

COLONIAL.

CONDITION OF THE APPRENTICED LABOURERS IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.

We have received a circular, dated 12th June, subscribed by Robert Stokes, Secretary to the Anti-Slavery Society, and by John Scoble, Secretary to the British and Foreign Society for the Universal Abolition of Slavery and the Slave Trade, prefixing printed extracts of communications from Jamaica, Dominica, Demarara, and St. Christophers, which describe the sufferings of the apprenticed labourers from the mal-treatment of their masters as nothing short of that which the slaves endured from their owners. Cases are mentioned of negroes being shot by their masters, who either escaped punishment altogether, or received only a temporary imprisonment; of one being torn by dogs hunted on by his master, who was punished only by a fine of £100 currency; and of others being flogged so severely that they died. "You can conceive nothing more thoroughly horrible than the system of coerced labour under the apprentice law," says a late stipendiary magistrate in a letter, dated Jamaica, 1st April, 1835. "Unmitigated slavery," he continues, "was nothing to this: it induces a most hopeless feeling; for it is injustice under the pretence of law, whereas the old state of things the negro knew to be lawless altogether."

The circular from the Secretaries says—You have been deluded in common with ourselves; we now solemnly appeal to you, to address your representatives in a tone that will satisfy them of your determination that the negro apprentice shall not remain the victim of colonial duplicity." "We stand solemnly pledged in the sight of God, and in the face of the country, not to desert the negro while a trace of slavery remains." The Secretaries recommended an immediate and most earnest appeal to our representatives in Parliament, both personally and by letter, and also the presentation of petitions to Parliament on the subject.

The communication was unexpected by us, as we had understood that the apprentice-system was on the whole working well. The two Secretaries, however, assure us, that "deplorable as the view is, which the letters give of the working of the apprenticeship, there is too much reason to fear that the tyranny and oppression perpetrated under colour of it, very far exceed the representations here made." If the case be so, the public have no ground for hesitation: they must demand, with a voice that will be felt to be irresistible, that justice shall be done to the negroes as well as to the country which has paid the price of their freedom.—*Scotsman*, (Edinburgh.)

BERMUDA, July 23.

We have had rather a suspicious looking Schooner hovering about our neighbourhood, for the last week or two, frequently going round our Island, but she has not, as we can learn, at all interfered with any vessel either inward or outward bound, or passing, during her presence. It is to be regretted that we have not an armed vessel in port to ascertain her true character: she may be inoffensive, but certainly her remaining so long near these Islands, has given just cause to doubt her honest intentions.—A schooner, supposed to be the same vessel, got among the rocks to the Westward on Friday morning last, where had she remained much longer, we should not be at a loss to know her character.—Captain Lusher, of the *Pembroke*, spoke an American Whaler, homeward bound, a short distance to the westward, the Captain of which told him that for several successive nights a top-sail Schooner had laid to, in the latitude of Bermuda.—*Bermuda Gazette*.

MONTREAL, August 8th.

RETURN OF CAPT BACK, AND THE ARCTIC LAND EXHIBITION.—Captain Back, accompanied by William Malley, one of the volunteers from the Royal Artillery, who left this city with him in 1833, returned to Lachine on Thursday last, in excellent health and spirits. Dr. King and the rest of the expedition were left at Fort Reliance, all well—they are to leave for England by way of Hudson's Bay. We are glad to say, that no mortality or accident occurred to any of the persons actually accompanying the expedition, although one of the volunteer artillerymen, Witham-on, who was somewhat advanced in years, and who was unable longer to bear the fatigues and hardships of the journey, unfortunately died when on his way back to a Hudson's Bay station. He was accompanied by two Canadians, who were well acquainted with the country, but having separated himself from them, he must have wandered out of the true path, and perished. Captain Back dispatched men in all directions to search for him, and it was only a considerable distance of time afterwards, that his body was found. Carron and Ross, the remaining artillerymen, return with Dr. King to England via Hudson's Bay. They, with Malley, but particularly the latter, were of essential service to the expedition.

During the first winter, the expedition had to endure great privations and sufferings, owing to the scarcity of food and the severity of the weather. On the 25th of April, being exactly one year after he had left Lachine, and during a heavy snow storm, the dispatch communicating Ross's safe return was delivered to Captain Back. The primary object for which the journey was undertaken being thus happily fulfilled by other agents, Captain Back made preparations for complying with the secondary part of his instructions—the examination of the coast between Point Turnagain and Ross's Pillar. Several boats were with the utmost activity built during the winter, but in spring, finding that they had an insufficient supply of provisions, they could only take one with them.

