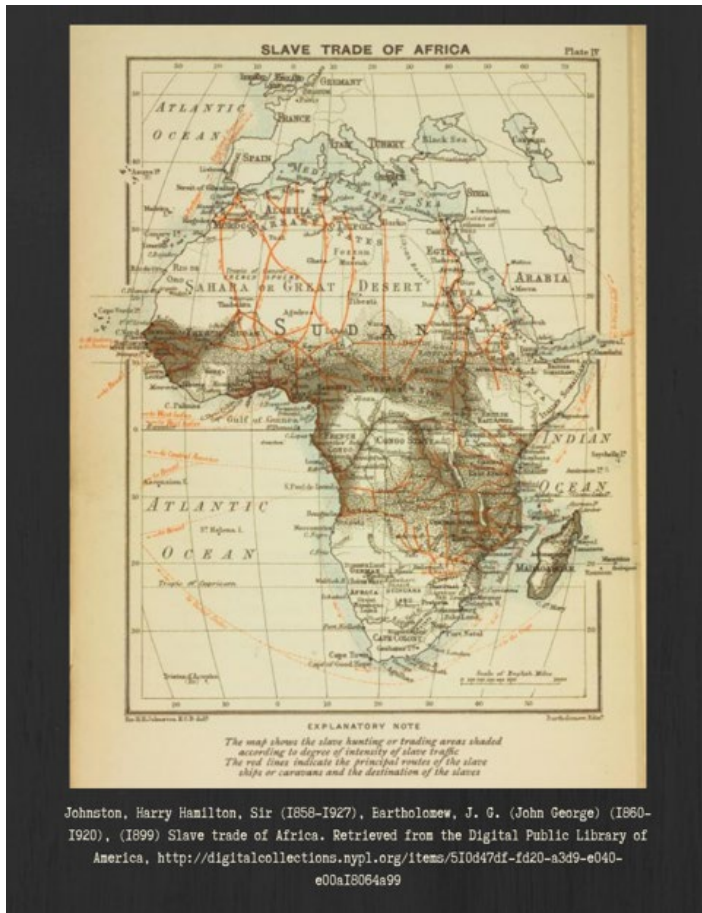


A Timeline of Selected Laws to Restrict and Abolish the Slave Trade 1794 to 1870

This exhibit was originally posted by Ashley Dees in the University of Mississippi Libraries, January 2019.



Johnston, Harry Hamilton, Sir (1858-1927), Bartholomew, J. G. (John George) (1860-1920). (1899) Slave trade of Africa. Retrieved from the Digital Public Library of America, <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47df-fd20-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>



I794 Mar 22

An Act to prohibit the carrying on of the Slave Trade from the United States to any foreign place or country.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That no citizen or citizens of the United States, or foreigner, or any other person coming into, or residing within the same, shall, for himself or any other person whatsoever, either as master, factor or owner, build, fit, equip, load or otherwise prepare any ship or vessel, within any port or place of the said United States, nor shall cause any ship or vessel to sail from any port or place within the same, for the purpose of carrying on any trade or traffic in slaves, to any foreign country; or for the purpose of procuring, from any foreign kingdom, place or country, the inhabitants of such kingdom, place or country, to be transported to any foreign country, port, or place whatever, to be sold or disposed of, as slaves: And if any ship or vessel shall be so fitted out, as aforesaid, for the said purposes, or shall be caused to sail, so as aforesaid, every such ship or vessel, her tackle, furniture, apparel and other appurtenances, shall be forfeited to the United States; and shall be liable to be seized, prosecuted and condemned, in any of the circuit courts, or district court for the district where the said ship or vessel may be found and seized.

