

LIST OF PAPERS

COLONIES.

Return to an Address from the Honourable House of Commons to His Majesty,
dated 29th March 1821;—*for*

COPIES OR EXTRACTS

OF THE

CORRESPONDENCE

Between Lord BATHURST and the different COLONIES,
on the subject of their paying the whole, or any
portion, of the Expense for their MILITARY DEFENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
8 May 1821.

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Colonial Department, }
1 May 1821. }

HENRY GOULBURN.

Return to an Address from The Honourable House of Commons, to His Majesty,
dated 29 March 1821;—for

Copies or Extracts of the CORRESPONDENCE between Lord BATHURST
and the different COLONIES, on the subject of their paying the whole
or any portion of the Expense for their MILITARY DEFENCE.

N^o 1.—Copy of a Circular Letter from the Earl Bathurst to the Governors
of His Majesty's Colonies in the West Indies.

Sir,

Downing Street, 31st July, 1816.

I AM commanded by His Royal Highness the Prince Regent to instruct you to take the earliest opportunity of ascertaining the disposition of the Legislature of the Island under your government, with respect to providing for the subsistence of such a proportion of British troops, not of colour, as they may deem adequate for the maintenance of tranquillity in the colony. In bringing this proposition under their consideration you will not fail to represent to them the necessity which His Royal Highness feels himself under of reducing, by every possible means, the military expenditure of the country; and that although arrangements have been made for providing, during the present year, at the sole expense of this country, for the garrisons maintained in the colonies, yet that it will in future years be impossible to maintain an equal force unless some part of the charge be defrayed by the colonies themselves.

You will at the earliest moment communicate to me the result of your application to the Legislature; and I have only to add that His Royal Highness relies upon your discretion for making the proposition in the manner most likely to ensure it a favourable reception.

I have, &c. (signed)

BATHURST.

N^o 1.

Circular addressed to the Governors of Barbadoes, Antigua, St. Christopher's, Grenada, Dominica, St. Vincent, Tobago, Bahamas, Bermudas.

N^o 2.—Extract of a letter from his Grace the Duke of Manchester, to Earl Bathurst, dated Jamaica, 20th December 1816:—(Two Enclosures.)

THE Session terminated yesterday, and the usual supplies have been voted for the service of Government. I wish I could have informed your Lordship that the assembly had agreed to assume upon itself the entire subsistence of the garrison of the island; but, after the subject had been before the house for a considerable time, a message was sent to me, of which, I enclose a copy.

The unqualified refusal of the house to comply with what had been required of them, and the very intemperate language in which that refusal was conveyed, appeared to me to require some mark of my disapprobation; and it became necessary also that the house should distinctly understand, that with such a message before me I could under no circumstances consent to strengthen the garrison of the island whilst it appeared that the house were determined not to subsist more troops than those for which the faith of the island stands pledged. Of this communication I also enclose a copy; and had the house been disposed to remove any impression of incivility which their message had excited, an opportunity was afforded them of doing so. But the question was lost by a majority of two.

(Enclosure 1.)

May it please your Grace,

WE are ordered by the house to wait on your Grace, and most respectfully to inform you that the house has paid due attention to your Grace's message of the 26th November last, recommending that provision should be made for the subsistence of such white troops as may be stationed for the defence of the island, although the number may exceed that for which the assembly now stands pledged; and that after having maturely considered the object of the application, the house has to regret that whilst effectual measures have been adopted to relieve the inhabi-

N^o 2.

Extract of Letter from his Grace the Duke of Manchester to Earl Bathurst, 20 Dec. 1816.

Enclosure 1, in the Duke of Manchester's, 20 Dec. 1816.

tants of the mother country from the pressure of the heaviest taxes after the termination of a long and burthensome war, His Majesty's loyal subjects in this island, instead of participating in the general blessings of peace are to be called upon for additional contributions.

The circumstances in which this country is at this time involved—the great depression in the prices of its various staples, and articles of commerce—the ruinous and oppressive war-duties which still remain—the pressure of a very heavy existing debt—the very burthensome taxes which are already necessary to defray the annual expenses of the island, and which will be considerably increased by the expense of a bill for the enrolment of the slaves, which has passed this house in consequence of the very earnest recommendation of His Majesty's Ministers, make it, in the opinion of the house, their imperative duty not to comply with the requisition contained in your Grace's message for subsisting a greater number of troops than the number for which the faith of the island already stands pledged.

(Enclosure 2.)

Mr. Speaker,

Inclosure 2,
in the Duke of Man-
chester's 20 Dec.
1816.

I am commanded by his Grace the governor to represent to the house the great embarrassment his grace may be placed in should any unforeseen emergency call for a reinforcement of troops in this island.

His Majesty's Ministers, in their provident care for the safety of Jamaica, had authorized his Grace (in the event of his deeming it urgently necessary) to strengthen the garrison of the island by an European regiment from Halifax, in the confidence that the House of Assembly would provide for the subsistence of such additional regiment.

His Grace disclaims any intention of animadverting on the refusal of the house to comply with the Prince Regent's earnest appeal to their liberality; but the tone of asperity in which the first message of the house to his Grace, of Friday last, is conveyed, and the severe reflections it casts upon the measures of His Royal Highness's Government, render it necessary for his Grace to inform the house that he cannot under any circumstances avail himself of the authority which has been given him to call for a regiment from Halifax whilst all hope of its subsistence being provided for seems to be entirely precluded.

N^o 3.—Copy of a Letter from Governor Cameron to the Earl Bathurst, dated New Providence, the 10th Jan. 1817:—(One Inclosure.)

My Lord,

New Providence, 10th January 1817.

N^o 3.
Letter from Govern-
or Cameron to
Earl Bathurst,
10 Jan. 1817.

I had the honour, on the 14th November last, to acknowledge the receipt of you Lordship's circular letter of the 31st July, relative to the disposition of the Legislature to provide for the subsistence of such white troops as might be adequate to the maintenance of tranquillity in this colony. And I have the honour to enclose a message which I have received from the Legislative Assembly, in answer to my communication on this important subject.

I have, &c. (Signed)

C. Cameron.

To the Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

(Inclosure.)

May it please Your Excellency,

Enclosure.

IN answer to your Excellency's message of the 27th November last, enclosing an extract of a letter addressed to your Excellency by Earl Bathurst, dated 31st July, instructing your Excellency to take the earliest opportunity of ascertaining the disposition of the Legislature of these islands, with respect to providing subsistence for such a proportion of British troops, not of colour, as might be deemed adequate to the maintenance of tranquillity in the colony, the House of Assembly have to state, that the very limited revenues of the colony, in the present depressed state of the commerce and agriculture thereof, are inadequate to defray any part whatsoever of the military expenses which may be incurred on these islands.

By Order of the House,

L. Kerr.

House of Assembly, }
11th Dec. 1816. }

N^o 4.—Copy of a Letter from Lieut. General Sir James Leith to Earl Bathurst, dated Barbadoes, 19th Sept. 1816.

My Lord,

Barbadoes, 19th September 1816.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's circular, dated 31st of last July, instructing me to ascertain the disposition of the Legislature of this island with respect to the providing for the subsistence of such a proportion of British troops, not of colour, as may be deemed adequate for the maintenance of tranquillity.

N^o 4.
Letter from Lt.-G.
Sir James Leith
to Earl Bathurst,
19 Sept. 1816.

I shall not fail to embrace the earliest occasion to bring this proposal under the consideration of the Legislature in a manner the most likely to ensure a favourable reception.

I have, &c. (Signed)

J. Leith.

Earl Bathurst, His Majesty's Principal
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

N^o 5.—Copy of a Letter from Major-General Ramsay to Earl Bathurst, dated 16th October 1816:—(Two Enclosures.)

My Lord,

Government House, Antigua, 16th October 1816.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's circular despatch of the 31st July last, transmitting instructions from His Royal Highness the Prince Regent to submit to the Colonial Legislature of this Government, the necessity for them to defray some part of the expense of a certain proportion of the white troops that it might be deemed necessary to station in it for the tranquillity of the colony.

N^o 5.
Letter from Major-
General Ramsay,
Oct. 16. 1816.

I lost no time in calling the Legislature together, and laying before them your Lordship's letter, and now transmit you their reply, which, although not attended with the desired success, I trust will not be imputed to any want of exertion on my part to carry His Royal Highness's commands into effect.

As soon as I receive an answer from Montserrat it shall be forwarded; but I much fear, from the very distressed state of that island, they have it not in their power to contribute to the maintenance of troops, even should they be ever so well inclined for it.

I have the honour to be, with high respect, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

(Signed)

Geo. Wm. Ramsay.
Major-General and Governor.

Right hon. Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

P. S. The reply from the Legislature of Montserrat is herewith transmitted.

(Enclosure 1.)

Sir,

Antigua, October 14th 1816.

WE have it in command, by a joint resolution of the two houses of Legislature, to acknowledge your Excellency's communication of the 4th instant, and to state, that the measure proposed in the accompanying despatch of the right honourable Earl Bathurst, bearing date Downing-street, July 31st, has been taken into consideration by both houses, who are unanimously of opinion that this island is utterly unable to comply with the wishes of His Majesty's Government in supporting such a body of troops as may be necessary for the security and tranquillity thereof.

Enclosure 1.
in General Ram-
say's, 16 Oct. 1816.

This communication, Sir, we frankly confess, has filled our minds with uneasiness, as we are at a loss to discover why this colony, in common with all others in the West Indies, is still to contribute largely and unalleviatingly to the general resources of the State, while we are, on the other hand, to forfeit that degree of protection which the mother country has been accustomed to extend over us; or why His Majesty's Government should propose, when the aspect of the times renders its countenance and support, as well as a military vigilance in this part of the world, peculiarly desirable, to absolve itself, as it were, from that full reciprocity of obligation which has been ever held to exist between a parent State, and its ancient dependencies.

If at this particular juncture, Sir, when we have nothing to apprehend from the hostility of any foreign enemy, there exists a strong necessity for a considerable military force being retained in this quarter of the globe, your Excellency will do us the justice to believe that it does not arise from circumstances of our own creation, but solely from that dangerous spirit of interference with our domestic concerns on the part of individuals in England, and the public agitation of questions and measures there, which by their consequences have already deeply shaken our credit and happiness, and by their continuance must ultimately prove fatal to our safety and existence.

It is not necessary, perhaps, to recal to the recollection of your Excellency, how much, in common with the other colonies of His Majesty, in the West Indies, we already contribute to uphold the prosperity of the state, and the means of public expenditure, not only indirectly by purchasing the manufactures of Great Britain, and by employing her shipping to an immense extent, but also directly, by the vast amount of heavy duties paid on our produce on importation, and by the tax of four and a half per cent. on our income, levied within certain of the colonies, which we humbly conceive, cannot, at present, yield together, for this one small island alone, a less annual sum than 300,000 *l.* sterling. Your Excellency must be sensible likewise, how much we are virtually taxed, and our means straitened, by that system of restricted intercourse with the United States of America, which it is the inflexible policy of His Majesty's Government to enforce. Whatever paramount motives may induce His Majesty's ministers to afford us relief in this respect, the effect is certain to treble to us the cost of the necessaries requisite for the subsistence and well-being of our slave population, and of the various supplies indispensable for carrying on our estates, while it renders an important part of our produce a dead weight on our hands.

Our incompetency to support, in any degree, the additional burthens now in contemplation, will be more evident when we represent, that the extreme pressure and difficulties occasioned by the long European and late American wars, have plunged most proprietors deeply into debt; and that the favourable demand for colonial produce which lately existed in Europe has been short lived indeed; as, by the most recent intelligence which we have received, it is now almost as much depreciated and as unsaleable as ever.

Independently of these circumstances, every one who knows the colony is aware of the habitual scarcity of specie; that money cannot be provided without the utmost difficulty, even for the ordinary demands of the colonial treasury; that in fact, persons of the best credit cannot frequently procure money for their bills; and that for giving facility to the transactions and intercourse of life, it has long been necessary to make produce a legal tender for debts. Government has the means of procuring money on the most favourable terms in different parts of the West Indies, as its exigencies require, and of safely transporting the same to the particular place where it may be wanted, but this would be impracticable to a small colony, possessing neither the requisite credit nor any such facilities. If in a moment of inconsiderate liberality, or under the strong temptation thrown out of a substitution of European troops for those of colour, the required concession should be made on our part, our maturer experience would, we are confident, only exhibit an unavoidable irregularity in payment, thereby tending to produce perplexity to Government, and dissatisfaction among the troops.

Having thus succinctly stated the impracticability, under whatever events may arise, of our bearing any part in this branch of expenditure, we cannot but express our anxious hope that so unexpected a measure may not have been proposed to us with a greater view of success, at a moment when our fears and apprehensions may naturally be supposed to be acutely alive on account of recent domestic occurrences, for such a step could only be considered as undignified in the highest degree, and a bad requital for that loyal and patient following of the various fortunes of the mother country, which has marked these colonies for so many years past.

In fine, Sir, we most humbly, but earnestly, submit to the serious consideration of His Majesty's ministers, whether, if in conformity to the inability expressed on both sides to defray the expense of the necessary garrisons in the islands, His Majesty's troops be actually withdrawn, and these colonies are still to be exposed to the mischievous designs and insidious machinations of their avowed enemies in Great Britain, their doom will not thereby be sealed, and their ruin inevitably ensured; and whether, by the consequent defalcation of the revenue, and the removal of the incitement which they confessedly afford to the agricultural, commercial and manufacturing

facturing energies of the nation, the general pressure and embarrassment will not thereby be infinitely aggravated.

With every sentiment of respect and consideration, we have the honour to remain,

Your Excellency's most obedient and very humble servants,
 (Signed) *Edward Byam, P. C.*
Nicholas Nugent, Speaker.

