

The Bahama Argus.

From the Evening Mail, March 7.

It appears that the merchants and planters connected with the Crown Colonies in the West Indies, have evinced great repugnance, and uttered loud complaints, against the circular despatch of Lord Goderich, dated 5th last November, wherein the Colonial Secretary laid down some important regulations for the conduct of planters towards their slaves, and which, from the absolute authority of the Crown over the description of colonies, it does not appear that the slave proprietor can find any means of resisting. A sentence from one of Mr. Canning's speeches is quoted in the "observations" of the committee of West India planters, and considerable stress laid upon it. Mr. Canning once said (and to a certain extent we agree with him), that "if the condition of the slave is to be improved, that improvement must be introduced through the medium of his master." Now, it is all well if the master will suggest, support, or *not oppose*, any useful measures for the real well-being of the slaves. It is evident that this state of feeling is the most unfavourable that can be to improvement, and that no man will work cheerfully if his mind is continually haunted with the idea that he should be, by right, in so much better circumstances as not to work at all. It should therefore be the first great object of the Government to frame some measure which would correct these mistaken notions, and which would so operate upon the slave, that he would be prevented, on hereafter procuring his freedom, from indulging in idle habits, or reverting to the deplorable condition of the savage.

"There can be no doubt that the colonists could suggest valuable expedients for accomplishing this end, if the rights of private property were regarded in the same sacra manner as is the case in respect to property in Great Britain. Let the Government, in its acts, give a full guarantee that, under every change, the existing rights of property are to be preserved, and the colonists no doubt will promptly, cheerfully, and efficaciously propose further measures for forwarding the work of amelioration, and preparing the way for final emancipation, much better than that any hitherto been proposed in this country. But it cannot for a moment be expected that this zeal will ever be manifested so long as the British Government is distrusted. This distrust is natural and just, when all consideration of compensation is evaded and set aside, and when every admission of the colonists, however it may have been guarded and qualified, is eagerly seized and acted upon to the fullest extent, and in the most unqualified manner, without regard to the injury or risk which may be occasioned to the rights of property. The very despatch of the Colonial Secretary under animadversion is sufficient to check, if not to stifle, any sentiments of cordiality that might arise amongst the colonists to co-operate with the Government.

"The committee might here, with propriety, close their observations; but there are still a few passages in the despatch, which, coming from the high authority of Lord Goderich might give rise to much misunderstanding in the public mind if they were passed unnoticed. It was respectfully stated to his lordship, that it was impolitic, at the present time, to issue a new order in council, containing sweeping changes in respect to property, when it was known that the colonists were driven almost to despair by commercial distresses.

"His lordship has replied in a manner very extraordinary indeed. He states that the great permanent source of that distress is to be found in the institution of slavery, that it is vain to hope for continued prosperity in any country in which the people are not dependent on their own voluntary industry for their support, and that he cannot but regard the system itself as the perennial spring of these distresses, of which, during the last 50 years, the complaints have been so frequent and so just. Regarding, therefore, the orders in council as a measured, but, at the same time, a decided advance towards the ultimate extinction of slavery, he must on that account regard it as tending to the cure of the pecuniary embarrassments which it is said to enhance.

"The committee consider that these inferences on the part of his lordship are not well founded.

"In the first place, the institution of slavery does not necessarily occasion commercial distress. By means of slavery, the United States of America derive almost the whole of their foreign commerce, and they have attained a prosperity unparalleled in the history of nations.

"In the second place, a denunciation of the great vicissitudes in West India commerce comes with a bad grace from a British Minister of State, when it is well known that those vicissitudes spring from the policy of the mother country, and from her having for an indefinite period of time, used her possessions as passive instruments, who might be taxed at pleasure, and forced to bend to every change which policy or caprice on the part of the mother country might dictate.

"Even if we do not attempt a comprehensive code, but look merely to the passing period, and to the existing state of slavery, the local circumstances in supplying the negroes with food vary most materially. Enactments in this respect, which would be applicable to Barbadoes or Antigua, would be quite absurd in Demerara, Trinidad, or the Mauritius.

"It has further to be observed, that the basis and structure of the laws vary in the different colonies. The majority have English laws; but some have Spanish, some Dutch, some French; and it is evident that local institutions have arisen which render it necessary to consult the habits and predilections of the people, if we seek to effect any salutary changes. All statesmen of eminence lay down the maxim, that it is better to improve political institutions when defective, so that they may be in harmony with the notions of the people, than totally to destroy them, and substitute others in their place, quite novel in their application, and framed according to some general standard of government.

"Besides the differences in the fundamental structure of the laws, the comparative state of civilization, and of moral instruction, varies in the different colonies. Some

of them carried on the slave-trade much later than others, and consequently have more Africans, whose general notions of civil government must differ in some respects from those of the Creoles. In the laws respecting evidence, for example, it would be scarcely proper to apply, indiscriminately, the same enactments to Pagans imported from Africa, and to Christian slaves who were, in some degree at least, acquainted with the truths of the gospel, and the obligations of an oath. It is not meant that in the lapse of time the enactments must always remain dissimilar, but that some difference should be made in regard to the period of their introduction into the respective colonies. In this point of view Lord Goderich evidently misunderstands the reasoning of the colonists."

