeasure; We have thought fit, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council, to issue this Our Royal proclamation; and We do hereby declare, and make known, that the slave population in Our said colonies and possessions, will forfeit all claim on Our protection if they shall fail to render entire submission to the laws, as well as dutiful obedience to their masters: and We hereby charge and command all Our Governors of Our said West India colonies and possessions, to give the fullest publicity to this Our proclamation, and to enforce, by all the legal means in their power, the punishment of those who may disturb the tranquillity and peace of Our said colonies and possessions.

Given at the Court, at St. James's, this third day of June one thousand eight hundred and thirty one, and in the second year of Our reign.

GOD save the KING.

No. 2.—(Circular.)

SIR, King's-House, December 22, 1831.

HIS Excellency the Captain-General having received information that a disposition to insubordination had manifested itself amongst certain slaves on a plantation in St. James's, although his Excellency trusts that this is a merely temporary and local excitement, still prudence requires that every measure of precaution should be adopted by the military authorities to meet any possible extension of a spirit of disobedience, by a prompt employment of the militia forces when and where their services may be required. With this view regimental officers should not be absent during the holidays from their usual places of residence, and you will be pleased to issue orders to the officers commanding regiments in your district to this effect.

Should, contrary to his Excellency's hopes and expectations, the employment of any of the regiments or detachments of corps under your command become necessary, his Excellency requests that you will act in conjunction with the civil power.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. BULLOCK.

To the several Major-Generals.

No. 3.—(Copy.)

Falmouth, Trelawny,

December 26, 1831.

SIR,

I HAVE had the honour this morning to receive your dispatch of the 21th instant, inclosing His Majesty's proclamation, I am sorry it was not published sooner; I forward a dispatch, which I found here this morning, from Colonel Lawson. I most deeply regret to find a strong spirit of insubordination generally among the slaves. On the morning of the 23d instant, both the trash-houses on York Estate, in this parish, were purposely burnt, and the lives of the white people threatened; and as the attorney who lives on the estate was strongly impressed with the idea that they intended to burn the rest of the works, I was induced to order a company of the militia to that property; I was at Fontabelle when I issued the order, and I am sorry to say, that three of the magistrates down here thought proper to countermand my orders, in consequence of which I made a requisition to Major Pennefather, of the 22d regiment, who immediately sent a small detachment to the estate, they are now relieved by a company of the militia, and by a letter just received from the company, I find the negroes have this morning cut down the whole of the plantation-walk belonging to the overseer's establishment; the whole of the negroes, both men and women, have absented themselves since Saturday the 24th instant.

At a meeting of the magistrates, which took place about an hour ago, it was determined to order the whole regiment and troops under arms, and a requisition has been sent to Major Pennefather, at Maroon town, requesting him to move a strong detachment of the 22d regiment to the vicinity of York. If the information contained in Colonel Lawson's dispatch proves correct, strong and energetic measures must immediately be taken; there are strong rumours that Green park and Orange-valley negroes are determined to work no more; they are of themselves upwards of a thousand strong.

I have this instant read a dispatch from Sir W. Cotton to Major Pennefather; it is certainly an extraordinary document. He says, the troops are not to act until the Riot Act is read, and unless His Majesty's troops are insulted; the negroes are already strongly impressed with the idea that the King's troops have instructions not to act against them, and certainly if this dispatch were published, it would confirm their opinion; I hope, most sincerely hope, this order will be immediately countermanded, if not His Majesty's troops, who are so well paid by the country, will be of little service to us.

As I have ordered packet guards, you will be regularly informed of any occurrence worth noticing; I hope things will put on a more favourable aspect soon than they have at present.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES MACDONALD,
Custos of Trelawny.

William Bullock, Esq.

&c. &c. &c.

No. 4.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an affidavit made by two respectable individuals, and a copy of an

application made to Major Pennefather, at Maroon town, by which his Excellency can observe the situation of this parish is extremely critical.

I have also received a letter from Mr. George Gordon, of Moor-park Estate, in this neighbourhood, and of Windsor-lodge, of which he is attorney, fully corroborating the affidavit; in fact so much information has been received here by the magistracy, that no doubt can possibly be entertained of the determination of the negroes to refuse to work after the holidays, and, on any attempt to compel them being made, the white people were to be destroyed, and country set fire to.

The information is of so convincing a nature, that I have thought it my duty to lose no time in ordering out the whole strength of this regiment to remain on duty at their respective beats till further orders.

His Excellency I hope will permit me to request such instructions as he may be pleased to honour me with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. M. LAWSON, sen.
Col. St. James's Reg.

December 25, Six o'clock P. M.

William Bullock, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 5.—(Copy.)

Jamaica, P. St. James's.

Personally came and appeared before me, Robert Stuart and Alexander McKenzie, Esqrs. who, being duly sworn, made oath and said, that, from information received by these deponents, they have every reason to believe that a general insurrection of the slaves on Adelphi, Content, Glasgow, Windsor-lodge, Somerton, Paisley, and Palmyra Estates, on Tuesday evening, the 27th instant, will take place, with the intention of burning the properties and murdering the free inhabitants thereon.

(Signed) ROBERT STUART.
A. MCKENZIE.

Sworn before me, this 25th day of December 1830. (Signed) GEO. GORDON.

SIR, St. James's, December 25, 1831.

IT has just come to our knowledge, from the testimony, upon oath, of several respectable witnesses, that a most extensive conspiracy has been formed by the negroes of Adelphi, Content, Glasgow, Windsor, Palmyra, and other estates, to rise on Tuesday evening, the 27th instant; the place fixed on for the negroes to meet is Adelphi-works, where the buildings are to be burnt, and the white people murdered; the conspiracy is so general that any militia force that could be assembled would be probably ineffective, and by attempting to collect one at a given point, every surrounding estate would be left deserted by its white residents. We therefore call upon you, as the only means to save this part of the island from fire and bloodshed, to send, without a moment's loss of time (for if it transpires that the whites have got intelligence of this intended revolt, it will commence instantly), a company of the 22d regiment, or such force as can be spared, to Adelphi-

works, there to remain till circumstances shall warrant their departure.

We have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. GORDON,
ALEX. CAMPBELL,
Magistrates of the Parish of St. James.

To Major Pennefather, or Officer Commanding
22d Regiment, Maroon Town.

No. 6.

Court-House, Montego-Bay,
December 19, 1831.

SIR,

WE, the undersigned magistrates, this day assembled in special sessions, have to inform you, that from the disorderly behaviour of the negroes on Salt Spring Estate, in the neighbourhood of this town, a guard of the militia has been stationed on that property since Friday last. We consider it highly necessary, for the preservation of the public peace during the approaching holidays, that a company of the 22d regiment should be stationed at the barracks in this town; we therefore require you, with as little delay as possible, to order the above-mentioned force to be sent here, to remain for such period as we may deem proper for the preservation of the public safety.

We have, &c.

(Signed) LAWRENCE HISLOP.
JAMES GUTHRIE.
JNO. SHARP.
H. A. PLUMMER.
GEORGE CRAGG.
W. REYNOLDS.
THOMAS JOSH. GRAY.
JAS. GORDON.
G. M. LAWSON, sen.
GEO. GORDON.
WM. M. KERR.
GEORGE LONGMORE.

To Major Pennefather, or Officer commanding
22d Regt. Falmouth.

No. 7.

Heads of Information received at the King's House, relative to the Disturbances on the North Side of the Island.

Colonel Grignon, December 26, states,—That insubordination had appeared on Salt Spring Estate, in St. James; that he had ordered out the western interior regiment; that the negroes were determined to strike work at Christmas, but no slaughter to be committed, unless any of the rebels were killed in taking the arms from the white people.

Colonel Lawson, November 27, states,—That an application had been made by the magistrates of St. James to Major Pennefather, requesting a detachment of the King's troops at Montego-bay; states the disposition he had made of his regiment, by which a line of post was established, and expressing his doubts how far the militia law would be sufficient to act with effect, and suggesting the necessity of establishing martial law.

