

ful island of Jamaica being ever since held as British territory. The difficulty of labouring in the plantations of such a hot country was felt, and the Portuguese overcame it by importing negroes from Africa as slaves, thus forming another species of trade, disgraceful to humanity. This traffic existed for about three hundred years and was a mistake in many ways. The negroes have multiplied to an enormous extent, and what to do with them now—now that they are no longer slaves—is a problem difficult to deal with.

The area of Jamaica is about four thousand square miles. The surface is usually hilly or mountainous and the climate varied, according to situation or elevation. The natives were of the quiet Indian tribes, not of the fierce Caribs, and the word Jamaica is of their own tongue, and means "the isle of springs." When the English took possession of these islands, these natives had become almost extinct. A succession of English governors has controlled the island ever since. At first the chief seat of commerce was Port Royal, a large portion of which, owing to an earthquake in 1692, was detached from the shelving rock on which it was built, and slipped into the sea! Other disasters which occurred to it, chiefly through hurricanes, caused the removal of the chief seat to a spot further in the bay, where a town was run up and called Kingston, which has remained the capital ever since.

† Of Port Royal, still bearing marks of its former military importance, Froude eloquently remarks:—

"Before the first hut was run up in Kingston, Port Royal was the rendezvous of all English ships, which for spoil or commerce, frequented the West Indian seas. Here the buccaneers sold their plunder and squandered their gains in gambling and riot. Here in the latter century of legitimate wars, whole fleets were gathered to take in stores, or refit when shattered by engagements. Here Nelson had been, and Collingwood and Jervis, and all our other naval heroes. Here prizes were brought in for adjudication, and pirates to be tried and hanged. In this spot, more than in any other, beyond Great Britain herself, the energy of the Empire once was throbbing."

The slave trade was abolished in 1807, and at that time there were 323,827 slaves in the island, and the anti-slavery agitation which continued for many years in England caused great excitement there.

It was about this time that the extension of the colonial episcopate began to gain many advocates in England. Already a bishop had been sent to Nova Scotia, to Quebec and to Calcutta, and there the generosity of the Mother Church stopped for a period of ten years, when, in 1824, it was resolved to send out two bishops to the West Indies, one for Jamaica and the other for Barbadoes. This, however, was more

of a civil operation than missionary. It was the establishment of a state church for these colonies. The stipends of the bishops were provided from public funds, and the Legislature which mapped the islands into parishes, assigned to each a rector and a curate, whose income were a charge on the public revenue.

The bishop thus appointed for Jamaica was Dr. C. Lipscomb, and, during his episcopate, stirring events occurred for the island. The emancipation of the slaves was being agitated in England, and the negroes of Jamaica, believing that it had been granted, revolted in 1832, causing many atrocities and much bloodshed. Here there was no promising field for missionary work. The slaves regarded the state clergy as the friends of their masters, and therefore as their enemies, and paid little heed to their ministrations. The Wesleyans and Baptists gained a greater influence over them. On August 1st, 1838, the slaves, by Act of Parliament, were all set free, and this naturally made a great stir in the West Indies. It had a damaging influence upon the commercial interests of Jamaica. Large loans had to be obtained from the Imperial Government, and many white people of the better class, left for other and more satisfactory places. In 1843, Dr. Aubrey G. Spencer, Bishop of Newfoundland, succeeded Bishop Lipscomb to the episcopate of Jamaica, but after ten years occupancy of the see, was obliged, through ill-health, to retire to England, where he did light duty, occasionally, till the year 1872, when he died. In the meantime a clergyman by the name of Courtenay—Rev. R. Courtenay, was appointed co-adjutor to Jamaica, under the title of Bishop of Kingston, in the year 1856. Civil discord continued throughout the island, which reached a climax in 1865 under Governor Eyre, when an unfortunate member of the assembly named Gordon was put to death by the Governor's orders in a sudden and peremptory manner. This caused much excitement in England, and led to a complete change in the constitution in Jamaica, abolishing representative government and placing it in the position of an ordinary crown colony. There is only one chamber, at the head of which is the governor himself, who thus has almost supreme power.

All this time the Church in Jamaica was established and received state aid, but this was suddenly withdrawn in 1870, and the Church was left to the tender mercies of voluntarism. But on the whole, this has eventuated in good. The Church was thrown upon its own resources and became, in a much larger sense of the word, missionary. Voluntary aid was immediately sought in England, and the four English societies (the S.P.C.K., the S.P.G., the C.M.S. and the Colonial Bishopric Society) came to its relief, and placed it on a very fair basis as a Colonial Church.