Chapter II, 3 Congress, Session I, An Act: To prohibit the carrying on the slave trade from the United States to any foreign place or country., 1 Stat. 347 (1794)

1794 Mar 22.

Chapter 11, 3 Congress, Session 1, An Act: To prohibit the carrying on the slave trade from the United States to any foreign place or country., 1 Stat. 347 (1794)



I798 Apr 07

An Act for an amicable settlement of limits with the State of Georgia, and authorizing the establishment of a government in the Mississippi territory.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That from and after the establishment of the aforesaid government, it shall not be lawful for any person or persons to import or bring into the said Mississippi territory, from any port or place, without the limits of the United States, or to cause or procure to be so imported or brought, or knowingly to aid or assist in so importing or bringing any slave or slaves, and that every person so offending, and being thereof convicted before any court within the said territory, having competent jurisdiction, shall forfeit and pay, for each and every slave so imported or brought, the sum of three hundred dollars; one moiety for the use of the United States, and the other moiety for the use of any person or persons who shall sue for the same; and that every slave, so imported or brought, shall thereupon become entitled to, and receive his or her freedom.

Chapter 28, 5 Congress, Session 2, An Act: For an amicable settlement of limits with the State of Georgia, and authorizing the establishment of a government in the Mississippi territory., 1 Stat. 549 (1798)

1798 Apr 07

Chapter 28, 5 Congress, Session 2, An Act: For an amicable settlement of limits with the State of Georgia, and authorizing the establishment of a government in the Mississippi territory., 1 Stat. 549 (1798)



1800 May 10

An Act in addition to the act entitled "An act to prohibit the carrying on the Slave Trade from the United States to any foreign place or country."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall be unlawful for any citizen of the United States, or other person residing within the United States, directly or indirectly to hold or have any right or property in any vessel employed or made use of in the transportation or carrying of slaves from one foreign country or place to another, and any right or property, belonging as aforesaid, shall be forfeited, and may be labelled and condemned for the use of the person who shall sue for the same; and such person, transgressing the prohibition aforesaid, shall also forfeit and pay a sum of money equal to double the value of the right or property in such vessel, which he held as aforesaid; and shall also forfeit a sum of money equal to double the value of the interest which he may have had in the slaves, which at any time may have been transported or carried in such vessel, after the passing of this act, and against the form thereof.

Chapter 51, 6 Congress, Session 1, An Act: In addition to the act entitled "An act to prohibit the carrying on the slave trade from the United States to any foreign place or country.", 2 Stat. 70 (1800)

1800 May 10

Chapter 51, 6 Congress, Session 1, An Act: In addition to the act entitled "An act to prohibit the carrying on the slave trade from the United States to any foreign place or country.", 2 Stat. 70 (1800)



1803 Feb 28

An Act to prevent the importation of certain persons into certain states, where, by the laws thereof, their admission is prohibited.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That no ship or vessel arriving in any of the said ports or places of the United States, and having on board any negro, mulatto, or other person of colour, not being a native, a citizen, or registered seaman of the United States, or seamen natives of countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope as aforesaid, shall be admitted to an entry. And if any such negro, mulatto, or other person of colour, shall be landed from on board any ship or vessel, in any of the ports or places aforesaid, or on the coast of any state prohibiting the admission or importation, as aforesaid, the said ship or vessel, together with her tackle, apparel, and furniture, shall be forfeited to the United States, and one half of the nett proceeds of the sales on such forfeiture shall inure and be paid over to such person or persons on whose information the seizure on such forfeiture shall be made.

Chapter 10, 7 Congress, Session 2, An Act: To prevent the importation of certain persons into certain States, where, by the laws thereof, their admission is prohibited., 2 Stat. 205 (1803)

1803 Feb 28

Chapter 10, 7 Congress, Session 2, An Act: To prevent the importation of certain persons into certain States, where, by the laws thereof, their admission is prohibited., 2 Stat. 205 (1803)



1807 Mar 02

An Act to prohibit the importation of Slaves into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States, from and after the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eight, it shall not be lawful to import or bring into the United States or the territories thereof from any foreign kingdom, place, or country, any negro, mulatto, or person of colour, with intent to hold, sell, or dispose of such negro, mulatto, or person of colour, as a slave, or to be held to service or labour.

Chapter 22, 9 Congress, Session 2, An Act: To prohibit the importation of slaves into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States, from and after the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight., 2 Stat. 426 (1807)

1807 Mar 02

Chapter 22, 9 Congress, Session 2, An Act: To prohibit the importation of slaves into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States, from and after the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight., 2 Stat. 426 (1807)



1818 Apr 20

An Act in addition to "An act to prohibit the introduction (importation) of slaves into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States, from and after the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight," and to repeal certain parts of the same.

