NILES' WEEKLY REGISTER,
CONTAINING
POLITICAL, HISTORICAL, GEOGRAPHICAL, SCIENTIFIC, STATISTICAL,
ECONOMIC AND BIOGRAPHICAL
DOCUMENTS, ESSAYS AND FACTS,
TOGETHER WITH
NOTICES OF THE ARTS AND MANUFACTURES,
AND A
RECORD OF THE EVENTS OF THE TIMES.

H. NILES, EDITOR.

THE PAST—THE PRESENT—FOR THE FUTURE.

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of the refrains would be completely altered—the process of distilling rum would also be entirely a new one. The refinements, a proportional increase in the cost of the new process, would be an aggravating feature. It is also contended that the new process, if adopted, would be likely to increase the consumption of rum and thereby reduce its value.

The plan has produced a great sensation; the chief objection appears to be the necessity of raising the property tax to a prohibitive rate. The latter part of the trade must be carried to the Portuguese border; but this evil, if real, will, it is believed, be of short duration. Large contracts are in the mean time entered into for the purpose of promoting the manufacture of the commodity, and this is expected to bring about a speedy cessation of the trade.

Memorandums, communicated by Bucco Godrick to the West India body, February 4, 1833.

1. His Majesty's present ministers will be well advised to communicate confidentially with the West India body before they submit to parliament any propositions upon the subject of the West India affairs.

2. The government retain their original opinion upon the subject of a committee of the house of lords, of which the West India body now seek the enlargement. They are not the time confident that it would necessarily be followed by the appointment of a committee of the house of commons, which, in all probability, would aim at different objects, and be conducted upon different principles; and they apprehended that the manner in which the inquiries would be increased the inconvenience of the controversy upon the subject of slavery, to irritate rather than moderate the extremes, and, instead of providing a just and equitable basis for the future, would aggravate the acknowledged difficulties of the whole question.

What has occurred since the close of the last session has not altogether dispelled the hope entertained by some of the advocates; and, they would earnestly press upon the West India body the expediency of any new committees this session. But let me call your attention, for a renewal of the old on the question of the house of lords.

They admit, at the same time, that there prevailed, when the committee was appointed, a marked separation of the classes; and they would no doubt that their inquiry would be resumed in the present session, and that that impression was countenanced by the language of the respective report. They were disposed to deny that the committee was not looking forward to that course. Considering, however, every thing that has subsequently passed, and the actual state of the question, they felt that they would best consult the interest of the West Indies, by not inviting the house of lords to repeat the committee, unless otherwise advised. In the mean time, they should continue to think of its revival essential to their interests, and their majesty's government will not oppose such a proposition if brought forward from any other quarter.

Feeling it, however, to be their duty in the present crisis of West India affairs, to act upon their own responsibility, they deem it incumbent upon them to state, that the appointment of such a committee would not cause them to abstain from ma-
taining and proposing such measures as they may, upon full con-
sideration, and after communication with the West India body, deem to be best calculated to bring this important subject to a safe and satisfactory termination.

Memorial of the standing committee of West India planters and merchants, consequent upon the foregoing communication.

To the Right Honorable the Earl Grey, K. G., first lord of the treasury, and president of the board of trade.

The memorialists beg respectfully to acknowledge the receipt of a communication, in the form of a minute, bearing date the 4th inst., having reference to the conference of the 20th ult., and which, they are satisfied, has been read to the government, and having assured them that they will communicate confidentially with the West India body, before they submit to parliament any propositions relative to the subject of the house of lords.

Your memorialists submit, that, if the appointment of the committee of the house of commons, upon the granting that in the house of lords, has, by the result of its inquiries, increased the reverence of the controversy, and irritated, rather than moderated, the excited feelings of the public; that effect is attributable to the publication of the evidence in an in-
complete and inconclusive state; and although your memorial-
ists have no desire to aggravate the difficulties of the question, yet they deem it essential to the just and safe settlement of it, that the real extent of those difficulties should be made apparent.

The committee reported, that the important question of what is to be done with the free negroes, is considered as connected with the extinction of slavery, and had not been inves-
tigated by them.

In conclusion, that part of the question shall have been in-
vestigated, the further one of the extinction of slavery itself cannot be avoided. The memorialists believe that the slaves are by the laws of England, the property, and necessary to the value of the estates of their masters, in which, "by no fault of their own, and through the sinlessness of numerous acts" (as, in a recent case, it was ob-
lowered by Mr. Canning), they, or their predecessors, have in-
vested their fortunes; "the fair and equitable consideration due them by the government, and the just rights of the crown to involve in the provision of funds, to an amount which will be of an ap-
preciable nature.

