

to be executed in concert, by signal from the heights. That the leaders who had suffered the day preceding had all declared that they had been told by white people that they were to be free at Christmas, and that by these people the plan of insurrection had been arranged. That, in concurrence with the custos of the parish (Mr. Barrett), prisoners to the amount of one hundred not actually implicated as incendiaries, with the woman, had been dismissed into the country with copies of the proclamation before alluded to, numbered 21.

A dispatch was also received from the custos of Saint James, of which I inclose an extract (No. 26). He speaks highly of the conduct of the militia; but, I lament to say, adds to the list of destruction contained in list numbered 23, intimating the number of plantations and settlements destroyed to the amount of one hundred.

From Morant Bay I received a letter from Colonel Delpratt, inclosing a dispatch from Lieutenant-Colonel McCornock, of the Saint Thomas in the East regiment, containing nothing of sufficient importance here to notice, but by which I collected this important fact, that although the negroes on some estates had refused to work, no act of destruction had been committed in that quarter, with the exception of a trash-house, which had been burned, but not ascertained to have been destroyed by design; at any other time the information would have been sufficient to have created great uneasiness in my mind, but now contrasting it with what is passing in the west end of the island, I regarded it as rather satisfactory.

On the 5th I received further accounts from Sir Willoughby Cotton, dated the 4th, (No. 27.) and I am happy to say their contents began to wear a more satisfactory appearance. The active measures he had adopted, together with the proclamation he caused to be issued, he observes, "had produced an extraordinary effect;" the negroes were coming in fast and a communication opened to Maroon Town; the loss the negroes had sustained created a strong panic, and a movement which the Major-General proposed to make the following day, he imagined would stop any further depredations in that neighbourhood. By the same express a letter arrived from the custos of Trelawny, a copy of which (No. 28.) is inclosed. I should hardly think it necessary to transmit a copy of this letter from the custos to your Lordship, did it not refer to a person of the name of Box, who, I am informed, is a missionary from the Baptist Society, and who has since been reported in custody in this town. I have caused his removal to Falmouth to be delayed, and have directed a letter to be written to the custos, a copy of which (No. 29.) I inclose. I am as yet unacquainted with the charge on which orders were issued for his apprehension at Falmouth; but the information received from the custos renders it at all events necessary that he should be for the present detained; motives, however, of prudence and humanity caused me to interpose a delay in hurrying him to trial at a moment when so great excitement must necessarily prevail.

This morning, the 6th instant, I have had the satisfaction to receive a dispatch from Sir Willoughby Cotton, dated Montego Bay, January 5, 1831.

with still more favourable accounts, a copy of which (No. 30.) I inclose. Tranquillity, he states, is fast returning in the adjoining neighbourhood, and the negroes coming in from all directions, desiring to avail themselves of the promise of pardon offered in the proclamation. The roads to Lucca and Maroon Town were open, and many proprietors and attorneys proceeding to visit their estates. Provisions, he states, are scarce, but being informed of that yesterday, I caused letters to be written to the mayor of Kingston, and the custos of Saint Mary, from whence I have no doubt a supply, if not already, will be quickly sent.

Sir Willoughby Cotton expresses his astonishment I had not been made acquainted with the determination of the negroes not to work after New Year's day. Referring your Lordship to my dispatch of the 4th of August, I have now the honour to inclose copies of two letters (Nos. 31. and 32.) dated the 29th and 30th of July, addressed to custodes of parishes, from none of whom I received unsatisfactory accounts, nor has any complaint reached me of insubordination amongst the slaves, or any disposition to insurrection, although the members of Assembly, from all parts of the island, had only separated, on adjournment, from the seat of government on the eve of the insurrection.

I send your Lordship the copy of a letter (B No. 33.) I have this day received from Commodore Farquhar, and it is only due to that officer to declare, that, in all my communication with him, he has always afforded me the most active assistance and support in promoting the good of the public service. When it is considered how short a time Sir Willoughby Cotton has been in the disturbed district, it is astonishing what effect his presence and example have produced in the minds of the insurgent slaves, whilst the promptitude and decision of his operations, and the exemplary punishment he felt himself compelled to inflict on the most atrocious offenders, have convinced the great mass of the slave population, that all further resistance is unavailing; and the colony must ever acknowledge the importance and value of his services.

Were I to indulge my own personal feelings I might express myself in a manner strongly indicating the consolation and relief I have derived from his energy, and at the same time discretion; but in bestowing my humble meed of praise on an officer of such distinction I fear that I should render myself liable to a charge of presumption in attempting to add any thing to a reputation standing on such high ground as that of Sir Willoughby Cotton.

I have, &c.

(Signed) BELMORE.

Right Hon. Viscount Goderich,  
&c. &c. &c.

No. 1.—(Circular.)

SIR, King's-House, December 22, 1831.

HIS Excellency the Governor having received intelligence that a disposition to insubordination had manifested itself amongst certain slaves on a plantation in Saint James; his Excellency no longer hesitates to give every possible publicity to His Majesty's proclamation, which the uninterrupted tranquillity.