

I do not know that I can say anything to interest you to-day, or to increase your interest in 'the day we celebrate,' or in the people in this country whose liberty we are all anxious to secure.

I can say, however, that it is cheering to see so many of the friends of freedom assembled here, to celebrate the dawn of liberty to the colored people of the British West Indies, and to enter into new vows of duty.

Those islands are now in a hopeful condition, and active measures are on foot to induce the laboring classes to cultivate the soil.

It is believed by many that those islands are in a worse condition now than they were before the slaves were emancipated. This is not true of those islands as a whole, though it is true with regard to many of the estates. The planters would have the emancipated slaves work for a trifle—this they refused to do, preferring to 'play for nothing,' sooner than 'work for nothing.' This oversight of the planters in refusing to pay a reasonable price for labor caused many of their estates to go to ruin, and all of their property to depreciate. If they had paid fair wages, a single year would have shown them, in the increase of their crops, the advantage of free over slave labor. But they held the pence so near their eyes that they could not see the pounds a little distance before them.—*Their* failures, they unhappily call the failures of emancipation!

England, generous to the planters, paid them well for the flesh and life-blood of the slave. But the poor outraged and injured slaves themselves, many of whom had become aged, infirm and worn out, in serving their masters, and making them rich—these she gave

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nothing but a fair chance to test the charities of an unfriendly world. Now, if a slave was worth an hundred pounds to his master, he was worth at least twice as much to himself. And if England could afford to give the master five hundred dollars, who never worked an hour to promote the interests of her colonies, certainly she could afford to have given the man one thousand, who had been her slave for life. This, however, she did not do, and she did not even offer a stimulus to make him industrious, by protecting his labor. The English system of free trade unfortunately forces the British free laborers in Jamaica to compete with the Spanish slaves of Cuba.

Being left without means to enter into business or agriculture, and with no fair compensation offered for labor, their condition even as free men was far from enviable. But they have been and are continually surmounting it. Many have commenced by picking fruits for the markets, then buying a small patch of land and tilling it, and gradually adding to it year by year as the crops are sold. In this manner, many who were once under the driver's lash have now become quite wealthy, and have not been whipped when they go to church, nor had their teeth knocked out when they suck the sugar-cane.

The moral condition of those Islands is much improved; and though it is not so good as we could wish, yet it is far better than that of France or Italy.

Education is highly encouraged. All offices are open to them, and there are in Jamaica, Editors, Barristers, Justices of the Peace, Special Magistrates, Aldermen, Assembly-men and Judges; and Mr. Jordan, a colored gentleman, is Mayor of Kingston, the largest

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city in the British West Indies.

I rejoice, to-day, to be able to thank England for what she has done. I hope she will do more. Those people have a heavy claim upon her, are loyal subjects, and worthy of her kindest care and consideration.

The condition of the masses is continually improving, and the wonderful progress which they have made under very adverse circumstances shows us at least that the Anti-Slavery movement is not a failure, and that the blacks know how to take care of themselves.

The slaveholders understand this very well, and whenever they think their slaves have got the idea of freedom in their minds, they are almost frightened out of their wits.

In this connection, Dr. Rock referred to the imaginary insurrection in Tennessee, last winter, and paid an eloquent tribute to the negro martyr who refused to reveal what he knew of the plot, though tortured to death by the whip of his cruel and vindictive master. He also referred to Hayti with a good deal of pride, as proving the capacity of the blacks for self-government. A half century ago, Hayti was a vast slave plantation; now she is the eighth nation of the world with regard to revenue, and numbers among her population men of great scientific and professional acquirements, and eminently successful in every department of business.

Dr. R. said he would not monopolize the time, and concluded by remarking that the only question in this country was, whether we had the backbone to meet the enemy face to face. Every thing taught us that

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