

In 1763, the Island was annexed to the Government of Grenada by the above-mentioned Letters Patent to General Melville, and the Royal Proclamation. In 1770, it was erected into a Government separate from and independent of the general Government of the Southern Charibbee Islands, Sir William Young, Bart. being made Governor-in-Chief. An Assembly, separate and distinct seems to have existed in 1768. The French had possession of this Island from 1778 to 1783, when it was restored to Great Britain. During the French occupation the Assembly still continued to pass Laws. But, after the restoration in 1783, a new Commission of Government was issued with all the powers and privileges formerly granted. The Island has since been annexed to the general Government of Antigua, of which it now forms a part. Its Legislature in all these changes has continued separate and distinct.

Barbadoes has always been under British Dominion, having had a succession of Governors-in-Chief since 1625, and an Assembly since 1645. But neither under Proprietary nor under Royal Governments, nor when the whole Charibbees, nor when the Windward only of these Islands were annexed to the Government of Barbadoes, does its Legislature appear to have exercised jurisdiction beyond the limits of that single Island; although the grant from other Islands of the four-and-a-half per cent. duty was always a desirable object for the Crown, and during some arbitrary periods of history; and the Legislature of Barbadoes had granted it in that Island so early as 1663, when King Charles the Second, in expectation of that grant, had made arrangements for acquiring the rights, and for dissolving the Government, of the Proprietor; and this was several years previous to the division of the Charibbee Islands into Windward and Leeward. A striking proof that the right to a Legislative Assembly was ever considered a several and distinct right in each of the Islands.

Grenada was originally planted by the French, and held exclusively by them, till made one of the Neutral Islands in 1748, and was conquered by the English in 1762, and ceded to them in 1763. It was then, as before seen, made a Government by the Royal Proclamation of 7th Oct. 1763, with the other Southern Charibbee Islands annexed, but General Melville's commission did not bear date till 9th April, 1764. For about a year afterwards the legislative authority was exercised by advice of a general Council jointly for all the Islands within the Government. An Assembly for Grenada was first called in 1765. It was on the 20th July, 1764, that Letters Patent were issued directing the four-and-a-half per cent. duty to be levied in Grenada. These Letters Patent were on long and elaborate argument adjudged in the King's Bench to be void. The duty was consequently discontinued, not only in that Island, but also in Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago, for the like levy in which similar Letters Patent had issued. The Island of Grenada was taken by the French in 1779, and restored again to England in 1783.

There are near or adjacent to most of the Colonies, as well in the West Indies as in North America, and in the former Provinces now forming the United States, Islands of lesser dimension, which are dependencies upon such Colonies, and frequently integral parts. Such were the Grenadines, small Islands lying between Grenada and St. Vincent, and all belonging to the former until 1784, when such of them as lay nearest to St. Vincent, viz. all north of Carriacou, were transferred to the latter. How this transfer was effected requires a remark. Previous to the last conquest by the French in 1779, the Letters Patent of the Governor of Grenada included the Grenadines, and the style and authority of its Legislature were accordingly: but the whole having been conquered by the French, whose institutions were substituted for the English, when, by the treaty of peace in 1783, that Island and St. Vincent were among others restored to Great Britain, the new commission to the Governor of Grenada was altered, so as to include only those of the Grenadines which lie southward of the Island of Carriacou, together with that Island, and those to the northward were transferred to St. Vincent. As far as this latter Island was concerned this transfer was sanctioned by an Act of the Assembly of that Island, passed 13th May, 1784.

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