

WEST INDIAN COLLECTION

WEST INDIAN (HAITI) COLLECTION

The Antilles are popularly known as the West Indies. This whole group of islands extends from Florida and Yucatan to Venezuela. They form by enclosure the Caribbean Sea. The Antilles fall into three divisions: the Bahamas, the Greater Antilles and the Lesser Antilles. The Greater Antilles are: Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti and Puerto Rico. The Leeward and Windward Islands constitute the Lesser Antilles.

On his first trip to the New World, Columbus discovered the West Indies. The Spanish explorers and colonizers in their attempt to reduce the natives, known as Caribs, to slavery, virtually exterminated them. Bishop Bartolomé de las Casas urged the substitution of Negro slavery. He lived to regret this move.

All of the struggles of the European kingdoms over the New World were reflected in the history of these islands. The British, Dutch, French and the Danish, were the principal contestants with the Spanish—and each other. In time these islands came to be considered among the most valuable of the colonial possessions. The sugar culture flourished. Slaves, rum and molasses were prime staples of commerce. Pirates and buccaneers roamed the surrounding waters.

France in 1635 acquired more or less permanent possession of Martinique and Guadeloupe. She has retained them until this day.

HAITI

There has been a confusion of terms as to what is really "Haiti." The native Caribs called the whole island, which is about the size of the state of South Carolina, by this name. Columbus renamed it Hispaniola (or Espanola). When the French acquired the western part of the island by the Treaty of Ryswick in 1697, they some-

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mated the Europeans. The native people as well as the country were exhausted by the continuous warfare. Many abandoned the struggle. Louverture* and Leclerc* signed a peace treaty which designated the "Black Napoleon" as Governor-General of the island. Through a ruse Louverture* was seized by Leclerc* and transported to France. Without the formality of an interview he was imprisoned by Napoleon in the Fortress of Joux located in the Jura Mountains. Here in 1803 Louverture died of want and starvation.

When the blacks received word that their leader had been tricked and that they were to be re-enslaved, they rose up and drove the French from the island. Independence was proclaimed January 1, 1804. This was the first country in Latin America to throw off the yoke of the mother country. Dessalines, relentless warrior and despot, served as emperor until his assassination in 1806. He was succeeded by Christophe, popularly known as "Black Majesty." Alexander Pétion,* leader of the mulattoes, maintained a separate state in the south and west. Though better educated and more democratic within his own ranks, he still detested the former slaves of the north. On the other hand, Christophe created two of the most imposing man-made wonders of the Americas: his castles, Sans Souci and La Ferriere. The ruins of these still stand. Christophe also encouraged agriculture, trade, public health and education. According to tradition, he killed himself with a golden bullet while revolutionaries were breaking into his palace in 1820.

Jean Pierre Boyer,* who succeeded Pétion,* achieved temporary union of the two divisions of the island from 1822-1844. He secured the recognition of the independence of Haiti from many of the European states. The United States recognition was thwarted by the pro-slavery element in Congress until the administration of President Lincoln.

The succession of rulers and fortunes of the people passes beyond the limits of the manuscripts in this collection. Today of the more than 10,000,000 people in the West Indies about 8,000,000 are of

7 These islands

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Negro extraction. In almost every field, from politics to belles-lettres, the record of achievement has been remarkable. The pattern of race relations is quite different from that characteristic of certain sections of the United States. At the present moment Haiti stands as the sole completely Negro republic in the Western World. The Dominican Republic, which shares the island, has a large infiltration of the Spanish.

The 120 manuscripts in the West Indian (Haiti) collection are chiefly governmental and military documents concerning Toussaint Louverture,* Henri Christophe* and Napoleon Bonaparte. Most of these are written in French. There are 14 pieces relating to Guadeloupe and a half dozen to some of the other areas. With a single exception, these are all enclosed in the 101 years 1716 to 1817.

L. D. REDDICK

In French unless otherwise noted

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(Unless otherwise specified, the documents in this collection are written in French. Strict calendar form has been violated in entries 9, 11, and 35 due to the nature of the documents.)

