

Jamaica. Assembly. Journals of the Assembly of Jamaica: 1664-1826

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Detailed Contents

Volume 9, First few weeks of 11th Session, 1795 November 27 – December 18 (Reel 5)

*Volume 9 covers 1791 Oct. 25 to 1797 August 4 in total. Appears assembly was at times prorogued when it did not sit, as mentioned below in the lieutenant governor's first speech.

1795

November 27

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Ordered – House rules agreed to last session be the standing rules of this session.

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Speech by lieutenant governor to council, copy read to assembly – During prorogation viewed and examined the grounds, condition, and supplies pertaining to the troops engaged against the maroons. I will not for a single moment relax my efforts to crush this daring and ungrateful rebellion. The unanimity which I have witnessed and the liberality I have experienced were such tokens of your confidence as could not fail of impressing me. I lament extremely the exigencies of government in these critical times will require extraordinary aids, but I rely you will provide for these. The nature of the present war in the West Indies and the pernicious effects of hot climates upon European soldiery have induced the king to adopt the measure of raising corps of “negroes” to act in St. Domingo and other parts of the West Indies as required, together with considerable number of “negro” pioneers and artificers to be attached to the British army. For your serious consideration. Have been induced to give you the king's sentiments from a daily expectation of the arrival of the officers appointed to the expected levies, added to the information I have received of the probability of the windward island acceding to the proposition of raising their quota of “negroes, particularly of pioneers. You will have all the documents on which my supposition respecting those islands has been formed as also of the propositions or terms on which the body of pioneers are desired to be raised. After consideration, request your opinion and guidance.

Ordered – 1. Committee be appointed to prepare an address to the lieutenant governor, and misters Redwood, Cuthbert, and Batty be a committee for that purpose; 2. All standing committees be revived; 3. Committees to whom petitions and accounts were ordered be referred by the house last session to proceed.

Petition – Presented to the house by Thomas Dennis of the Parish of Kingston, gentleman, on behalf of Ballard Beckford Nembhard, esquire, clerk of the peace of said parish, pertaining to an act passed in 1794, “An act for establishing regulations respecting persons of a certain description, arriving in this island or resident therein, in certain cases.” Under this act and the proclamation of last January detailing

the procedures entailed for these people upon arrival, such as providing proper personal information to the clerk of the peace so as to receive certificates, 1,199 French people have come under this proclamation and obtained certificates. Prays for relief. Ordered - Petition be referred to committee appointed for stating and settling the public accounts and report back.

Ordered – 1. Bill for establishing and declaring rules and articles of war be read second time next Tuesday; 2. Misters Batty, Cuthbert, Thompson, Osborn, McLean, Vaughan, and Henckell be a committee to prepare and bring in a bill to grant to certain commissioners certain powers for the comfortable subsistence and accommodation of the militia and regulars quartered in Jamaica; 3. Committee consisting of misters Taylor, Batty, and Vaughan be appointed to prepare and bring in a bill to explain and amend the act, “An act to appoint commissioners to inspect the books of the receiver and to settle and adjust the public accounts”; 4. Committee of misters Taylor, Redwood, and Campbell to prepare and bring in a bill to repeal an act passed in 1744 entitled “An act to regulate the selling of gunpowder and to prevent the selling of fire-arms to slaves.”

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House adjourned till tomorrow at 9:00.

November 28

Message from lieutenant governor in council by clerk of council – Gilbert Mathison, esquire, was returned a representative for the Parish of St. James in place of George Goodin Barrett, esquire, deceased. Attending, he took the oaths and his seat.

Ordered – After being read to the house for the first time, and agreed to with amendments, address to lieutenant governor in answer to his speech was ordered to be engrossed.

Resolved– 1. Bill to grant certain commissioners certain powers for the comfortable subsistence and accommodation of the militia and regulars quartered in Jamaica and for other purposes, after read in the house a second time, to be committed to a committee of the whole house Monday next. 2. Bill to appoint certain commissioners for the better carrying into execution the several appropriations made for the use of the buildings belonging to the public and the barracks in the towns, after being read a second time, committed to a committee of the whole house on Monday next.

Ordered – 1. Misters Campbell, Osborn, Redwood, McLean, Batty, Henckell, Ross, Thompson, Cuthbert, Johnstone, Mathison, Christie, and Deans be a committee to inspect into and examine the state of several barracks and public buildings and to report. 2. Misters Batty, Cuthbert, Grant, Osborn, Fitch, and McLean be added to a committee appointed to prepare and bring in a bill to repeal an act passed in 1744, entitled, “An act to regulate the selling of gunpowder, and to prevent the selling of fire-arms to slaves.” 3. Mr. Taylor has general leave of absence during this session. 3. An account of the expenditure of the monies granted for the Bath hospital to lie on the table to be perused by members [details not shown here].

House adjourned till Monday next at 9:00.

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November 30

Read and passed – Engrossed address from the assembly to lieutenant governor – Acknowledge zeal and attention to the troops during the last recess; we hope to see energy combined with effect in their military operations. We trust that the measure directed by your prudence and invigorated by your example will speedily terminate this dangerous rebellion. May rely on our granting ordinary supplies, and all other aids these critical times require, consistent with the economy due to our constituents. Will take into serious consideration the proposition respecting the raising of corps of “negroes” to act in St. Domingo when receive the documents. Ordered – To be sent to lieutenant governor. Answer from governor – Available tomorrow.

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Ordered – Bill to explain and amend “An Act to appoint commissioners to inspect the books of the receiver general and to settle and adjust the public accounts” to be read a second time tomorrow.

Petition from maroons presented to house – Always been faithful to their king and country and obedient to the laws. Have never joined any rebellion or rebellious conspiracy, on the contrary they detest and abhor all treasons and treasonable acts. Willing and anxious to take the benefit of the act and to give up forever any right they may have of inheritance to any lands granted to the maroons wheresoever situated. Many of the petitioners are totally dependent on goodness of white inhabitants. Many have children and have it not in their power to procure a settlement. Pray for relief. Signed by Elizabeth Collins, Francis Collins, Margaret Collins, Sally Collins, Joanna Graham, Quasheba, Molly, Nancy Grey, Mary Sympson, Elizabeth Palmer, Margaret Reid, Amelia Lewis, Peggy Murray, and Matthew Thomas.

Petition of James Anderson, superintendent of maroons in Charles Town presented to the house – Without a house in town for his residence, very inconvenient to give the necessary attendance. Praying for relief.

Ordered – Two above petitions be referred to committee of whole house.

Petition of Donald Campbell, commanding Fort Montego in Parish of St. James, presented to house - Sums due for “negro hire,” hire of a white man to attend the magazine, and necessary disbursements for the use of the fort as stated in annexed account [not included here]. Also prays for relief for care of the barracks, keeping them well aired and clear of vermin, and for caring for the issuing of arms and ammunition for the militia and regular without any emolument.

Petition of Francis Rigby Brodbelt, physician to the jail of St. Jago de la Vega, presented to house – Annual sum due for service since October 1782. Prays for relief.

Ordered – Two above petitions be referred to committee for stating and settling public accounts.

Petition of Thomas Craskett, superintendent of Trelawny maroon town presented to house – Having resided in Trelawny Town as required by law has suffered very considerable losses. House granted petitioner on his petition the sum of 54 pounds for lodging money for last year, and still being in the same predicament, hopes house will grant him same provision of lodging money for present year. Ordered – Petition be referred to misters Vaughan, Batty, and McLean to inquire into the facts and report.

