

bitants of the island; and with an anxious desire to afford the readiest means of ensuring to Slaves their just rights, and of protecting them from injustice and oppression, the House unanimously passed a clause and added it to the bill appointing a committee of protection with an acting protector under them, at an annual salary of four hundred pounds payable from the Colonial Treasury. The only point of the bill on which any decided difference of opinion prevailed in the House, was the admission of Slave evidence; but after considerable discussion it was thought by a large majority of members, that its exclusion would materially interfere with the provisions adopted for their protection, and therefore clauses granting that privilege to Slaves were moved and carried, and now form a part of the present bill: this provision was omitted in the former bill.

The advocates of this measure conceiving that more could with safety be conceded on this head, than was proposed by Lord Bathurst, did not hesitate to extend the benefit thus designed for the Slaves beyond the line laid down by his Lordship, as will be seen by a comparison of those clauses with his Lordship's recommendation.

Provisions for the abolition of the Sunday market, the baptism and marriage of Slaves, and their religious instruction, are to be found in a separate bill, which passed the House and the Honourable Board of Council at their last meeting.

I have thus endeavoured to give to your excellency a statement of the proceedings of the House, with the reasons which influenced them in not adopting some of the recommendations contained in his Lordship's despatch of the 9th of July, 1823, and I am justified in adding, that throughout their deliberations an honest and conscientious feeling pervaded the minds of all to go the utmost length that prudence would allow in giving effect to the wishes of His Majesty's ministers, to whom they now look up in full confidence that the time which they have so anxiously passed in maturing the measure for His Majesty's consideration, will, through their advice, receive the high reward which His Majesty's gracious confirmation of the bill would confer. I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HAYNES, Speaker.

To his Excellency Sir Henry Warde, K. C. B.

&c. &c. &c. (Signed) WILLIAM HUSBAND, Deputy Clerk of Council.

19.

The Council has the honour to forward to his Excellency the governor, a copy of this day's proceedings, accompanied by a copy of a supplemental bill to the Consolidation Slave Bill, which unanimously passed the Council, and which they regret to say has been rejected by the House of Assembly. Council Chambers, 17th October, 1826.

Barbadoes.—A Supplemental Act to an Act entitled "An Act to repeal several Acts and Clauses of Acts respecting Slaves, and for consolidating and bringing into one Act the several Laws relating thereto, and for the better Order and Government of Slaves, and for giving them further Protection and Security, for altering the mode of Trial of those charged with capital and other Offences and for other Purposes."

WHEREAS certain other regulations are deemed necessary to satisfy the wishes of His Majesty's government, touching the melioration of the condition of Slavery in this colony: And whereas the Legislature is willing to go to the utmost length that reason or prudence would sanction in furtherance of those wishes: Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency Sir Henry Warde, Knight, Commander of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, 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 from and after the passing of the aforementioned Act, entitled "An Act to repeal several Acts and Clauses of Acts respecting Slaves, and for consolidating and bringing into one Act the several Laws relating thereto, &c.," no master, owner, or overseer of Slaves, shall allow any driver, or person exercising the authority of driver, to carry a whip of any description into the field in which the people under his direction are at work.

Clause 2.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the punishment by flogging shall not be inflicted by or on behalf of the master, upon females above fourteen years of age, except in the execution of the sentence of a magistrate or other court.

Clause 3.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that any person who shall be convicted before two justices of the peace, by one or more competent witnesses, of having violated either of the foregoing clauses of this Act, shall be fined in a sum not less than five pounds current money, nor exceeding fifty, to be applied to the uses of the island.

Clause 4.

And it is hereby declared and enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every Slave shall have and enjoy absolute right and control over any property which he or she may be lawfully possessed of, that he may dispose of it at pleasure, either by will or otherwise without the knowledge or consent of his master; that he may sue or be sued at law for all matters relating to it: Provided always, that a Slave contracting debts, or condemned to pay costs or damages, shall only be liable to the extent of such property as he or she may actually possess, and that no Slave shall be subject to personal arrest for any debts, cost, or damages, which he or she may have incurred: and provided also that no Slave shall have a right to keep cows, hogs, sheep, or other stock on lands belonging to his master without his consent.

Clause 5.

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that this Act, or anything herein contained, shall not be in force until His Majesty's pleasure on the same shall be known.

Read three times, and passed the Council unanimously, this seventeenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-six.

(Signed) WILLIAM HUSBANDS, Deputy Clerk of Council.

At a meeting of the Honourable Board of Legislative Council, in Council Chamber, at the Town Hall, on the 17th October, 1826.

Present, The Honourables,

Sir Reynold A. Alleyne, Bart. John R. Best, Renn Hamden, Honourable and Reverend John H. Gittens, Nathan Lucas, Philip L. Hinds.

The last Minutes were then read and confirmed.

The following message was then prepared to the House of Assembly and taken down by the clerk.

"The Council requests the favour of a short conference with the House of Assembly on the subject of the Slave Bill."

"Council Chamber, 17th October, 1826."

To which the following was received in reply.

The House of Assembly, in reply to the message with which they have just been honoured from the Honourable Board of Council, requesting a short conference on the subject of the Slave Bill, beg to say that they are ready to enter on the conference."

House of Assembly, 17th October, 1826.

The Council accordingly retired to meet the House of Assembly.

After some time the Council again returned into the Council Chamber, when Mr. Hamden rose and said, That although it appeared to be the unanimous opinion of this Board, that the Bill which has been sent up by the House of Assembly is so defective, that there is no chance of its obtaining His Majesty's assent, and having also failed in our efforts at the conference with