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Anon and James Williams

Excerpt

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FACTS AND DOCUMENTS
CONNECTED WITH THE
LATE INSURRECTION IN JAMAICA,
AND THE
VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY
ARISING OUT OF IT.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following Publication owes its appearance to the suggestions of many esteemed friends, who are desirous that the British Public at large should be more fully acquainted with the nature and origin of the recent disturbances in Jamaica, especially in their aspect on the religious instruction of the negroes. The various documents are printed, as much as possible, in their original form, and without the least attempt to weave them into a continuous narrative. It would have been easy greatly to increase their number, especially under Sections II. and III.; but these, it is presumed, will be sufficient to demonstrate how formidable are the obstacles which impede the progress of the Gospel in Jamaica, and to combine all the friends of humanity, freedom, and religion, in a vigorous effort to remove them.

SECTION I.

Memorial and Statement of the Baptist Missionaries in Jamaica, dated 19th April, 1832;

TO

HIS EXCELLENCY EARL BELMORE,
The Governor of Jamaica.

The Humble Memorial of the undersigned Baptist Missionaries,
 Sheweth,

THAT on the 13th February last, a Memorial, signed by certain of your present Memorialists, was presented to your Excellency, stating, among other things, that their Property had been plundered, "several of their Chapels totally demolished, their persons threatened with violence, under the countenance and with the aid of Magistrates and Officers of Militia," and praying, in the apprehension of the continuance of similar acts of wanton outrage against their property and lives, for the interposition of your Excellency's authority and power to protect them.

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That, in answer to that Memorial, your then Memorialists received a Letter from your Excellency's Secretary, apprizing them that its prayer had been anticipated in the issuing and promulgation throughout the Island, of a Proclamation on the subject, of which a Copy was enclosed.

That your Memorialists felt grateful to your Excellency for the strong terms of condemnation in which that Proclamation spoke of the wanton and illegal "destruction of their Chapels and Places of Worship,—proceedings, as your Excellency not more strongly than justly characterized them, disgraceful to the Colony, subversive of order, and of dangerous example." And your Memorialists did fain hope that the protection which they were seeking at your Excellency's hands, would be actually afforded them in the obedience which would be paid by the "Custodes of Parishes and all Magistrates" to the injunctions laid upon them in that Proclamation "to seek out and discover the authors of these outrages, that they might be punished according to law;" and "to employ the whole force which the Constitution has entrusted to them in protecting Property of every description, whether belonging to private persons or religious societies; in quelling all disorderly meetings, and in bringing to exemplary punishment every disturber of the public peace." But whatever confidence your Memorialists may have had in a ready attention, on the part of those persons, to your Excellency's orders, and to the due execution of their duties as the legally constituted and sworn preservers of the public peace: the result has proved it to have been in most cases totally unfounded.

That, from many of the circumstances detailed in the accompanying Statement of various outrages and indignities to which they have been subjected—of reiterated attacks upon their lives and property (which your Memorialists conceive must be known to your Excellency, since they are of public notoriety,) it is evident that the Civil and Local Military Authorities in many parishes of the Island, with but few exceptions, have treated and do still treat your Excellency's Proclamation and Authority with contempt. It is equally evident that, so far from the first of these affording your Memorialists the protection they required, and as British Subjects are entitled to, the impunity with which it has been disregarded, indeed trampled on, by the very persons to whom it was addressed, is a strong encouragement to them and others to proceed to further acts of wanton aggression and threatened violence. Your Memorialists therefore are again obliged to approach your Excellency with the expression of their fears, (which surely cannot now be deemed ill-founded) that, unless a more effectual exertion of your Authority is interposed, as heretofore, so in future their property and persons will lie entirely, as far at least as the laws which should protect them are concerned, at the mercy of a deeply prejudiced, an unprincipled and lawless party which is intent upon their destruction. And your Memorialists submit to your Excellency that it is a case calling for your serious attention, and for the exercise of your High Powers, when, in a British Colony, and under a British Governor and British Laws, British Subjects against whom not a single charge can be substantiated, dare not return to their homes and their functions, but with the certain expectation of suffering personal violence under the wilful connivance, if not immediate sanction of the very persons to whom as Magistrates the preservation of the public peace is committed. Though