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Petition of John O’Meally of the Parish of St. Thomas in the Vale, esquire, on behalf of Ann Davis of the same parish, a free mulatto woman and of her several children, named George, Bridget and Ann, free quadroons, the reputed son and daughters of John O’Meally, presented to the house – Ann and children have been baptized, educated, and instructed in the principles of the Christian religion and in the communion of the Church of England as by law established. Son is receiving education in England and intend rest of children to be educated. Ann has conducted herself in a decent and reputable manner and is possessed of property to a considerable amount in Jamaica which she intends to bestow on her children, and which, with the addition that the petitioner means to make, will place them on a footing far superior to the generality of “persons of colour.” Praying the house will provide for a bill to be brought in for granting Ann and children same rights and privileges as have been heretofore granted to persons in similar situations. Ordered – Be referred to misters Cuthbert, Redwood, and Vaughan to inquire into allegation set forth and report.

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Ordered – Bill with amendments be engrossed and titled, “An act to grant to certain commissioners certain powers, for the comfortable subsistence and accommodation of the militia and regulars quartered in this island, and for other purposes.” [Amendments not detailed here.]

House adjourned.

December 1

Messages from lieutenant governor via his secretary – Lay before the house the documents referred to in his speech -

1. Letter dated at Whitehall, 21 April 1795, signed Portland. King desires you should earnestly recommend to the legislature to grant a number of “negroes” for raising a corps under the command of Sir Adam Williamson. Speedy completion of corps is necessary and an additional reason or requesting the aid of the legislature.

2. Letter dated 25 August 1795, signed J. Knox. Met at Mr. Lushington’s with several of the principal West India proprietors and canvassed the subject of the “negro corps of pioneers” proposed to be raised. Agreed by all that 3,000 was doable with the greatest ease. The mode preferred in respect to the levy of them is to asses each estate a certain proportion of “negroes” per cent. Government should pay proprietors a sum per day for the hire of each “negro.” The legislature of each island should fix the value of each. “Negroes” to receive same rations of provisions as soldiers and clothed by government with a blue jacket with a red cape, trousers, shirts, and hat to be sent from England. Expence around 20 shillings per man. For entrenching service, pickaxes, hoes, and baskets are required (not spades or wheel barrows) and 5 gallon kegs to carry water. Craft sufficient for transport of “negroes” can with ease be obtained. “Negroes” should on no account be sent on to St. Domingo (those at Jamaica may be used for service of St. Domingo). “Negroes” should on no account be permitted to enlist into the “negro” regiments.

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3. Letter dated Horse Guards, 26 August 1795, signed Henry Dundas. Lieutenant General Sir Ralph Abercromby, commander in chief of the forces in the West Indies, indicated the necessity of sending a confidential officer to Martinique and Barbados to make necessary preparations and arrangements

needed to enable immediate execution of military operations. Selected Colonel Knox of the 36th Regiment as quartermaster general to the army under Abercromby's command. Procuring and collecting at Barbados a considerable corps of "negroes" to act as pioneers and on other duties of fatigue. Forms one of the principal points of his instructions, and I enclose a paper stating the sentiments of several West India proprietors and agents on the best means of executing this service. [See above.]

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4. Letter dated at Whitehall, 28 August 1795, signed Portland. I transmit to you (lieutenant governor of Jamaica) copy of a letter and its enclosure which I had received from Secretary Dundas respecting Col. Knox and his instructions.

5. Extract of Henry Dundas's letter to Earl Balcarres dated 30 September 1795 received by the king's sloop of war *Lark*. Regiments commanded by colonels Howe and Keppel have been ordered to proceed to Jamaica to receive any "negroes" levied under the legislature. Although it is expedient the regiments receive material assistance from Jamaica, it must be understood they need not be prevented from being sent outside Jamaica if necessary. One regiment may remain stationed at Jamaica during the rest of the war. Principle force for St. Domingo should be there by the first of Dec. and will direct Major General Gordon Forbes to concert with your removal of "negro" pioneers and artificers to St. Domingo from Jamaica.

6. Letter dated Mole St. Nicholas, 20 Nov. 1795, signed G. Forbes, major general. Ask when the "negroes" will be ready to embark. Received direction to send to Jamaica the officers of the regiments of black chasseurs commanded by colonels Keppel and Howe in order to complete their corps of 1,000 men each, which I shall do immediately on their arrival. I mean to commence the campaign in this country immediately on arrival of reinforcements, so happy to receive the additions as soon as can be completed.

Ordered – Message and papers to be referred to committee of the house.

Resolved – 1. Engrossed bill to grant to certain commissioners certain powers for the comfortable subsistence and accommodation of the militia and regulars quartered in Jamaica, does pass, and was delivered to council for concurrence; 2. Bill for establishing and declaring rules and articles of war after being read a second time, to be committed to committee of the whole house tomorrow; 3. Bill to explain and amend an act entitled, "An act to appoint commissioners to inspect the books of the receiver general and to settle and adjust the public accounts," after being read a second time, was resolved to be committed to a committee of the whole house tomorrow.

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Reported - Committee to inquire what laws are expired or near expiring and which of them are proper to be revived or continued, reported that the several laws following are either expired or near expiring and are proper to be revived or continued. [These are listed.] The house agreed to the report for all and for each a committee was ordered to prepare and bring in a bill.

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Resolved - Recommended to the house committees to prepare and bring in bills for: 1. Raising a tax by the poll and on trades, supercargoes, and masters of vessels in the out ports, and on offices and houses, and for laying a tax on certain wheel carriages, and committee ordered to consist of misters Henckell,

Grant, and Vaughan; 2. To oblige the inhabitants to provide themselves with sufficient number of white men, women and children, or pay certain sums of money in case they shall be deficient, and ordered a committee for that purpose consisting of misters Foulks, Bryan, and Delpratt; 3. For laying a duty on all wines, brandy, gin, rum and other distilled spirits retailed within the island, and for laying a further tax on licences to be granted for retailing of these and on the public offices. Committee to be composed of misters Mathison, Deans, and Johnstone.

Ordered – Receiver general lay before the house an account of all certificates issued from commencement of martial law to 2 Dec. instant, also an account of all pay bills certified by him during the same time.

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Ordered – Last letters from the British agent be referred to committee of whole house.

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Message from lieutenant governor by his secretary – Lay before the house a letter and its enclosure from John Mowat for consideration. Dated at Montego Bay, 23 Nov. 1795, signed John Mowat, trustee for John's Hall estate. The works at John's Hall estate have ever since the start of the maroon war been occupied, and still are, as the grand magazine for provisions and stores from whence the quarters at Vaughansfield, Old Maroon Town, and almost all posts in this parish are supplied. Those works and buildings are necessary for manufacturing crops of sugar and rum and the season is far advanced. If they are not speedily evacuated the crop will be lost and the value lost, an expence of about 10,000 pounds. To prevent, suggests a building be erected in time to save the crops and be a saving to the public. Enclosure – Estimate for a store and barracks at John's Hall. [Details shown.]

Ordered – Message with letter and enclosure to be referred to a committee of the whole house to consider.

Message from lieutenant governor – Command attendance of house in council chamber. Gave assent to the bill, "An act to grant to certain commissioners certain powers, for the comfortable subsistence and accommodation of the militia and regulars quartered in this island."

House adjourned till tomorrow at 9:00.

December 2

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Ordered bills to be read second time tomorrow – 1. Raising tax by poll and on trades, supercargoes, and masters of vessels in the out ports, and on offices and houses, and for laying a tax on certain wheel carriages; 2. Obliging inhabitants to provide themselves with a sufficient number of white men, women or children, or pay certain sums of money in case they shall be deficient; 3 Laying duty on all wines, and upon brandy, gin, rum and other distilled spirits retailed in Jamaica....; 4. To explain and regulate proceedings by foreign attachment; 5. Prohibit selling, purchasing, hiring or employing certain foreign "slaves," except as therein mentioned; 6. Establishing regulations respecting persons of certain description arriving in Jamaica or resident therein in certain cases; 7. Ease and relief of jurors and suitors of the supreme and certain other courts within Jamaica.

Ordered bills to be read second time tomorrow – 1. Bill to repeal an act, entitled, “An act to prevent the enticing or inveigling of slaves from the possessor; and for preventing the transportation of slaves by mortgagers and tenants for life and years, and for regulating abuses committed by slaves...; 2. Bill for granting certain rights and privileges to Ann Davis of the Parish of St. Thomas in the Vale, a free mulatto and her children, free quadroons, children of John O’Mealley of St. Thomas in the Vale, esquire.

Petitions to assembly –

1. Petition of Major Augustus Gould, barrackmaster for Jamaica, appointed such by Major General Williamson on 28 Nov. 1794. Has not received any recompence for doing his duty; the predecessor was paid 10 shillings/day.
2. Petition of Andrew Kerr, employed by the custos for Parish of Portland to take care of the barracks and stores of Fort George at Port Antonio soon after the decease of John Harris, esquire, captain of said fort when no soldiers were stationed there. Performed duties from 1 Jan. 1794 to 2 Feb when John Veitch, esquire, took possession as captain of the fort. Both pray relief. Ordered – Both petitions and account [not shown here] attached to no. 2 be referred to committee of the whole house.

Petition to assembly –

1. Petition of Dr. James Walker, physician to the jail for the County of Surry. Attended to and prescribed for sick prisoners and supplied with medicines. Annexed [not shown here] is a list or account of medicines furnished from 8 Nov. 1794 to 8 Nov. 1795, with the costs and price of same set opposite to each article as they can be supplied at in the town of Kingston, amounting to 353l. 2s. 3d. Total amount of sick prisoners during this period is 236 persons. Praying relief.
2. Petition of Hugh Fraser, deputy marshal for the Parish of Kingston. Sum of 252l.10s.2d is due for petitioner’s maintenance and other expences attending prisoners confined in county jail of Surrey, as appears by annexed account [not shown]. Praying relief. Ordered – Both petitions and accounts be referred to committee appointed for stating and settling public accounts.

Resolved – Amendments made and agreed to by the house pertaining to the bill for establishing and declaring rules and articles of war and for other purposes. House resolved to sit again tomorrow into a committee of the whole house upon the bill.

Ordered – 1. Mr. Halstead’s may have leave of absence until his recovery; 2. Additional members for the committee to examine and state the several accounts of the commissaries, agents, contractors, and all other persons who have demands on the public in consequence of present martial law – misters McLean, Anderson, Johnstone, chief justice, Campbell, Grant, P. Fuller, Halstead, Renalls, and Cockburn; 3. Secretary of Jamaica cause following laws to be printed by the printer of the house: “An act for raising several sums of money, and applying the same to several uses”; “An act for the more speedy collection of the public taxes, and the arrears thereof now due”; “An act for the prevention of indebted persons from departing this island in time of martial law, and to empower the judges and justices to exercise their several offices in certain cases; and to empower the justices and vestry, and churchwardens, and surveyors of highways, to discharge their several duties; and to enable landlords to distrain for rent, notwithstanding martial law”; and “An act to grant to certain commissioners certain powers, for the

comfortable subsistence and accommodation of the militia and regulars quartered in this island, and for other purposes.”

House adjourned till tomorrow at 9:00.

December 3

Resolved– Bills so ordered yesterday were read second time and each committed to a committee of the whole house tomorrow.

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Resolved – Bill to repeal an act entitled, “An act to prevent enticing or inveigling of slaves from the possessors, and for the preventing the transportation of slaves by mortgagers and tenants for life and years...” to be committed to a committee of the whole house tomorrow.

Ordered – After being read a second time, bill for granting certain rights and privileges to Ann Davis of the Parish of St. Thomas in the Vale, free mulatto woman, and her children, free quadroons, was ordered to be engrossed and titled, “An act for granting certain rights and privileges to Ann Davis, of the parish of St. Thomas in the Vale, a free mulatto woman, and her several children, named George O’Mealley, Bridget O’Mealley, and Ann O’Mealley, the reputed son and daughters of John O’Mealley, of the said parish of St. Thomas in the Vale, esquire.”

Resolved – House to delay for six months to consider in committee of the whole house the bill to explain and amend an act entitled, “An act to appoint commissioners to inspect the books of the receiver general, and to settle and adjust the public accounts.”

Ordered – Bill to enable certain commissioners named to raise several sums of money for the public service to be committee of the whole house tomorrow after being read a second time.

Petition of some of the inhabitants of John’s Town, St. Ann’s Bay, on behalf of themselves and others in town and vicinity, who are now detached on actual service against the maroons. If it was found necessary to erect a fort (now dilapidated) at St. Ann’s Bay when but one vessel loaded there for Great Britain and two houses thereon years ago, it now is in greater need for protection with an increase in the number of ships that now load there, extensive town being built thereon, and from the great deposit of merchandise, produce, and plantation stores. Concerned about the Spaniards at Cuba, who are very knowledgeable about their situation from a long commercial intercourse carried on between the inhabitants of St. Ann’s Bay and Cubans. Even if Britain does not declare war against Spain the Spaniards of Cuba will under authority of French commissions, commit deprivations and capture vessels on the north side of the island. Praying relief. **Ordered** – Petition be referred to misters Grant, Cuthbert, and Christie, and report back.

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Resolved – House will sit again tomorrow into a committee of the whole house upon the bill for establishing and declaring rules and articles of war.

Ordered – Commissioners appointed by an act passed this session “An act to grant to certain commissioners certain powers, for the comfortable subsistence and accommodation of the militia and regulars quartered in this island...” be authorized to inquire what “slaves,” in their respective districts,

have behaved themselves, or may hereafter behave themselves, meritoriously to the public during the present rebellion, and report their opinion what gratuities the said “slaves” may deserve.

[Messages](#) from lieutenant governor via his secretary - Lays before the house the following documents:

1. Petition presented to him from Trelawny Town maroons who surrendered to his honour in obedience to his proclamation of 8 August. Signed 3 Nov. 1795. Per proclamation of 8 August sent into Trelawny maroon town, petitioners have surrendered themselves. That by virtue of an act entitle, “An act to repeal ‘An Act for the better order and government of the negroes belonging to the several negro-towns; and for preventing them from purchasing of slaves; and for encouraging the said negroes to in pursuit of runaway slaves...’: and for giving the maroon negroes further protection and security; for altering the mode of trial....,” it is enacted, that it shall be lawful for any maroon “negro or negroes” to appear in person before justices of their precinct and publicly declare they are desirous and willing to give up any right they may have to any part of the lands which have been granted to the maroon “negroes,” and that they are willing to reside in any other part of the island, except in any of the maroon towns. Petitioners are willing to avail themselves of the terms of said act, but in so doing, will be without any means of support. Submit themselves to your mercy and consideration .

Two lists of signatories – **1.** John Tharp, capt; Robert Jackson, capt; James Lawrence, capt.; Samuel Shaw, capt.; James Williams, capt.; John Thomson, lieut.; James Reilly; Charles Bernard, lieut; John Samuel; Bob Downer; John Graham; Miles Hall; John Mostyn/Mofton; John Sympson; John Palmer; James Bernard; John Bucknor; John James; Joseph Campbell; Donald Cooper; Cuffie; James Russia/Ruffia; Hebert Jarrett; Martin Sewell; William Anglin; Samuel Tharp; William Libbart; Daniel Bernard; John Euler; John Witter; Gayton Quaco; Peter Gordon; Little Quaco; and Robt. Gibb, witness. Sworn before Simon Taylor, 5 Nov. 1795. **2.** Sukey Martin for self and child named William Martin; Mary Sterling; Mimba and her daughter named Mary Fisher; Maria for self and child named Thomas Morris; Patience; Juba for self and child named Quamina; Amelia Palmer; Susanna Palmer for self and three children named Eleanor Palmer, Emily Montague and John Pendril; Ann Sewell; Lilly Allen; Rosanna Scarlett for self and four children named John Quick, Elizabeth Quick, William Scarlett Earle, and John Anglin Earle; Elizabeth Borthwick for self and child named Mary Sharp; Ann Maclachlan; James Allen; Sarah Saunders; Elizabeth Sewell Walcott for self and two children named Ann Weir and William Walcott; and Betty Cole. Witnessed by John McCall. Sworn before Simon Taylor 6 Nov. 1795.

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2. Letter from Rear Admiral W. Parker, dated on *Raisonable* at Port Royal, 6 Nov. 1795. Been told by misters Hurst and Miles, who supply our ships with cattle, that many of these have been impressed. Request necessary action for protection.

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3. Certificate from Captain James Scarlett, junior, with an endorsement of Major General Walpole – certifies that a runaway “negro,” with arms, who had joined the maroons, was killed by a party of Trelawny militia under my command in ambush on 16 Oct. in the act of presenting his musket at one of my party whom he had discovered. Signed by Scarlett, captain commanding the party, at New Maroon Town, 17 Oct. 1795.

4. Proclamation from lieutenant governor, which he has found necessary to publish, dated at Headquarters, Vaughansfield, 13 August 1795. [Transcribed in full here.] 'Whereas the maroon negroes of Trelawny-Town have, for many months past, shewn a very rebellious disposition towards his majesty's government, which induced me to take such steps as appeared best adapted to reduce them to a proper subordination and obedience. And whereas several circumstances have of late concurred, shewing them to be actuated by the worst of intentions, such as their attacking and killing his majesty's troops, and setting fire to and destroying their towns, previous to the expiration of the term allowed them for surrendering to his majesty's mercy; emissaries from them being found in different parts of the country, under the most suspicious appearance, and various others. Conceiving it essentially requisite, that every possible means should be applied for the speedy removal of so troublesome an internal enemy, I have determined to send out parties of persons accustomed to travel in the mountainous parts of the island, assisted by armed persons of colour and negroes, to discover and destroy their haunts and retreats. For the better encouragement of whom, as well as the rest of the forces employed, or to be employed, in this service, I have resolved to grant the following rewards; viz. For every such maroon negro, capable of bearing arms, as shall be brought in a prisoner to me, or any commander of his majesty's forces, the sum of twenty pounds. For every maroon negro woman, or young child, who shall be taken and so brought in, the sum of ten pounds. And as it is highly probable that such maroon negroes, capable of bearing arms, may make resistance and be slain, I hereby promise the like reward to the party or parties, upon sufficient proof thereof, as if such maroon had been brought in alive. And whereas one particular maroon negro man named James Palmer, and one other named Leonard Parkinson, have behaved in a manner singularly atrocious; I hereby further offer an additional reward of eighty pounds, amounting in the whole to one hundred pounds, in like manner for apprehending or killing the said James Palmer; and an additional reward of thirty pounds, amounting in the whole to fifty pounds, for apprehending or killing the said Leonard Parkinson.' Ordered – Above four messages and papers be referred to committee of the whole house.

House adjourned till tomorrow at 9:00.

December 4

Resolved – 1. Bill for granting certain rights and privileges to Ann Davis of the Parish of St. Thomas in the Vale, a free mulatto woman, and her children, do pass, and ordered to be delivered to council for their concurrence. 2. Bill to regulate fees of the governor's secretary, after being read a second time, to be committed to a committee of the whole house tomorrow.

Ordered – George Fuller, being extremely disposed, to have leave of absence.

Petition presented to the house from George Fletcher Coward of the Parish of St. Catherine, deputy marshal. Petitioner is in charge of the jail for prisoners guilty of offences committed in the County of Middlesex. Prays for relief for the great private expence incurred during the period of martial law which has seen a great number of prisoners by sentences of courts martial and militia warrants. Ordered – Petition to be referred to committee of the whole house.

Petition presented by George Coward. Petitioner due sum of 19l. 6s. 3d. for cash advanced for the support and maintenance of a prisoner confined for debt in Spanish Town jail from 24 Jan. to 29 Nov. Prays for relief. [Account annexed not included here.]

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Petition of George Coward – Moneys due to petitioner, 67l. 17s. 1d. for cash advanced for maintenance of prisoners as set forth in annexed account, marked No. 1 [not included here]. Also due sum of 136l. 13s. 9d. for cash advanced for support of eight maroons committed to jail as set forth in annexed account marked No. 2 [not included here]. By reason of these large advances and the stop at present put to business, petitioner not able to advance money needed for maintenance of prisoners. Praying for relief. Ordered – Petition and accounts be referred to misters Campbell, Cuthbert, Vaughan, Johnstone, and Cockburn to inquire into and report.

Ordered – After agreement of the house, bill with amendments to be engrossed and entitled, “An act for establishing and declaring rules and articles of war, and for other purposes.”

Ordered – After agreement of the house, bill with amendments to be engrossed and entitled, “An act to enable certain commissioners, therein named, to raise several sums of money for the public service.”

Ordered – Bill with amendments be engrossed and entitled, “An act to repeal an act, passed in the year of our Lord 1744, entitled, ‘An act to regulate the selling of gunpowder, and to prevent the selling fire-arms to slaves; and to regulate the importation and sale of gunpowder; and to prevent the selling of fire-arms to maroons and slaves in future.’”

House adjourned till tomorrow at 9:00.

December 5

House met but adjourned as Mr. Speaker indisposed.

December 7

House met but adjourned as Mr. Speaker indisposed.

December 8

Resolved that the following engrossed bills do pass. 1. Establishing and declaring rules and articles of war, and for other purposes; 2. Repeal an act passed in the year of our Lord 1744, entitled, “An act to regulate the selling gunpowder, and to prevent the selling of fire-arms to slaves...”; 3. Bill to enable certain commissioners, therein named, to raise several sums of money for the public service.

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Ordered – Concerns committee’s response to petition of George Coward, deputy marshal and keeper of the jail for Middlesex county. Receiver general directed to pay to Coward the sum of 204l. 10s. 10d. in full of his account for the support of maroons and other persons confined in consequence of martial law, and also the further sum of 100l. in advance for future maintenance of such prisoners. Ordered - to lie on the table for three days.

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Petition of Edmund Pusey March, superintendent of Scot’s Hall, presented to the house. Petitioner being obliged by law to reside constantly at Scot’s Hall, had presented to the house in 1794 a

petition to be allowed lodging money, which was granted at 50l. As petitioner is in the same position, prays for relief. Ordered - petition be referred to committee of the whole house.

Petition of James Buchanan of the Parish of Portland, gentleman, presented to the house. Prays relief for canoe furnished to supply a detachment of the 83rd Regiment of Foot, stationed at Fort George in the Parish of Portland, with wood and water, amounting to 20l. 5s., as shown in annexed account [not shown here]. Ordered – Petition and account be referred to committee for stating and settling public accounts, and report.

Petition - Sarah Wilkinson, of Adderbury-House from County of Oxford, in Great Britain, widow; Rebecca Bond, of same place, spinster; Elizabeth Bond of Frampton, Gloucester County, spinster; John Fryer of Frampton, gentleman; Sarah his wife (late Sarah bond, spinster); Abraham Watson Rutherford of the City of London, merchant; James Tyers of East Cheap, London, sugar broker; William Lewis of Holborn, County of Middlesex, distiller; and Henry Gawler of Lincoln's Inn in same county, esquire, presented to the house by James Johnstone of the Parish of St. Andrew, esquire. Pertains to inheritance in property in Jamaica left by William bond, late of the City of London, merchant, in his will dated 10 August 1791 and codicil to will dated 27 September 1793. Petitioners think it for the benefit of the trust and all parties concerned therein that such lands, houses, tenements, and premises should be sold and the monies arising be invested in the purchase of other lands or property. Some properties mentioned are in Kingston. Request the house will give leave for a bill to be brought in for this purpose. Ordered – Petition be referred to misters Cockburn, Batty, and Cuthbert to inquire and report.

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Ordered – After house agreement, bill with amendments to be engrossed and entitled, “An act to appoint certain commissioners for the better carrying into execution the several appropriations made, or to be made, for the use of the buildings belonging to the public, and of the barracks throughout this island.”

Ordered – 1. Misters Henckell, Shirley, Foulks, Vaughan, Steward, G. Fuller, Delpratt, Bryan and Mathison be added to committee to examine and state the accounts of the commissaries, agents, contractors, quartermasters and all other persons who have or may have demands on the public in consequence of present martial law; 2. Mr. Wallen to have general leave of absence during this session.

Page 414-415

Messages from lieutenant governor via his secretary - Lay before the house accounts against the public of Jamaica, and other papers as follows:

1. Account of the 20 Light Dragoons amounting to 1057l. 12s. 9d. [Totals only shown.]
2. John Henderson's account amounting to 98l. 14s. 2d. [Totals only shown.]
3. Island storekeeper's account and estimate of the expence of keeping clean and in repair the island arms for the year 1796. Table showing sum totals for armourer for 365 days at 20s per week; one assistant, ditto, at 18s. 1.5d. per ditto; five labourers, ditto, at 15s. 7.5d. per ditto; and oil etc.
4. Account of work done by the artificers and men of the Royal Artillery, sum totals 112l. 12s. 8.5d. [Total only shown.]

5. Robert Pitcairn's account totalling 112l. 10s. [Total only shown.]
6. John Henderson's account totalling 66l. 13s. 4d. [Total only shown.]
7. James Jones account totalling 7l. 10s. [Total only shown.]
8. Major Alves, A.D.Q.M.G. accounts totalling 54l. 16s. 6.5d. [Total only shown.]
9. Captain Douglas, Moore Town, accounts totalling 108l. 3s. 4d. [Total only shown.]
10. John Townshend's account totalling 13l. [Total only shown.]
11. Robert Thomson's account totalling 273l. [Total only shown.]
12. 18th Light Dragoons account totalling 48l. 2s. 6d. [Total only shown.]
13. Captain Kean, 83rd Regiment, accounts totalling 14l. 11s. 8d. [Total only shown.]
14. Memorial of Captain Veitch, Fort George. Situation as captain of Fort George being at a great distance from wood and water, requests pioneers and a boat to procure those necessaries, as well as for other uses. Total amounting to 212l. 14s. 2d. [Total only shown.]
15. Memorial of William Lempriere, surgeon of the 62nd Regiment and acting surgeon to the forces in Jamaica. Requests amount of 50l. usually granted annually to the surgeon of the forces for lodging money. Dated at Spanish Town on 1 Dec. 1795.
16. Petition of Patrick Gallagher, assistant surgeon. Requests compensation for expenses incurred for lodging at Oracebessa where he stayed while attached to a detachment of the 10th Regiment, and again sent to a second time from Kingston attached to the 13th Regiment. Amount totalling 23l. 13s. 9d.
17. Petition of Surgeon John Robinson of 20th (or Jamaica) Regiment of Light Dragoons. Deprived of advantages in point of pay which all surgeons in the army when in the West Indies receive. Requests a granting of the sum of 100l annually granted by the house.
18. Brigadier Major Gould's account for lodging money amount to 10l.
19. Memorial of Lieutenant James Alston, 63rd Regiment, aid du camp. Requests to be allowed island pay and lodging money usually granted as aid du camp, from 13 April to 2 August; and as deputy quartermaster-general from 3 August, 1795.
20. Memorial of Captain Butter, 18th Dragoons, deputy adjutant-general to the forces in Jamaica. Requests to be allowed island pay and lodging money usually granted.
21. Accounts of the 62nd Regiment, amounting together to 515l. 8d.
22. Return of officers, non-commissioned officers, privates, drummers, wives, widows, and children of the 62nd Regiment of foot, who have drawn island pay from 1 Nov. 1794 to 31 Oct. 1795. Totals are given in tabular format monthly for each category of person described above, breaking down further the officers, and adding chaplain, adjutant, quartermaster, surgeon surgeon's mate and island surgeon hospital mates. Signed Thomas Drinkwater, major commanding 62nd Regiment.

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Ordered – Message and papers to be referred to committee appointed for stating and settling the public accounts.

House adjourned till tomorrow at 9:00.

December 9

Resolved – Engrossed bill to appoint certain commissioners for the better carrying into execution the several appropriations made, or to be made, for the use of the buildings belonging to the public, and of the barracks throughout the island, do pass. Sent to council for their concurrence.

Resolved – House do agree with report from the committee which considered the petition of Sarah Wilkinson of Adderbury House from County of Oxford in Britain, widow, and others relating to the estate in Jamaica of the late William Bond, merchant, from England, and their request to sell. Committee agrees with allegations in petition and recommend to the house to appoint a committee to prepare and bring in a bill agreeable to the request. Ordered - misters Cockburn, Batty, and Cuthbert be a committee.

Page 415-416

Petition of Gadstona Love of the Parish of Trelawny, widow, presented to the house. Husband, George Love, was killed in an action with rebellious maroons on 12 August leaving her a widow with three children, the eldest of whom is not above six years old. Husband was a carpenter and able to support family. Now deprived and exposed to every hardship resulting from poverty and stress, she is under necessity of imploring sustenance from the house. Receives bounty granted by a law of the island for the support of the widows and children of those who may be killed in action but being her only means, she finds it inadequate to bring up her infant family. Prays for relief. Ordered- Petition be referred to misters Steward, Hodges, and Vaughan to inquire and report.

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Ordered – After house agreement, bill with amendments to be engrossed and entitled, “An act to repeal certain acts, and clauses and parts of acts, therein mentioned; to prevent the hiding, concealing, inveigling, detaining, knowingly harbouring or employing, the slaves of others; to prevent the transportation of slaves by mortgagers and tenants for life and years; and for regulating abuses committed by slaves.”

Ordered – After house agreement, bill with amendments be engrossed and entitled, “An act to regulate the fees of the governor’s secretary.”

Ordered – To be read a second time tomorrow, bill for making provision for the families of such free people of colour, and of free “negroes” enrolled in the militia, as shall be killed in service.

House adjourned till tomorrow at 9:00.

December 10

Resolved – Following engrossed bills do pass: 1 To repeal certain acts and clauses and parts of acts, therein mentioned; to prevent the hiding concealing, inveigling, detaining, knowingly harbouring or employing slaves of others; to prevent the transportation of slaves by mortgagers and tenants for life and years and for regulating abuses committed by slaves; 2. To regulate fees of the governor’s secretary. Both delivered to council for the concurrence.

Resolved– Bill to make provision for families of such free people of colour, and of free “negroes” enrolled in the militia as shall be killed in the service, after being read a second time, was resolved to be committed to a committee of the whole house tomorrow.

Report from commissioners appointed for stating and settling the public accounts. Find it impossible to come to any certain judgement of the extent of expences incurred or will incur in consequence of the unprovoked rebellion of the Trelawny maroons. Report the present situation of the funds and their opinion of the nature and amount of the provision they conceive to be necessary. Taxes received during the four quarters ending 30 Sept., shown in tabular format, and providing totals for the following categories: "negro" duties, 1795; additional duties, 1795; tax upon tonnage; total receipt of taxes for current year; received under the poll tax, 1794; deficiency 1794; arrears of former years; surplus of revenue, 10 Sept.; balance of gunpowder account; and total monies received during four quarters ending 30 Sept. Balance of cash in receiver general's hands on that date was 103,743l. 15s. 10d. exclusive of the surplus of revenue and the balance of gunpowder account; but it is now very reduced such that there appears a deficiency of upwards of 30,000l. to answer immediate cash demands. This supposes that martial law does not extend beyond 200 days from the start and the total expence will be about 500,000l. Extraordinary sum cannot be raised in Jamaica and suggest assistance from the king to borrow the sum of 350,000l. to be repaid by five annual installments, with interest of 6 percent. For security of these payments in Britain, sufficient to raise poll tax of 10s. per slave for five years to be mortgaged to certain trustees residing in Great Britain. For the immediate supply for the treasury, suggest poll tax of 40s. per head on "slaves" of absentees. Expect absentees will be glad to contribute with their purses as a compensation for not having it in their power to assist personally in our defence at this alarming juncture.

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Petition of Alexander Donaldson, contractor for victualling the army, presented to the house. Requests compensation for supplies of provisions for the troops and militia in the parishes of St. James and Trelawny, amounting to about 20,000l. as appears in annexed account [detailed account not shown].

Petition of Hector McKay, deputy marshal for parishes of St. Ann, St. Mary, and St. George. Petitioner requests compensation for considerable expences incurred. Retrieved Dominick Plunket, charged with murder of a Spaniard, from a vessel in the harbour at White River Bay, 26 Nov. 1794, after which a party of militia were ordered to escort him from St. Ann's Bay to the county jail. In so doing, expended sums to pay for horse hire and support, and for maintenance of prisoner at the jail on 1 Dec. 1794. Great expense also in searching 5 days for Cornet Blake of the 20th Dragoons, charged with murder of Ensign Nangle of the 62nd Regiment, only to have found he had escaped Jamaica.

Ordered – Above report and petitions be referred to committee of the whole house to inquire.

Petition of Thomas Greensword presented to the house. Requests relief for keeping in order and winding up of the clock erected in the assembly room for one year as stated in annexed account totalling 2.5l. [No detailed account shown.] Ordered the petition and account be referred to committee for stating and settling the public accounts.

Resolutions recommended to the house by the committee to take into consideration the state of the island – **1.** To bring in a bill for raising a poll tax on certain wheel carriages and on trades supercargoes, and masters of vessels, and on offices and houses; and applying it towards defraying expences due to present rebellion of maroons of Trelawny Town. Ordered misters Shirley, Fitch, and Cockburn to be a committee to do so. **2.** To bring in a bill for raising a poll tax on absentees holding properties in Jamaica towards defraying expences occasioned by the present rebellion. Ordered misters Shirley, Fitch, and Cockburn to be a committee to do so. **3.** To refer petition of Alexander Donaldson, contractor for

victualling the army, to commissioners for stating and settling public accounts. Committee will sit again tomorrow to consider.

Page 417-418

Resolved - Tomorrow committee of the whole house to consider further the bill for laying a duty on all wines, and upon brandy, gin, rum, and other distilled spirits, retailed in Jamaica; and for laying a further tax on licences to be granted for retailing same.

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House adjourned till tomorrow at 9:00.

11 December

Resolved – Receiver general to pay to George Fletcher Coward, deputy marshall and keeper of the county jail of Middlesex, the sum of 204l. 10s. 10d. in full of his account as per his petition.

Petition of Maclaurin Gillies of the Parish of St. James, merchant, presented to the house. In the year 1793, at the request of Major George Rawdon, then commanding officer of the 16th Regiment of Foot, supplied for the use of the sick of the regiment, 46 dozen of Madeira wine at 45s. per dozen and half a dozen of same for 60s. per dozen. These were an expence for which was not compensated. Account attached [not shown here].

Ordered – As agreed by the house, bill with amendments be engrossed and entitled, “An act to make provision for the families of such free people of colour, and of free negroes enrolled in the militia, as shall be killed in the service.”

Resolved – After amendments agreed by the house, resolved to meet again tomorrow into a committee of the whole house to further confer on the bill for laying a duty on all wines, and upon brandy, gin, rum, and other distilled spirits, retailed within this island....

Ordered – Collecting constables who have not yet paid to the receiver general’s office monies received on account of the public taxes, be taken into custody by the sergeant at arms attending this house unless they can give sufficient reasons for not having it delivered on or before 12 Jan. Ordered this resolution be published in all newspapers for two weeks.

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Message from the lieutenant governor in council chamber. Provides assent for the following bills, all of which are to be published in newspapers: “An act to enable certain commissioners, therein named, to raise several sums of money for the public service”; “An act for establishing and declaring rules and articles of war, and for other purposes”; “An act to repeal certain acts and clauses and parts of acts, therein mentioned; to prevent the hiding, concealing, inveigling, detaining, knowingly harbouring or employing, the slaves of others; to prevent the transportation of slaves by mortgagers.....”; “An act to repeal an act, passed in the year of our Lord 1744, entitled, “An act to regulate the selling of gunpowder, and to prevent the selling of fire-arms to slaves....and to prevent the selling of fire-arms to maroons and slaves in future”; “An act to appoint certain commissioners for the better carrying into execution the several appropriations made, or to be made, for the use of the buildings belonging to the public, and the barracks throughout the island”; and “An act to grant certain rights and privileges to Ann Davis of the parish of St. Thomas in the Vale, a free mulatto woman, and her several children....”

House adjourned till tomorrow at 9:00.

12 December

Resolved – Engrossed bill to make provision for the families of such free people of colour and of free “negroes” enrolled in the militia, as shall be killed in service be referred to a committee to be reconsidered consisting of misters Fitch, Cuthbert, Christie, Steward, and Shirley.

Ordered – Bill for raising a tax by the poll on absentees holding properties in Jamaica to offset costs of the present rebellion to be read a second time next Tuesday.

Report by committee on petition of some of the inhabitants of John’s Town in St. Ann’s Bay. Agent of Jamaica in Britain applied to the ministers to send out vessels of force to protect coasts and trade against enemy’s privateers. Promise obtained that armed vessels will be sent as soon as ready. Committee believes inexpedient to comply with that part of the petition relating to arming of vessels at the expence of Jamaica for protecting coasts. With respect to defence of the harbour, find it is unprotected. Petitioners expect that due to existing pressures of the times, would be contented with a smaller grant of 400l. which, with subscriptions from inhabitants of John’s town, would enable them to erect a small battery. Ordered – Report do lie on the table for members to peruse.

Page 419-420

Petition of Henry Burgess of the Parish of St. George, planter, presented to the house. Lost his eye sight in 1792 while on military duty and received the next two years 50l. each year. Prays for relief. Ordered – Petition be referred to committee of the whole house to further consider.

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House adjourned till Monday at 9:00.

December 14

Petition of the justices and vestry of the town and Parish of Kingston presented to house. Streets and houses in Kingston very damaged by immense torrents of water running down from the Parish of St. Andrew through the town due to rains which fall in St. Andrews and the overflowing of rivers. Request a bill to enable the justices and vestry of Kingston to take up lands in the Parish of St. Andrew and to cut canals for the purpose of carrying off the water. Ordered – Petition be referred to misters McLean, Galbraith, Fitch, Cockburn, and Woolfrys to inquire and report.

Resolutions agreed to by the house related to the request for furnishing a corps of “negroes” to be embodied and armed, and of pioneers and artificers intended for service of St. Domingo.

1. Under the pressure of accumulated distress, the house cannot agree to support as it would be a tax most oppressive and ruinous to the inhabitants. Distresses mentioned include - consequences of the maroon rebellion, which is described as arduous and difficult, creating great expence and the need to adopt taxes; great losses sustained by individuals; up to 2,000 pioneers and artificers constantly employed in service; proprietors experience great injury by loss of their labour; greatest part of the regular forces sent here for protection have been sent elsewhere; militia constantly embodied and engaged in most harassing and fatiguing duty; white people employed on estates and settlements, being obliged to serve, have been taken from their usual employments causing

great inconveniences and loss by interrupting the necessary operations on estates and settlements; and the legislature is forced to borrow money.