- ✓ 1716
Oct. LOUIS [XV], the Dauphin King [of France] and the present regent, Monseigneur, the Duke of ORLEANS. To All Concerned.
Fifteen orders concerning Negro slaves from the colonies; prescribe conduct of citizens towards slaves and masters who visit "Mother Country."
Printed. 4 pp. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. MS. H. D. 17.
< Registered at Parliament [Parlement of Paris]. [1]
- ✓ 1755
Sept. 13 Duncan GRANT, James DOIG, Patrick GRANT, Esquires of the Island of Antigua, West Indies; To Slingsby BETHELL [of London, England].
Bond for £20,000 to insure rent and performance of covenants in lease.
D.S. by Duncan Grant and James Doig; sealed; imprint of three other effaced seals. 1 p. 13 x 11, in English. MS. W.I.D. V. 3.
Witness, Edward Gamble, Deputy Register of Antigua. [2]
- ✓ [1763?] [?], Port-au-Prince, Haiti. To "Marie Louise Negress."
Grant of freedom.
Printed form filled in; [three?] signatures illegible; fragments of two seals; faded. 4 pp. 13 x 9. MS. H. F. 19. [3]
- ✓ 1773
June 10 William GRANT, Antigua, West Indies. To Justinian CASAMAJOR "now upon the Island of Antigua, but shortly bound for Great Britain."
Indenture for sale of Negro slaves, £360.
Copy signed by William Grant, Robert Duncan. 2 pp. 16 x 12 $\frac{7}{8}$, in English. MS. W.I.D. V. 5.
Witness, Richard Marefield, Deputy Register. [4]
- ✓ 1776
Sept. 3 [Claude Alexandre] YSABEAU [French Statesman], Lettres Patentes du Roi, Versailles [France].
Subject: to correct treatment by tribunals and citi-

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zens of colonial colored servants visiting France with their masters; decree to judges to stop disorders until His Majesty [Louis XVI] has considered new rules.

Printed. 3 pp. 9½ x 7¼. MS. H. D. 16.

Sept. 16. Registered at Parliament [Parlement of Paris], copies to be sent to all "Tribunals of the Nation." [5]

✓ 1791
1781
Oct. 16

LOUIS [XVI] King of France. To the People Present & To Be.

Decree pronounces any man of color a free citizen of France, with civic privileges, providing he has the qualifications prescribed by the Constitution.

Printed D.S. by two administrators, Leneg, the Register, and M. L. F. Du Port; royal seal. 4 pp. 9¼ x 7½. MS. H. D. 15. [6]

✓ 1793
July 22

Victor HUGUES,* Commissioner assigned by the National Convention [of France] to the Windward Islands, *Porte de la Liberté*, Guadeloupe. To the Committee of Public Safety of the National Convention.

Dispatch gives an account of expulsion of the English from Guadeloupe, and the fighting at Fleur d'Épée.

Contemporary transcript from *Gazette Française*, nos. 986, 987. Author's signature. D.S. 8 pp.. 13 x 8. A. D. G. 4. [7]

✓ 1793
July 27

The National Convention. To All Subjects of France: order issued to all "Tribunals, and Public Administrators."

Eliminates "Premiums on Slavery."

Printed D.S. by Garat, and Bonneville, General Secretary. 3 pp. 10¾ x 8¼. MS. H. D. 11.

Special note that original document in Paris was signed by Danton, President, and by Dupuy and David, Secretaries. [8]

1794-
1796

Military Vouchers.

Vouchers for soldiers in Haiti, numbered from 1.001 to 1.095, for provisions sent to various barracks.

Hdw., signed by various men of Commissary Department. 4 folders: 80 pp. 11 x 8½. Vouchers of various sizes pasted on folder pages. A few vouchers

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in English, otherwise in French. Steel file cabinet, Drawer 1.