"It is notorious, that the idea of emancipation generally entertained at present by the slaves is not so much the right of choosing their master, and working for wages, as absolute freedom from labour. It is evident that this state of feeling is the most unfavourable that can be to improvement, and that no man will work cheerfully if his mind is continually haunted with the idea that he should be, by right, in so much better circumstances as not to work at all.

It should therefore be the first great object of the Government to frame some measure which would correct these mistaken notions, and which would so operate upon the slave, that he would be prevented, on hereafter procuring his freedom, from indulging in idle habits, or reverting to the deplorable condition of the savage.

Accounts from Demerara yesterday, are to the 19th of January. It is found impossible to carry into effect the orders of the English Government respecting the slaves; the resistance is nearly universal, and the Court of Policy was to meet at an early day in February, when the first measure resorted to would be, it was said, the stoppage of all supplies to the Government of the colony.—Morning Chronicle.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Every person about to leave these Islands, after having resided therein for the space of THIRTY DAYS, must give security at the Secretary's Office, or put up his name in said Office for FIFTEEN DAYS previous to his departure; after which, at any time during FORTY-FIVE DAYS, a Ticket may be obtained.

NAMES OF PERSONS

ABOUT TO OBTAIN TICKETS FOR DEPARTURE.	
29th February	Elizabeth Sullivan
20th "	Esther Robinson
13th April	Margaret Chipchase
21st "	Freeman Johnson
21st "	Emily Johnson
20th "	W. I. Alexander
20th "	John Wildgoose
9th May	Miss Dennis
	Sarah Baldwin
	W. M. Fox

JUST RECEIVED, per brig EUPHEMIA, and for sale on reasonable terms, for CASH.

Hatchets, Axes,
Hook and Eye Hinges, assorted,
Shoe Hemp, Awls, &c.
Silver Wire Tooth Brushes,
Best Gilt and common Pins,
Do. Gold Eyed Needles,
Sailors' Clasp Knives,
Table do., and Forks,
German Steel Hand-saws,
Window Hooks and Staples, assorted,
Iron Wire, for Tinware,
Sewing Twine and Needles,
Neats' foot and Paint Oil,
Green, Blue, Black and White Paints,
Sheet Lead, &c. &c. &c.

W. J. WEECH.

May 9th.

NOTICE.

ALL PERSONS having demands against the Estate of Joseph Saunders, late of the Island of New Providence, gentleman, deceased, are requested to render the same duly attested; and those indebted to the said Estate, are likewise requested to make immediate payment, at the office of G. P. Wood, Esquire.

THOMPSON SAUNDERS, Executor.

April 2d.

FINAL NOTICE.

THE SUBSCRIBERS, having closed the mercantile concerns of the late Elias J. Solomon, Esq., lately notify to those who still remain indebted to his Estate, that unless their respective demands are liquidated previous to the 1st June, they will be placed in the hands of an Attorney-at-Law, for immediate recovery.

E. M. SOLOMON, Executor.

C. S. ADDERLEY, Executor.

March 31st.

EXUMA SALT, for sale at 15 cents per bushel. Apply to THOMAS THOMPSON, At Exuma.

February 4th.

FOR RENT, The house and premises, lately occupied by Mrs. Poitier. ALSO—

The house and premises, lately occupied by Mr. Donnan. Apply to J. W. MILLER.

April 24th.

FOR SALE.

The choice of 2 Lots of Land, with buildings and improvements thereon, situated in Prince's street, generally known by the name of Lightfoot, or Cupid's Row.

For Terms and other particulars, apply to the Subscribers.

HENRY GREENSLADE & Co.

March 3d.

The Bahama Argus.

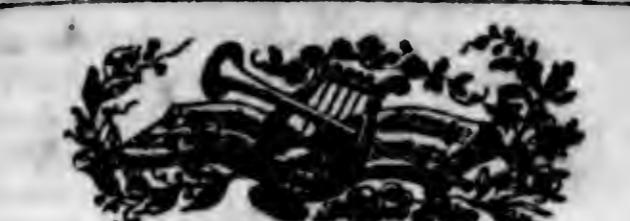
GEORGE BIGGS, Editor.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1832.

VOL. I---No. LXXXVII.

THE BAHAMA ARGUS.

PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY IN NASSAU, N. P.
Eight Dollars per annum---In advance.



POETRY.

THE CONTRAST.

The stately homes of England,
How beautiful they stand,
Amidst their tall ancestral trees,
O'er all the pleasant land. *Mrs. Hemans.*

The stately homes of Ireland !
How desolate they stand,
Amidst the forest groves and trees
Of that deserted land.
The deer no more o'er meadows bound,
Or bask in summer's beam ;
The swan her song in plaintive sound
Is wailing on the stream.

The mournful homes of Ireland !
At round the turf by night,
There, looks of famine,—not of love,
Meet in the dismal light.
No woman's voice is heard in song,
No child's tale is told ;
The calls of hunger are among
The youthful and the old.

