

August 27. —

General Anouis Vermet, commanding at Gonaves sent his Lieutenant de Camp, onboard the Vanguard, who mentioned that General Despalines was at Petite Riviere, the Captain accompanied him on shore, a letter from Captain Walker and Mr. C. was sent to General Despalines requesting his presence at Gonaves —

General Vermet came on board the Vanguard, when he was informed in the course of conversation that it was the wish of General Teyssier and Sir John T. Buckworth, that General Despalines would protect the white Inhabitants who fell into his hands, and reinstate them in the possession of their properties and that he would receive back those who had taken refuge in Cuba &c. in consequence of the War that was carrying on between him and the French Troops, in the manner Sir John T. had done, in this he agreed perfectly — He said unless that measure was adopted it would not be possible to restore confidence, so as to induce Foreign Merchants to trade with them, and to venture their property on shore amongst them, and he promised to use his endeavours to get that point effected. He was informed in the manner in which Jeremie had been evacuated by the French Troops and that the Inhabitants had remained under a promise from General Ferow of being protected: which had given satisfaction to the Commander in Chief in Jamaica, he said he trusted the like would take place, when the French Troops evacuated the different posts they at present possessed —

Monday 28th

General DeSalines arrived at Genaves and in consequence of
request, Captain Walker and Mr Cathcart, went on shore to wait
him, and delivered him the dispatches from General Majeur and
Sir John Thomas Duckworth, They then informed him, that in
consequence of his application to General Majeur and Admiral
Sir John Thomas Duckworth, requesting to be supplied with
ammunition, and the permission of having a free Commerce
Saint Domingo, the Vauguier had been ordered to Genaves for the
express purpose of learning what his views were, in order that
the General and Admiral might be made acquainted with
them more fully than they possibly could be, by his Letters.
Of this mark of attention he said he was very sensible. —

He has given to understand that the General and
Admiral had no orders to grant him any assistance, and
that they would not have made any application to him
respecting his position in Saint Domingo, nor to have had a
commercial Interchange with it, Had he not written them
that effect. However they were willing to afford him assistance
and to enter into a commercial arrangement, upon the
condition of his putting them in possession of Tiburon (and of the
Ile Saint Nicholas, when it was in his power, (with Liberty
Harrison's with British Troops. He answered it was a proposition
he never could come into, for to grant it was more than his
was worth, the people he commanded were so very jealous and
ignorant they would give way to the Idea, he had sold the Colonies
to England, which would cause an internal war among them
before any present peace being restored — General
Christophe and Andre Verret, were present.

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had been formerly protected by him upon a
conversation, and joined him in opinion - That
that as both the Cote and Tiburon were not places of Trade
and the Country around them barren, they were objects of
no moment to him, whilst they would serve as places
for the British Merchants to deposit their merchandize
in order to trade with the different parts of the Colony - That
it was not the Intention of the British to interpose in any
Shape with the Interior of the Country, or with the form of
Government he might adopt, nor would their Troops be per-
mitted to go into the Country beyond their Lines - He said he
was well acquainted with the honourable Conduct of the
British in Saint Domingo, and that with Sorrow they
had strictly adhered to their engagements, He also said that
every part should be open to the British, and that their
men of War might enter at all times when they would
have whatever Supplies the Country afforded and that
attention would be paid that they were properly treated,
so far from entertaining Jealousy that not only one, but
Twenty men of War, might come into their ports, if they
chose, for the purpose of procuring refreshments and remain
as long as they found it convenient - General Christophe
said even six months if they chose -

He added it was thirteen years since he had
taken up Arms in the cause of Liberty - His only view
was to restore peace to Saint Domingo, he was well
acquainted with the nature of the Blacks, that unless the
Island was completely under their Government, he could
not expect that event to take place - Were the two ports in
question occupied by the English, Intigue would get amongst
them and be forming plots against his Government -

If he was to give up Simon, in the present state of his affairs, he would run the risk of being deserted by his Army - General Rochambeau had given out amongst the negroes, by means of them that follow, which had caused a number of Congo Negroes in the neighbourhood of Cape Francois to desert him (2 or 3000) and enter into a Treaty with General Rochambeau -

He was informed it was the desire of General Magonot, Sir John Thomas Duckworth that he would protect the White Inhabitants, who fell into his hands, in the different Towns he might take, and when he reflected that these unfortunate people were forced by the French officers to carry arms against him and that it was not a matter of choice with them, both the General and Admiral flattens themselves he would acquiesce in the measure - If they capitulated, he said, he would give for his honor their persons and properties would be respected, that he would give orders to that effect - If the Towns were taken by assault he could not answer for the consequences that might ensue. He was strongly urged to give orders to protect them in the event of the places being taken by Storm, in the Justice of which he seemed to agree - He said he was sensible they were forced to serve, and that he would consider them in that light -