His Excellency Major-General Ramsay,
 Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief in and over the
 Islands of Antigua, Montserrat and Barbuda, &c. &c. &c.

(Enclosure 2.)

Extract from the Minutes of Council of the Island of Montserrat, dated
 12th October 1816.

The Gentlemen of the Assembly to the President of the Council.

“ THIS House has taken into its serious consideration Lord Bathurst's letter to Governor Ramsay, relative to the disposition of the Legislature of the island to provide for the subsistence of such a proportion of British troops (not of colour) as it may deem adequate for the maintenance of tranquillity in this colony; and it is unanimously of opinion, that, let the disposition of the Legislature be what it will, the island is totally unable to go to any further expense in that particular than what it does at present; namely, the finding them in barracks and water; and recommend that a firm and prompt answer should be returned to Governor Ramsay, to be transmitted to the colonial secretary, upon this very important subject.”

Enclosure 2,
 in Governor Ram-
 say's letter, 16 Dec.
 1816.

The President and Council to the Gentlemen of the Assembly.

“ This Board has taken into its serious consideration Lord Bathurst's letter to Governor Ramsay, relative to the disposition of the Legislature of this island to provide for the subsistence of such a proportion of British troops (not of colour) as it may deem adequate for the maintenance of tranquillity in the colony; and it is unanimously of opinion, that, let the disposition of the Legislature be what it will, the island is totally unable to go to any further expense in that particular than what it does at present; namely, the finding them in barracks and water; and unanimously concur with your House, that a firm and prompt answer should be returned to Governor Ramsay, to be transmitted to the colonial secretary, upon this very important subject.”

By command,

(Signed) *James Masters, Clerk of the Council.*

Council-Chamber, 12th October 1816.

N° 6.—Copy of Letter from Governor Probyn to Earl Bathurst, dated
 St. Christopher's, 16 January 1817:—(One Enclosure.)

My Lord,

Saint Christopher's, 16th January, 1817.

I HAVE the honour to enclose the answer of the Council and Assembly of this island, to the proposal, which conformably to your Lordship's circular letter of the 31st July, I submitted to them, for providing for the subsistence of such a proportion of troops as they might deem adequate for the maintenance of tranquillity in the colony.

N° 6.
 Letter from Gover-
 nor Probyn to Earl
 Bathurst, 16 Jan.
 1817.

I beg leave at the same time to assure your Lordship, that in bringing this matter under their consideration I took every possible means that I could devise to ensure it a favourable reception; and it has not been owing to any want of exertion on my part that the proposition has miscarried.

I have the honour to be, with great consideration, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed)

Thomas Probyn, Capt.-Genl.

To the right honourable
 the Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

(Enclosure.)

To His Excellency, Thomas Probyn, Esquire, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

Enclosure,
in Governor Probyn's,
16 Jan. 1817.

WE, the Council and Assembly of Saint Christopher feel ourselves deeply impressed with regret at the information you have laid before us, announcing the intention of His Majesty's ministers, not to keep up the number of troops that may be deemed requisite for preserving the internal tranquillity of this colony, unless its inhabitants contribute towards the expense.

We did flatter ourselves that the unshaken loyalty of the colonies, the large revenue and considerable commercial benefits, which they adduce to the mother country, might have rendered them worthy of her unconditional protection.

His Majesty's ministers cannot but know that West India property is in general (particularly in the older colonies) mortgaged, or otherwise encumbered to an amount equal to its value.

The descendants of most of the opulent proprietors of former days, who are not already consigned to ruin and oblivion, preserve so small a portion of real interest in their estates, that a tax sufficient to defray the expense of a moiety of the military establishment of this island would so absorb the remnant of their revenue as to precipitate them into beggary, and the wreck of their estates into the hands of mortgagees and creditors. Equally depressed is the speculator of later years, whose greatest exertions are barely sufficient to make good the interest of his unpaid purchases.

The deserted streets and empty warehouses of our towns announce a commerce so cramped and restricted as frequently to withhold from our population the food necessary to support nature, except at immoderate and ruinous prices.

We have invariably considered that the forces hitherto stationed in this island have been supported from the resources of the colony.

To answer this most desirable purpose, we conceive our forefathers acquiesced in the heavy tax of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on produce exported; to which severe burthen, and the purposes for which it was granted, we beg to call the recollection of His Majesty's ministers.

We are well aware that the inflammatory doctrines disseminated in the colonies by agents of fanatical incendiaries in Great Britain, may have placed our properties and personal safety in some hazard; but we are also aware, that to accede to the requisition now proposed, would be to plunge ourselves and families into certain ruin.

In this situation of general poverty and distress we feel ourselves under the necessity of solemnly declaring our total inability to contribute to the maintenance of the regular troops.

St. Christopher,
1st November, 1816.

(Signed) *Stedman Rawlins*, President.
George Berkeley, Speaker.

N^o 7.—Copy of a Letter from Governor Probyn to the Earl Bathurst, dated St. Christopher's, the 16th of January 1817:—(One Enclosure.)

My Lord,

Saint Christopher's, January 16, 1817.

N^o 7.
Letter from Governor Probyn to the Earl Bathurst,
16 Jan. 1817.

I BEG leave to acquaint your Lordship, that previous to my arrival in this Government, and on the breaking out of the disturbances at Barbadoes, a company from the regiment forming the garrison of Brimstone Hill, in this island, was sent to Nevis, and has been for some time past withdrawn. But as it was the wish of the inhabitants of Nevis to have permanently one hundred men for their security, the Council and Assembly voted a sum of money for the erection of a barrack, hospital, &c. for the accommodation of the same. I therefore judged it proper to apprise them of the substance of your Lordship's circular despatch of the 31st July, relative to the colonies defraying part of the charge for maintaining the troops; and I herewith transmit to your Lordship a copy of the communication made to me by the Council and Assembly on the subject.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) *Thos. Probyn*.

The right hon. the Earl Bathurst, K. G.
&c. &c. &c.

(Enclosure.)

Sir.

Nevis, January 2, 1817.

IN obedience to the desire of the two branches of the Legislature of this island, we have to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 7th of December.

Enclosure,
in Governor Probyn's 16 Jan. 1817.

The Council and Assembly are particularly anxious that it should be represented to your Excellency, that they have lately voted the sum of 10,000*l.* for the purpose of erecting barracks, suitable for the accommodation of one hundred men and officers, to be invested in His Majesty, his heirs and successors; and they trust that such an exertion, from such very limited means, will abundantly prove to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent that the best disposition prevails in both houses to meet the wishes of Government, as far as their power will permit.

It becomes our peculiar duty to point out to your Excellency the inadequacy of the resources of this island to provide, in any proportion, for the maintenance of the troops which the commander in chief of the forces had been solicited to send for our protection, before your arrival in this government; and therefore it is natural that a great anxiety should prevail to ascertain, through the medium of your Excellency's good offices, first, whether His Royal Highness's ministers will grant the troops required? And, secondly, whether they will be granted on the same terms as such protection has hitherto been afforded to the colonies?

The situation of this island is too well known to your Excellency to require any arguments to convince you how severely every individual in the country feels the heavy pressure of the times. We venture therefore to assure ourselves that you will be pleased to make such representations to my Lord Bathurst as will tend to release us from the enormous contribution which would thus be levied upon us; and remove, at the same time, any impression unfavourable to the sentiments of loyalty and attachment which actuate the measures of the two branches of the Legislature.

We have the honour to be, &c. (Signed)

His Excellency Governor Probyn,
&c. &c. &c.

Walter Maynard, President of the Council.
Magnus Morton, Speaker of the Assembly.

N° 8.—Copy of a Letter from Governor Riall to the Earl Bathurst, dated Grenada, 1 Oct. 1816.

My Lord,

Grenada, 1st October 1816.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter (circular) of the 31st July last. I shall not fail to bring under the consideration of the Legislature of Grenada, at its next meeting, the proposition therein mentioned, and your Lordship may rest assured that I shall do every thing in my power to ensure it a favourable reception.

Both branches of the Legislature have been for some time past much engaged in deliberating upon the provisions of a Registration Bill, and a bill for the amelioration of the condition of the free coloured and slave population; and I have assented to an adjournment to the 4th day of November next, in order to prepare those bills, at which time I shall recommend to their consideration the subject contained in your Lordship's letter of the date above mentioned.

I have, &c. (Signed)

To the Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

R. Riall,
Governor.

N° 9.—Copy of a Letter from Governor Riall to the Earl Bathurst, dated Grenada, 10th November 1816.

My Lord,

Grenada, 10th November 1816.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that in obedience to the commands transmitted to me by your letter of the 31st July, I submitted to the Legislature of this island the proposition it contained, in such language as I conceived best calculated to ensure its favourable reception: and the House of Assembly, in reply to my message, have assured me they will give the subject the most serious consideration. The Legislature, however, having now under their consideration the bill for the registration of slaves, it will be some little time, I fear, before I can

N° 9.

Letter from Governor Ryall to the Earl Bathurst, 10 Nov. 1816.

communicate to your Lordship the result of my present application. In the mean time I am requested to ask your Lordship whether the word "subsistence" is intended to imply the whole expense of maintaining the soldier, or that it has only reference to his daily pay.

I have, &c. (Signed)

To the Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

P. Riall,
Governor.

N° 10.—Copy of a Letter from Earl Bathurst to Major-General Riall, dated 11 January 1817.

Sir,

Downing Street, 11th Jan. 1817.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th of November, informing me that you had submitted to the Legislature of Grenada the proposition contained in my circular despatch of the 31st of July, but that a doubt had arisen whether the word "subsistence," in that despatch, was meant to imply the whole expense of maintaining the soldier, or whether it had only a reference to his daily pay. In reply, I have the honour to inform you that the word "subsistence" was intended to convey the expense of maintaining the soldier, the whole of which is in Jamaica defrayed for a certain portion of troops by the Legislature of that island.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Major-General Riall,
&c. &c. &c.

BATHURST.

N° 11.—Copy of a Letter from Governor Riall to the Earl Bathurst, dated Grenada, the 19th April 1817:—(One Enclosure.)

My Lord,

Grenada, 19th April 1817.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the answer of the House of Assembly of this island to the communication which I made to it upon the subject of your Lordship's letter of the 31st July last, relative to the subsistence of a proportion of His Majesty's troops, necessary for the service of this colony, and I regret to say that it is not of a favourable import.

I have, &c. (Signed)
P. Riall.

To the Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

(Inclosure.)

To his Excellency Phineas Riall, Esq. Major-General of his Majesty's Forces, and Commander-in-chief, &c. &c. &c.

WE, the representatives of the people of this colony, in General Assembly convened, beg leave to return our acknowledgments to your Excellency for the gracious manner in which you transmitted to us the letter from Lord Bathurst to your Excellency of the 31st of July last, respecting making provision for the subsistence of such a portion of British troops as the Legislature might deem adequate for the maintenance of tranquillity in the colony.

We beg leave to assure your Excellency our sentiments are in perfect unison with those of your Excellency, as to the vast importance of the subject of this communication, and also as to the restless and agitated state of mind of the slaves of these colonies, their increasing confidence, and the alarming disparity between them and the white inhabitants.

We have accordingly, as recommended, taken the subject into our serious consideration, and humbly trust, when your Excellency shall have perused the statement we now proceed to submit, of the unparalleled losses and misfortunes to which this island has been subjected since it became a British colony, and the causes thereof, your Excellency will be satisfied as to our inability to make such provision as is recommended by His Majesty's Government, for the subsistence of a suitable garrison; and will agree with us, that we ought not to be placed in the dilemma of submitting to an expense which we are unable, and cannot justly be called upon, to bear, or of exposing, for want of an adequate protection, the inhabitants of the colony

to

N° 10.

Letter from Earl Bathurst to Major General Riall, 11 Jan. 1817.

N° 11.

Letter from Governor Riall to the Earl Bathurst 19 April 1817.

Enclosure, in Governor Riall's, 19 April 1817.

to a repetition of those scenes of bloodshed and desolation, the remembrance of which will never be effaced from our recollection.

When this island was ceded to Great Britain it had been a French colony for upwards of one hundred years; the white population was then much more numerous than at present, and consisted chiefly of the natives of the colony, strongly attached to their own laws and government, attracted by the temptation held out by His Majesty's proclamation of October 1763, and the better prospects and greater degree of respect, which in those days attached to the character of the West India planter. Many opulent and highly respectable British-born subjects resorted to Grenada, and some became the purchasers of the greater part of the settled estates and unsettled lands in it; but the more wealthy of the old French inhabitants, who sold and retired from the colony, bore a small numerical proportion to those of them who elected to remain, and who soon afterwards, under the denomination of new or adopted subjects, early formed a strong party, who set themselves in opposition to and at variance with the natural-born subjects.

The more effectually to attach these new subjects to His Majesty's person and government, privileges unenjoyed by His Majesty's natural-born catholic subjects, such as that of being nominated into the Council, and elected in limited numbers into the Assembly, were granted to them by the administration of that day; but instead of allaying, these favours had the effect of increasing, their former animosity; and with undisguised anxiety they continued to look forward to another war and recapture.

Such was the state of this island, containing an internal enemy of much greater physical force than that of the inhabitants, whose loyalty could be depended upon, when the war with France broke out in 1778. The new subjects, so far from adding to the means of defence, palsied, for every purpose but that of keeping them in check, the natural-born settlers.

In such a state, and menaced with immediate invasion, the natural-born subjects relied, as we humbly submit to your Excellency, they were well entitled to do, on the protection due to them from their Sovereign at all times, and in all countries; but, with the utmost deference, we beg leave explicitly to state, that when the enemy appeared off the island in July 1779, the garrison did not exceed 90 effective men, and they and their properties fell an easy, because an unprotected prey, at the discretion of the invader.