The wretched homes of Ireland !

The demon discord lives ;

Banished the holy quietness ;

Or sacred Sabbath hours ;

Solomon, yet sad, the charnel-bell's chime

Floats o'er the wills at noon ;

Fierce passions rise in that still time,

Engendering hate and scorn.

The cottage homes of Ireland !

By thousands on their plains !

The cabin and the smoking hut,

No comfort now contains.

Through bog and rushes forth they peep,

Overwhelmed with rankling weeds ;

In deep despair their inmates sleep,

And dream of desperate deeds.

The fair, free homes of Ireland !

Are long in hut and hall,

May hearts of native pride return,

And guard each hallowed wall.

And green for ever the grove,

And bright the flowery sod,

Where true the patriot spirit loves

Its country and its God !

From Fraser's Magazine, for November, 1831.

ENGLAND AND HER COLONIES IN THE WEST.

Much as has been already written and spoken on that momentous theme, which has been designated as the "West India Question," and only too as that much has been maintained by one of our numerous correspondents, yet we hope that we shall not be held intrusive if we venture to say, that there still remains ample field to defend that subject; and that there are yet many arguments which, with great success, may be brought to bear.

We think that the glaring impolicy of granting instant unqualified emancipation, (for such do our enemies contend for,) has not been exposed in a manner so strenuous as it might, and that the vast value and importance of colonial possessions to England, in whatever point of view they may be considered, has not been sufficiently appreciated.

It is evident that the slaves will be unprofitable to us.

And by some means, reach the goal of freedom;

and then may they claim that it would be unjust to refuse—

perhaps, impossible—while now it is conferring a blessing

on them, to withhold from their grasp that which would

plunge them, and all connected with them, into everlasting

ruin, both moral and political.

The generality of negroes

are like children; and no one is a friend to either,

who would early place within their reach those objects which

are more peculiarly the province of their elders both in

age and understanding.

No one wisely makes a gift to an infant

which he can, by any possibility, pervert the use of,

and perhaps seriously injure himself and his friends by his awkwardness.

When, however, the child ceases to

be ignorant of its uses, and acquires a knowledge of the legitimate end to which it may be put, then, as of course,

he claims his due, receives it, and knowing how to cover himself, profits by his newly made acquisition, and brings forth fruit, some tenfold, some a hundredfold.

Why do we exercise so strict a caution and control over our children till they arrive at the age of manhood ?

The answer is obvious—because they are not fit to do for themselves which we, knowing their deficiency, do for them.

Why, *pari passu*, should not the slave have his instant freedom ?

Why should not that man, who till now has, at the will of others, and under their guidance, curbed his rising passions, suppressed his love of drink (innate in all his brethren), burst forth from this shackled state, and receive freedom, in the most unqualified meaning of that word ?

Equally prompt is the answer as before—Because,

as certainly as one event must, by the laws of nature,

follow another, so surely will he use his liberty to the manifest detriment of society.

Will not the untutored savage assume on this occasion ?

Ignorant of the boon conferred upon him under the names of liberty and freedom, he would hardly credit that, having obtained his manumission, still he was not to use his own as he pleased ; in other words, to the working of revenge for fancied injuries received at the hands of his former masters.

It may be opposed to this assertion, that there are laws—that there are regulations, which would be enforced to prevent all this.

But what we would ask, avail

laws, while they are a mere cipher ?

What will the orders

of the governor in council, issued from his closet to the trembling whites, avail to put down the comm

The Bahama Argus.

THE ARGUS.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16. 1832.

On Monday evening, the schooner Pomona, Captain Miller, and the American schooner, Cassa Ann, Captain Miller, both arrived from Philadelphia; and yesterday morning, the American schooner Lafayette, Captain Savoy, from New York. By the above vessels, we have received our regular files of newspapers from the first named place to the 2d, and from the latter to the 5th instant, inclusive, which contain London dates to the evening of the 31st of March, Liverpool to the 1st ultimo, and Paris to the 30th of March.

The second reading of the Reform Bill in the House of Lords, was postponed from the 5th to the 9th ultimo, at the request of Lord Wharncliffe, who formerly voted against the Bill. The Reformers consider this to indicate an intention, on the part of His Lordship, to give it a more favourable reception in its present shape. The "quarter sessions," an inferior court, is the cause given, probably as an excuse for its postponement from the 5th to the ninth. A further creation of Peers is considered as absolutely requisite, to effect its passage;—in fact, it is the only remaining hope.

The cholera is rapidly increasing in England, Ireland and Scotland, and has also found its way to Paris.

The last official report from London, is to the 31st March; where there were 87 new cases and 44 deaths; and in the country 33 new cases, and 16 deaths. Total number seized in the United Kingdom, 7086; Deaths, 2305.

We understand, that H. M. schooner Nimble, Lieut. Postbury, parted company with the Ariadne, a few days since, between this and the Havana—the latter having on board, the Head-Quarters of the 2d West India Regiment from the Bay of Honduras, for this place; and that the Ariadne may be expected to-morrow, or the day after.

