

the time of King William the Third, the then inserted words "jointly and severally," being now and thereafter entirely omitted. In the years 1837 and 1838, however, attempts were made by Her Majesty's Government to revive this General Assembly of all the Leeward Islands, and writs were accordingly issued under the supposed authority of the before-mentioned Act of 1705; but the separate Legislatures of several of these Islands opposed the measure, and insisted, not only that the former Government of the Leeward Islands had been dissolved in 1816, and that the new Government under that name was not composed of the same Islands, but that even previous to such dissolution the members of the General Assembly of the whole could not, by the above-mentioned Law of 1694, be elected without the concurrence of the separate Assemblies of each Island, and according to the last example of the holding of such a General Assembly (in 1798) the express and particular consent of every one of the separate Assemblies was a necessary preliminary. Her Majesty's Government consequently abandoned the attempt.

In 1672, Lord Willoughby (as above stated) was appointed Governor-in-Chief of Barbadoes, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and Dominica. No attempt seems ever to have been made to call a joint Assembly for this Government. Such a measure appears, indeed, to have been suggested and considered in 1764, under the Commission to General Melville, but the subsequent calling of Assemblies severally for each Island was probably found more consistent, not only with the terms of the Proclamation of 1763, but also with the manner and form used in the other British Colonies.

St. Vincent remained long unplanted and uninhabited except by Natives and Negroes escaped from the wreck of a slave ship, and the supposed progeny of these two races, the Black Caribs. In 1719, it was first planted by the French. In 1723, this Island, together with St. Lucia was granted by George the First to the Duke of Montagu, who failed in attempting to take possession. In 1748, by the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, St. Vincent was made one of the Neutral Islands, together with Grenada, Dominica, St. Lucia, and Tobago. In 1762, it was taken by Lord Rodney; and in 1763, was by Letters Patent and the Royal Proclamation, annexed to the Government of Grenada, General Melville being appointed the Governor-in-Chief of the Southern Charibbee Islands of Grenada, with the Grenadines, Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago. St. Vincent was taken by the French in 1779, and restored in 1783. It was made a separate Government in 1784, a Governor-in-Chief being then appointed for that Island only. It now belongs to the Government of what are commonly called the Windward Islands. Sir Charles Grey being Governor-in-Chief of Barbadoes, St. Vincent, Grenada, Tobago, and St. Lucia. A separate and distinct Legislature of a Council and Assembly was formed soon after the Proclamation of 1763 (it existed in 1767) and has continued ever since.

The possession of St. Lucia remained from 1672 disputed by the French and English, and enjoyed by neither. In 1748, it was made one of the Neutral Islands by the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. In 1763, when the Neutral Islands were divided between Great Britain and France, St. Lucia was ceded to France. Taken by the English in 1779, it was restored to the French in 1783, retaken in 1794, evacuated in 1795, retaken again in 1796, restored to France in 1801, and from its next recapture in 1803, has remained an English Colony with a French population. Since the last re-capture of the Island it has been governed by order of the King in Council, under the local administration of a Governor and Council without an Assembly. St. Lucia is now annexed to the Government of the Windward Islands. No right analogous to Post-liminium, as far as political and constitutional privileges are concerned, seems ever to have extended to this Island, if indeed, such a right could ever extend to a Province once ceded to a Foreign Power and regained by conquest and cession.

The Island of Dominica, like St. Lucia and St. Vincent, continued from 1672 the disputed possession of France and England, till made, in 1748, one of the Neutral Islands, and in 1763 ceded to Great Britain. It was taken by the French in 1778, restored to the English in 1783, under whose dominion it has ever since remained.

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