

# THE MISSIONARY HERALD.

## THE INSURRECTION IN JAMAICA.

THE startling intelligence of an outbreak of sanguinary violence among the negroes in Jamaica has taken the country by surprise. But our readers have for a long time past been aware that the condition of the island was a most painful one, and that numerous causes of dissatisfaction existed with the Government and the ruling classes. Although the public papers have contained full details of the transactions of the rioters, and of the methods adopted to quench the flames of civil strife, and although the despatch of Governor Eyre has been published, informing the Home Government of his proceedings, we are still without any authentic account of the origin and causes of the outbreak. "Up to the present time," says Governor Eyre, "no reasonable or intelligent cause has been assigned as the origin of this most wicked and wide-spread rebellion." Our private letters are similarly devoid of facts on which to rest any opinion. Nevertheless Governor Eyre has no doubt that it is in a great degree due to Dr. Underhill's letter, and the meetings held in connection with that letter, "when the people were told they were tyrannised over and ill-treated, were over-taxed, and were denied political rights, had no just tribunals, were misrepresented to her Majesty's Government by the authorities and by the planters, and where in fact language of the most seditious kind was constantly used, and the people told plainly to right themselves, to be up and doing, to put their shoulders to the wheel, to do as the Haytians had done, and other similar advice." These inflammatory speeches were chiefly made, the Governor says, by Mr. G. W. Gordon, a member of the Assembly and a Baptist member; but he also affirms that a few Baptist missionaries, like some one, whose name is left blank in the despatch, "endorse at public meetings or otherwise all the untruthful statements or inuendos propagated in Dr. Underhill's letter."

Before proceeding to lay before our readers extracts from the letters we have received, it will be necessary to say a word or two on these statements of the Governor of Jamaica. The impression left by his language is, that Dr. Underhill is one of the guilty parties, if not the most guilty. The relation of Dr. Underhill's letter to the lamentable riot and bloodshed at Morant Bay cannot be better given than in his own words, in a letter to *The Times* newspaper of November 21st. Dr. Underhill says:—

"Sir,—As Governor Eyre has given his opinion in his despatch published in your columns to-day that the outbreak in Jamaica 'is in a great degree due to

Dr. Underhill's letter,' you will in all fairness give a similar publicity to one or two facts that the Governor has omitted to state.

"On the 5th of January last, not in my official capacity, as secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society, but as a private person interested in Jamaica, I addressed a letter to the Right Hon. E. Cardwell on the condition of the island. On the 27th of January Mr. Cardwell expressed his thanks for this communication, and stated that he had forwarded it to the Governor of Jamaica, with instructions to report upon its contents.

"My letter was published by Governor Eyre in the *Island Gazette*. At the same time the Governor issued a circular to the custodes, judges, magistrates, the Bishop of Kingston, and to the clergy and ministers of all denominations, requesting them to furnish him with the materials for a reply to the despatch of the Colonial Secretary. The speeches and resolutions of public meetings, and the violent articles of the colonial press which followed, arose from the course taken by Governor Eyre. He it was who 'propagated' in Jamaica 'those untruthful statements and inuendoes,' which he says my letter contains, but which on a suitable occasion I am prepared to justify. He it was who gave them the publicity they acquired. My letter was not addressed to the people of Jamaica, but to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and for its publication and the effects consequent upon it I must disclaim the responsibility which Governor Eyre wishes to fasten upon me. The responsibility is his, not mine."

Dr. Underhill's letter to Mr. Cardwell will be found in a subsequent page, and our readers will judge for themselves whether it is worthy of the sweeping condemnation of Governor Eyre. There seems, however, to be a wish, both on the Governor's part, and with others in Jamaica and England, to fasten this sad event on the Baptist missionaries. It will, therefore, be of importance if we briefly state the facts of the case.

Morant Bay is a small town on the sea-coast, about forty miles eastward of Kingston. The Baptist Missionary Society has never had either a church or congregation in this locality, the nearest station being at Yallahs, about midway between Kingston and Morant Bay. The pastor of Yallahs is Mr. E. Palmer, who resides in Kingston, where he is the pastor of the church in Hanover-street. But at Morant Bay and its neighbourhood there are no Baptists in connection with the missionaries or the Society. There have existed, however, in this place for some years, a number of persons who are known as *native* Baptists; and it is to these parties, with one exception, that the statements of Governor Eyre and others refer. They originated in the labours of Mr. George Lisle, an American negro, thirty years before the Baptist missionaries appeared in the island. They have never associated with the ministers and churches of the Society, their superstitious practices and fanatical proceedings keeping them entirely apart. It is from among these persons that the so-called Baptists have been arrested and executed. The only exception referred to above is Mr. E. Palmer, who was educated in the early years of the existence of the Calabar Institution. He has been arrested in Kingston, and at our last advices was held prisoner on board a man-of-war awaiting his trial. So far as our information goes, he is charged with having been connected with a society called the Friends of Africa, but which he appears to have left some time ago, on finding that the

