

obsolete and of no force and effect: But whereas, by reason of the many false accusations and wicked contrivances, made and used by certain evil disposed persons, against the character and well-being of the British settlements in the West Indies, it is expedient to repeal by a positive enactment such parts of the said Acts and Statutes.

Clause 1.

5th Clause of No. 82, Hall's Laws repealed.

Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Right Honourable Stapleton Lord Combermere, Knight Grand Cross of the most honourable Military Order of the Bath, of the Royal Guelphic Order, and of the Portuguese Royal Military Order of the Tower and Sword, His Majesty's Captain General and Governor in Chief of this island, Chancellor, Ordinary, and Vice-Admiral of the same, the honourable the Members of His Majesty's Council and the General Assembly of this island, and by the authority of the same, that the fifth Clause of a certain Act or Statute of this island, entitled "An Act for the Governing of Negroes," being number eighty-two in Hall's Laws of Barbadoes, be, and the same is hereby repealed and made void.

Clause 2.

No. 92 Hall's Laws repealed.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that an Act or Statute of this island, entitled "An additional Act to an Act entitled an Act for the Governing of Negroes," and which is mentioned as number ninety-two in Hall's Laws of Barbadoes, shall be and the same is hereby repealed.

Clause 3.

The Act of 1805, for the better protection of Slaves, repealed.

And whereas doubts have arisen respecting the true construction, intent, and meaning of a certain Act which passed in the year one thousand eight hundred and five, and entitled "An Act for the better Protection of the Slaves of this island."

Clause 4.

The wilful murder of a Slave made felony, without benefit of Clergy.

Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Act shall, and the same is hereby declared to be null and void.

Excepting the forfeiture of lands, &c

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any person shall hereafter wilfully and maliciously kill and murder any Slave, whether such Slave be the property of the person so killing and murdering, or of any other person, such person so killing and murdering being duly convicted thereof by the evidence of one or more competent witness or witnesses, at a court of Grand Sessions, shall suffer death without benefit of clergy: Provided, nevertheless, that any person so convicted of such murder of a Slave shall not thereby forfeit his lands, Negroes, goods or chattels, any law to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

Read three times and passed the Council unanimously, this twenty-eighth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and eighteen.

(Signed) WM. HUSBANDS, Deputy Clerk of the Council

Read three times and passed the General Assembly *nem. con.*, this twenty-eighth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and eighteen.

(Signed)

JOHN WM. ED. ELDER, Acting Clerk of the General Assembly.

(Signed) COMBERMERE.

Assented to by his Excellency the Governor, on the 29th day of July, 1818.

(Signed) WM. HUSBANDS, Deputy Secretary.

18.

17.

Barbadoes.—An Act for the better Prevention of the Practice of Obeah.

Clause 1.

WHEREAS it is expedient to prevent the evils and offences which arise from the wicked acts and pretensions of persons going under the appellation of Obeah men and women; and whereas the provisions now by law made for the prevention of such evils and offences have been found ineffectual for that purpose.

Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Right Honourable Stapleton Lord Combermere, Knight Grand Cross of the most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, of the Royal Guelphic Order, and of the Portuguese Royal Military Order of the Tower and Sword, His Majesty's Captain General, and Governor in Chief of this island, Chancellor, Ordinary, and Vice-Admiral of the same, the honourable the members of His Majesty's Council and the General Assembly of this island, and by the authority of the

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same, that from and after the passing of this Act, any person who shall wilfully, maliciously, and unlawfully pretend to any magical and supernatural claim or power, in order to promote the purposes of insurrection or rebellion of the Slaves within this island, or to injure and affect the life or health of any other person, or who wilfully and maliciously, shall use or carry on the wicked and unlawful practice of Obeah, shall, upon conviction thereof before two justices of the peace and three freeholders, if the person offending be a Slave, and before the Court of Grand Sessions if a free person, suffer death or transportation as the court by which the said offender may be tried, shall think proper, anything in this or any other Act of this island to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

Persons pretending to supernatural power to promote rebellion, or using the unlawful practice of Obeah, to suffer death or transportation.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that from and after the passing of this Act, if any person wilfully and maliciously in the practice of Obeah or otherwise, shall mix or prepare, or have in his or her possession, any poison, or any destructive substance or thing, with an intent to administer to any person (whether the said person be white or black or a person of colour), or wilfully and maliciously shall actually administer to or cause to be administered to or taken by any such person as aforesaid, any poison or any destructive substance or thing whatsoever, although death may not ensue, upon the testimony thereof, every such person, together with his or her counsellors, aiders, and abettors, knowing of, and being privy to such evil intentions and offences, shall, upon conviction thereof before two justices of the peace and three freeholders, if the person offending be a Slave, and before the Court of Grand Sessions, if a free person, suffer death, transportation, or such other punishment as the court by which such offender may be tried shall think proper, anything in this or any other Act of this island to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

Clause 2.
Persons practising Obeah, or preparing or having in possession any destructive substance, and administering or intending to administer the same to any person together with the abettors, to suffer death, transportation, or other punishment.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that from and immediately after the passing of this Act, the Act entitled "An Act for the punishment of Slaves found practising Obeah" shall be and the same is hereby repealed and made void to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

Clause 3.
Former Obeah Act repealed.

Read three times and passed the Council unanimously the twenty-fifth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and nineteen.

(Signed) WM. HUSBANDS, Deputy Clerk of the Council.

Read three times and passed the General Assembly *nem. con.*, this fourth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and nineteen.

(Signed) R. B. FARLEY, officiating acting Clerk of the General Assembly.

(Signed) COMBERMERE.

Assented to by his Excellency the Governor on the 26th day of May, 1819.

(Signed) WILLIAM HUSBANDS, Deputy Secretary.

18.

17.

October 23rd, 1826.

May it please your Excellency

THE Consolidation Slave Bill having passed the House of Assembly, and also the Honourable Board of Council, I presume it will be satisfactory to your Excellency to be informed of the reasons which influenced the House in not adopting certain of the recommendations contained in Lord Bathurst's Despatch of the 9th of July 1823. The Assembly throughout their discussions, on the reconsideration of this most important Bill, felt it a sacred duty which they owed to their country, their constituents, and themselves, whilst anxiously disposed to meet the views and wishes of His Majesty's government, not to lose sight of "the safety of the inhabitants, the interest of their property, and the welfare of the Slaves themselves." Acting on these considerations, the Assembly, with all due deference to Earl Bathurst, found that they could not yield to his Lordship's recommendations to prohibit the punishment of women by flogging, and the use of the whip in the field. To forbid by legislative enactment the