It is with sincere regret, that we have learnt the departure from this life of Lieut. McVicar, of the 2d West India Regiment, which melancholy event took place a short time since at sea, on board the Ariadne, in her passage from Honduras to Paris.

The following is extracted from Galigani's Messenger, (published in Paris,) of the 31st January, 1832:

"Died, in Paris, on Friday, the 27th instant, after a short illness, aged ten years, Susan Emily, third daughter of the Hon. Patrick Brown, of Nassau, New Providence."

SATURDAY, May 12th, 1832.

To the Editor of the Bahama Argus.

Sir—Accurate are the representations in the Argus, I could not feel perfectly satisfied as to the correctness of the statement in your paper of the 9th instant, relative to the trial and sentence of Farquharson's negroes, until I had made some enquiry into it; and, to my great astonishment, I have found all to be true. To the power that has been arrogated in this Colony, by setting at nought sanctioned laws, and upsetting established and long established regulations, I could never have imagined, that the powers hitherto supposed to belong to Oimpotente alone, were to be assumed by mere wrong-headed, mortal man, in visiting the sins of the parents on the heads of their children. Are they to blame, because their mothers, like fanned Eloisa of old, have with her exclaimed—"Curse on all laws, but those which love I have made!" and have acted up to that feeling? Are all the adult brown population of this Island, (for they are all illegitimate, with the exception of the decent and well conducted inhabitants of the Creek Settlement,) to be denied justice, on account of their illegitimacy? And is the distribution of partial justice to be one of the arrangements of this new and promised happy era? A statement, no doubt, of the proceedings of the trial, the sentence and its mitigation, will be forwarded to Lord Goderich. It must not be omitted:—It will shew how cheerly the work is getting on, and will entitle us, as well to some more lucrative government, as to a K. C. B. after our business is finished. But what would His Lordship say, if asked—"How does it happen, that, under your nose, my Lord, illegitimacy is raised to the most distinguished rank, fortune, and honour in the kingdom, while in His Majesty's Bahama Islands, it is so accursed, as to shut out from the pale of justice, the coloured negroes which are so unfortunately situated?" And, with that difference which I conceive to be due to Sir James Carmichael-Smyth, I will take leave to ask him, may not his expressions?—Gentlemen I am very happy to see you in His Majesty's Government House.—I recognize no distinction, no differences, between the free subjects of His Majesty's Bahama Islands,—when he has had it recorded as his opinion, that the description of persons he has thus addressed, are not entitled from their slaves to that respect and to that obedience which is due to legitimate birth. Whatever kind feelings I may have for the free coloured population, let it not be imagined that I am putting myself forward as their champion; I know that the infatuation with which they are seized, kept alive by the artful, the designing, and the interested, is not at present to be removed; they will not see that they are made the instruments to perfect a certain work; and the delusion will, I fear, only vanish when they, with us, are engulfed in the vortex of ruin.

We observe by our last papers from New York, that it has been proposed, that the duty upon salt in the United States shall be reduced one-half,—say, to 5 cents per bushel of 56lbs. instead of 10 cents.

Turks Islands Salt is quoted at 50 cents per bushel, in the New York Courier and Enquirer.

* A fine thing this, for the "new era."

The arbitrary measure of proceeding by Ex-Officio information, was generally understood to be resorted to only

IMPORTANT TO HISTORIANS.—We neglected to announce to the public, the second landing in these Islands of that great Navigator, and discoverer of the new world, Christopher Columbus; a marble statue of whom, His Excellency the Governor has imported by the brig Rose-Hill, from London, for the purpose of perpetuating the name of Smyth, already too deeply engraved upon the minds of the Conchs by his administration.

This piece of Sculpture is now lying on the wharf at which it was landed, where, we presume, it will remain until His Excellency shall have decided upon a fit spot to erect it. We understand, for this purpose a Council of toadies was held fast Friday, and the area of the Public Buildings—we mean the King's Buildings—was fixed upon as the most eligible situation for it. It is not known whether the duties of the 8th Geo. 2d, will pay for this great overburden of the public offices, or not; we, however, think His Excellency will hardly have the effrontry to ask indemnification from the next House of Assembly;—In the history of Columbus' voyages, we find, that when he was in Jamaica in great want of food, in consequence of the natives having stopped their usual supplies, he, by what to them appeared a miracle, frightened them into obedience to his demands, and obtained all he wanted. We shall, therefore, advise His Excellency to invoke the Gods, to warn this Statue of Columbus into life, with their heavenly fire, as the ancient fable tells us Pygmalion's carved beauty was; for nothing but a miracle can work any change in the public mind, towards Sir James Carmichael-Smyth.

