

of the cane, but how little do proprietors occupy themselves about it! In Europe, in all the sugar-houses, the chief sugar-boiler is a well-educated man, who has made certain studies in chemistry, and unites to his practical knowledge a good theory; he is well paid. In Mauritius, to our shame be it said, an Indian labourer, who is a little more intelligent than his companions, is taken from the hoe and made principal sugar-boiler. He does all his limited experience and knowledge allows him; throws into the boiler lime at all risks; sometimes burns and overboils the sugar, at others does not boil it enough, often causing considerable loss to the proprietor in the quality. Out of the 20 lbs. of sugar contained in the 100 lbs. of cane, we obtain 6 or 7 lbs.; the rest is lost. Out of 10 lbs. of sugar contained in 160 lbs. of beet-root, the manufactories in France extract 10 lbs. Dombasle succeeded in obtaining the whole 10½ lbs. without losing a grain. But in the latter country there is only one opinion on the good methods, because they have been studied by those who use them. There are not ten different opinions or ten methods in the cultivation of the vine or the making of wine. Neither are there various systems for the cultivation of beetroot and the extraction of the sugar. The inference that we wish all thinking men to make from what we have said is too apparent. If, by working in the dark as we have done, we succeeded, with the assistance of a propitious soil and climate, in obtaining favourable results, how much more advantageous will they be when we have given ourselves the trouble to learn to cultivate and manufacture after the manner of Europe."

A prejudice which Sir William Gomm has in no slight degree contributed to keep up in England, exists against lengthening the period of engagements, and even against engagements themselves. It is believed, that if service ceased at the wish of the parties, the effect would be to perpetuate relations between the same masters and the same servants. Let us see if this opinion is in any way supported by the table which the members of Council have just received, indicating the number of emigrants introduced since 1843, who continued engaged two, three, and four years on the same estates. At Port Louis, 177 emigrants are in the

second year of their engagements, 233 in their third year, and 21 in their fourth. At South Pamplemousses, 866 are in their second year, 233 in their third, and 94 in their fourth. At North Pamplemousses, 1,582 are in their second year, 1,103 in their third, and 353 in their fourth. At Rivière-du-Rempart, 504 in their second year, 109 in their third, and 23 in their fourth. At Flacq, 1,386 are in their second year, 375 in their third, and 74 in their fourth. At Grand Port, 496 are in their second year, 220 in their third, and 162 in their fourth. At the Savannah, 563 in their second year, 253 in their third, and 94 in their fourth. At Black River, 172 are in their second year, 167 in their third, and 282 in their fourth. At Plaines-Wilhems, 589 are in their second year, 192 in their third, and 33 in their fourth. And at Moka, 14 are in their second year, and nine in their third. Hence, of the enormous number of emigrants introduced into the Colony at so great an expense since 1843, only 6,268 have been engaged two years, 3,094 three years, and 1,136 four years to the same masters. Hence, 10,498 labourers have not quitted their employers from day to day, that is to say, less than a quarter of the number introduced conformably with the order in Council of the 15th January, 1842.—*Cerneen.*

The Government displays a wonderful degree of simplicity in publishing certain returns for which it has lately acquired a taste that, however, we are far from finding fault with. As a specimen, we would cite another table which has been sent to the members of Council, and which is a "statement of the number of Indian emigrant labourers of the new emigration who have embarked for their respective countries from January, 1843, to December, 1846, showing the loss on the amount paid for the passage of each, for the unexpired part of five years, calculated on an average of £8 10s. per adult." We have no room to give the number of Indians from Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, who have resided at Mauritius less than one month, or more, up to fifty-nine months, so we will content ourselves with informing our readers that this loss amounts to £22,196 18s., on 4,621 persons. Now is it plain why we are desirous of Lord Grey's plan being carried into execution?—*Ibid.*