



SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of FRIDAY the 9th of MARCH.

Published by Authority.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1832.

COLONIAL DEPARTMENT,

Downing-Street, March 9, 1832.

THE following Communication from the Governor of Jamaica has been received at this Office:

King's-House, Jamaica,
January 16, 1832.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to continue my narrative of the proceedings which have taken place since my last dispatch.

I then transmitted to your Lordship the copy of a letter from the Custos of Falmouth, in which he stated that a person of the name of Box (who I then imagined belonged to the Baptist Society, but since have learned is a Wesleyan missionary) had escaped from Falmouth, and I also informed your Lordship I had caused him to be detained here, waiting for further information. Finding, from the reply I received from the Custodes, that there was no substantial charge against him, I caused him to be immediately liberated.

Sir Willoughby Cotton, in a dispatch of the 6th instant, stated, that from all the accounts he had received he thought he could assure me that the neck of this widely spread and organized insurrection was broken; that the negroes, although in different places, were continually moving about, without any fixed plan. Sir Willoughby added, that the militia

regiments of Hanover, Westmorland, St. Ann's, St. James's, and Trelawney, met his wishes with alacrity upon all occasions, and that he was highly satisfied.

Major-General Robertson transmits a report (6th January) stating, that he had sent troops to prevent the rebels escaping by the Maroon Tract into Mile Gully. A detachment of the Manchester regiment had visited Spur Tree and the neighbourhood, which were in a state of insubordination; many negroes were taken in the act of rebellion, and four of the ringleaders were shot.

A dispatch (7th January) from Sir Willoughby Cotton states, that he had visited several estates, and reconnoitred those posts which were stated to be occupied by the rebels, some of whom had surrendered themselves, but the greater number had retired to fastnesses in the mountains, where it would be impossible to follow them without very great loss.

The Commander in Chief established a strong post in a mountainous position, which effectually over-awed those insurgents. He states that General Robertson, Colonel Williams, and Colonel Campbell, were all at their posts, but complains of the Officer commanding the Trelawney regiment having neglected his orders.

The Major-General mentions, that the rebels had endeavoured to destroy the road of communication between Montego Bay and Lucea, which he had ordered to be re-established. That Mr. Beaumont,

a Member of Assembly, and whom he states to have been exceedingly useful and active, had brought in fifty negroes, who were of the greatest use in removing the trees and abatis which the insurgents had thrown across the road leading to Catadupa; that on his arrival there, in searching the huts, he found several muskets and a considerable quantity of gunpowder. The overseer of the property of Mocho was found wounded in a cave, where he had been left as dead, and his brother murdered. The maroons were behaving remarkably well, and the militia daily gaining confidence in their own efficiency. A letter from a Major of the Hanover regiment, dated the 9th instant, stated, that Flint River, Trial, and Orchard Estates, in Hanover, were destroyed, and that five fires were then burning on the mountains, at the back of the town of Lucea. The head driver at Trial, who endeavoured to protect his master's property, was shot by the rebels; two notorious villains had been taken in arms, and one found burning a house. They were tried, found guilty, and hanged.

Sir Willoughby Cotton laments the necessity of these examples, but he considered them indispensable. All minor offences the court martial was to visit by corporal punishment.

A party of the St. James's regiment were attacked at Anchovy Bottom by a body of armed and other negroes, the officer instantly drove them before him, and killed the chief, who was dressed in uniform, and eight rebels. The number of slaves in this parish is stated at twenty-five thousand, including women and children, one half of whom were out, dispersed in various directions, numbers however were hourly returning.

Major-General Crawford reports (11th January) his detachment having visited Bull head, Hopeton, and Kingsland, in Manchester, which properties were in a state of rebellion; that six of the insurgents were supposed to have been killed in action, two of the ringleaders taken, and subsequently shot, which had the instant effect of restoring order.