From the 4th July, 1779, to the 4th January, 1784, the colony was again placed under the government and laws of France; and those gentlemen, who were new subjects the day before, became from that day the most hostile and violent of Frenchmen. They were immediately appointed to the command of all the respective parishes and quarters of the island, and during four years and a half many of them made use of all the power the arbitrary form that government clothed them with, of giving vent to their malice, and exercising vengeance upon their late fellow-subjects. Add to this, the loss of five crops were among the consequences of the Grenada planter at that time falling under the dominion of France.

By the treaty of 1783, the colony in January 1784, was restored; but with it, the adopted subjects were also restored, and replaced nearly in the same situation in which they stood before the capture.

Soon after the restoration, requisitions were made on the part of Government, through General Matthew, to the Council and Assembly, for grants in negro-labour, and to raise money to purchase lands for a more extensive range of fortifications.

The Council and Assembly in conveying the result of their deliberations upon these requisitions, amongst other things, stated to General Matthew, to the effect following:—

That, independent of the claim of protection arising from the relation between subject and sovereign, the various advantages derived, and the prodigious revenue raised to Great Britain by the possession of these colonies, seemed to imply, that the hand which received should expend liberally in promoting their security; and that they were persuaded His Majesty's administration were possessed of too much wisdom, and knew their value too well, ever again to adopt the false economy of leaving to certain capture at the opening of every war: That they relied on His Majesty for all that protection, which loyal subjects and colonists deserved, and would contribute thereto all that from such could be reasonably expected. But when they came to deliberate on giving up permanently any large portion of the annual revenue of the proprietors of this colony, common prudence, as well as the trust reposed in them, indicated that the only purposes for which so important a

sacrifice ought to be made, were those which afforded a reasonable probability that the means employed will secure the end proposed; namely, the enjoyment of the residue of that income, under the constitution and government of their native country; upon that principle they considered themselves authorized in having resolved,

“That even inconsiderable expenditure of their money for any establishment which did not furnish them that security, they considered as injudicious and unwarranted: That experience, as well as the importance of the colony, left it no longer a matter of doubt, that Grenada would always be amongst the first objects of the enemy’s enterprize; and that nothing less than a constant garrison of 1,000 men could promise any hope of defeating the earliest effort of their ambition; and that it was a maxim which could not be disputed, that extensive fortifications unprovided of that strength adequate to man them effectually, were more likely to be ruinous than beneficial; and that should government see the importance of the island in the light it deserved, and agree to furnish and constantly maintain here that effective protection, it would then become equally their interest, as it was their inclination to strain every nerve in co-operating with His Majesty in defence of this colony: That on the same principle they felt themselves bound to declare that in making provision for the establishment, or more comfortable subsistence of any lesser number of troops, which can only form an effective garrison, they should be exhausting their fortunes without a prospect of deriving the smallest benefit from the sacrifice; and trusted his Excellency would transmit their humble representation in such manner as would recommend them, and the protection of the colony, as deserving the Royal attention.

In answer, General Matthew stated;—“The requisition for an increase of the military establishment so perfectly met his idea, that he hoped he should be able to procure such reinforcement of the garrison as, assisted by the liberality of the Council and Assembly, would give confidence to the colony, and permanency to the blessings they enjoyed under a British government;” and in a letter, enclosing their Address to Lord Sydney, the then secretary of state to the colonies, dated 21st Oct. 1784, added, “I hope I have prophesied truly in my answers, that it will meet with a favourable reception, and be productive of additional support to the colony.”

In answer to further requisitions for the same purposes made of this date (30th March 1785) by General Matthew, the Assembly, among other things stated, “That desirous as they always were to give the most immediate attention to any object recommended by his Excellency, they conceived they were bound, by their duty to their constituents to postpone the further consideration of these requisitions, until the Administration of their mother country should be pleased to return an answer to their address of the 15th of the preceding October, which his Excellency had assured them had been transmitted.”

The next document we solicit your Excellency’s attention to is dated 7th Oct. 1785, and it is the answer of Lord Sydney to the Address of 15th Oct. 1784; and also to the last above-cited communication of the Assembly to General Matthew, addressed, in his absence, to the President Lucas. After stating “It was unpleasant to his Lordship to find the spirit of the island had been checked, upon information conveyed by the agent in England that government was not likely to furnish the force the colonial legislature thought adequate to its defence, he added, It could not but be supposed His Majesty’s ministers were equally interested with the inhabitants of Grenada to place the island in a respectable state of defence. That the presence of Colonel Gordon (of the engineers) and the duty he was to execute, must be a convincing proof that the situation of the island was attended to; and although the various services which the King’s troops had been lately called upon to perform would not admit of making further detachments to His Majesty’s West India Possessions, yet it has been anxiously wished for here, and you may assure the island that the first favourable opportunity will be seized upon for sending thither an additional force. His lordship hoped from these assurances, the island would recover its former generous disposition, and show those examples of liberality in contributing towards the public exigencies which had so deservedly recommended it to His Majesty’s particular notice.”

The island did, on these assurances of Lord Sydney, and confiding in the good faith of His Majesty’s Government, renew its former generous disposition, and granted in the three or four next following years, aids to the Crown in money and labour to the value of upwards of 200,000 *l.* sterling; so much to the satisfaction of

His Majesty's Government, and, we humbly submit to your Excellency, in complete performance of these engagements on our part, that Lord Sydney, on the 2d January 1788, in a letter to General Matthew, then in England, requests him to acquaint President Williams, then commanding in the colony, "That His Majesty was extremely well satisfied with the exertions made by the island of Grenada to put it into as a respectable state of defence as the circumstances would permit."

Prior to this period, however, Government, agreeably to the spirit of his Lordship's letter of 7th October 1785, had augmented the garrison of Grenada to 1,156 men, in the whole consisting of the 45th and 67th regiments, a company of artillery, and the Carolina black corps.

We now request your Excellency's attention to the annexed extract of a letter from Mr. Dundas, afterwards Lord Melville, then become Secretary of State for the colonies, to the Governors of the respective West India Governments, dated 1792; after observing, that from the tranquil state of Great Britain, in respect to other powers, a reduction of the military force had become an object of attention, he in his letter to the Governor of Grenada informed him "that the last packet had carried orders to General Cuyler to reduce the force serving in Grenada to one regiment."

It would appear that Mr. Dundas having been recently appointed Secretary of State for the colonies was then ignorant of the pledge so lately given by His Majesty's Government, and of the particular circumstance which entitled Grenada to a superior garrison; for on a memorial, subscribed by all the proprietors then in England, stating the particulars thereof, and insisting thereon, being presented to him on the 5th September in the same year 1792, he, of date the 4th of next month (October 1792), again wrote President Williams, that notwithstanding the general system of reduction of the forces serving in the West Indies, it had been deemed expedient, and he had received His Majesty's instructions to suspend for the present the execution of the orders of the Secretary at War for the removal of the regiment intended to have been taken away from Grenada. "The regiment (the 67th,) intended to have been removed was suffered to remain, and the garrison was composed of the same corps that it had been during the preceding five years, until September 1793, when the black corps was withdrawn, and by the 5th September 1794, the garrison of Grenada was reduced to 280 men, of whom 100 only were reported fit for service.

A short time previous to this important crisis a further correspondence took place between Lieutenant-Governor Home and his Grace the late Duke of Portland, then holding the seals of the colonial department in the room of Mr. Dundas. On the 7th July 1794, the stationary Engineer made application to the Lieutenant-Governor for further aid in negro-labour for the completion of the fortifications, to which the Lieutenant-Governor replied, "That what had been voted by the Legislature was expended." And in communicating this circumstance to the Secretary of State on the 10th of the said month, his honour expressed himself to be "Well satisfied it would not be advisable to apply to the Legislature for further aid, unless he had authority to give them certain information of the intention of Government with respect to the garrison to be stationed there in future." The reply of his Grace the Duke of Portland is dated the 18th September 1794, its contents are of the highest importance, and we therefore insert it at length, as it removes every doubt, if any existed, as to the intentions of Government, corroborates every engagement, and confirms every assurance received from his predecessors, and is a flattering testimonial of the opinion entertained by His Majesty of the conduct and character of Grenada.

Sir,

Whitehall, 18th September, 1794.

I HAVE received and laid before the King your letter, marked secret, of the 12th July last, enclosing your correspondence with the stationary Engineer at Grenada, respecting the want of further aid of negro-labour to complete the fortifications on Richmond Hill.

The island of Grenada has uniformly shown the greatest forwardness and liberality in granting negro labour, and every other assistance which His Majesty's service required in that island. For making application therefore to the Legislature for further assistance for the completion of the works at Richmond Hill, you may assure the Assembly that it is His Majesty's intention to station and continue two

regiments at Grenada, as heretofore, the moment His Majesty's service will allow of it; and directions will be given accordingly.

I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,
 Lieutenant-Governor Home. PORTLAND.

On this letter we venture to indulge in no comments. The colony, without hesitation, acceded to the further demands made upon them, and the fortifications were completed accordingly.

We beg to pause here, and to call your Excellency's attention to the situation of this part of the western world at this time. Within the year prior to this period the lower orders of the people in France had murdered their king, subverted their Government, proclaimed freedom to the slaves of their West India colonies, and sent out commissioners to them for the express purpose of organizing and arming them against their masters. Saint Domingo was in ashes, and the whole white population massacred or expelled. Instructed, and thus organized by the commissioners sent to them, the people of colour and the slaves of Guadaloupe, absolved of their ties that bound them to their masters, had forced a considerable British army to abandon the conquest recently made of that island.

The militia of this island, which included the free people of colour, as well as the white inhabitants, then consisted of about 500 British-born subjects, and of French extraction (the free people of colour of that description included), of about 400 men. The slave population of the colony amounted in number to 30,000, or thereabouts; and most of them who had by purchase become slaves to British proprietors, as well as those of them who remained the slaves of the adopted subjects, having been reared and bred under French owners, retained partialities to French habits, the French language, and the Catholic religion, all of which generated prejudices unfavourable to their Protestant owners.

The proprietors of Grenada were not unaware they stood on a volcano, which would soon explode. The Council and Assembly addressed the Governor, and individuals repaired to and applied personally to the Commander-in-Chief at Martinique for reinforcements; but neither public nor private application, nor the strength of their case, nor the anticipated murderous destruction, suspended by a hair over them, availed to procure for this devoted colony the further protection of a single man. Objects of foreign conquest and the extension of His Majesty's Dominions, were unremittingly pursued by the military and naval Commanders in these seas. The garrison of this island was reduced in proportion as it ought to have been augmented; as danger increased the means of resisting it were diminished, when on the night of the 2nd March 1795, the volcano did explode; an unnatural rebellion broke out; and by the subsequent assassination, in cold blood, of a third part of the most respectable of the British-born subjects, including their unfortunate Governor, soon reduced them in number and strength below that of the adopted French subjects. Thus ensued an insurrection which a timely reinforcement of 200 men might have prevented, occasioning a loss in human life beyond the limits of ordinary calculation. Nor was the lot of the British planters who survived more happy than that of those who perished; their dwellings, and most valuable sugar-works and buildings of every description, burnt to the ground, and a great proportion of their slaves destroyed, and the residue, as to a great part, weak and enfeebled by the long want of wholesome food, and others of them, inured to bloodshed, were become dangerous; their stock of horses, cattle, and mules exterminated; their provision-grounds laid waste. Deprived of a home, of credit, or of the means to support themselves, the opulent planters of the 2nd March 1795, stood in the month of August 1796 amidst the desolation which surrounded them, overwhelmed by misfortune and calamity, without any other hope than what, in point of fact, has hitherto turned out delusive, the justice and commiseration of the mother country.

The amount of the loss sustained by the planters, (and by the planters exclusively of Grenada, for not a single merchant in Great Britain connected with the colony ultimately suffered), amounted, according to an inventory and appraisement made upon the several oaths of men of the most unimpeachable integrity, and well able to form such, to the enormous sum of 2,800,000/.

With such a case as we have stated to your Excellency, on undoubted evidence, and which will be found on examination to correspond with the report of the Grenada Committee of the House of Commons of June 1801, we beg leave explicitly

placely to state, and with all due deference, we do insist, on behalf of all British-born subjects who suffered by the insurrection, that are still living, and on behalf of the heirs and representatives of such of them as perished in it, and of such of them as are since dead, that they had, and still have, an undoubted right to a full compensation from their mother country for the loss of their properties, at least, if not for their lives sacrificed to her interest, arising from the non-performance of the covenant entered into with us by her Government. But 25 years have now elapsed, and their just applications to Government for such, since, have availed them no more than those to their commander-in-chief of the army did for the re-inforcements they were entitled to before the insurrection. A bill indeed was passed, and an issue of exchequer bills made in May 1795, intituled "For Relief of the Grenada Planters and Merchants connected with that Island and St. Vincents." But to the latter only, the merchants, it was a boon; to the former it was the reverse; it was calculated to save the merchant; to save merchants who must thus have become bankrupts if no such insurrection had ever happened; but more completely to subjugate to them the planters. The merchant, supported by his numerous creditors and connections in Great Britain, only could command the personal security there the act required, and to them it was granted; and in respect to a few individuals, to a most enormous amount; but the ruined planter was stripped of his counter-security by the same hand that held out this impotent relief. If any benefit had been meant to him, even by way of loan, Government was well aware his estate, in the plight it stood, was the only security he could give, and none other should have been exacted of him.

The estates of course became much more deeply encumbered than they had previously been, and fell very generally into the hands of the mortgagees, merchants in England; many of the owners perished, or with their families and connections, struggled through scenes of poverty and distress almost unparalleled, whilst comparatively few have overcome the difficulties they had to contend with, or have seen their properties again re-established in their former flourishing condition.