As another regulation of this new and happy era, are such as is promulgated—perhaps the opening of the Courts, altogether; and the adoption of military rule, as such, as at one time, was exercised at the Cape of Good Hope, and which our excellent Governor, when at once held some situation there, may have indulged a desire for.—As Mr. Wood and Mr. Anderson are not to be brought up for trial before next July, and the state is being endangered by the attempt to classise Mr. Nesbitt for insolence, why not then constitutionally proceed to his trial? The course adopted, I contend, is an infringement on the rights of the subject; and an insult to the nation, who have, till lately, and who still ought to be, chosen, as the body forming the grand impetus of a

young nation, the ball in question being generally very well attended, and looked forward to with much anxiety. Twice the Mayor went to M. Duval, the Prefect, to endeavour to induce him not to insist upon the execution of an order which created so much discontent as to be likely to lead to bad consequences; and the Mayor also undertook to be security for the public tranquillity, if things were allowed to go in their usual train. The Prefect, however, was inflexible—he had made up his mind to re-

sort to force.

"All was finished; and of this scene, which had nearly become fatal, nothing would have remained except the wish to prolong the carnival till Sunday, according to the usual custom, if the authorities had not been imprudent enough to forbid the masked ball which had been annull'd to have recourse to so outrageous a procedure.

"This prohibition excited considerable irritation among the young men, the ball in question being generally very well attended, and looked forward to with much anxiety. Twice the Mayor went to M. Duval, the Prefect, to endeavour to induce him not to insist upon the execution of an order which created so much discontent as to be likely to lead to bad consequences; and the Mayor also undertook to be security for the public tranquillity, if things were allowed to go in their usual train. The Prefect, however, was inflexible—he had made up his mind to re-

sort to force.

"When the play was over, and the ball was to have commenced, the doors were closed. Loud murmers were uttered by some young men who were stationed near the theatre; but they contented themselves with this expression of their feelings.

"Yesterday the youth of the town, discontented at having been deprived of their amusements, descended in no measured terms upon the conduct of the authorities, and at night-fall went to the Prefecture of Police, and by cries and hisses shewed their displeasure at the measures adopted by M. Duval on the preceding evening.

"A patrol of the troops of the line having come up, the young men peaceably left the yard of the prefecture, the gate of which was occupied by the soldiers of the patrol.

"A group stationed opposite, which had been reinforced by new comers and curios of all descriptions, continued their vociferations and hisses. The noise, however, gradually diminished, and the crowd began to disperse, when, at a moment of perfect calm, a pulse agent arrested a young man, who is said to have been quite peaceful, and conducted him to the guard-house. The shoutings and hisses, intermixed with cries of "Down with the Prefect," then recommenced with greater violence. At this moment, from the two opposite sides of the rue du Quai, a company of grenadiers, and one of voltigeurs, of the 35th of the line, being seen in the distance, advanced, and charged with fixed bayonets. Those who saw them coming endeavoured in vain to escape. They were trodden under by the principal group, and were pierced by the bayonets of the soldiers.

"We were present in company with some counsellors connected with the Cour Royale, and several respectable citizens, and we affirm, in the face of Justice, that no summons was made, that no provocation was given to the soldiers, and that no defence was attempted. Besides, of what we would have been a summons, to those who attempted to disperse were trodden under foot, every avenue of common spirit, attributed to base cowardice alone. Mr. Nesbit has had, recently, an example in the male conduct of a Judge, who at once laid aside his gown, and gave for an affront the satisfaction that was demanded of him;—and while this conduct has raised that Judge in the estimation of the community, so has the reverse, on the part of Mr. Nesbit, so debased him, that, on any future occasion, should we presume to be insolent, it would be cowardice to resort to any other mode of retaliation, than to the use of the foot. A pretty figure will a patrol, a future, cut—as a leader of a party! Will that party intimidate him? It will reflect discredit on them, if they do. The person at whose instance, I believe, the Ex-Officio emanated, acted from particular motives and feelings—a feeling, Rogers, of respect for you; for his heart, he must despise the man who has first swallowed the threat of being kicked,—and tamely submitted, another time, to be proclaimed a base, cowardly liar. No doubt, however, in your opinion, Rogers!—Better is a living dog, than a dead lion."

in cases of high treason, or where the government or state were in immediate and imminent danger. In this blessed government here, any minister of every day vent

should so happen, as the means of gratifying the negative feelings of power,—a feeling which, originate where it may, is a cruel, deliberate wickedness; the desire to remain quiet, and replied with jokes, in perfect good taste, to the meanness with which they were assailed. The soldiers, who had been arrested by an officer, retired behind the gate, which was closed.

"The crowd increased, and it was then found out that a difficulty had been very uselessly created. The gate was opened; the carriages and horses formed peacefully in line, followed by an immense crowd, and, after having paraded round the town, the actors in the farce were about to take off their dresses.

"All was finished; and of this scene, which had nearly become fatal, nothing would have remained except the wish to prolong the carnival till Sunday, according to the usual custom, if the authorities had not been imprudent enough to forbid the masked ball which had been annulled to have recourse to so outrageous a procedure.

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The Bahama Argus.