association was likely to be used for mischievous purposes. With this exception, we are not aware that any one immediately connected with our missionaries has taken part in the riot, or suffered the penalties inflicted on the rioters. Of Mr. Gordon we may briefly say, that, although he appears to have been baptized some years ago, he was never a member of any of our churches, and only lately declared in a court of law that he was a member of the Church of England.

The first letter from our missionaries addressed to Dr. Underhill, from which we quote, is dated October 21st. We withhold the names of our brethren, for reasons suggested in one of the paragraphs of the letter. We are grieved to find that letters passing between the missionaries and the Mission House have been opened by Governor Eyre, with a purpose easily understood. We must not, therefore, at present publish the names of the brethren who may favour us with their communications.

“Thus far had I written, when we were startled by intelligence of a most fearful character from St. Thomas-in-the-East. The people there have been provoked beyond endurance. They have risen in large numbers against the authorities, and in their madness have done deeds which must make every friend of the Negro hang down his head with shame. The papers give fearful accounts of mutilations after death. I do not believe half that is stated to have taken place has happened; but time will show. Let it however be borne in mind that none of the papers will contradict their first statements, however untrue they may afterwards find them. Taking the most favourable view, however, terrible things have been done. You will see the papers, and therefore I will not enter into details. The *Guardian* of the 19th does not spare either you or us. To deny anything now, would be utterly useless. A time however will come when we shall not only be able to vindicate ourselves, but show where the cause of all the mischief has been. Although I shall forward this to you in an indirect way, I have no doubt it will be opened and read. I cannot therefore write as freely as I could wish. Martial law has been proclaimed throughout the county of Surrey; and let what has happened there the last few days declare whether we have mis-judged the authorities. You at a distance will be best able to judge, from the awful loss of life which has taken place, the kind of feeling entertained towards the black population. God forbid that I should shield those who have committed the atrocities that have been perpetrated in St. Thomas-in-the-East; but I tremble to think of the large number of innocent persons, loyal subjects, who have been ruthlessly cut down. Of course I write from the published prints. Read the *Gleaner* of the 19th, and an account of the Maroon war-dance, and then blush for our countrymen. The feeling against some is most bitter. There was a report circulated yesterday that Brother —— and myself were implicated, and would be arrested. Conscious that we had done no wrong, we were not troubled; though I could mention some things which have happened to others, which would show you that under certain circumstances our lives would not be worth much; I need not tell you that in the district in which the riots have taken place the Baptist Missionaries have no influence whatever. I do not think we ever had a European Missionary residing there, except for a short time at Belle Castle, where Brother Harris now is. The Manual which will reach you with this will show you our strength in St. Thomas-in-the-East. It is emphatically a Church of England parish. I could not however have supposed that any of the people would have been so foolish and so wicked. G. W. Gordon was arrested in Kingston, and taken to Port Antonio, to be tried by court-martial on board a man-of-war. I cannot bring myself to believe that he has done anything wrong, but the feeling against him is very bitter; I wish he could have been tried in a

different way. I have not the least fear of anything happening in those parishes where Missionaries are looked to for advice, for although in common with others the people living in those parishes have much to complain of, they will only seek to obtain redress in a constitutional way—at least such is my belief. I do hope that every means will be used to get an inquiry, both into the cause of the outbreak and the means used to suppress it.”

Our next letter is dated October 19th, and is from a place nearly in the centre of the island.

“It was not till Tuesday’s post we were made aware of the riot and bloodshed which had been prevailing at the east end of the island. I need not refer to the details: you will get them from the newspapers. And you will read with probably calmer feelings than we do with what malignity the *Guardian* has dared to connect your name with these atrocities. It does not seem to me that the time to vindicate you and ourselves has yet come; but I am disposed to think it will; and that our traducers may yet be brought to humiliation and shame. Our cause will not suffer for the biding of our time and the exercise of patience. There may be a public willing to hear to whom it may be worth making an appeal.

“As far as I can at present judge I am inclined to think the outbreak will prove entirely local, centering in G. W. Gordon and the poor ignorant people who have been under his influence.”

