

absolute necessity of having the sanction of His Majesty's Government before any step could be taken towards it.

But to pass over this part of the subject which, indeed, solely belongs to His Majesty's Government, as involving a great question of international policy, let us proceed to examine what Mr. Postlethwaite calls his wants and wishes, and which are couched in four articles, to wit :

1st. "To be allowed and protected for a certain period to employ Indians on my estate, of any class, and from any country in amity with Great Britain."

The latter part of this article involves the great question above referred to, and I shall therefore leave it untouched ; nor would the former part of it call for any remark, it being open to any planter to employ Indians on their estates, when they are willing to engage with them ; but the words, "protected for a certain period," seem to have allusion to a claim which, I think, Mr. Postlethwaite made in one of his memorials to your Excellency, for an exclusive privilege of employing these people : this I presume cannot be granted ; indeed, I know not by what bond you could tie the Indians to work for him alone ; and I even doubt whether a contract entered into with them for a certain period could be enforced, or whether it would be politic to enforce it against their inclinations. With this single remark I will pass on to the 2d and 3d articles, which contain the jet of his application to the Secretary of State. They are,

2dly. "To be assisted by Government in congregating them into a mission, to be obliged," &c. &c. &c.

3dly. "To domicile a priest on my lands, at a salary from Government, but with land from my estate ; to superintend and form in them religious and industrious habits," &c. &c. &c.

These two articles, in fact, embrace one object, viz. a request of pecuniary assistance ; first, for the purpose of building a chapel ; and, secondly, for granting a stipend to a pastor ; and naturally lead to the important general question of the religious instruction of the Indians. But, before entering on this interesting subject, it may be necessary to make a few remarks on the probable prospects of success to Mr. Postlethwaite's plans, even under the most favourable circumstances of encouragement and assistance being afforded him ; and first begging reference to my Report to your Excellency of the 8th March 1831, I have to state that I have again visited the settlement of Indians on Mr. Postlethwaite's land, and regret to say I do not find any improvement since my former visit. On the contrary, the little cultivation they had commenced appeared to be entirely neglected, and the plants destroyed by the ants, which are very numerous in that neighbourhood ; one only of two houses, which they were working on at my former visit, had been made habitable, and even that one is now nearly deserted, there being only two men there at present ; the remainder of those whom I saw there formerly have gone back to Morocco, under a promise of returning ; but whether they will keep to it seems to be doubted.

The two men that remain are employed about the sugar works of the estate, and the manager informs me he finds them docile and useful in the little jobbing work which is required about the works. This however goes a short way to solve, if indeed it can be said to touch the question, whether they can be induced to apply themselves to continuous agricultural labour. Every experience we have tends to prove the negative, as far as regards the Aboriginal Indians of our territory ; and although in Spanish America whilst these vast countries remained under the control of Old Spain, the Indians had made some advancement in the arts of civil life, it must never be forgot that they were placed under a state of restraint, were confined to their respective districts, or missions, and that the labour they performed was compulsory.

To this situation of the Indians of the central and eastern parts of this continent, I adverted in my Letter to your Excellency of September ; and the narrative of Mr. Horan not only confirms it for the past, but goes on to show that the new governments are returning to this same system, and even as far as his information goes, on a less liberal plan ; but perhaps his affection for his mother church leads him to view the establishments while under the immediate control and direction of the catholic clergy with a partial eye. Be this as it may, the fact that the new and liberal Government have found it necessary to recur to the system of