2. If assessment made on the inhabitants for this corps, believe much distress and even cruelty would result as the “negroes” would be torn from their settlements and families to be transported to a foreign country on service altogether new to them and from which they are totally averse; and that such a measure would excite in the minds of the “slaves” discontents that very probably would expose the island to the danger of insurrection among them, which, operating at the same time with the present maroon rebellion would undoubtedly complete the destruction of the colony.
3. Opinion of committee that numerous circumstances prevail at present, which did not exist in former times, when operations against the common enemy have been assisted by pioneers collected from “slaves” of Jamaica, that render the measure now required not only difficult in principle, but productive of consequences not to be dreaded in those days.
4. Opinion of committee that if Britain found another way than through Jamaica’s legislature to raise the corps intended for service proposed, the house will use every means to prevent return of such “slaves” here, as fatal consequences must result from the example of “slaves” trained to use arms, whose minds would be contaminated with notions and principles which they would acquire by a residence in St. Domingo, totally incompatible with the condition of slavery, and dangerous in the extreme, and who, instead of becoming labourers as formerly, would make it their chief object to instill into the minds of other “slaves” those pernicious and dangerous principles. Thus, motion is made to send a message to the lieutenant governor that after consideration of documents referred to his speech at the opening of session and sent to the house on the 1st instant, the house finds it impossible to comply with the requisitions contained within. House agrees with motion.

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Resolutions recommended to the house:

5. To comply with the petition of denomination of maroons presented to the house on 30 Nov. last, so soon as the present rebellion is quelled, and to be clothed with suitable support in the meantime.
6. To pay sum of 50l. to James Anderson, superintendent of the maroons in Charles Town in full for lodging money from time of his appointment to 31 Dec. instant.

Resolution – House will again tomorrow resolve itself into a committee of the whole house to further consider the state of the island.

Ordered – Message sent to lieutenant governor last session, relative to raising two companies of “slaves,” be referred to same committee.

Ordered – Commissioners for the Parish of Trelawny do provide clothing and a suitable support for the maroons confined in Fort Balcarres.

Message from lieutenant governor by his secretary – Lays before the house a letter from the commissioners of the Parish of St. Elizabeth, addressed to Major General Walpole, together with certain proposals mentioned therein, for raising companies of rangers, and which proposals his honour highly approves as likely to be productive of good effects.

1. Letter dated at St. Elizabeth, Black River, 18 Nov. 1795, signed Joseph James Swaby, Robert Peart, Charles Rowe, John White, Humphrey Colquhoun, public commissioners. Pertains to the raising of two companies of rangers consisting of people of colour. States glad for the re-

establishment of the posts at Hector's River and Mouth River with part of the Clarendon and Vere militia, who we trust will check the rebels in that quarter. Apprehensions for the safety of our frontier for the maroons being drove out of the cockpits and dispersed will no doubt form into parties and commit all sorts of devastations. Enclose proposal for the arrangement of two companies of rangers stated above for which much of the funds required already subscribed. Intention is that the two companies should be kept out constantly pursuing and attacking the rebels wherever they are. For the parish militia, provides numbers for those fit for duty, those sick in the parish militia, and a grand total. Additional use of "negroes" carrying the packets now done by the "negroes" of the troopers. Believe necessary to establish post about the centre of Nassau, a valuable part of parish with nine sugar estates. Worried rebels will set fire to this district with the dry weather and no defence at present. We know not what hour they may burst out of the woods on those estates for that purpose. Proposal for this raising includes one captain, two lieutenants, two sergeants, two corporals, 36 privates, and three Accompong maroons, if they can be prevailed upon. Committee of Joseph James Swaby, Honourable George Murray, Col. Robert Peart, Major Charles Rowe, Hungerford Spooner, John White, and Humphrey Colquhoun, esquires, to direct future operations. Sum of 2,000l. to be raised by subscription and vested in the hands of the public commissioners to defray expence of companies for the space of two months or during the present rebellion. Shows pay per day for each rank; and additional note that 1,200 l. has already been subscribed. Ordered – Message and papers be referred to committee of the whole house to inquire into.

House adjourned till tomorrow at 9:00.

December 15

Message to lieutenant governor – Pertaining to request sent by governor to house to consider documents sent to the house on the 1st instant, house has agreed it is impossible to comply with requisitions contained in documents. Ordered – Be delivered to lieutenant governor.

Ordered – Bill for raising a tax by poll on absentees holding properties in Jamaica read a second time. Question put for bill to be committed to a committee tomorrow but house divided with the noes going forward. Resolved in the affirmative. Ordered - the names of members and how each voted to be published in the newspaper.

Ordered to be read a second time – 1. Bill for raising a tax by poll and on certain wheel carriages and on trades, supercargoes, and masters of vessels, and on offices and houses to defray expences due to rebellion of maroons of Trelawny Town; and 2. Bill to enable the trustees of William Bond of City of London, deceased, to sell or exchange certain lands or premises.

Ordered – Report of committee considering petition of Thomas Craskell, superintendent of Trelawny maroon town, recommends payment of sum of 297l. to be paid to him in full of all accounts and of his salary to this day. Ordered report be referred to committee of whole house to inquire further.

Petition of William Walker of Parish of Kingston, gentleman, lawful attorney of McMillan Jamieson, esquire, late of Parish of Port Royal but presently absent from Jamaica, presented to the house. Requests compensation for wherry (type of vessel) and "negroes" for the use of two companies of the 20th Regiment of Foot at Apostles Battery from 8 March to 3 May 1793. Account attached amounting to 42l. [not shown here]. Ordered – Petition and account be referred to committee for stating and settling the public accounts.

Resolved – Opinion of committee that a number of “slaves” be raised, embodied, and armed, for the service of the island, formed into companies. House resolves to sit as committee of the whole house tomorrow to further consider.

Page 422-423

Ordered – Committee, consisting of misters Woolfrys, Cuthbert, Campbell, Cockburn, and Ross, to prepare a bill to repeal an act, entitled, “An act for raising and fitting out parties for the suppressing any rebellion in this island, during the continuance of this act”; and for the more effectual raising and fitting out parties for the suppression of any rebellion in this island; and for other purposes.”

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House adjourned till tomorrow at 9:00.

December 16

Resolved - Bill to enable trustees of William Bond, late of the City of London, deceased, to sell certain lands or premises to be committed to a committee of the whole house tomorrow.

Ordered – After house agreement, bill, with amendments, be re-engrossed and entitled, “An act to make provision for the families of such free people of colour, and of free negroes enrolled in the militia, as shall be killed or disabled in the public service.”

Ordered – Bill to enable justices and vestry of Kingston to take up lands in the Parish of St. Andrew, and to cut canals for the purpose of carrying off water and prevent same from coming down upon the town of Kingston to be read second time tomorrow.

Page 423-424

Ordered – After debate, bill, with amendments, be engrossed and entitled, “An act for raising a tax by the poll, on absentees holding properties in this island, towards defraying the expences occasioned by the present rebellion.” To be published in the newspapers for one month. [Names of those voting ayes and nays to amendments are given.]

House adjourned till tomorrow at 9:00.

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December 17

Resolved – Following bills do pass and be engrossed: 1. Raising a tax by the poll on absentees holding properties in Jamaica, towards defraying the expences occasioned by present rebellion; 2. Make provision for families of free people of colour and of free “negroes” enrolled in the militia as shall be killed or disabled in public service. **Ordered** – both bills to be delivered to council for their concurrence.

Resolved – Bills to be committed to a committee of the whole house tomorrow: 1. To enable justices and vestry of Kingston to take up lands in the Parish of St. Andrew and to cut canals for carrying off water and to prevent same from coming down upon the Kingston; 2. For raising a tax by the poll and on certain wheel carriages and on trades, supercargoes....and applying same towards expences occasioned by present rebellion of the maroons of Trelawny Town.

Ordered – Bill to repeal an act entitled, “An act for raising and fitting out parties for the suppressing any rebellion in this island ...” to be read second time tomorrow.