Note on folders: "For a proper understanding of these papers, reference should be made to Brigadier-General E. A. Cruikshank, 'Simcoe's Mission to Saint Domingo' in *Ontario Historical Society Papers and Records* (Toronto, 1929) vol. 25, pp. 78-144. See also the sketch of Sir Adam Williamson in *Dictionary of National Biography*." [9]

1795
Apr. 21 General Mathieu PÉLARDY, *Porte de la Liberté*, Guadeloupe. To Commission of Armies on Land.

Acknowledges decree relative to troops who have reconquered Guadeloupe; narrates events since his arrival, troops engaged, capture of ship *Le Duras* by the English in sight of La Désirade, burning of ship *Le Ferme*. [10]

A.L.S. 1 p. 18 x 12. A.D. G. 8.

[1799] Toussaint LOUVERTURE*.¹ To Citizens of the
Seventh Parish of Gros Morne.

Year of Military document containing proclamations, ordinances, and the addresses of General Toussaint Louverture, issued Mar. 18 to Apr. 4 and during September, against the enemies of the mother country and social disturbers.

Mar. 18 to Sept. 21 D.S. 12 pp. 17 x 11. MS. H. D. T. 6. [11]

✓ [1799] Toussaint LOUVERTURE,* General in Chief
Seventh of the Army of Santo Domingo, Cap François,
Year of Haiti. To Citoyen PELLET, Chef de Brigade [and
the Re- Commander of the Post "Au Mole"].

public, Military dispatch grants leave of absence pending
the 1st orders from General Clervaux.

Germinal D.S. 4 pp. 12 x 7½. MS. H. D. T. 7. [12]

[Mar. 21] *Part Sans. Dated 1.*
1799 The Municipal Administration, Port Louis,
Oct. 3 Guadeloupe.

Excerpts from registers, in which Captains Bonaventure Caillou [?], Charles Dandieu, Pierre Frontin, Jean

1. Here, as in the majority of the MSS. of this collection, the signature is "Louverture"—not L'Ouverture." Lawrence D. Reddick, curator of the Schomburg Collection, also prefers "Louverture." Throughout this calendar the editors have used the spelling found in the MS. calendared or the book cited.

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Descadillas, and Claude Valée [?] declare that [Edme-Étienne Borne] Desfourneaux,* Agent of the Directory, had stated that he intended to repulse the agents as well as the forces sent by the French Republic into the colony.

Contemporary English translation from original French of registers. 2 pp. 12 x 8¼. MS. D. G. 13.

Noirtin, who made the excerpts, states, "Grouped and copied as per original." [13]

✓ 1799
Oct. 3

Municipal Administration, *Porte de la Liberté*, Guadeloupe. To General Mathieu PÉLARDY, Commander-in-Chief, armed forces of Guadeloupe and dependencies.

The captains and officers under General Pélardy's command demand that his signature be added to the declaration by Citizen Edme-Étienne Borne Desfourneaux,* relating to proposed revolt against the mother country.

L.S. by J. B. Corot[e], President of the Municipal Administration, and four municipal administrators [names illegible]. 4 pp. 9¾ x 7¼. A.D. G. 6. [14]

✓ 1799
Oct. 4

The Municipal Administration, *Port Louis*, Guadeloupe. To Citizen Mathieu PÉLARDY, Commander-in-Chief, armed forces, Windward Islands.

Asks that he undertake mission of former Agent Edme-Étienne Borne Desfourneaux,* and that proclamation be issued to that effect.

L.S. by President J. B. Corote and five municipal administrators—Vasselin, Pohl, Léonard, Wittox, [?]. 2 pp. 9 x ¾ x 7¼. MS. D. G. 14. [15]

✓ 1799
Oct. 4

[Commissioner] RÉGNAUDOT, Lamentin, Guadeloupe. To General Mathieu PÉLARDY.

Concerns laws of French Republic and proper conduct towards popular movements, particularly that of General Desfourneaux,* agent of the Executive Directory. [16]

L.S. 1 p. 8¼ x 6. A.L. G. 3.

✓ 1799
Oct. 4

Municipal Administration of the Canton of *Fraternité*, *Porte de la Liberté*, Guadeloupe. To Citizen Mathieu PÉLARDY, general of the division and

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commander-in-chief, of the armed forces of Guadeloupe.
Declares loyalty to him and to the French Republic.