Colonel Campbell, Lucia, December 27, states,—That he had ordered a guard to be kept at Fort

Charlotte to protect the ammunition; and that in consequence of a communication from Colonel Lawson he called out the remainder of the regiment.

Colonel Tyler, Falmouth, December 27, states,—The alarming situation of the district about York Estate, where the rebels had burnt the trash-house, and a sufficient time was not afforded for sending the whole regiment he was obliged to withdraw the detachment he had stationed at York.

The magistrates of St. James, December 27, transmitted,—Three affidavits of no great importance, all however concurring in the determination of the negroes not to work.

Colonel Gignon, Great River Barracks, December 27, states,—That he received information that five hundred men had assembled near Lapland, who had bound themselves by a solemn oath to obtain their freedom or die in the attempt; and asking for a detachment of regular troops.

Colonel Lawson, December 27, ten o'clock P. M. states,—That since sun-set six fires have been seen from the Court house, at Montego-bay, in the neighbourhood of Kensington, and extending northerly to Content; he feared the whole of the east part of the parish would be destroyed before morning.

Collector, Montego-bay, December 27, states,—That several fires were seen, and giving information much to the same purpose as Colonel Lawson.

No. 8.

Head-Quarters, Spanish-Town, December 29, 1831.

M. G. O.

HIS Excellency the Captain-General has received information from the magistrates of St. James and Trelawny, that the slaves on certain properties in those parishes have manifested a spirit of insubordination, and, in some instances, have proceeded to acts of outrage, which have excited his Excellency's highest displeasure, and have exposed them to the utmost rigour of the law. His Excellency, however, trusts, that His Majesty's gracious proclamation will remove any erroneous impressions which may have been received, and that they will render themselves objects for the merciful consideration of the crown, by an instant return to their former habits of obedience and duty.

His Excellency, however, is determined to employ a military force against those who may be guilty of acts of violence or outrage, which all their endeavours will be utterly unable to resist. For this purpose his Excellency has requested the Major-General commanding to proceed to Montego-bay with a strong reinforcement of troops; and his Excellency delegates to Sir Willoughby Cotton all the military authority he could exercise were he personally present. His Excellency directs all Major-Generals of militia commanding districts, and in places not subject to the command of Major-Generals, all officers commanding regiments of horse and foot, to consider themselves under the command of Major-General Sir Willoughby Cotton, and to obey all his orders with zeal and alacrity.

Captains of forts, where depôts of fixed ammunition are established, will attend to any requisition the Major-General may make.

(Signed) EDWARD J. GREY,
Adjutant-General.

No. 9.

Falmouth, Trelawney,
December 28, 1831.

SIR,

IT is with the deepest regret that I have to state to you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that many of the estates in this parish are at this moment in an actual state of rebellion, and I believe nine tenths of the whole slave population have this morning refused to turn out to work; the whole country was in a blaze last night. Three trash-houses were burnt in this parish, viz. Pantrepant (in rebellion), Golden Grove, and Carrick Poyle. Many must have been burnt in St. James's, from what I saw myself, but only the names of four of them have as yet come to my knowledge, viz. Palmyra, Leyden, Windsor, Gilsburgh. Our militia is very weak, and we have little to expect from the regulars, unless positive orders are sent to them to act. I would recommend to his Lordship to proclaim martial law without a moments delay, and in the mean time to send down written orders to act with the utmost energy. Orange Valley, seven hundred strong, has refused to turn out. If I, or the Colonel of the regiment had authority to act, the plan I would propose is to assemble the whole of the militia, and at once attack the largest estate, and then proceed to the others as circumstances might direct, and as I stated in my last dispatch it would be most politic to order a company of the regulars with them as it would do away with the notion the slaves entertain that the King's troops are not to act against them. If it possibly could be done the Admiral might be applied to to send a man-of-war to each of the ports of Montego Bay and Falmouth. His Lordship may depend I do not in the least exaggerate the situation of things: they cannot well be worse, but fortunately no blood has been yet shed that I have heard of; every man is clamorous to get protection for their own concerns but it is advisable to make no detachments. I fully expect to see a number of fires tonight, and our situation is truly dangerous. The most prompt measures must be taken for our relief, but of course his Lordship is the best judge of these, though I have taken the liberty to suggest some plans: whatever is done must be done quickly. The militia are all under arms, and the magistrates at their posts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAS. MACDONALD, Custos.

No. 10.

SIR, Montego-Bay, December 28, 1831.

SINCE I had the honour of addressing you by post last evening, so many fires have taken place, that I have deemed it proper to withdraw the outposts, as I do not wish to expose them to a contest which I do not consider them equal to, and to concentrate them here, with the exception of one company, which I have directed to move in support of Colonel Grignon, whose situation, with that of his

regiment, I fear is extremely critical. I have also directed the Hanover company, stationed at Round-hill, to move on for the same purpose.

I am now convinced the contest must be decided in the streets of Montego-bay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. M. LAWSON, Col. S. J. R.

William Bullock, Esq. &c. &c. &c.

No. 11.

Post-Office, Montego-Bay, December 27,
1831, Nine o'Clock P. M.

SIR,

I CONSIDER it my duty to inform you, that there is at this moment a serious fire raging in a south-easterly direction from this town, apparently about eight or ten miles distant, and it is supposed to be at Hampton Estate, but, from the glare I fear it extends to other estates in its vicinity, lying more to the northward.

From the late insubordination of the negroes on many estates in this neighbourhood, which has caused the militia to be under arms since Sunday last, it is to be feared that this fire is not from accidental causes, and I beg the favour of your giving his Excellency the Governor immediate information thereof.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN ROBY, Collector of His Majesty's Customs.

W. Bullock, Esq. &c.

P. S. Half past Nine.—I have just been informed, that Kensington Pen and Mr. Tulloch's Settlement have been burnt. We have one company of the 22d regiment in this town.

No. 12:

SIR,

Ten o'Clock, P. M.

THE late arrival of the Leeward post allows me to have the honour to state, that since sun-set six fires, apparently of estates, have been seen from the Court-house, in the neighbourhood of Kensington, extending northerly to Content, and they seem gradually to be extending to the northward.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. M. LAWSON, Col. S. J. R.

P. S. I fear the whole of the east part of the parish will be destroyed before day-light.

Five P. M.—A trooper has just arrived from Palmyra, with a dispatch from Captain Cleghorn, of the 8th company, stating that the negroes on that estate set fire to the trash-house, when his men were searching the negroe houses for arms, agreeably to my orders. The incendiary ran into the cane piece, which induced Captain Cleghorn to threaten to set fire to the cane piece, which he had; the negroe then came out and surrendered himself with a woman who had been with him; these and the head driver, who was taken up on suspicion of being an accomplice, and now in custody, having been delivered to a patrol of the troop.

Hampton Estate is threatened to be destroyed to-night.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. M. LAWSON, Col. S. J. R.

Wm. Bullock, Esq.

No. 13.

JAMAICA, SS.

By the KING.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS We have thought fit, by and with the advice of Our Council of War, to declare martial law in Our said Island of Jamaica, for the security and protection of Our said Island against the evil designs of the enemies of Our Crown; in order, therefore, to render effectual the measures taken for the security of Our said Island, We have thought fit, by and with the advice of Our said Council aforesaid, to issue this Our Royal Proclamation, strictly charging and commanding, and We do hereby strictly charge and command, all and every the commissioned and warrant officers and private men of Our militia of Our said Island, to repair forthwith to their several and respective regiments and stations, and there to hold themselves in readiness to receive and obey all such orders as shall from time to time be given to them by Our Captain-General of Our forces in Our said Island, or, in his absence, by any superior officer, upon pain of the highest displeasure, and of such pains and penalties as by the rules and articles of war, established in Our said Island, are inflicted upon such persons as shall be guilty of disobedience of orders.

Witness His Excellency the Right Honourable Somerset Lowry Earl of Belmore, Captain-General and Governor in Chief of this Our Island of Jamaica, and other the territories thereon depending, in America, Chancellor and Vice-Admiral of the same, at Saint Tego de Vega, this thirtieth day of December in the second year of Our reign, anno que domini, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one.

(Signed) BELMORE.