(Concluded from the first Page.)

restored, what advantage will the sufferers during such a state of things gain by the execution of some free blacks; and what recompence will they receive from their dying throes? Such, doubtless, throughout our colonies, would be the state which would follow an early and total emancipation. Susceptible only of base passions, the slaves, untaught by the blessed precepts of religion and previous civilisation, would either wrest the supremacy from the hands of their masters, or sinking into that idleness, that vice innate incidental to their nature and the climate, they would exist as unprofitable sons of Adam. They would be a nuisance to all orderly and well-disposed people, from their idleness, and dissipated habits; and in the course of a few years, wasted by disease so proverbially prevalent among them, forced from want to devour the very earth itself—these free men would bitterly curse the hour that called them free, and vainly long for the return of that protection which formerly they would have received, when in want, from their abused masters. We say vainly long for it; for, alas! neither would the power or inclination to assist them exist any longer. Their owners, driven from the island, or remaining from inability to remove, could hardly be expected to provide for the poor at large, as formerly they were obliged to do for their own sick and aged slaves. Then would the warning voice, once so neglected, recur to the minds of the projectors of this theory; and then, perhaps, they might be induced to confess themselves mistaken in their calculations, and overhasty to achieve that change so bitterly repented of all hands.

It cannot be asserted, that Christianity does any where expressly forbid the continuance of slavery. It is by no means the case; but, on the contrary, it may be said, in the person of St. Paul, to have—somewhat awkwardly for the slaves—one-qualified acknowledgement of its existence, by his begging as a favour the emancipation of a slave whom he had admitted within the pale of the church.

It is evident, therefore, we think, that the argument as to slavery being directly opposed by Christianity, is by no means so very unsatisfactory as we were at first inclined to admit.

Still, however, we would not defend it on any such ground. It is a system, that is, our system, is one which has grown with time and circumstances, from the first petty theft of a child, to the colossal monster which defaced the whole world, till the abolition act was passed by the British parliament in 1806. In that act the English—to their praise it spoken—were unanimous. No one could defend the brutal system to which it put an end; and since then the attention of England has been turned towards the means of checking its progress abroad, as well, as in our own colonies; sums of money have been expended in keeping up a naval force, for the purpose of carrying into effect the agreement of the great powers; but, except as regards ourselves, we fear to very little purpose.

However, a nominal stop is now put to that trade, which formerly was not only allowed but countenanced and encouraged by the government; and that has now become a crime, for which a boon was formerly held out as an inducement. We do not repine at this; nor do any of the owners of such property: but we smile when we contrast the acts of former parliaments with those of the present, and ruminate on the prospects of the future. We see an assembly at one time holding out every inducement, every encouragement to the West Indian, rearing him as a tender infant, and far much the same reason that a mother would, because the *hopes of her age depend upon his success*. Year after year we watch the increasing tide of revenue derived from these settlements; and no one can hear any complaint from the planters against the heavy duties imposed by the mother country. Suddenly, however, the prospect is charged with heavy clouds, and the West Indians perceive their bright fortune changing. Then arises in the state a knot of men who advocate strenuously the abolition of that trade which formerly was a source of wealth and profit to themselves, and from which they have withdrawn their speculations. The trade is abolished, and the expense of cultivating the sugar-cane increases as a matter of course; from that time the planters insensibly begin to perceive, that their interest is to preserve the lives of their slaves, and the result is a gradual amelioration of their condition—a change which is plainly perceptible to those resident in the West Indies, but of course can never be appreciated by the people of England. Not content with this, the same men, after a while, as earnestly insist upon the necessity of emancipating the slaves now on our different colonies, without any slight regard being paid to the interest of the planters, acquired by law, in the property of the slaves, and who claim a freehold right of property over them. They raise the banner of freedom, and array on their side the excited, and purposely misguided, feelings of the people, who, ignorant of every thing connected with the subject, are daily rained with the most enormous falsehoods, and to whom exaggerated reports are dashed up with all the skill of a French cook, who varies an egg five hundred times. They are informed that the West Indians abuse their slaves; reports are propagated of women flogged in the most disgusting way, and goaded on to work till nature sinks exhausted under the load of cruelty and suffering. Thus armed, the most sweet voices of the people are reserved for such as would do away with such a system, which never existed even in the worst times of slavery, and surely does not at the present day exist, save in the heated brain of the fanatic, or enthusiastic Methodist; who, gifted with the *orotundum* of the Greeks, pours forth an incoherent rhapsody relating to the horrors of slavery, and is reckoned a great preacher in his congregation. That such should be led away, does not surprise us; but that those who call themselves the gentlemen

of England—that vein in which talent is to be discovered—should believe in such a farago of lies, and, believing, advocate the interested views of the saints, we must confess does astonish us not a little.

What may be gleaned from Mackenzie's notes on Haiti, ends in the melancholy fact, that the negroes there retreat to the woods, and barely till the earth sufficient for their subsistence. The cultivation of the cane has ceased, except for the purpose of making a species of drink called taifa or rum, by means of which they indulge their natural propensities of intoxication and bestiality. To this state it is that the slaves would be reduced, that is, the mass of them; and they will inevitably perish from the want of that support which they now receive at the hands of their abused masters. The few of them, those who have been reared to some trade by their masters, might perhaps find employment, if their services should be required in the proposed new state of freedom, which is very doubtful; but the field negro, when free, will never be induced, by any remuneration, to cultivate the soil permanently; therefore, as a necessary consequence, the manufacture of sugar will cease entirely throughout the islands. Blessed by nature with great fertility of soil, the islands, with little or no assistance from the hands of man, of themselves would sustain their respective populations.