“You know St. Thomas-in-the-East and the adjoining parishes. I suppose it is proverbially the lowest, the most debased and ignorant part of the island. Unhappily it has never been under our influence. We have now a native brother as a Home Missionary on its borders; but I am not aware that a European Baptist Missionary has ever been located in the parish. And the accounts which our Home Missionary gives represent the people as much sunk in superstition, and almost in as wild a condition as the inhabitants of the wilds of Africa. Hence they are the natural prey of demagogues, and seditious and evil-minded men.

“In these sad events our friends at home will have sad evidence of the need there is of Christian labour, and how imperatively necessary it is to keep up an efficient staff of European agents in connection with our mission. I sincerely trust you will already have ratified this view. And I heartily wish it were possible for you by some means to establish a European missionary at the very seat of our little rebeldom. And most *apropos* we have the subject before us in a definite form from the London Missionary Society. The London Missionary Society’s premises at Morant Bay are formally offered to us for sale and occupation. I am sure it will not be possible for us at present either to find the means of purchasing them, or of sustaining a European brother there. Can you devise any plan at home? Is there any wealthy Christian gentleman who would at any rate assume as much of the responsibility as would secure the object? I know very well the pressure you have; but it is possible that the present juncture of events may lay a claim upon the conscience of some wealthy brother in Christ. Give the subject your thought. I should like to see an attack on this fortress of the devil, which it seems to me we have culpably allowed him to hold undisturbed too long.”

The following letter contains a few details of the commencement of the rioting, somewhat differing from those in the newspapers:—

“This mail will carry sad and fearful news from Jamaica. A rebellion has broken out in St. Thomas-in-the-East. Many valuable lives have been sacrificed. Rumour reports some horrible deeds committed, and the county of Surrey has been placed under martial law. This is the saddest calamity that since freedom has befallen this island, and the consequences I fear will be very, very sad.

“It seems that on Saturday, October 8, a man was tried and convicted for stealing cocoa-nuts. A mob rescued the man from the police, declaring that he was innocent. On Monday following warrants were issued to apprehend the rescuers. Paul Bogle, the first served with a summons, sounded a whistle, when some 200

or 300 men armed with sticks assembled, handcuffed the police, and then the riot began. Wednesday, I think, was vestry day. A formidable body of rebels came, and a conflict ensued. The police and volunteers were overpowered, and murder began. Baron von Kettleholdt, the custos, and others were beaten to death. The Rev. Mr. Herschel was murdered. The rector was beaten most brutally. The rebels then proceeded to other deeds of bloodshed, and, it is said, declared that they would kill every white and coloured man in the parish. They have burned and destroyed considerable property. Troops were sent up, and active measures resorted to in order to quell the outbreak.

"I am sorry to say that strong suspicions rest on Mr. George W. Gordon having roused the people to rise. He is arrested, and rumours say convicted; but nothing will be certainly known till to-morrow's post. It is to be hoped that, though very injudicious, and at times intemperate in language, he was not so wicked as to plan or excite to these bloody deeds. If he did, then, with others, he must share the responsibility. Paul Bogle is not yet found. 2,000 dollars reward are offered for his capture. A very large number of gentlemen, and most of the European and other ladies, who could, have come up to Kingston. Considerable uneasiness is felt in other parts of the community, and more troops and men-of-war are sent for, and will soon be here. In St. Mary's, about two months ago, threatening letters were sent to some gentlemen, and threats against property uttered. The anxiety was allayed, but this horrible outbreak has awakened it afresh. Rumours now and then spring up in some places of intended mischief; but I hope things will keep quiet, and the evil spread no further.

"But the question arises, what is the cause of this fearful outbreak? At present I am unable to say. Opinions are many. Some say it is the discussion, &c., &c., arising from your letter to the Colonial Secretary, and the *Guardian* (the only paper I have seen) connects or rather tries to connect you and 'several Baptist missionaries' with the affair, as having created the impression that the people are being sadly oppressed, &c., &c., &c. Others say 'it is taxation.' Others that it is the first manifestation of a spirit against the white and fair coloured classes—the beginning of the end; and, *if it is correct* that there was the purpose to murder every white and coloured man in the parish one cannot but feel that there is reason for the cause assigned. It would, however I think, be premature to enter into details.

