

SIR,

Downing-street, 14 December 1832.

WITH reference to the Colonial Estimates for 1833-4, enclosed in Mr. Hay's Letter of this day's date, I am directed by Viscount Goderich to request that you will submit to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury the following Explanation of the Estimate for the Sums required to defray the Charge of Salaries to Governors, Lieutenant Governors and others in His Majesty's West Indian Colonies, formerly charged on the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Duties or paid from Civil Contingencies.

Their Lordships will perceive, that although the total Amount of this Estimate is nearly the same as heretofore, the distribution of that Amount is changed in almost every item. Hitherto the Salaries of the Governors of the West Indian Colonies having Legislative Assemblies have, with one exception, been provided partly from the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Duty Fund or Parliamentary Votes or Estimates for Civil Contingencies, and partly by Grants from the Assemblies, made to each Governor on his assumption of his office, and determinable with his tenure of it. The single exception has been in the case of Jamaica, where the Governor is paid entirely from a Grant of the Assembly. The object of the present Estimate is by a trifling augmentation of the total Amount voted by Parliament, to provide for the whole Expense of the Governor's Salaries, heretofore partly paid by the Colonies, and thus to relieve the Colonial Revenues of all the Legislative Colonies, except Jamaica, from all Charges for the administration of the respective Governments.

The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have already sanctioned the arrangement with respect to the Government of the Leeward Islands, described in my Letter of the 14th of September, and accordingly the Islands of Antigua, St. Christopher's and Dominica, with their Dependencies of Montserrat, Nevis, Tortola and the Virgin Islands, will be placed under one Governor, to be ordinarily resident at Antigua, with Lieutenant Governors on reduced salaries in St. Christopher's and Dominica. It is proposed that a similar arrangement should take place with respect to Barbadoes, St. Vincent, Grenada and Tobago, and that a Governor in Chief should be appointed, to be ordinarily resident at Barbadoes, and having under his orders Lieutenant Governors resident in the other Islands. In my Letter of the 14th September, it was proposed that the salary of the Governor of Antigua should be fixed at £. 3,000, and that each of the Lieutenant Governors should receive £. 850. With respect to the Governor of Antigua, Lord Goderich adheres to this intention. With respect to the Lieutenant Governors, it has been represented to his Lordship that as no allowance is now made either for a Private Secretary or for stationery, and as some expense will necessarily be incurred under these heads, £. 850 a year would be rather too small a remuneration for these officers, and he would therefore suggest that £. 950 a year should be assigned to each. As the Governor of Barbadoes will have the military command of the whole force in the Windward and Leeward Islands, and in British Guiana, his Lordship thinks it expedient that a higher salary should be assigned to that officer than to the Governor in Chief of the Leeward Islands, and he proposes that it should be fixed at £. 4,000 a year. For the Lieutenant Governors under him, his Lordship proposes the same salary of £. 950 as for the Lieutenant Governors of St. Kitt's and Dominica.

I am further to inform you that Lord Goderich proposes that the principle of reduction should also be applied to the Bahama Islands, and to the Crown Colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad. These Colonies are not, indeed, from locality or other circumstances, susceptible of being incorporated either with each other or with any of the Windward and Leeward Islands under one Government, and it will be necessary that the Government of each of them should continue to be independently administered; but it is intended that the officers to whom they are entrusted should have the rank of Lieutenant Governors only, and that their emoluments should, in consequence, be materially diminished. Thus in British Guiana, the Governor, who now receives a salary of £. 6,000, will be replaced by a Lieutenant Governor on a salary of £. 3,500, and in Trinidad a Lieutenant Governor, with the same salary of £. 3,500, will succeed the present Governor, who receives a salary of £. 5,000, whilst in the Bahamas the Colonial Revenues will be relieved from the salary of £. 650, now contributed by the Assembly, and the Home Revenues from £. 251, out of a salary of £. 1,451, hitherto voted by Parliament to the Governor, and from an indefinite sum amounting, upon an average, to about £. 200, hitherto voted under the head of Contingencies, to make up the Governor's fees to £. 500; the remaining emoluments only, viz. £. 1,200 home salary, and about £. 300 fees, being left to the Lieutenant Governor, who is to succeed to the administration of the Government.

I enclose a statement of the result, in a pecuniary point of view, of the above arrangements, as they will affect both this Country and the Colonies. It will be observed, that while there will be a comparatively trifling increase, amounting to £. 1,430, in the sum which it will be necessary to call upon Parliament to provide for the salaries of the Governors of these Colonies, the Colonial Revenues will be relieved by no less a sum than £. 19,734, to which may be added £. 2,000, which will be saved to the Cape of Good Hope, by conferring the government of that Colony, at a reduced salary, on the officer now holding the government of British Guiana, making a total saving to the Colonies of £. 21,734, or, deducting the increase on the Parliamentary Estimate, a nett saving to the Imperial Revenues of £. 20,304.

In submitting to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury a proposal for making so large a reduction of the expenditure hitherto incurred for the support of the offices of Governors of West Indian Colonies, Lord Goderich desires that you will acquaint their Lordships, that although he cannot flatter himself that the measure will be one of unmixed advantage, or that