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FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1846.

AT the Court at *Buckingham-Palace*, the 6th day of *July* 1846,

PRESENT,

The QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS, on the fourth day of January one thousand eight hundred and forty-three, an Order was made by Her Majesty, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, in the terms following :

“ Whereas by an Order of Her Majesty, made, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, on the seventh day of September one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight, for regulating, within the colonies of British Guiana, Trinidad, Saint Lucia, and Mauritius, respectively, the relative rights and duties of masters and servants, it is, amongst other things, ordered, that no contract of service shall be of any force or effect within any of the colonies aforesaid, unless the same shall be made within the limits and upon the land of the colony in which the same is to be performed; and it is thereby further ordered, that no written contract of service shall be in force within any of the said colonies, unless it shall be signed with the

name, or, in case of illiterate persons, with the mark of each of the contracting parties, in the presence of a stipendiary magistrate, nor unless such stipendiary magistrate shall subscribe the written contract, in attestation of the fact that it was entered into by the parties voluntarily, and with a clear understanding of its meaning and effect :

“ And whereas it is desirable that the said recited provisions of the said Order in Council should be modified in manner hereinafter mentioned, in reference to the case of labourers, of African birth or descent, emigrating to the colonies aforesaid, from places, the inhabitants of which may reasonably be presumed to be so far cognizant of the state and prospects of labourers in agriculture and manufactures within the said colonies, as to be competent to protect their own interests in any contracts entered into beyond the precincts of such colonies for services to be performed therein :

“ And whereas persons emigrating from the Continent of North America may reasonably be presumed to be so competent; it is, therefore, ordered, by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty,