

kinds of garden vegetables may be grown at any time of the year; but where nature is generous the people are indolent, and few take the trouble to cultivate new varieties or to improve the natural products of the country. Bananas, coconuts and oranges grow plentifully without cultivation, but of course yield much better returns when cultivated. The negroes plant yams, cocoas and sweet potatoes, and keep a few pigs and chickens. The mangoes, breadfruit, akeas, etc., grow wild; so "Quashy"—the black—lives and physically thrives with no thought of tomorrow.

Jamaica as an island attracts comparatively few settlers. The sea voyage is unquestionably a deterrent to immigration. People for the most part feel with Josiah Allen's wife that they can't be drowned on dry land. There are, however, excellent steamers running between Jamaica and American ports; and the voyage from Boston is usually made in six days. Northerners miss here innumerable modern conveniences—particularly good railroads and hotels such as those to which they are accustomed—but, although more slowly than in other less isolated countries, these deficiencies will gradually be made up.

Intemperance here, as elsewhere, is the great social evil. At the majority of towns and villages the rumshop is almost the only place of entertainment open for young men, and naturally becomes their resort after working hours. But the intemperate in this climate have short lease of life. Alcoholic fires burn fiercely under a tropic sun, and their work of destruction is quickly accomplished.

Though not remarkable for their industry, the natives of Jamaica are peaceable and law abiding. The development of trade is due to British law and good government. Business is transacted with ease and security, while in Cuba and other of the West Indies outlaws and bandits commit high-handed depredations; and the trader's appeal for justice where law

and order are practically unknown is worse than useless. To-day—whatever may be true of old Jamaica—the negroes manifest only kindly feeling and much respect for the whites. They count it rather an honor to work for "white massa," and are glad to do him a favor when occasion offers. A number of them are required to do the work which half as many white laborers would do in less time; but they are so well adapted to the country and climate that we should do little here without them. A few good schools have been established, and some of the younger negroes are fairly well educated. What the natives of Jamaica, whether white or black, need most is contact with the rest of the world and knowledge of the customs and enterprise of other countries. Jamaica is pronounced slow, and slow it truly is. "Comin', sah," is the inevitable answer to a call. Tomorrow will do quite as well as to-day, but next week suits better.

W. J. S.

Port Morant, Jamaica, W. I.

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