



BARBADOS.

By His Excellency Major-General Sir LIONEL
(L. S.)
SMITH, K. C. B., Governor and
Commander-in-Chief of this Island,
Chancellor, Ordinary, and Vice-Admiral
of the same.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS I have reason to believe, that a considerable portion of the Slave Population of this Island have not been made fully acquainted with, or do not rightly understand either the benefits which they will receive from the Abolition Act, or the obligations which they will owe to their Masters, when they become Apprentices in August next,—I have thought fit to address the following information to the Slaves, with the view of removing present misapprehension or future disappointment:

On the 1st August next, you become Free from absolute Slavery, and at the same time you become Apprentices to your Masters. I have thought fit to direct you to be made fully acquainted with the Law between you and them, and to be made fully acquainted with the purpose of administering the Law between you and them.

All Slaves who have been regularly engaged in Cultivation, or in the manufacture of Sugar, including all Tradesmen, remain Apprentices to their Masters for SIX YEARS from the 1st August next, ending in 1840, and all Domestic Slaves remain Apprentices for FOUR YEARS from the 1st August next, ending in 1838.

The reason why Laborers and Tradesmen have a longer period of Apprenticeship than Domestic Servants is, that the former class are not required by Law to work more than 40 hours in the week, by which you gain extra time equal to one day in every week, except on emergencies, such as tending cattle, and the preservation of your Master's properties.

The Domestic Class is not to enjoy this exemption from labor, and therefore their Apprenticeship is shorter than that of Laborers. If you fail to be made fully acquainted with the Law between you and your Masters, you will have to make good the time lost or neglect so occasioned to your Master.

After the 1st August next, no Female Apprentice can be punished by the Whip or Cud, or be imprisoned by their Employer's Authority, but they will be liable to imprisonment or hard labor, by the Magistrates.

All Slave Children under six years of age on the 1st August next, or who may be born after that day, become Free.

The Law requires you to support your Children so made free, for if you neglect to do so, they will have to go through a Servitude to their Mother's Owners, until they attain 21 years of age.

By the Act of Parliament, it will be rendered more easy for you to purchase your Discharge from Apprenticeship, than it was your freedom when Slaves.

You must follow to understand the advantages secured to you by the King and Parliament. You must be orderly and industrious, and do your duty honestly and faithfully to your present Owners.

The Law is strong, and the Law will punish you, if you do not work. In England, idle people, or those who will not work, are taken up as Vagabonds and Vagrants, and the same Laws will be in force here.

England is to pay Twenty Millions of Pounds Sterling for your gradual freedom. You can only deserve, or understand this sum of money, by becoming obedient, by obeying the Laws and being dutiful to all those entitled to your Services, and to whom you will have to look for the Rewards of your labor, when you become perfectly free.

Given under my Hand and Seal at Arms at the Government House, this 22d day of January, 1834, and in the fourth year of His Majesty's Reign.

GOD SAVE THE KING!!!

By His Excellency's Command,

WILLIAM HUSBANDS, Secretary.

Barbados
Slavery.

W. 2. 22nd January 1834

Sir Lionel Smith

Transmitting Copy
of the Proclamation
explaining of the
Abolition Act.

1 Enclosure

- *This document is a proclamation from the governor of Barbados explaining the Apprenticeship System.*
- *As you read the document, look for the advantages and disadvantages for plantation workers under this system.*

Barbados – Lionel Smith

By His Excellency Major-General Sir Lionel Smith, K.C.B, Governor and Commander in Chief of this island, Chancellor, Ordinary, and Vice-Admiral of the same

A Proclamation

Whilst I have been made aware that a considerable population of this island have not been fully acquainted with or do not rightly understand either the benefits which they will receive from the Abolition Act, or the obligations which they will owe to their masters, when they become Apprentices in August next, - I have thought fit to address the following information with the view of removing present misapprehension or future disappointment:

On the 1st August next you become Free from absolute Slavery, and at the same time you become Apprentices under regular Laws, to your present Owners. Any offences you may then commit against your Masters, will be punished by Magistrates sent from England for the purpose of administering the Law between you and them.

All Slaves who have been regularly engaged in Cultivation, or in the manufacture of Sugar, including all tradesmen, remain *Apprentices* to their masters for SIX YEARS from the 1st August next, ending in 1840 and all Domestic Slaves remain *Apprentices* for FOUR YEARS from the 1st August next, ending in 1838.

The reason why labourers and tradesmen have a longer period of Apprenticeship than Domestic Servants is, that the former class are not required by law to work more than 45 hours in the week, by which you gain extra time equal to one day in every week, except on emergencies such as tending cattle, and the preservation of your Master's properties.

The Domestic Class is not to enjoy this exemption from labour and therefore their Apprenticeship is shorter than that of Labourers.

Glossary

Apprentice – somebody who is required by law to work for somebody else for an amount of time.

Magistrates – somebody with power to enforce law

Domestic Workers – people who work within a home

Vagabond/ Vagrant - A person without a permanent home who moves from place to place

If you at any time absent yourselves from work, or neglect it, you will have to make good the time lost, or neglected so occasioned to your Master.

After the 1st August next, no Female Apprentice can be punished by the *whip* or *Cat*, or be imprisoned by their Employer's Authority, but they will be liable to imprisonment or hard labour by the Magistrates.

All Slave Children under six years of age on the 1st August next, or who may be born after that day, become free.

The Law requires you to support your children so made free, for if you neglect to do so, they will have to go through a Servitude to their Mother's Owners, until they attain 21 years of age.

By the Act of Parliament, it will be rendered more easy for you to purchase your Discharge from Apprenticeship, than it was your freedom when Slaves.

You cannot fail now to understand the advantages secured to you by the King and Parliament. But you must be orderly and industrious and do your duty honestly and faithfully to your present Owners.

The Law is strong, and the Law will punish you if you do not work.

In England, idle people, or those who chose not to work, are taken up as Vagabonds and Vagrants and the same Laws will be in force here.

England is to pay Twenty Millions of Pounds Sterling for your gradual freedom. You can only deserve or understand this Blessing by a course of good conduct, by obeying the Laws and being dutiful to all those entitled to your services and to whom you will have to look for the Rewards of your labour, when you become perfectly free.

Given under my Hand and Seal at Arms at the Government House, this 22nd day of January 1834, and in the 4th year of His Majesty's reign.

GOD SAVE THE KING!