

their inability to subsist upon their present stipend. With a view therefore to secure an efficient discharge of the important duties which these officers are required to perform, his Lordship is of opinion that such an allowance (in no case to exceed £. 150), should be granted to them, in addition to their salary, as would enable them to defray the expense of house-rent, and the charge which is imposed upon them by the keep of a horse.

The enclosed Circular to the Governors of the several Colonies for giving effect to this decision, has been framed in accordance with the principle which has already received the sanction of the Lords' Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury in the case of British Guiana, and I am to request that you will lay the same before their Lordships, and move them to inform Lord Aberdeen whether they see any objection to an extension of that principle to the cases of the stipendiary Magistrates stationed in the other West India Colonies.

I am, &c.

(signed) R. W. Hay.

Sir,

Downing-street, December 1834.

I HAVE had under my consideration various representations which have been addressed to this Department on the subject of the inadequacy of the present allowance of £. 300 a year to the stipendiary Magistrates. From these statements I am led to believe that the rate at which the salaries of these officers has been fixed, is by no means calculated, in all instances, to afford them a sufficient remuneration for the duties they are required to perform.

Under this impression, I have felt myself called upon, in justice to individuals from whom such arduous and responsible duties are required, to take immediate steps for affording them such allowances on account of keeping horses and house-rent, as the case would appear to demand. In carrying such my intention into effect, I have not been insensible to the difficulty which exists, of regulating such allowances by any general rule which should meet the justice of all cases. In some Colonies that rate of remuneration, which in others would afford a suitable provision to the officer, is rendered altogether inadequate by the high price which he is compelled to pay for the necessaries of life. Elsewhere the same consequence is produced by the charge imposed upon the officer in the form of travelling expenses. With a view to meet this difficulty, I have, in concert with the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, fixed upon a sum which shall be considered as the maximum of allowance to be granted under any circumstances, leaving to the Governors of the several Colonies a discretionary power to regulate the scale of allowance according to the demands of each individual case. From the information I have been able to collect, it has been decided that £. 150 should be the maximum, in the proportion of £. 100 for house-rent, and £. 50 for the keep of a horse.

In calculating the scale of allowance to each officer, it is hardly necessary that I should impress upon you the necessity of observing the strictest economy. You will bear in mind that these allowances should only be issued in cases where you are fully satisfied that they are absolutely necessary, to enable the parties to obtain due accommodation, and to perform their duties effectively; and upon proof being adduced that the expense has been actually incurred for house-rent, or for the keep of a horse, you will authorize the payment of these allowances at the same periods as the salaries of the Magistrates, but by distinct warrants or requisitions, addressed to the Commissary on the Station, and supported by certificates, to show that the parties are duly entitled to them under the foregoing Regulations.

I have, &c.

(4.)—COPY of TREASURY MINUTE of 9th January 1835,
on the foregoing Letter, No. 3.

MY LORDS have under consideration the provisions of the Slavery Abolition Act relating to these Magistrates, and read their Minute of 9th September last, sanctioning some additional allowance under the special circumstances then submitted to them, to the Magistrates stationed in British Guiana.

Write to Mr. Hay, requesting he will state to the Earl of Aberdeen that, adverting to the distinct terms in which the amount of remuneration to the special Magistrates in the Slave Colonies is limited by the Act under which they are appointed, and to the specific provision made by Parliament for defraying their salaries in conformity with that Act, and likewise to the near approach of the period when Parliament will be re-assembled, My Lords do not conceive that they should be warranted in authorizing the extensive addition to the emoluments of the Magistrates proposed by the Secretary of State, until some sanction for the arrangement can be obtained from the House of Commons.

My Lords would therefore suggest, that the transmission of the Instructions to the Officers administering the Colonial Governments contained in the draft Despatch which accompanied Mr. Hay's Letter of 20th ultimo, should be deferred; but that in the meantime the Magistrates should be informed, through the medium of the local Governments, that it