

Answers to Allegations
developed



To the only true & call Freeholders of the Island of Jamaica the following
Authentick Account of The Association is most humbly Dedicated.

Gentlemen

The wished purpose & design, misrepresentation of an
Association, in which the best Spirits if not the best Heads in the Island were
concerned is proposed to have upon the Minds & Passions of our fellow Subjects,
become too flagrant & too general to be pass'd over without a suitable Notice.
And altho' the undertaking be somewhat disagreeable & disagreeant to a mind
season'd with just Sentiments of Honour & Integrity (for it is impossible
to lay open the first Springs & motives of The Association. The purpose it was
form'd to serve & in the event did actually accomplish without impeaching a
Person of the first Rank & Distinction which will add very little to his Honour
& Credit & Reputation) yet as it is left unworthy to expose one however dignified, by
so publick a Declaration, than by a mean Silence to suffer the whole Body of the
People to be amuse'd & grossly imposed upon by willfull misrepresentations, &
false Suggestions, The Author of this Letter took upon himself wholly absolved from
any computation of Indecency or disrespect. And as he thinks that an impartial
& succinct History of The Association, founded upon the clearest Testimony
& Information that can be obtain'd, the best & only method of conveying the true
evidence of Truth, and therefore the most likely to obtain a perfect conviction over
the mind of all unprejudic'd Men, who are willing & desirous to be inform'd he
offers the following Narrative to the consideration of every candid & unbiass'd
Freeholder in the Community.

In the Year 1761 the late Genl. M. Fox made publick his design
of leaving his Government as his Health & Affairs render'd it prudent for him
to reside in England for 3 Years & at the same time discover'd his Intention, however
difficult he found it to be, of obtaining the Government of Jamaica during that
Period, to Mr. M. Fox whom he considered as the only Person most fit to
serve his purpose therein, and as he wisely judg'd his Removal would
make an Epocha favorable to his wishes, and would facilitate his Intentions of
drawing up by the Partisanship that had grown up, & were renewed
many Years under his Administration, & of Reconciling & uniting Men
to one another, who had rang'd themselves into different Parties. Accordingly
without Delay he vigorously set to work, & us'd every probable means he
could devise to effectuate so good & laudable a Design: and to this end he
industriously sought for an opportunity of Assembling & bringing
together some of the chief Men of the different Parties, which tho' not without
some difficulty he at last obtain'd. But as he well knew the almost impossibility
of uniting Men who for so long a time had oppos'd the Measures of each other,
and

and the difficulty of persuading them to join in separating in one Political System
together with the difficulty of removing the Jealousy & Distrust that reigns in the
minds of Leashest of them, as a Preliminary to promote Faith & Confidence in
one another, he conceived & digested Articles somewhat of the same nature and
purpose of those published in a paper called - Association! and annexed to
Mr. Han... & Speech in his dissolving the late Assembly, tho' not the same. And
since printed in a venal & insidious called The Association developed, drawn
with no other design but to pervert the mind, & to inflame the Tongue of the
& calculated to impose on the Publick, to misguide the present to calumniate &
vilify some of the best & wisest Subjects in the Society: But let the Invidious
Author, & let all his Abettors know, That such insidious stuff can impose upon
no man; for false facts built upon vague grounds & hypothetical Suggestions
claim no other Merit but false conclusions, that may amuse, but will never
convince, that may possibly please some & mislead others, but will never gain
respect from any. The Lunacy & impropriety of the Diction (the absurd &
unmeaning) Quotations & Scurrility of Style shall pass, if the Author please, for
Abraham's Faith for Righteousness, but shall lay no claim to persuasion, or conviction,
& like all other oraculous productions, time in an Instant will separate & vanish for
ever; a fate all such writing (if it claims the name of writing) deserves, but what
few Authors can abide. That is one design more which may be conceived to have
given occasion to this silly Paper, and but one Quarter from which it could
possibly come. May it not be design'd to instill a Jealousy of some of the best and
ablest of our fellow Subjects, whose unwearied application & attachment for
the good & welfare of this Island, is but too well known to be suspected: May it
not be design'd to prevent the People against those who have proved themselves
the Saviors of their Country, who are an Ornament to, & the Protectors of it, to
gain popularity in favour of.....: and to influence the next Elections as the
Court Favorites give out & menace another Dissolution, & if that should not
prove auspicious to the most sanguine wishes of the King's Court to be
succeeded by another & another, till at last they tire out the People, & gain by
that, & other indirect means, the long desired Majority. If this be the design
I will be bold, for bold it may seem to say that this Expedient is at least as wicked
& as likely to prove Ineffectual as any that has yet been produced by the same
aspiring Geniuses. Let them however be assured that we can & will examine
& judge for ourselves. I have much need to ask pardon for detaining you so long,
particularly as I have been employ'd in stooping to take the least Notice of
so dirty a Performance; but for the future, I do promise, the Author of it that
all his Scurrility, his Austerity, & foul language shall pass unworthy of notice,
or Unanswerable, which ever he please.