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they trust there are some honorable exceptions, your Memorialists speak advisedly in bringing this charge against the Magistracy generally, of the parishes in which the outrages detailed in the accompanying Statement have occurred, and for their full justification in bringing it they humbly beg to refer your Excellency to the particulars of those outrages, and to the fact that not a single attempt of any one Custos or Magistrate to seek out and discover their authors, that they might be punished according to law, in compliance with the proclamation, has yet come to their knowledge.

That your Memorialists now approach your Excellency, humbly but earnestly to seek that effectual protection to which, in common with their fellow subjects, they feel themselves entitled, and which under the circumstances, none but your Excellency can afford. They detail specific grounds of complaint. They look to your Excellency for the redress of their grievances, by the exercise of the power with which their gracious Sovereign has invested you for the protection of all his faithful subjects in this Colony, and for the punishment of every contemner of the laws. They desire to do so respectfully; but they must at the same time solemnly tell your Excellency, that having now adopted every means in their power to place themselves under the protection of the laws by which they are governed, they are about to resume their duties at some of the stations which injustice and cruelty compelled them to leave, in the exercise of an indefeasible right belonging to every Briton, and in the consciousness that whatever consequences may ensue to themselves or others in the execution of any of the threats of violence so publicly held out, the blame and the guilt cannot lie upon them.

That your Memorialists in furnishing the accompanying Statement are actuated by the hope that your Excellency will see the necessity for now adopting such measures as will effectually redress the past injuries inflicted on the religious body of which they are members, in the destruction of their chapels and other property, and as will ensure them against future acts of oppression and outrage.

Your Memorialists therefore humbly pray your Excellency to extend to them such relief as to your Excellency shall seem meet.

And your Memorialists shall ever pray, &c.

JOSHUA TINSON,
WILLIAM KNIBB,
EDWARD BAYLIS,
JOSEPH BURTON,
HENRY C. TAYLOR,
SAMUEL NICHOLLS,
JOHN CLARKE,

FRANCIS GARDNER,
WM. WHITEHORNE,
THOS. F. ABBOTT,
JOSIAH BARLOW,
WALTER DENDY,
JOHN KINGDON.

Statement referred to in the Memorial.

DURING Martial Law, the following Property, in which the Baptist Missionaries were interested, was destroyed by the Militia.

A New Chapel called *Salter's Hill*, in St. James's, just completed, was set fire to by a party of the St. James's Militia, under the command of F. B. Gibbs, Esq. and Captain George Gordon.

A Private House in St. James's, called *Putney*, rented as a place of worship; and a residence called *Hillington*, in Hanover; the property of

Mr. Burchell, were severally burnt by the Militia; and a house in Hanover, called *Shepherd's Hall*, hired as a place of worship, was entered by the Militia, and the Pews, Furniture, and Pulpit therein, belonging to Mr. Burchell, were taken out and burnt.

On the 8th February last, the Baptist Chapel at Montego Bay, was pulled down at mid-day, by a large mob, among whom were the following Magistrates, and Officers of Militia, most of whom were very actively engaged.—

Lient.-Col.	Wm. Charles Morris,	}	<i>Magistrates.</i>
Major	John Coates,		
Captain	George Gordon,		
"	Wm. Mitchell Kerr,		
"	John Cleghorn,		
"	John Bowen,		
"	Benjamin Haughton Tharpe,		
"	Wm. Nettleton Balme.		<i>A Magistrate.</i>
"	John Tharpe,		
"	Edward Evans,		
Lieut.	James Gordon,		<i>A Magistrate.</i>
"	Joseph Fray.		
"	William Plummer.		
"	Thomas Watsou.		
"	Charles Wallace Ogle.		
"	John Henry Morris.		
"	George M'Farquhar Lawson, jun. (Adjutant.)		
Lieut.	Henry Hunter.		
Ensign	William Fowle Holt.		
"	James Coates.		
"	William Gordon.	}	<i>Magistrates.</i>
"	Joseph Gill Jump.		
Alexander	Campbell, Esq. (Copse)		
Charles	O'Conner, Esq.		
William	Heath, Esq.		
William B.	Popkin, the Head Constable.		