This statement we request your Excellency to submit on our behalf to the consideration of His Majesty's Government, as our case, separated and distinct from that of any of our sister colonies. Independent however thereof, and in common with them, and in particular with those of our immediate neighbours, Tobago, Dominica, and St. Vincents, we beg leave to take the opportunity of calling the attention of His Majesty's ministers to the consideration of a system, by which, of late years, we have suffered, and are daily suffering, the most unjust and grievous injuries; of those we briefly select the following:

Our lands, which a few years ago were of great value, and for which, in many islands, high prices were paid at public sales, to commissioners acting under the authority of Government, have, as to a great part of them, already become, and the rest are daily becoming, useless, abandoned, and unsaleable at any prices, owing to the abolition of the slave-trade. We presume not here to question the high and dignified policy which dictated that important measure, to which we have submitted, as became dutiful subjects; but we trust it may at least be permitted us to observe, that the humanity of the abolitionists has been costless to them, and has been exercised, in a great measure, at the expense of those who were induced to invest their fortunes in West India soil, under an implied guarantee of the means of cultivation, which it has been deemed expedient and consistent with national reputation to revoke and cancel.

We further beg leave to impress upon His Majesty's ministers, through your Excellency, this important fact, that the same quantum of physical force which was an adequate protection to these colonies formerly, is by no means so in their present state. The principal protection of the white population formerly consisted less in the garrison than in the laws of the colonies, expressly calculated and enacted for the government of the slaves by their own Legislatures, who only could possess the local knowledge necessary to enable them to enact such laws as should best tend to connect the relation of master and slave, so long as that relation is to exist here with the preservation of both. To that source of protection we had formerly also that of an impression, right or wrong, true or false, an impression that generally contributed to the welfare and safety of both, an impression of superiority in intellectual and personal endowment in the master, riveted on the minds of the slaves. But in proportion to the relaxation of our slave code, and the dissolution of that impression by the insidious means resorted to by our professed and concealed enemies,

enemies, with unwearied industry, whose unvarnished object has long been, whose undisguised object continues to be, to raise the character of the slave up on the degradation of that of his master. We repeat, in proportion to the progress and the success of this system, the garrisons of these islands ought to be augmented, if they are still estimated as of any national value; and unless it is intended to sacrifice them at the shrine of fanatical sentiment.

Exclusive of what we have thus ventured respectfully to urge in relation to the *particular misfortunes sustained by Grenada*, we cannot refrain from submitting to the attention of your Excellency a great and growing evil, which we seriously apprehend will ultimately be destructive of our best interests, and be the ruin of the West India colonies in general. We here allude to the advantages possessed by, and the favour shown to, our competitors in the East Indies. India buys wherever she can buy cheapest; sells wherever she can sell dearest; and the flags of all nations enter her ports. Labour may be obtained there at a rate almost nominal. Instead of receiving British manufactures only in exchange for her produce, she not only manufactures for her own use, but for competition with Great Britain in every part of the globe. The mother country, while she rigidly enforces the colonial system against the colonies, relaxes it in her own favour; and while the bounties on the exportation of West India refined sugar are diminished by Act of Parliament, the same authority admits East India sugar into British home consumption at very reduced duties. Those who do not submit to colonial restrictions can have no claim to colonial privileges, and ought not to be permitted to interfere so alarmingly with our prosperity, and endanger our very existence. Our admission to an equality of commercial justice in this point of view ought at all events to precede a demand of the nature we now feel ourselves compelled to resist, and which, from the peculiar moment in which it is made, has more the appearance of an appeal to our fears than a resort to our patriotism, or our liberality.

House of Assembly,
12th April, 1817.

(Signed) *Geo. Munro*, Speaker.

George Hyde, Acting Clerk Assembly.

N^o 12.—Copy of Letter from Earl Bathurst to the Governor of Dominica, dated 1st August, 1816.

Sir,

Downing Street, 1st August, 1816.

N^o 12.
Letter from Earl Bathurst to the Governor of Dominica, 1 Aug. 1816.

YOU are aware that Dominica is the only one of His Majesty's possessions in the West Indies, on behalf of which a sum is annually voted by Parliament for the support of the Chief Justice. On referring to the estimate of 1789, the year in which this vote first took place, it appears to have been acceded to by parliament as a temporary measure, and the wording of the estimate that year most strongly implied a pledge on the part of the Legislature of Dominica to provide, at an early period, in the same manner as the other West India islands have always done, for the support of their own Judge.

It appears to His Majesty's government that the period has now certainly arrived when the colony should be required to redeem that pledge; and I am therefore to signify to you the commands of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent to bring the subject at an early period under the consideration of the Legislature, and to urge upon them most strongly the necessity of making provision for the Chief Justice in the colony, correspondent to that which His Majesty's government feel themselves compelled, in the present circumstances of the country, to decline again submitting to Parliament.

To Governor Maxwell,
Dominica.

I have, &c. (Signed)

BATHURST.

No. 13.—Copy of a Letter from Governor Maxwell to Earl Bathurst, dated Dominica, the 30th October 1816:—(Three Inclosures.)

My Lord,

Government House, Dominica, 30th Oct. 1816.

N^o 13.
Letter from Governor Maxwell to Earl Bathurst, 30 Oct. 1816.

IN compliance with your letter of the 31st August and 1st July last, I communicated to the Legislature of this island that His Royal Highness the Prince Regent expected them to provide for such a proportion of troops, not of colour, as they deemed

deemed necessary for the maintenance of the tranquillity of the colony, and to make an allowance to the Chief Justice equal to that which His Majesty's Government found necessary to withdraw under the present circumstances of the country. I have now the honour to enclose copies of my messages to the Board of Council and House of Assembly, and their addresses in reply.

I have to lament the violent tone which the House of Assembly have assumed on this occasion, whose mistaken zeal in the cause of their constituents may be detrimental to their best interests, especially as from the depressed state of the colony they had an opportunity, by a fair and candid recital of their difficulties and embarrassments, arising from repeated losses, and the low prices obtained for their produce, to have shown the utter impossibility of the colony to meet the desire of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent to provide for the subsistence of the troops, or, for the present, to raise the salary of the Chief Justice, without much inconvenience, under the grievous load of debt with which this small and impoverished colony is encumbered, owing to the vast expense it was obliged to incur in the suppression of the runaway slaves in 1814, and by erecting a court-house last year, in addition to the ordinary expenses of the Civil Government; and such is the state of the public treasury, that the civil officers who are paid by the colony are eight months in arrear, and the public creditors of last year have only been paid by the colonial treasurer's acceptances to be received in payment of taxes next year, which, in consequence of the recent devastation by the hurricane, cannot be augmented, if indeed they can be kept up, at the present high rate; therefore, my Lord, I can venture to assure His Majesty's Government of the incapacity of the colony to raise the necessary revenue to furnish the required subsistence for the troops, or any other charge, until by some prosperous years of culture and commerce the colonists shall be enabled to extricate themselves from the overwhelming embarrassments under which they are now almost sinking.

I have been instructed by the Council, that the Legislature transmitted through my predecessor, Major-General Ainslie, a representation and statement of the loss of property occasioned by the destructive hurricane in 1813, agreeable to the desire expressed in your Lordship's letter of the 28th September 1813, and in consequence of the kind assurances of the exertions of His Majesty's Government in their favour, they look with confidence to the bounty of the Imperial Parliament to afford some pecuniary relief in compensation for their great losses, which will enable them to build a Church and Government House, neither of which, without such aid, will be in their power for many years to rebuild. I take leave to request your Lordship to take this into consideration, and to use your influence to obtain the expected relief.

I have, &c. (Signed)

Cha. W. Maxwell, Governor.

The Earl Bathurst.

(Enclosure 1.)

His Excellency Governor Maxwell, to the Honourable the President and Council.

I HAVE the honour to communicate to your honourable Board, that by a letter from the right honourable the Earl Bathurst, dated the 31st July, I have received His Royal Highness the Prince Regent's commands to call the attention of the Legislature of this colony to provide for the subsistence of such a proportion of British troops, not of colour, as they may deem adequate for the maintenance of tranquillity in the colony.

Enclosure 1,
in Governor Maxwell's
30 Oct. 1816.

I have the honour to lay before your honourable Board a copy of my message to the honourable House of Assembly on this important subject, and I rely on your honourable Board to give your concurrence to the measures which may be proposed by the House of Representatives of this Island, to fulfil the expectation of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

(Signed) Cha. W. Maxwell, Governor.

Government House, Dominica,

24th September 1816.

Reply of the Council to the foregoing Message.

THE Board have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's message of yesterday's date, with the communication from Earl Bathurst, calling

the attention of the Legislature to provide for the subsistence of a proportion of British troops, not of colour, and will give due consideration to any measures which may be proposed by the House of Assembly on the subject.

(Signed) *A. Gloster*, President.

(Enclosure 2.)

His Excellency Governor Maxwell, to the Honourable the Speaker and House of Assembly.

Enclosure 2,
in Governor Max-
well's, 30 Oct. 1816.

BY a letter I have received from the Right honourable the Earl Bathurst, dated the 31st July, I am commanded by His Royal Highness the Prince Regent to call your immediate attention to the very extraordinary and accumulated burthen which Great Britain has to endure from the vast unavoidable expense incurred during the last two wars, for the maintenance of the independence and honour of the country; and I am required to state to your honourable house, that His Royal Highness is confident that your loyalty, and the strong sense of the protection which the mother country has uniformly afforded to this island, will induce you to meet His Royal expectation to provide for the subsistence of such a proportion of troops (not of colour) as you may deem adequate to the maintenance of tranquillity in the colony. I am directed to inform you, that his Royal Highness considers it His imperious duty to require from the colonies the support of a portion of their own expenses, from the necessity which His Royal Highness feels himself under of reducing, by every possible means, the expenditure of the country; and although arrangements have been made for providing, during the present year, for the garrisons contained in the colonies, yet that it will in future years be impossible to maintain an equal force unless some part of the charge be defrayed by the colonies themselves.

(Signed) *Chas. W. Maxwell*, Governor.

Government House, Dominica,
24 September 1816.

Second Message.

His Excellency Governor Maxwell, to the Honourable the Speaker and House of Assembly.

THE Governor transmits a copy of a letter from the Right honourable the Earl Bathurst, dated 1st April 1816, and in compliance with His Royal Highness the Prince Regent's commands he requests the honourable House of Assembly to take into consideration the necessity of making a provision to the Chief Justice of the colony, correspondent to that which His Majesty's Government find it expedient to withdraw under the present circumstances of the country. The Governor cannot too strongly impress upon the honourable House the equity of this measure, to enable the Chief Justice to continue to support his respectability and independence in the execution of the very important duties of his high office.

(Signed) *Chas. W. Maxwell*, Governor.

Government House, Dominica,
24 September 1816.

Message from the House of Assembly in reply to his Excellency Governor Maxwell.

THE House beg leave to send to your Excellency the report of the committee appointed to take into consideration your Excellency's message of the 24th ultimo, which report has been adopted by this House.

The House regret that the dejected and distressed state of this unfortunate island places it out of the power of the representatives of the inhabitants of this colony to comply with the wishes of Earl Bathurst, by providing for the Chief Justice's home salary, and the subsistence of the garrison necessary for the protection of this colony.

(Signed) *Wm. Anderson*, Speaker.

House of Assembly,
Dominica, 8th October, 1816.

(Enclosure 3.)

Dominica.

THE Committee appointed by the honourable House of Assembly to take into consideration the communication made by his Excellency Governor Maxwell, of Tuesday the 24th ultimo, of certain letters from Earl Bathurst, His Majesty's secretary of state for the Colonial Department, and to make a report thereon to the House; do hereby report, that they have taken the subject into their most serious consideration, and have, in addition to such report, framed the subjoined resolution, which they recommend to the adoption of the House.

Enclosure 3,
in Governor Max-
well's of 30th Oc-
tober 1816.

Your committee contemplate with concern the object of the two letters of his Lordship, which plainly evince a system on the part of the parent State, founded on principles not only highly inimical to the interest of the colony, but apparently levelled at its vital existence, as their object is evidently the imposition of burthens which it is absolutely impossible that it can support.

Your committee consider the two requisitions to be of a nature so similar in their principle as to render it unnecessary to take them up on separate grounds, and this principle is simply to lay on this colony burthens, which neither justice, reason, or even sound policy, can warrant. And it is with extreme pain that your committee feels itself compelled to declare its decided conviction, that could the present policy of Great Britain towards these colonies have been foreseen half a century ago, the Windward Islands would still have remained in their original woods—not an acre would have been sold by His Majesty's commissioners—not a tree felled—nor a single guinea of British capital expended upon them.

Now, either one or both of these following conclusions are deducible from the requisition of the present Administration: That the promises held out by His Majesty's ministers at the time that the advantages blazoned out to adventurers were so temptingly exhibited, were delusive, or that the present system is unjust.

Your committee beg leave to repeat to the House, that the two letters of the right honourable secretary, Earl Bathurst, having precisely the same object, viz. the imposition of a most grievous and insupportable burthen on the colony, might without impropriety be commented upon together, and answered by the declaration, that the colony is absolutely unable to bear the burthen proposed. Your committee will, however, take them up separately, and commence with that which relates to the salary of the Chief Justice.

