

PEOPLE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN!

WE, the undersigned persons, possessing property in the West India Colonies, have seen with regret and astonishment an Address to the People of Great Britain, put forth by a body of persons styling themselves the "London Anti-Slavery Society," and signed on behalf of that Society by Messrs.

T. F. BUXTON,
S. GURNEY,W. WILBERFORCE,
W. SMITH,Z. MACAULAY,
D. WILSON,R. WATSON,
S. LUSHINGTON,

calling on all the People of this Kingdom who prefer "humanity to oppression,"— "truth to falsehood,"—"freedom to slavery,"—to support those Candidates only who represent them in Parliament, who have determined upon adopting measures for the speedy annihilation of slavery; and in that Address they proceed to assure you that "none look with greater horror on the shedding of blood, or the remotest chance of occasioning such a calamity, than themselves; but that they are in their consciences convinced, after investigation most careful and scrupulous, that from the emancipation recommended, no risk to the White Inhabitants could arise."

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN! WE also prefer humanity to oppression, truth to falsehood, freedom to slavery; but we possess, with our property in the West India Colonies, the means of *correctly ascertaining* the actual state of the Negro Population. We know, and are ready to prove, that the general condition of the Slaves has been most grossly misrepresented by the London Anti-Slavery Society; and we assert, in the face of our country, our well-founded conviction, that the "speedy annihilation" of slavery would be attended with the devastation of the West India Colonies, with loss of lives and property to the White Inhabitants, with inevitable distress and misery to the Black Population, and with a fatal shock to the commercial credit of this Empire.

We deny the injurious slander that "the holders of Slaves have proved themselves unfit and unwilling to frame Laws for the benefit of their Bondsmen;" on the contrary, out of the various measures suggested by the British Government, for ameliorating the condition of Slaves, the far greater proportion of them are now in force under Laws enacted by the Colonial Legislatures. We have desired, we still desire, and will most actively promote, any investigation on oath which Parliament shall be pleased to institute, for the purpose of ascertaining what is the real condition of the Slave Population—what laws have been passed for their benefit—what progress they have made, and are now making, towards civilization—and what further well-digested measures are best calculated "to prepare them for a participation in those civil rights and privileges which are enjoyed by other classes of his Majesty's subjects"—and this "at the earliest period compatible with the well-being of the slaves themselves, with the safety of the Colonies, and with a fair and equitable consideration of the interests of private property."

(Signed)

TIMON H. CLARKE, BART.
HENRY W. MARTIN, BART.
W. WINDHAM DALLING, BART.
WILLIAM H. COOPER, BART.
WILLIAM FRASER.
WM. MAX. ALEXANDER.
L. ANDERDON.
DAVID BAILLIE.
JOHN BAILLIE.
FOSTER BARHAM.
ENEAS BARKLY.
ANDREW COLVILE.JOHN H. DEFFELL.
JAMES B. DELAP.
JOHN FULLER.
ALEXANDER GRANT.
ALEXANDER HALL.
ROBERT HIBBERT.
GEORGE HIBBERT.
THOMSON HANKEY.
ISAAC HIGGIN.
HUGH HYNDMAN.
JOHN INNES.
WILLIAM KING.DAVID LYON.
NEILL MALCOLM.
WILLIAM MANNING.
JOHN P. MAYERS.
PHILIP JOHN MILES.
JOHN MITCHELL.
ROWLAND MITCHELL.
G. M. DAWKINS PENNANT.
WILLIAM ROSS.
GEORGE SHEDDEN.
A. STEWART.
GEORGE WATSON TAYLOR.
JOHN WATSON.

The Anti-Slavery Society declare—

“That the experience of the last eight years has demonstrated incontrovertibly that it is *only* by the direct intervention of Parliament that any effectual remedial measures can be applied.”

And one of the Resolutions proposed to the House of Commons at the close of the last Session, by Mr. T. F. BUXTON, also declared—

“That, during the eight years which have elapsed since the Resolutions of this House of Commons in 1823, the Colonial Assemblies have not taken adequate means for carrying those Resolutions into effect.”

As it is, therefore, on the express ground of the alleged refusal of the Colonial Assemblies to take measures for carrying into effect the Resolutions of 1823, that the Anti-Slavery party invoke the interference of Parliament, it becomes necessary to show what those Colonial Assemblies have *really done* towards the desired end,* and that (with a single exception) *within the last eight years.*

The following Abstract of the existing Laws of our West India Colonies is compiled from Documents presented to Parliament by His Majesty's command and printed by order of the House of Commons.

JAMAICA.

(Abstract of the Consolidated Slave Law, passed 19th February, 1831. This Act was passed as long ago as 1826, but with certain clauses which caused the disallowance of the whole by his Majesty's Government; those Clauses are now rescinded.)

Religious Instruction, and Observance of the Sabbath. Baptism and Marriage.

§ 6. Sunday markets and shops shall close at 11 a. m.; excepting druggists, and a few other cases, in conformity with the practice of England relative to the Sabbath: penalty 5*l.*—§ 7. Prohibited levies on slaves on Saturdays, in order to enable them to attend religious duties on Sundays.—§ 10. Slaves shall not be compelled to work on Sundays, even in crop time; nor the mill be put about between 7 p. m. on Saturday and 5 a. m. on Monday: under penalty of 20*l.*—§ 3. The clergyman of each parish shall, on application, without fee or reward, baptise all slaves who can be made sensible of a duty to God and the Christian faith: in the which the owners or their deputies are to use their utmost endeavour to instruct them.—§ 4. The said clergyman shall also, without fee, marry, with their owner's consent, any slaves who have been baptised, and are desirous of contracting matrimony; if such clergyman shall, upon examination of the parties, consider them to have a proper and adequate knowledge of the obligations of such a contract.

Food—Clothing—Lodging: General Treatment.

§ 11. Slaves shall be furnished with adequate provision-grounds, which the master shall, once a month, under a penalty of 10*l.* ascertain and declare upon oath to be properly cultivated; or, in default of ground, or during drought, a weekly allowance of 3*s.* 4*d.* to each slave, under penalty of 50*l.*—§ 12. All slaves shall, at least once a year, be supplied with proper and sufficient clothing, to be approved of by the justices and vestry of the parish, under penalty of 5*l.* for each omission; and the owner, or overseer, shall annually declare upon oath, that these several regulations have been faithfully observed: under penalty of 100*l.*—§ 18. Sick and infirm slaves

* Those Resolutions were:—

1. “That it is expedient to adopt effectual and decisive measures for meliorating the condition of the Slave Population in His Majesty's Colonies.”
2. “That, through a determined and persevering, but, at the same time, judicious and temperate enforcement of such measures, this House looks forward to a progressive improvement in the character of the Slave Population, such as may prepare them for a participation in those civil rights and privileges which are enjoyed by other classes of His Majesty's Subjects.”
3. “That this House is anxious for the accomplishment of this purpose at the earliest period that shall be compatible with the well-being of the Slaves themselves, with the Safety of the Colonies, and with a fair and equitable consideration of the interests of Private Property.”

are to be maintained by their owners; and if they are permitted to wander about, such owner or his agent is subject to a penalty of 20*l.* and the expense of maintaining such slaves; who, as well as all diseased or destitute manumitted persons, and slaves without owners, shall be properly maintained, in the parish workhouse.—§ 21. Owners shall settle on old, infirm, or disabled slaves manumitted by them 10*l.* a year, under penalty of 100*l.* to be paid the churchwardens, who are then to support them.—See also § 52: under “Punishment.”

Labour and Holidays.

