

[Circular.]

Downing Street, 16th December, 1842.

SIR,—The attention of Her Majesty's Government has been recently called to various Laws enacted in the British Colonies for the prevention, regulation or punishment of acts done on the High Seas, or on the Seas within one league of the shore of the Colonies in which such Laws have originated. After consultation with the Queen's Advocate, and the Attorney and Solicitor General, Her Majesty's Government have adopted the following conclusions on the subject:—

When the operation of the Colonial Act is confined to a range not exceeding one league from the shore and relates to matters of local interest, the regulation of which by local enactment is indispensable to the welfare of the Colony, no objection will be made to such an Act on the ground of the local range and extent of its operation exceeding the limits of the jurisdiction of the Colonial Legislature. Examples of such acts are those relating to Pilotage, to Quarantine, to Custom Duties, and to Fisheries.

But if a Colonial Enactment be made, to take effect on the High Seas at a distance exceeding three miles from the shores of the Colony, that is if it shall purport to regulate, to prevent, or punish any acts done on Shipboard beyond those limits, such Enactment will be null and void. In what manner Acts of that kind may be disposed of by Her Majesty, is a question on which no one inflexible Rule can be laid down; but it may be stated as a general Rule that the Queen will in no case be advised to confirm or sanction any such enactment.

I have thought it necessary to impart this information to you, that in the enactment of Laws in the Colony under your Government, your authority or influence may be used to prevent the infringement of the general principles to which I have adverted.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

STANLEY.

Lieutenant Governor Sir Wm. COLEBROOKE, New Brunswick.

THE SUBJOINED REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GUARDIANS READ TO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY BY THE MOVER OF THE BILL.

## PROSPECTUS

*Of the intended "Antigua Collegiate School in connexion with King's College, London."*

The following document, highly important to Antigua and all the Islands in this Government and its vicinity, is the result of a special meeting of the Board of Guardians of "The Antigua Grammar School," held at the Court House on the 23d November, instant, and, at the meeting of the Legislature on the following day, was presented to the Honorable Board of Council, and the Honorable House of Assembly, and by both Houses of the Legislature most cordially received.

Whilst the efforts used for the Education of the children of the Labouring classes in this Island have been attended with considerable success, all attempts made hitherto for the Education of the youths belonging to the middle and superior ranks of Society have unquestionably proved a failure.

Amongst the causes of this failure may be mentioned the following: In the first place, the constitution of the Antigua Grammar School was not such as to enlist in its behalf any large share of personal interest: Secondly, the want of a suitable building for the purpose, instead of a house hired by the Master at his own expense: and Thirdly, the smallness of the Endowment and the inadequate payments from the parties obtaining instruction, rendered the income scarcely sufficient for the remuneration of one Master.

The peculiar conjuncture of events at the present moment, when the Guardians are called upon by an uncontrollable exigency, to make new arrangements for conducting the Grammar School, and it has pleased Her Majesty the Queen, to erect the Islands composing the Government into a new and separate Diocese, of which the seat or head is to be Antigua, seems to point out most forcibly the duty of all who are concerned for the well being and prosperity of this community, not to lose the opportunity thus afforded them for re-establishing the Antigua Grammar School, or rather for constituting a new Institution upon different principles and with higher and more extended objects. Keeping in view, then, the operation of a plan that has been found successful in other places, it is proposed, to give the Institution a Title that shall at once indicate its principles and intentions, namely, "The Antigua Collegiate School, in connexion with King's College, London."

With the view, not only to create in the first instance, a greater or more effective degree of interest in the prosperity of the School, but also to secure the continuance of such a feeling, it seems desirable that, in addition to a Public Endowment from the Legislature, there should be an investment of money by individuals more or less interested in the well being of the Institution, made on the principal of shares, say £10 Sterling, a share, each share conferring the right of nomination of one pupil for admission into the establishment.

The actual presence of the Bishop of the Diocese in England, renders it extremely desirable that no time should be lost in deciding upon the plan, inasmuch as from his Lordship's personal acquaintance with the local wants of the Island, and his opportunities of confidential intercourse with the Council of King's College, and with learned and influential individuals at home, he will be enabled materially to promote the great object of the selection of two properly

qualified and efficient masters, one of whom at least should be in holy orders and a graduate of one of our English Universities.