Your memorialists submit, that, as the committee in the house of commons was conceded to their opponents, and the evidence for the case of those opponents made public, its labor should not stop at the present point most prejudicial to the colony's interests, but that their report should extend to the comprehensive subject of the extinction of slavery, and that in their concern for the subject of the governance of the colony in the impression of the king's government for its impartial constitution, which should describe their views, and which shall be for the benefit of the blacks in the colony, in which house they consider indispensable to their inter-
ests, not only that inquiries should be extended to the other colonies of the British dominions, but that the owners of lord Belmore, of sir James Lyon, and of the deputies specially sent from the different parts of the world of the purpose of giving evidence upon the case, should be taken.

With regard to the announcement of his majesty's ministers, that the government means to act upon its own resources, and to mature and propose such measures as may seem to them best calculated to bring the important subject to a safe and sa-
tisfactory termination, it is desired to state that the committee for free negroes and slaves.

Free negroes and slaves.—We subjoin from the report of the commoners' committee on slavery, a few extracts from the im-
pressive paper by the hon. W. H. Cooper, on the questionary Fleming, the admiral of the West India station, who has resided in Jamaica and has frequent-
tly visited Cuba, Hayti, and the Caraccas. These extracts prove that the free negroes' are industrious, and will work better than the slaves in the cultivation of the estates for which they are competent to fulfill the duties of governors, generals, and priests—and that the free blacks of Cuba and Hayti are incom-
parably better fed and happier than the slaves of Jamaica.

"Were you much struck with the increased knowledge of the slave population when you last saw them, compared with what you observed among them when you saw them on a for-
mer occasion? Yes, very much; and I was convinced by that in my opinion that they are not inferior to white people in intel-
llect.

"From what you saw and what you heard from persons on whose information you can rely, are you satisfied that reading and listlessness, which we very properly call "dissipation," is not to be found in Jamaica? Yes, I know it of my own knowledge, and I have been informed that the same is the case in Hayti; I have seen one man reading a gazette to a gaol of slaves.

"Are you of opinion that if the power of reading be given to the negroes, that the knowledge of what passes here upon the sub-
ject, and the knowledge of what passes in the legislature of any nation upon this subject, will not be communicated to the black people, treated as they now are, as has been proved by their late insurrection?"

The admiral says—

"I am of opinion that the West Indies could be cultivated by free labor, and I ground that opinion upon my experience of what I have seen in Hayti, in the Caraccas, particularly, where all are free, and in the islands of Trinidad and Cuba, and upon the industry of the free negroes in the islands of the Moluccas.

"I was among the negroes in the Caraccas a black man; yes, general Peyrona was a perfectly black man, a complete negro, born in the province of Anjouan; I was informed by a reliable person, and well read in Spanish literature; he was a very extraordinary man.

"If you happen to know whether English officers served under him? May I have been under him? I know many other black officers, of very considerable acquirements, in the Ca-
rarra; the negroes have a very fine brand of black negro, born in Cape de Verdes Islands, a very well informed per-
son.

"Speaking of the black republic of Hayti, admiral Fleming says—

"Are you aware that there is a prohibition against all corporal punishment in that country? Yes, I know there is.

"Did they appear to you to be living comfortably? Yes; the most happy, the most industrious, the best fed and clothed of all the free negroes that I saw in the West Indies were in Hayti, even better than in the Caraccas.
"Were they decidedly better than the slaves in Jamaica? No comparison.

"Do you happen to know whether the population of Hayti has increased within the last twenty years? I have no knowledge of that; neither are there any very correct returns on that head. I believe that the negroes there are better off than they were in former times. In the year 1800, the French retired from the island in 1800, the population had trebled."

"Where are their victuals, compared with the food of the slaves in Jamaica—they were superior, or much the same? They were fed on meat principally; cattle is very cheap in Hayti."

"How is it, then, that the negroes in Hayti are able to sell for much cheaper? It is 3d. a pound, whilst the contracted price in Ja-

In the sitting of the 5th Feb., the topic of negro slavery was introduced as a subject of course.

Mr. Buxton begged the indulgence of the house for a few moments, on a subject of the deepest importance—he meant negro slavery. All reference to the subject had, unfortunately, in his opinion, been omitted in the speech from the throne. In conse-

Lord Althorp said, that his majesty's government had ap-

The most extraordinary feature in the contemplated measure is the refusal of the compensations to the planters and proprie-

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The London Globe of Feb. 11.

The number of signatures to the Leeds anti-slavery petitions was 15,000. An attempt was made to attach to any former petition in Leeds on the same subject.

One of the secrets of the present desire in England to abolish slavery in the West Indies, may, perhaps, be discussed in the following article. Mr. John Bull always keep a close look-out on pounds, shillings and pence, involved in trade.

The Liverpool Gazette contains a notice of a pamphlet on the trade to Brazil, from which it appears that the people of that country give a decided preference to British goods and British merchants. All British manufac-

A great drought has prevailed in the region of Monterey Bay, and the Cornwall Chronicle states,

According to a report of a select committee of the house of lords, recently published in England, the estimated value of the British possessions in the West Indies, including the ceded col-

The proposition which is to be brought before the reformed parliament, for the emancipation of the slaves in the West In-

The British Gazette of March 23.