"But my own observation for a considerable time has convinced me that there has been a growing sentiment deepening and widening among a certain class of persons, many of whom are not under Gospel influences, antagonistic to the Saxon race. I have been deeply grieved to witness it, and expected that it would in future years bear bitter fruit. Among many of the young, too, there is a lawlessness and recklessness which regards licentious liberty only as true freedom, who are indignant at any check to the indulgence of their spirit, and interpret it as a great grievance, and who regard any real grievance with sad sentiments. The more this class increases the more painful will be the results, and well will it be if any measures of a loving and healthful character can be adopted to rectify the evil felt by many and deplored. Thank God there are multitudes of our good, steady people, who have no sympathy with the spirit manifested or the sentiment cherished. Most of our people who have heard of the horrible work in the east are deeply pained, and seem unable to realise the affair. I only hope the Lord will enable us all to keep quiet, and walk in His commandments. It ought not to be omitted that a goodly number of the people in St. Thomas-in-the-East behaved most nobly in saving and protecting the lives of some gentlemen and families. It is a real comfort to hear of the noble conduct of many, and it should be regarded with much satisfaction.

"As your letter and 'several Baptist Missionaries' are named as somehow having brought about this state of things, we must expect considerable ill-feeling. This, however, we must bear patiently. That at some 'Underhill meetings' some inflammatory words were used is possible—that some of them were most orderly and sober is, I know, a truth; but why the Baptists should be held accountable I do not see.

"The state of the people religiously, socially, &c., &c., is to my mind very sad. Sabbath-breaking and immorality are very general; and the young are not, *as a body*, presenting a pleasing and promising future. God grant that we may see a change."

The next letter is from one of our most experienced brethren, and is addressed to our Treasurer:—

"I must beg you to excuse my writing to you, the Treasurer of our Society, instead of the Secretaries. I do so, as, if I addressed my communication as usual, I might possibly subject myself to suspicions that might prove inconvenient to me, if not lead to more serious consequences.

"The eastern part of the island has been the scene of a most awful rebellion, accompanied by atrocities of the most revolting character. The newspapers herewith sent will describe the facts; although, perhaps, like all statements of a similar kind emanating from this source, they should be received with some abatement.

"Multitudes of the misguided people have been tried by court-martial and executed, and a very considerable number more are arrested on suspicion of complicity with the rebels. Among these as the principal is a Mr. G. W. Gordon, together with Mr. Palmer, one of our ministers in Kingston; the Rev. Mr. Roach of the Native Wesleyan Association; a Mr. Vines (Independent), dentist; a Rev. Mr. Gordon, of Woolmer's Free School (Episcopalian), Messrs. Kelly, Smith, Goodson, &c., of the same denomination, and others too numerous to detail.

"From what is known in England of the shameful hostility of some of the editors of the public prints in this country against the Baptists, and as manifested of late against Dr. Underhill, on account of his letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, you will not be surprised to find that this awful tragedy, with all its consequences, is ascribed to them, notwithstanding the most manifest evidences to the contrary.

"What interest can we missionaries possibly have in exciting riot and bloodshedding in the Island, or in wishing to exterminate the white population?"

"What renders the daily slanders of that portion of the press to which I especially refer so unaccountable, is, that for two years past, more or less, its pages have been teeming with such abuse of the Governor and the Government, as could not fail to bring them into contempt and create dissatisfaction in the public mind with the administration of the affairs of the country altogether. The editors of such prints would doubtless feel much scandalized if any one should charge them with having contributed to the present deplorable state of things, and yet, perhaps, they are as justly chargeable with it as those whom they accuse.

"Allow me to draw your attention to the fact that the Missionaries of our Society have no place of worship nor preaching station in the disturbed districts, not between Yallahs in St. David's and Manchioneel, which you will see by reference to our last report and a map of the Island; and that Mr. Harris of the latter place, with his wife and family, was one of the refugees for the protection of the commanding officer of the district. Mr. — and myself were appointed a deputation at our last annual meeting to visit the whole of the east end of the Island on a preaching excursion, and to establish stations along the coast and in the interior. Our plans as to the time of setting out were frustrated so successively as to be unaccountable to us: we see all now, and regard the kind hand of God in the causes of delay. Had we gone we should not have escaped the imputation of having caused the rebellion, nor, perhaps, the penalty."

Before closing this notice of the painful scenes that poor Jamaica has had

to witness, it is due to Governor Eyre and to our brethren that we should quote the following paragraph from the Governor's despatch :—

“ Whilst it is my duty to point out how mischievous has been the influence of a few of the Baptist ministers, and of various members of that persuasion, it is equally my duty, and a pleasure to me to state that I believe that a large majority of the Baptist ministers have been most anxious to support the authorities, to teach their people to be loyal and industrious, and to endorse the advice given to the peasantry by her most gracious Majesty.”