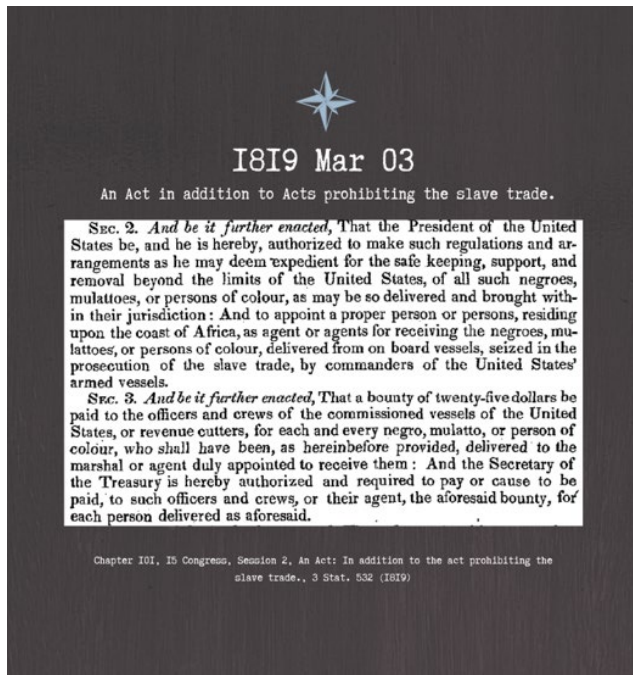
Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That in all prosecutions under this act, the defendant or defendants shall be holden to prove that the negro, mulatto, or person of colour, which he or they shall be charged with having brought into the United States, or with purchasing, holding, selling, or otherwise disposing of, and which, according to the evidence in such case, the said defendant or defendants shall have brought in aforesaid, or otherwise disposed of, was brought into the United States at least five years previous to the commencement of such prosecution, or was not brought in, holden, purchased, or otherwise disposed of, contrary to the provisions of this act; and in failure thereof, the said defendant or defendants shall be adjudged guilty of the offence of which he or they may stand accused.

Chapter 91, 15 Congress, Session 1, An Act: In addition to "An act to prohibit the introduction (importation) of slaves into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States, from and after the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight," and to repeal certain parts of the same., 3 Stat. 450 (1818)

1818 Apr 20

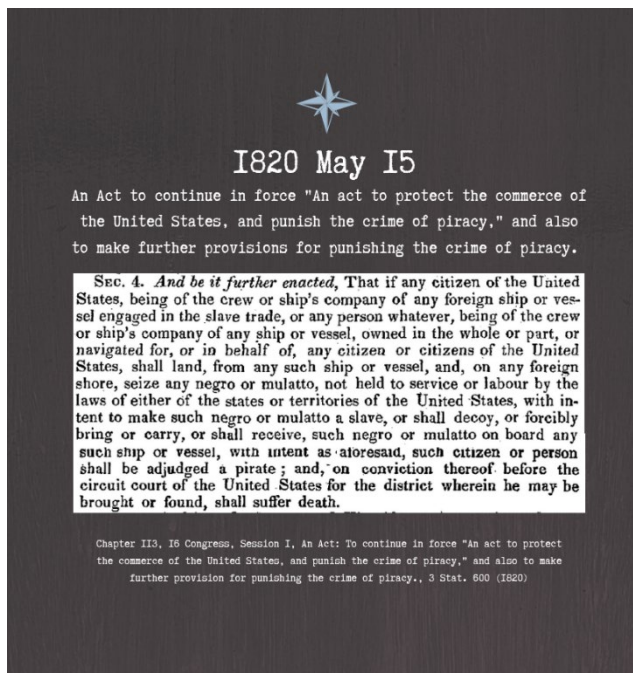
Chapter 91, 15 Congress, Session 1, An Act: In addition to "An act to prohibit the introduction (importation) of slaves into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States, from and after

the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight," and to repeal certain parts of the same., 3 Stat. 450 (1818)