By His Excellency's command,

(Signed) W. G. STEWART, Sec.

GOD save the KING.

No. 14.

Head-Quarters, December 30, 1831,

M. G. O.

MARTIAL law was this day proclaimed, but as the Captain General is unwilling to employ a greater militia force than is necessary to repress the disturbances in St. James and Trelawny, his Excellency does not think it at present necessary to call for the services of the Kingston, St. Catherine, Port Royal, St. Andrew's, Manchester, Vere, St. John, and St. Dorothy, St. Thomas in the Vale, St. Thomas in the East, and St. David, Portland, St. George, and St. Mary's regiments, but the officers commanding those corps will be prepared to assemble them at the shortest notice.

Packet guards will likewise be established between Portland and St. George's, to facilitate the communication with head-quarters.

Colonel Hilton will assemble his regiment with the least possible delay, and march the greater part

of them to Rio Bueno, where they will hold themselves in readiness to proceed to Trelawny should their services be required there. Colonel Hilton will leave a part of his regiment, composed of the most inefficient men, at Bromstown.

Colonel Dunn, will immediately assemble the Clarendon regiment and march the greater part of them to some station or stations on the confines of Trelawny, taking care that a constant communication be kept up between the two parts of his regiment should it be found necessary to separate them, and make such arrangements as may enable them to act together at the shortest notice.

Colonel Dunn will leave a part of his regiment, composed of the most inefficient men, at Chapelton.

Major General Robertson will order the Westmoreland and Hanover regiments to be immediately assembled, and the Westmoreland regiment will march to the confines of St. James's, where they will hold themselves in readiness to act wherever their services are required. Major-General Robertson will order the Hanover regiment on duty, but they will remain in their own parish, until their services are required by Major General Sir W. Cotton.

The St. Elizabeth regiment is not to be placed on duty, but they ought to be in such a state of readiness as to act upon the shortest notice.

The officers commanding the Clarendon and Westmoreland regiments will give the earliest information to Major-General Sir W. Cotton, as soon as their regiments have occupied their respective stations.

The Captain-General has been pleased to confer on Lieutenant-Colonel Cadier, the colonelcy of the Trelawny regiment, vice Colonel Tyler, who is superseded in the command of that regiment.

(Signed) EDWD. T. GREY, Adj.-Genl.

No. 15.

King's-House, December 30, 1831.

MY DEAR SIR WILLOUGHBY,

IN conformity with the intention I communicated to you yesterday, I summoned a council of war as prescribed by law, and agreeable to the unanimous opinion of those who composed the council, martial law has been proclaimed.

It will be my object to refrain as much as possible from calling out any portion of the militia, whose services may not appear to be absolutely necessary. And I inclose herewith an order I have issued, by which you will be informed of the regiments you may now consider at your disposal. These regiments will be found to surround the district now in insurrection, by which means I hope to interrupt any communication with the slaves in other parts of the island.

I have also to observe, that should you deem it expedient to increase the regular force you have ordered for embarkation, I am now enabled to garrison the town or barracks they at present occupy, by detachments from the militia.

As it will be highly satisfactory to His Majesty's Government to receive the latest and most authentic information of the actual state of the north side of the island, I shall wait with impatience for your

report, and detain the packet until I receive it. You will by this means also have an opportunity, should you think proper, to convey an account to the Horse Guards of the result of your proceedings.

I am, &c.

(Signed) BELMORE.

Major-General Sir Willoughby Cotton,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 16.

MY LORD, Y. S. Estate, 1st Jan. 1832.

I DID myself the honour of addressing your Excellency yesterday evening from the post at New Savanna; since which I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the militia general orders, of date the 30th ultimo, which were handed to me on my way to this post, and from which I observe that your Excellency has further honoured me by placing the Hanover regiment under my command. I beg to assure your Lordship the orders shall be strictly attended to.

It is now my duty to inform your Excellency that two companies of Saint Elizabeth's regiment, viz: the grenadiers, under the command of Captain Stone, and the 5th battalion company, under the command of Captain Hinlayson, were ordered up last evening to Ipswich Estate, and Ginger-hill Plantation, both in this parish, (the works of which properties had been burnt down) where they found the rebels in great force, and attacked them. As far as can yet be ascertained, twenty of them were killed, and many prisoners made; they retreated leaving many stand of arms, and a great quantity of ammunition was found in their houses. Fortunately the attack took place at the moment it did, as they were preparing to come down here to attack this post; and so confident were they of success, that they had provided a great quantity of meat, liquor, &c., for a feast, on their return to Ipswich. The bravery of these two companies will, I hope, in some measure, restore confidence to the community, and be the means of preventing other negroes from joining the disaffected party, which I apprehend the unfortunate retreat of Colonel Grignon has caused many to do. I am happy to say the overseer of Ginger-hill was released, after having been for eight days a prisoner of the rebels. His evidence, which has been taken, will disclose to your Lordship some of the causes which appear to have led to these unhappy disturbances among the slaves, who had gone so far as to accuse the government of supporting them against the whites; which idea alone must have produced a wonderful effect upon the minds of the slave population generally, and must be removed before they can be restored to a state of subjection and tranquillity. I therefore anticipate much good from the appearance of His Majesty's troops being brought against them, which, I trust, will be the means of saving many lives, and preserving much valuable property.

It is my intention to move detachments from the different regiments under my command, into the disturbed districts, and to follow up the advantages

we have already gained, which, I hope, will meet the approval of your Excellency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. ROBERTSON,
Major-General.

To His Excellency Somerset Lowry Earl of Belmore,
Captain-General, &c. &c. &c.

No. 17.

Y. S. Saint Elizabeth, January 2, 1832,
half-past Two o'Clock, P. M.

SIR,

I DID myself the honour of addressing you yesterday, since which I have received your dispatches, of date the 31st December, and 1st January, which shall have my particular attention. Inclosed I beg leave to forward you the deposition referred to in my dispatch to his Excellency the Governor yesterday. Since the defeat of the rebels in this quarter on Saturday evening, a company was advanced to occupy the district which they had quitted.

I am sorry to say discontent is spreading generally in this parish, as the slaves on many properties, as well as those under my own controul, have refused to return to their labour this day.

From the examination of the prisoners we have taken, I have discovered the names of some of the rebel commanders, viz. Colonel Gardiner, belonging to the Greenwich Estate, Captain Dove, belonging to Belvidere, Captain Johnson, belonging to Retrieve, and General Ruler Sharp, alias Daddy Ruler Sharp, director of the whole, and preacher to the rebels. I have deemed it advisable to offer a reward of three hundred dollars to any free person or maroon, and freedom, with an annuity for life, to any slave who will bring in, dead or alive, either of these ringleaders of the rebels. A confirmation of the above from head quarters will have a very great effect as soon as it obtains publicity by proclamation, forwarded immediately to the disturbed districts. The prisoners are increasing so rapidly, that in order to secure them it will be necessary to have them lodged on board of one of His Majesty's ships. I am most anxiously looking for a detachment of regular troops in this quarter.

I am happy to say the maroons, who came to head quarters last night have gone home for their arms, and I expect them to join us during the day.

I am sorry to observe the remark you make respecting the delay in forwarding the dispatches.—I can assure you it does not take place within my district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. ROBERTSON,
Major-General.

W. Bullock, Esq.

No. 18.

