

to hear such appeal, and to cause notice thereof to be served upon the said Commissioners, who should thereupon undertake the defence of such appeal; and upon hearing any such appeal it should be lawful for His Majesty in Council to confirm and annul, or to rescind and disallow, any such general rule as aforesaid, or thereupon to alter, amend, or vary any such rule in such manner as to His Majesty might seem just, or to remit the same to the said Commissioners for further consideration and revision:

And it was also enacted that, at the expiration of the time limited for receiving such appeals as aforesaid, it should be lawful for His Majesty in Council to confirm and allow, or to rescind and disallow, in the whole or in part, or to amend, alter, or vary any such general rule or rules, though not so appealed against, as to His Majesty might seem just, or to remit such rules to the said Commissioners for further consideration and revision:

And it was further enacted that, when and so often as any such general rule or rules as aforesaid should by His Majesty in Council have been confirmed and allowed, an Order should be made by His Majesty in Council reciting at length any such rule or rules, with any alterations or amendments which might have been therein made as aforesaid; and a copy of every such Order in Council should be duly certified by the Lord President of His Majesty's Council for the time being to the Lord High Chancellor or Keeper of the Great Seal, or to the Master of the Rolls for the time being, and should be duly enrolled among the records of the High Court of Chancery, and should there remain and be of record:

And it was further enacted that, for ensuring method, regularity, and dispatch in the mode of preferring and of proceeding upon such claims, the said Commissioners should and were thereby authorised, by general rules to be framed and published, conformed, allowed, and enrolled as aforesaid, to prescribe the form and manner of proceeding to be observed by any claimant or claimants preferring any such claims, and to authorise the Assistant Commissioners, so to be appointed as thereinbefore mentioned, in the said several colonies to receive and report upon the same, or any of them, in such manner and form, and under such regulations as to the Commissioners, so to be appointed by His Majesty as aforesaid, should seem meet; and to prescribe the manner, the time or times, the place or places, and the form or forms in which notices of such claims shall be published for general information, or especially communicated to or served upon any person or persons interested therein or affected thereby; and to prescribe the form and manner of proceeding to be observed upon the prosecution of such claims, or in making any opposition to the same; and to make all such regulations as to them might seem best adapted for promoting method, economy, and dispatch in the investigation of such claims, and respecting the evidence to be taken and admitted for or against the same, and respecting the manner and form of adjudicating thereupon, and otherwise however respecting the method, form, and manner of proceeding to be observed, either by them, the said Assistant Commissioners, or by the parties to any proceedings before them, their agents, or

witnesses; and which rules should from time to time be liable to be amended, altered, varied, or renewed as occasion might require, in such manner as is therein before directed:

And whereas, in pursuance of the said Act of Parliament, His Majesty, by a Commission under the Great Seal, bearing date the twelfth day of April, in the fourth year of His Majesty's reign, did constitute John Bouham Carter, James Lewis, John George Shaw Lefevre, Samuel Duckworth, Thomas Amyott, Hastings Elwin, and Henry Frederick Stephenson, Esqrs. to be Commissioners of Arbitration for the purposes in the said Act mentioned.

And whereas, in pursuance of the said Act, the said Commissioners did draw up and frame such general rules as therein mentioned for the apportionment of the compensation money therein mentioned amongst the persons seized of, or entitled to, or having, any mortgage, charge, incumbrance, judgment, or lien upon, or any claim to, or right or interest in, any slave or slaves so to be manumitted, as in the said Act is mentioned, at the time of such their manumission:

And whereas, in pursuance of the said Act, the said Commissioners did also frame such general rules as in the said Act are mentioned, prescribing the form and manner of proceeding to be observed by any claimant or claimants preferring any such claims as are therein mentioned:

And whereas the said general rules when so framed, being subscribed with the respective hands and seals of the said Commissioners, were by them on the first day of April last transmitted to the Lord President of His Majesty's Council to be by him laid before His Majesty in Council:

And whereas the said rules so transmitted as aforesaid to the Lord President have been published in the manner and form in the said Act in that behalf required, together with a notice that all persons interested in or affected by any such general rules might, within six months from the date of such notice, appeal against any such rules to His Majesty in Council:

And whereas such notice bore date the seventeenth day of April one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, and the said term of six months expired on the seventeenth day of October one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four:

And whereas certain appeals have been preferred to His Majesty in Council against certain of the before-mentioned rules, but against others of the said rules no such appeal hath been preferred:

And whereas His Majesty hath this day taken into consideration the propriety of confirming and allowing such of the rules aforesaid as are not the subject of and as are not affected by any such appeal as aforesaid:

And whereas His Majesty hath seen fit, in certain respects, in pursuance of the power in Him in that behalf vested, to amend, alter, and vary, some of such general rules as aforesaid though not so appealed against:

Now, therefore, in pursuance of the said Act of