

the great privation to be endured, perhaps for life ; all and every hope being now entirely cut off, with reference to a supply of the gospel through the agency of the N. S. District Meeting, the only refuge left, seemed that of prayer. To Him therefore, from whom no secrets can be hid ; to his all-searching eye, were the imperious spiritual necessities of the case referred : before Him the exigencies of the immortal soul spread. His power was reverted to, his love pleaded, his compassion urged ; faith was exercised, and finally, after nearly the lapse of a year, at the foot-stool of divine mercy, was received, the sustaining impression "thy prayer is heard, it shall be so." But how, and when the blessing should be received was unknown ; this was left to Him of whom it is written, "nothing shall be impossible." In the mean time, the path of dependant duty was still obvious : namely, that of continuing in prayer, and keeping united in the little public services, which were held by those that feared the Lord. And here it cannot but be remembered with gratitude to him, "who giveth power and strength unto his people" and that often by very feeble means ; that these gracious ends were frequently at this time, as also in years previous, effected through the instrumentality of an old respectable (unlettered) man, Mr. Elisha Toby, who to adopt his own simple phraseology, if he was "any thing" he was a Methodist. His house was used as a place of prayer, and he generally went on the sabbath, from one house to another, supported by his cane, often in winter through deep snow and piercing wind, bending over with age and infirmity, to conduct a meeting, exercising a gift in exhortation ; and thus impressing on the minds of the people, eternal realities, always inviting to Christ, as the Saviour of sinners, a present and all sufficient Saviour, and frequently acting in capacity of a class leader. Thus were the few who "waited for the consolation of Israel," supported in the way. But that God, whose promise fails not, and who has admonished in his holy word, with reference to the same, "though it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come," was now about more fully to accomplish his gracious purposes.

To be continued.

RECENT INTELLIGENCE.

ABOLITION OF APPRENTICESHIP IN THE WEST INDIES.

IN addition to the important information, which we, in common with our contemporaries, have received by the Jamaica Journals, respecting the termination of the apprenticeship in the West Indies, and the way in which the negroes conducted themselves, our friends at the Wesleyan Mission House have kindly furnished us with some most interesting extracts of letters from missionaries on the spot. The letters and papers bring down the account to the 4th of August. We are glad to notice, from the tenor of the letters especially, that the most sanguine anticipations of the friends of the negroes, under the care of our own missionaries, have on the whole been realized. We have given an extract from the *Times*, which would seem to form an exception to this remark, in reference to other negroes ; but it would be rash and uncharitable to form too hasty a conclusion respecting it. At the eleventh hour, on the 25th of July, the government of Trinidad passed a law to

put an end to the apprenticeship, and to make all the negroes free on the 1st. of August. This was the only British colony in which the measure had been delayed. As far as we have been able to ascertain, the 1st. of August was observed religiously as a day of grateful thanksgiving, by the instructed negroes, and without any disturbance or unseemly riot at all. The religious services in the churches and chapels were attended by multitudes of well dressed and happy negroes, and an opportunity was taken by many of their respective ministers, to impress on them some important lessons suitable to their new circumstances. A correspondent in Kingston, writes, on the 13th of August :—

"In this circuit, the first of August was celebrated as a day of thanksgiving, with suitable services ; and will be a day long remembered by many. On the evening of the 31st July, we had a watch-night service in the Parade and Wesley chapels ; and a very large congregation assembled at each place to hail and welcome, in the house of God, the dawn of the glorious day of liberty. Mr. Edmondson preached at the Parade chapel from Deuteronomy vi. 12.—'Beware lest thou forget the Lord which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage ;' and afterwards proceeded to Wesley chapel, where he delivered an address, and closed the service. I preached at Wesley chapel from Leviticus xxv. 10.—'And ye shall proclaim liberty throughout all the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof : it shall be a jubilee unto you ;' and then proceeded to the Parade chapel, where I delivered an address, and closed the service in the usual manner. The deep and hallowed feeling of joy which pervaded the congregations, during these interesting services, was not expressed in noisy and tumultuous acclamations, but in suppressed and fervent aspirations of praise to Almighty God, by whose unerring wisdom, and powerful arm, the great event had been brought to pass. On the 1st of August Mr. Edmondson preached at Wesley chapel, in the morning from 1 Cor. xix. 20.—'Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price ; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit which are God's ;' and in the evening, from Exodus xxxiii. 2.—'thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil.' I preached at the Parade chapel in the morning, from Jeremiah xxxiv. 15.—'And ye were now turned and had done right in my sight in proclaiming liberty every man to his neighbour ;' and in the evening from Psalm cxi. 9.—'He sent redemption unto his people.' The congregations on these occasions were very large, and the services fraught with an interest not to be described. We endeavoured to lead the people to a right understanding and improvement of the blessing of civil liberty, which was that day conferred upon them ; that it might be seen, and acknowledged by all, that they were worthy of being raised from degradation to which they had been subjected by slavery, and to take their station and rank as men. In addition to this we had an open-air service in the afternoon in the most public part of the city ; viz., on the Parade, taking our station on the steps of the theatre. Mr. Edmondson opened the service, and I preached from 1 Samuel xii. 24.—'Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart ; for consider how great things he hath done for you.' The congregation on this occasion was immense,—much larger than any I have seen on any similar occasion, and extended much farther than I could reach with the utmost exertion of my voice, and comprehended persons of all classes in the community. It was truly gratifying to behold the manner in which the day was observed. There was nothing approaching to riot or licentiousness ; but throughout it was kept as a day of thanksgiving, and with all the quiet and decorum which is due to the Sabbath. Amidst all the festivities and rejoicings on the occasion, I did not observe a single individual who was intoxicated ; and I very