Deposition on Oath of Wm. Annand, Overseer of
Ginger-Hill Plantation, in the Parish of Saint
Elizabeth

Y. S. Estate, 1st Jan. 1832.

HAVING received information from Mr. James Campbell, Overseer, on Y. S. Estate, with whom I had lived as book-keeper, that the slaves from Ginger-hill to Belvidere Estate, in Saint James's, intended to disarm the white people during the Christmas holidays, and advising me to come down

to Y. S. Estate, as he intended keeping all his white people together there, I was much surprised at such information, having seen nothing in the conduct of the slaves belonging to Ginger-hill to induce me to suspect any thing of this kind. I did not go down, being satisfied by the behaviour of the people, that the information was incorrect. I was, however, undeceived, for on Wednesday morning, the 28th of December, when they were ordered to turn out to work, seeing several of the slaves about the house, I asked what they wanted; a slave belonging to Ginger-hill, named Wm. Buchanan, said they had come to beg Busha for to-day, as Sunday was Christmas-day. I said I had already given orders to the driver to that effect; all that I wanted was to see them turn out, and see they were all there, and they should have the remainder of the day. With this they seemed dissatisfied, and no thanks were returned. I went into the house, and was followed immediately by the said slave, William Buchanan, who laid hold of me, saying, "Busha, you now my prisoner," and called for his accomplices, namely, William Arnold, Charles Longmore, George Barrett, Alexander, Thomas Hedley, and Johnny, all slaves belonging to Ginger-hill. On enquiring what was the matter, they said they had worked long enough as slaves, and intended now to fight for their freedom, which had been long promised them; that all they wanted of me was to deliver up my arms, and whatever powder I had, then I might remain undisturbed on the property as long as I chose, provided I did not interfere against them. I endeavoured to reason with them on the impropriety of such conduct, but to no effect; they said that I knew as well as themselves, that Jamaica was now free, and half the estates from there to Montego-bay were burnt down the night before, that they were obliged to assist their brethren in this work of the Lord; that this was not the work of man alone, but they had assistance from God. I saw that a refusal of their demand was useless, and delivered up my arms, and what powder I had in the house. They then departed, advising me not to remove from the house, as if I attempted it, I should certainly be shot by some of their guards who were posted on all sides of the property. I remained in the house, and observed them through the day bringing in arms from the settlers around.

On Thursday, the 29th, I saw a great many strange negroes, who, as I understood, belonged to Chesterfield, Retrieve, Richmond-hill, and Belvidere, some of them with fire-arms, and others with lances, cutlasses, &c. They had scouts posted on all the hills around, from the Y. S. Estate, extending towards Saint James's to give them notice of the approach of the militia. On seeing a company of the Saint Elizabeth's regiment, marching up to Ipswich Estate, they suspected, from the notice they had received from their scouts, that the said company was moving towards Ginger-hill, and collected all together in a narrow defile, called John's River, to await their approach. As soon as they found the company had gone to Ipswich, they returned to Ginger-hill. About one o'clock, P. M., it was hinted to me that they intended burning the buildings on the place that night. I sent for

the head driver, who came, and about three o'clock, P. M., on seeing a strong party of them moving towards the house, he (the driver) advised me to follow him, save my own life, and mind nothing else; I did so, and he conducted me to the house of a freeman named Crawford. I was informed, that, on coming to the house, they enquired for me, and expressed themselves happy that I had gone away, as they intended setting fire to the place immediately. They then went to the negro-houses, and in half an hour returned, taking away every moveable thing out of the house and stores, which they accomplished by dusk, and afterwards set fire to all the buildings. About seven or eight o'clock a party of them came to the house of Crawford, where I was, forced his arms from him, and brandishing their cutlasses over my head, and pointing their muskets at me, made me swear that I would never stand between them and their rights. The active person in this scene, and who seemed to have the command of them, was a slave named Samuel Sharp, belonging, I was told, to T. G. Grey, Esq., of Croydon, in St. James, and who, I understand, is a ruler (so called) of the sect of the Baptists. He said, he did not wish to take away the life of any person who did not stand between him and his rights; that it was but lately that he had begun to know much of religion, but that now he knew, and I knew as well, that freedom was their right, and freedom they would have; that letters had long ago been sent out from England to that effect, but that the people of Jamaica kept them as slaves, without any authority for doing so. He said a great deal more, all tending to show, that, from the religious notions he had imbibed, he conceived that the slaves had a right to be free.

By day-light on the morning of Friday the 30th ultimo, the buildings of Ginger-hill were in ashes. I remained at the house of Crawford, having been warned by the rebels that, if I attempted to make my escape, I should be killed by the guards. A large part of them, I understood, went this day to Ipswich, but, seeing a company of militia there, returned, leaving a few hands to burn the buildings of that estate, should an opportunity offer during the night.

On the morning of Saturday the 31st, three of the party, named William Buchanan, S. Barrett, belonging to Ginger-hill, and G. Little, belonging to Mistress Milne, gone off the country, came to me, two of them with fire-arms, and the other with a sword; I asked William Buchanan what he wanted; he said, here is the captain, pointing to G. Little. I then asked the latter what he wanted; he said, pointing his sword to my breast, that they would give me my choice, whether I would give up my life or my authority on Ginger-hill, which latter they demanded in writing; that they intended presenting it at Black River with others. I gave them an acknowledgment under my hand, that I had given up the charge of the place; they then warned me to take care what I had written, as they had a man below who would read it to them, and if they found any thing wrong in it, they would pay me another kind of visit. The said George Little said that they had lost one of their profession, and now intended shewing less mercy than they had done; he said also, in a sneering manner, that he with two others had burnt

down the buildings of Ipswich the night previous, driving the whole guard before them; that they intended entering Saint Elizabeth's on New-year's-day with two hundred men. William Buchanan said (in addition to what has already been deposed) that the whites considered the ships-of-war on their side, but that now they found it was otherwise, for that they were dispersing the white guards wherever they were collected all round the island, and landing boxes of black sand (meaning, I suppose, gunpowder) for the slaves. About three or four o'clock on the afternoon of this day, a slave, named George Crawford, belonging to Ginger-hill, who had been forced against his will to join the rebels, came running to me, saying, that the white guard had come to Ginger-hill, taken the negroes by surprise, dispersed them all, and set fire to the negro houses. In fifteen minutes afterwards the grenadier company of the Saint Elizabeth's regiment appeared, and rescued me from my perilous situation.

During the time of these disturbances, I was told by a slave, named Susannah Crawford, belonging to Ginger-hill, that she heard from Anne Laye, a free person of colour, living near Ginger-hill, and a member of the Baptist persuasion, that a Mr. Burchell, a Baptist missionary, who had gone off the country last year, had arrived at the foot of Montego-bay, on Wednesday or Thursday sen'night, that he had shewn himself to none, but remained concealed on board a Spanish vessel or some vessel-of-war. That he did not intend landing until this affair was settled, but had written to his deputies that his dearly beloved children must not regret his absence, for that he would be to them a pillar of iron, and would always be their support. That they must shed no blood, for life was sweet, easy to be taken away, but very hard to give.

So help me God.

(Signed) WM. ANNAND.

Sworn before me this 2d day of January 1832.

(Signed) D. ROBERTSON, Custos.

No. 19.

A PROCLAMATION,

By His Excellency Somerset Lowry Earl of Belmore, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of this Our Island of Jamaica, and other the Territories thereon depending, in America, Chancellor and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c. &c.

WHEREAS it has been ascertained that certain incendiaries have been employed to poison the minds of the slaves in some parts of the Island, and to induce them to be guilty of acts of outrage and insubordination; and whereas it is necessary that the ringleaders of this disturbance should be brought to condign punishment, I do hereby, in His Majesty's name, offer a reward of three hundred dollars to any person or persons who shall apprehend either of the following slaves:—

A slave calling himself Colonel Gardiner, belonging to Greenwich Estate, Hanover.—A slave calling himself Captain Dove, belonging to Belvidere Estate, St. James's.—A slave calling himself Captain Johnson, belonging to Retrieve, St. James's.—And General Ruler, Samuel Sharp, or Tharp, alias Daddie

Ruler Sharp, or Tharp, director of the whole, and styled also Preacher to the Rebels, belonging to Craydon Estate, St. James's.

And in order to afford encouragement to such slaves who may be disposed to assist in apprehending the aforesaid rebels, I do hereby promise His Majesty's most gracious pardon to any slave or slaves who may be disposed to assist in such purpose, except those who have been actually guilty of setting fire to the works or houses on different properties, or attempted the life of any peaceable inhabitant.

Given under my hand and seal at arms, at Saint Jago de la Vega, this third day of January, Annoque Domini, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, and in the second year of Our reign.
BELMORE.

By His Excellency's command,
W. BULLOCK, Sec.

GOD save the KING.

No. 20.

