

REPORT

Of the Magistrates of Harbor Grace, upon the state of His Majesty's Gaol there, and of the treatment of the Prisoners confined therein.

The Magistrates have much pleasure in stating for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that the uniform cleanliness of his Majesty's Gaol here, and of the Prisoners therein confined, has at all times been a source of satisfaction to them, and that upon their visits they have invariably found the prisoners satisfied with their treatment by Mr. Currie, the Gaoler, except in the case of the late Peter Downing, who, once or twice, made some complaints which, upon examination, appeared to be without any just cause.

In conformity with the commands of his Excellency the Governor, the Magistrates have investigated the complaints of Michael Keefe and John Parsons, as will appear by the documents No. 2 & 3 herewith transmitted, and beg further to state, that they personally visited all the prisoners, who, upon similar questions to those contained in the documents Nos. 1 & 2, and others arising out of the examination of the Gaoler No. 3 being put to them, all declared that they had no cause of complaint whatever.

The Magistrates, also, personally inspected the bedding of the prisoners, and the provisions used by the Gaoler for their diet,—the hammocks and bedding are clean and the latter ample in quantity. The provisions are of very good quality—the potatoes excepted,—which, however, are as good as the general produce of the last season. The Dietry List for all classes of prisoners is herewith transmitted, by which it appears the food furnished by the Gaoler for the 6d. per diem allowed for debtors, is more than the allowance for prisoners rated at 9½ per diem. The Gaoler states the diet of debtors to have been a considerable loss to him.

The Magistrates in concluding this report, beg to add that the gaol has frequently been visited by persons from St. John's, and other parts of the Island, who have invariably borne testimony to its cleanliness—that it was recently visited by a gentleman, a member of the Grand Jury of St. John's, who expressed himself to the Magistrates who accompanied him, in strong terms of approval of the condition of both the Gaol and Prisoners.—J. W. Martin, Esq. M. C. P. also recently visited the gaol.

Harbor Grace, Northern District,
18th March, 1834.

(Signed)

THOS. DANSON, C. R.
J. BUCKINGHAM, J. P.
J. PARKIN, J. P.

No. 1.

QUESTIONS

Proposed by the Magistracy of Harbor Grace to Michael Keefe, a Debtor confined in His Majesty's Gaol there, with the answers of the said Michael Keefe thereto—the Deputy Sheriff and Gaoler being present.

1st.—How long have you been in prison ?

Since the 12th December last.

2d.—Have you any complaint against the Gaoler relative to your treatment ?

Yes, I have—I frequently returned the Potatoes, being wet and unfit for use.

3d.—Have you any complaint respecting any other part of your provisions ?

None.

4th.—Have you been regularly fed, and what provisions have you received ?

I have received the allowance of ½ lb. Bread, ½ lb. Fish, ½ lb. Potatoes, Tea & Molasses daily, also the Soup three times a week, since the first week, but the Soup I did not care about, having been supplied by my friends with other things.

5th.—Do you not now, by your own request, receive the allowance of 6d. per day, to provide yourself ?

Yes, since the 13th instant, when I first applied for it.

6th.—Are not your friends and family connections allowed to visit you ?

They are now, but in the first instance they were not.

7th.—On what occasion, and at what time, were they refused ?