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### JAMAICA SPECIAL FUND.

During the past month our friends throughout the country have been made aware of the painful circumstances in which the Jamaica pastors have been placed, owing to the failure of their resources. This has gone so far in some instances as to lead them to contemplate their removal from the island. For although the drought of the last three years has been remedied by fertilising rains during the last few months, the effects of the period of sterility cannot be so soon overcome. The letters informing the Committee of this state of things were read at the quarterly meeting at Bradford, on the 10th October, when the following resolution was unanimously adopted :—

“ That the Committee lose no time in calling attention to the accompanying letters from brethren in Jamaica, whose character and labours entitle them to the prompt assistance of the Baptist Churches of this country, and that having no funds at their disposal to provide for present necessities, they appeal to their brethren for a fund, of which £1,000 should be forwarded to the Island forthwith.”

In accordance with this resolution, a communication, containing the letters of the brethren in full, was addressed to every Baptist church in the kingdom. The response has been most cordial; and up to the present time (Nov. 22nd) the Treasurer has received £891. This does not, indeed, reach to the sum required; but many churches are only waiting a suitable day on which to offer to their brethren in Jamaica this token of fraternal sympathy and love. Of the sum received, it is greatly to the honour of the Bristol churches and of the Metropolitan Tabernacle that they have contributed more than one-half. From Bristol £360 have reached the Treasurer; from the Metropolitan Tabernacle, £156. Without waiting for the receipt of these sums, the Committee have already sent to Jamaica £520, including in their gifts both the European and native brethren.

Recent events render this appeal more pressing. Labouring under the most unfounded suspicions, our brethren need to have, as they deserve, the hearty support of the churches. Let our gifts testify to them that the cause of Christ in Jamaica is as dear to us as ever, and that, as in years gone by, we are ready to hold up their hands, and to stand by their side in the midst of reproach and persecution.

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LETTER OF DR. UNDERHILL TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
E. CARDWELL.

33, Moorgate Street, E.C.,

January 5, 1865.

Dear Sir,—I venture to ask your kind consideration to a few observations on the present condition of the island of Jamaica.

For several months past every mail has brought letters informing me of the continually-increasing distress of the coloured population. As a sufficient illustration, I quote the following brief passage from one of them:—

“Crime has fearfully increased. The number of prisoners in the penitentiary and gaols is considerably more than double the average, and nearly all for one crime—larceny. Summonses for petty debts disclose an amount of pecuniary difficulty which has never before been experienced; and applications for parochial and private relief prove that multitudes are suffering from want little removed from starvation.”

The immediate cause of this distress would seem to be the drought of the last two years; but, in fact, this has only given intensity to suffering previously existing. All accounts, both public and private, concur in affirming the alarming increase of crime, chiefly of larceny and petty theft. This arises from the extreme poverty of the people. That this is its true origin is made evident by the ragged and even naked condition of vast numbers of them, so contrary to the taste for dress they usually exhibit. They cannot purchase clothing, partly from its greatly increased cost, which is unduly enhanced by the duty (said to be thirty-eight per cent. by the Hon. Mr. Whitelocke) which it now pays, and partly from the want of employment, and the consequent absence of wages.

The people, then, are starving, and the causes of this are not far to seek. No doubt the taxation of the island is too heavy for its present resources, and must necessarily render the cost of producing the staples higher than they can bear, to meet competition in the markets of the world. No doubt much of the sugar land in the island is worn out, or can only be made productive by an outlay which would destroy all hope of profitable return. No doubt too large a part of the island is uncultivated, and might be made to support a greater population than is now existing upon it.

But the simple fact is, there is not sufficient employment for the people; there is neither work for them nor capital to employ them.

The labouring class is too numerous for the work to be done. Sugar cultivation on the estates does not absorb more than 30,000 of the people, and every other species of cultivation (apart from provision growing) cannot give employment to more than another 30,000. But the agricultural population of the island is over 400,000, so that there are at least 340,000 whose livelihood depends on employment other than that devoted to the staple cultivation of the island. Of these 340,000 certainly not less than 130,000 are adults, and capable of labour. For subsistence they must be entirely dependent on the provisions grown on their little freeholds, a portion of which is sold to those who find employment on the estates, or perhaps, in a slight degree, on such produce as they are able to raise for exportation. But those who grow produce for exportation are very few, and they meet with every kind of discouragement to prosecute the means of support which is as advantageous to the island as to themselves. If their provisions fail, as has been the case, from drought, they must steal or starve. And this is their present condition. The same result follows in this country when employment ceases or wages fail. The great decrease of coin in circulation in Jamaica is a further proof that less money is spent in wages through the decline of employment. Were Jamaica prosperous, silver would flow into it, or its equivalent in English manu-



facture, instead of the exportation of silver, which now regularly takes place. And if, as stated in the Governor's speech, the Customs' revenue in the year gone by has been equal to former years, this has arisen, not from an increase in the quantities imported, but from the increased value of the imports, the duty being levied at an *ad valorem* charge of 12½ per cent. on articles such as cotton goods, which have within the last year or two greatly risen in price.

