

and appeal of Henry Nes Woodcock, of the island of Saint Christopher, in the West Indies, Esquire, setting forth that the petitioner is advised that he is a claimant entitled to prefer his claim to the compensation provided by the Act of Parliament, made and passed in the third and fourth year of your present Majesty's reign, cap. 73, intituled "An Act for the abolition of slavery throughout the British colonies for promoting the industry of the manumitted slaves, and for compensating the persons hitherto entitled to the services of such slaves," under the circumstances thereafter stated; that the petitioner is a Barrister at Law, and was, previous to the passing of the said Act, senior King's Counsel for Tortola and the other Virgin Islands situate in the West Indies, and in that character the public became indebted to him for conducting the law business of the said colony or possession of the Virgin Islands in a large sum of money, and which, together with various public accounts due to individuals which were received in payment by and assigned to the petitioner, on his departure from the island of Tortola, for sale of property there, amounted to the sum of £2526. 16. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ . current gold and silver money; that the petitioner was induced to accept the assignment or transfer of such accounts, in payment of property he so disposed of in the said island of Tortola, as the greater part of them were for salaries earned by and due to the public officers of the said colony or possession of the Virgin Islands, for the payment of which, the faith of the colonial Legislature was pledged by resolutions passed to that effect, and upon which footing the petitioner's account for his professional services for the public was also placed as is hereinafter stated; that at the time when these public accounts were assigned to or received by the petitioner, they, as well as his own account, bore interest; but all public accounts were shortly afterwards called in, and the interest stopped, under an understanding that an Act of the Legislature of the said colony or possession would be passed to raise a tax for the satisfaction of the demands of the public creditors. The Act of the said Legislature alluded to, was eventually passed on the sixth day of June one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, intituled "Virgin Islands, Tortola,—An Act for raising a sum of money for the exigences of these islands, and to repeal an Act for laying a duty of gunpowder upon certain vessels trading to and from these islands;" and the following is an extract therefrom, forty-seventh clause:—"Whereas, it is requisite that the debt now due by the public of these islands should be ascertained with the greatest accuracy, in order that due provision may be made for the payment thereof, and that the various claims held by different individuals should be consolidated into single negotiable instruments; be it therefore enacted, that immediately after the publication of this Act, the treasurer, or his lawful deputy, shall issue advertisements and notices, to be affixed in the most conspicuous places in the road town of Tortola, of the east end thereof, of the west end thereof; of the island of Jois Van Dykes, of the island of Peter's Island, of the island of Spanish Town, and of the island of Anagada, and also procure such advertisements and notices to be inserted in the Saint Christopher newspapers, calling on all person or persons whomsoever who hold public accounts or who have

claims on the public of these islands to give in, on or before the first day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, the amount of their several accounts or claims, with interest, calculated on such as bear interest, up to such first day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, to the treasurer, or his lawful deputy, producing at the same time the public accounts or vouchers on which such claims are founded; and the said treasurer, or his lawful deputy, is hereby directed after such day, and at the first meeting of the Council and Assembly, to present a statement of such claims, the several amount of each, and the name of the claimant or holder thereof, and the Council or Assembly are to examine such statement, and if approved of, they shall, and are hereby authorised, to issue an order signed by the president of the Council and Speaker of the Assembly for the time being, on the public treasury, payable to each claimant or holder and his assigns, or to his, her, or their order, for the amount of his or her consolidated claim, which order shall not bear any interest, and shall be liquidated by an annual dividend thereon.

That the public debts of the said colony or possession were ascertained by a Committee of the Legislature of the said colony or possession appointed for such purpose, and, amongst the claims of other creditors, they considered that of the petitioner, and ascertained the amount to be £2526. 16. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ . current money.

That the report of the said Committee was adopted, and, amongst other creditors, the petitioner appears on the public ledger of the said colony, in the possession of the Treasurer, to have an admitted demand against the said colony for the above-mentioned sum.

That on the thirty-first day of October one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three, an order was issued to the Treasurer of the said colony or possession, in favour of the petitioner, under the said tax act, for the said sum of £2526. 16. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ . current money, and the petitioner has since received on account thereof £98. 5. 3. current money, under the provisions of the said tax act; the following is a copy of the said order and receipt attached:

Virgin Islands, } £2526. 16. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ . C. G.  
Tortola. } and S. money.

"To the Treasurer of the said Virgin Islands, or his lawful deputy, under and by virtue of an Act, intituled "An Act for raising a sum of money for the exigences of these islands, and to repeal an Act, intituled 'An Act for laying a duty on gunpowder upon certain vessels trading to and from the islands.'"

"Pay to Henry Woodcock, Esquire, and his assigns, or to his, her, or their order, the sum of £2526. 16s, 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ . current gold and silver money, being the amount of sundry accounts against the public of the said Virgin Islands, held by him or them, consolidated by the above Act, clause the forty-seventh, and payable by annual dividend.

Tortola, twenty-first October one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three.

Wm. Rogers Isaacs, President,  
Thos. Marsh, Speaker."

"Tortola, Received from George Williams Lewis, Esquire, Treasurer, the sum £98. 5. 3.