1819 Mar 03

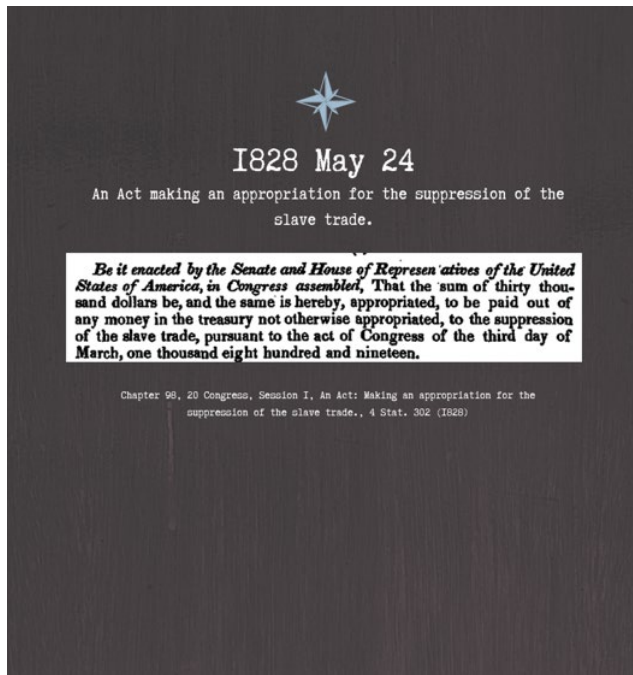
Chapter 101, 15 Congress, Session 2, An Act: In addition to the act prohibiting the slave trade., 3 Stat. 532 (1819)



1820 May 15

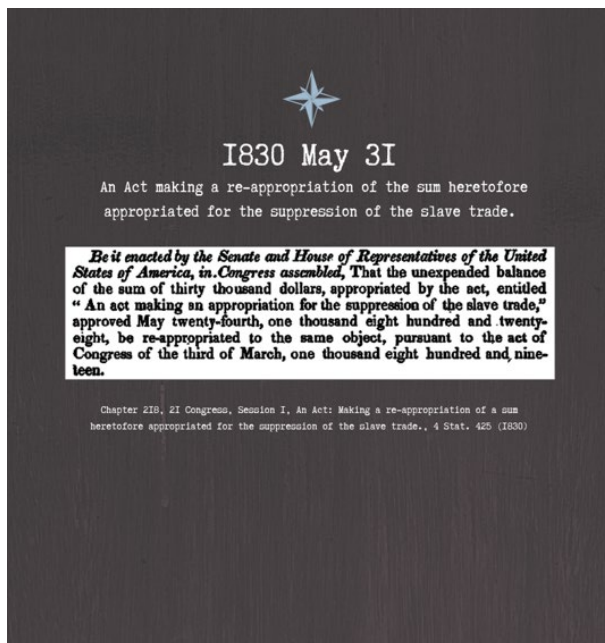
Chapter 113, 16 Congress, Session 1, An Act: To continue in force "An act to protect the commerce of the

United States, and punish the crime of piracy," and also to make further provision for punishing the crime of piracy., 3 Stat. 600 (1820)



1828 May 24

Chapter 98, 20 Congress, Session 1, An Act: Making an appropriation for the suppression of the slave trade., 4 Stat. 302 (1828)



1830 May 31

Chapter 218, 21 Congress, Session 1, An Act: Making a re-appropriation of a sum heretofore appropriated for the suppression of the slave trade., 4 Stat. 425 (1830)



I850 Sep 20

An Act to suppress the Slave Trade in the District of
Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day of January, eighteen hundred and fifty-one, it shall not be lawful to bring into the District of Columbia any slave whatever, for the purpose of being sold, or for the purpose of being placed in depot, to be subsequently transferred to any other State or place to be sold as merchandize. And if any slave shall be brought into the said District by its owner, or by the authority or consent of its owner, contrary to the provisions of this act, such slave shall thereupon become liberated and free.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for each of the corporations of the cities of Washington and Georgetown, from time to time, and as often as may be necessary, to abate, break up, and abolish any depot or place of confinement of slaves brought into the said District as merchandize, contrary to the provisions of this act, by such appropriate means as may appear to either of the said corporations expedient and proper. And the same power is hereby vested in the Levy Court of Washington county, if any attempt shall be made, within its jurisdictional limits, to establish a depot or place of confinement for slaves brought into the said District as merchandize for sale contrary to this act.