This outrage occurred within two hours after the Custos, and Dr. G. M. Lawson, Colonel of the St. James's Regiment, and a Magistrate also, had been informed that it was about to take place, yet the parties met with no interruption in their proceedings.

The perpetrators of this act are well known at Montego Bay, and no difficulties whatever exist in the way of "discovering the authors of the outrage."

The Proclamation of the 13th February was posted about the Town of Montego Bay, but within an hour after it was torn down.

On the 14th March, the lodgings of Mr. Burchell, a Baptist Missionary, (the indictment against whom had been that day ignored) was approached by a mob, composed chiefly of white persons, for the purpose, as they said, of doing him some bodily injury, and but for the voluntary opposition offered by private persons, all their purposes would have been effected before a Magistrate came to the spot, and during the time occupied by some of the authorities in procuring affidavits of Mr. Burchell's danger, which they required though they saw him surrounded by the mob, before

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they would call in a military guard. Mr. Burchell was obliged to quit the Island, for the preservation of his life.

On the night of the 12th February, the Baptist Chapel at Rio Bueno was attacked and partially destroyed by the Grenadier Company of the Trelawney Regiment, (dressed in their regimentals,) which was stationed at Bryan Castle Estate, near that place, and on the evening of the 18th it was burnt down.

On the — February the Chapel at Stewart Town, in Trelawney, was partially pulled down by some persons also connected with the militia.

The Baptist Chapel at Falmouth had been occupied during Martial Law as Barracks by the St. Ann's Regiment. On the 7th February, when that Corps was about to quit the Town, Mr. John W. Gayner, a Magistrate, and Ensign; and Adjutant Samuel Tucker, commanded the men to break down the Chapel, and themselves set the example, saying, "these were the orders they had received."—It was completely demolished.

While the work of destruction was proceeding, information was given to Lieut. Thomas Tennison, of the Trelawney Regiment, the officer on guard in the Town. His reply was, that "it was no matter whether they broke it or not, he supposed they would set it on fire too!"

Mr. Knibb, one of the Missionaries, paid a visit to Falmouth, early in March. For three successive nights his lodging was stoned, and he was cautioned by two respectable gentlemen, against venturing out in the evening, as a party had clubbed together to tar and feather him.

After Martial Law was discontinued, the horses of Mr. Knibb were taken from Falmouth, by Major General Hilton, who has, until very recently, retained possession of them.

At Lucea, on the 6th January, Lieut.-Colonel John Edward Payne, and Major Richard Chambers (Magistrates,) and Mr. Heath, (the Rector) went to Mr. Abbott, (the Baptist Missionary's Residence) and stated that he had run away. Mr. Payne asked if he had any letters from Burchell, and said, "The Baptists had tried to ruin them, but instead of that the Baptists would be ruined themselves."

Mr. Chambers opened Mrs. Abbott's desk with a false key, though he was told it was hers, and searched her letters. They locked, nailed, and sealed up the doors, and windows of the house, and used a great deal of abusive language to Miss Dickson, who had charge of his house. Mr. Heath took away Mr. Abbott's church books, which have never been returned.

On Thursday, February 9th, in the morning, the Baptist Chapel at Lucea, was destroyed; the following parties were among the perpetrators of the outrage:—

Mr. B. Heath (the Rector.)
 Doctor Binns,
 Charles Younger, (Constable.)

Mr. Alexander Campbell, of Lucea, (a Magistrate) was present, and did not attempt to prevent it.

Mr. Heath, (Rector) asked a gentleman to go with him, and assist him in destroying "the d——d Baptist Chapel."

