

on, and it was mutually agreed not to pay the sum of MARKET PRICE, but to insist on having them at their own terms;—this was refused by the Chieftain, whereupon they drew up towards the town, and fired on it till they nearly reduced it to ashes—until they murdered upwards of twenty of the peaceable inhabitants, and compelled the miserable Chieftain to surrender the wretched victims of slavery at their own price, which he was obliged to comply with, or suffer the total destruction of a whole town, together with a bloody sacrifice of its innocent inhabitants. This tragedy, he was all grief to reflect, was acted by British seamen—whilst a French vessel in that harbour, at the same time, refused to act in concert with them, and preferred paying the money originally demanded by the Chieftain, to the bloody and inhuman butchery of rational beings for the gratification of the avaricious passions of their covetous employers, who, to shew their approbation of the bloody deed, have re-commissioned the same captains, as a reward for their FAITHFUL services; and their vessels are at this moment chartered for the same prosperous voyage!

Mr. Wilberforce with much agitation, here expressed a strong inclination to mention the names of the vessels, and their humane commanders, but hesitating somewhat on the propriety of such a proceeding the House, with one voice, cried out, name them! name them, name them!!

Mr. Wilberforce then mentioned the Thomas, of Bristol, Capt. Phillips; the Thomas, of Liverpool; the Recovery, of Bristol; the Betsey, of Liverpool; the Wasp, of Bristol, and another.

[Here the House, in a very pointed manner, appeared to feel the enormity of the charges exhibited thus, and the disgrace attached to British seamen by such unwarrantable proceedings.]

Mr. Wilberforce then proceeded in a relation of other minute and barbarous proceedings, and concluded a warm and animated speech with stating, that the motion he intended to submit to their consideration this night, differed in some degree from that he had offered last sessions. Upon the former occasion he had proposed, that the further importation of Negroes into the West India islands should cease; thereby putting an immediate termination to the Slave Trade. But by his present motion, he intended to leave open a question upon which he knew there was a diversity of opinion, supposing a coincidence upon the propriety of Abolition; and that was, at what period, whether the present or some future one, that Abolition should commence. For this pur-

pose, he moved the following proposition:

“ That the importation of Negro Slaves from the coast of Africa to the British Colonies in the West Indies be abolished.”

Mr. Bailey opposed the motion for abolition upon the ground of the impolicy and danger that would attend the measure, which he threatened would be followed by a general massacre of the whites through the several islands, and the loss of those invaluable colonies to this country. He also contended, that no such evils existed, in magnitude or number sufficient to justify those details of cruelty which had been industriously circulated as a ground for the abolition.

Mr. Thornton, with much zeal and ability supported the question of abolition.

Colonel Tarleton, with much severity, reprobated the measure of abolition, as productive of the greatest mischief, or, rather annihilation, both to the West Indies themselves, and the Trade and Commerce of this country.

Mr. Whitbread supported the motion with animation and ability.

Mr. Secretary Dundas adoped a middle course between the two extremes, which appeared in the opinions of gentlemen, the one for the immediate and unqualified abolition; the other supporting the continuance of the trade in its utmost extent. Between these two he was inclined to adopt somewhat in which they both might be brought to agree. On the one hand it was maintained with the conviction of truth for its support, that the slave trade should not exist, because inconsistent with justice or policy:—on the other hand, it might be contended, that the immediate abolition would be dangerous to the safety of our islands, or the preservation of property; he therefore suggested the idea of abolition at some future period, accompanied by such internal regulations as should secure the regular succession of native inhabitants for the cultivation of our islands.

The Speaker, with much ingenuity of argument, supported the ideas suggested by Mr. Dundas.

Mr. Fox entered into the whole of the question in his usual luminous and comprehensive manner, and contended in opposition to the two last speakers, not only for abolition, but that immediately.

Mr. Dundas followed up his former ideas by moving, that the word GRADUALLY be added to the original motion, thereby making the nature of the intended abolition specific.

Mr. Jenkinson, in a speech of some length, argued against the abolition *in toto*. He also moved an adjournment, in order for further time to consider the motions he had formerly stated on the subject of regulation.

Mr. Pitt, in one of the most argumentative and eloquent efforts that ever fell even from himself, supported the immediate abolition.

The House then proceeded to divide upon the great and important question, as amended by Mr. Dundas,

Ayes	-	-	-	230
Noes	-	-	-	85

Majority for the gradual Abolition of the Slave Trade,	} 145
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YOU are hereby notified that no Money will be paid at the Treasury to any Agent, but on a Certificate signed by a Magistrate, or a Clergyman, or two Church-Wardens, in these Words,

“ I HEREBY certify, That A. B. of this Town, is living, and in my Presence signed his (or her) Bill of Exchange for [mentioning the Sum of Money] in Favour of [mentioning the Person's Name in whose Favour the Bill is drawn]

“ WITNESS my Hand at [mentioning the Place of Residence and Date of Execution]

“ B. T, Justice of Peace,
“ or W. B, Rector of —,
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MARGARET GRACE,
Attorney for Wm. Grace.

Charlotte Town, 3d July, 1792.