

been unsuccessful at Porto Bello, Sir Gregor sailed for Saint Martha, and from the latter place he hired a small schooner and went to Cape Gracias a Dios on the Musquito shore, in the year 1819. As soon as the vessel came to an anchor before this place, Sir Gregor went on shore for the purpose of paying his respects to the King* of that country.

It was during this brief interview that his Majesty expressed his desire to have a colony of Europeans settled in his country, no doubt with the hope that their steady habits and perseverance in commerce and agriculture might operate as influential examples among his own people. The effects of these habits had been witnessed by his Majesty while in Jamaica, and the attempt to introduce them among his subjects was a measure deserving of approbation.

It would appear that Sir Gregor readily agreed to forward his views, and as a preparatory step solicited from His Majesty of the Musquito nation a grant of land whereon he might place the settlers he promised to bring out. A deed of a tract of land was accordingly made out; but of such an extent as did not accord with the opinion of His Majesty, for he considering it as tantamount to divesting himself of his whole territory in favour of Sir Gregor, declined affixing his signature to it. Instead therefore of complying with the wishes of the latter to the extent required, the king ordered another deed to be made out, conveying to Sir Gregor a tract of country which might in justice have been considered sufficient to answer the intentions of all parties—at all events it ought to have satisfied any individual of moderate desires. This grant comprehended an extent of coast of about 30 miles, and reached 50 miles in the interior, commencing on the south side a short distance north of Plantain river, and on the north it was bounded by a line which touched the ocean about six miles north of Black River; and among other conditions of the deed Sir Gregor was expressly prohibited from exceeding these boundaries. This document by which his Majesty still retained the sovereignty of the country, and at the same time ceded a liberal extent of territory for his favourite project of establishing a European Colony, was regularly signed, sealed and delivered to Sir Gregor, who was on his part bound by it to have a certain number of families on the ground within 15 months after the date at which the deed was passed.

It is proper to premise that the grant of land for which the application had been made in the first instance and which the King had refused to sanction with his signature instead of 30 miles of coast contained about 300, extending from lat. 11. 58. to 15. 53. north, and from long. 80. 6. to 82. 55. west, and included Nicaragua, which belonged to the Spaniards. By some means which still remains unexplained, Sir Gregor contrived to pass off the spurious deed containing this exorbitant grant as the true one; and it is exhibited with the signatures of the Musquito King and of two gentlemen, (Mr. Bagas and Captain

* The King of the Musquitoe country called George Frederick Augustus, is a young man, about 23 years of age at the period alluded to—was educated in Jamaica during the administration of the Duke of Manchester.