

Writs for convening an Assembly. He issued his Proclamation for that purpose in 1773—the Assembly met and granted the Duty. This separate and distinct Legislature has continued to be convened ever since.

The General Assembly of all the Leeward Islands.

A very singular and somewhat anomalous Legislature has upon two occasions been assembled for the whole of the Leeward Islands; upon neither occasion however was this done without the consent of the separate Legislatures of each Island, and each continued notwithstanding to enjoy and exert their several and distinct powers and privileges. King William the Third, in a commission issued in the first year of his reign, (20th day of October, 1689,) authorized the Governors, Councils, and Assemblies of the respective Islands forming the Leeward Island Government, *jointly and severally*, “to make laws for the public peace, welfare, and good government of the “said Islands,” they having previously been accustomed to legislate severally only in their separate communities. Under this Commission a General Assembly of all the Leeward Islands was called; and in 1692 a Law passed therein for defining its authority and settling its Constitution for a limited period. Another law of a similar nature was passed in 1701, which being disallowed by Queen Anne on account of its exempting from the operation of all Acts any Island whose Representative should dissent, a third law of a similar character was passed in 1705 without that exemption. Whether this law gave such dissatisfaction to the separate Legislatures that they refused thereafter to concur in the Election of the General Assembly, certain it is that this system of a joint Legislation fell immediately into disuse from the year 1705, though the same form of Government continued. No such General Assembly was convened from that year during the long period of ninety-three years; that is to say, from the fourth year of the reign of Queen Anne to the 38th year of the reign of His Majesty King George the Third, the separate Legislation of each distinct Colony being alone resorted to in the mean time for the enactment of Laws and Ordinances. In the year 1798 however, being the 38th of King George the Third, in consequence of certain Resolutions of the House of Commons, communicated through his Grace the Duke of Portland, then Secretary of State, an occasion arose whereupon, at the request, and with the general and hearty co-operation of the then existing local Legislatures, a measure of joint Legislation was resorted to for a single specified object, namely, an amelioration of the condition of the Slaves. Subsequently to the year 1798 no other occasion arose for the exercise of a joint Legislation on the part of the different Colonies or Islands of which the then Leeward Island Government was composed, up to the period of the year 1816, being the 56th year of the reign of King George the Third. When the then Prince Regent seems to have dissolved and entirely abrogated the previously existing Government of the Islands of Nevis, St. Christopher, Montserrat, Antigua, Barbuda, Anguilla, and his Majesty's other Islands, Colonies, and Plantations in America, called or known by the name of his Majesty's Leeward Islands, at the same time cancelling the Great Seal thereof, and in lieu erected and established other Governments, appointing Major General Ramsay Captain-General and Commander-in-Chief of Antigua, Montserrat, and Barbuda. These Islands still retained their accustomed right of separate legislation, but the system of a joint legislation, with the other component parts of the previous Leeward Island Government, seems to have been thus entirely abrogated, the other Leeward Islands being also, at the same time, placed under a distinct Government of their own. This state of things continued for a period of seventeen years. In the year 1833 his late Majesty King William the Fourth established two new several West Indian Governments. By one Commission granted to Sir Evan Murray M'Gregor, Bart., the Islands of St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla, the Virgin Islands, and Dominica were added to the then existing Government of Antigua, Montserrat and Barbuda; and by another corresponding Commission, granted at the same time to Sir Lionel Smith, the Islands of St. Vincent, Grenada, and Tobago were added to the previously existing Government of Barbadoes. To neither of these Governments, however, was conceded any authority for a joint or general legislation, as had formerly been accorded to the Leeward Islands in the