Mr. Richard Chambers, on the evening of the same day, refused to exercise his authority as a Magistrate, when Mr. Abbott's dwelling-house was violently entered by Dr. Binns and others, armed with

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hatchets, &c. for the purpose of destroying his furniture. On this occasion a respectable female, attempting to protect Mr. Abbott's property, was struck with a horsewhip, by Dr. Binns, who threatened to push her down the steps if she did not go.

Several dozens of wine were destroyed, and some of Mr. Abbott's books and clothes stolen.

On Friday night, February 10th, at about 10 o'clock, a number of men rushed into the Chapel at *St. Ann's Bay*, and violently destroyed the windows, with part of the pews and benches, causing great alarm to the Missionary and his wife, who were residing under the same roof. The next day that Missionary brought this outrage before two of the Magistrates:—Messrs. Thomas Raffington, and William S. Harker, who examined several witnesses, but afforded no adequate protection. In consequence of being left without protection by those who had the Military force under their command, the Missionary, with his wife and infant child, were compelled to flee from their home for safety, and on the following Tuesday, in the forenoon, the whole building, comprising the chapel and residence, was pulled down, and the materials stolen. Among the parties engaged in this act were Dr. George R. Stennett, and Lieut. Henry Cox, jun. (Magistrates) and Capt. Samuel Drake, (Head Constable.)

We are informed that on the last-mentioned day, some Magistrates sent for the boxes of the Missionary to the Court House, searched them, and took out sundry papers, and other of their contents.

On the 24th February, *Ebony Chapel*, at Hayes Savanna, in Vere, was wilfully destroyed by fire. A day or two before, Mr. Hector McLean Wood, a Magistrate, with another person, went and broke some of the windows of the Chapel, and took away the key.

On Friday, 6th April, about 10 o'clock at night, a mob of *white* men armed with swords, pistols, muskets, and bayonets, went to *Mount Charles Chapel* in St. Andrews. In the way from the gate of the premises to the house, they met with a poor old man (a free negro) unarmed, and fell upon him with their swords, cutting him severely in several places on his head and body, and one of them with a bayonet stabbed him in his side.

When they got to the house they broke open the door, and fired in at it; some of them broke the windows of the bed room, forcing in the glass, frames, and shutters, with such violence, that the bed in which Mrs. Baylis (the Missionary's wife) and her infant were lying, was nearly covered with pieces of glass. They then fired in at each of the windows, and one of the ruffians applied a candle to one side of the room for the purpose of setting it on fire; but the candle was put out. They proceeded to break the hall window, swearing the house should be down that night. Seeing the candle was out, one of them broke open the door of an Out-House, saying he wanted fire, and that he would burn down the house; but the alarm being given, they made off.

The chapels and places of worship at the following stations have also been destroyed, viz:—

Savanna-la-Mar,	} Westmoreland,
Ridgeland, or Fullers Field,	
Green Island, (a hired house)	
Browns Town,	
Ocho Rios, (a hired house).	

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On the 10th January, nine dozens of Madeira Wine, which were being sent from Mr. Burchell's residence in Montego Bay, to him on board the ship *Garland Grove*, were taken possession of by Lieut. John Henry Morris, and have never since been restored. On the 12th, the same person returned, accompanied by Mr. James Gordon, (a Magistrate) who said, that by "order of Sir Willoughby Cotton, he came to see what quantity of wine was remaining." They went into the store, counted the wine, locked up the store, and took the key away. The key was not returned so late as the 5th of April.

Besides the particular instances mentioned, much more of the private property of the Missionaries has been destroyed or injured, during and since Martial Law.

The loss of property sustained by the Mission, amounts to upwards of £20,000 currency.

