

recent accounts which we have received of the state of the enfranchised commonalty in our West Indian possessions.

Read the descriptions of the friends of emancipation ; they admit nothing of doubt or uncertainty, they speak not even of partial success ; they pronounce the result of the grand experiment to be triumphant,—the state of the new commonwealth happier than any which the world has ever known. A free, orderly, industrious, moral, religious people ; abundance of work, wages reasonably high ; a new taste for luxuries and refinements hitherto undreamt of ; man raised in his own estimation, and by that increased self-respect converted at once from a savage into a civilized and virtuous citizen ; a general passion for education, a zealous attachment to religion ; labour performed with all the willing strength of freemen, and consequently twice as productive as the listless efforts of slaves ; commerce, wealth, increasing with gigantic strides ; these are all the phenomena which strike their imaginations. If their attention is recalled for one moment to the fact that, in the middle of all their prosperity, the production of staple articles of export is still annually diminishing, it is but treated as a temporary and trivial mischief—the consequence of the natural clinging of the masters to the shadow of their abolished tyranny—a slight cloud which is already vanishing under the beams of that new and glorious day which has dawned on the negro race.

Turn to the statement of another class of observers, and all is gloom—difficulty and discontent in the foreground of the picture, ruin in the distance. The breach between the capitalists and the working class is complete and irremediable. It is absolutely impossible to count on the steady labour even of the best disposed among the negroes ; a fit of idleness or caprice, or the desire