IMMIGRATION TO THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The West Indians have for several years been most earnest in their endeavors to secure the immigration of free laborers from abroad, insisting that thus only could the prosperity of the colonies be ensured. They are beginning to change their views. A Mr. McQueen, a zealous partizan of the planters, in the first of a series of letters, which he is addressing to Lord Stanley in the columns of the London Morning Herald, says, that immigration is, "when the expense and all its probable consequences are considered, terrific to contemplate, with very doubtful success." The Morning Herald itself concludes a leading article on the subject thus:—

"Such have been the steps taken and the course adopted by this country to preserve our tropical colonies, and to restore their prosperity; and *in these senseless proceedings six precious years have been lost*, and the destruction of the colonies been rendered all but complete, while the commercial preponderance and prosperity of the empire have been endangered. *Such are the results of attending to ignorant and interested counsellors, and of that listlessness and apathy displayed in everything, either in the torrid zone, or that is connected with it in this country. Had one twelvemonth of the time thus lost been occupied judiciously and energetically amongst the emancipated population of the British colonies, to teach them their duty to their country and to themselves, all would have been well, the colonies would have been flourishing, their produce ample and profitable, and additional laborers unnecessary.*"

SLAVE-TRADE-SUPPRESSION TREATIES.

If protocols and Parliamentary speeches, hard words and diplomatic correspondence, could put down the slave-trade, it would have been suppressed long ago; but facts show that it is, and the speeches of Lord Palmerston and Sir Robert Peel that it is likely to continue, as brisk as ever, in despite of these weapons. It is clear from Lord Palmerston's own statement that, though the personal character of one Governor threw a damp on slave-trade speculation in Cuba for a brief interval, the passion broke out with fresh vigour under his successor. It is evident that the gross amount of the slave trade has, notwithstanding that temporary check in one quarter, scarcely varied from year to year. The slave trade treaties, and hence the slave trade squadrons have not sensibly checked the slave trade. Sir Robert Peel boasts that a mere efficient system of operations is to be directed against it; but he can only quote the favourable opinions of three naval heroes, who devised, or who are to be employed in, the new plan of attack. The involuntary revelations by Lord Palmerston and Sir Robert Peel, of the constant danger to which the slave trade treaties expose us were equally striking. Both attempted to show the irritable state of the public mind in France and America, towards this country was not excited by the slave trade treaties and negotiations *alone;* but neither could deny that they were important ingredients in the dose of provocation. Each laboured hard to shift from his own shoulders to those of his antagonist the blame of contributing the other ingredients; but the operation of this one was not denied. Brazil and Spain are hostile to the treaties for the suppression of the slave trade; France and America are kept by them in a state of unintermitting inascibility; and not one maritime power but England can be said to be positively friendly to them. It is nothing new to learn that these treaties are impotent for good and fertile in evil; but it is something to have this truth demonstrated by the set speeches of two rival Ministers, each striving to demonstrate that he is the warmest supporter of the system. How long is the country to persist in this costly and dangerous child's play? In so far as slavery and the slave trade are concerned, we have washed our hands of them. We have emancipated our slaves, and imposed penalties upon all British subjects convicted of dabbling in slave speculations. We have found that neither by force nor by negotiation can we induce all our neighbours to follow our example. Are we to go on forever wasting means and energies in efforts that lead to nothing? It will be wiser henceforth to tread our own path regardless of others—to mind our own business, keep our own hands clean, and leave our neighbours to take care of their interests and mend their morals after their own fashion. If our way is the right one—if, as we doubt it not, it is recommended alike by benevolence and enlightened self-regard—other nations will in time be glad to follow our example.—*Spectator.*

(From the Presbyterian of the West.)

AFRICAN SLAVERY.

It is estimated by Dr. Skinner, a missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in Africa, that the whole number of slaves on that continent is not less than 50,000,000. Dr. Gobeen, a missionary of the same church, makes a larger estimate, and states as a well known fact, that in Western Africa, *nine tenths* of the whole population are in a state of slavery. The females are all sold at an early age, to be, when they grow up, wives or beasts of burden, as their proprietors may require. And nowhere in the world is the slave subjected to such rigorous despotism. In the countries of Dahomer and Ashantee, when a king dies, hundreds of slaves are put to death on his grave as an offering; and when a slave-holder dies, a number of slaves are put to death, to wait on him in the other world. At the death of the late Ashantee king, about 1,000 persons perished. And not only does slavery exist in Africa in its most horrid forms, but that continent is the common mart of slavery for the world. Buxton estimates the whole number of slaves annually exported, at 475,000. For the eastern trade, 100,000 are annually required. The Imaum of Muscat transports every year about 30,000, Barbary and Egypt about 20,000, loss on seizure, 25,000, loss on detention and march on the middle passage across the country and in seasoning, 25,000. For the Western trade 375,000 are annually seized, but only about 120,000 are actually transported into slavery. Of the number seized, 30,000 are murdered, 225,000 are lost in seizure, detention, march and middle passage. The 120,000 who survive, are enslaved in Spanish West Indies, Brazil, Texas, &c. Upwards of 50,000 are annually imported into Brazil. In all those countries which create the western trade, including the United States, the whole number of Africans in slavery is estimated at 8,000,000; add to this the number enslaved in eastern countries, and still it falls far short of the actual amount of slavery existing in Africa itself. The slavery of the United States is but as the small dust of the balance, compared with what exists elsewhere; and its character, even in its worst forms, is mild in comparison with the abject servitude to which the poor negro is subjected, in the countries where the wholesome restraints of religion are not felt. Let the evil be purged from our midst, and still the work of emancipation is but just commenced. Africa still remains the great market for human beings; and the chains of bondage still bind at least *fifty* millions of her sons at home. How shall poor Africa be redeemed, that Ethiopia may be brought to stretch out her hands to God? And vassals long enslaved, both by man and Satan, become freemen, civilly and religiously. Guard the coast, and

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