The Jamaica Courant (understood to be the newspaper most extensively circulated in this island,) has endeavored, and still endeavors, with impunity, to excite the inhabitants to the commission of every species of outrage on the Missionaries, recommending destruction of property, and even threatening life if they remain on the island. This paper is generally (and from the almost universal support it receives, is properly) considered as the organ of the Colony. Coinciding in opinion with the Jamaica Courant and other newspapers, many of the inhabitants of this island have connected themselves in an Association, under the designation of "The Colonial Church Union;" the predominant object whereof is to procure the expulsion of all the Missionaries from the island—an endeavor, in fact, to deprive "Englishmen of the right to abide in their own country so long as they please, and not to be driven from it unless by the sentence of the law;" and they submit, that an Association for such a purpose, is illegal, and at variance with the whole spirit of the British Constitution.

The first place at which this "Union" was set on foot, was St. Ann's Bay, where, on the 15th of February, *after* the demolition of several chapels, and *the promulgation of the Proclamation*, the following, among other resolutions, was passed.—

"Sixth. That it is expected from every Member of the Union, that he will lend his influence and *support on all occasions*, to those patriots who, in behalf of the paramount laws of Society, have hazarded their personal responsibility for our preservation, from the murderous machinations of our enemies."

The Presidents of this meeting publicly announced, are the Hon. Henry Cox, *Custos* of St Ann's, Major General in the Militia, and Member of the House of Assembly; and James Lawrence Hilton, Esq. a Magistrate of that parish, and also a Major General, two of the Authorities who are required by the Proclamation to *prosecute* the offenders, and *prevent further outrages* in that parish.

In Spanish Town, the "Colonial Church Union" for the County of Middlesex, was held on the 21st March—and the resolutions of all the Parochial Meetings seem to have been there recognized and amalgamated.

The Hon. John Lunan, a *Judge* of the Supreme Court of the island, *Custos* of the Precinct of St. Catherine, and Member of Assembly, was appointed President of this Meeting.

It would be an endless undertaking to mention all the Law preservers

and Justices of the Peace, who are members of this illegal and peace-disturbing Society; but the Missionaries cannot omit to notice, that the Custodes of the several parishes of Trelawney, Manchester, and Vere, have accepted the office of President in their respective parishes. In the parish of Trelawney, one Magistrate, Mr. William Dyer, publishes a newspaper, called "the Cornwall Courier," in which he has repeatedly urged that the Missionaries should be tarred and feathered. An attempt was made on the 7th April, to practise this on the Wesleyan Missionary at Falmouth—and in the next number of that paper, this act was spoken of with approbation. Our eyes cannot be shut to the fact, that William Dyer, Editor, and William Dyer, Magistrate, are one and the same person; and it seems a little too much to expect from human nature, that what the Editor recommends and applauds, the Magistrate will very rigidly judge, or severely punish.

Another Magistrate, Joseph Hodgson, who resided within a few doors of the place where this disturbance occurred, was applied to for assistance. His reply to the applicant was, that "she had better go home, they would not hurt the Minister." These instances of the degree of sanction which some Magistrates give to the acts of violence committed on the Missionaries, were adverted to in a letter addressed to His Excellency's Secretary on the 14th instant.

The following Estimate has been forwarded to the Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society, as the Amount required in order to rebuild, at the lowest possible rate, the Places of Worship destroyed. The Sums are in Jamaica currency.