L.S. at the Maison de Fraternité by six administrators: President Frechon, Bernum, Blanchard, Bouchou and [two signatures illegible]. 4 pp. 12 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 7 $\frac{7}{8}$.
MS. D. G. 10. [17]

✓ 1799

Oct. 5

Municipal Administration of [?]

Proclamation commending garrison and citizens for loyalty to the Republic, when incited to treason by General Desfourneaux,* agent of the Directory.

Printed broadside. 1 p. 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$. MS. D. G. 11.
[18]

✓ 1799

Oct. 6

Doc. 107
Municipal Administration, Port de la Liberté, Guadeloupe. To General Mathieu PÉLARDY, temporary agent of the Directory to the Windward Islands.

Recommends that former Agent Desfourneaux* remain in his place of arrest until his departure for France.

L.S. by five administrators: Vasselin, Léonard, Pohl, and [two signatures illegible]. 1 p. 12 x 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. MS. D. G. 12. [19]

- 1800

Jan. 5

Central Administration of the Department of Guadeloupe and Dependencies, Port de la Liberté, Guadeloupe. To Citizen [General] Mathieu PÉLARDY.

Announces sending of two dispatches, conforming to two resolutions of the preceding Central Administration.

L.S. by President Tronquier. 1 p. 12 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 8. MS. D. G. 9.

Witnesses: Secretary of State Ronquier, Administrator Deshayeste. [20]

(1800

Aug. 7

Doc. 108
Consuls of the French Republic to the Windward Islands. To Citizen [Mathieu] PÉLARDY, divisional general, at present at Curaçao.

Manifesto and order by the agents of the consuls of the French Republic to the Windward Islands concerning suspension of commercial intercourse between France and the United States; refers also to encouragement given by representatives of the Batavian government to hostile acts of American ships against French ships; mentions

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Jeannet, René Gaston, Baco de la Chapelle, prominent citizens and agents of Guadeloupe, and John Adams, President of the United States.

D.S. by H. Bresseau at Curaçao. 21 pp. 12¼ x 7½. [21]
A.D. G. 2.

- ✓ 1801 Feb. 20 G. F. PELISSIER [Captain on the staff of Major General of Guadeloupe], Paris, France. To Minister of Marine and Colonies.

Memorial and report on events in Guadeloupe in [1799-1800] the year VII [of the Republic] and beginning of the year VIII. D.S. 12pp. 12½ x 8¾. A.D. G. 1. [22]

- ✓ 1801 Aug. 29 Toussaint LOUVERTURE,* Cap François, Island of Santo Domingo. To Captain Richard R. STOWE [Brig *Aurora* of Charleston, S. C.].

Permit to proceed from Gonaïves to Port Republicain with cargo; allows island produce to be taken on board.

D.S. by Toussaint Louverture, Edw. Corbet, British agent, and Tobias Lear, General Com [mercial] Agent of the United States at Santo Domingo. Government seal. 1 p. 12½ x 8. MS. H. D.T. 10. [23]

- ✓ 1801 Oct. [1?] BONAPARTE, First Consul; Hugues B. MARET, Secretary of State; General [Charles Emanuel] LECLERC,* DUGUA, Chief of Staff. To the Consuls of the Republic and the Citizens of the Island of Santo Domingo.

Military proclamation in two parts: 1, exhorts them to rally to their new Chief General Leclerc; 2, pledge of Chief General Leclerc to deal fairly with the inhabitants.

Printed. 1 p. 17¾ x 12½. MS. H. D. 1. [24]

- ✓ 1801 Oct. 1 [Charles Emanuel] LECLERC,* General in Chief, and LENOIR, Captain General. To the Citizens of the Spanish section of the Island of Santo Domingo.

Proclaims that General Kerversau will now be their chief, since Treaty of Basle added their part of Santo Domingo to the French Colonial Empire; grants full protection and advantages of the new regime.

