

of their decided Superiority to the Force of the Batavian Republic, in these Colonies, and certain of being able to prevent Succours being thrown in, they consider themselves as authorized to require the immediate Surrender of the Colonies of Demerary, Essequibo, and Berbice, to the Forces under their Command. With the View, therefore, to prevent unnecessary Effusion of Blood, or the Mischief which must ensue to the Colonies, should the Troops be under the necessity of making good the Landing, and the Ships to enforce a Passage, the Commanders in Chief have thought it right to trouble your Excellency with this Summons, and trusting, that from your Excellency's Regard for the Colonies, the Certainty of not being able to resist, and for the Preservation of Individual Property, you will have no Hesitation in acceding to the Terms herewith transmitted.

The Officers, who will have the Honor to deliver this to your Excellency, have Orders to wait one Hour for your Answer.

We have the Honor to be, &c. &c. &c.

WILLIAM GRINFIELD.
SAMUEL HOOD.

To His Excellency, the Governor of the Colonies of Demerary, Essequibo, and Berbice.

TERMS proposed by their Excellencies Lieutenant-General William Grinfield and Commodore Samuel Hood, Commanders in Chief of His Majesty's Land and Sea Forces, for the Surrender to the British Government the Colonies of Demerary, Essequibo, and Berbice.

Art. I. The Colonies of Demerary, Essequibo, and Berbice, with their Dependencies, to be surrendered within twenty-four Hours to the Arms and Protection of the British Government.

Art. II. The Fort of William Frederick is to be taken Possession of, at by the Troops of the British Government.

Art. III. The Garrisons in these Colonies are to be, and to remain Prisoners of War, until released or exchanged, and to deliver their Arms, Accoutrements, and Ammunition, to the Person appointed to receive them: they will be allowed all the usual Honors of War; the Officers to retain and wear their Swords, and to have their Paroles; and the Officers and men their Clothing and Baggage.

Art. IV. The public Stores, Store-houses, Lands and Revenues, Ships and Vessels, belonging to the Batavian Republic, are to surrender to the British Government.

Art. V. The private Property, as well on Shore, as afloat, of all Persons, who were *bona fide* Proprietors at the Time the said Possessions were restored by His Majesty to the Batavian Republic, will be respected, and not be considered as liable to Seizure.

Art. VI. The Civil Laws of these Colonies, as far as regards the Property, and Civil Jurisdiction, to remain as they now are, until the further Pleasure of the King shall be made known.

Art. VII. The Council, and the Civil Magistrates of the Colony, taking the Oaths of Allegiance to the British Government, to remain as they now are, with the Exception of such of either, as by their known Attachment to the Batavian Republic, would endanger the Colonies, by their remaining in Pieces of Trust and Confidence.

Art. VIII. The Government, and the Defence of the Colonies, belongs to the British Nation.

WILLIAM GRINFIELD.
SAMUEL HOOD.

Government-House, Demerary,

GENTLEMEN,

18th Sept. 1803.

I HAVE had the Honor to receive your Excellencies' Letter of Yesterday's Date, requiring the immediate Surrender of the Colonies of Essequibo, Demerary, and Berbice, on the Terms transmitted to me by your Excellencies.

In conformity to the Constitution of this Colony, I have laid your Letter before the Court of Police, and the Commanding Officers of the Sea and Land Forces, assembled in a Council of War.

The Colony of Berbice being a Government entirely distinct from this, I am not competent to answer your Excellencies' Letter, as far as regards that Colony. But in respect to the Colonies of Essequibo and Demerary, under my Government, I, as well as the other Members of the combined Council of War, have thought it our Duty to propose some Terms of Capitulation, which we have framed on our Part, and to which we entreat your Excellencies' Consideration, as conceiving them best calculated for the Interest of these Colonies: The same will be laid before your Excellencies by a Committee from the Council of War, consisting of the Commandeur of Essequibo, Mr. Trotz, a Member of the Court of Police, Mr. Kroll, two Officers, and the Secretary of the Colony, which Gentlemen are to wait upon your Excellencies, and are fully authorized to conclude the Capitulation.*

I have the Honor to be, &c. &c. &c.

A. MEERTEKS, Governor-General of Essequibo and Demerary.

To their Excellencies the Commander in Chief of His Britannic Majesty's Land and Sea Forces off Demerary.

By their Excellencies Lieutenant-General William Grinfield and Commodore Samuel Hood, Commanders in Chief of His Britannic Majesty's Land and Sea Forces in the Windward and Leeward Charibbee Islands, &c. &c. &c.

WHEREAS by the Articles of Capitulation proposed to the Inhabitants of Demerara, &c. &c. &c., and accepted by them, which Places are now in His Majesty's Possession, and the Inhabitants thereof are become Subjects of His Majesty, we have thought fit, by virtue of the Powers and Authorities in us vested, to publish this Proclamation, hereby permitting and allowing, that from and after the Publication hereof, until His Majesty's Pleasures shall be made known, that all His loving Subjects may lawfully trade to and from such Places as are in His Majesty's Possessions, subject nevertheless to the same Duties, Rules, Regulations, Conditions, Restrictions, Penalties, and Forfeitures, to which the Trade to and from His Majesty's Colonies, Plantations, and Islands in the West Indies, is or shall be subject by Law; but nothing herein-contained shall extend to prevent the Importations in Americans, or other Neutral Bottoms belonging to the Subjects of any Power in Amity with His Britannic Majesty, of Provisions, Cattle, Grain, Wood of every Kind from

* See Lieutenant-General Grinfield's Dispatch.