§ 26. Slaves shall have half an hour for breakfast, and two hours for dinner; and shall not be compelled to field-labour before 5 in the morning or after 7 at night, except during crop, under penalty of 50*l.*—§ 8. Slaves shall have one day in every fortnight, except in crop-time, but at least twenty-six days in the year, called Negro-days, exclusive of Sundays, to cultivate their own provision-grounds, under penalty of 20*l.*—§ 17. All mothers having six of their own or adopted children are exempted from any species of laborious work.—§ 27. Holidays at Christmas, Easter, and Whitsuntide, to be allowed; but not more than three days in succession.

Punishment.

§ 36. No slave shall receive more than 10 lashes, except in presence of owner or overseer, &c., nor in such presence more than 39 in any one day, nor until recovered from former punishment: under penalty of 20*l.*—§ 37. No person shall send a slave into any workhouse for a longer period than ten days, nor order him to receive there more than 20 lashes, without a justice's warrant: penalty 5*l.*—§ 52. Slaves confined in gaol or workhouse, to have a sufficient supply of food (3 pints of meal or wheat flour, or 8 lbs. of yams, and 1 herring daily); and also food and sufficient clothing.—§ 39. No collar, or chains, to be put on slaves, but by order of a magistrate: on penalty of 50*l.* Justice of peace to cause such collar, &c. to be removed, under penalty of 100*l.*—§ 120. Convicts sentenced to hard labour for life, behaving well, governor, or representation of commissioners of workhouse, may, with convict's consent, order him to be released.—§ 109. Execution of death to be solemn and public. Rector or curate to attend criminal while under sentence, and at execution. Gaoler, under penalty, to keep prisoner sober. Execution, as in England.

Separation of Families; and Sale of Slaves detached from Estates. Manumission.

§ 5. In all cases where a levy shall be made of a family or families, each family shall be sold together and in one lot.—§ 66-74. Manumission-bonds securing to each slave an annuity of 10*l.* dispensed with, in devise of freedom; but estate of testator made liable for annuity to person emancipated. Freedom by will at once established. Manumission-bond also dispensed with, satisfying magistrates and vestry that slave is not aged or infirm, but capable of earning his own maintenance. Although for the devise of slaves three witnesses are required, yet, to facilitate manumission, a devise of freedom by any paper which would be sufficient to pass personal estate is valid.—§ 67. Removes impediments to manumission in consequence of the limited estate of the owner; facilities for the manumission afforded.—§ 70. Orders of manumission to be duly recorded, a certified copy of which shall be evidence in any court.

Evidence. Trial, and Defence.

§ 128. The evidence of slaves shall be admitted in all criminal cases, against all persons. Proviso, that certificate of baptism be produced, and that slave understands obligation of an oath; that no free person be convicted but on consistent evidence of two slaves, examined apart; and that no free person be convicted on slave testimony, unless complaint be made within twelve months.—§ 97. Slaves committing offences subjecting to death, transportation, or hard labour for more than one year, to be tried before grand and petit jurors, as white persons are tried. Sentence of death or transportation not to be effected without warrant from governor, who is to see indictment, evidence, sentence, or copy attested; except in cases of rebellion, &c., when execution immediate, but reference may be made to governor.—§ 100. Barrister or attorney to defend slaves capitally indicted. To be paid salary or fees out of parochial funds. Free witnesses not attending slave court to be fined.—§ 102. Jurors, &c.; and slaves in attendance on slave courts, exempt from civil process.

Right of Property, and Right of Action.

§ 15. Establishes the right of slaves to personal property, and gives to it a further protection than that of free persons, by inflicting a penalty of 10*l.* on any persons trespassing on it, in addition to the value, to be summarily recovered.—§ 16. Secures to slaves the right to receive bequests of personal property.

Legal Protection.

§ 30. Murder of a slave shall be punished with death.—§ 32. Rape on female slave, or carnal knowledge under puberty, felony without benefit of clergy.—§ 33. If any person whatsoever, shall, of his own act, or with his knowledge, sufferance, privity, or consent, mutilate or dismember, or wantonly or cruelly whip, maltreat, beat, bruise, wound, or imprison, or brand, any slave

ment (12 months) or both. In atrocious cases of maltreatment by owner, slave to be made free and to receive 10*l.* per annum from the parish, to which parish the fine of 100*l.* on owner is to be paid. Justices on receiving information of any offence against this clause, to issue warrant to bring the slave before them; to have him taken care of in the workhouse, but not worked or confined with slaves under punishment, until judicial investigation can be had. Justices and vestry to be a council of protection to prosecute offender: under penalty of 10*l.* for non-attendance.

BARBADOS.

(This Act received the Royal Assent the 18th October, 1827.)

Religious Instruction, and Observance of the Sabbath. Baptism and Marriage.

§ 1-3. Owners and their agents shall instruct their slaves in the Christian religion; and cause all hereafter born to be baptised, as well as all now living who can be made sensible of religious duties. Clergy shall solemnize matrimony between slaves, with the owner's consent, and registers of all baptisms, marriages, and burials of slaves shall be duly kept.—§ 4. No market or shop shall be open, excepting, as in England, for the sale of medicines, or of perishable food, on Sunday, Christmas-day, or Good Friday: under penalty of 5*l.* or forfeiture of goods exposed.—§ 6. No slave shall be set or allowed to labour on Sundays, under penalty of 5*l.* to 10*l.*

Food—Clothing—Lodging: General Treatment.

§ 32. Should it appear that an owner cannot afford necessary food to his slave, the acting protector shall take temporary possession of the slave, and hire him out until the owner's circumstances are bettered; but if it appear that the owner had the means and withheld them, the justices shall indict him to the Grand Sessions, and on conviction he is to be punished by fine of 100*l.* and 6 months' imprisonment. Owners of diseased slaves suffering them to go on the highways, or infest the highways, &c. shall forfeit 10*l.*—§ 5. Owners of slaves shall, under penalty of 1*l.* to 2*l.* 10*s.*, furnish them annually with decent and sufficient clothing, suitable to sex, age, and condition.

Punishment.

§ 46. Slaves shall be whipped with the like instruments, and in like manner, as practised by His Majesty's army and navy, except where a milder instrument may be preferred. Female slaves to be punished in a private and decent manner, and when pregnant, to be punished by confinement only: penalty 10*l.*—§ 44. Any person who wantonly commits cruelty towards a slave, by whipping, bruising, or beating, &c. shall be fined by any two justices not less than 25*s.* and not exceeding 100*l.*—§ 47. Any person fixing a collar, chains, or irons, on a slave, shall suffer fine and imprisonment, at court's discretion.—§ 14. Males and females in prison, to be confined in separate apartments; and not more than 11 persons in each.—§ 16. Magistrates shall visit slave prisons, and see that they are clean and healthy; and that sufficient food is allowed.

Evidence. Trial, and Defence.

§ 3. Admits the evidence of slaves in actions of trespass, assault, and in cases of misdemeanour, murder, felony, or other offences, except forgery, against any person whatever: requiring only a certificate of baptism and religious instruction, and that such testimony, against free persons, to be corroborated by circumstantial evidence, unless when such free person be an accomplice. Owner refusing to produce a slave as witness, to forfeit 10*l.*—§ 33. Slaves charged with capital offences, shall be tried at the Grand Sessions, in like manner as white and free-coloured persons.

Right of Property and Right of Action.

§ 7. Secures to slaves the absolute right of personal property, and subjects owners of slaves, or other persons, depriving them of their personal property, to forfeit double the value of such property to the use of said slaves. The acting protector to prosecute offender.

Legal Protection.

