

Discussions in the H. of Assembly

ANTIGUA



HERALD

AND GAZETTE.

SHIPS, COLONIES, COMMERCE.

VOL. III.] SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1834.

SIX DOLLARS PER ANN. IN ADVANCE.—[NO. 106.]

ANTIGUA LIBRARY SOCIETY.

THE MEMBERS of this Society are hereby apprized that in accordance with Rule the 4th. Every Subscriber who shall not have paid his Subscription at the Expiration of one Calendar Month from the date hereof, (the day of the half yearly general Meeting,) will be considered as having withdrawn from the Society, to be re-admitted only by ballot as a new Member.

By Order,
JAMES W. SHERRIFF
Secretary.

Reading Room Jan. 4, 1834.

A CARD.

MR. & MRS. PEARMAN Beg respectfully to announce to the Ladies and Gentlemen of Antigua, That they propose remaining sometime in the Island, and will feel most happy during their stay to receive or attend Pupils for the PIANO FORTE, English, French, and Italian Singing, the GUITAR and Music in general.—For Terms, Apply at their Residence.

N. B. Piano Fortes tuned and repaired in town or Country.
St. John's Jan. 10th 1834.

Landing from the brig Susan, McBean Master from Saint Andrews, a choice Cargo of,

WHITE PINE BOARDS & PLANK and 22 inch Cedar SHINGLES, which will be sold low for payment down or on the 1st march next, in cash or produce.

ROBERT McDONALD.

Jan. 11, 1834.

The Subscribers are landing from the Schr. Franklyn, from North Carolina:—

THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND RED OAK STAVES, CYPRESS SHINGLES, SUPERFINE FLOUR, CORN MEAL in barrels, TAR and ROSIN.

And from the Brig Swan, from Norfolk, 42 M. Red Oak STAVES.

WOOD & BENNETT.

Jan. 11, 1834.

The Subscribers are now receiving from the brig Susan, McBean Master from St. Andrews.

CHOICE WHITE PINE BOARDS, PLANK and Cedar SHINGLES, R. & S. MASON.

Jan. 11, 1834.

The Subscribers are receiving from on board the Brig Nymph and the Brig Swan, from Norfolk and offer for sale on accommodating terms,

FIRST Quality Red Oak STAVES, Do. do. Cypress SHINGLES, CORN, TOBACCO in hhds. and a few bags Black Ey'd PEASE.

The above two vessels are now discharging, and will be ready for Sea in about 10 days, they are both first rate Vessels and are offered for freight or Charter to any Port.

SAMUEL NELSON & CO.

January 4, 1834.

HORSES AND CORN MEAL.

The Subscribers offer for Sale.—

EIGHT American HORSES, AND

100 puncheons of MEAL, just landed.

F. & W. JONES.

January 4, 1834.

NOW LANDING,

SIXTEEN Thousand Red Oak STAVES.

J. BRADSHAW & CO.

Dec. 28,

FOR SALE BY PRIVATE CONTRACT.

The Subscriber is requested to offer at Private Sale, the following Articles of first quality,—

A Set Claw Feet Dining Tables,
A pair do. do. Card Do.,
A German Settee,
A Case containing a Set of Balance Ivory-handled Knives and Forks, (100 pieces.)
An Elegant Dinner Service, Stone China.
A Piano in good order, by Broadwood.
India and Hand Shades,
Wall Dittos,
Canesticks, } Best Plated.

Also the following Silver.—

One Dozen Table Spoons,
One doz. Tea Dittos,
One doz. Table Forks,
Salt Spoons, &c.

AND

Very Superior Cake Trays, Silver Edges, forming a Set of Rare Patterns, together with several other Articles.

Terms made known on application to

COLLEMAN H. LAMITT,

January 4, 1834. Auctioneer.

Just imported in Ship William and Alfred, from London:—

TWO Hundred Bundles Long Wood HOOPS Elliott's Pale ALE and STOUT in hhds., Lidgson's Pale ALE in puns. 14 dozen, Two London made GIGS, Westphalia HAMS, PICKLES and SAUCES in cases, MUSTARD in ditto, Payable in Cash or Produce, at Cash price on 1st March next.

January 1, 1834. GEO. DRYSDALE.

The Subscribers are now landing from Ship William and Alfred, Drysdale master,—a Consignment of

VERY Old London Particular MADEIRA,

in pipes, hhds., and quarter casks, which they will dispose of very low for Cash.

GILES S. MUSSON & CO.

— ALSO ON HAND —

A few Loaves Bristol Double Refined SUGAR, at 1s. per lb. for Cash down.

