

---

DECREES of the Government of Buenos Ayres, relative to the Importation and Exportation of Slaves, and the prevention of Slave Trade. 1812 to 1833.

---

(1.)—*Decree prohibiting the Importation of Slaves.*

(Translation.)

*Buenos Ayres, May 15, 1812.*

ART. I. The importation of Slaves into the territory of the republic is absolutely prohibited.

II. Those Slave-ships which shall arrive within the term of the year, reckoning from the 25th of the present month of May, shall be ordered instantly to quit our ports.

III. After the year's expiration the expeditions fitted out for this purpose shall, on arriving on our coasts, be confiscated, the Slaves by them conveyed shall be declared free, and the Government will undertake that they be employed in useful occupations.

IV. All the authorities of the State are specially enjoined to see that this Decree be duly observed and executed, which shall also be published, circulated, and preserved in the archives of this Government.

---

(2.)—*Decree of the Sovereign Assembly, relative to the Importation of Slaves.*

(Translation.)

*Buenos Ayres, February 4, 1813.*

THE General Assembly prescribes that all Slaves coming from foreign countries, in whatsoever manner introduced, shall, from this day forward, be free, provided they but even tread the soil of the territory of the United Provinces.

(3.)—*Decree prohibiting the Exportation of Slaves.*

(Translation.)

*Buenos Ayres, December 3, 1816.*

THE extent to which the practice of exporting Slaves from these provinces to foreign parts has been of late carried in this neighbourhood, having arrested the attention of the Government, and considering as it does that the circumstance above named proves that there is a design on foot to evade the measures which have been passed, and ought to be taken henceforward, for the employment in any contingency of this useful arm in the military service of the country, during such time as the conflicts which menace these provinces may require it; it has been determined that, from this day forth, the exportation of the said Slaves be prohibited under severe penalties, whether it be carried on by natives of this country or by subjects of other powers, always reserving to them the right of disposing of them as they may think fit within the territory of the Union.

And in order that this Act be not evaded under any pretext whatsoever, it is declared that henceforth Slaves belonging to persons residing out of these provinces shall come within its regulations.

Let this be communicated to those whom it concerns, and also be published, in order that it may reach the notice of all.