Mr Lord, *Montego Bay, January 2, 1832.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency I arrived here yesterday and found the town in the greatest confusion and panic, from the apprehensions they have been under of its being the intention of the negroes to fire it every night, and from the immense destruction of property that has taken place all around this place.

Colonel Grignon (whose report No. 23. I enclose) has been in collision with the negroes, and his regiment gallantly repulsed them, when attacked by a large body at Montpelier; but the following morning he retired upon Montego-bay, not being in sufficient force to occupy the post. This has obstructed the communication with Savanna-la-Mar, by the direct road, but I shall take immediate steps to have it re-established, and have directed Lieutenant-Colonel Williams to move up on his side to Haddo and Crown Tavern. I shall send a force of King's troops to accompany some companies of Colonel Grignon's regiment to Montpelier Barracks; this will effect, I hope, the above object of opening the road to Savanna-la-Mar.

I have relieved apprehension, and quieted the feeling of alarm here; but the eastern part of Hanover, and the whole of the northern portion of Saint James's, are in open revolt, and almost the whole of the estates destroyed, and the negroes gone boldly away. In conjunction with the advice of the custos, Mr. Barrett, I have issued the proclamation I herewith enclose, which we hope will bring in the well-disposed, as we hear from all quarters that terror prevents a large body from returning; and I have been solicited by the most influential proprietors to issue it.

I have sent regulars to Irwin and Latium, as they are well disposed there, and this will protect these points, and others in the neighbourhood, which are not as yet fired.

It becomes my painful duty to acquaint your Excellency that circumstances rendered it absolutely necessary that I should authorise the assembling a general court martial to try some villainous ring-

leaders, who have been proved to have been the most active incendiaries, and the court have sentenced two men to be shot, and two women; the sentence upon the men, as immediate example, is both politic and necessary, I have confirmed, and they suffered this morning: the women I have respited till pleasure.

My object will be to employ the troops in such manner as to prevent, as far as practicable, the horrid incendiary system from spreading, and the spirit of rebellion from contaminating the districts now tranquil. It will be obvious to your Excellency the utter impossibility of affording parties of military to every estate. It would fritter away the troops, and render them liable to be beat in detail, nor would ten thousand men be sufficient to do it. Whenever I can ascertain where they are collected, I shall endeavour to strike a blow by simultaneous movement that will have decided effect, but there the difficulty rests; for, from the accounts I have received, that are to be depended upon, they are moving every hour from one place to another. I think from accounts that have reached me since commencing this dispatch, I may venture to hope that in my next dispatch I may acquaint your Excellency that the severe example made, and the manifesto issued, will have had the best effect.

To receive the assurance that your Excellency approves of the measures I have been under the absolute necessity of adopting, will be highly satisfactory to

My Lord,
Your Lordship's obedient servant,
(Signed) WILLOUGHBY COTTON,
Major-General Commanding.

No. 21.

*Head Quarters, Montego-Bay,
Saint James, Jan. 2, 1832.*

To the Rebellious Slaves.

NEGROES,

YOU have taken up arms against your masters, and have burnt and plundered their houses and buildings. Some wicked persons have told you that the King has made you free, and that your masters withhold your freedom from you. In the name of the King, I come amongst you, to tell you that you are misled. I bring with me numerous forces to punish the guilty, and all who are found with the rebels, will be put to death without mercy. You cannot resist the King's troops. Surrender yourselves, and beg that your crime may be pardoned. All who yield themselves up at any military post immediately, provided they are not principals and chiefs in the burnings that have been committed, will receive His Majesty's gracious pardon. All who hold out, will meet with certain deaths.

(Signed) WILLOUGHBY COTTON,
Major-General Commanding.

GOD save the KING.

No. 22.

*Kensington.--Five Miles from Maroon-Town burnt,
and all the places around, with the undermentioned
Estates:*

Newman-hall, Flamstead, Potosi, Spring-mount,

Hampton, Williamsfield, Worcester, Retirement, Carthagena, Leyden, Guilsbro', Windsor, Adelphi, Passly, Moor-park, Leogawe, Kirkpatrick-hall, Palmyra, Windsor-castle, Roehampton, Anchovy-bottom, Montpelier N.W. Montpelier O.W. Seven-rivers, Richmond-hill, Lapland, Belfont, Hazlelymph, Belvidere, Greenwich, York, Chester castle, Argyl, Sodhall, Copse, Lethe, Eden, Childermas, Wiltshire, Spring-garden, Unity-hall, Welsome, Haddington, Friendship, Content, New-miln, Bamboo, Flint-river, Success.

No. 23.

SIR, *Upton, Montego Bay 2d Jan. 1832.*

I TAKE the earliest opportunity, after your arrival here, to detail to you the proceedings of the Western Interior regiment under my command.

Having received information, on the 24th ultimo, of an intended insurrection of the slaves in the West Interior district, I felt it my duty to assemble the regiment immediately, and I am glad to find that his Excellency the Captain-General approved of my having done so.

On the 25th, I sent out parties in search of arms and ammunition, and brought in a few arms, and a considerable quantity of powder, but it being generally of the coarse description, required for blasting, and unfit for muskets, I thought it most prudent to destroy some of it.

Having received intelligence on the 26th, that a considerable number of slaves had assembled in different quarters, I thought it proper to remove a few men I had at Shettlewood, where my head quarters were established, to Belvidere, in order to concentrate the regiment as much as possible.

On the 27th I received information that it was the intention of the rebels to attack the posts which I held, with large bodies, and I therefore thought it proper to order the Belvidere division to form a junction with the main body at Great-River. Previous to my quitting Belvidere, I had also heard that the negroes intended to commence a system of incendiarism on this night, and observing fires to a great extent, which I had heard previously were to take place, induced me, coupled with the former information, to unite the regiment as before stated. During this night fires took place at Belvidere, Hazlerymple, and Seven Rivers.

On the 28th, a detachment of my regiment marched to Belvidere, and surrounded the negro houses, but I found none of the negroes, and their property was removed. Not having heard further from the commanding officer of the Westmorland regiment, and as the barracks at Great River were quite insufficient for the accommodation of the regiment, I decided upon removing to Montpelier old works, to form a junction with the detachment of the Saint James's regiment, promised by Colonel Lawson.

On the 29th I received information that a large body of negroes were assembled at Chester Castle, and I proceeded with a detachment of the regiment to that place, having first given directions to the officer commanding the Westmorland detachment to meet me there with one company. The negroes had however fled, and I saw nothing of the Westmorland detachment. On my return to quarters, I ob-

served the negroes at Montpelier new works, assembled in a large body, setting fire to the trash-houses. I immediately ordered the detachment, who were all mounted, to dash into the mill-yard, and the rebels were dispersed. In this attack (I understood from information afterwards received) there were two of them killed and one wounded. Upon this occasion I have to notice that Ensign Reanie, with a small advanced detachment, was extremely active, and throughout the whole duty which the regiment had to perform, I was ably supported by this officer. Upon my arrival at quarters, I found the company of the Saint James's regiment had arrived under the command of Captain Ewart, at about five o'clock. At about seven o'clock the rebels advanced upon us in four columns. The first body moved upon the trash-houses, to one of which they set fire, and became engaged with Captain Ewart's company and the picket-guard of the western interior under Ensign Gibbes. The officers and men behaved in the most gallant manner, and shortly dispersed the enemy. This division, from the statement of Captain Ewart, consisted of about forty men. The three other divisions attacked the main body of the W. I. regiment, who had been formed into solid square, and kept up a considerable firing of musketry upon them. The regiment reserved their fire until the rebels had advanced within thirty or forty yards, when they commenced a very rapid fire, which continued for about twenty minutes, when the enemy dispersed in all directions. One body of the enemy, who attacked by the main road, could not have consisted of less than two hundred men; the numbers in the other divisions I could not judge of, as they were covered by a stone wall fence and the Hill-house, but both divisions appeared to have many firearms. Where all behaved with so much gallantry, it would be invidious to name any individual, at the same time I cannot omit mentioning that Mr. Rhodes Evans a gentleman resident in the W. I. district, and who had volunteered his services, distinguished himself, and I am under great obligations for his able assistance. I must also state that I was much indebted to Captain Balme for his judicious suggestions to me during and after the engagement. I regret to add, that in this encounter, we had one man killed and four wounded, and Major King's and Sergeant Sewell's hats were shot through, but they received no injury. I could not learn the exact number of the rebels killed and wounded, but I understood afterwards that they admitted they had lost ten men killed and twenty-five wounded. The company of the Saint James's regiment, together with the W. I., lay under arms the remainder of the night.