With respect to the assertion that Dominica is the only one of His Majesty's West India possessions, on behalf of which a sum is annually voted by Parliament for the support of the Chief Justice. Your committee conceive it has escaped the recollection of the noble secretary that a home salary is paid to that high law officer in the Bahamas. However, an application being made for a colonial salary, it was granted, and the preamble of the Act expressly declared the salary was given in addition to the home salary; and not even the most distant hint was held out by the Secretary of State of that day that the home salary of the Chief Justice of this colony was ever intended to be withdrawn. The colonial salary granted as aforesaid to the Chief Judge of that day has, not long since, been augmented in favour of our present Chief Judge, his honor Archibald Gloster, till it now exceeds the original grant by fifty per cent. This augmentation was cheerfully granted by the Legislature, from its due appreciation of the virtues of the private gentleman, and of the firmness, and impartiality and integrity, of the public officer, as exhibited in the character and conduct of our present Chief Judge; and your committee take this opportunity of making it known, that the Judge is so well convinced of the utter inability of the colony to bear even its present burthens, after the calamity which has so recently fallen upon us, that he very honourably declared that he would rather submit to the privation of his home salary altogether than be the cause of imposing further burthens upon an already exhausted colony.

Your committee are at a loss to discover upon what ground the noble secretary has founded his assertion, "That the period has now certainly arrived when the colony should be required to redeem that pledge." They deny that any such pledge was ever given. And even had such pledge been given in more prosperous times, the present is not the period at which such a pledge can be redeemed. Had the noble secretary called to his recollection the real condition of this colony, he would clearly see and acknowledge that the frequent visitations of Providence, joined to other misfortunes, have brought calamity to its acmè.

With respect to the proposed additional burthen of the payment of the troops,
your

your committee conceive this requisition to be altogether unreasonable and unjust, and are at a loss how, seriously, to enter upon its exposure.

Your committee conceive they can trace this proposal to its true source, viz. the system prevailing in the neighbouring islands of Martinique and Guadaloupe, on which the restored French king has thrown the burthens of their own support and defence.

But it is a well known fact that these colonies pay only a trifling duty into the island treasury, and that all duties there raised are devoted to the support of the colonies where they are levied. The French colonies enjoy a free trade with the United States of America, upon the principle of a free barter of produce for produce; by which barter all their wants are abundantly supplied at their own doors; all their produce sells well; and the prosperity, plenty, and happiness, enjoyed by them, forms a striking contrast with the misery, wretchedness, and famine, so conspicuous in the British West India colonies. In the British West India colonies, after the fatal experience of thirty-three years, during which many thousands of the unhappy negroes have perished with hunger, our Rulers at home still persist in referring us for supply to the icy rocks of Canada and Nova Scotia; though they know—they must know—that a reference to the lunar regions for supply would not be more cruel or more insulting. Now, surely, if our contributions to the British revenue are worth receiving, our lives and properties are worthy of protection; and your committee cannot refrain from pronouncing it a weak policy to seek to depress and ruin colonies from whence such a source of revenue and profit is derived, as the fruits of the labour of the planter are now almost wholly absorbed by the imposts of the revenue. Your committee cannot but conceive with regret, that His Majesty's ministers should be so entirely unacquainted with the real state of this unfortunate colony as to suppose it to be possible for it to bear the burdens of even a tenth part of the expense which the right honourable Secretary's proposal recommends. This observation applies to all times and seasons; but at the present unfortunate period, your honourable House is fully aware, that even our present taxes are paid, in all cases, with great inconvenience, and in very many cases are felt most grievously oppressive: that any augmentation of these taxes is totally impracticable; and that the members of this house would be unworthy of the seats which they fill, were they to call upon their impoverished, and in many cases, ruined constituents, for further contributions at a crisis like the present, when the thoughts of every man are employed in devising means to prevent, if possible, our negroes perishing with hunger during the twelve months of famine which inevitably await us, after the late awful visitation of Providence, in the tremendous hurricane of the 16th of the last month.

Your committee need not inform your Honourable House that the prosperity or poverty of the island of Dominica depends upon the following contingencies; viz. the non-visitation of hurricanes, and upon the quantity of the necessaries, comforts and conveniences of life, for which our colonial produce, sugars, molasses, rum and coffee are bartered, and particularly coffee, as that article is the main staple of this island. The non-visitations of hurricanes secures to us abundance of food of the bread kind, which in this island is fortunately produced upon our own lands; and our power of acquiring other things, not so grown or produced, depends upon the favourable or unfavourable manner in which our produce can be bartered.

Your committee need not inform the House how long and how fatally these contingencies have turned against us, and that they are at present more fatally against us than ever.

These melancholy truths are deeply impressed upon every mind; but as the honourable secretary, Lord Bathurst, appears to be entirely unacquainted with the real state of this colony, it may not be improper in your committee to enumerate the series of distresses by which it has been visited, which will show the extent of our misfortunes, and what ought to be their sense of the *protection* which the mother country has uniformly afforded this ill-fated country. In the month of September 1778 this colony was attacked by the Marquis de Bouille, with an army of five thousand men, embarked on board a squadron of small sloops and schooners. Our whole force amounted, independent of militia, to forty-two regulars of the 70th regiment, and a few artillery-men, though Admiral Barrington was lying in Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes, with four sail of the line and several frigates, and war had been some time declared; and it is a fact, well remembered by many of the inhabitants, that the Marquis declared, that had he met a single frigate in the Road of Roseau he would not have attempted the descent.

On the 4th June 1795, this colony was invaded by an expedition formed by Victor Hugues, (whose revolutionary anathemas and predatory hordes committed about that time such devastation and massacre in the islands of Grenada, St. Vincent and St. Lucie) commanded by the republican leaders Rameau and Caneaux. The descent was made to windward; and proclamations were posted and distributed, denouncing death upon any of the French inhabitants, even the naturalized and adopted (or descendants of naturalized and adopted) subjects, who should be found in arms; this threat induced almost the whole population of the parish of St. Peter to march off to join the invaders, for which many of those misguided people lost their lives, so justly forfeited for their treachery and rebellion. And it is perfect in the memory of your committee that this formidable invasion and rebellion was almost wholly defeated by the exertions of the militia, there being then in the garrison only a small number of the 15th and 60th regiments, with a few of the Irish artillery. And another fact, equally in the recollection of your committee is, that the number of prisoners taken on both these memorable occasions was such, that had their bravery been equal to their numbers they might have coped with their conductors.

The next subject of alarm, and probably the most serious that ever menaced this colony, was the mutiny and insurrection of the 8th West India regiment, which in the month of April 1802 rose in rebellion, and massacred nearly the whole of the officers in the garrison of Prince Ruperts; and here the activity and zeal of our militia was as conspicuous as on former occasions, and chiefly contributed to the reduction of the insurgents, and to avert the awful consequences which must have resulted, had not the evil been so promptly and spiritedly suppressed. On the 22nd of February 1805 this colony was attacked by a French fleet and army; as we had only a small body of men to oppose to an overwhelming host, and a short resistance could only be made, though every thing was done which brave men could do, during the contest the town of Roseau caught fire, and more than two thirds of it were reduced to ashes, the inhabitants sacrificing their property rather than abandon their posts to extinguish the flames. This calamity was greatly aggravated by the arrival of our outward-bound convoy only a few days before, the cargoes of which were barely landed, and the town in consequence full of goods.

On the 9th of September 1806, the island was visited by a most tremendous hurricane, the ravages of which were far beyond all estimation, and but too many of the inhabitants have not yet recovered from the shock of that fatal day. During the years 1807, 1808 and 1809, the island was proceeding, though by very slow degrees, to recover itself; but about the year 1810 the French continental system had so far succeeded as to reduce the value of our main staple, coffee, to a very low rate, and this state of things continued until the year 1814, during a considerable part of which time coffee was no longer even an object of barter. On the 23rd of July 1813, this devoted colony was visited by a second hurricane not less tremendous than the first, and on the 25th of August 1813 by a third; the unparalleled washes and inundations of which occasioned even more destruction, if possible, than the wind.

The year 1814 passed without an absolute hurricane, but not without a violent storm sufficient to ravage our provisions, on the 23rd day of July that year. The year 1815 had no absolute hurricane, but a violent storm on the 26th of August, which destroyed the provision-grounds throughout the country, and under the restrictions imposed on us from Great Britain, added to the impoverishment under which the island was already suffering.

In the present year, after two violent storms, one on the 3rd and the other on the 10th of September, this island was visited by a fourth hurricane, the ravages of which, as they are still so recent, have not yet been ascertained; but they appear in many quarters of the island to have been most ruinous.

Thus there exists almost an impossibility of paying in the next year even the ordinary taxes, unless our negroes be left to their fate; and as to the proposal of new burthens after the above mournful but imperfect history of our sufferings, and of our utter inability to bear any further burthens, no minister acquainted with those sufferings could seriously propose them.

Resolved, therefore, that

Under these multiplied and continued sufferings, your committee report, that it is utterly impossible to make any appropriation in this island for the subsistence of troops, or provide for the home salary hitherto allowed by Government to the Chief Justice; as the prodigious means requisite to meet such a provision could not be attained by any mode of taxation or contribution that would not inflict

immediate and complete ruin on the dejected and distressed inhabitants of Dominica.

Signed, { *A. B. Richardson,*
John Lowndes,
Thos. H. Ferguson, } Members of the Council.

Roseau, Dominica, 4th October 1816.

(A true Copy,)

J. M. Williams, Gov' Sec^y.

No. 14.—Copy of a Letter from Earl Bathurst to Governor Maxwell, dated 17th Jan. 1817.

Sir,

Downing-street, 17th Jan. 1817.

N^o 14.
Letter from Earl Bathurst to Governor Maxwell, 17 January 1817.

I HAVE received and laid before the Prince Regent your despatch of the 30th October last, communicating copies of your messages to the Board of Council, and House of Assembly of Dominica, in consequence of my letters of the 31st of July, and 1st of August, together with copies of their addresses in reply.

Although His Royal Highness cannot but consider the language used by the Committee of Assembly as extremely unbecoming, yet, under the circumstances of the severe visitation to which Dominica has recently been exposed, His Royal Highness is pleased to signify His commands that you defer submitting to the Legislature the proposals which you were directed to make for the maintenance of the troops, and for making provision for the Chief Justice.

I have the honour to be, (Signed)

Governor Maxwell,
&c. &c. &c.

BATHURST.

No. 15.—Copy of a Letter from President Paul to Earl Bathurst, dated St. Vincent, 2d October 1816:—(Two Enclosures.)

My Lord,

Government House, St. Vincent, 2d Oct. 1816.

N^o 15.
Letter from President Paul to Earl Bathurst, 2 October 1816.

I HAD the honour of receiving your Lordship's letter of the 31st July last, signifying His Royal Highness the Prince Regent's commands that I would take the earliest opportunity of ascertaining the disposition of the Legislature of this island, with respect to providing for the subsistence of such a proportion of British troops, not of colour, as they may deem adequate for the maintenance of tranquillity in the colony; and that it will in future years be impossible to maintain an equal force, unless some part of the charge is defrayed by the colonies themselves.

The instructions contained in your Lordship's letter were communicated yesterday to the Legislature, copies of their answers to which I have the honour to enclose to your Lordship.

I have, &c. (Signed) *Rob. Paul.*

Earl Bathurst.

(Enclosure 1.)

Sir,

Council-Chamber, St. Vincent, 1st October, 1816.

Enclosure 1,
in President Paul's,
2 Oct. 1816.

I HAD the honour of laying before the Board your Honour's letter, enclosing the despatch of the right honourable Lord Bathurst, on the subject of bearing a proportion of the charge for subsisting a suitable garrison of white troops for this island. This Board will take the same into the most serious consideration.

In the mean time the Board wish to be informed by your honour of the probable amount of the expense necessary for the subsistence of a garrison of from five hundred to one thousand men.

I have, &c. (Signed)

To his Honour, Robert Paul,
President.

Robert Gordon, President.

(Inclosure 2.)

Sir,

House of Assembly, 1st October, 1816.

Enclosure 2,
in President Paul's,
2 Oct. 1816.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, enclosing a despatch from my Lord Bathurst of the 31st of July last, respecting the maintenance of a certain proportion of the troops in this colony; and the house

instructs

instructs me to say, that the subject is one of such vast importance, and requires such serious consideration, that they beg leave to defer to the quarterly meeting in December a more particular answer to the application of His Majesty's ministers.

I have, &c. (Signed)

His Honour, Mr. President Paul,
Commanding &c. &c. &c.

George Munro, Speaker.

N^o 16.—Copy of a Letter from Earl Bathurst, to Major-Gen. Murray,
dated the 31st July, 1816.

Downing Street, 31st July, 1816.

N^o 16.

Letter from Earl
Bathurst to M. G.
Murray, 31 July
1816.

Sir,
UNDER the pressure of financial difficulty it becomes my duty to call your attention to the necessity of bringing the resources of the colony under your Government in aid of the additional expenditure, which the possession of it, and the consequent charge of its protection, has brought upon this country. From your recent despatches I have every reason to believe that the inhabitants of the colony view with considerable satisfaction their permanent union with Great Britain; and I have, from experience of the past conduct of the Court of Policy, every ground to be assured that they are equally attached to His Majesty's Government, and ready to seize every opportunity of promoting, as far as in them lies, the interests of the empire. I have therefore no doubt but they will readily concur in the proposition, which I am commanded to make to them, in common with all the other British West India colonies, of taking upon themselves the maintenance of the force which they may consider requisite for the protection and security of the colony.

You will lose no time in bringing this subject under the consideration of the Court of Policy, and in so doing you will not fail to remark to them, that the island of Jamaica, one of the oldest British possessions, and the only one which is in point of population at all comparable with Demerary, has for many years exonerated the mother country from the charge of maintaining its garrison; and you may also observe, that the colony has felt the effect of this liberality, by permanently securing for the defence of Jamaica a force far more considerable than the unassisted means of Great Britain could have defrayed. I have only further to observe, that without some such pecuniary assistance on the part of the several West India colonies as that which I am commanded to recommend, it will be altogether out of the power of His Majesty's Government to avoid a still further reduction of the force assigned for the defence of the West Indies. And although they feel that such a reduction cannot take place without some inconvenience, yet the necessities of the country, at the close of a long war, so imperiously require relief, that, if not afforded from the resources of the colonies themselves, it must at any rate be secured by the reduction of the charge to be incurred for its defence.