Moreover, we do not hold the opinion that the slaves themselves would be inclined to set much value upon their freedom; and this we venture to say, having perused lately a work, the author of which is a gentleman resident in the island of St. Vincent, a lawyer, and, as far as we know, not possessed of any property in slaves himself. The book is entitled *An Historical Account of the Island of St. Vincent*, by Charles Sheppard, Esq.^r. It touches very slightly upon the theme of slavery, either one way or the other, and is chiefly confined to a mere history of the island, from its first discovery by Columbus to the present time, and an interesting narrative of the Charib war, which was waged between the original possessors of the island, aided by the French and the English settlers. In the course of the latter there is a passing comment on the conduct of the Charib to the slaves, which we give in the author's words.

"About this time the Charib seemed delighted with every opportunity of slaughter and devastation. Hitherto they had carried themselves towards the negroes in a very wily and politic manner; *they had offered them liberty*, and exhorted them to receive it; but, happily for the inhabitants, the proposal, however flattering, was rejected with disdain. Comparatively very few espoused their interests, while a considerable number opposed them, well-armed, and either gallantly fell or triumphed with their masters. In consequence of this inflexibility of conduct in the negroes, they became equally the objects of detection with their masters (*i.e.* to the Charib); immediate death was inflicted on all who fell into the hands of the Charib."

Whether considered as regards his happiness, morality, or existence at large, as we have already said, we assert that the slave is now in a far preferable condition, being still a slave, than he ever can be when free, unless with his freedom his mind be enlarged miraculously. We of course allude to that species of freedom to which he would attain in the event of his instant and unqualified emancipation. In his latter state he would be cared for by no one; whereas, as a slave, he is nourished and cherished in sickness, want, and age, and his pains are alleviated by regularly appointed medical attendants: make him free, and his existence is interesting to none—perhaps may be a source of dread to all—and he becomes wretched and miserable.

Mr. Sheppard, after enumerating some of the improvements lately effected in the state of the coloured population, adds—

"Notwithstanding all these, there is one lamentable deficiency . . . There is no public or private establishment for the relief of the aged or sick poor white and free inhabitants: while the slaves on the estates in their old age are enjoying the comforts of a decent maintenance, from the supports of their masters, the *infirm or sick white or free persons* has no resource but individual support and charity; and this, in a country where so few ties of relationship exist, must necessarily be precarious."

Does not this speak volumes as to the comparative happiness of the two classes, the free black and the slave?

Is there any one so romantic as to say, better stars and die of disease as a freeman, than live happily as a slave?

The case, in our opinion, admits not of a doubt. There is a gentleman resident in the town of Kingston, the capital of the island of St. Vincent, by far the healthiest and pleasantest of the islands, and his testimony freely given, in a pure wish to better the state of the community at large, goes to prove how infinitely superior the condition of a slave is to that of a freeman in that island, when age and sickness oppress him. We may take this as a specimen of the rest—*ex quo dico omnes*. Let any one, like Mr. Sheppard, visit the hut of the slave, and watch him narrowly, see him rise to his work, and enjoy his holidays with the zest of a schoolboy; and then let him go into the town, and there inspect the residence of the free people of colour, and the poor white people also: we may give, we imagine, a shrewd guess as to the result of his observations.

While, however, people talk of scenes of horror which they never witnessed, and perhaps only dreamed of their heated brains after a long debate in the House, we can hardly hope for a just hearing of a fair statement of the facts which may be produced in evidence to support the view we have taken of this case.

* Historical Account of the Island of St. Vincent. By Charles Sheppard, Esq. London. W. Nicol, Cleveland Row, St. James's.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

If every person about to leave these Islands, after having resided therein for the space of THIRTY DAYS, and give security at the Secretary's Office, or put up his name in said Office for FIFTEEN DAYS previous to his departure, for which, at any time during FORTY-FIVE DAYS, a Ticket may be obtained.

NAMES OF PERSONS

ABOUT TO OBTAIN TICKETS FOR DEPARTURE.

26th February	Elizabeth Sullivan
26th "	Esther Robinson
1st April	Margaret Chipchase
21st "	Freeman Johnson
21st "	Emily Johnson
26th "	W. I. Alexander
30th "	Miss Dennis
9th May	Sarah Baldwin
11th "	W. M. Fox
	Geo. S. Roy

BRUCE'S NEW YORK TYPE FOUNDRY, Established in 1813.—The subscriber has completed a new edition of his book of Specimens, with which his customers, and other Printers disposed to buy from him, may be supplied on application at his Foundry, No. 18 and 20 Augustus street, behind the City Hall. He would remark, for the information of those who have not been in the habit of dealing with him, and because a different practice has been extensively introduced, that his book contains nothing but the actual productions of his own Foundry, and presents a true specimen of what will be furnished to others. The assortment very complete, has been deliberately and carefully in twenty years brought to its present high state of perfection, and embraces a variety of styles, adapted to different tastes and to the various departments of printing Newspaper, Book and Job, highly finished, and cast of the most serviceable metal. Not to mention the varieties which are distinguished by their numbers in the Book, it contains of

ROMAN and ITALIC 27 sizes, from twelve-line Pica to Pearl.

