

At a meeting of his Excell.^{ty} Christopher Codrington Esq^r Captain
Gen^{ll} and Govern^r in Chief of their Ma^{ty} Leeward Caribbee
Islands in America and the Hono^{ble} the Gen^{ll} Council & Generall
Assembly said Islands in the Towne of S^t Johns in the
Island of Antegoa on the 8th day of November in the 2^d yeare
of their Ma^{ty} most happy Reigne

An Act for appointing Com^{rs} and an Agent to Negotiate and Manage
the Affaires of the Leeward Islands as also for setting a fund for the
defraying the Expence & Charge of such Negotiation & procuring of divers
necessaries for the Use and benefit of said Islands.

Whereas it hath been found by Experience that the Affaires of the Leeward
Islands have hitherto in a great measure suffered and are still like to doe
by the Want of an Agent in England to Solicite and Manage the same & in
particular at proper and convenient times frequently to remind the Com^{rs} for
Trade and Forreigne Plantations of such matt^{rs} as have been or shall be
represented to their L^{ords} in behalfe of the se Islands, and thereby to procure
their L^{ords} Resolutions in Resoluc^{ion} to the same with Expedition & Dispatch
the whole Trouble and Expence of which hath hitherto layn upon some few
Gentlemen in London who by traffique or otherwise have Interest in the se I^s
a Burthen altogether too heavy and vnequall for particular I^s in soe generall
a Concern.

And whereas the Continuance of this Warre doth not only greatly encrease
the Necessity of Establishing such an Agent but doth also require divers necessaries
to be purchased for the Use and benefit of these Islands which will neede a
Settlement of a fund in England and the Appointm^t of fit persons as Com^{rs}
for the disposeall thereof and to have a Gen^{ll} Care and Inspection and to
take the Charge of all Concerns relating to the Publick of these Islands which
will greatly tend to Advance the benefit of the Inhabitants and the Interest also
of their Ma^{ty} in these parts.

To the End therefore that the same may be fully effected and the aforesaying
Inconveniencies remedied Wee humbly pray their most Excell^{ty} Ma^{ty} that it
may be enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the Gov^r in Chief the Gen^{ll} Council
and Gen^{ll} Assembly of their Ma^{ty} Leeward Caribbee Islands now Assembled in
the Island of Antegoa That Bastian Bayer Christopher Jefferson, Jeffrey Jeffries

Joseph Martin and Rich. Cary all of the City of London Esq.^s be and are hereby appointed ordained and Constituted Com^{rs} in behalfe of the Leeward Islands And that Sam^l. Gullym of the Middle Temple London Esq.^s be hereby appointed ordained and Constituted Gen^l. Agent for all the said Islands for the Ends & purposes herein before mencondd and expressed in relation to the Trust and Duty of such Com^{rs} and Agent.

And for the settling of a sufficient fund for the uses aforesaid it is hereby further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that for and during the Terme of 3. yeares Comencing from the date of this Act there shall be every yeare remitted into the hands of the said Com^{rs} the Summe of Seaven hundred and fifty pounds Sterling by the Islands of Antegoa, Nevis & Montserrat in the proportion following viz^t one fourth part of the Summe by the Island of Montserrat and the other three fourth parts equally by the Islands of Antegoa & Nevis out of which said Summe the said Com^{rs} are hereby impowred to defray all such Charges as they or any of them shall be at in the Execution of the Trust hereby in them reposed and the remainder to dispose of for the use aforesaid according to such Instructions as they shall from time to time receive from the Chief Govern^r and Gen^l. Council & Assembly of the Leeward Islands for the time being

And for the producing and raising of the aforesaid Summe It is hereby Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that the respective Treas^{rs} of the aforesaid Islands shall before the first day of Jan^y next and afterwards before the first day of Jan^y in every yeare during the aforesaid Terme if there be an opportunity or otherwise by the first Occasion which happeneth after, Ship and Load for London as much Sugar Indico Cotton Woole or other Comodities as shall be fully sufficient and produce in Sterling monny the aforesaid proportion of the respective Islands and the said Comodities to be Consigned as followeth viz^t what is shipped from the Islands of Antegoa & Nevis to the aforesaid Richard Cary and what is shipped from the Island of Montserrat to the aforesaid Joseph Martin with Instructions to the said Persons to satisfy out of such produce the aforesaid proportions according to the tenor of this Act. but as to Jurarens and all other Particulars the said Treas^{rs} are to follow such measures and to send such Instructions as shall be directed by the Govern^r. Councils & Assemblys of their respective Islands

And it is hereby further Enacted that the said Commodities^{to} be Shipt and Consigned as aforesaid shall be at the Risques and Hazards of the respective Islands by the Treasurers - whereof the same is Shipt in case of losse, the Treasurers of the said Islands are respectively hereby Impowered & required by the first opportunity after notice thereof to Ship home and Consigne as aforesaid as much Commodities as shall be sufficient to repair such Damages and to continue so to do untill the aforesaid respective proportions be actually and effectually produced in the hands of the Com^{rs}.

And it is hereby further Enacted that the Lieuten^t. Govern^{ors}. Councils & Assemblies of the respective Islands shall in case there be not sufficient for that purpose in the hands of the Treasurers of the respective Islands Levy and cause to be levied a Tax upon their respective Inhabitants every yeare during the aforesaid Terme sufficient to satisfy their proportions of the aforesaid Summe and with such Dispatch that the aforesaid Commodities may be Shipt and Consigned in due time according to the Tenor and purport of this Act

And because in these kinds of Warr freight is scarce and difficult to be had which may greatly retard the yearly produce of the aforesaid Summes to the Diservice and prejudice of these Islands It is therefore Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that the Lieuten^t. Govern^{ors}. of the respective Islands shall have a full Power to press as much freight in some of the Ships or Vessells which shall Sail from their respective Islands as shall be sufficient to transport the Commodities hereinbefore appointed to be Shipt from the said respective Islands Provided nevertheless that such Press be not putt in Execution if Freight be otherwise to be had nor to the Damage, or prejudice of any Charter parties And also that the Current Rate at the time for freight be Consented and Agreed to according to the nature of the Com^{odity} for which freight shall be required. And it is hereby further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if the Lieuten^t. Gov^{ernors}. Councils & Assemblies of the respective Islands shall by Bills of Exchange or by any other Method which to them shall appear more convenient than what is before appointed Cause yearly during the aforesaid Terme to pay into the hands of the Com^{rs}. the respective proportions of the aforesaid Summe that the same shall be as to this particular a full Performance of the Intencion & meaning of this Act and a Discharge to the Island which shall so do from pursuing the methods in relation to the producing the aforesaid Summes herein before appointed & prescribed

And lastly it is Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that once in every yeare at least during the aforesaid Terme of three yeares there shall be a

1735²¹ Meeting of the Gen^l Council and Assembly of all the Leeward Islands to examine
all Acc^{ts} and to inspect into all Affairs in relation to the Execution of this Act
And to debate & conclude of such further particulars as shall appear necessary
for the Gen^l Welfare and benefit of these Colonies.

Anthony Rodgers Speaker.

For Capt J. Johnson

Copy of the Act of the
Gen^l Council & Assembly
of the Leeward Islands
Resolving Form: by an
Agent for the said Islands.