On the 30th, I ordered one of the companies of the Westmorland regiment to move up to Montpelier, but as I could place no dependence on their doing so, from the correspondence which I had with the officer commanding the detachment, and as the company of the Saint James's regiment, most positively refused to remain at the post, and being in want of both ammunition and provisions, I called a meeting of the officers, and they were unanimously of opinion that I could not maintain the post, and I therefore retreated with the whole body to Montego-bay. The information received by the

company from St. James's was, that an overwhelming body of negroes was collecting in every quarter around us, and I also received similar information. On my arrival at Montego-bay, I was ordered by Colonel Lawson to detach a company to Catherine Hall Estate, and the remainder of the regiment remained for the night at Upton, and without any thing to eat.

On the 31st, I was ordered by Colonel Lawson to move the whole of my force to support a detachment of the Saint James's regiment, at Fairfield Estate, and I did so (with the exception of a few men left to guard the baggage) but found no detachment there, and I therefore placed the regiment at Catherine-hall Estate, where it now remains, excepting one company, sent to Fairfield by your orders.

You will observe, by the correspondence between the officers of the Westmorland regiment and myself, what sort of support I could expect from them. I have also to add that the men have been most wretchedly supplied with provisions, and little or no assistance have been rendered to them. In fact, in one case, where a cart had been engaged to carry up supplies to Montpelier, it was appropriated to carrying those for a division of the St. James's regiment at Latium.

Our arms are generally very inefficient, and seventy stand, which had been purchased for the use of the W. I. regiment, have been otherwise appropriated. I have also to notice that I have not had time to cast a sufficient number of balls and to make cartridges (the usual musket-ball and cartridge not suiting the rifle-pieces) and several of the men have only the suit of clothes on their backs, and which they have now worn four or five days, their servants having been intercepted by the negroes in attempting to carry their clothes to the guard, and a few of the officers are nearly in the same situation.

The cartridge paper, which I lately received from the stores, is so very bad that it cannot be used; and I must, therefore, request an order from you on Colonel Lawson to supply me with half a ream.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. S. GRIGNON,
Col. West Int. Regt.

No. 24.

MY LORD, *Manchester, January 3, 1832.*

AS a magistrate of this district, I feel it my duty to make known to your Lordship the state of insubordination amounting, I may almost say, to rebellion, under which the slave population at present labour.

I yesterday morning heard that my own people, as well as those of four adjacent estates, had refused to go to their work. I used every persuasion, but with no effect;—every hour since informs us of similar delinquency on the part of other estates; and from the manner in which the insubordination first shews itself, there can be no doubt but that it is organised upon a system. To protect this district, fourteen miles in length, and containing a population of three thousand slaves, we have only one company of militia for our protection, whose utmost

force I may estimate at forty. We have sent to Port Antonio for military assistance, but I fear the similar insubordination existing there, will prevent the possibility of any assistance coming from that quarter. I will venture to suggest that a man-of-war of a small class, with a detachment of troops on board, if speedily sent round, may possibly restore tranquillity. The harbour is bad, but still is frequented by merchantmen; at any rate, the man-of-war may be in communication with the vessel stationed at Port Antonio. I have just heard that a number of disaffected negro-men were met last evening in the immediate neighbourhood of those estates who first struck work, armed with cutlasses and bills.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD PANTON.

No. 25.—(Copy.)

*Montego-Bay, January 3, 1832,
Mid-day.*

MY LORD,

THE burnings are executed from signals on the heights by moveable parties of negroes, not belonging to the properties they set on fire, but the negroes on those properties must be in the conspiracy, and co-operators when these men arrive, otherwise they have the means of preventing their effecting their purpose. The whole of the men shot yesterday, stated they had been told by white people for a long time past, they were to be free at Christmas, and that their freedom order had actually come out from England, but was withheld; that they had only to strike work en masse, and they should gain their object. That the whole of the estates in Trelawny and Saint James had agreed so to do; that if they were attempted to be forced to turn out to work, they were then to fire the properties, but not the canes or the provision grounds or their own huts; That this would make the proprietors come to their terms. The above is corroborated by the testimony of several others now under trial, and in prison. The men brought by the Blanche landed yesterday evening, and I was enabled to send out four parties with officers immediately to Fairfield, Belmont, Saint Catherine's Mont, and across the River to Maroon town.

The incendiaries set on fire Belvidere, as Captain Smith's 22d was moving up. He immediately moved upon them, routed them in every direction, and killed about fifteen men. But the fire could not be extinguished. These posts continue occupied, nor is there a man to be seen of the negroes, as I am just returned from thence. But the woods are so thick in the neighbourhood, and the paths by which they retire impassable for any quick movement of British to overtake them. Accounts from Colonel Hilton at Rio Bueno, state as yet they are quiet, but he is under apprehension of the estates of Lancaster, Harmony-hall, Manchester, Biddeford, Bengal, and Dornock.

He has his regiment at Rio Bueno, one hundred and eighty men. I have desired him to protect, as far as he can, these estates, which he will be enabled to do, if others do not break out. Accounts from Falmouth are satisfactory, and Lucia district as yet is quiet. The communication with Maroon town is now closed, as the rascals from these environs have

assembled there. To-morrow morning I shall open the communication. Straggling parties of insurgents had got upon the Lucia road, and fired upon the dispatch troopers. I have opened this morning that road, but the fellows were seen and fled immediately into the woods, on seeing our troops, therefore, as they may return when the patrols are away, and as it is impossible, except by dislodging them bodily, to ensure safety on the roads. I shall make, as soon as I possibly can, a forward movement altogether, leaving with the navy merely sufficient men to protect Montego Bay.

Combustibles were found in a house here belonging to the wife of one of the men shot yesterday, and no doubt exists she intended to fire it. She, with the incendiaries caught in the fact, are now trying. The other prisoners, who amount to more than one hundred, I have put at the disposal of the custos, whose opinion is, in which I coincide, that those not actively implicated as incendiaries, with the women, had better be dismissed into the interior, with some copies of the paper issued here. (A copy of which I sent your Excellency yesterday.) The Commodore, who is most zealously active in wishing to co-operate in every way with me, has permitted nearly one hundred and fifty sailors and marines to land every evening, and be placed as picquets on the roads leading from the town, and the fort is under their charge. This is to me of the greatest assistance. Further than this, he has by row-boats protected the bay and shores. The Blossom is at Savannah-la-Mar, and has afforded assistance by marines and others to the town.— If from any further accounts your Lordship may receive that that part of the country is still threatened, I would beg you would order Colonel MacLeod to send one hundred men from Kingston and its neighbourhood, if you are all quiet there. But recollect the importance of Fort Augustus, and the environs of Kingston and Spanish Town, and I am sure you will agree with me that it is absolutely requisite to have a large force disposable there, should symptoms shew themselves there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLOUGHBY S. COTTON,
Major-General Commanding.

The Earl of Belmore.

The general court martial have condemned two other negroes, and the woman to be hung. The evidence is so direct. I have thought it my duty to confirm the sentences. I received every assistance from the custos.

I cannot communicate with Accompany, except by General Robertson with safety. I have written to Colonel Hilton to call upon the maroons to send a force to Belfont, and to cut off the insurgents from passing the Great River, and to offer three hundred dollars for their bringing in any of the chiefs of the insurrection; they are known to General Robertson. If the maroons will cover the Great River from Chesterfield to Dacket Spring, we prevent them effectually from entering Westmoreland. General Robertson occupies Nassau, Saint Elizabeth. I find the greatest difficulty in acquiring the means of moving provisions which alone prevents my moving this day.

(Signed) W. S. C.

No. 26.—(Copy.)