Printed. 1 p. 17¾ x 14¼. MS. H. D. 2. [25]

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- ✓ [1801?] Jan. 26 **Toussaint LOUVERTURE,* Bocca Nigua, Santo Domingo.** To Captain Jean ALMENAR.
Notification releases the Spanish vessel *La Santa Francisca* which had been detained by the Commander of the Station du Sud. "I wish to hold the good intelligence and harmony which subsists between our two nations; consequently I give the order you proceed to your destination, and secure your vessel immediately."
D.S. 1 p. 12¼ x 7 [part missing]. MS. H. D. T. 4. [26]
- ✓ 1807 Aug. 1 **General Department of Police, Paris, France.**
To Jean PHILIPPE, a Negro, native of Guadeloupe.
Passport issued at Caen for travel between Caen and Rouen.
Printed form filled in; signatures [illegible] of various heads of Police Departments of the Empire; sealed. 1 p. 15 x 10. A.D. G. 7. [27]
- 1808 Oct. 31 **John Joseph James VERNON¹ and John VERNON, County of Lancaster, England.** To Justinian CASAMAJOR.
"Lease by J. J. Vernon of Whitehall, near Clitheroe, of the first part, and his eldest son and heir, John Vernon of Colchester, County of Essex of the second part, and Justinian Casamajor of Potterells in the parish of North Mimms, County of Hartford and of St. Mary Axe in the City of London, Esquire of the other part; yearly rental of £1,900, plantation in parish of St. Peter, and division of New North Sound, Antigua;² containing 400 acres, and 242 slaves, for 14 years from Aug. 1, 1808, determinable by Casamajor at the end of 7 or 11 years."
D.S. by the three parties. 10 pp. 24 x 26, parchment, in English, torn and mutilated. MS. W.I.D. V. 1. [28]
Witness, [?] Hanrott, Lincoln's Inn.
- 1808 Oct. 31 **John Joseph James VERNON, Antigua, West Indies.** To Justinian CASAMAJOR.
Inventory and appraisement of property, plantation,

1. Lawrence Washington, half-brother of George Washington, in 1743 built a villa on his Virginian estate, Little Hunting Creek Plantation, and re-named the estate Mount Vernon in honor of his former commander, Admiral Edward Vernon (1684-1757), uncle of John Joseph James Vernon.
2. Location of Vernon's plantation is shown on the map: "Antigua in the West Indies, America. Laid by actual survey, and engraved by John Lugman in 1787-1788." *The History of the Island of Antigua*, Vere Langford Oliver, London, 1894.

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slaves, cattle, implements, etc., value in all £11,144.8, leased by Vernon and his son John Vernon to Casamajor. 10 pp. 16 x 13¼, in English. MS. W.I.D. V. 2. [29]

- ✓ 1811
Mar. 11 **DÉCRES,* Minister of the Marine and of the Colonies of France, Paris, France.** To Heirs of Julien RAIMOND [RAYMOND]*.

Certificate of the death of Julien Raimond, in the town of Cap François, Santo Domingo, Oct. 17, 1801, aged about 57.

D.S. by Dalmas. Brullery, Prouez, a committee of colonists of Santo Domingo, and by Décres at Paris. 1 p. 12¼ x 8. MS. H. D.R. 14. [30]

- ✓ 1814
May 20 **DEMARINIL [Administrator of Marine Department], Paris, France.** To the French Government. Notes and observations on government to be established in Santo Domingo and methods needed for restoration of order in the island.

D.S. 14 pp. 12½ x 8¼. MS. H. D. 5. Witness, Robiou, a land owner of Santo Domingo. [31]

- ✓ 1816
July 26 **[General] Alexandre PETION* [President of Haiti], Port-au-Prince, Haiti.** To Madame DRYRY [of London].

Acknowledges her letter of May 14; will be pleased to see her in Haiti; will promote her proposal for an institution for the education of young Haitians. L.S. 1 p. 9½ x 8½. A.L. H. 12. [32]

- ✓ 1817
Dec. 8 **Jean Pierre BOYER* [Haiti].** To Azéma BOYER [his daughter].

Announces arrival of a gift for her governess, whom he esteems greatly for her many qualities. A.L.S. 1 p. 9¼ x 7½, in English, except 7 lines in French. A.L. H. 9. [33]

- 1818
Dec. 28 **King Henry [Henri CHRISTOPHE*], San Souci Palace, Haiti.** To the People.

