

Frame good laws or be proper arbiters of taxation on the people: and such was the Government of Tobago instituted 1764, as suited to a turbulent concourse of adventures, in however honourable an enterprise: not all honourable and over when an arbitrary control might in the last instance be necessary! But it was not an unqualified executive authority, to which a British People could long submit.

The colonist of Tobago required a constitution of Government, analogous to that of their mother country, and such as was given to other Islands of the British West Indies; and which could alone frame laws and regulate this administration, in a manner suitable to the rights and feelings of a British People.

A petition to such effect accompanied by a representation of the numbers and conditions of the colony was passed and addressed to a Captain General and Governor in chief at Grenada. General Melville, considering himself to be so authorised, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1768 issued a proclamation, by which he declared the future legislation for Tobago to be vested in the Governor or Commander in Chief for the time being; - a chamber of ten Councillors and Assembly of Thirteen Representatives of the People: -

Two members to be elected from each of the five leeward parishes:- one from St. Johns;- one from St Paul's; and one from Plymouth Town; riding it at that time to be a place of comparison preferred to Scabero or to George Town, which were not even mentioned; However that the first sessions of a legislature was there to be holder.

I by no means purpose to encumber this essay with a yearly kalender for Tobago; but on the 1<sup>st</sup> establishment of the British constitution of Government in its infant colony arecord of its first legislators, and of its first laws may be interesting to a succeeding generation.

The first meeting of the legislative Council, and of the General Assembly, was in George Town, the eleventh of July 1766.

The President of the Council in Executive command---- The Honourable Robert Stuart.

The Legislative Council consisted of

The Honourable  
B. Brown  
Jos. Robley  
Wm Smith  
Peter Campbell  
Edmd. Lincoln

Wm Hall  
John Leith  
Jos. Croker  
Is. Duncan