SIR,

Montego-Bay, January 3, 1832.

I HAVE received your dispatch, announcing the declaration of martial law, as soon as it came to hand, being Sunday afternoon, the 1st instant; I caused proclamation to be made accordingly, and the rules and articles of war to be read to the militia under arms.

The Major-General will inform his Excellency respecting the military operations.

The militia to a man are zealous and loyal, no praise can be too high for their courage and conduct.

Yesterday Bellefield Estate was destroyed, being within three miles of the town; an officer and twelve men were stationed there, but were driven off by numbers. A detachment of the 22d. on the next estate (Fairfield) marched upon the rebels, but too late to save the buildings; however they killed twelve of them, and must have wounded many. The Ramble (the great house of Bellefield, and on the hill above it) was burnt at the same time.

It is supposed that a hundred plantations and settlements are already in ashes. If the rebellion spreads, our force is quite insufficient to put it down; all depends on the moral effects of the employment of the King's troops.

Sir Willoughby has put forth a proclamation offering pardon to all but principals and chiefs; I have some hopes that, backed by an imposing force, and the many losses the rebels have already suffered, this measure will cause amongst them differences and suspicions of each other, if it answers no other purpose. As yet the insurgents have exhibited the most wretched cowardice. Captain George Gordon has done them much mischief from his post at Latium; he has destroyed the negro-houses of many properties, when the negroes had first destroyed the works. Five rebels have been tried by court martial and shot; a woman, also condemned, was spared. I think she should be hanged. I learn from Major Campbell that, assisted by a party of the 22d, he has held out at Schawearth. He states many negroes are fleeing into the woods, where they must soon starve.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

RD. BARRETT, Custos.

W. Bullock, Esq.

No. 27.

*Head-Quarters, Montego-Bay,
January 4, Five P. M.*

MY LORD;

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Excellency's dispatches, with inclosures, of the 2d (yesterday), and feel gratified that the measures I have taken have met your Lordship's approbation. I am no advocate for severe measures, if they can possibly be avoided; but where example is necessary the sooner it is made the more effect it will have; and these infamous wretches have not only set the properties on fire, but their cruelty in various instances has been excessive, besides being at this moment in rebellion.

I am now happy, My Lord, to give you satisfactory accounts from hence. The measures adopted, together with the proclamation issued, has had the most extraordinary effect; I have this afternoon re-

received accounts from Pitfour and Latium, stating the negroes were coming in fast, and the road to Maroon town is open. The attacks made yesterday, and the number of men they have lost in the various affairs, which I find is more considerable than I imagined, has spread a panic amongst them that has cleared them from this neighbourhood, and I think the movement to-morrow will stop any further depredations hereabouts. I have closed Colonel Hilton upon Falmouth, and begged General Cox to send three companies to Rio Bueno; Colonel Hilton will occupy, till further orders, Duncans, Cambridge, and Mountain Spring; my great object will be to get them between my columns.

I have begged the Commodore (who has acceded directly) to let a sloop of war moor immediately to the mouth of Great River, and land a party of marines and sailors to occupy the post of Round-hill, from which Colonel Campbell will move at four to-morrow morning. The road is perfectly open, but it is requisite to ensure its continuance, and also come against any scoundrels that may lurk about some properties that still remain. It appears beyond doubt that the burnings are conducted by regular parties; they are dressed many in blue jackets and black cross belts, some thus accoutred (four or five) were distinctly seen yesterday by Captain Burnett, who advanced, by his report this morning, higher up the hills than I at first understood. He addressed several parties who were standing within hail in groupes, and they hallowed war, war; he states that not more than twenty were armed that he saw, who fled with three or four hundred others, who were on the side of the hills; upon the sailors and marines firing. I am thus minute in detail that your Lordship may be exactly aware of their state.

I am happy your Excellency has conferred the rank of Lieutenant-General of Militia upon Colonel Macleod, you could not have placed it in better hands. May I request your Excellency would give the Major-Generalship of this district, now vacant, to Colonel Campbell, commanding the Hanover regiment, he is an active serviceable man, and a very good officer, and I am confident you could not bestow it on one so deserving in a military sense. I told him I would recommend him, but he fears expence, though now he is willing to accept it.

I have communicated with Generals Robertson and Crawford. I will write to-morrow after receiving the reports. Should they find the negroes in force at Seven Rivers, or in position in any of that district, I shall conduct, personally, a reinforcement to the point most essential, and attack them immediately.

I hope I shall be enabled to give your Excellency some satisfactory accounts to-morrow; with endeavouring to establish an organized system of conducting affairs; and with being on my horse to reconnoitre the real state of the country.

I have had scarce an instant to command to address my reports to your Lordship, therefore I crave pardon for the hasty manner they may be drawn up in.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLOUGHBY COTTON,
M. G.

The Earl of Belmore.

No. 28.

SIR,

Falmouth, January 4, 1832.

YOU may imagine the state I was in last night, from not being able to sign a letter I sent you by post, in fact I was so ill, that the people about me got much alarmed. I am free from fever and better this morning; and, agreeably to Sir W. Cotton's orders, I address you on the present occasion. From a representation made to him by Colonel Cadien, he has instructed me to apply to you immediately for a supply of arms. Colonel Cadien states the quantity required to be one hundred stand of muskets complete, and thirty ball cartridges, which I hope will be sent round as soon as possible. It is the intention of Colonel Cadien to arm the artillery company with muskets, except as many as may be necessary to work the few field pieces which we have got. Though Sir W. Cotton has been made acquainted with my resignation, yet he has given orders to Colonel Cadien to act entirely by my advice, which will be most freely given as long as I am able. Had Colonel Tyler acted in the first instance with the promptitude that I wished him to have done, I do not think things would have got to such a head in this parish, but the three magistrates formerly alluded to, persuaded him that I had not sufficient grounds to order a company of militia to York Estate, but I knew the people we had to deal with better than they did, and I am convinced that a vigorous act at first would have intimidated them before they had committed themselves so far as to endanger their lives. I am now, however, happy to inform you, that the acts of vigour which have been pursued, have induced most of the negroes of this parish to return to their work. Orange Valley, and one or two estates in that neighbourhood are still holding out, but from its being reported to me this morning, that the noise of artillery has been heard in that direction, I am in great hopes that Major Neilson, with his strong detachment, has fallen in with them; and my advice to Colonel Cadien was, to take as few prisoners as possible; these people (Orange Valley) had quitted their houses with their valuables, and retired to the woods, this they would not have had any opportunity of doing had my advice been promptly complied with; advice, in fact, was the only mode in which I could act until martial law was proclaimed. We have here now about one hundred and fifty prisoners; Sir W. Cotton has sent up orders to form a court martial, which is just now sitting, and I hope they will be able to bring acts of rebellion home to them, to enable us to make such an example as will intimidate the others. Sir W. Cotton has ordered such as cannot be convicted to be dismissed, after having His Majesty's proclamation read to them; but this they were all acquainted with before, as immediately on my receipt of it, I had two hundred copies thrown off and distributed all over the country. There does not appear to have been any combination formed by the negroes in this parish, which I consider fortunate. I find the court martial has adjourned until nine o'clock to-morrow.

There is no circumstance of my life that I regret more than not being able to mount my horse, the moment the first intelligence of the business at York reached me, as I think I would have acted with such

vigour as would have nipped the business in the bud, but as no act of violence took place at York after the burning of the trash-houses, I hope his Excellency will be pleased to pass over what I consider the improper conduct of the magistrates; the facts are these, the moment I took the deposition on oath of the book-keeper, I issued a warrant against five of the negroes whom he considered as the ringleaders, with orders to send up the constables with a company of militia to have it executed, the great error of these magistrates was the preventing the militia accompanying the constables who I was certain could not execute the warrant without any assistance, and which I told them the moment I came down to Falmouth, and that they had taken great responsibility upon themselves in disobeying my orders; my fears proved correct and the delinquents escaped. I am sorry the letter they wrote is at Fontabelle, but I consider it my duty to mention their names, viz. Mr. Lamont, Mr. Dyer, and Mr. George Miller, as I wish minutely to acquaint his Excellency with every circumstance that comes to my knowledge. I must beg leave to state that I highly disapprove of the conduct of Mr. Moulton Barrett, it has been stated to me that he was seen riding out of town with a Mr. Box, who I had ordered to be taken into custody as one of the incendiary preachers; under some pretence he was permitted to quit the Court-house, and by that means made his escape, supposed to Kingston, where I hope he will be taken into custody.