§ 2. The governor and four chief officers of government are a council of protection; with power to appoint an acting protector, at 400*l.* per annum.—§ 45. Any white or free person maiming or dismembering a slave, shall be imprisoned not less than 6 months, and fined not less than 100*l.*; the interest of which shall be an annuity for the slave for life, and the slave be transferred by the protector to some master of humane repute.—§ 40. The wilful murder of a slave by any person, shall be punished by death, without benefit of clergy. 9th of April, 1805.—§ 20. Coroner to return copies of depositions, &c. on inquests, to the governor within 5 days, under penalty 10*l.*—§ 14. If person committed as slave claim to be free, though unable to prove it, a provost marshal shall advertise for proof; in default of which, after three months, such person shall be set at liberty as free.

ST. VINCENT.

(Received the Royal Assent the 14th March, 1827.)

Religious Instruction, and Observance of the Sabbath. Baptism and Marriage.

§ 9. Sunday markets shall cease at 10 a. m., under forfeiture of goods, &c.—§ 7. No shop or store shall be opened on a Sunday, under penalty of 10*l.*, excepting as in England, for perishable articles of food, out of church hours.—§ 11. Prohibits labour on Sundays, even during crop: requiring that no sugar be boiled after 10 on Saturday night, nor the mill put about, or any other kind of field or plantation work performed, between the hours of 7 on Saturday night and 4 on Monday morning: penalty 50*l.*—§ 8. Owners or managers to promote religious instruction and knowledge of moral duties; to cause all slaves to be baptized, without fee or reward, within six months after birth; to have such baptism duly registered, and a copy of the register given to each slave baptized: under penalty of 10*l.*—§ 10. Parish clergymen shall solemnize matrimony, without fee or reward, between such slaves as, applying with their owner's or manager's consent, appear to be sensible of the obligation of the marriage vow.

Food—Clothing—Lodging: General Treatment.

§ 13. All plantation slaves shall have assigned to them a portion of land fully adequate to their support; and shall be allowed 26 full working days in each year to cultivate the same. They shall likewise have for holidays, Good-Friday, Christmas-day, and the two days next following: penalty 50*l.*—§ 14. A qualified medical practitioner shall be employed to attend all slaves who require medical or surgical aid, under penalty of 50*l.*; and shall keep a record of all patients and their prescriptions.—§ 15. Owners or managers permitting sick or infirm slaves to wander about, shall forfeit 5*l.* to 10*l.* for each offence.

Labour and Holidays.

§ 12. Every slave shall have half an hour for breakfast, and two hours for dinner; all manner of field labour before 5 in the morning or after sun-set, except during crop, is prohibited under penalty of 50*l.*—§ 16-17. Assigns to mothers, widwives, and nurses, certain premiums in money for properly rearing infants; midwife and nurse to receive 8*s.* 6*d.* each, mother 4*s.* 6*d.*, if the child reaches fifteen months, and 16*s.* 6*d.* when admitted into grass gang, to be allowed in taxes; the amount is about 4000*l.* per annum in premiums to increase the population. Exempts mothers of six children from all arduous labour, at the same time securing to them an "easy and comfortable maintenance," under a penalty of 100*l.* for each omission.

Punishment.

§ 21. Limits punishment, by inferiors, to 10 stripes at one time, by owner or manager to 39, within any one week, under penalty of 15*l.* to 50*l.* for every excess. Record of all such punishments to be kept, and produced to any justice of the peace, under penalty of 20*l.*—§ 23. No superintending slave shall, under penalty, as for a misdemeanour, carry the whip, as heretofore, as an emblem of authority in the field.—§ 24. Prohibits the placing an iron collar round the neck, or chains upon the body, of any slave, unless by permission of a magistrate as an incorrigible runaway, under penalty of from 5*l.* to 50*l.*: justice of peace, upon information, to remove such, under penalty of 100*l.*—§ 30. Capital punishment shall be precisely as in England.

Separation of Families; and Sale of Slaves detached from Estates. Manumission.

§ 18. Facilitates manumission, and punishes the unlawfully detaining free persons as slaves by penalty of thrice the value of such persons' services. Any owner or manager manumitting an aged or infirm slave, to avoid the burthen of maintaining him, shall forfeit 200*l.*, from which 50*l.* shall be annually paid to the person manumised, for life. Fee on manumission, 4*l.*

Evidence. Trial, and Defence.

§ 69. Slaves charged with grave offences shall be tried in all respects like free persons: with the exception of this superior advantage, that counsel be assigned such slaves at the public expense.—Slave evidence, except against owners, admissible, as in case of free persons.

Right of Property, and Right of Action.

§ 5. Secures to slaves the possession of personal property, and guards against its invasion by a penalty of 10*l.*, over and above the value of the property taken from them. Offender to be put on oath: contumacy to be construed into guilt.

Legal Protection.

§ 2. Declares slaves to be real estate and not chattels.—§ 20. Murder of a slave is felony, without benefit of clergy.—§ 25. Magistrates a council of protection: on information of ill treatment of slaves, magistrates bound to enquire; and, if the complaint be well founded, to prosecute.—§ 26. If any owner or manager shall, of himself or with his knowledge, wantonly or cruelly whip, maltreat, beat, bruise, cut, wound, or imprison, or confine without sufficient

offence: and the court are empowered to declare the slave absolutely free, assigning him an annuity of 15*l.* for life.

GRENADA.

(The latest of these Acts is dated 24th November, 1828.)

Religious Instruction, and Observance of the Sabbath. Baptism and Marriage.

§ 1. Sunday markets are absolutely prohibited: penalty 5*l.*—§ 4. All owners or managers are required to have their slaves instructed in the Christian religion: to cause every infant to be baptized within 6 months of its birth, and all such adults as can be made sensible of religious duty: which ceremony, as well as attendance on such as require spiritual aid, the parish clergyman is required to perform gratis.—§ 5. Provides for the solemnization of matrimony, where parties belong to the same owner, and have his consent; if they appear to be sensible of the obligation of the marriage vow.—§ 8. No manner of field labour shall be performed on Sunday, excepting the potting of sugar, and that not after 8 o'clock in the morning: and no mill shall be put about between 10 on Saturday night, and 4 on Monday morning. Penalty 10*l.*

Food—Clothing—Lodging: General Treatment.

§ 2. Every slave shall be allowed a sufficient portion of land, for the growth of provisions adequate to his support; and allowed 28 full working days in each year to cultivate the same, or where no land can be had, "good and ample provision" in lieu thereof. Any justice of peace upon information that "the true intent and meaning of this act is not complied with," shall proceed to the spot, examine parties upon oath, (who are required to answer, under penalty of 50*l.* on proof of the fact, to order to each slave, weekly, 4*s.* 6*d.* in money, salt, and 2 pounds of salt fish, under penalty of 100*l.* on owner refusing to supply the same. Each slave shall also be provided with a "good and comfortable house," with one or more beds, raised at least one foot from the ground; and shall receive sufficient and decent clothing and blankets, suitable to sex, age, and condition: under penalty of 10*l.* for every omission.—§ 6. There shall be on every estate a proper hospital, and a book in which surgeon shall record all cases coming under his care.

Labour and Holidays.

§ 7. Each field slave shall have half an hour for breakfast, and 2 hours for dinner, each working-day; and, except during crop, shall not work before day-break, or after sun-set.—§ 8. Every mother of 5 children living, shall be allowed 52 days in each year, under penalty of 5*l.* for each day omitted.

Punishment.

§ 10. Restricts punishment by owner or manager to 15 lashes, or, in presence of another free person, to 25; any greater punishment to be inflicted by a magistrate only. Under penalty of 10*l.* and imprisonment for excess, or for repetition of the specified number during the same day. Record to be kept, and submitted to magistrates.—§ 12. No superintending slave shall carry any whip, cat, or like instrument, as a mark of authority in the field, under penalty as for misdemeanour.

Separation of Families; and Sale of Slaves detached from Estates. Manumission.