I shall say nothing of the course taken by the Jamaica Legislature; of their abortive Immigration Bills; of their unjust taxation of the coloured population; of their refusal of just tribunals; of their denial of political rights to the emancipated negroes. Could the people find remunerative employment, these evils would in time be remedied, from their growing strength and intelligence. The worst evil consequent on the proceedings of the Legislature is the distrust awakened in the minds of capitalists, and the avoidance of Jamaica, with its manifold advantages, by all who possess the means to benefit it by their expenditure.

Unless means can be found to encourage the outlay of capital in Jamaica in the growth of those numerous products which can be profitably exported, so that employment can be given to its starving people, I see no other result than the entire failure of the island and the destruction of the hopes that the Legislature and the people of Great Britain have cherished with regard to the well-being of its emancipated population.

With your kind permission, I will venture to make two or three suggestions which, if carried out, may assist to avert so painful a result.

1. A searching inquiry into the legislation of the island since emancipation, its taxation, its economical and material condition, would go far to bring to light the causes of the existing evils, and, by convincing the ruling class of the mistakes of the past, lead to their removal. Such an inquiry seems also due to this country, that it may be seen whether the emancipated peasantry have gained those advantages which were sought to be secured to them by their enfranchisement.

2. The Governor might be instructed to encourage, by his personal approval and urgent recommendation, the growth of exportable produce by the people on the very numerous freeholds they possess. This might be done by the formation of associations for shipping their produce in considerable quantities, by equalizing duties on the produce of the people and that of the planting interests; by instructing the native growers of produce in the best methods of cultivation, and pointing out the articles which would find a ready sale in the markets of the world; by opening channels for direct transmission of produce, without the intervention of agents, by whose extortions and frauds the people now frequently suffer and are greatly discouraged. The cultivation of sugar by the peasantry should, in my judgment, be discouraged. At the best, with all the scientific appliances the planters can bring to it, both capital and machinery, sugar manufacturing is a hazardous thing. Much more must it become so in the hands of the people, with their rude mills and imperfect method. But the minor products of the island, such as spices, tobacco, farinaceous food, coffee, and cotton, are quite within their reach, and always fetch a fair and remunerative price when not burdened by extravagant charges and local taxation.

3. With just laws and light taxation, capitalists would be encouraged to settle in Jamaica, and employ themselves in the production of the more important staples, such as sugar, coffee, and cotton. Thus the people would be employed, and the present starvation rate of wages be improved.

In conclusion I have to apologize for troubling you with this communication; but since my visit to the island in 1859-60 I have felt the greatest interest in its prosperity, and deeply grieve over the sufferings of its coloured population. It is more than time that the unwisdom (to use the gentlest term) that has governed Jamaica since emancipation should be brought to an end; a course of action which, while it incalculably aggravates the misery arising from natural, and therefore unavoidable causes, renders certain the ultimate ruin of every class—planter and peasant, European and Creole.

Should you, dear Sir, desire such information as it may be in my power to

furnish, or see me on the matter, I shall be most happy either to forward whatever facts I may possess, or wait upon you at any time that you may appoint.

I have, &c.,

EDWD. B. UNDERHILL.

P.S.—I append an extract from the speech of the Hon. H. A. Whitelocke in the House of Assembly with respect to the condition of the people:—