I have, &c.

BATHURST.

To Major-General Murray,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 17.—Copy of a Letter from Major-General Murray to the Earl Bathurst,
dated Demerary, 1st October 1816.—(One Enclosure.)

Demerary, 1st Oct. 1816.

N^o 17.

Letter from M. G.
Murray to the Earl
Bathurst, 1 October
1816.

My Lord,

I LOST no time in bringing under the consideration of the Court of Policy the project communicated in your Lordship's despatch of the 31st July last, and have now the honour to transmit a minute of the court, containing the result of their first deliberation on the subject. I was anxious to bring the court at once to a pledge of meeting the expectation of His Majesty's Government. As the surprize with which the communication was received appeared strongly mixed with alarm at the consequent increase of the colonial taxes, but found it would not have been prudent to press them beyond the expression of their good inclination. I have, however, great confidence in the liberal loyalty of the Court of Policy; but it seems disinclined to come to a determination upon a question of such magnitude without the concurrence of the Financial Representatives to whom the late Major-General Carmichael thought fit to give a deliberative voice in matters of finance, combined with the Court of Policy at their first annual meeting; and I understand that the latter body mean to memorial me to admit the combination upon the present question. Opposition on my part, however just, may obstruct the great object in view; and if I can ascertain

tain that the sentiments of the financiers are not hostile to it, as I believe it will give much general satisfaction to the colonists, I feel disposed to permit this union at their special request, if made. I shall however proceed deliberately, adopting that line of conduct which I conceive best calculated to give effect to your Lordship's expectations.

I have, &c. (Signed)

John Murray.

To the Earl Bathurst,

&c. &c. &c.

(Enclosure.)

Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of Demerary and Essequibo, at an Extraordinary Assembly held by Order of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, at the King's House, George Town, Demerary.

After prayers :

Monday the 30th September, 1816.

HIS Excellency opened the court by stating that he had convened the present meeting to communicate the substance of a despatch with which he had been honoured by Earl Bathurst, who under the pressure of financial difficulty which the late arduous contests had entailed on Great Britain, had instructed him to bring under their consideration the absolute necessity of relieving the mother country from the maintenance of the troops requisite for the satisfactory protection of the colony. Jamaica had long since set the example ; and His Majesty's Government now found themselves compelled to recommend it to be followed by all the British West India colonies, as the only means of securing a continuance of their present military establishment. His Lordship, from the rank which the colony holds in point of consequence, as well as from the loyalty of the inhabitants, and experienced liberality of this court, expresses an expectation which his Excellency trusted would this day be realized, by our adopting that system, to which he also begged to add the expression of his own proud feeling in anticipating the determination of the court.

His Excellency stated that he has no reason to doubt that the saving which a rigid economy had enabled him to establish in the expenditure from the King's chest would be disposable to the same object ; and concluded by announcing his wish of being enabled to transmit the resolution of the court by the mail-boat now here, and which he had detained for that special purpose.

His Excellency then read the letter addressed to him by Lord Bathurst, the contents of which he had already communicated to the court in consequence of a request made by one of the members to that effect.

The letter having been read, the court proceeded to deliberate on the communication made, and after some consideration the honourable member, Mr. Heliger, rose to move that an address, in reply to his Excellency's communication, be presented to him, expressive of the court's desire, at such a crisis of general distress felt throughout the British empire, to adopt such a measure as the nature of the communication requires ; and that the same would receive every attention of the members during the recess, so as to enable them to act thereon as the means and situation of the colony will permit ; which motion having been seconded by the honourable James Johnstone, was agreed to, and the following resolution unanimously passed :

The court, in returning thanks to his Excellency for the foregoing communication, are so much struck with the importance of the object therein contained, that they reserve their full opinion until after a mature and serious deliberation ; but have no hesitation in requesting his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to communicate immediately to His Majesty's ministers their sincere participation in the feelings excited by the unprecedented financial embarrassment of the mother country, and their cheerful and ready acquiescence in applying such means as the resources of the colony may place at their disposal, for the purpose recommended by His Majesty's ministers ; and in order to enable them to form some opinion of the probable assistance that may be required, they request his Excellency will be pleased to solicit information from His Majesty's Government as to the extent to which the existing circumstances may compel a reduction in the garrison of this Colony.

Ordered, That the secretary be directed to hand to his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor an extract of the foregoing minutes as soon as the same can be prepared.

(A true extract.)

Chas. Wilday, Clk. C. Pol.

Enclosure,
in M. G. Murray's,
1 Oct. 1816.

Enclosure
in M. G. Murray's
1 Oct. 1816.

No. 18.—Copy of a Letter from Major-Gen. Murray to Earl Bathurst, dated Demerary, 9th March, 1817:—(One Enclosure.)

My Lord,

Demerary, 9th March, 1817.

I HAVE the honour to transmit an extract of the minutes of the Court of Policy on the question of maintaining their garrisons.

I found that I could not have brought the Court to a determination upon that subject at the October session, without a certainty of failing altogether in my endeavours to carry your Lordship's commands into effect. I regret that my success has been so bounded; yet when I reflect on the strong opposition to the measure manifested throughout the colony soon after its first promulgation, I cannot but consider the admission of the principle as a great point gained, although the Court has only consented to provision and quarter 200 men for the service of out-posts; and I beg your Lordship will be assured that no attention shall be wanting on my part to cherish this disposition.

The number of troops necessary for the safety of this united colony must of course vary with their quality. The slaves are in every respect so well used, and appear so contented, that in my opinion 800 effective British soldiers of a good description, with a detachment of forty artillery-men, are fully adequate to its protection in time of peace.

To the Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c. (Signed) *John Murray.*

(Enclosure.)

Extract from the Minutes of the proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the colony of Demerary and Essequibo, and dependent Districts, at its ordinary Assembly, held at the Court House, George Town, Demerary, the 29th of January, 1817.

After prayers.

The Minutes of Monday's proceedings were resumed, confirmed, and signed.

His Excellency then moved the order of the day for taking into consideration the communication, made by him at an extraordinary meeting in August last, of Lord Bathurst's letter relative to the maintenance of the troops necessary for the defence and protection of the colony. It was necessary for him to press the discussion of this subject now, as it was that period of the year when the financial representatives were to meet the court for the purpose of deliberating on the means of raising the supplies for the public service. He should therefore propose the court would proceed to decide on the measure at once, so that he might be able to transmit to His Majesty's Government the result of the communication he has had the honour to make. And he must again repeat his opinion on this subject, that it was a just and reasonable demand on the part of the mother country under her present financial embarrassment.

The court, after considerable discussion on the question, divided, when it appeared the general question was negatived; but a majority in favour of a qualified allowance, to be made under certain specific conditions, for maintaining of a proportion of the troops necessary for the protection of the colony.

His Excellency then proposed the colony should provide for one half of the troops; and the question being put was negatived.

The honourable member, Mr. Bean, then requested leave to read the paper he held in his hand, which contained a motion on the above subject.

The said paper being read, was of the following tenor:

The court, taking into its most serious consideration the communication made by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor on the part of His Majesty's ministers, which communication portrays in the strongest manner the present embarrassed state of the public finances, and calls on the colony to assist as far as their resources will permit, in relieving part of the burthens which the maintenance of a garrison sufficient for the protection of the colony imposes on the government, takes the earliest opportunity of expressing their sincere participation in the distresses which now press so severely on the mother country, at the same time regret that their means are not commensurate with their wishes for this purpose, the colony itself having felt no inconsiderable share of the pressure of the times.

N^o 18.

Letter from M. G. Murray to Earl Bathurst, Demerary, 9 March 1817.

Enclosure,

in M. G. Murray's
9 March 1817.

They beg leave at the same time respectfully to submit to the consideration of His Majesty's ministers the circumstance of this colony having paid, for a long series of years, a considerable poll-tax, at the disposal of His Majesty's Government, and which was originally instituted for the protection of the colony; and further to call to their recollection, that early in the revolutionary war this colony raised a regiment of eight hundred black troops, at an expense to themselves of not less than one hundred thousand pounds sterling.

Willing, however, to show their sincere participation in the distresses of the mother country, though at the same time necessarily guided by their knowledge of the heavy debts due by this colony for advances in Europe, which renders additional taxation unequally proportioned, as well as by the circumstance of colonial produce being much depreciated, they propose by a grant, to be discussed annually, and as the relative situation of the mother country and colony may vary, to provision and find sufficient quarters for two hundred white troops, to be stationed at such out-posts of the colony as may appear to his Excellency the Governor, (conjointly with the military commandant, if the appointments should be held by two persons) best calculated for the internal protection of the colony, which number of two hundred white troops so quartered will be considered as over and above the usual number which it is presumed His Majesty's Government will at all times keep in the garrison for the protection and sovereignty of His Majesty's flag.

His Honour, the first Fiscal, begged leave to second Mr. Bean's motion; and the question being put, the same was carried. His Excellency then requested the honourable member to be perfectly explicit on every point calculated to secure a good understanding between His Majesty's Government and the colony, both as respects the intention of the court towards meeting the wishes of His Majesty's Government, and whatever reciprocal return may be expected on the part of the court for the general security and benefit of the colony. The court in the mean time proposing to find the means of supporting and maintaining two hundred troops necessary for the out-posts, as agreed to in the honourable member's motion, for one year; and as it was deemed by the court impossible to add to the burthen of the present taxes on the public to any extent, it would be necessary to make such curtailments in the general expenditure, in those particular objects that would admit of reduction, without any inconvenience to the public service.

The court, therefore, from the above consideration, came to the following resolution:—

That provided Government will furnish two hundred white troops beyond the number usually maintained in the garrison for the protection of His Majesty's flag sovereignty of the colony, and that the said two hundred white troops shall be quartered in different out-posts, as may be judged best calculated for the internal protection of the colony, this court will provide fit and comfortable quarters, as well as provision the said troops, in the manner now done by His Majesty's Government, during the period of one year from the 1st of January last, and at the expiration of the present year will take the subject again into consideration, reserving to themselves the right at that time of altering, annulling, or increasing the said grant, as the relative situation of the mother country, and the colony may appear to them to require.

That his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor be requested to make arrangements for the issue of rations from His Majesty's stores, according to the usage of the army, for such troops as may be so quartered, for the amount of which they will provide at each successive quarterly session, according to the return sent in: That it be recommended to his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to put in use such barracks as have been already erected in the colony for similar purposes; and the court pledge themselves to pay the hire, or erect fit buildings for the accommodation of the troops that may be quartered in such situation, connected with this resolution, as are not already provided with such buildings.

Ordered, an extract of the above resolution to be handed over to his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.

Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of Demerary and Essequibo at an Extraordinary Meeting held at the King's House, George Town, Demerary, Friday 2d October, 1817.

After Prayers:

“THE court then resumed the consideration of the original motion of the honourable member, Mr. Bean; and the amendment thereon having again been

No. 19.—Copy of a Letter from the Earl Bathurst to Major-General Murray, dated Downing Street, 22d May, 1817.

Sir, Downing Street, 22 May, 1817.

I HAVE had the honour of submitting to the Prince Regent your despatch No. 18, enclosing the proceedings of the Court of Policy upon the question which you had submitted to them, as to the maintenance of their garrison at the expense of the colony.

N° 19.
Letter from the Earl Bathurst to M. G. Murray, 22 May 1817.

I am commanded to convey to you His Royal Highness's approbation of the mode in which you brought forward the proposition, and at the same time to desire that you would express to the court the sense which His Royal Highness entertains of their exertions to relieve the embarrassment under which the mother country is now labouring; and to assure them, that although the limited contribution which they have considered themselves under present circumstances at liberty to afford, will afford but a partial relief, yet His Royal Highness most graciously accepts this additional mark of their loyalty and attachment to His Majesty, and as an earnest of their disposition to contribute, as far as their means will admit, to supply the exigencies of the mother country.

I have the honour to be, &c. (Signed)

BATHURST.

Major-General Murray,
&c. &c. &c.

N° 20.—Extract of a letter from Major-Gen. Murray to the Earl Bathurst, K. G., dated Demarary, 4th November, 1818 :—(One Enclosure.)

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit an extract from the minutes of the Court of Policy of this colony, bearing date the 2d October 1818, which will, I trust, be satisfactory to your Lordship, as evincing a rising disposition on the part of the colonists to meet the wishes of His Majesty's Government, in assuming a considerable portion of the expense attending upon the necessary defence of the colony; and I trust, when it is considered that the settlement already defrays the entire charges of its civil establishment, these liberal sentiments will be duly appreciated, and met by correspondent ones on the part of His Majesty's Government, and the Legislature of the mother country.

N° 20.
Letter from M. G. Murray to the Earl Bathurst, 4 Nov. 1818.

The inhabitants consider that they are not satisfactorily protected; and indeed, at present, they have very just ground for such a feeling; all the inhabitants of the town being required, without distinction, to mount guard, like regular troops, for their own safeguard. They are of opinion, that the peculiar situation and circumstances of the colony require British soldiers of the very best description of marching regiments, and that the garrison should not be less than 800 men. In order to secure this, as your Lordship has stated the inability of the mother country to afford it, it may be agreed to pay and maintain 300 men for the service of out-posts, provided 500 men be paid and maintained by Government, or any excess of 500 which may not in the total number make the garrison above 800 men.