But

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But to return after so long a Digression to the subject of this Narrative. The Articles being laid before the Council when Names appear at the foot of the Paper called Association, and be read separately, and duly considered of not one of the Gentlemen present found any thing contained in it, but what tendeth to settle a Confidence in one another, & to promote Peace, Order, & Harmony amongst all Orders & Conditions of Men, to ease the Administration of the Government, to establish the good & wellfare of this Island, & to restore Union & Concord: So that without any hesitation, it was agreed to, & signed, & put under a Cover Seal, & entrusted to the care & Custody of one of the Associates.

Let us now take a view of all the good & will Effects this wicked Association (and yet that I choose to follow the better Example in) hath occasion'd, since it first being enter'd upon, untill the Day of the Paper called Association was published. It was the Basis & Establishment of a general Union & Concord between all degrees & Orders of Men, who were before separated & divided into Parties one against another. It was the principall means of passing all the Laws that did pass in the Year 1751, and more Laws, contriv'd for the real good of this Country had not been pass'd, for more than Twenty years before. What other good was it the occasion of? It was (but that I must leave to the opinion of others) the chief means of bringing into this Island Adm'l Thomas & obtaining for him His Majesty's Commission to take upon him the Government of it, of which he was so sensible, that from the overflowing of his heart, at a time too, when he despair'd of receiving any other but a Commission of Obedience, vaulting in the Triumph of his unexpected Success, he could not restrain himself from acknowledging in terms the most grateful the sense he had of the vast Obligation he had to the wicked Associates! for their seasonable Interest in his behalf: which he not only made personal on his arrival here to every Associate: but likewise in Letters before he had embark'd for Jamaica, particularly to one of them which is at this day to be seen. It was likewise the means of having Adm'l Thomas's Salary fix'd in as large & ample a manner as that of his Predecessor. Did it serve any other purpose? No, for from that time to the Day the Paper call'd Association! came abroad in Court, not one of the wicked Associates! met in consequence of any League it is maliciously suggest'd they had enter'd into, to take upon themselves the Administration of this Government independent of the Governor & his Council. Not one of them entertain'd a thought that the Agreement amongst themselves had or was to have any duration after it had compris'd the purposes already mention'd. It was no longer look'd upon as obligatory or binding upon them as a Political Body, & they never once met in consequence of it, but ever after considered the preliminary Articles, as dead Letters, without Spirit, Force, or Obligation.

If the Association is a matter of so criminal a nature, as some Parasites affect to call it. How is Mr. Thring, His Majesty's late Representative Member of the House of Commons, guilty of it, since he was the Author & Promoter of it? How do the Favourers acquit their present Master of the share he held in it? Will any man be so great an enemy to Truth, Will any Man be so daring, to deny that Mr. Thring not only did not disavow it, but sang its praises in the highest strain of commendation? Did he not value himself extremely on this wicked Association? Did he not make it an Argument to one of the Sons of those wicked Associates, in order to prevail upon them to accept a Quiry, &c.?

