

is the intention of His Majesty's Government to apply to Parliament early in the ensuing Session, for authority to increase their emoluments in the manner proposed by the Earl of Aberdeen; and My Lords will be prepared to sanction and concur in such application accordingly.

(5.)—LETTER from *R. W. Hay, Esq.*, to the Honourable *J. Stewart*,
dated Downing-street, 24th January 1835.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Aberdeen, to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, with the steps which this Department has felt called upon to take, with a view to the necessary increase of the allowances of the Stipendiary Magistrates in the Island of Jamaica.

It appears that so far back as the month of May last, Lord Sligo, in an official Despatch (of which an extract is enclosed) represented in strong terms, the inadequacy of the salary originally fixed for the stipendiary Magistrates.

In consequence of this representation, a Despatch was addressed by Mr. Spring Rice to the Governor of Jamaica, in which he was informed that in cases where circumstances indispensably required it, he would not object to a further sum (in no case to exceed £.150 a year) being paid to the Magistrates, to cover the expenses incurred by them for the keep of a horse and for house rent.

It would further appear from a Despatch which has recently been received from Lord Sligo (of which I enclose a copy) that acting upon the authority contained in Mr. Rice's Letter, his Lordship has notified to the Magistrates, that from the 1st of October last their pay would be issued at the rate of £.450 sterling a year.

Their Lordships are aware that in British Guiana, an allowance for house rent and for the keep of a horse, subject to such restrictions as the Board have laid down, has already received the sanction of the Treasury.

In the position which I have above described, Lord Aberdeen found the question when he assumed the Seals of this Department, and it has now become necessary that he should bring the whole circumstances of the case under the notice of the Lords of His Majesty's Treasury, in order that, should their Lordships coincide in the opinion which has been formed by this Department, the necessary measures may be taken for applying to Parliament to sanction the expenditure which has already been incurred for the payment of those allowances, and to provide funds for continuing them.

In forming his own opinion upon the propriety of so large an addition being made to the pay fixed by Parliament for the special Magistracy, Lord Aberdeen has not been unmindful of the duty which devolves upon His Majesty's government, of keeping the expense to be incurred under the Slavery Abolition Act, within the narrowest compass. At the same time it was of paramount importance that the success of this measure should not be endangered by any failure of the machinery upon which that success must mainly depend. Having these two considerations, therefore, in view, his Lordship has most attentively considered the correspondence upon which his predecessor felt it his duty to authorize this addition to the emoluments of the stipendiary Magistracy in Jamaica, and he sees every reason to coincide in the opinion which has been already formed and acted upon, that such an increase was indispensably necessary to enable those officers to secure the efficient discharge of their duties.

There are grounds, moreover, for believing that the measure which has been adopted, has been the means of preventing much embarrassment which would have been occasioned by extensive resignations among the Magistrates, several gentlemen having already vacated their offices in consequence of their inability to subsist upon their original stipends.

Under these circumstances, Lord Aberdeen feels that he has no alternative left but to recommend that the step which has been already taken in the case of Jamaica should receive their Lordships' sanction, and that application should be made to Parliament for the necessary funds for carrying it into effect.

Although the correspondence above adverted to, applies to the case of Jamaica alone, Lord Aberdeen would by no means recommend that these allowances should be confined to Magistrates serving in that Colony and in British Guiana. He considers that they may with equal justice be extended to the West India Islands generally, as well as to Mauritius.

It is true that the sufficiency of the salary of £.300 a year must depend upon the price of living in the several Colonies, and that the rate of remuneration, which in Jamaica and British Guiana has been found inadequate, in consequence of the dearness of living, may in other Colonies afford a more suitable provision; there would not, however, appear to be so great a distinction between Jamaica and the other West India Colonies as would justify an exception being made in favour of that Island.

From the enclosed copies of Despatches which have been received at this Department, it appears that in Barbadoes, St. Vincent and the Virgin Islands, the inadequacy of the salary of £.300 a year, has led to strong representations from the Magistracy stationed in those Colonies.

Unless, therefore, their Lordships should have some reason for dissenting from the opinion formed by Lord Aberdeen upon this subject, his Lordship would recommend that the grant of these allowances should be extended to the Magistracy generally.

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