

the said Commissioners appointed by your Majesty under the authority of the same Act, have drawn up and framed, under date of the thirty-first day of March one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, certain general rules to be observed in carrying into effect the provisions of the said Act, and which general rules have since been published in the London Gazette.

That, notwithstanding the provisions of the said Act of Parliament, the petitioner is advised that the rules so made as aforesaid by the said Commissioners, are inapplicable to the petitioner's case, and that should the same, as they now stand, be confirmed and allowed by your Majesty in Council, the petitioner will be deprived of all benefit and advantage under the said Act of Parliament, or in the compensation thereby provided, inasmuch as there is no rule under which the said Commissioners could entertain the petitioner's said claim.

That the petitioner, therefore, conceives he is aggrieved by the aforesaid rules of the said Commissioners, and he is apprehensive he will be left without remedy, unless your Majesty in Council shall afford him relief:

And the petitioner, therefore, humbly prays, that your Majesty in Council will be pleased to alter, amend, or vary the aforesaid rules of the said Commissioners, by framing a new rule sufficiently ample to comprehend the petitioner's claim, and give him relief and protection in the premises, or by remitting the said rules to the said Commissioners for further consideration and revision for that purpose; or that such other order and direction may be made and given in the premises as to your Majesty may seem meet:

The Lords of the Committee, in obedience to your Majesty's said order of reference, have taken the said petitions and appeals into consideration, and caused notice thereof to be served upon the said Commissioners; and having also heard counsel, as well on behalf of the several appellants as on behalf of the said Commissioners in defence of the said appeals, their Lordships do agree humbly to report, as their opinion, to your Majesty, that it may be advisable for your Majesty to confirm and allow, subject to certain alterations and amendments therein, such of the general rules, made as aforesaid, as are the subject of or affected by the said appeals; and their Lordships do agree further humbly to report to your Majesty, that the last-mentioned rules, with

such alterations and amendments as aforesaid, are as follows, viz.

GENERAL RULES under the 47th and 55th Clauses of the Act, 3d and 4th Will. 4th, c. 73.

1. That the party or parties who shall be in possession as owner or owners of any slave or slaves, and shall appear as such by the latest returns made in the office of the Registrar of Slaves under the Registry Acts in the respective colonies, shall be deemed *prima facie* the rightful owner or owners thereof respectively, and *prima facie* entitled to the compensation monies to be awarded in respect thereof.

2. That in respect to all persons who, as owners or creditors, legatees or annuitants, may have any joint or common interest in any slave or slaves, or may be entitled to, or interested in, any slave or slaves, either in possession, remainder, reversion, or expectancy, the compensation monies to be awarded in respect of such slave or slaves shall be deemed to be of the same nature, and impressed with the same character for all purposes whatsoever, so far as the same can be so taken and applied, as the slave or slaves in respect of whom such monies shall be allotted, and shall be subject to the same rules of distribution, and to the same charges and liabilities; as the same slave or slaves respectively would have been subject to according to the several estates and interests of the parties entitled thereto, and agreeably to the law and usages of the particular colony in which such slave or slaves may be registered or settled.

3. That the compensation monies to be awarded in respect of any slave or slaves, subject to any trusts or powers whatsoever, shall be subject to the same trusts or powers in all respects as the same slave or slaves were subject to.

4. That in cases in which any such compensation monies, or any interest therein, shall belong to or be vested in any married woman, infant, lunatic, or person of insane or unsound mind, or person beyond the seas, or labouring under any other legal or natural disability or incapacity, for the protection of whose rights and interests it may be necessary to make provision; and in all other cases in which it may appear to be necessary for protecting any estates or interests, and securing the due application of the compensation monies to be awarded in respect thereof, the Commissioners shall appoint Trustees, having regard to the wishes of the parties interested;