I am astonished how any Man that calls himself a friend to Mr. Thring, can have the presumption to arraign this Association! since he must know how intimately this Gentleman is related to & connected with it. That it was the chief means of obtaining for him this Government. That it brought about the coalition of a divided People, & smoothed the Administration of it ready for his Reception. But to quit a subject so perfectly innocent in itself, that cannot possibly be stigmatized without leaving an indelible mark of reproach on the Honour & Gratitude of Mr. Thring, I shall therefore decline saying more, & ask these Calumniators, whether they never heard of another Association! that was once proposed to one of the Wicked Associates! by

The foundation of which was to enlarge the C. l. to Fifteen or twenty of the principal Persons on this Island, who by their weight & Influence were to return such App. y. as would be under their sole Rule & Direction, who were by necessity to pass all such Laws as should come from the C. l. Board, & in short, that the Representative Body of the People should be men eyes, & under the sole Influence & Government of the C. l. According to this virtuous System, what would become of the Liberties of the People! To whom were they to apply for redress of Grievances? to the App. y. that would be absurd, they could not possibly redress them? to the C. l. more absurd still, they were to be their Masters, not their Representatives; who was to be Judge of the Sums necessary to be raised for the Exigencies of the Government, the App. y. that a Joke, the C. l. would presume to Judge for them, In short by this ever memorable proposition, the Constitution was to be totally subverted, The Democratical part of it was to sink into the C. l. & the C. l. was to become an Aristocracy.

I must now put it upon the adverse Party to shew since the year 1751, any one Act of Power, of Coercion, or violence done, or attempted to be done by the Associates! either singly or as a Body. And the

the Author of this Paper doth now Challenge in any Man in the Community, to form on single proof thereof. For from his Soul wither it was as much out of his power to give instances of the wicked, the violent & unjust attempts of another, not to call it wicked, but most dangerous Association! An Association! of the Members in Kingston set up in opposition to the Standing & Commercial Interest of this Island, separate from their own. An Association that in direct violation of sundry Laws, & in the most unfair, uncanon'd, ungenerous manner, attempting to remove the Supreme Court & the Records of this Island from St. Jago de la Vega to Kingston. An Association bent determined upon the Ruin & Desolation of Families & unsettling a Country of very great extent. An Association! by their several Intrigues, that have wriggled themselves into favour, and assuming contrary to Nature Justice & Reason, the chief & yet may be said almost the whole Authority of this Island, doing in the wantonness of their Power & Power all the Civil & Military Offices throughout this Country. An Association! assuming to themselves the sole power over all the Elections throughout this Island, by dint of Money & other securities, & more insolent still by depriving the real & bona fide Freeholders of that invaluable right that arises from their Freeholds - their Votes - & thereby putting it out of their Power, to elect those they think most fit to represent them, by infamously making occupational Bays &c. taking such Votes at Elections & thereby cheating the real Freeholders of their Franchise, adding likewise this further Crime to their Grand the Path, by sporting with & deluding the most sacred of all morall Obligations! & receiving an Oath! the only test in the Human Society of so vague & precarious a nature, & of so little weight that totally in the end will destroy the morall & sacred Intention of it.

I would enlarge abundantly on a subject so extremely copious but not to trespass longer on your patience, I will release you with the words of Lord Bolingbroke & Vis. That an Union can never be complete till it becomes an Union of the Head with the Members, as well as the Members with one another: & that such an Union can never be expected till Corruption fills the Throne, & Faction be banished from the Administration

Jam

Hall Family Papers and Sugar Plantation Records

1709 - 1892

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**POLITICAL AND PUBLIC DOCUMENTS -
Documents Related to Governor Charles Knowles -
To the only true and recall Freeholders of the island
of Jamaica the following Authentick Account, undated**



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