The very first Liberated African servant returned to the Station after the emanation of the above order was sent by Captain Young, on the 24th October, and with the sanction of the Collector. After the peremptory orders given only three weeks before, it will scarcely be credited that they were overlooked and set aside so soon. Such was invariably the loose and inconsistent way of doing business, proposing one thing to-day, and changing it to-morrow—and giving orders this week, and breaking them the next. Under such a system it was impossible to observe any method. Inconstancy was the motto of the Establishment. And if ever any approach to regularity took place in the despatch of business, it was in spite, and not in consequence, of the laws which were invented for its government.

No investigation was made into the character of the applicants who desired to receive Liberated Africans into their service, or respecting their ability to supply their servants with food and clothing; but any person, of any rank, condition of fortune, or of any sort of reputation, either good or bad, was allowed to select whatever he required. Accordingly, all sorts of people accommodated themselves with servants; even the fishermen, the poorest of the population, and notorious for their drunkenness, were permitted to enjoy the boon of taking to themselves drudges. Seeing all his neighbours elevated into the rank of gentlemen, served by black domestics, the mulatto fisherman became likewise proud, and followed the laudable example set him. If he had no wages to give, he had at least plenty of work, and henceforth, instead of carrying his fish himself to his customers, he authoritatively delegated that office to his sable attendant. It would have been ridiculous, if it had not been also painful from the associations of poverty and wretchedness attached to the spectacle, to behold these fellows marching stately away to their homes on the arrival of their boats, unencumbered with even their gear, while their negro lackey would follow behind with their bags of fish, their lines, and all their paraphernalia. Both master and man would live on albacore and rice during the whole year round, with the addition of copious libations of Cape wine when their fishing excursions had been successful, and with the difference of rather scanty meals when fish were scarce, or they themselves were lazy.

The washerwomen of James’ Town were likewise affected with the mania of negro-keeping; although themselves obliged to unite the profits of prostitution with the labour of their trade to gain a precarious livelihood, yet they were not afraid to admit one or two African servants into their establishments. A young lad, who was in the service of one of these ladies, furnished me with some very curious details respecting the habits of his mistress, and the nature of the duties which were exacted from him; and from the arch and knowing manner with which he related these interesting anecdotes, it was easy to perceive that his mistress’ lessons had not been lost upon him, but that he would soon have been a proficient in the calling to which he was apprenticed.

To idolatrous Lascars and Chinamen, spending the greater part of their time in gambling, was the privilege also conceded of taking servants or associates from amongst the Liberated Africans.
And so her gracious Majesty's bounty of £5 a-head was to be accorded for forcibly taking these Africans from the Portuguese, because these would have made them slaves, to deliver them up to the tutelage and care of fishermen, washerwomen, Chinese, and Lascars, who would not perhaps enslave them, but most likely starve them, be unable to clothe them, learn them no trade, bring them up to habits of drunkenness and prostitution, and for aught I know to the contrary, instead of educating them to be Christians, convert them to the tenets of Confucius or the doctrines of Mahomet. And this is done for the sake of humanity!

When a negro was given up (it can scarcely be called apprenticed) to an inhabitant of the island, it was the regulation, observed with great exactitude at the beginning of the Establishment, that his master should bring with him clothes for the use of his future servant; and whatever the negro was dressed in was taken off and delivered up to the Establishment. After a while this system became neglected, and I suspect it was owing to the practice of lending Africans for a limited period, which was subsequently introduced. The masters of negroes, thinking it was too expensive to provide clothes for them during the short time their services would be required, would only accept of them on the condition of their leaving the Establishment with the clothes they had on them, with which they were returned to the Station when no longer wanted. To no person whatever, as far as I am aware, was the favour extended of furnishing clothes from the Establishment for the use of his Liberated African servants after they had once entered his service, except to Col. Trelawney, the Governor. He alone enjoyed the prerogative, because, I suppose, he was best able to pay for them. His Excellency always had a large number of negroes in his employment, to look after his sheep and cattle, cut wood, fetch water, labour in the ground, and for many domestic occupations. Whether he should have followed the general rule of providing clothes for them, I leave others to determine; I only state facts as they occurred—let others, if they wish, investigate the propriety or otherwise of them.

While the poor farmers and other inhabitants were obliged to provide both food and clothing for the Africans they took into their service, Governor Trelawney, as has been seen, was furnished with the latter from the Establishment for the use of his negro servants; and his Honour the Judge was allowed to have four negro men, for the space of five months, to clear away the bushes and blackberries, and otherwise work on his premises, without even supplying them with food; the Africans having their breakfast given them at the Station of High Knoll before their departure to work, and receiving their dinner on their return in the evening. This was very honourable for his Honour, certainly. Had Judge Wilde been familiar with the Scriptures, the expression of Laban, addressed to Jacob, could not have failed to occur to him, when thus availing himself of the gratuitous services of the Liberated Africans: “Because thou art my brother, shouldst thou therefore serve me for nought? tell me what shall thy wages be?”