	£.	s.	d.
<i>Salter's Hill.</i> —Burnt by order of the Captain of Militia, stationed at Latium.....	value	4000	0 0
<i>Falmouth.</i> —Pulled down by the Saint Ann's Militia, while occupied as Barracks	value	3000	0 0
<i>Montego Bay.</i> —Pulled down at Mid-day by the Inhabitants, headed by several of the Magistrates	value	6000	0 0
<i>Savannah-la-Mar.</i> —Pulled down by the Parishioners	value	700	0 0
<i>Ridgeland, alias Fuller's-field.</i> —Burnt by two Overseers. A valuable House	value	1000	0 0
<i>Rio Bueno.</i> —Burnt	value	1000	0 0
<i>Stewart's Town.</i> —Injured to the amount of	value	250	0 0
<i>Brown's Town.</i> —Pulled down by the Inhabitants	value	800	0 0
<i>St. Ann's Bay.</i> —Pulled down by the Inhabitants of the Parish, value	value	3500	0 0
<i>Ebony Chapel.</i> —Burnt	value	500	0 0
Total Amount of Chapels destroyed.....		20750	0 0
Loss in the destruction of Mission Property, in Houses rented:			
<i>Gurney's Mount.</i> —Pulpit, benches, &c.		300	0 0
<i>Putney.</i> —Benches burnt		50	0 0
<i>Lucea.</i> —Benches and lamps		50	0 0
<i>Ocho Rios.</i> —Pulpit, pews, and benches		100	0 0
		21250	0 0
The Chapel at Lucea, belonging to the General Baptists, but occupied by our Society, pulled down. Offered for Sale by the General Baptist Society for.....		900	0 0
Losses in horses, furniture, clothes, books, &c. &c. partly belonging to individual Missionaries, and partly to the Society, about		500	0 0
Extra Expenses incurred by travelling, expresses, and Mr. Knibb's passage home		600	0 0
		£23,250	0 0

In the above Statement we have not enumerated the Expense of the Trials, not being certain what the Amount will be.

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SECTION II.

Causes of the Insurrection.

IN the months of August and September, 1831, Public Meetings were held in many, if not all the parishes throughout the island, the avowed object of which may be learnt from the following Resolutions, unanimously adopted at two of them. At these meetings, slaves as well as others were present, and the proceedings, being inserted in the newspapers, were matters of general notoriety:

“At a very numerous and respectable meeting of the inhabitants of the parish of St. Ann, convened by his honor the Custos, this 6th day of August, 1831, and held at the Court House, St. Ann’s Bay, his honor the Custos having been called to the chair, the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to:—

“Resolved—That we, the inhabitants of the parish of St. Ann, have repeatedly expressed our warmest indignation at, and abhorrence of, the oppressive measures pursued by the British Government towards the West India Colonies.

“Resolved—That while there was a hope of conciliating our implacable foes, we acquiesced cheerfully in the conduct of our legislature; but it is now evident that the concessions yielded by that body, have been successively obtained under pledges and promises on the part of Ministers, ‘to abstain from all future interference in our local concerns;’ which pledges have been violated in every instance; giving us thereby convincing proof that perfidy and determined oppression, as far as regards the colonies, are the ruling principles of the British Cabinet.

“Resolved—That hitherto, under the most marked infractions of our rights and privileges, we have been loyal; the attachment to the mother country has indeed long, very long, outlived her justice; and it would now be with grief that we should divest ourselves of a feeling, ‘which has grown with our growth, and has strengthened with our strength;’ but when we see ourselves scorned, betrayed, devoted to ruin and slaughter, delivered over to the enemies of our country, we consider that we are bound by every principle, human and divine, to RESIST.’

The following are some of the Resolutions of Trelawney:—

“Resolved, that the means devised by a faction in the House of Commons to deprive us of our property, if carried into effect, cannot fail to create a servile war of too horrible a nature to contemplate, and that any person who attempts to produce or promote such war is an enemy to his country.”

“Resolved, that the conduct of the British Government in taxing us higher than other subjects; in fostering our enemies and listening to their falsehoods against us; in rejecting statements from impartial persons in our favor; in allowing designing men, under the saintly cloak of religion, not only to pilfer our peasantry of their savings, but also to sow discontent and rebellion amongst them; in threatening to withdraw troops, for whose protection we have doubly paid, and which we might claim as our right, at a time a servile war may be apprehended; is most heartless, and in violation of justice, humanity, and sound policy.”

The resolutions proceed to state, that “thrown” as they are about to be, “as a prey before misguided savages, we have no other alternative than to resist;” and to pray the King “that we may be absolved from our allegiance, and allowed to seek that protection from another nation which is so unjustly and cruelly withheld from us by our own.”