He was also informed that the General and Admiral trusted, he would reimburse the White Inhabitants in respect of their Estates and that he would bury in Oblivion, what had passed during the Revolution he answered that was too much to expect (for strong a doze) for the White Inhabitants - Almost to a Man joined the French Host, and indeed

them with a view of reducing the negroes again to slavery. That
 number of the white Inhabitants who had acted in this
 manner had been formerly protected by him upon various
 occasions and had been put into possession of their Estates
 by the King, which had been requested by the French Govern-
 ment, from their having Emigrated and served against France.
 These they had injured him and his colour so much, he could
 never agree to their possessing their Estates again, for as they
 would possess much Influence over their former negroes, they
 would be stirring them up continually to revolt against
 his Government and they would be always ready to join
 with the French in any Plans they might form against
 Saint Domingo. He mentioned as a reason for not agree-
 ing to restore the Properties to the white Inhabitants, that
 General Leblere had convoked a Colonial Assembly at
 Cape Francois, for the purpose of deliberating upon the
 measures that would be most conducive to restore Saint
 Domingo to its former prosperity - many of the white-
 Inhabitants had advised the extirpating the negroes in
 toto, should they find it impracticable to reduce them to
 Slavery, with which measure they would be well satisfied
 and to form another Population by Importations
 from Africa - He named Individuals who had recom-
 mended this measure to General Leblere - Himself
 and his Generals had therefore come to the determina-
 tion not to allow the white Inhabitants to possess
 their Estates - It was therefore their Intention that in
 future that the white should be confined to the -

different towns in the colony - that the law should be
proposed by the nation of Blacks and other colors of the colony
oppose to the Whites holding property in the soil - He added
plan of putting the Blacks to death, when they fell into the
hands of the French, had in the first Instance taken into
the advice of the white planters, which was the reason of their
having determined upon adopting this measure -

Tuesday 29th

Had a meeting with General Despatines at which General
Christophe and Viraut were present when every argument was
used to persuade him to come into the measure of putting
in possession of the two Posts - He was told he must consider
it as the basis, upon which he could hope to have any aid from
the British or that any commercial arrangement could be
entered into - He again repeated it was what he could never
agree to, but that every post should be open for the purposes
of Trade and for affording refreshments for the crew of War
and that they should meet with the most friendly treatment
upon all occasions, He was told if he did not acquiesce
in the measure of giving up the two posts - The General and
Admiral, having received no orders from Government relative
to the present position of Saint-Domingo, would not have the
their power to enter into his views consequently they could
not grant him the aid he required - He answered he had
hitherto succeeded against the French troops - that he was
would be able to drive them out of the Island, but if he
received no supplies from the British, it would be impossible

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Wednesday 30th

Had another
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to a Man joined the French troops

take him a much longer time to effect his purpose as he was
 badly supplied with Ammunition / & his own purpose, he
 must use Muskets, instead of Cannon / that he was determined
 to persevere and lose every creature to effect his purpose -
 that he would prefer to continue in his present state, rather
 than run the risk he must naturally do, was he to continue
 into the attempt of giving us possession of the Two Posts - He
 said if the French received no Supplies by Sea, they would not
 remain long in the Colony for that all the Towns excepting
 Cape Francois were so closely invested, they could draw no
 Supplies of provisions from the Country, but by force of Arms
 Port au Prince and Saint Marc's were reduced to a state of
 famine and could not hold out much longer - He repeated
 to hear of the surrender of Sagamel and Annapolis - He had
 understood General Brunette, was upon the point of evacua-
 ting the latter place - If the French Troops surrendered to
 him it was his intention to send them off the Island, as soon
 as Vessels could be found for that purpose -

Wednesday 30th

Had another Interview with General Lappaline, at which -
 General Christoph and Vermet were present, when the point
 of giving us up the Possession of the Two Posts, was again strongly
 urged, but without effect, for not complying with our request he
 gave the reasons already mentioned -
 The restoring the Estates to the White Inhabitants, when he became
 Master of the Country, was again mentioned, for his not coming
 into that Measure, he repeated the objections he formerly had

done, and upon this point he appeared to have said
his views —

He said when British Men of War put into any of the ports
of Saint Domingo for refreshments, they were at liberty to
visit the shore, under charge of their own respective
officers, and to hire Houses for their respective
use, but he never could agree to our landing Troops —

He was requested to give us in writing the form of Government
he meant to adopt, he said that until the French
were out of the Colony, he could not determine upon it
to hear, but when peace was restored, he intended with the
advice of his Generals to establish a settled form of
Government which he would make the Governor
Admiral at Jamaica acquainted with, for he looked
upon the English as his best Friends, and he would give
them every encouragement to Trade with Saint Domingo
It was his Intention they should pay one half of the
duties upon their Imports and Exports, which would
be exacted from the other nations trading to Saint
Domingo —

The Following he said was his present view
To Throw off all Allegiance to France and declare
the Country Independent, under the Government
himself and his Officers — To permit no Commerce
with France, to assist under any pretence, should
any Men of War or Merchantmen enter the ports
of Saint Domingo to seize them, to treat both Spanish
and Dutch Ships in the same manner

To permit no French
Merchantmen to
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their Vessels will

The Whites
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Slaveholders, the
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To permit a Free Trade to all nations (excepting French
Spanish and Dutch) upon their paying the Duties upon Imports
and Exports they may fix - but they find them evading the Duties
their Vessels will be confiscated.

The Whites to be confined to the Towns to carry on Trade,
the Country to belong exclusively to the natives Blacks and
Mulattos, their Intention is to give Encouragement to many
to settle in the Towns to carry on Trade, who may come and
depart as they find convenient, they will have the Liberty of
purchasing Houses in the Towns, but will not be permitted
to purchase Land - His Idea is that the Natives should turn
their whole attention to agriculture and have nothing
to do with Navigation, It is not therefore his wish they
should have more than a few small Vessels for Droppers
and fishing Boats - He will permit such White French
Inhabitants to remain in the Towns, as he may
approve of, but no others -

James Walker

Signed.

Hugh Cathcart