§ 50. Any sale shall be null and void, if it separate father, mother, and child or children under 12 years of age.—§ 51. Facilitates manumission, by providing that where there are mortgagees whose consent to it cannot be procured, another slave may be substituted.—No. 139. 1. Slaves manumitted by will are authorised to institute suit by next friend, for establishment of freedom.

Evidence. Trial, and Defence.

§ 6. The evidence of slaves shall be admitted and received, in all cases civil and criminal, precisely as that of free persons.—§ 37. Counsel are to be assigned to slaves capitally indicted.—§ 53. No slave shall be prevented by his owner from giving evidence, where required: under penalty of 50*l.*

Right of Property, and Right of Action.

§ 52. Secures to the slave the possession of personal property, and imposes a penalty of 10*l.* over and above the full value on such as infringe upon it.

Legal Protection.

§ 3. Empowers justices of peace to visit estates, and listen to complaints.—§ 9. No sick or infirm slave shall be discarded or suffered to roam about, but be maintained upon the estate, supplied with wholesome food, decently clothed, comfortably lodged, and furnished with other necessaries, under penalty of 50*l.*: the slave to be maintained in the interim by the public at the owner's expense.—§ 13. If any owner, manager, or other person, shall cruelly cut, wound, maim,

to mutilate, or confine without sufficient support, any slave or slaves, he shall be fined from 100*l.* to 500*l.*, and imprisoned 12 months: and the court may pronounce the slave free, and assign him an annuity for life, out of the fine upon the offender. Justices, upon information of such offence, shall take immediate charge of the slave, until investigation can be had.—§ 48. In all cases of disputed freedom, the proof of slavery shall lie on the person alleging it.

DOMINICA.

(Received the Royal Assent the 3rd April, 1827.)

Religious Instruction, and Observance of the Sabbath. Baptism and Marriage.

§ 6. Slaves to be encouraged to receive baptism, and afforded "every reasonable facility to attend divine worship;" penalty 5*l.*—§ 7. No market or shop shall be open during the hours of church service, under penalty of 10*l.*—§ 2. No slave shall be put to any labour on a Sunday, excepting domestic duties, or in case of accidents.

Food—Clothing—Lodging: General Treatment.

§ 3. Where owner allots provision-ground instead of food, each slave shall have half an acre for his or her share, and be allowed one day in every week to cultivate it; except during crop, when the owner shall distribute food in lieu of each day; still not less than 26 clear days in each year shall be allowed, under penalty of 10*l.* for each omission. Every owner required, under penalty of 50*l.*, annually to make oath that he has strictly complied with all and each of the provisions contained in clauses 1, 2, and 3.—§ 1. Every owner or manager shall provide for his slaves "a sufficient quantity of good and wholesome food, dry and comfortable lodging, suitable clothing and medical aid and advice; and comfortably maintain all old, infirm, and diseased slaves on his estate," the whole under penalty of 100*l.* for each omission.

Labour and Holidays.

§ 2. Each slave shall be allowed half an hour for breakfast, and, out of crop, 2 hours for dinner, during crop 1 hour and a half: no slave shall be required to work before 5 in the morning, nor after 7 in the evening, except during crop, and then not later than 9. Good Friday, Christmas Day and the day following, and New Year's Day, shall be allowed as holidays; and if either of these fall on a Sunday, then the next Wednesday in lieu of it. Penalty 50*l.* for breach of any of these provisions.

Punishment.

§ 18. "The Whip," commonly called the cart-whip, shall never hereafter be employed either as an instrument of punishment, or an emblem of authority; the only instrument of correction shall be the cat used in the British army.—§ 33. Restricts punishments to 6 stripes by inferior, and 10 by an overseer, 20 by a manager, and 39 by an owner under grave circumstances; prohibits the infliction until the effects of any former punishment be thoroughly cured; and permits no punishment to exceed 10 stripes at the time of the offence, or during that day; guards punishment of females against any indecent exposure. Penalty 5*l.* to 30*l.*—§ 34. Prohibits the use of collars, or chains; excepting upon notorious runaways, when such may be applied, provided they in no case exceed four pounds in weight: penalty 20*l.*

Separation of Families; and Sale of Slaves detached from Estates. Manumission.

§ 15. No slave under the age of 12 years, shall be sold separate from its mother.—§ 1. And by an act passed in 1829, it has been decreed that no slaves shall in future be sold separate from the estates to which they belong.

Evidence. Trial, and Defence.

§ 17. The trial of slaves for capital offences shall be in all respects similar to that of free persons.—Admits evidence of baptized slaves understanding the nature of an oath: two slaves examined separately, to agree in consistent testimony.

Right of Property, and Right of Action.

§ 13, 16. Protect the property of slaves, by penalty of 20*l.* on any person infringing it, or refusing to pay them any just debt. Right of action vested in master.

Legal Protection.

§ 10. Wilful murder of a slave is capital, without benefit of clergy; and manslaughter punishable precisely as in England.—§ 11. Any person whatever who shall mutilate, wantonly or cruelly whip, or cause to be whipped, beat, bruise, cut, wound, or imprison, or confine without sufficient nourishment, any slave or slaves, shall on conviction suffer fine of 200*l.* or imprisonment for 6 months, or both: and the slave be transferred to another master.—§ 12. Any person

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

(Received the Royal Assent 18th March, 1829.)

Religious Instruction, and Observance of the Sabbath. Baptism and Marriage.

§ 1. Limits Sunday markets to 11 a. m.: penalty, forfeiture of the goods, and fine of 9s. 6d.
 —§ 3. Prohibits all kind of labour on Sundays, excepting domestic affairs, and the potting of sugar; no mill shall be put about between 10 on Saturday night and daylight on Monday morning: under penalty of 50*l.*—§ 5. All owners and managers to instruct their slaves in the Christian religion; to have all children baptized within six months of their birth, and all adults who can be made sensible of religious duty; which ceremony the parish clergyman shall in all cases perform, and register, and give to each slave a certificate thereof; and shall also administer spiritual consolation when required; in each particular, gratis: penalty 10*l.*—§ 8. Clergymen shall solemnize matrimony between slaves applying with their owners' consent; and if owners refuse, the slave may, through the Attorney-General, move the Court of King's Bench, which, if the owner failing to shew just cause of objection, shall grant the application.

Food—Clothing—Lodging: General Treatment.

§ 19. Prohibits any owner or manager from turning away a slave disabled by sickness or infirmity; and requires that such shall be maintained upon the estate, and provided with wholesome food, and decent comfortable clothing and lodging, and other necessaries: under penalty of 50*l.*; and, in cases of neglect, requires recognizance and sureties amounting to 200*l.* that such slave shall for the future be well treated, lodged, fed, and clothed.

See also ANTIGUA, p. 12.

Punishment.

§ 4. No person shall use, for the purpose of impelling or coercing labour, or carry as an emblem of authority, the instrument called the cart-whip: under penalty of 100*l.*, or 6 months imprisonment, or both.—§ 11. Limits punishment of slaves to 25 stripes in any one day, for any offence whatever; forbids any punishment until offender be recovered from any former chastisement; restricts to 12 stripes on the day when any offence is committed, and to the like number unless in the presence of another free person: under penalty of fine and imprisonment. And prohibits any indecent exposure of females under punishment. Record to be kept for inspection of magistrates, of all punishments exceeding 12 stripes, or 48 hours' confinement: under penalty 5*l.* to 50*l.*

See also ANTIGUA.

Separation of Families; and Sale of Slaves detached from Estates. Manumission.

§ 16. Prohibits the separation of families by sale under judicial process.

See also ANTIGUA.

Evidence. Trial, and Defence.

Slave evidence admissible in civil and criminal cases, except against owner or his representative: slave to have a certificate from clergyman that he understands the nature of an oath.

See also ANTIGUA.

Right of Property, and Right of Action.