I am happy to inform you since writing the above that Major Neilson, has reported to me that many of the Orange-valley negroes have turned out to work, their depot of valuables having been discovered and burnt. I regret to say that the Kent negroes still continue refractory, having every thing from their houses, even their children, but strong measures are to be immediately pursued against them. I am happy to inform you that every estate under my charge have continued faithfully at their work and completely protected their Master's property, which is very gratifying to me. I do not wish to make any insidious remarks, but if other gentlemen had acted with the same kindness and taken the same pains to explain the real nature of things as I have done, I do not think that this unfortunate insurrection would have been so general, as in St. James's in particular their vengeance seems to be pointed against certain individuals.

I am happy still to bear testimony to the cool, vigorous, and determined conduct of Colonel Cadien, begging to refer you to the dispatches of Sir W. Cotton, Colonel Lawson and Colonel Cadien, it is unnecessary for me to add any thing further.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAS. MACDONALD.

William Bullock, Esq.

&c. &c. &c.

No. 29.

SIR, King's-House, January 6, 1832.

IN consequence of the information contained in your letter of 4th instant, I have to inform you, that Mr. Box has been arrested; and although your letter does not state the charge preferred against him,

No. 18906.

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his Excellency considers it quite sufficient to cause him to be detained until he may hear further from you; you will therefore lose no time in transmitting to me such information as you may have obtained when, if the charges preferred appear sufficient, he will be conveyed to Falmouth to abide his trial.

The lamentable crisis which has now arrived renders example necessary, however abhorrent it must be to resort to it; and if it should appear that Englishmen, men of sense and education, have been wicked enough to excite the slaves to rebellion, it cannot be supposed that they shall escape because they are also ministers of religion. But His Excellency directs me to impress strongly on your mind the great discretion which in such a case should be adapted to endeavour, by every means in your power, to divest tribunals from all feeling of prejudice, and above all of prejudice on grounds of religion, for in civil commotion the evil is never so great as when it assumes an appearance of religious war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. BULLOCK.

Honourable Jas. M'Donald.

No. 30.

Head-Quarters, Montego-Bay,
January 5, Ten A. M.

My Lord,

I HASTEN to acquaint your Excellency that tranquillity is returning fast to all this neighbourhood; the negroes, availing themselves of the proclamation I issued, are coming in from all directions. The three columns I mentioned to your Excellency that I should put in motion to open the Savannah-road moved before day-light this morning, and will reach their points without any opposition. The roads to Lucia, Maroon town, and all round this town, are clear, and many proprietors and attorneys are now proceeding to visit their estates. All the ladies and other women who had embarked on board vessels in the harbour, before I reached this place, are now disembarking and resuming their domestic avocations. I hope in a few days I shall be able to have negroes bringing provisions and supplying this place again, but it will require time before confidence can be restored; the fact is, the negroes in this district have behaved infamously, nor is there the slightest palliation for their conduct. I have most minutely inquired into the treatment generally and particularly, and can aver it has been most kind. That the overseers, or attorneys, or magistrates, should not have acquainted the Executive Government the extent to which the determination of the negroes had gone all round this district, "not to work after New-Year's-day, without being made free," is most astonishing, as it would appear to have been known on almost all the estates, that these were the sentiments of the negroes.

I have adjourned the general court-martial at this place for the present, and have cleared the gaol as far as possible.

Since commencing this dispatch I have received accounts of the negroes at Retirement, and two other properties having come in bodily.

I will write to your Excellency again in the even-

ing, but the accounts being so very satisfactory would not delay a moment in transmitting them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLOUGHBY COTTON, M. G.

Colonel Campbell has taken a ruler, who came with torches, in the act of setting fire to a property, and when questioned fully avowed the purpose he came for, and regretted not doing it. I have ordered them to try him instantly, and if found guilty to approve the court-martial and shoot him. It is the fear of punishment that alone acts upon them to come in; for depend upon it there is a bad spirit amongst them.

(Signed) W. C.

No. 31.

Circular to the several Custodes.

SIR, *King's House, July 29, 1831.*

I AM commanded by his Excellency the Governor to inclose an extract of a dispatch from Lord Goderich, disclaiming, in the most distinct manner, any intention on the part of His Majesty's Government, to adopt any measures which may have the effect of interfering with the spirit of the resolution of the House of Commons, of 1823, relative to the ultimate extinction of slavery in His Majesty's colonies.

His Excellency trusts that this explicit declaration of His Majesty's Government will remove any alarm or apprehension, which some of the parochial resolutions may have excited in the minds of the community at large. With a view, therefore, of allaying such uneasiness, his Excellency requests that you will give the greatest publicity to the inclosed document.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. BULLOCK.

No. 32.—(Confidential.)

SIR, *King's House, July 30, 1831.*

REFERRING you to my letter of yesterday, his Excellency the Governor has desired me to express to you, in a more private manner, his request that you will endeavour to make yourself acquainted with the general conduct of the slaves in your parish; and should any circumstance arise to require the adoption of further measures, in order to remove any erroneous impression they may have received of the designs of His Majesty's Government, you will be pleased to give his Excellency the earliest intimation of it.

In making this communication to you, his Excellency desires you will understand that he places the most implicit confidence in the good conduct of the slaves, and he only suggests a vigilance, which is at all times more or less necessary, but more particularly so when discussions have taken place, which are liable to misconstruction and misrepresentation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. BULLOCK.

To the several Custodes.

No. 33.

*Blanche, Montego Bay,
January 5, 1832.*

MY LORD,

I AVAIL myself of dispatch just going off to your Lordship, to state how the squadron is now stationed.

Your Lordship has long ere now been informed of the arrival of His Majesty's ship *Blanche* at this anchorage, with the detachment of troops which we took on board at Port Royal. I found here the *Race Horse* and *Sparrowhawk*; and that the *Blossom* was at *Savannah la Mar*; the *Firefly* at *Black River*; and *Champion* at *Port Antonio*.

On our first reaching this port, the appearance of the country in flames, and the amount of the very general disaffection and revolt of the negroes, were truly distressing. I am now, however, happy to have it in my power to say, that, by the prompt and active measures taken by the Commander in Chief of the Forces, coupled with a well timed proclamation, holding out mercy to those who would shew contrition for their crimes and immediately return to their duty, the face of affairs has been very much changed for the better, and I am sanguine in believing that in a short time, by a continuance of the same active and judicious measures, will produce the most favourable result; and although the mischief done to the properties and the island cannot be restored, yet that confidence and tranquillity will enable the planter to recover what may be possible under such unfortunate circumstances.

I have the pleasure to assure your Lordship of the real and cordial co-operation of my naval department with that of the military, and nothing in my power shall be wanting to forward the views of Sir Willoughby Cotton, and the public service, who has kindly on many occasions made me acquainted with his plan of operations; yesterday I dispatched the *Sparrowhawk*, to take up a position to cover a bridge over *Great River*, near *Hill*, which is within view of this anchorage whilst a particular service is performing.

It may appear to your Lordship that severe measures have been taken by the Commander in Chief of the forces as to the number of negroes who have expiated their crimes by the punishment of death, but I can assure your Lordship that nothing but a sense of public duty could have occasioned that measure, which was absolutely necessary.

Before I close this letter, I may beg to mention to your Lordship, that the arrival of the *Race Horse* at this anchorage, and the very active and judicious measures taken by Commander Williams, had the effect of restoring confidence to the town, and, in fact, I might almost say, saved it from the attack by the rebels, who fully intended to burn it.

He landed his seamen and marines, and took charge of defending the several passages into the town, which gave the greatest confidence to the inhabitants.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR FARQUHAR.

*His Excellency the Right Honourable
the Earl of Belmore.*

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