The term, "Collegiate," at once indicates, that it is in contemplation to elevate this Institution to a Seminary, where youths of piety and competent ability may be prepared for holy orders, at the seat of this Diocese, within which they look to be employed, instead of being compelled, at much expense, to seek the necessary preparation at a College in another Diocese. And if the Institution be made available to qualify youths for the holiest profession, why not also for the highly useful and honorable professions of Law and Medicine, even as these are associated together at our Universities? And if for these, why not make the Institution capable of embracing instruction adapted for youths who are to be engaged in Commerce and Agriculture? For, without occupying the time and attention of such as are intended for these latter pursuits in the attainment of Classical Literature, certain it is, that a knowledge of the Latin tongue will be found very serviceable for the better understanding of the English language, and greatly assist them in the acquirement of the French and other Foreign Languages; whilst every facility will be afforded them for gaining an insight into general literature, and encouraging the pursuit of Scientific knowledge. Hence the establishment will be calculated, not only to prepare young men for the Ministry, and to supply a course of sound and sufficient instruction to those destined for the practice of the liberal professions of the Law and Medicine, (whose education, however, commenced here, must be completed at home) but also amply to qualify the young candidates for employment in the equally necessary and honorable pursuit of Trade, whether Mercantile or Mechanical, and of Agriculture. Were it not indispensable to confine these remarks within the narrowest possible limits, it would not be difficult to shew, that the profession of the Agriculturist, as such, has never yet been fairly or properly estimated in these Colonies as a liberal pursuit, and rendered an object of emulation, by the application of Scientific acquirements.

The Institution being intended to comprehend this variety, as well as amount of valuable instruction, at a very moderate rate, will surely commend itself to the peculiar attention of those who, as Parents or Guardians, having the charge of youths at an age when their education becomes of urgent moment, would otherwise have either to forego the attainment of that instruction altogether, or to adopt the alternative, frequently as painful as expensive, of sending them at once to Great Britain for the purpose.

While a temporary residence may adequately suffice for the earlier operations of the proposed School, it is evident, that in order to secure its permanent efficiency, it will be essential that it should eventually possess a Local Habitation of its own. To say nothing of the saving in point of annual expense, the high position which it is hoped the Institution will speedily assume amongst the public Establishments of the Colony, would indicate this to be unquestionably proper.

The warm feeling already expressed in favour of the proposed system by those who have as yet been consulted in relation to it, warrants the anticipation, that an appeal to the Community at large of this, and the neighbouring Islands, and to absent Proprietors and other Friends in the Mother Country, is alone wanted to insure its success. It is believed that, while His Excellency the Governor in Chief, as Her Majesty's Representative, will assume the office of Patron, the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, will undertake the equally responsible office of Visitor, in which event it would seem natural and proper that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of the Leeward Islands, with their Honors the President of the Board of Council and the Speaker of the House of Assembly of Antigua, should be requested to become Vice Patrons.

Under such auspices, conducted on such a principle as bids fair to create and keep up a lively interest in its favour, and adopting such a system as will embrace every honorable and laudable profession and pursuit in life, the whole being based on religion, and the strictest attention paid to moral conduct as inculcated in the Holy Scriptures, who does not feel impatient to see such an Institution established? What Parent, tremblingly anxious for the future welfare of his Son, what friend of youth, what lover of his Country, whether this be his native or adopted one, jealous for the honor of Antigua that it should stand pre-eminent among the Islands for its Educational, as it unquestionably excels in its Charitable Associations, does not long to behold, among its Public Institutions, this Seminary of religious and useful learning, which promises, under God, to produce a moral renovation on the youth of the land, to elevate their character while it draws forth and rightly directs their powers, that they may be useful and serviceable, be an ornament and honor to their country. Surely in the way of such a project, political and religious differences and distinctions will forbear to throw a stumbling block: all hearts and hands will surely unite together and assist in setting it up in our land. It is in the spirit of disinterested philanthropy that the project of "The Antigua Collegiate School" has been brought forward: in the same spirit, it is earnestly hoped, it will be received by all parties in the community.

*The following information has been kindly furnished to us from an authentic source:—*

"Immediately after the above very interesting communication had been read and warmly advocated by Sir Robert Horsford and