§ 9, 17. Slaves may acquire, hold, enjoy, and dispose of property, viz. money, cattle, household goods, and the like; and may bring, prosecute, or defend suits or action in respect of the same: 90 persons invading it to pay 10*l.* over and above its full value.—§ 18. Slaves may deposit their money, to the extent of 9*l.* at one time, or in any one week, in the public treasury, at interest of 5*l.* per cent. per annum; and bequeath such property at discretion; the same descending, in the event of intestacy, to the next of kin.

See also ANTIGUA.

Legal Protection.

§ 10. A party claiming or alleging any person to be a slave, shall be required to prove the slavery.

See also ANTIGUA.

NEVIS.

(Passed in October, 1828: and confirmed by the Royal Assent.)

Religious Instruction, and Observance of the Sabbath.—Baptism and Marriage.

Act IV. Sunday markets and shops to be closed at 11 a. m., excepting druggists', and for the sale of articles of perishable food, out of church-hours, as in England. No person shall employ

slaves in any kind of labour, excepting domestic affairs, or in cases of accident or emergency, upon the Sabbath day, under penalty of 1*l.* to 10*l.* for each offence.—Act III. “An act for regulating the solemnization of marriages among slaves, and for declaring such marriages valid and effectual by law:” Clergymen to celebrate, without fee or reward. Owner refusing or neglecting to give permission, or not giving sufficient reasons, Ordinary may direct solemnization of marriage.

Punishment.

Act of 1826: §. 16. Prohibits the carrying “the cart whip,” either as an emblem of authority, or as an instrument of punishment; allowing only some “moderate and innoxious” substitute.—§ 17. No female slave shall be otherwise chastised than with a bunch of rods, not exceeding 20 quipipes, over back and shoulders: indecent exposure of person prohibited.

Separation of Families; and Sale of Slaves detached from Estates.—Manumission.

Act VI. “An Act to prevent the separation of slaves by sale or transfer, &c.” Father and mother, and child or children under 12 years, shall on no account be sold under any legal process otherwise than together, unless with their own free will and consent. Any sale to the contrary of these provisions is null and void, and the offender punishable by fine of 50*l.* and imprisonment.—Act VII. “An act more effectual to facilitate the manumission of slaves:” § 1. If a manumitted slave be likely to become chargeable to the public, from inability to support himself, his owner shall enter into suitable recognizance to defray his maintenance.—§ 2. Island secretary shall register manumissions.—§ 3. Provides relief in case of obstacles to manumission, where granted by bequest; of difficulty raised by executors; or of incapacity of minors.

Evidence. Trial, and Defence.

§ 25. Slaves accused of felony, shall be tried in all respects as free persons.—Slave evidence inadmissible as in cases of free persons, except on capital charges against owner or his representative.

Right of Property, and Right of Action.

Act V. “An act to enable slaves to acquire, possess, and alienate property;” also, “to bring, maintain, prosecute, and defend any suit or action in respect thereof, as fully and amply, and to all intents and purposes, as if such person were of free condition:” such property, in cases of intestacy, shall go to next of kin.—§ 7. (1826.) Establishes savings banks, to receive deposits from slaves to any amount not exceeding 10*l.* at one time, to bear interest at 6*l.* per cent.: interest to be added to, and become, principal.

Legal Protection.

Act I. Establishes and vests in the magistracy of the island the protection and guardianship of slaves: requiring of each to hear and investigate all complaints made by slaves, to issue warrant against and prosecute offender, under penalty of 200*l.*—Act VII. § 8. If any person be excepted in or out of court, as being a slave, *onus probandi* shall lie on the challenger.

BAHAMAS.

(Passed the 11th January, 1830.)

Religious Instruction, and Observance of the Sabbath. Baptism and Marriage.

§ 10. Requires all owners and managers to instruct their slaves in the Christian religion, to fit them for baptism, and cause it to be performed as soon as may be.—§ 72. Prohibits the holding any market, or opening of any shop, on Sunday, under penalty of total forfeiture of the goods; excepting that butcher's meat, fish, milk, &c., may be sold between sun-rise and 9 o'clock in the morning, but no later, under penalty of 5*l.* on persons frequenting, and 20*l.* on clerk not assisting, the said market.—§ 75. Absolutely prohibits labour of slaves on Sundays (domestic affairs excepted): penalty 50*l.*—§ 11-15. Provide for the solemnization of matrimony between slaves, or slave and free person, owner consenting.

Food—Clothing—Lodging: General Treatment.

§ 2. Requires that every slave, above 10 years of age, shall be supplied with “1 peck of Indian corn, or 21 pints of wheat flour, or 7 quarts of rice, or 56 lbs. of potatoes, cocoas, or yams, per week, over and above a sufficient quantity of land for every such slave; and one-half the same allowance to each child under 10 years; as also 2 suits of proper and sufficient clothing in each year,” under penalty of 50*l.* for each neglect.—§ 26. Requires that all slaves under punishment or confinement, &c. (see § 20-25, under “Punishment.”) shall, where such confinement exceeds 24 hours duration, be supplied with a proper quantity of farinaceous food, and a proper supply of

Labour and Holidays.

§ 28. Requires that all slaves shall be allowed Christmas, and the two following working days as holidays.

Punishment.

§ 22. Prohibits, as a misdemeanour, the "use of any whip, cat, or other instrument of the like nature, while superintending the labour of any slave or slaves upon the field of any plantation for the purpose of impelling or coercing labour."—§ 20-25. Provide that no slave shall, on any account, be punished with more than 39 lashes; nor receive a second punishment on the same day, or before recovered from any former chastisement; nor females be punished otherwise than privately: penalty 10*l.* for every offence. Flogging may be commuted for solitary confinement in field, horse, or bed stocks; or distinguishing dresses; limiting the duration, and prescribing intervals before the repetition, of such punishment.—§ 27. Prohibits the putting any collar round the neck, or chains, irons, or weights upon the body, of any slave, under penalty of 50*l.*; and any justice is required to cause such to be removed, under penalty of 100*l.*—§ 45. Gaol allowance or provisions shall be, in all respects, the same as that prescribed by § 3. for plantations: penalty 10*l.*

Separation of Families; and Sale of Slaves detached from Estates. Manumission.

§ 7, 9. Prohibit the separation of father and mother, and child or children under 14 years of age, rendering any sale, either judicial or private, of such parties, null and void; and forbid executors to assent to, or execute, any legacy involving such a separation: penalty 100*l.* for each offence.—§ 6. Repeals all taxes upon manumission: penalty 40*l.*—§ 84-90. Empower any slave to purchase his or her own manumission, or that of his wife, child, brother, or sister, (above 14 years of age.) In case of difficulty, slave may apply to magistrate, who shall appoint two referees, one for each party, to determine amount of compensation. Payment, or even tender, of the amount they award, to owner or his representative, shall entitle slave to his freedom. If referees disagree they shall appoint an umpire, whose decision shall be final. Magistrates required to act on all the provisions of this clause, under penalty of 50*l.*; and owner contumaciously resisting, subjected to fine from 10*l.* to 50*l.*

Evidence. Trial, and Defence.

§ 91. Provides that slaves, tried for capital offences, shall be tried in all respects as free persons are tried, when charged with similar offences.

Right of Property, and Right of Action.

§ 76. Entitles slaves "to hold, inherit, purchase, and dispose of lands, money, cattle, &c. of what value soever; and, by *prochain ami*, to maintain and defend suits in respect thereof, as persons of free condition."—§ 77. Provides for the safe deposit of the money of slaves, in the hands of the receiver-general; and allows interest, at the rate of 6 per cent. on all such deposits. Also secures the transmission of such, as well as of property in land, to their heirs, legitimate or putative.

Legal Protection.