“He (Mr. Whitelocke) would make an assertion which could not be gainsaid by his successor—that taxation could not be extended, nor one farthing more could be imposed upon the people, who were suffering peculiar hardship from the increased value of wearing apparel, which was now taxed beyond all bounds. Actually they were paying 38 per cent. now, when 12½ per cent. was before considered an outrageous *ad valorem* duty. Cotton goods, including Osnaburgh and all the wearing apparel of the labouring classes, had increased 200 per cent. in value. What was bought at 4d. per yard before was selling at 1s. per yard. Therefore, the people are now paying 1½d. duty on every yard of cloth, instead of ½d. which has been justly described as a heavy impost. The consequence is that a disgusting state of nudity exhibited itself in some parts of the country. Hardly a boy under ten years of age wore a frock, and adults, from the ragged state of their garments, exhibited those parts of the body where covering was especially wanted. The lower classes hitherto exhibited a proneness for dress, and he could not believe such a change would have come over them, but for his belief in their destitution, arising out of a reduction in their wages, at a time when every article of apparel had risen in value. This year's decrease in imports foreshadowed what was coming. Sugar was down again at £11 per hogshead; coffee was falling; pimento was valueless; logwood was scarcely worth cutting; and, moreover, a sad diminution was effected in our chief staple exports from a deficiency of rain.”

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#### HOME PROCEEDINGS.

THE Committee, as our friends will naturally suppose, have been seriously engaged in the consideration of the communications they have received from their brethren in Jamaica, as well as the various statements which have appeared in the newspapers from day to day. They met in goodly numbers on the 21st, and the first hour was spent in prayer for Divine guidance in this crisis, and for the pastors and members of our Churches in Jamaica. Rev. J. H. Hinton, A.M., now in London, supplying the pulpit of the Rev. C. Stanford, laid aside by prolonged and severe illness, presided; and the devotions were led by Dr. Hoby, Revds. W. Brock, Russell, and the Chairman.

After numerous letters from Jamaica, and communications from Mr. Recorder Hill, S. Morley, Esq., M.P., C. Buxton, Esq., M.P., and the Secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society, had been read and considered, Dr. Underhill gave a statement as to his correspondence with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and his interview with the Under Secretary, on which the Committee offered to him a cordial expression of their sympathy and confidence.

Our friends will see in another page of the *Herald* a brief statement which they will read with interest.

On the suggestion of the Treasurer a Sub-Committee was appointed to assist the Secretaries in dealing, day by day, with the various questions arising out of the deplorable events which have occurred in Jamaica. They were also directed to make inquiries of the Secretary of State for the Colonies regarding Mr. Palmer, pastor of the church in Hanover-street, Kingston, who had been arrested for alleged complicity in these transactions, and placed on board H.M.S. Aboukir, in the harbour of Port Royal. It is hoped that he has not been ordered to be tried by the Court-Martial at Morant Bay; as Kingston is exempted from martial law.

The letters from our Jamaica brethren do not contain any very *specific* information as to the cause or nature of these sad events. This is accounted for by the fact that none of them are near the scene of the outbreak. They are dependent mainly on the Island newspapers for their information; and in the alarm and panic occasioned by the riot, the statements of these papers are greatly exaggerated. Indeed, no satisfactory *proof* has yet come to hand that the inhuman atrocities said to be committed by the rioters at Morant Bay were committed at all. The facts, doubtless, will be sad enough when known. But it is desirable for our friends to wait for exact intelligence before they receive the representations of the enemies of the Negro race as faithful and true. It is satisfactory to observe the tone in which the better portion of the Press, all over the country, is speaking of the violent and, as they think, most excessive measures of punishment and repression adopted by the authorities in Jamaica.

The meetings held during the past month have been numerous and important. Mr. Robinson has visited some places in Northamptonshire which could not be taken by the deputation in June; also Reading and Wantage, Baxter-road, London, with Dr. Underhill; Langham, Bures, Braintree, Halstead, and other places in Essex, and Sheffield and Chesterfield in Yorkshire. Mr. Gregson has been busily occupied in the earlier part of the month in Lancashire, and during the latter part in Oxfordshire. Mr. Gamble has gone into Glamorganshire with Mr. Bate, recently accepted for service in India. Mr. Bate has also taken Isleham and the neighbourhood, in Cambridgeshire; and Mr. Gamble has also attended meetings at Sevenoaks, Bessels Green, and other churches in that vicinity. Mr. Sampson has again visited Wolverhampton, and delivered two lectures on India.

We regret to state that Mr. Bion was unable to finish some engagements owing to a fall, which severely injured his arm and wrist, requiring rest for recovery. We hope he will be able to render his accustomed good and acceptable service during the present month.

Several of our friends have written expressing their regret that the circular respecting the difficulties and straits of our Jamaica brethren was not published in the *Herald*. In fact, there was not room for so lengthened a document, and as it was sent to all the pastors of our churches, to be read to their congregations, it did not seem to us necessary. We may have been mistaken in this opinion, but the explanation now given will account for its omission.