Chapter 63, 31 Congress, Session 1, An Act: To suppress the slave trade in the District of Columbia., 9 Stat. 467 (1850)

1850 Sep 20

Chapter 63, 31 Congress, Session 1, An Act: To suppress the slave trade in the District of Columbia., 9 Stat. 467 (1850)



I860 Jun I6

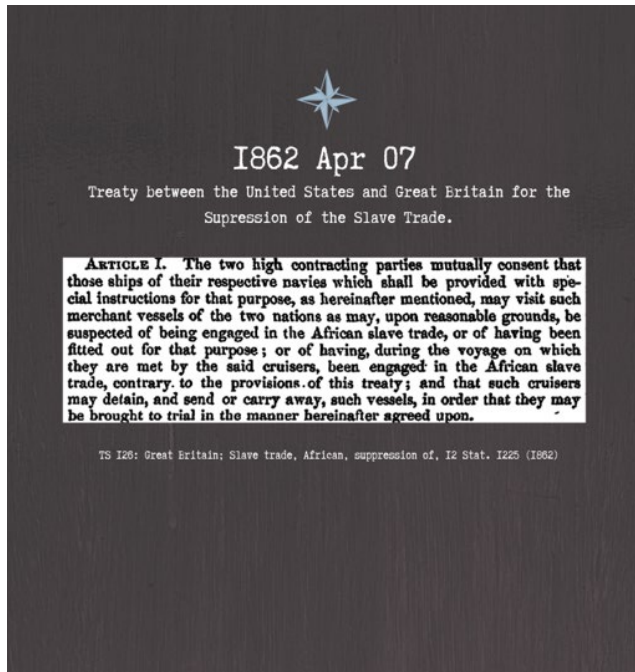
An Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act in addition to the
Acts prohibiting the Slave Trade."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall and may be lawful for the President of the United States to enter into contract with any person or persons, society or societies, or body corporate, for a term not exceeding five years, to receive from the United States through their duly constituted agent or agents, upon the coast of Africa, all negroes, mulattoes, or persons of color, delivered from on board vessels seized in the prosecution of the slave trade, by commanders of the United States armed vessels, and to provide the said negroes, mulattoes, and persons of color with comfortable clothing, shelter, and provisions for a period not exceeding one year from the date of their being landed on the coast of Africa, at a price in no case to exceed one hundred dollars for each person so clothed, sheltered, and provided with food: *Provided,* That any contract so made as aforesaid may be renewed by the President from time to time as found necessary for periods not to exceed five years on each renewal.

Chapter 136, 36 Congress, Session 1, An Act: To amend an act entitled "An act in addition to the acts prohibiting the slave-trade.", 12 Stat. 40 (1860)

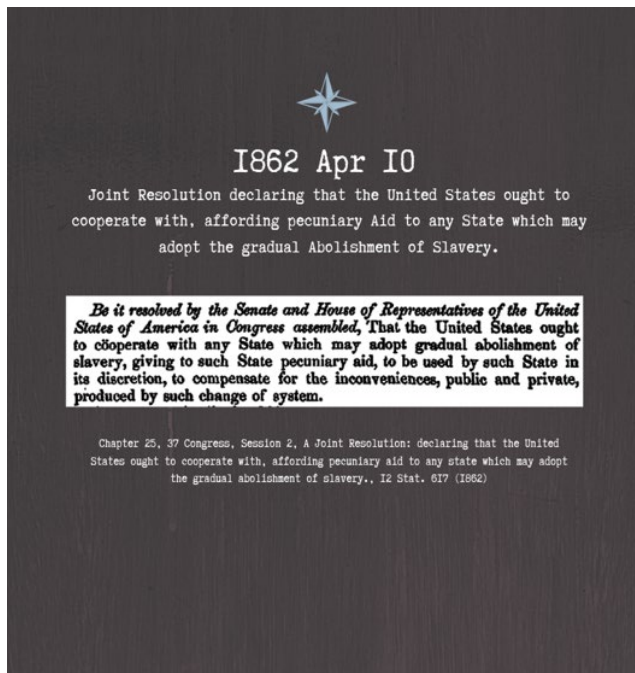
1860 Jun 16

Chapter 136, 36 Congress, Session 1, An Act: To amend an act entitled "An act in addition to the acts prohibiting the slave-trade.", 12 Stat. 40 (1860)