Ordonnance, countersigned by the Comte de Limonade, Secretary of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs, printed in *The Royal Gazette*, outlines a department of free public education to be headed by the Minister of

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Finance and the Interior: provides for inspections, semi-annual reports, and recommendations for building more schools, as required; pupils to be segregated at all times as to sex; names newly appointed judges, clerks of the court, and court attendants in the Department of Justice. [34]
 Printed. 4 pp. 14 x 8½. H. G. 3.

*Stored away for
during - not seen*

1819
Sept. and Dec.
Quarterly agricultural reports, Antigua, West Indies.

Detailed reports concerning the soil, agricultural implements, products raised in West Indies; compares West Indian with European agriculture; includes meteorological chart for 1818.

1820
Dec.

In two hands. 2 pp. 13¼ x 8, in English. MS. W.I. [35]
 A.D. 1.

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1826
Dec. 30

Louise LOUVERTURE* [née CHANCY], Bordeaux, France. To Marquis François de MARBOIS [First President of the Cour des Comptes].
 New Year's greetings from her and her husband.
 A.L.S. 1 p. 9¼ x 7½. A.L. H. T. 13.
 Memorandum attached, perhaps in hand of Marbois, of acknowledgment to be sent Madame Louverture. [36]

1830
Oct.

[Henry DOLPHIN?] West Indies. "to an only Son as a small testimony of his Father's affection & Esteem."

Ten short stories, "Tales of the Western Ind., chiefly founded on real occurrences of life in the Colonies" in which author states he has attempted to embody "as much of the description of the West Indies & the Manners & Customs of the Country as was consistent with a short Narrative..."

307 pp. 7¼ x 5, in English. Bound. MS. W.I.D. [37]
 V. 6.

1831
Sept. 4

A. A. H. CHRISTOPHE [Princess Angelina Alexandra of Haiti], Bagni di St. Guilani, Italy.
 To Antonio BUONFIGLI, Lucca, Italy.
 Acknowledges letter of the 3rd; is sending a dairy (log) "which will thoroughly enlighten you;" has witnessed his return to the Fatherland; hopes for "a visit here at the Springs (Bagni)."
 A.L.S. 1 p. 10 x 8½, in Italian. MS. H.F. 20

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Attached are two explanatory notes: one in Italian, 4 x 5 $\frac{3}{4}$, one in German, 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, both describing the Princess as the daughter of Henri Christophe,* Emperor of Haiti. [38]

✓ 1835
Nov. 6 Attorneys of late Justinian CASAMAJOR, Antigua, West Indies. To VERNON Estate.

Lists of Negroes belonging to Vernon Estate sold in 1798, 1800, 1813, 1815; extracts from public records [June 6, 1834], gives names, prices, to whom sold, dates, attorneys' names.

Certified copy by John Furlonge, Register of Deeds, Antigua, 4 pp. 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 9, in English, MS. W.I.D. V 4. [39]

✓ 1857
Mar. 24 FAUSTIN* [SOULOUQUE], Emperor of Haiti, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. To Arthur WHITE [Consul at Sarfaigne].

Thanks "friend" for letter and wishes him "Bon voyage."

A.L.S. 1 p. 10 x 7 $\frac{3}{4}$. A. L. H. F. 18. [40]

✓ n. d.

Anonymous "Observations of what happened at Guadeloupe, relative to the ex-agent [Edme-Étienne Borne] Desfourneaux*."

Account of military conflict of Oct. 9, 1799; General Paril was not a stranger to the insurrection against General Desfourneaux.

4 pp. 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 8. A. D. G. 5. [41]

n. d.

Jan. 23

État Major, Army of Santo Domingo. Statement of salaries for one month due six soldiers, total 128 gourdes.¹

D.S. by Nathan [surname illegible] and four [signatures illegible] members of Commissaire des Guerres [War Commissary]. 15 x 8. [part missing]. MS. H. D.T. 8. [42]

Certified by Toussaint Louverture.*

¹ Gourde was the French name for a Spanish-American dollar.

" 11
" 11
= to 20¢