§ 4. Provides that if slaves manumitted be incapable of labour, the manumittor shall be liable for their maintenance: until such maintenance be enforced, and in cases without other remedy, all such manumitted persons shall be taken care of at the public expense: penalty 10*l.*, or 3 months' imprisonment.—§ 16. Enacts, that any person whatever, who shall wilfully mutilate any slave, or cause or permit such mutilation, shall suffer fine of 100*l.*, and 12 months' imprisonment; or the slave, if the court see fit, to be made free, and paid an annuity of 10*l.* for life, out of the said fine. Constitutes justices and vestry a council of protection, to inquire into any case of cruelty to slaves in their respective parishes, and to indict offender.—§ 18. Makes wilful murder of a slave felony, without benefit of clergy.—§ 19. Provides that if any person shall wantonly or cruelly maltreat, beat, bruise, wound, imprison, or confine without sufficient support, any slave, such person shall be indicted, and suffer fine and imprisonment at discretion of the court.

TOBAGO.

(Passed 15th August, 1829.)

Religious Instruction, and Observance of the Sabbath. Baptism and Marriage.

§ 11. Owners or managers to promote baptism and religious instruction: the former within 6 months of the birth of infants, and on all adults so soon as they can be made sensible of religious duties: clergy, or dissenting preachers, required to perform the duty without fee or reward.—§ 14. No market or shop shall be open on Sundays, otherwise than for the purchase of articles of food, under penalty of the seizure of goods, and fine of 5*l.*—§ 15. No slave shall be employed in labour on a Sunday, excepting in domestic business, sudden accident, or potting of sugar, under penalty of 5*l.*: no mill to be put about between 8 on Saturday night and 4 on Monday morning,

under like penalty : and no female having 6 children to be set to any species of laborious work, under same penalty.—§ 12. Clergy to celebrate matrimony, also gratis, between parties applying with owner's consent, and appearing sensible of matrimonial obligations.

Food—Clothing—Lodging : General Treatment.

§ 9. Every owner or manager shall allow to each slave sufficient land, adapted to the growth of provisions, for his or her support and maintenance; each slave shall be allowed every Thursday, during 7 months in the year, to cultivate the same: but where an owner has not suitable land, he shall make ample provision for each slave in lieu thereof; and he shall provide for every family a good and comfortable house; and give to each slave, when practicable, a weekly allowance of salt fish, or such other food as their ages and state of health may require; and give to each, insufficient and suitable clothing and blankets: to slaves unattached to any estate, the owner shall also give comfortable lodging, sufficient food, and decent clothing: penalty 2*l.* sterling for each omission. Justices shall, on complaint made, investigate the case, and provide each slave with adequate food and clothing at owner's cost.

Labour and Holidays.

§ 16. No slave shall leave home for labour before day-break, nor work after sun-set, excepting in particular cases requiring nightwork: and each slave shall have time for breakfast 40 minutes, and for dinner 1 hour and 40 minutes.

Punishment.

§ 19. Strictly prohibits exposure of females under punishment.—§ 20. Prohibits any kind of punishment by driver, unless under express order of owner or manager.—§ 21. Limits overseer to infliction of 6 stripes; owner to 12, excepting in presence of other free person; not to exceed 20 under any circumstances; and not more than 12 on the day when offence committed; nor a second punishment, although for a second offence, on the same day; nor until recovered from effects of any former chastisement.—§ 22. To exceed those limits, or to wantonly or cruelly cut, wound, maim, or mutilate, or confine without sufficient support, shall be prosecuted as a misdemeanour, and punished by fine and imprisonment, or both. Magistrates appointed guardians, and required to investigate complaints, and direct prosecution of offender.

Separation of Families; and Sale of Slaves detached from Estates. Manumission.

§ 13. Absolutely prohibits the separation by sale, judicial or private, of father, mother, and child or children under 12 years of age; such sale, if attempted, declared null and void.

Evidence. Trial, and Defence.

§ 5. The evidence of slaves shall in all cases, civil or criminal, be received and admitted, precisely as that of free persons, without any other restriction or exceptions whatever.—§ 2. Slaves accused of higher crimes than misdemeanour shall be tried in all respects like free persons. And shall, when required, have counsel assigned them at the public expense—insufficient time to instruct whom shall be a reasonable cause for deferring the trial to the following session.

Right of Property, and Right of Action.

§ 17. Empowers slaves to purchase, acquire, possess, and dispose of, real and personal property, to any amount; and to bring and maintain suits in respect thereof, as fully and amply in all respects as persons of free condition.—§ 18. If any owner or other person shall deprive a slave of any property, the offender shall forfeit or pay the full value, with full costs of suit: action to be brought by the slave aggrieved.

Legal Protection.

§ 10. Justices of the peace are a council of protection: requires of them, on information that any owner disregards, in any particular, the foregoing provisions, to inspect the grounds, clothing, and lodging of the slaves on the estate complained of, and forthwith to allot to each slave one quarter of an acre of land, or a weekly allowance of 7 quarts of corn-meal, or 5 quarts of rice or flour in lieu thereof, 2 pounds of salt fish; and annually for clothing, 6 yards of cloth, 6 yards of strong linen, 1 hat, &c.

BERMUDA.

(Passed in July, 1827.)

Religious Instruction, and Observance of the Sabbath. Baptism and Marriage.

§ 38. Provides for the intermarrying of slaves, without fee or charge, if with owner's consent; such marriages, as also baptisms, to be formally registered.—§ 44. Punishes cohabitation of any married female slave with any man other than her lawful husband, by imprisonment and hard

Punishment.

§ 23. Gaol punishment shall be by labour on the tread-mill. To be regularly visited by magistrates, who shall call in medical practitioner to ascertain health of slaves so confined, and on his certificate remit such punishment.

Separation of Families; and Sale of Slaves detached from Estates. Manumission.

§ 41. Prohibits the separation of husband and wife, and provides that a slave may purchase the freedom of his wife, and thereby their issue shall be free; and may also purchase the freedom of his child or children.—§ 32. Slaves may maintain action, by guardian appointed by Chief Justice, against their owner, for breach of any contract of manumission: securities previously required in cases of manumission dispensed with, excepting where the slave is old, infirm, or otherwise incapable of maintaining himself.

Right of Property, and Right of Action.

§ 35. The secretary of the colony shall from time to time give notice in the Bermuda Gazette, of all bequests in favour of slaves, contained in any will registered by him: Chief Justice to appoint a guardian to recover the same *in formá pauperis*, if illegally disputed, or unreasonably delayed.—§ 36. Secures to slaves any and all property bequeathed to them, or purchased by such bequest; and authorises its disposal by will, or otherwise.—§ 45. Establishes saving banks for deposit of the earnings of slaves.

Legal Protection.

§ 20. No owner or manager shall suffer sick or infirm slaves to wander about in quest of maintenance: under penalty of 5*l.* for each offence.—§ 31. Chief Justice, or, if he be a party interested, then some other judge, shall, in all cases of contested freedom, appoint a guardian to sustain any suit *in formá pauperis*, on behalf of any person laying claim to freedom, and jury may award payment of defendant's costs from public treasury.

ANTIGUA.

(Passed the 21st April, 1798.)

Religious Instruction, and Observance of the Sabbath. Baptism and Marriage.

By Act of 21st May, 1824, any person opening any shop or offering goods for sale on the Sabbath day, shall suffer fine and imprisonment: vendors of strong liquors shall forfeit their license. Druggists, butchers, and bakers excepted.—§ 22-26. Owners preventing slaves from attending church or chapel, or from receiving baptism, to forfeit 5*l.*—Clergymen neglecting or refusing to baptize slaves, without fee or reward, to forfeit 30*s.*—Polygamy and promiscuous intercourse discouraged. Rewards given to slaves cohabiting as man and wife, and not yet capable of understanding the religious obligations of marriage; or, if married, observing the marriage vow; 4 dollars premium for the first, and 5 for each succeeding, child born in faithful connexion, with one man, as husband and wife. 1 dollar per annum whilst they live together observant of conjugal fidelity.—§ 25. Any white person cohabiting with a female slave who shall have elected a husband, shall forfeit 100*l.*

Food—Clothing—Lodging: General Treatment.