When it is considered that these colonies are far removed from, and to windward of, the West India Islands, to which military division they are attached; that they are situated within easy communication by land and by water with the Spanish insurgents on the Oronoque to the westward, and that on their eastern frontier, Surinam exhibits strong settlements of runaway negroes, now established in independence, and with whom the government of that colony is obliged to treat, it is evident that foreign-service men cannot be considered as prudently placed in garrison here, the inhabitants therefore pray for a corps that is not made up of such materials, and entreat your Lordship's interposition to obtain it.

(Enclosure.)

Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Honourable the Court of Policy of the Colony of Demerary and Essequibo, at an Extraordinary Meeting held at the King's House, George Town, Demerary, Friday 2d October, 1817.

After Prayers:

“ THE court then resumed the consideration of the original motion of the honourable member, Mr. Bean; and the amendment thereupon having again been
485.

Enclosure,
in M. G. Murray's
duly 4 Nov. 1818.

duly deliberated upon, the following statement, representation and proposition, addressed to Earl Bathurst, one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state, &c. was then read and agreed to, and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

"We the Lieutenant-Governor and members of the Court of Policy of the colony of Demerary and Essequibo in South America, in Council assembled, beg leave, in behalf of the inhabitants of these settlements, to request your Lordship to convey to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent the dutiful assurance of our loyalty to our Sovereign, our attachment to the British Government, and our personal affection for His Royal Highness, under whose wise and paternal administration we are proud to acknowledge the numerous blessings and benefits which have accrued to the inhabitants of this colony in particular, as well as with the rest of our fellow-subjects.

"As subjects of the British Crown, we who have the honour to address your Lordship, and a very large proportion of those we represent, being such by birth, naturally feel the deepest interest in whatever concerns the welfare of the British empire; and viewing with proportionate regret the financial embarrassments of His Majesty's Government, we declare our readiness to contribute, according to our limited means, towards the alleviation of the burthens of the mother country, by taking on the colony the charge of supporting a part of the garrison necessary for the preservation (even in time of peace) of these valuable productive settlements, as an extra force beyond that which would be deemed requisite for supporting the honour of His Majesty's flag in all parts of His dominions. To give the proposal, which we desire to be humbly submitted to His Royal Highness's most gracious consideration, a specific form, we most respectfully suggest that less than 500 men would not be sufficient for the last-mentioned purpose; and, provided His Majesty's Government would be pleased to allow that number (which it is most desirable should be composed of native British troops) for the general defence of the country on the usual footing, we should undertake the payment and maintenance of 300 men, or any less number, in addition to the said 500 men to be stationed at the out-posts, where they will be provided with the necessary quarters out of the provincial funds, always presuming that His Majesty's Ministers will allow a certain proportion of the necessary expenses to be borne by the King's chest, which was originally instituted as a provision for the charge of internal protection—any further number of troops, above 800 in the whole, to be at the charge of His Majesty's Government.

"We beg leave further most respectfully to observe, that this colony has not hitherto enjoyed the proportion of the force allotted by the peace establishment to the military command to which it is at present attached, either with respect to its population (equal to one fourth of all the windward and leeward islands, Jamaica excepted), its exports, its extent, or its peculiar local circumstances, of our conviction of which there is strong evidence in the necessity of our calling on a large proportion of our colonists to perform the duties of regular troops; and we trust that the general cheerfulness with which these burthensome duties have been performed will bear testimony to the loyalty and spirit which have actuated His Majesty's subjects in this part of His Majesty's dominions.

"Allow us further to suggest, my Lord, that as these colonies are declared not to belong to the West Indies, and as by recent Acts of Parliament we are debarred from privileges and advantages enjoyed by our fellow-subjects in that quarter, we trust it will not be deemed presumptuous in us to express our firm conviction that the safety of these countries would be greatly ensured by our separation from the West India military command, for which the strongest reasons can be given, arising from the peculiar circumstances of our local situation. In conclusion, we beg leave to tender your Lordship the expression of our personal respect and regard, and our hope that your Lordship will afford your patronage and powerful protection to a province, whose value and interest are not yet thoroughly known, and make just and favourable report of the sentiments of loyalty and attachment which fill the breasts of its inhabitants."

The court further resolved that his Excellency be requested to forward an extract of this minute to Earl Bathurst, with such observations as he may deem necessary, in explanation of the sentiments of this court, and to request his Lordship's favourable attention thereto.

"Ordered, that the secretary do hand to his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor an extract of the foregoing minute for the purpose therein mentioned."

(A true extract.) (signed)

Charles Wilday. Clk. C. Pol.

N^o 21.—Extract of a Letter from the Earl Bathurst, K. G. to Major-General Murray, dated Downing Street, 6th February, 1819.

I HAVE received and laid before the Prince Regent your despatch of the 4th November 1818, in which you communicate to me an extract from the minutes of the Court of Policy of the 2nd October preceding.

I am commanded to express to you the satisfaction which His Royal Highness derives from the readiness which the Court of Policy have on this occasion evinced, to contribute towards the defence of the colony and the relief of the mother country; and although I am unable at the present moment, and without a previous communication with Lord Combermere, to state to you the details of the arrangement which it may be found compatible with the proper distribution of the force in the other colonies to adopt, yet I can have no hesitation in assuring you of the disposition of His Majesty's Government to give effect, as far as lies in their power, to the wishes of the inhabitants, and to allot to Demerary that amount of force which the Court of Policy consider desirable.

N^o 22.—Copy of a Letter from the Earl Bathurst, K. G. to Major-General Murray, dated Downing Street, 7th August 1819.

Sir,

Downing Street, 7th August 1819.

I HAVE already communicated to you in my despatch of the 6th February last, that I have referred to the consideration of Lord Combermere the proposal which had been made by the Court of Policy of the colony to pay and maintain a certain proportion of the garrison, with an earnest recommendation to his Lordship to consider how far it was possible, consistently with the safety of His Majesty's other possessions, to allot from the troops at his disposal a garrison of 800 men to the colony of Demerary.

The report from his Lordship on this subject has been received, and duly laid before the Prince Regent; and after giving every consideration to the means by which such an arrangement could be effected, His Royal Highness has only to regret, that the risk to which the other colonies would be exposed by such a reduction of force in them as would result from so augmenting the garrison of this particular settlement, renders it impossible for His Royal Highness to sanction the fulfilment of the condition upon which the proposal of the Court of Policy depended.

His Royal Highness has, however, commanded me most strongly to impress upon your consideration whether the Court of Policy might not, upon a further knowledge of these circumstances, and upon a consideration of the many peculiar advantages of Demerary, as compared with other West India settlements, be induced to support, at their own charge, a complete regiment, at the present reduced establishment of 650 men; or if that should appear to you impracticable, His Royal Highness is desirous of ascertaining whether some assistance might not be afforded from the Sovereign's chest, or from any other funds at the disposal of the Crown in the colony, adequate to meet the additional charge of the number of men above those comprised in the original proposal of the Court.

You will understand, however, that it will always form a part of such a proposal, that the Crown should always maintain, as hitherto, without charge to the colony, a complete white regiment of ten companies; considering that by these means the garrison will be raised to 1,300 men, and those too of the very best description, I cannot readily believe that the colonists can be so insensible to the additional security which their property will thence derive, as to decline acceding to this extent in the view of His Royal Highness. They will, I am sure, be too generous to expect or to wish that the protection extended to them should be to the prejudice of other more ancient possessions of His Majesty, which, while they enjoy in all respects inferior advantages, contribute more directly to the mother country by the payment in many instances of considerable taxes.

Relying also, as I have every reason to do, in your zeal and judgment in giving effect to the views of His Royal Highness, I cannot but look with some confidence to the result of your consideration of the question, and your adoption of such measures as may be best calculated ultimately, if not immediately, to attain an object as important to the security of the colony, as it will be conducive to its character.

I have, &c. (Signed)

To Major-General Murray,
&c. &c. &c.

BATHURST.

N^o 21.

Letter from Earl Bathurst, K. G. to M. G. Murray, 6 Feb. 1819.

N^o 22.

Letter from the Earl Bathurst, to M. G. Murray, 7 August 1819.

N^o 23.—Extract of a Letter from Major-General Murray to the Earl Bathurst, dated Demerara, the 24th February, 1820.

N^o 23.
Letter from M. G. Murray to the Earl Bathurst, 24 Feb. 1820.

WHEN I talk of paying and maintaining a regiment they meet me with these disabilities; however I am happy to say that great progress is making in getting them to look at such a measure as desirable; and I think I would venture to assure you of ultimate success, provided some relaxation of the present slave intercourse between us and the West India Islands in general could be obtained for them. I shall lose no opportunity of forwarding the views of His Majesty's Government on this subject.

N^o 24.—Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant-General Lord Combermere to the Earl Bathurst, K. G. dated Barbadoes, 24th January 1818.

N^o 24.
Letter from L. G. Lord Combermere to the Earl Bathurst 24 Jan. 1818.

FROM Major-General Murray's letter I have no doubt that the colonies of Demerary and Berbice might be induced to take upon themselves the payment of one regiment, if it was added to their present garrison. Thus by exchanging one regiment of the line for one regiment of rangers, and by these colonies coming forward by paying another, two regiments might be sent to this Command without any additional expense to the mother country, which would form a force adequate to preserve the tranquillity of the colonies during peace.

N^o 25.—Copy of a Letter from Earl Bathurst, to Lord Combermere, dated 6th February 1819:—(One Enclosure.)

N^o 25.
Letter from Earl Bathurst to Lord Combermere, 6 Feb. 1819.

My Lord,

Downing Street, 6th February, 1819.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship an extract of a letter from the Governor of Demerary, in which he communicates the offer made by the Court of Policy of that colony to pay and maintain an additional force of 300 men, provided that 500 men are paid and maintained by the Government.

I cannot conceal from your Lordship that His Majesty's Government are deeply impressed with the expediency of acceding to the proposition which has been made by the colony of Demerary, both with a view to mark their approbation of the motives which have influenced their conduct on this occasion, and to encourage in the other colonies in the West Indies the adoption of similar measures for encouraging their means of defence. Not being however aware whether it may be in your Lordship's power to allot from the force under your command so considerable a number of men to that particular colony, I have been under the necessity of deferring a reply to General Murray until I shall be in possession of your Lordship's opinion on the subject. I cannot, however, avoid recommending the arrangement to your Lordship's most favourable consideration, and am sure that you will feel, in common with His Majesty's Government, the advantage of making some arrangement in favour of Demerara, which should effectually prove to the other colonies the superior advantages which they would derive from paying and maintaining a portion of force in addition to that now allotted to their respective garrisons.

I have the honour to be, &c.

BATHURST.

Lord Combermere,
&c. &c. &c.

N^o 26.—Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant-General Lord Combermere to the Earl Bathurst, dated Barbadoes, 10th April 1819:—(Two Inclosures.)

N^o 26.
Letter from L. G. Lord Combermere to the Earl Bathurst, 10 April, 1819.

My Lord,

Head-Quarters, Barbadoes, 10th April 1819.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 16th February (military, N^o 10) on the subject of increasing the garrison in the colony of Demerara, and acquainting me of the proposition which has been made by that colony for the maintenance of a large proportion of troops, if 800 men are stationed there.

I beg

I beg to assure your Lordship that I am well aware of the inadequacy of the force stationed in that colony, a subject which I brought under your Lordship's consideration in my letters of the 14th June 1817, 14th and 27th January 1818, but more especially in the latter, where I represented to your Lordship the impossibility of my increasing the garrison, notwithstanding the pressing applications of the governors of that colony and of Berbice.

I must now beg leave to draw your Lordship's attention to the enclosed return, showing the distribution of the troops throughout the Command, by which your Lordship will perceive that the strength of the garrisons has been reduced to the very lowest scale consistent with the safety of the several islands. One regiment is divided amongst the islands of Trinidad, Tobago, and Grenada; one amongst the islands of St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica; another amongst the islands of Antigua, Montserrat, St. Christopher and Nevis; and one regiment forms the garrisons of Demerary and Berbice.

Your Lordship must be aware that the army has been greatly diminished in point of numbers since my former representations on this subject; the original peace establishment allotted in 1817, was 6,000 men, not including artillery; the present force, supposing every regiment complete to its establishment, is 3,900, exclusive of the five companies of the 3rd West India regiment, which are directed to be retained temporarily embodied.

I have enclosed, for your Lordship's consideration, a plan for the distribution of the troops, stationing 800 in Demerary, which shall be effected should your Lordship be pleased to direct it; but I confess that I cannot, consistently with my duty, recommend it as a prudent measure, inasmuch as the regiment quartered at Barbadoes will be the only force from whence reinforcements can be drawn, without totally removing a garrison from some one island, whereas by the present arrangement detachments may be temporarily sent from Antigua or Grenada; although, as your Lordship must perceive the troops allotted even to those islands, are not more than sufficient to perform the ordinary garrison duties.

I beg further to observe to your Lordship, that a force detached to Demerary must be considered as out of the Command, as far as regards the assistance which they might be enabled to afford to any of the islands requiring a temporary reinforcement. A passage to Demerary and back to Barbadoes (the nearest island in point of communication) of fourteen days, being considered an ordinary one for men of war; heavy transports have been frequently known to be a month on the passage. Another objection to granting a great number of troops at Demerary is the want of barrack accommodation, which is not sufficient for more than 400 men. Having just returned from a tour of inspection to that colony, I am enabled to state, from personal observation, that in consequence of the bad construction of the barracks the lower rooms are not inhabitable for European troops; and that the officers quarters are in a very indifferent state, insomuch that I have directed estimates and plans to be drawn up for erecting new officers quarters, and additional soldiers barracks. I have no doubt, however, that the same spirit which has induced the inhabitants to propose to your Lordship the maintenance of an additional force, will induce them to find quarters for the troops, should they be sent to them.

