

"Although the abuse of patronage may have diminished of late years, still the complaint in nearly all the Colonies is loud, that the best men have not been appointed to the highest functions, and the complaint is unanimous in all, that no generous and liberal principle of administration is recognised." We repeat these emphatic words from the *Times* a second time, as we have an illustration of their truth at the present moment in the Colony. Would that the facts we relate could meet the eyes of the London journals! The *London Official Gazette* announces the appointment of Mr. Shelly as Assistant Auditor General for our Colony. This office has been filled by Mr. Schellebeck for these last few months, whom his Excellency Sir William Gomm was pleased to appoint "par interim." He is now to go back to the situation of clerk, which he has filled for *thirty-six years*, with honour to himself, and without the slightest reproach from Government, fulfilling his difficult and responsible duties during this long period with that assiduity and intelligence which every one would have thought was worthy of promotion. Such is the liberality of the British Government to those who are grown grey in its service, who have toiled on in hopes their turn would one day arrive. From whence comes this crying injustice? Want of protection and patronage at such a distance from the metropolis! This is worth more than years of service even with the virtuous Earl Grey! We blush for such abuses and repeat with the *Times* that in the Colonies the best men are not appointed to the highest places. Those who come after Mr. Schellebeck in the Audit Office are also obliged to recede to give place to the "new comer." Mr. Barrow has seen some sixteen years service, his inflexible integrity and his strict performance of his office are too well known, both by the Government and the public to require any remark from us. Mr. Rossford also from his activity and intelligence is well deserving the place he has temporarily filled, but all want protection, and they, like others who have "no friends at court," we grieve to say it, must wait a long time for preferment. Since writing the above we find in a late number of the *Times* remarks that support us in what we have said. We ask why the Government still acts in contradiction to such principles of justice?

The extract is as follows:—"There is a stir and movement about the Colonial office, indicative of great events. Some good measures have been taken already, and there are promises of more. In the proconsular system, however, we see the greatest need of amendment. Let us have no more hoisting of men into high places, there to have their heads turned by an uncongenial elevation, to display their incapacity with a conspicuousness proportioned to the height. Let them climb up the ladder round by round, and step by step, slowly and leisurely, with time to look about them on each successive gradation, to make the bearing of their position, and understand thoroughly surrounding objects. There is no royal road to the science of Government. More, perhaps, than all other sciences, this requires a patient apprenticeship, labour, study, and good natural parts. Nothing can be more palpably absurd than to drop a man suddenly into the vice-regal chair of some distant Province, of which every object, physical, social, and political, is as unfamiliar as the geography of the moon. The probable consequence, and, as experience has proved in many instances, the actual consequence of such a proceeding is to drive the perplexed Viceroy into the arms of some clique or faction, or worse still, of some clever designing person who can give the information his master requires, and is willing, in return for the smiles of greatness, to perform those little useful services which ignorance and incompetence generally find necessary to support an envied authority. The possibility of such a misfortune to a Colony should by all means be avoided; and it seems to us that there are no other means by which it can be avoided, than a discriminating and impartial selection of Governors, on the principle of appointing the best man that the Colony, or, if necessary, the mother country, can furnish."

WEST INDIES.

JAMAICA.—Our files from Kingston, and the towns on the north side of the island, reach to the 23rd June.

A central manufactory company is announced in the journals, for the parish of Westmoreland, to be established on the banks of the Cabaretta. Six estates,