§ 1, 2. Every master of slaves shall, under penalty of 10*s.* for each slave neglected, supply weekly to every slave on his estate, (except during crop, when it may be diminished one-fifth) 9 pints of corn, or 8 of flour or meal, or 9 of oatmeal, or 7 of rice, or 8 lbs of biscuit, or 20 of potatoes, or 16 of eddoes, or 30 of plantains; and also 1½ lbs. of fish or other salted provisions, or 2½ lbs. of fresh fish or other fresh provisions, all of good and wholesome quality. The full allowance here specified to be also given to every aged, infirm, or sickly slave, under penalty of 20*s.* for each omission: as also, by § 27, medical aid, necessary food, &c. under penalty of 5*l.*—§ 4. Where it shall be found necessary to give money instead of food, each slave shall receive 4*s.* weekly, and be allowed two half days each week to resort to market. In both cases, it is referred to the master to apportion such supplies agreeably to sex and age; but he may on no account allot less than the full gross quantity in proportion to the number of his slaves.—§ 5. Where land, proved upon annual oath of manager to be adequately productive, is assigned by master, he may limit the foregoing supplies to one-half; excepting that, of the salt or fresh provisions, he shall still supply the full allowances.—§ 6. Every owner, possessed of the means, shall furthermore allot to each of his slaves capable of working it, a piece of good land adjoining their respective dwellings, not less than 40 feet square; or in lieu of such land, an annual compensation equal to its value: both under penalty of 5*l.*—§ 7. Every owner shall, twice in each year, supply to each slave a suit of the customary clothing; or one suit a year, and a good hat or cap, and blanket. Owner shall annually swear to the due supply both of food and clothing, under penalty of 100*l.* and shall keep a weekly register of the number of slaves, amount of supplies, &c., under penalty

of 25*l.*—§ Every owner shall procure, for every slave requiring it, proper medical assistance, and furnish such wine, food, &c. as such medical assistant shall prescribe, under penalty of 50*l.*: and by § 27, every estate shall be visited by a regular medical practitioner twice in each week, whether present for or not: and on special summons, he shall attend within eight hours, under penalty of 10*l.* Such summons to describe in writing the patient and his symptoms, that immediate relief may be sent.—§ 30. There shall also be, on each estate, a commodious hospital, under penalty of 100*l.*: and every owner shall, by himself or white assistant, attend as often as requisite, under penalty of 20*s.*, to see that such medicines and diet as prescribed by medical practitioner, are duly given. A full record of patients and prescriptions to be kept, penalty 40*s.*; and a supply of medicines, with proper directions, always to be in readiness on each estate: penalty 5*l.*—§ 35. A faithful account of all births and deaths, and how sick slaves have been attended, to be annually rendered on oath; penalty 100*l.*—§ 36. Medical man also annually to return on oath the number of deaths on each estate under his charge, the cause of death, and the treatment of each patient; penalty 100*l.*—§ 38. Whenever a negro woman shall become pregnant with her first child, the proprietor shall have built for her use a roomy and commodious negro house of two rooms.

Labour and Holidays.

§ 10. No slave shall be compelled to any kind of field labour before 5 a. m. nor after 7 p. m.; penalty 5*l.*—§ 9 Every such slave shall be allowed half an hour for breakfast, and two hours for dinner; penalty 1*l.* to 5*l.*—§ 24. No mother of six living children, the youngest being 7 years old, shall be set to perform other than light work; penalty 20*l.*—§ 37. No pregnant woman shall, when five months gone, be set to any other work than that of taking care of children, or similar light employment: penalty 5*l.*

Punishment.

§ 15. If any person shall cruelly whip, maltreat, beat, or imprison, or confine without sufficient support, any slave under his care, he shall suffer fine and imprisonment at discretion of the court: and such slave may be transferred to another master.—§ 17. Justices of peace, on information, to remove slave from his owner's possession, and support him pending enquiry.—§ 18. Persons affixing any iron collar or chain, whether round the leg, or other part of the body, of any slave, unless in the case of runaways, to forfeit 100*l.*—§ 37. No pregnant woman shall be punished otherwise than by confinement: penalty 5*l.*—The carrying of the whip as an emblem of authority or instrument of coercion, has for some time been abolished on every well regulated estate; and when corporal punishment is absolutely necessary, the cat applied over the shoulders has been substituted for the cart whip formerly used.—By § 1, No. 636, no slave on any plantation, or in the common jail, shall at any time receive more than 6 lashes at one time and for one offence, unless the owner or manager, or the keeper of such common jail, or a commissioner of the streets, or the superintendent of slaves sentenced to hard labour, shall be actually present; and no such owner or manager, jail-keeper, commissioner, or superintendent, or any other person whatever, shall on any account punish a slave with more than 39 lashes at one time and for one offence, nor any other number of lashes on the same day, nor within 14 days at least thereafter, nor until recovery from any former punishment, under the penalty of 100*l.* for every offence.

Separation of Families; and Sale of Slaves detached from Estates. Manumission.

By § 120, Act No. 475, it is expressly declared, that when any slaves are exposed to public sale on this island, "when there is a child or children under 12 years of age, they shall be set up with one mother, if there be a mother to be sold."—It would not appear that there has ever existed in Antigua the slightest restraint on fair and bona fide manumission of slaves, nor has any duty or tax ever been laid on such manumissions. To prevent, however, persons from improperly setting at large diseased or infirm negroes, § 12, has been enacted for their protection.

Evidence. Trial, and Defence.

The evidence of slaves would appear from the early enactments always to have been received in Antigua for and against each other.—Slaves, when witnesses, have always been examined without oath, which course of proceeding is expressly recognised by the Act of the 15th March, 1821, establishing a Court of King's Bench, and Grand Sessions for the trial of criminal slaves, who, with this single exception, are, in all cases of trial for capital offences, in every other respect placed on precisely the same footing as the white and free inhabitants of the colony.—In all trials of slaves, for capital offences, the prosecution shall be conducted on the part of the crown by the attorney and Solicitor General; and counsel shall be assigned by the Court to defend the slave so charged.

Right of Property and Right of Action.

Slaves have, by immemorial usage, been permitted in Antigua to hold and absolutely enjoy in their own right, property of a certain description. The usage alluded to is expressly recognised in the following enactment:—§ 14. Any white or free coloured person taking away from a slave any stock, vegetables, provisions, or any article or thing which such slave shall be authorised, by any present or future existing laws, usages, or customs of the island to sell or possess, shall suffer

Legal Protection.

§ 11. Makes the public liable for the support of any slave becoming incapable, from age, sickness, or infirmity, to subsist himself; provided his owner cannot be found.—§ 12. No person shall set free any slave disabled from procuring his own maintenance, unless he deposit, in the hands of the island treasurer, three hundred pounds as a provision for such slave's maintenance.—§ 14. Persons, not owners, beating or ill-treating any slave, to suffer fine of 10*l.*, by distress levied on their goods, and, in default of goods, one month imprisonment; beside which, owner may bring his action against offender.—§ 20. Whenever any slave, not under 6 years of age, nor from natural decay, shall die suddenly without having been visited at least 48 hours before decease, by some medical practitioner duly qualified, an inquest shall be had upon the body, under penalty of 100*l.*—§ 21. Murder of a slave, death—precisely as in case of free person.

MONTERRAT, THE VIRGIN ISLANDS,

as also NEVIS and ST. CHRISTOPHER'S,

Are under the operation of the same Law as this of ANTIGUA.

DEMERARA.

(Enacted by Order in Council, 2nd February, 1830; excepting such Clauses as are marked *Supplementary*, which were added by the Lieutenant-Governor and the Local Legislature of the Colony.)

Religious Instruction, and Observance of the Sabbath. Baptism and Marriage.

§ 17-20. Prohibit the working or employing any slave otherwise than upon domestic or indispensable business, on Sunday: penalty 1*l.* to 3*l.* each offence. The indispensable business, to be defined by the governor by proclamation; and in every case, notice of such employment of slaves to be given to the protector.—§ 12-15. Sunday markets and the public sale of goods, excepting medicines and perishable food, absolutely prohibited: penalty 5 to 20 shillings each offence.—§ 37. Declares that no slave is incapable in law of contracting marriage; and that in case of owner's refusal, and subsequent failure to prove to protector that such proposed marriage would be injurious to the slaves themselves, protector may issue his authority to any licensed clergyman or teacher, to solemnize such marriage; of which a register is to be kept.

Food—Clothing—Lodging: General Treatment.

Supp. 5. Requires, that on every estate there shall be a commodious hospital, and a legally qualified medical practitioner employed to attend the sick; medicine, proper food, and all necessaries to be provided; and a register of all cases kept: penalty 40*l.*—*Supp.* 3. Every owner shall have provision grounds on the estate, properly planted, 1 acre for 5 negroes; allowing moreover a reasonable weekly allowance according to the custom of the colony: and also provide them with proper clothing, according to the schedule annexed: penalty 5*l.* for every acre deficient, and 10*l.* for every slave not properly supplied. The scale of allowance to be as below.*

Labour and Holidays.

Supp. 2. Every married female shall, when her first child attains the age of 6 weeks, receive from her owner 12 guilders; and 15 for every succeeding child: penalty 20*l.* for each refusal. And every mother of 6 living children born in marriage or reputed marriage, shall, when the youngest shall be 7 years old, be exempt from any field labour, or other than light work: penalty 20*l.*—*Supp.* 4. Limits the hours of field labour from 6 in the morning to 6 in the evening, out of

* *Schedule of Weekly Allowance of Food and of Clothing, to be given to Slaves in the United Colony of Demerara and Essequibo.*

Adult Working Male or Female, to have of salt fish, herrings, shads, mackerel, or other salt provisions, 2 lbs.; if fresh, double the quantity, with half a pint of salt: one and a half bunch of plantains, weighing not less than 45 lbs., or of other farinaceous food; 9 pints corn or beans, 8 pints pease, or wheat or rye flour, or Indian corn meal, or 9 pints oat meal, or 7 pints rice, or 8 pints Cassava flour, or 8 lbs. biscuit, or 20 lbs. yams or potatoes, or 16 lbs. eddoes or tanios, and not less.

Invalids, and Boys and Girls from 10 to 15 years of age, to have two-thirds, and Boys and Girls from 5 to 10 years of age, to have one-half of the above quantities of salt provisions, and of plantains, or other farinaceous food.

Children from 1 to 5 years of age, to have one-third of the above quantity of salt provisions, and one-third of the quantity of plantains, or other farinaceous food.

Of Yearly Allowance of Clothing:—Working Males: 1 hat, 1 cloth jacket, 1 check shirt, 1 pair Osna burg trousers, 2 Salempores caps, 1 razor or knife, 1 blanket every 2 years. *Working Females:* 1 hat, 1 gown or wrapper, 1 check shift, 1 Osna burg petticoat, 1 pair of scissors, 1 blanket every 2 years. *To Invalids and Children, in proportion.*

which every slave shall have two hours for meals and rest: penalty 20*l.* And slaves employed in the manufacture of sugar, shall have at least eight hours of rest without interruption, six of them between sun-set and sun-rise: penalty 20*l.*

Punishment.

§ 21. The carrying a whip, or any other instrument of punishment, in the field or elsewhere, whether as a badge of authority, or as a stimulus to labour; or the use of it, unless for a fault previously committed, declared a misdemeanour.—§ 22-35. Prohibit the whipping or beating any female slave above ten years of age. The governor of Demerara has prescribed as substitutes: solitary confinement, in any place approved by a medical practitioner, and not exceeding three days; stocks; hand-cuffs; distinguishing marks or dresses. But no such punishment shall be inflicted on a Sunday: and in all cases of confinement exceeding 13 hours' duration, sufficient food and good water shall be supplied to delinquent: penalty for any one violation 20*l.* to 50*l.* Restrain corporal punishment of male slaves to 25 lashes, either for any one offence, or within any one day: no such punishment to be inflicted until after sun-rise of the next day; nor any, so long as unhealed scars remain on the body: nor unless one free person, or six slaves, be present: offender declared guilty of a misdemeanour. A punishment record book to be kept of all punishments of female slaves, and of all corporal punishments of male slaves exceeding 3 stripes; stating nature, time, and place of the offence; the punishment; by whom inflicted, and authorised, and the witnesses present: penalty 2*l.* to 20*l.*; false statement a misdemeanour. Manager to report every 6 months, on oath: penalty 10*l.* to 50*l.*

Separation of Families; and Sale of Slaves detached from Estates. Manumission.

§ 46-51. Prohibit the separation by sale, under any legal process, intestacy of owner, conveyance, contract, or will, of father, mother, and child or children, under 16 years of age, unless with their own and protector's consent.—§ 52-55. Repeal and prohibit all tax upon manumission, excepting that bond shall be given for slave's maintenance if less than 6 or more than 50 years old, or in a state of disease.—§ 56-69. Enact compulsory manumission.

Evidence. Trial, and Defence.

§ 70. Admits the evidence of slaves, in all cases, civil or criminal.—*Supp.* 1. That in any criminal prosecution against a slave, one or more advocates (according to the nature of the charge) shall be retained on his behalf at the public expense.

Right of Property, and Right of Action.

§ 42. Slaves may acquire property to any amount, and bring and defend actions for it.—*Supp.* 8. Establishes savings-banks, wherein slaves may deposit money at legal interest.

Legal Protection.

§ 1. Any person guilty of cruelty to a slave, shall, in addition to the lawful punishment of such offence, be liable to forfeit the slave so treated.—§ 72. No slave shall be punished for preferring and failing to establish any complaint, unless it shall be proved to originate in a culpable motive.—§ 80. Requires protector, twice in each year, to make a full return to the Governor, of all matters and proceedings in which he has been engaged in that capacity, as the condition of receiving his salary.—*Supp.* 6. Requires that no slave who has died suddenly, or shortly after punishment, or under suspicious circumstances, or who has committed suicide, shall be buried without an inquest, of which a report is to be sent to protector: penalty 30*l.*—*Supp.* 9. Requires paragonymen and licensed preachers and teachers, of every denomination, to transmit to protector the names, &c. of every slave whom they shall deem conscious of the obligation of an oath.—§ 10-11. Appoint an official protector of slaves, requiring that he be constantly resident, and that he shall himself have no manner of property or interest in slaves. Assistant protectors appointed for each district. Protector to have notice of all prosecutions against slaves, or of suits affecting their freedom and property, and to attend on their behalf; as also to receive notice of any injury done to their persons, on receiving which he is to inquire into the case, and sue to prosecute the wrong doer.—*Supp.* 7. Provides that persons employing the slaves of others without their owner's consent, shall suffer a fine of 40*l.*

BERBICE. TRINIDAD. ST. LUCIE.

The various enactments the same as those of the Order in Council for Demerara, which see: excepting such clauses as are there marked *Supplementary*. For these Colonies similar supplementary regulations are left to be enacted by their respective Local Authorities.
