

ceedingly fertile, yielding all the products of tropical climes in abundance, though sugar, rum and molasses and cacao are the principal articles of export. The forests are full of very valuable trees, the wood of which takes a beautiful polish, and bread-fruit, plaintain, mango, orange, lemon and many other fine fruits are easily cultivated.

Everywhere the scenery is beautiful, with hill and valley, sparkling streams and waterfalls, shady groves, and bright blossoming trees and plants on every side. Violent storms are rare, and the heat, though great, is moderated by the trade winds—strong northeast winds from the Atlantic Ocean.

Slavery continued to be a blot on this fair land, until it was abolished throughout the British Dominions, in 1833; or rather until the complete emancipation of all slaves, by an end being put to the apprenticeship system in 1838. At that time the most of the freed slaves, as was but natural, did not care to continue as hired labourers under their former masters, but preferred taking up and cultivating portions of unoccupied land within easy reach.

In this way they soon became small proprietors, earning an easy livelihood for their families from the rich soil. Consequently the work on the large sugar plantations could not be profitably carried on, and to save the island from ruin, a plan, which will be more fully explained later on, was formed to bring labourers from India. These are the Coolies, now so numerous, among whom our missionaries are labouring, but in this paper I must say a few words of earlier mission work done on the island.

The happy triumph of the cause of freedom naturally attracted much attention to the negro race in the West Indies, and some of the religious bodies of Great Britain deemed it a favourable opportunity for engaging in mission work among them. Of these the Secession, now the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland,