

man. The case had excited a strong sensation through the western part of the province.

Mr. DRAPER explained the reasons on which the Government had acted; referred to a former case; and said, besides other difficulties, it was a question whether a human being from a country where he is accounted a chattel, could be held capable of committing a crime. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BOULTON could not think of holding a slave responsible for what he does, where he is by law deprived of all moral instruction and all right of voluntary action. He could not hold such creatures amenable. In the language of one of America's greatest men, John Quincy Adams, can cattle commit crime? Can goods and chattels transgress moral law? In some of the States persons are liable to punishment for teaching the slaves, and we are to hold them accountable for what they are not permitted to know! A strong expression of opinion on the part of this house will render the Government very chary in exercising the power given them by a law of doubtful authority. A very painful case occurred at Niagara, in which a man was killed, and the negro escaped, and he was glad that the man had escaped. Hacket was charged with felony, but he denied that he had committed felony. As was observed on the Creole case, it was strange that cattle should be pirates or robbers. Government should not give up any man who had been a slave, no matter what was charged on him. Are we certain, or can we hope, that he will receive a fair trial, and not be tied to a tree, and burned or flogged to death?—*Toronto (U.C.) Herald, Oct. 17th, 1842.*

JAMAICA.—THE CONSTITUENCY.—To give our readers some idea of the rapid increase which has taken place in the constituency of this island, and which is likely to continue to take place, it is only necessary to remark, that in one parish in Middlesex the tax-payers have increased from 282, in 1830, to 2463, in 1842. This increase is attributable to the purchase of land by the late apprentices, all of whom have become freeholders, and, if duly registered, will be entitled to vote at any elections that may take place. Members of Assembly will have to look out for the next general election. It will be no go to be compelled to canvass 2463 voters to a parish, and that an agricultural one, where the freeholders are scattered about, and at a distance from each other. The Government cannot complain now of the paucity of electors; and there will scarcely be a parish in the island which will not be equal to some of the larger English boroughs in the number of persons entitled to vote at elections. It would be no bad plan for some member to call for a return of the number of persons who have been placed on the tax rolls for the last ten years, distinguishing the number for each year, and of the parties who have put in their claim to vote as freeholders, under the 4th Victoria, chap. 31.—*Morning Journal.*

BRITISH GUIANA.—“The *Guiana Times* says, the current year opened under the most gloomy omens. Up to the present time there has been no improvement in business worth mentioning: on the contrary, the progress of the year has only been marked by increased intensity of distress. Money, even to a small amount, cannot be raised on the most unquestionable security of lands and tenements. The two banks have contracted, or are contracting, their business. Were they to put all their just claims in immediate suit, the consequence must be ruinous. We can hardly find any person capable of liquidating his obligations when called upon. There are many families ruined, and well nigh starving, in consequence of the awful calamity that has overtaken the colony. The misery among those who lately held flourishing establishments and knew no want, it is deplorable to be spectator of.”

The above paragraph is going the round of the papers at home. Some late occurrences at the *Times* office will, no doubt, lead to the concoction of some additional paragraphs of the same sort. We are sorry that the *Times* has had such a bad set of customers; but the *Times* is certainly mistaken in supposing the distress it describes to be so very general. With but two or three exceptions, so far as we know, people are yet able to pay rent and wages; and as to starvation, that certainly must be a mere fancy sketch. To confess the truth, however, we have little doubt that the journeymen printers are the worst used and worst paid people in the colony,—in fact, the very people whom the *Times* must have had in its eye, while drawing the above moving picture.—*Gazette, Dec. 11.*

BERBICE.—RETURN OF COOLIES TO INDIA.—The time is at hand for the departure of the Coolies from this place, to their native country, according to the provisions of the contract by which they were introduced here. Upon a minute and impartial investigation into the causes which induce them to sacrifice the certainty of prosperity in Berbice, to the equally certain indigence in their own country, we are enabled to offer to our readers the following information.

The first reason which they assign is, the all absorbing wish to see their relatives and friends whom they have left behind—a very natural one. Had the parties who sent them hither, taken into consideration the powerful nature of kindred ties, they would have provided against this, by sending them out in families, thereby insuring their continuance in the colony, where their labour is rewarded a thousand fold beyond what it can possibly be in India. We do not give our money-making proprietors much credit for metaphysical knowledge, but a very small portion of it should have taught the force of the poet's axiom,

“’Tis home where'er the heart is,
Where'er its loved ones dwell—
In cities or in cottages,
Throng'd haunts, or mossy dell.”

The poor Coolie sorrows after his tawny kindred as much as do such of Europe's sons, whose length of residence here has not taught them to forget their homesteads.

In the second place, on an average, each of them possesses over one hundred dollars, a sum which will afford them the enjoyment of luxuries, for a time, such as has hitherto been beyond their reach, either in India, in consequence of their former poverty, or here, from the high price of articles, or the difference in the living of both countries. *The money which they have realized has been principally gained by the cultivation of their grounds and the sale of their produce.* Had they been placed on the same footing as the other labourers in this colony, no doubt their

services to the plantations would have been of treble importance, and their earnings in the same ratio. A few have determined on remaining, some of whom have cast aside their national prejudices, and formed alliances among their sable fellow labourers. The bulk, however, are too strongly biased by home sickness to swerve from their purpose of returning to Hindostan, and the colony will thereby lose many effective and valuable labourers.—That Coolie immigration will ultimately be granted to the West Indies, we have no doubt. Years may roll over, thousands upon thousands from Africa may come hither, still, British Guiana can afford a home for the “starving hordes of India,” without any diminution, for at least a century, in the price of labour—or any cessation of competition for it.

Foreign Intelligence.

UNITED STATES.—We copy the following extract of a communication from the Washington correspondent of the *Emancipator and Free American*, dated 19th January, 1843:—

NELSON HACKET.—I have received authentic information, through a friend, from the Hon. Mr. Cross, M. C. of Arkansas, that Nelson Hacket, whose surrender by the Governor of Canada, on a requisition from the Governor of Arkansas, has occasioned so much discussion in Canada and in England, was taken back to Arkansas, and delivered immediately up to his master as a slave; no notice being taken of the legal charge against him, of having stolen his master's horse and watch, at the time he made his escape from slavery. This result shows that the demand made by the Governor of Arkansas was a mere fraud, acting on the principle ascribed to Judge Baldwin,—that deceit is lawful in retaking a slave. It is not probable, that after this information, the Canadian authorities will again suffer themselves to be imposed on. In fact, the occurrence of this case is providentially seasonable, to awaken vigilance in the legislation of the British Parliament for carrying out the 10th article of the Ashburton treaty.

IMPORTANT DECISION IN THE CREOLE CASE.—The *N. O. Picayune*, of Dec. 30th, says, this interesting suit was decided yesterday, and Mr. M'Cargo received a verdict in his favour to the amount of 18,400 dollars. It seems that in the insurance policy, there was a clause protecting the property of the plaintiff against foreign interference; while, on the other hand, he was to be responsible for any insurrection, elopement, or natural death that might occur among his slaves. The amount of the judge's charge to the jury was, that there had been such interference, inasmuch as the British authorities at Nassau set Mr. M'Cargo's slaves at liberty, when one of the officers of the vessel stated the circumstances of the capture of the Creole by the negroes, and demanded succour, in order that the property of the plaintiff might be preserved, and the vessel arrive safely in port. The great law point seemed to be, whether the capture of the negroes by the British was a consequence of the insurrection or not, and this was left to the jury for decision. The verdict, it is thought, will affect the other claims against the insurance companies, which altogether amount to about 100,000 dollars.—*Liberator, Jan. 27.*

HAITI.—An intelligent gentleman from Haiti, whose truth may be relied upon, says that he has a sugar establishment there, which is going on well, and bids fair to prove a profitable investment. He left Cape Hatien about a month ago. It then remained a heap of ruins; but it was, and had been, perfectly healthy, though rumour has declared otherwise. Some mercantile houses were still transacting business, and loading vessels with produce, as usual. No losses had been sustained by the earthquake, except such as arose from stone or brick buildings; and these were confined chiefly to the Cape. He says the island is increasing in population and wealth; and that individuals concerned in agriculture generally clear from 300 to 400 dollars per annum.—*N. A. S. Standard.*

TEXAS.—The southern mail has brought very important news from Mexico and Texas. You may remember that about 500 men of the Texan army, under General Somerville, revolted against him, because he would not march them into Mexico. They elected one Fisher in his stead, and went on a marauding expedition. After taking Laredo, they captured Mier, and while revelling in the town, were surrounded by the Mexicans, and all, except two, and several that were killed, taken prisoners, and marched off to Mexico to work in the mines or the streets. The Mexican commanders were Generals Ampudia and Canales. The Texan papers say that 400 Mexicans were killed, and only four Texans, but *erodot Judæus apella*, &c. The above account I believe to be substantially correct. What could these marauding Texans, who revolted against their own general, expect? They entered an enemy's country without providing the means of a retreat; and of course they were surrounded, cut off, or captured.—*Morning Chronicle, 20th Feb.*

DENMARK.—By a late decree of the Danish Government, a remission of 25 per cent. of the import duties and other taxes, on the following articles, is conceded, on the fulfilment of the conditions subsequently expressed, viz.:—coffee; cocoa-nut and palm oils; rice in bales, uncleaned; raw sugar from St. Croix and foreign countries; tobacco in leaf, not manufactured; and tea. Such of the above articles as are shipped from the Danish colonies must be certified by custom-house certificate; and from foreign countries by certificate of the Danish consuls, or by the authorities residing in a transatlantic port, or in any port in Africa, or in China. The importation must be in national vessels, or vessels entitled to the privileges of the national flag; or in order to be entitled to the reduction of imposts, it is further required that proof shall be given that they had antecedently imported into such transatlantic ports, or into an African port on this side the Cape of Good Hope, or into China, products of the soil or of the industry of the kingdom, to the amount of one-half of the value of their cargo.

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