It was not until the month of July, 1834, that the expedition got to open water on the Thlew-ee-chodezeth, or Great River. Capt. Back, we believe, succeeded in determining that this river runs to the northward, and if we understand the purport of the scanty information which has reached us, it has its source on a height of land, about 150 to 200 miles from Fort Reliance, the winter establishment of the expedition at the eastern extremity of Great Slave Lake. Captain Back is the first European who has visited Great Fish River, and examined its course to the Polar Seas. Its very existence was doubted by many geographers. It is said to be large, but of dangerous navigation—greatly impeded by ice, and having little but mounds of sand along its banks. It falls into the Polar Sea, at a point, as far as we can learn, that coincides very near to the place assigned to it by Captain Back and the Arctic Committee in London, in their prospectus already referred to.

How far the labours of the expedition will increase our knowledge of the line of coast, we are unable to say; but from what has been stated above, it is obvious that a new route has been opened to the Polar sea, and that a large blank which formerly struck the eye, on surveying the map, will now in a great measure be filled up. The extreme cold experienced, we learn, was 70° below zero.

The expedition returned to Fort Reliance, which place Captain Back left on 20th March, 1835, and travelled on snow-shoes to Fort Chipewyan. From this station he departed on 26th May, and arrived at Lachine, as already mentioned, on the 6th inst.

Captain Back arrived in Montreal this morn-

ing, and will leave for New York in a day or two, in order to embark in the packet ship of the 16th inst., for Liverpool.—*Montreal Gaz.*

QUEBEC, August 10th.

We have had six beautiful summer dry days, the thermometer having, on Saturday afternoon, risen to 90° in the shade. The atmosphere has been cloudless, and the south-west to north-west winds which prevailed occasionally, afforded some of our refreshing fragrant serene evenings, disturbed only by the insects' chirp, or the flash of the fire-flies. No climate presents more fascinating hours than the evenings of this and the early part of the next month; and if some walk be chosen, from which the bay and the shipping, the rich country to the north and its bold mountains can be seen a little after the sun has hid itself, no more varied and grander scenery exists any where.

The Crows still look well. Some fields of wheat will be fit for the sickle in the course of ten days to a fortnight. We have not heard that the insects have much damaged it. The greater part of the hay has been saved, owing to the dry weather, and has never been more abundant, and indeed has proved beyond all doubt, that as good crops can be produced here as any where. We refer to the market prices, which are still low.—*Quebec Gazette*.

LAND BUYERS.—Beware of purchasing allotments under the title of *Pensioners' Location Tickets*; as Government does not allow them to be transferred, and no Grant can be obtained until the conditions are fulfilled and the grant must be in the name of the Pensioner.—*St. Andrews' Standard*.

[The Editor of the *Miramichi Gleaner*, in noticing the negligence of shipmasters, in not bringing Newspapers with them when on foreign voyages, makes the following very appropriate remarks:—

The economy of Captains in thus saving a few half-pence, is now grown so proverbial, that we hardly ever think of making inquiries of them for a late paper, for not one out of thirty ever thinks of such a thing. For strangers there is some excuse, but for those who are regular traders, there is none, for they well know the anxiety that always exists, for the latest news; which they could gratify for seven pence, and a little attention. The calls upon us are frequent, for files of our papers, for Ship Masters, in person, when leaving our port, as well as by their friends, with which we cheerfully comply—without charge; and we make it a rule, to forward each Captain, who has been kind enough to hand us a paper, on arriving, a copy of our Journal, weekly, while in port. It is really annoying to be compelled to put our paper to press with dates only to the 9th, when, through the attention of any one of the Masters who arrived on Sunday, intelligence as late as the 20th July might have been obtained. There are, however, exceptions, and we could mention the names of several Captains who make it a rule to procure the latest dates on leaving,—their favours are therefore the more acceptable.

30,000 REAL HAVANA CIGARS, (warranted genuine,) in quantities to suit purchasers, for sale by July 22 r-w **JAMES D. FRASER.**

100 Bbls. PITCH, 70 Bbls. TAR, 20 do. ROSIN, for sale by July 1. **ROSS & PRIMROSE.**

D. SPENCE,
BOOK BINDER,

RESPECTFULLY informs the inhabitants of Quebec, that he has commenced business in the above line, in a room below the Bee Office, where, or at the said Office, BOOKS will be received for binding according to order. [June 29, 1835]