profits of the gainers ; though it may, in extreme cases, where very serious damage is fully proved, come forward with assistance, in the same way that it would endeavour to repair the devastations of a hurricane.   It is, therefore, unfortunately, by making extravagant claims of this kind,—claims founded on conjecture, and mistaken conjecture,—claims swollen to an enormous amount, tending to create alarm— that West Indians have weakened their cause, and that they have taught their adversaries to refuse that to which they appear fairly entitled.

But in every civilized state, property actually converted to the purposes of the state has been actually paid for, at its fair value, and paid for, in the words of the French law, a law scarcely so tender of the rights of individuals as the law of England, "moyennant une préalable indémnité," by means of a previous indemnification.   The coach-masters, the waggoners, the canal proprietors, who suffer from the construction of a. railroad, may incur a contingent loss from such act of policy, and they are not *previously*, if ever indemnified; but the person, on whose land the rail-road is constructed, was paid for it before he allowed the road to pass there.   So with a canal, a fortress, or a street.   So even with the Slave Trade:—the owners of ships, legally employed in that trade, might have suffered a contingent loss from its suppression; or, rather, they could *gain* nothing more, which may be equally ruinous to them; but this was a contingency, and they were not previously indemnified.   But had government gone further, and, for the more effectual and immediate suppression of that trade, taken instant possession of every ship hitherto legally engaged in it; then, whether they converted these ships to the use of the state, or set them on fire, they must equally, as they took them, have paid their value.   So with the planters of that day: they had asserted that their gangs would dwindle away, and they sought compensation *beforehand*.   Such a claim was not to be hearkened to; but, had government de-