

— No. 4. —

JAMAICA.

(No. 13.)

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

No. 4.

Governor the Earl of *Belmore* to Secretary Sir G. Murray, 18 February 1830.

King's House, Jamaica, 18 February 1830.

(Received, 13 April 1830.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your information, the copy of a Message from the Assembly, accompanied by a Report from the Committee to whom your despatch of 3d December last was referred.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Belmore*.

Enclosure in No. 4.

May it please Your Excellency,

WE are directed by the House of Assembly to wait upon your Excellency with a copy of a Report submitted by the Committee to whom was referred the despatch of 3d December, laid before the House by your Excellency on the 27th January, in which are stated the reasons that have induced the House to prepare another Bill for the purpose of conferring on his Majesty's subjects of the Jewish religion privileges, of which, by Act of this island, either directly impliedly, or by decision of the Grand Court of this island, they are at present deprived, and to which another class of his Majesty's subjects have lately been admitted.

Encl. in No. 4.

Mr. Speaker,

YOUR Committee to whom was referred his Excellency the Governor's message of the 27th January last,—Report,

That they have examined the statutes of this island and find that, Jews are specifically debarred from voting at the election of members of the corporate body of Kingston, or of being eligible to any office of the said corporation, by the 3d section of the Act 41 Geo. 3, c. 29, and that the election law, 21 Geo. 3, c. 15, s. 20, by implication, subjects them to the same disability.

Your Committee further report, that in an Act intituled, "An Act for declaring what persons shall be qualified to sit in Assembly," and passed on the 2d June 1711, Jews are specially and by name prohibited from voting at all elections for members of Assembly, which Act (although in the manuscript copy of the laws of this island the memorandum "repealed on the 19th February 1717" is entered in the margin thereof) there appears no statute repealing.

Your Committee further report, that in the February Grand Court, 1821, an action was brought by Levy Hyman against Joseph Samuel Geoghegan, the deputy marshal for the city and parish of Kingston, for refusing his vote on the 5th July 1820, he being a freeholder of the said parish, at the election of a member to serve in the Assembly; when judgment was given in favour of the defendant, on the charge of Mr. Chief Justice Jackson, "that the laws of this island not having mentioned anything respecting the right of the Jews to vote, their silence may be construed either one way or the other."

Upon these grounds your Committee recommend, that a message be sent to his Excellency the Governor, with a copy of this report; and further, that leave be granted to bring in another Bill for the purpose of removing these existing doubts as to the ability of the Jewish freeholder, and to afford them those privileges and immunities which it appears to be the wish of his Majesty's Government to give them.

— No. 5. —

(No. 14.)

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

(Answered, 6 August 1831, page 18.)

No. 5.

Governor the Earl of *Belmore* to Secretary Sir G. Murray, 21 February 1830.

King's House, Jamaica, 21 February 1830.

(Received, 13 April 1830.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to enclose the copy of an Act of the Legislature, intituled, "An Act to repeal part of an Act passed in the Forty-first year of his late Majesty's reign, intituled, 'An Act for constituting a Corporation for better ordering and managing the Police of the Town and City of Kingston, and for other

No. 2,067.