

laborer has an ambition to own a plot of land, a house, a horse, &c. Many thousands of acres of mountain land are now in cultivation, for which the Negroes have paid from £4 to £6 an acre, not a yard of which was in cultivation in the days of slavery.

IX. *Are they trying to rise?*—In vast numbers of instances, I think they are. Their efforts in this direction may not always be wise; but considering their circumstances, they will compare favorably with any peasantry in the Queen's dominions. On this question it is well to bear in mind, that in many extensive districts, with the exception of the Missionary, there is not a single white man to guide them; or to show any interest in their progress, mental, moral, or material. Notwithstanding this, I have met with numerous instances of hard and steady effort to rise, and also of successful effort. Bear with me, while I give you two or three specimen facts. You will best understand my answers in the light of them. In the east, the other day, an old black man was brought under my notice, as a large contributor to one of our country chapels. This man and three married sons had houses and land on the coast. The land on the coast they had cultivated fully; but not satisfied with this they had hired a considerable portion of land in the mountains; and, although that land is eighteen miles from their home, to its cultivation they give the most diligent attention. These men are surrounding themselves with all the comforts of civilization. A little further on, in the same locality, I met another instance of well directed and sustained labor. A poor man had become a successful cultivator of arrowroot. He ground and manufactured it on an improved principle; and by skill in the manufacture produced an article of double the ordinary value. This man was able to give employment to a considerable body of laborers. In my travels, I met an African, brought to this country as a rescued slave. He is the proprietor of a pretty extensive farm, a comfortable and well furnished house, a number of horses, and other live stock. Many years ago, he found a starving child by the way side, took her, fed and clothed her as his own, and

gave her a good education. He also took pity upon two fatherless sons of a brother African, became a father to them, supplied all their wants, gave them trades, and the best education our schools could afford; and these young men are now respected and respectable members of our Society. This man is a Leader and Local Preacher among us, and ever ready for every good work. No man, of any rank or color, in the neighbourhood in which he lives, is more trusted than he. The foregoing are specimens of the disposition to rise, and the actual success in the endeavor to rise, on the part of thousands of the people. Such people, as you will naturally infer, are becoming a middle class proprietary body; and their example, directly and indirectly, will exert a powerful influence upon the future of this colony. A merchant residing in a small inland town, told me that he was purchasing one hundred and fifty bags of coffee per day from the small settlers; and he was only one of a number of merchants in this same town. I must not omit to state that, alongside the thrifty laborers, we have some idle and thriftless; but quite as few in number of the latter, in proportion to population, as you would find in England.

X. *The towns: are they such ruins as the anti-West-Indians say?*—I don't remember, exactly, what they say; I may remark, however, that in many parts of the island you may meet with decayed and ruined buildings. Inferences drawn from this fact are, by strangers, often too hasty and too broad. Such is the character of many West Indian buildings, and such the influence of climate upon them, that they cannot, in the nature of things, last more than a few years. And when they begin to decay, or are taken by the wood ants, it is frequently the policy to let the decay proceed, use them as long as possible, and then build new. Spanish Town, the seat of Government, and several other old towns, are in a ruined condition, because the population and wealth that supported them have removed to other parts of the island. But while some towns are reduced and decayed, there are others that are almost new, and