A dispatch from Sir Willoughby Cotton (11th January) states, that the post of Vaughansfield had been occupied without opposition, that the maroons had been sent to reconnoitre the chain of the Cockpits, a remarkably strong post, where the maroons had long maintained themselves during the maroon war. That he in person had visited a great number of estates, and explained to the negroes he found upon them, the nature of the proclamations which had been issued, and he believed with effect. That upon other estates, where few slaves had come in, he believed many were restrained by fear, and hoped that a good effect would speedily be produced from the encouragement he held out to induce them to return. That of course on many properties, where the greatest outrages had been perpetrated, the negroes would not immediately come in, but the maroons and a party of riflemen would continue to harass them.

Captain Galloway, of the 33d regiment, reports, from an estate called Lapland, that he had rescued a brown lady and her three daughters on an estate, called Bellmont, the buildings had been burnt, and these ladies kept in the greatest terror. At Marchmont also he rescued a Mrs. Holmes, and several

other ladies and children. Mr. Holmes, the proprietor of the estate, had been murdered on Sunday. Captain Galloway speaks of Mr. Holmes's murder as having been attended with great cruelty. By the confession of one of the negroes concerned (lately received), it appears that the murder of the women had been in contemplation, and that of the male children was to have taken place on the evening of the day they were rescued.

Colonel Grignon reports having sent a party to Marchmont on a similar service, under the command of Captain King; and on his return, at an angle of the road, near a property called Retrieve, the advanced guard was fired upon by several of the rebels from the negro houses belonging to Mr. Floyd. The attack continued for a short time after the main body came up and were formed, but the rebels were speedily driven from the negro houses. Captain King could not ascertain what number among them were killed or wounded. In this affair he lost two men killed and two wounded.

Notwithstanding these atrocities I had the satisfaction to learn, by various accounts, and those confirmed by Sir Willoughby Cotton, that from the general appearance of the state of affairs throughout that district, hopes were entertained of returning tranquillity. A great inconvenience now presents itself from overseers and book-keepers of the various properties being all serving with the militia. Sir Willoughby Cotton, with great propriety, suggests that some relaxation of the militia law should be made in their favour, as in the absence it will be impossible to reduce the negroes on the various estates to order.

Mr. Panton, a gentleman whose name I mentioned in my former dispatch (13th of January), called on me, on Friday last, and informed me, that no doubt remains that the plan of insurrection among the negroes had long been meditated; that on pursuing those who absconded to the woods in the neighbourhood of Manchester, in the parish of Portland, twenty-one houses were found by the maroons completely ready for occupation, and these placed in such deep recesses of the wood as might probably have long escaped attention. Although all was tranquil in that parish at the period, I caused His Majesty's proclamation to be issued, and nothing more than the excitement usual amongst slaves at that period of the year, had manifested itself; yet, upon its being read on the Sunday following in Manchester, the slaves treated it with marked contempt and derision.

Accounts from Major-General Cox, dated the 14th instant, were received yesterday, stating that a numerous gang of the negroes on an estate, called Unity Valley (but marked Hawthorn's, in Robertson's map) at the south eastern end of Saint Ann's, had refused to work, and otherwise manifested insubordination. He had sent a detachment of the Saint Ann's regiment to that estate, under the command of Major Hamilton, and one example had been made of a ringleader. This part of the island had hitherto enjoyed the greatest tranquillity, and therefore such information was quite unexpected. I immediately caused two companies of the Saint Catherine's militia, under the command of Colonel Archer, to march from this town to that neighbour-

hood, in the hope thereby of overawing any further mischief.

The information I have received from Sir Willoughby Cotton, as well as the Custos of Saint James's, leads me to hope that, with the exception of some of the ringleaders and principal offenders, it will not be long before the great body of the negroes may be induced to return to the estates and resume

their labours. He reports to me, that he is now obtaining information of the different slaves who are absent, in order that rewards may be offered for the apprehension of the ringleaders.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) BELMORE.

Right Hon. Viscount Goderich,
&c. &c. &c.

Printed and Published at the Office, in Cannon-Row, Parliament-Street, by ROBERT GEORGE CLARK.

[Price Seven Pence.]