1862 Apr 07

TS 126: Great Britain; Slave trade, African, suppression of, 12 Stat. 1225 (1862)



1862 Apr 10

Chapter 25, 37 Congress, Session 2, A Joint Resolution: declaring that the United States ought to cooperate with, affording pecuniary aid to any state which may adopt the gradual abolishment of slavery., 12 Stat. 617 (1862)



I862 Jul II

An Act to carry into Effect the Treaty between the United States and her Britannic Majesty for the Suppression of the African Slave-Trade.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That to carry into effect the provisions of the treaty between the United States and her Britannic Majesty for the suppression of the African slave-trade, the President be, and he is hereby, authorized to nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate to appoint, a judge and also an arbitrator on the part of the United States to reside at New York; a judge and also an arbitrator to reside at Sierra Leone; and a judge and also an arbitrator to reside at the Cape of Good Hope.

Chapter 140, 37 Congress, Session 2, An Act:to carry into effect the treaty between the United States and her Britannic Majesty for the suppression of the African slave-trade., 12 Stat. 531 (1862)

1862 Jul 11

Chapter 140, 37 Congress, Session 2, An Act:to carry into effect the treaty between the United States and her Britannic Majesty for the suppression of the African slave-trade., 12 Stat. 531 (1862)



I862 Jul I7

An Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act to amend an Act entitled 'An Act in Addition to the Acts prohibiting the Slave Trade.' "

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall and may be lawful for the President of the United States to enter into arrangement, by contract or otherwise, with one or more foreign governments having possessions in the West Indies or other tropical regions, or with their duly constituted agent or agents, to receive from the United States, for a term not exceeding five years, at such place or places as shall be agreed upon, all negroes, mulattoes, or persons of color, delivered from on board vessels seized in the prosecution of the slave trade by commanders of United States armed vessels, and to provide them with suitable instruction, and with comfortable clothing and shelter, and to employ them, at wages, under such regulations as shall be agreed upon, for a period not exceeding five years from the date of their being landed at the place or places agreed upon: *Provided*, That the United States incur no expenses on account of said negroes, mulattoes, or persons of color, after having landed them at the place or places agreed upon: *And provided, further*, That any arrangement so made as aforesaid may be renewed by the President of the United States from time to time, as may be found necessary or desirable, for periods not exceeding five years on each renewal.*

Chapter 197, 37 Congress, Session 2, An Act: To amend an act entitled "An act to amend an act entitled 'An act in addition to the acts prohibiting the slave-trade.'", 12 Stat. 592 (1862)

1862 Jul 17

Chapter 197, 37 Congress, Session 2, An Act: To amend an act entitled "An act to amend an act entitled 'An act in addition to the acts prohibiting the slave-trade.'", 12 Stat. 592 (1862)



I870 Jun 03

Additional Convention between the United States and Great
Britain, Slave Trade.

All negroes, or others, (necessary witnesses excepted,) who may be on board either an American or a British vessel for the purpose of being consigned to slavery, shall be handed over to the nearest British authority. They shall be immediately set at liberty, and shall remain free, her Britannic Majesty guaranteeing their liberty. With regard to such of those negroes, or others, as may be sent in with the detained vessel as necessary witnesses, the government to which they may have been delivered shall set them at liberty as soon as their testimony shall no longer be required, and shall guarantee their liberty.

TS 131: Great Britain; Slave trade, African, suppression of. 16 Stat. 777 (1870)

1870 Jun 03

TS 131: Great Britain; Slave trade, African, suppression of, 16 Stat. 777 (1870)



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