In closing this letter, which, I regret to say, does not more fully and satisfactorily meet with your Lordship's wishes, I beg leave to assure your Lordship that I should most cordially enter into the arrangements, did I not conceive that the security of the islands would thereby be greatly endangered.

That the public spirit of the colony should be encouraged, and the attainment of their object held out as an inducement to the other colonies and islands to come forward in a similar manner, must be readily admitted; and might be effected could one more regiment be allotted to the Command, making a total of 4,500 men; but, with the present force, I conceive your Lordship will coincide in opinion with me, that it would be dangerous to make the experiment.

I have the honour to be, &c. (Signed)

To the Earl Bathurst, K. G.

&c. &c. &c.

COMBERMERE.

(Enclosure 1.)

Head Quarters, Barbadoes, 9th April, 1819.

DISTRIBUTIONAL Return of Troops in the Windward and Leeward Island Command, whereby the Garrison of Demerary may be augmented to 800 Rank and File.

Enclosure 1, in Lord Combermere's, to the Earl Bathurst, 10 April, 1819.

STATION.	Number of Companies.	Number of Men.	Total in the Station.
Demerary	2d Reg ^t	10	600
	4th D ^o	4	240
Berbice	D ^o	3	180
			180
Trinidad	D ^o	1	60
	3d W. I. R.	5	400
Tobago	4th Reg ^t	2	120
	1st W. I. R.	1	60
Grenada	5th Reg ^t	5	300
			300
St. Lucia	1st W. I. R.	2	120
	5th Reg ^t	2	120
St. Vincent	D ^o	3	180
			180
Antigua	9th D ^o	5	300
			300
Dominica	D ^o	2	120
	1st W. I. R.	1	60
St. Christopher	5th Reg ^t	2	120
			120
Nevis	D ^o	1	60
			60
Montserrat	1st W. I. R.	1	60
			60
Barbadoes	21st Reg ^t	10	600
	1st W. I. R.	5	300
			900
GENERAL TOTAL			4,000

N. B. The regiments being calculated at 600 rank and file instead of 650, their full establishment makes the total 3,600, instead of 3,900, the established force; the additional 400 men are the men of the 3d West India regiment temporarily embodied.

(Enclosure 2.)

DISTRIBUTION of the Troops in the Windward and Leeward Islands and Colonies, under the Command of Lieut.-Gen. Lord Combermere, G. C. B. G. C. T. S. & G. C. G. Commander of the Forces.

Head Quarters, Barbadoes, 10th April, 1819.

Enclosure 2, in Lord Combermere's, to the Earl Bathurst, 10 April, 1819.

STATIONS.	Corps.	Number of Companies.	Remarks.
Barbadoes	21st Foot	10	The strength of each garrison cannot be at present accurately ascertained, as the troops have not yet reached their destination, but the average strength per company may be calculated at sixty rank and file, with the exception of those of the West India Regiments which are about 80.
	1st W. I. R.	8	
Demerary and Berbice	2d Foot	10	
	4th —	2	
Trinidad	3d W. I. R.	5	
	4th Foot	2	
Tobago	4th —	6	
Grenada	9th —	5	
St. Vincent	9th —	2	
	1st W. I. R.	1	
St. Lucia	9th Foot	3	
	1st W. I. R.	1	
Antigua	5th Foot	5	
St. Kitts	5th —	4	
Montserrat	5th —	1	

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N° 27.—Copy of a Letter from Earl Bathurst to Sir Ralph Woodford, bart. Governor of Trinidad dated 1st August 1816.

Sir, Downing-street, 1st August, 1816.

UNDER the pressure of financial difficulty it becomes my duty to call your attention to the necessity of bringing the resources of the colony under your government in aid of the additional expenditure which the possession of it, and the consequent charge of its protection, have brought upon the colony. I have every reason to believe that the inhabitants of Trinidad view with considerable satisfaction their permanent union with Great Britain; and I have, therefore, the less difficulty in stating to you a proposition, which I have been commanded to make to you, in common with the Governors of all the other British West India colonies, of providing, out of the revenues of the colony, for the maintenance of the force which you may consider requisite for its protection and security.

It will not fail to occur to you that the island of Jamaica, one of the oldest British possessions, has for many years past exonerated the mother country from the charge of maintaining its garrison; and the colony has felt the effect of this liberality by permanently securing for the defence of Jamaica a force far more considerable than the unassisted means of Great Britain could have defrayed. I have only further to observe, that without some such pecuniary assistance on the part of the several West India colonies as that which I am commanded to recommend, it will be altogether out of the power of His Majesty's Government to avoid a still further reduction of the force assigned for the defence of the West Indies; and although they feel that such a reduction cannot take place without some inconvenience, yet the necessities of the country, at the close of a long war, so imperiously require relief, that if not afforded from the resources of the colonies themselves, it must at any rate be secured by the reduction of the charge to be required for their defence.

I have, &c. (Signed)

BATHURST.

To Governor Sir Ralph Woodford, bart.

&c. &c. &c.
Trinidad.

N° 28.—Copy of a letter from Governor Sir Ralph Woodford, bart. to the Earl Bathurst, dated Trinidad, 5th October 1816.

My Lord, Trinidad, 5th October 1816.

I HAVE been honoured with your Lordship's despatch, in which your Lordship acquaints me of the necessity that exists of calling upon the colonies to provide for the expense of their protection and defence; and having taken the advice of His Majesty's Council upon this important subject, I have now the honour to report the unanimous result of their deliberations and my own.

I believe the inhabitants to be very generally sensible of the powerful protection which they have derived from their permanent union with Great Britain; and although it is with feelings of real satisfaction that I acknowledge the very ready and cheerful manner with which the inhabitants of all classes have come forward to pay the taxes that have been imposed upon them within the last two years, as being necessary to enable the colony to pay with regularity the salaries of its public officers and the current expenses, and to provide by degrees some of those public edifices which are necessary in all countries, nevertheless the Council do not think they admit of augmentation; and that in case His Royal Highness the Prince Regent should be pleased to issue an order in council requiring the expenses of the military establishment in this island to be defrayed from its revenues, the only legal mode in which such a measure could be effected, the Council feel persuaded that such a demand could only be met by an entire appropriation of the present revenue to that object, and a sacrifice of every other to which they have been declared to be exclusively applicable.

The inability of the inhabitants to bear any increase of taxation, and the insufficiency of the present to admit of such appropriation, as your Lordship has called our attention to, is yet more convincing, when we look to the deficiency that has already taken place in the import duties during the present year, as well as in the amount of the crop, affected, as the latter has been, by a continued series of bad weather, and by the daily and increasing difficulties of obtaining mules and other

N° 27.
Letter from Earl Bathurst, to Sir Ralph Woodford, 1st August 1816.

N° 28.
Letter from Gov. Sir Ralph Woodford to the Earl Bathurst, 5th Oct. 1816.

17,000l.

cattle from the Spanish main, so indispensable for the manufacture of the sugar of this colony. The Council also venture to express their hope that the measure your Lordship has now recommended to them would not be so immediately applicable to a colony whose taxes as well as expenditure are raised and applied according to the will of the Sovereign, as to one, where, as in the case of Jamaica, those important privileges are enjoyed by the people.

The ancient settlement of that island, and the capital it has acquired, and the prosperity it has seen, must afford resources which are not to be found in the thinly scattered population of this colony, which in great measure may have been formed by the progressive and unassisted labour of individuals ruined by the revolutions of other colonies, and in times of unexampled distress to West India Planters.

The Council agreed that the present garrison, composed of a black regiment of 1,000 men, and of 500 men of the York Rangers, the objectionable composition of which regiment is well known, and whose united numbers greatly tend to keep up the excessive prices of the necessaries of life, might with great safety admit of reduction; and that an exchange of such troops for a British light infantry regiment of 700 men, and 50 or 100 cavalry, would be very beneficial in every point of view, provided that it were a corps of unexceptionable character.

The Council, however, while deliberating upon this subject, took occasion to express their unanimous and earnest wish that some naval protection, adapted to the species of hostility with which the shores of this island and the navigation of the Gulph are hourly threatened and interrupted, might form the leading features in any future measure of defence. They also feel so strongly impressed with the manifold advantages that the colony would derive in a military, naval and commercial point of view, from the employment of a steam-vessel, of moderate dimensions, and on the plan so lately and generally adopted in the rivers of Europe and North America, that they solicited your Lordship's particular and favourable consideration of the subject.

Such a vessel, acting under the immediate orders of the Government, would, in cases of sudden alarm, with certainty and rapidity, convey troops to any part of the Gulph, and being independent of all the obstructions that occur in the naval service, whether arising from calms, currents, or from shoals, would be capable of pursuing the light flecheras of the opposite coast, and by its never-failing impulse to act as convoy, or to hasten the progress of heavy-sailing vessels.

The advantages of such an establishment would be immediately felt in the facility, certainty, and abundance of the supply of cattle from the Spanish Main, whence, at present, and during the previous war of the independents and royalists, such supplies are not only precarious, but can only be obtained at the greatest risk of the lives of the adventurers.

To ensure supplies of such vital importance the Council have recommended that an application should be made to Rear Admiral Harvey to allow a vessel to protect launches bringing mules and cattle; and I venture to bespeak your Lordship's favourable interference with the Board of Admiralty in procuring for the colony this assistance, so essential, and, I will add, so indispensable to its existence and cultivation.

The Council were of opinion, that the colonial revenue might be charged with the first cost of the vessel I have pointed out, and the expense of keeping her in order and working her, and the salary of the engineer, but considered that His Majesty's Government would probably be disposed to pay the expense of victualling and manning her; as a detachment of twenty-five or thirty men from the squadron for this vessel would supersede the necessity of a man of war in the Gulph.

It is imagined, that one long traversing eighteen-pounder, with small cannonades, would be sufficient to arm such a vessel as I have described.

Such is the view which His Majesty's Council have taken of this important question conveyed in your Lordship's despatch, and in which I beg leave to express my entire concurrence; at the same time I must add, that I consider the improvement of the militia, in case of the reduction of the troops, to be more necessary than ever; and upon this branch of the subject it was also suggested in the Council, that the colonial artillery should be taught the service of the horse artillery, a species of force particularly adapted for the fine roads of this island.

In fixing the garrison at 700 men, the Council considered that 500 effective men might be ensured; but if the affairs of the Spanish Main should assume any indication of offensive warfare, or if His Majesty's Government be not prepared to afford the description of troops now suggested, they think the garrison cannot be diminished beyond

beyond one half the present number of black troops, and 300 of which are stationed at Fort George, a post only calculated to preserve an hold against an invading and successful force, and that in the reduced numbers proposed it would be imprudent to admit any proportion of black, or any white troops, who could not be trusted in small detachments, or in performing the duties of the guards of the town, which is the case with all the regiments of rangers.

In replying to a circular letter from the secretary of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, I stated for their Lordships information my opinion that the garrison companies might be immediately reduced.

If the garrison is composed in the manner I have had the honour to suggest, I should propose that 300 men be stationed in the barracks at Orange Grove, near Port of Spain; 200 at St. Josephs, and 100, or as many at Naparima.

That the 24 artillery men, who must of course remain, should take Fort George immediately under their charge, from whence some of the barracks may be removed to Orange Grove, where the officers are lodged in a manner which exposes their health to serious danger, out of the present barracks at St. Josephs, which require to be moved out of the draught of a ravine, and to be repaired; enough of materials might be, in all probability found to repair them, and to assist in the barracks, which would be to be erected at Naparima, where sappa buildings would be sufficient.

For the importance of the post, I beg to refer to my despatch, N^o 189. These repairs, generally, might be done by the colony with the assistance of the men.

I have the honour to be, my Lord, &c. (Signed)

Ralph Woodford.

Such a vessel, acting under the immediate orders of the Government, would, in cases of sudden alarm, with certainty and rapidity, convey troops to any part of the Gulf, and being independent of all the objections that occur in the naval service, whether arising from calm currents, or from shoals, would be capable of pursuing the light feathers of the opposite coast, and by its over-riding impulse to act as a convoy, or to hasten the progress of heavy convoys.

The advantages of such an establishment would be immediately felt in the facility, certainty, and abundance of the supply of cattle from the Spanish Main, whence, at present, and during the protracted war of the independents and royalists, such supplies are not only precarious, but can only be obtained at the greatest risk of the lives of the adventurers.

To ensure supplies of such a kind, independent of the Council, have recommended that an application should be made to His Majesty's Secretary to allow a vessel to protect launches bringing mules and cattle, and I venture to bespeak your Lordship's favourable interference with the Board of Admiralty in procuring for the colony this assistance so essential, and I will add, as indispensable to its existence and cultivation.

The Council were of opinion that the Colonel, for one might be charged with the first cost of the vessel, I have pointed out, and the expense of keeping her in order and working her, and the salary of the Captain, but considered that His Majesty's Government would probably be disposed to pay the expense of victualling and manning her; as a detachment of twenty-five or thirty men from the squadron for this vessel would supersede the necessity of a man of war in the Gulf.

It is imagined, that one long traversing eighteen-pounder, with small cannonades, would be sufficient to arm such a vessel as I have described.

Such is the view which His Majesty's Council have taken of the important question conveyed in your Lordship's despatch, and in which I beg leave to express my entire concurrence; at the same time I must add, that I consider the improvement of the militia, in case of the reduction of the troops, to be more necessary than ever; and upon this branch of the subject it was also suggested in the Council, that the colonial artillery should be taught the service of the horse artillery, a species of force particularly adapted for the fine roads of this island.

In fixing the garrison at 700 men, the Council considered that 500 effective men might be ensured; but if the affairs of the Spanish Main should assume any indication of offensive warfare, or if His Majesty's Government be not prepared to afford the description of troops now suggested, they think the garrison cannot be diminished beyond