Jan. 4, 1834.

NOTICE

THE Co-partnership hitherto existing under the Firm of GEORGE NELSON & CO. being this day dissolved, in consequence of the demise of the late Mr. THOMAS NELSON, the business will in future be carried on by the Subscriber; who takes this opportunity of returning his grateful acknowledgements for favours extended to the above concern, and of soliciting a continuance of them to himself.

January 11, GEORGE NELSON.

(From the Barbadian.)

JAMAICA.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HONORABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Friday, October 25.

House in committee on the state of the island. Mr. Townshend in the chair.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.

Mr. Mais said that the period had arrived when the question of emancipation was to be considered by the representatives of the people of Jamaica. The measure involved consequences the most important, but from the length of time it had been agitated, though the slave owners might deprecate the proceedings of the British Government, on the subject as hasty and unwise, yet they could not complain that they were taken by surprise. For a series of years the colonies have been kept in a constant state of agitation and reiterated excitement so as to have reduced Jamaica from being the most precious jewel of the British Crown to a state of depreciation bordering upon destruction. He could not but say he was glad that the time had arrived for disposing of this subject finally, and he trusted safely. It was a subject of the greatest moment, and requiring deep deliberation, but he did not consider it beyond the power of human wisdom, with divine aid, to settle it by judicious measures and thus to render emancipation not only safe but ultimately beneficial. One great object would be now obtained, the termination of that unnecessary and most harassing agitation, which had long since driven happiness, prosperity, and security out of the country. The calamity was now before them—it was an evil, but they knew

the worst—year after year they had hitherto been threatened with ill—and this was magnified by men's imagination, so as to render the shadow ten times more appalling than the reality. Under that impression, and feeling how much better certain evil was than continued agitation, he for one was glad that the subject was now to be discussed. He considered it was indeed desirable to determine it, and most happy would he be if the wisdom of the legislature could settle it for ever. It should be remembered, that this measure does not affect Jamaica exclusively—it equally regulates all the other slave colonies of the British Empire. We only suffer in common with others. It may be said, that this consideration does not diminish our own suffering, but it is some consolation to know that we do not suffer alone. It is also satisfactory to feel that, however disastrous the result of this rash experiment may prove, that the act is not ours. (Hear, hear.) It is the exclusive act of the British Government, forced upon the ministry by the almost unanimous voice of the whole nation. On the British Government rests all the responsibility—let us hold them to it—let them not shift it upon us. They must feel that their responsibility is indeed most heavy, and it is one source of hope to us that they are thus bound up with us in promoting the eventual success of this measure. Their reputation and station are dove-tailed as it were, into the welfare and prosperity of the colonies.

Duty and inclination must alike induce them to aid us. Their honor and reputation as statesmen, and their places as ministers, depend upon the result being safe and prosperous. It is not in human nature that they can feel otherwise than anxious for the happy issue of their experiment. If successful, they will receive fame from all mankind—if disastrous, their political opponents will insult and scorn them. The British nation, too, is deeply concerned in the result. They have awarded 20 millions sterling to the colonies as their portion of the price of emancipation. I do not (said the hon. member) look upon this large sum as intended to be a gift—it was not designed to be thrown away. It was expected by those who granted it, that at some period it would be returned back to the British people in the shape of duties or commercial advantages. However hazardous is the measure we are about to adopt—and hazardous it is to an extreme degree,—still let us not despair. We have the British Government to aid us, and the British nation to back our endeavours. Let us calmly and deliberately proceed in relation to this measure, so as to enlist in our cause all the just and liberal men in the British Kingdom. I cannot wonder at the abhorrence of slavery entertained by the British nation, when I consider that they have not witnessed the real condition of the labouring class; and believing that West India slavery means bitter oppression, they regard it with abhorrence, as unnatural and unjust. All the recollections of the studies of early youth are enlisted against the system, because it has been misunderstood. Our fellow subjects believe that slavery in Jamaica means chains and eternal oppression. They are not aware of the tie, I may say the social tie, connecting the feelings of the master and the slave, and which would justify us in calling our form of society the patriarchal state. I am not, I repeat, astonished that Britons who thus judge of us, view our institutions with abhorrence. There are arrayed against us now an immense number of persons who are prompted by the generous idea of rescuing man from injustice and chains; let us make these our friends, by convincing them that we are as sincere advocates of human civilization and happiness as they can be—that we are not the advocates of slavery, but only require indemnity for property acquired by years of industry and labour: Let us prove to the wise and good in other lands, that when we have, even to a less degree than we deserve, secured compensation for that species of property against which the feelings of our fellow-subjects are excited, that we are most ready and most anxious to join them in the work of restoring the slave to freedom. The compensation voted to us, however inadequate, was a large concession on the part of the mother country, and as such as we could reasonably hope for, and I shall put it to the candour of every experienced man, whether considering the depreciated price for which our slaves would here sell, under existing circumstances, the compensation is not more than we could now otherwise obtain for them (cries of no, no, from all parts of the house) I shall not contend for this point—let us waive it—let us consider whether it is not better for us to receive inadequate compensation than to obtain, nothing for our slaves. Let us not forget, that the British ministry have been propelled by a power they could not resist—they were compelled to make up their minds to the subject, and to act the part they have done. The act is not the less theirs, and it is upon this fact, that our chance of ultimate security

