

**REPRESENTATION OF THE STATE
OF GOVERNMENT SLAVES AND
APPRENTICES IN THE MAURITIUS:
WITH OBSERVATIONS**

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Representation of the State of Government Slaves and Apprentices in the Mauritius: With
Observations by Richard Vicars

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RICHARD VICARS

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WITH OBSERVATIONS**

REPRESENTATION ⁶¹²
OF
THE STATE
OF
GOVERNMENT SLAVES
AND
APPRENTICES
IN THE
MAURITIUS ;
WITH
OBSERVATIONS.

By A RESIDENT,

Richard Vane

WHO HAS NEVER POSSESSED EITHER LAND OR SLAVES IN
THE COLONY.

LONDON:

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MDCCCXXX.

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TO
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LORD MOUNT-SANDFORD,
THIS ATTEMPT
TO
PROMOTE THE BEST INTERESTS
OF THE
NEGRO SLAVES IN THE MAURITIUS,
IS INSCRIBED,
WITH
EVERY SENTIMENT OF SINCERE FRIENDSHIP,
BY
THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E.

THE following Statement respecting the Government Slaves and Apprentices, and a great part of the subsequent Observations, were written during a tedious indisposition in the autumn of 1828. An application from Mr. Telfair for a missionary to be employed on his estates was forwarded at that time through the medium of Lord Mount-Sandford, and it was the Author's intention that it should have been accompanied by these papers; but extending his observations, and finding them not in accordance with the sentiments of many excellent persons whom he loves and venerates, he felt little confidence in his own judgment,—he was almost inclined to doubt the correctness of his views, and was reluctant to obtrude his reflections upon the Public. However, upon a mature consideration of the subject, as he thinks he would not be justified in

PREFACE.

relinquishing a design which tends to promote the welfare of the Slaves, so, when he has certain information that efforts are making to cover the colonists with opprobrium, and to overwhelm them with a torrent of public indignation, he feels that it would not be humility, but cowardice,—not moderation, but imbecility,—if he were to withhold a testimony that may, in any degree, contribute to the defence of the calumniated and persecuted. Therefore he no longer hesitates to transmit his Manuscript for publication. He has been told that it is not likely to please any one, for ‘ *it has too much religion for “the world,”* ‘ *and too little party-spirit for others;*’ but he would still indulge the hope, that it may meet with the same temper of candid consideration which, at least, he has endeavoured to exemplify.

Port Louis, Mauritius,

September 1829.

REPRESENTATION,

&c.

—◆—

THERE are about 1,294 Government Slaves, and 2,010 Apprentices in the Mauritius*. The Government Slaves are those who were found the property of Government at the capture of the Island, or such as may since have become forfeited to the Crown. They are fed and clothed by Government, and, in sickness, they receive

* The following is the specific detail :—

<i>Government Slaves.</i>		<i>Apprentices.</i>	
Men . . .	593	Men . . .	1271
Women . . .	276	Women . . .	385
	<hr/> 869		<hr/> 1656
Boys . . .	228	Boys . . .	182
Girls . . .	197	Girls . . .	172
	<hr/> 425		<hr/> 354
Total . . .	<hr/> 1294	Total . . .	<hr/> 2010