Report presented from commissioners for stating and settling public accounts pertaining to the earlier petition and accounts of Alexander Donaldson, in which he requests compensation of 20,000 pounds due for provisions supplied troops and militia in the parishes of St. James and Trelawny. Confirmed provisions furnished and charged at wholesale market prices and that they were received, but find difficulty of arranging matters blended in the said account so not yet able to ascertain the balance. Recommend in the meantime to make him an advance of 10,000 pounds.

Petition of Alexander Donaldson, contractor for victualling the army, presented to the house. Had contract with commissioners of public accounts for victualling 3-4,000 men and so ordered large amount of provisions from England; unfortunately, before Feb. the troops were needed elsewhere and was left with a considerable quantity of provision without any way of disposing them without considerable loss. With reduction of the army in Jamaica, was impossible that any benefit could accrue to petitioner from this contract. A number of troops not destined for Jamaica but detained in consequence of the critical situation of affairs arrived here four months ago, when the petitioner was called upon to supply them with provisions at a time when he was totally unprepared and provisions continue at a high price. Pray for relief.

Ordered – Petition and report be referred to committee of the whole house to inquire further.

Report of committee pertaining to the petition of Gadstone Love of the Parish of Trelawny, widow. Recommend to the house to grant her 50l. **Ordered** – Report do lie on the table for three days agreeable to the rule of the house.

Petition of magistrate and vestry of the Parish of St. James presented to the house. Loss sustained by Montego Bay in June last by fire due to the narrowness of the streets, which allowed the flames to easily travel but prevented proper assistance. Petitioners have caused a plan of the town to be drawn and annexed [not shown here], by which the streets may be widened and add much to the health, convenience, and commerce of the town. **Ordered** petition be referred to misters Vaughan, Mathison, and Hodges to inquire and report.

Petition of the magistrates and vestry of the Parish of St. James presented to the house. Fire of 6 June last in Montego Bay consumed 110 houses, including almost the whole of that part in which were the stores, wharves, and merchandise. Little could be saved and great numbers of inhabitants have been reduced to a state of great want and distress. Concerned many useful citizens, if not helped, will leave the town. Pray for relief. **Ordered** – Petition do lie on the table for perusal of members.

Resolutions reported and recommended by the committee of the whole house, of which will be further considered tomorrow by the committee –

1. Corps of “slaves” resolved by the house on Tuesday last to be raised, shall be composed of six companies, each company to consist of 56 “slaves,” in which are to be included two companies recommended by the house to be raised on 30 Sept. last.
2. Corps of “slaves” shall be raised by assessments in the respective parishes proportioned to the number of “negroes” in each parish according to the following table: St. Andrew 12, St. Ann 23, Westmorland 26, Vere 12, St. Catherine 7, St. Thomas in the East 34, Clarendon 25, St. David 3, St.

Dorothy 3, Port Royal 2, St. Elizabeth 20, Portland 5, St. Mary 32, St. George 8, St. John 5, Hanover 29, St. James 32, Trelawny 36, St. Thomas in the Vale 11, and Kingston 10.

3. Commissioners should be appointed in each parish for raising “slaves” and they shall not accept any “slaves” for this service but such as are able-bodied and healthy, not under the age of 20 or above 30, and if African born, to have been three years in Jamaica.

Ordered – Bill to be engrossed and entitled “An act to enable the trustees of William Bond, late of the city of London, in the kingdom of Great-Britain, deceased, to sell or exchange certain lands....”

Ordered – Receiver general to pay 30l. to the commissioners for the Parish of St. James to be distributed among the relatives of the “negro-driver” named Dick, belonging to Industry estate, who was murdered by the maroons in rebellion, as a reward for his attachment to his “master” and for his exertions to give alarm to the neighbourhood of the approach of the maroons. Ordered to lie on the table three days according to the rule of the house.

House adjourned till tomorrow at 9:00.

December 18

Ordered – Resolution for the engrossed bill to enable to trustees of William Bond to sell certain lands, do pass. Ordered to be carried to council for their concurrence.

Resolved – Bill to repeal an act, entitled, “An act for raising and fitting out parties for the suppressing any rebellion in this island, during the continuance of this act,...” to be committed to a committee of the whole house tomorrow.

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Ordered – Report by committee examining accounts of the commissaries, agents, contractors, and all other persons having demands on the public due to the present martial law. In report committee asks the house about whether certain stated charges are allowed, such as butter, brandy, “negro” labour, wagons and cattle men and boys. Ordered report be referred to committee of the whole house to consider.

Resolutions – Committee reported resolutions pertaining to the raising of “slaves” to be formed into corps:

1. Commissioners to be appointed in each parish for raising such corps shall value each “slave” to the best of their judgement not to exceed 120l.
2. Proprietors of the “slaves” to be raised shall convey all their right and title in these “slaves” to persons appointed for the use of the public, either by deed, or by toll in a parish book, after which the commissioners will certify such to receiver general.
3. Commissioners appointed to raise “slaves” will be directed, from time to time, to manumise such “slaves” as shall be certified to them by the commander in chief, with consent of the house, to have deserved their freedom for their services.
4. “Slaves” to be raised shall be under the command of the governor or commander in chief, to be employed solely for the defence of the island in quelling the present rebellion and the purpose of internal operation and defence, and during such time, said corps shall be subject to the same rules and articles of war to which regular troops are subject.

Resolved – Recommended to the house to leave it to the direction of the committee appointed to examine and state the several accounts of the commissaries, agents, contractors and others who have demands on the public in consequence of present marital law, to report accounts before them. Committee to sit again.

Ordered – Committee consisting of misters Shirley, Redwood, and Steward to prepare and bring in a bill to carry into effect the resolutions of the house of Tuesday last, of yesterday, and of this day, relative to the raising of “slaves” be formed into corps.

Resolved – After second reading, bill for continuing an act, commonly called the deficiency law, for a certain time longer to be committed to a committee of the whole house tomorrow.

Message from lieutenant governor - Documents to lay before the house to be referred to a committee appointed for stating and settling the public accounts to report.

1. Letter from Samuel Vaughan, esquire, dated at Spanish Town, 10 Dec. 1795. Very great inconvenience and loss it is to the property at Vaughansfield due to making it a depot of provisions for troops stationed at the maroon towns and neighbouring parts. Losses include coffee crop of some 1,000 pounds and great injury to coffee walk by roads made going through the coffee and pastures. Also storehouses and cellars are so limited in size so as not to hold necessary provisions during rainy season. Suggest the annexed plan as more adequate to public wants and without being an injury to the individual [separate plan not shown]. Plan includes building a store, 50 x 20 feet with the upstairs for a guard. This house to be built on flat land, within the 1,500 acres granted to the Trelawny maroons and adjoining the coffee walk at Vaughansfield. Am willing to become the contractor, not from a view to benefit but to prevent the interruption and loss at present felt at Vaughansfield from the stores for the troops being lodged there. Ordered – Message and letter to lie on the table for the perusal of the members.
2. Accounts against the public and other papers: 1. John Henderson’ account, totalling 12l. 15s.; 2. John Henderon’s account for 62nd Regiment totalling 32l. 6s. 3d.; 3. Memorial of Captain Edward Kean, commanding a detachment of the 83rd Regiment indicating he had been put into this port in distress on 5 August last. Has incurred necessary expences, such as hiring three “negroes” to supply troops with wood and water, as annexed account shows [not shown]. Also situation of memorialist and five other officers is very uncomfortable with respect to lodgings as the only habitable part of the officers’ barrack is occupied by the commander of the fort and his family. Requests relief; 4. Lodging money account of the Royal Artillery, totalling 257l. 5s. 8.5d [no further details shown]; 5. Memorial of Major Gosselin of 130th Regiment indicating regiment has incurred unavoidable expences during their stay at Jamaica and requests reimbursement totalling 34l. 19s. 9d. [account to be given assembly not shown].

House adjourned till tomorrow at 9:00.