A letter having been recently received from the Rev. A. Leslie, informing the Committee of his resignation of the pastorate of the Circular-road Church, they passed the following resolution, which has been forwarded to him by the Secretaries:—

“That this Committee, in receiving from Rev. A. Leslie, of Calcutta, the announcement of his resignation of the pastorate of the Circular-road Church, in Calcutta, and his retirement from the active duties of the ministry, in consequence of the infirmities of advancing years and impaired health, desire to express their cordial and affectionate sympathy with him, and to record their high appreciation of his long and faithful labours in the service of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“For forty years has Mr. Leslie been an earnest and successful preacher of the everlasting Gospel: first at Monghir, among the heathen, where a native church was planted, which continues to this day; and second in Calcutta, as pastor of the Church meeting in Circular-road. In both these spheres of labour he was greatly blessed of God; while many, both living and dead, will remember with gratitude the fidelity of his teaching, the earnestness of his zeal, and the force with which he presented the truth to their minds.

“Nor can the Committee be unmindful of the generosity and self-sacrifice which have ever marked Mr. Leslie's relations, both with the Society and the Church he has so long and honourably served; and they accompany this record of his withdrawal from active life with their earnest prayers that in his present retirement he may enjoy the continued presence of his Lord, and be sustained to the end by a calm and assured hope of a blessed immortality, through the merits of the Redeemer, whose grace and love it has been ever his delight to preach to his fellow-men.”

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Received on account of the Baptist Missionary Society, from October 21st to November 20th, 1865.

W & O denotes that the Contribution is for Widows and Orphans; N P for Native Preachers; T. for Translations.

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JAMAICA SPECIAL FUND.

The following sums have been received on account of this Fund, from October 21st to November 20th, 1865.

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## FOREIGN LETTERS RECEIVED.

<b>AFRICA</b> —CAMEROONS, Fuller, J. J., Sept. 26; Smith, R., Sept. 30; Thomson, Q. W., Sept. 26.	<b>NORWAY, CHRISTIANA,</b> Hubert, G., Nov. 10.
<b>SIERRA LEONE,</b> Diboll, Mrs., Oct. 19; Hoseley, J. C., Oct. 17; Weeks, G. S., Oct. 19.	<b>WEST INDIES, BAHAMAS, TURKS ISLANDS,</b> Gardner, A. W., Oct. 17.
<b>ASIA</b> —AGRA, Bernard, J., Sept. 30; Williams, J., Oct. 2.	<b>GRAND TURK, LOW, A. C.,</b> Sept. 18; Kerr, D. S. Sept. 15.
<b>BEHAMPUR,</b> Bailey, W., Sept. 15.	<b>NASSAU, DAVEY, J.,</b> Oct. 23.
<b>CALCUTTA,</b> Lewis, C. B., Sept. 22, Oct. 7.	<b>HAYTI, PORT AU PRINCE,</b> Baumann, W., Oct. 23.
<b>CHITTAGONG,</b> McKenna, A., Sept. 19.	<b>JAMAICA, BROWNS TOWN,</b> Clarke, J., Sept. 7, Oct. 23.
<b>COLOMBO,</b> Pigott, H. R., Sept. 30.	<b>FALMOUTH, KINGDON, J.,</b> Oct. 23.
<b>DELHI,</b> Parsons, J., Nov. 14.	<b>FOUR PATHS, CLAYDON, W.,</b> Sept. 7.
<b>INTALLY, KERRY, Mrs.,</b> Sept. 21.	<b>JERICHO, CLARKE, J.,</b> Oct. 20.
<b>SEWBY, WILLIAMSON, J.,</b> Oct. 2; Kyles Chunder Mither.	<b>KINGSTON, OUGHTON, S.,</b> Oct. 23.
<b>EUROPE</b> —FRANCE, GUNGAMP, Bohon, V. E., Nov. 2.	<b>MONTEBAY, HENDERSON, J. E.,</b> Oct. 7.
<b>PARIS,</b> Coto, W. M., Oct. 30.	<b>RIO BUENO, EAST, D. J.,</b> Oct. 6, 19.
<b>GERMANY, HAMBURG,</b> Oncken, J. C., Nov. 18.	<b>ST. ANN'S BAY, MILLARD, B.,</b> Oct. 5, 23.
	<b>SPANISH TOWN, PHILIPPO, J. M.,</b> Oct. 19, 23.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

*The thanks of the Committee are presented to the following friends*  
 Mrs Shoveller, Portsea, for Parcel of Magazines. | Friends at Metropolitan Tabernacle for Clothing for Jamaica.

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