depends. Let us conciliate the men whose reputation depends upon the success of their experiment, and let us not by ineffectual resistance lose all the chance which remains to us of saving a portion of our property. It is indeed hard to lose so much—it is unjust to be so inadequately compensated, but still let us not forget the homely adage, that half a loaf is better than no bread. By calmly and judiciously considering our condition, and providing for an event we cannot avert—by anxiously seeking to benefit all classes in this island, we shall disarm our enemies, and raise up new friends, who may aid us in promoting the lasting welfare of the island. The evil has come upon us, let us not increase it. I do not conceal how awfully hazardous is the experiment, but let us adopt such measures as will give it the best chance of success. Let us not by unavailing resistance gratify our enemies, who are seeking to deprive us of even that pittance of compensation which has been at length awarded us. Nothing do our opponents more desire than that our conduct should give them an opportunity of abstracting the very inadequate price we may receive for our confiscated possessions. There is another consideration which should induce us to coalesce upon this subject with the British Government. We require protection, in order to avert the heavy calamities which must otherwise come upon us, and we should remember that, however painful may be the sacrifices we are compelled to make, yet they are necessary to ward off greater evils. We cannot now select the course we wish to take. Our proceedings must be the result of prudence, not of choice. I am well aware of the numerous objections made, and most justly made, against this bill. It is said, and truly said, that its enactments are an unjust invasion and wanton interference with our local laws and the just rights of our own legislatures—it is objected, and justly objected, that the compensation offered is most inadequate, and that the details which regulate the doling out of this miserable pittance, almost add insult to injury—it is complained, and reasonably complained, that the most unfortunate precipitancy of the measure has brought us to the verge of ruin—all this is undeniable. But what can we do? we can only submit to the force of the strong over the weak, and watch the course of events. In time some influential persons in the commons, or perhaps in the lords' house of parliament, will do us tardy justice, and by recording our complaint we may ultimately receive some satisfaction for our claims. I have prepared a resolution stating the injustice done to us. Then follow certain protests against the conduct of the government. If the house should adopt them, they shall be followed up with a motion to appoint a committee to bring in a bill or bills, to carry into effect as securely as may be, the objects of the act of parliament. The hon. member then read as follows:

That it be recommended to the house to come to the following resolution:— Resolved, "That the House of Assembly of Jamaica be bound, in discharge of their duty to their constituents, to protest against the interference of the British Government with the internal laws and regulations of the island, as exemplified in the bill now before the house, passed by the Imperial Parliament, entitled "An Act for the abolition of Slavery throughout the British colonies, for promoting the industry of the manumitted slaves, and for compensating the persons hitherto entitled to the services of such slaves," many of its enactments being subversive of the constitutional rights and privileges of the colonial legislature. "They protest against the amount to be raised under the act avowedly for the purpose of compensating the proprietors of slaves, as the sum appropriate to this island out of the twenty millions of pounds sterling, will be very inadequate to the value of property they are compelled to relinquish. "They protest against the general appropriation of the grant, as a calculation per capita would be the simplest, the most equitable and the soonest arrived at. "They protest against the uncertainty, when the compensation money so called, will be payable, from the complicated system adopted for its arrangement and the adjustment of claims. "They protest against the precipitancy of emancipation (according to the provisions of the act, before the slaves are sufficiently prepared for so great a change in their condition) as hazardous to the safety and property of his Majesty's free subjects, and although from necessity, and to avoid the charge of contumacy, the house will yield to the adoption of measures which are contrary to their better judgment and experience, they hold his Majesty's government responsible for the consequences which may result therefrom, and claim from the justice and liberality of the British nation, full indemnity hereafter should the measures thus forced upon