TWO-LINE AND TITLE, 15 sizes, Two-line Columnion to Agate.

SHADED, 13 sizes, Ten-line Pica to Long Primer. **ITALIAN**, 7 sizes, Seven-line Pica to Long Primer. **ANTIQUE**, 17 sizes, Ten-line Pica to Nonpareil. **BLACK**, 12 sizes, Four-line Pica to Minion. **OPEN BLACK**, 5 sizes, Four-line Pica to Great Primer.

SCRIPT, 2 sizes, Double Small Pica and Great Pica, or Pearl.

BESIDES Music, Back Slope, Ornamented Letters and Lottery Figures, Piece Fractions, Superiors, Astronomical and other Signs, Space Rules, Brass Rules, Ornamented Dashes, Long Braces, more than 200 kinds of Flowers, and 1000 Cuts and Ornaments for School Books, Newspapers, and Scientific works.

Orders for any of these, and also for **Presses**, **Cases**, **Composing Sticks**, **Cases**, **Furniture**, **Printing Ink**, or any thing required in the Printing business, will be executed on the most favourable terms, and with the utmost promptitude, by a considerable number opposed them, well-armed, and either gallantly fell or triumphed with their masters. In consequence of this inflexibility of conduct in the negroes, they became equally the objects of detection with their masters (*i.e.* to the Charib); immediate death was inflicted on all who fell into the hands of the Charib."

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FINAL NOTICE.

THIS SUBSCRIBERS, having closed the mercantile concerns of the late Elias J. Saltonstall, Esq., hereby notify to those who still remain indebted to his Estate, that unless their respective demands are liquidated previous to the 1st June, they will be placed in the hands of an Attorney-at-Law, for immediate recovery.

E. M. SOLOMON, Executrix.

C. S. ADDERLEY, Executor.

March 31st.

XUMA SALT, for sale at 15 cents per bushel.

Apply to

THOMAS THOMPSON,

At Exuma.

February 4th.

The Bahama Argus.

GEORGE BIGGS, Editor.

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1832.

VOL. I—No. LXXXVIII.

THE BAHAMA ARGUS.

PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY IN NASSAU, N. P.

EIGHT DOLLARS PER ANNUM—In advance.



POETRY.

ON THE SUDDEN DEATH OF A YOUNG LADY.

BY A FRIEND.

And can it be, that that sweet face
Has left its earthly dwelling place,
Nor ward'd us of its flight?
And has she left her home, for aye,
To slumber with her kindred clay,
Is this her last, "good night?"
While we, alas! can only sigh,
That any thing so fair must die.

When we last met, her smile was bright,
Her voice was clear, her footstep light,
Her cheek in youth's fresh bloom:
Who could have thought that she, of all
The glittering forms in the gay hall,
Was destined to the tomb?
And yet her knell of death has rung,
Angel wings have requited sing!

Oh! who shall dry that mother's eye ?
And who shall stay the heart-sore sigh
That heaves a sister's breast?
Who chills the tears that kindly weep
Around that sad and dreamless sleep,
Which seals her earthly rest?
Or who, the heavy tidings tell?
To him, who lov'd this child so well?

There is a power which wiles all tears,
And calms our hopes, and quietes our fears,
When life has pass'd away;
And even here, that peace is known,
That kindness giv'n, that mercy shown,
To those who "watch and pray":
And on those hearts who mourn the dead,
May heav'nly influence e'er be shed!

GEO. BRUCE.

NEW YORK, January, 1832.

EUROPEAN EXTRACTS.

Order in Council.—Below we have given an order in Council, issued by the English Government on the 28th of March, by which it will be seen, that all vessels sailing from the United Kingdom for the United States, or British America, having fifty persons on board, must be provided with a regularly educated surgeon.

From the London Gazette, March 27.

A supplement to the Gazette was published last night, containing an Order in Council, dated March 28, which, after reciting the powers vested in the Privy Council by the late act for the prevention of the disease called Cholera, runs thus:

"And whereas, the said disease hath extended to

different parts of Great Britain, and ships or vessels carry-

ing passengers to the British possessions in North Amer-

ica, to the United States of America, may be affected

with the said disease; it is therefore ordered by the lords

and others of His Majesty's most honourable Privy Com-

mittee, (of whom the Lord President of the Council is one,) in pursuance of the powers vested in them by the before-mentioned act, and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, that no ship or vessel carrying passengers on any voyage to, or for, any port or place in His Majesty's pos-

sessions on the continent or island of North America, or to

any port or place in the United States of America, carrying

50 persons or upwards, including the master and crew,

computed in the manner prescribed by an act passed in

the ninth year of the reign of the late king, entitled

"An act to regulate the carriage of passengers in