Subsequently to the honourable acquittal of Mr. Knibb, he was requested by the Hon. the Chief Justice, and W. Miller, Esq. late Custos of Trelawney, to use his exertions to discover the mode in which the insurrection was planned. To facilitate the enquiry, a promise was made to two of the principal prisoners, styled Colonel Gardner and Captain Dove, that their lives should be spared if they made a full confession.

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The following is the confession of these men, as taken down in the gaol by Mr. Knibb:—

They both stated, that they first heard about freedom from the negroes about Belvidere and Retrieve, but that they did not put any belief in it, and Gardner said, that he used his efforts to make the people think that it was not so.

Though they had heard much talk about it, they both solemnly denied having any connexion with the plot until Christmas-day. When, after morning prayers at the Baptist Chapel at Montego Bay, they went down the street, and met Guthrie, Sharp, George Taylor, and others, members of the Church, who were talking about the freedom of the slaves? George Taylor was strongly advising Sharp not to refuse to go to work after Christmas, as it would bring a disgrace upon the gospel. Sharp said, what is then to become of the oath we have taken in the country? We then went to the Chapel, and saw Thomas Williams, a Deacon in the Church. Gardner says, he strongly advised us to go to our work after Christmas, saying, if freedom is come, we shall get it quietly, but if they did what was wrong it would bring a disgrace upon Religion. Sharp said, I know we are *free*, I have read it in the English papers—I have taken an *oath* not to work after Christmas, without some satisfaction, and I will *not*. He then left us.

Gardner stated, that he then went in the street to buy grass for his horse, and on his way he met Guthrie, who asked him to take second breakfast with him after Chapel, which he promised to do. Went to Chapel, and heard Mr. Gardner preach,—his preaching make him stagger, and think freedom *not* come. So he make up his mind to go to work whatever others did. After Chapel went up to Cunningham's Hill, and on the way up met Dove. Guthrie said, Well, Dove, I hope you will not be hurt at my not asking you to the Hill, I intended to do it, but will you come? Dove said, yes, I am not offended, I will go with you.

At this meeting James Gardner, Thomas Gooden, William James, Charles Campbell, ourselves, and Guthrie, were present. When we entered the house, Guthrie said, Well, gentlemen, I am glad to see you, I have spirits and wine, what will you take to drink? We all chose wine. Guthrie poured it out, and taking his glass, said, Well, friends, I hope the time will soon come when we shall have our privilege, and when we shall drink our wine free. I hope we shall soon have Little Breeches under our feet. They all drank. Gardner says, I asked what this Little Breeches heard—Guthrie say he is my master. Mr. Grignon and I hear him say, that the king is going to give us free, but he hoped all his friends will be of his mind, and spill their blood first. But I'll be the first to do the job, though I am his slave. I'll give him a pill, snapping his fingers, as I follow him. Before we left, Guthrie introduced a young woman to us, and said, This is to be Mrs. Guthrie, after all is over.

We both left together, and went home. When I, Gardner, got to Greenwich, the people asked me what they were to do after the holidays. I said, I shall go to work, for I do not believe that the free paper has come. They said, No, we will not go to work, we believe the king has made us free. I then said, Well, if you will not believe me, I cannot tell. Get your breakfast, and go and sit down in the king's road; hurt no one, and ask Buckra whether free come or not, when he passes. While I was sitting in my house, on Tuesday night, some one knocked at the door. When I open the door, I saw Campbell from Retrieve, who said, Won't you come with us? I said for what? He said, to *fight for freedom*. I said, No, it is a bad thing. On looking out I saw a number of men, armed with guns and swords. They appointed to meet at Haslymph next evening, and I went with Dove; a great many were there, but cannot tell how many, as it was very dark. After much talk, they could not agree what to do, when one set fire to Haslymph's trash-house; when it burn, they all fire their guns, and blow their conks. I went home, as I did not like to see the places fired.—Both of us were present at the attack made upon Mr. Grignon, and the soldiers at the Montpeliers. Dove had a pistol, it was loaded, but he did not fire it; he was frightened at the bullets, and went under the wall. Charles Campbell was commander, and told those who had not any guns to keep back. Campbell led his company along