

two Provinces of Essequibo and Demerara were united, their Judicial and Legislative Establishments being at the same time combined, and the right of suffrage altered by most important constitutional changes. In 1831, Berbice was united to the before united Colony of Demerara and Essequibo, the Judicial and Legislative Establishments and the right of suffrage being again at the same time altered by equally important constitutional changes, by orders of the King in Council, and a new Commission of Government, dated the 4th of March, in that year. By the latter Sir Benjamin D. Urban was appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of all the Territories within those three Colonies, which were thenceforth declared to be united and collectively to form one Colony, and to be governed according to the constitution of the before United Colony of Demerara and Essequibo, the constitution or form of civil government of Berbice being declared to be thereby abrogated and dissolved and extinct, and merged in the Government now introduced. A provision follows, that for the purposes of a certain Act of Parliament, the 5th, Geo. IV. c. 113, Berbice shall still continue a distinct and separate Colony. Such proceedings as these are, it is apprehended, to be justified only by the supreme and absolute power of the Crown to deal at its will and pleasure with conquered Countries. The Inhabitants of Guyana however have not failed to complain of this exercise of the King's prerogative. They deny its right to annul their ancient form of Government; a compact, they contend, having been solemnly entered into at the Capitulation in 1803, and signed by their Legislative as well as their Military Authorities, stipulating that the religion, laws, liberties, and institutions of the inhabitants should be guaranteed to them, unless altered with their own consent.

Jamaica. In 1665 the Island of Jamaica, after having been 146 years in the hands of Spain, was conquered by the British forces sent out by Oliver Cromwell. A Military Government only existed for some years at first. A Legislative Council was authorized in 1661. The Legislative Council and Assembly were instituted in 1662, and the first Assembly called in 1664. And Assemblies have existed in succession ever since. This Constitution depends here, as in all other Royal Governments, upon the King's Commission and Instructions to the Governor. The attempt made by Charles the Second in 1678 to change this Constitution for one somewhat similar to Poyning's Irish Act, was made by introducing an Act of that character into the Assembly, which rejected the measure. The King's motive is supposed to have been to obtain the 4 per cent. duty before granted in Barbadoes. In 1839, on the Assembly of Jamaica refusing to exercise their legislative functions, the stat. 2 & 3 Vict. c. 26, was passed, which gave the Governor and Council of the Island power to revive expired Laws for a limited time.

The Cayman Islands. The Cayman Islands are called a Dependency of Jamaica. They are under the authority of the Governor of that Island, who issues a Commission of the Peace for the administration of justice there, but in no way are their affairs interfered with or governed by the Assembly of Jamaica.

Honduras. The condition of this possession is extremely peculiar. Its Laws were originally made and long administered by the voluntary consent of the Inhabitants. In 1765 a Code of this kind was sanctioned by Sir Wm. Burnaby, the Naval Commander-in-Chief on the Jamaica Station. The Jamaica Slave Act was introduced here by the like consent of the inhabitants, who still assemble and make their own Laws, subject to the approval of the Superintendent. This officer was some time (from 1749) appointed by the Governor of Jamaica, until the validity of such an authority having been questioned, in the case of *Bradley v. Arthur*, reported in 4 B. & C. 292, the appointment has since been made by the direct authority of the Crown. But the very peculiar character of this Dependency may prevent its affording any just inference or illustration in the present question.

The Bahamas. The Bahama Islands, originally of Spanish dominion, were colonized by England first in 1629, reconquered by the Spanish in 1641, and by the English again in 1666. In 1667 the Islands were granted to the Province of Carolina. They were again taken by