

Anno Secundo GULIELMO IV., c. 2.

(No. 3,020.)

No. 6.

AN ACT to relieve His Majesty's Subjects of the Jewish Religion, in respect to the Oath of Abjuration.—(3 November 1831.)

WHEREAS the following words are contained in the latter part of the Oath of Abjuration, *videlicet*, "Upon the true faith of a Christian:" And whereas the people professing the Jewish religion may thereby be prevented from receiving the benefit intended them by the Acts made in their favour; be it therefore enacted, by the Governor, Council and Assembly of this your Majesty's island of Jamaica, and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority of the same, that whenever any person professing the Jewish religion shall present himself to take the said oath of abjuration, the said words "upon the true faith of a Christian" shall be omitted out of the said oath, in administering the same to such person; and the taking and subscribing the said oath by such person professing the Jewish religion, without the words aforesaid, shall be deemed sufficient to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

Note.—No covering despatch accompanied this Act.

Despatches from the Secretaries of State.

—No. 1.—

(No. 21.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Secretary the Right Honourable Sir *George Murray* to Governor the Earl of *Belmore*.

No. 1.
Secretary Sir
G. Murray to the
Earl of Belmore,
3 Dec. 1829.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 3 December 1829.

AN Act passed by the Governor, Council and Assembly of the island of Jamaica, in the month of December 1828, intituled, "An Act to declare the Act of the 13 Geo. 2, intituled, 'An Act for Naturalizing such Foreign Protestants 'and others therein mentioned, as are settled or shall settle in any of His Majesty's Colonies in America' in force in this Island, and for other purposes," having been laid before His Majesty in Council, has, by His Majesty in Council been referred to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade; and the Lords of that Committee having reported to His Majesty in Council their opinion that it is not expedient that His Majesty should express his Royal approbation of the said Act, His Majesty in Council has been pleased to approve the said report. I shall have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Order of His Majesty in Council on this subject, so soon as the necessary official forms can be completed.

No. 2,022.
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In the meantime, I am commanded to signify to you the grounds upon which it has been deemed inexpedient that His Majesty in Council should approve and confirm the Act in question.

The first clause of the Act grants to all persons professing the Jewish religion, now born, or to be born within His Majesty's legiance, all rights and privileges to which His Majesty's other natural-born subjects are entitled. His Majesty's Government not being aware of the existence of any principle of the common law, of any Act of Parliament, or of any Colonial Statute which subjects natural-born subjects of his Majesty, professing the Jewish religion in Jamaica to any disabilities to which other persons born within His Majesty's allegiance are not subject, apprehended that the Act in question had been framed under a misconception of the law. The case having been referred to the King's Advocate, and and to His Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor-general, they have reported that they are not aware that either the common law of England, or the laws of Jamaica, have created any such disability as that which this Act professes to remove. Under such circumstances it has not been deemed right to confirm this Act. Upon a subject of this nature it is plainly inexpedient to legislate, unless to remedy some practical evil, or to meet some evident necessity. The confirmation of the Act would not only be useless, but might raise a doubt respecting