From what I have related, it will easily be inferred that masters of
Liberated African servants entered into no bond for their maintenance; no deed of apprenticeship was made out to bind the master to teach a trade, or enforce the servant to give his labour for a specified time: a simple order, of the sort I have described, was granted by the Collector of Customs to the applicant, to procure an African of whatever kind he wanted. Since masters could also turn their negro servants adrift without giving them warning, or exchange them for others as it suited their convenience, surely it was but reciprocally just that negro servants should enjoy the equivalent prerogative of leaving their masters when they pleased, and seeking others,—or if they did not like St. Helena, of embarking on board of some emigrant ship for the West Indies. Such seems to be the fair relation between masters and servants in the absence of all written and legal agreements. Such, however, Captain Barnes, the town-major, and chief magistrate of the island, did not consider it; and as it was unfortunately in his power to make laws, if they did not already exist, and enforce them, it was not an unusual act of his to order a Liberated African to be committed to the lock-up, not for any crime or misdemeanor, but because he was guilty of exercising his discretion in absconding from a master with whom he could not live happy or contented. When the schooner "Margaret" was in St. Helena, to convey African emigrants to Trinidad, a negro lad was thus, and for this reason solely, put in gaol, and was released only when his master consented to his coming out on the condition of his emigrating. The lad refused to leave St. Helena at first, but a night spent on the cold floor of the prison, without anything to cover him, or any food to eat, except what a policeman bestowed on him, for charity, altered his resolution, and he decided next day to go on-board. Even then, Captain Thomas of the "Margaret" had to pay 3s. to the generous policeman, for the food he had so charitably furnished, before the lad was permitted to leave the lock-up, as it was jocularly designated. I wonder if the lawyers could not discover something very like false imprisonment in this proceeding. At any rate, I would recommend "Barnes' Jurisprudence" to every county magistrate, deficient in knowledge of law; if likewise wanting in common sense, or common humanity, he might make amends by the rigour of his decisions, for which he would find text and precedent in the learned volume I have mentioned.

Few of the inhabitants of the island requiring female African servants, the bulk of the people drawn from the Establishment was composed of men. Some grown-up boys and young girls were taken into service, but these were inconsiderable in number in comparison with the men. From the last labour could be exacted immediately, while, with the boys and girls, a longer period was requisite to render them useful; they had to be taught and brought up to the work, and in the interval would perhaps grow tired of their masters and mistresses, and leave them. As for the negro women, they were not liked at all for servants in any capacity; they were too indolent to work, and too stubborn to be taught. When taken into service, the men were of course
separated from their wives, who were obliged to remain at Lemon Valley, while their husbands were domiciliated in the town or country. Negroes are proverbial for their connubial attachments; in the pleasures of love they find a compensation for the unkindness of fortune; and if they are not constant and faithful, they are at least ardent, while under the influence of the overwhelming passion. The men who had worked all the week for their masters, determined to enjoy their Sundays in the society of their wives and sweethearts. Nothing could prevent them from coming down to Lemon Valley on that day; neither threats, promises, nor entreaties could avail in deterring them. The Station resembled an Irish country fair. From the early dawn to noon, parties of negroes would be seen entering the Valley by all directions, attired in their finest apparel, with bundles of potatoes, yams, and fruit as presents for their mistresses. Great feasting would invariably take place: many a bottle of Cape wine would be drained, many a sable virgin sold, and many a wrinkled wife exchanged on these occasions. Jealousies would naturally be created by this barbarous sale of female charms; and the unsuccessful lover, gathering his friends around him, would attack his more fortunate rival and his party, and rows, worthy of Donnybrook, would frequently ensue. A quarrel, begun by an insignificant fraction arising from some nonsensical love affair, would soon extend to whole tribes, who, converting the private dispute into a party feud, would fight with the rancour and desperation of national enemies. Large sticks, matching any blackthorn shillelahs, would be used with uncommon dexterity, and many a contusion on the head and legs be inflicted by them. Knives were even resorted to, and blood was often freely drawn. I remember an Angola who was stabbed in three places by a Congo; one of the wounds was very large and on the neck, but happily was not followed by bad consequences. I have seen lumps the size of apples over the shin-bone, against which they have a particular fashion of aiming their blows, judging, no doubt, that place to be more sensitive than even the head, as it is said to be among negroes. Mozambiques, Congos, Benguelas, and Angolas were all equally devoted to the pastime of breaking each other's bones; and it was the regular custom to pass their Sabbaths, as I have mentioned, not in devotional exercises, but in the enjoyment of the rites of love, and in feats of pugilism and escrime.

Disgusted with the treatment they received from their masters, many of the Africans would run away, and conceal themselves at Lemon Valley. During the day they would hide in the caverns which abound in the sides of the mountains, and at night come down to the Station, their wives supplying them with a portion of their rations. The men, too, who were located at Rupert's, tired and annoyed at the work they were obliged to perform, and desirous of enjoying the delights of female companionship, would frequently escape, and pass days together at Lemon Valley without being discovered. These evasions were always the cause of severe recriminations against the officials of the Station, as if they could by the exercise of the greatest vigilance have prevented
the Africans from taking refuge in the retreats provided for them in the
precincts of the Station by nature during the day, and during the night
by female affection in the Station itself.

In the month of July a disease broke out among the Africans at
Lemon Valley, which, from its resemblance to smallpox, created a
great deal of alarm at the commencement. I had observed it during
the existence of quarantine on board of the "Andorinha," in different
instances, on the persons of those who were just recovering from small-
pox; but as it then appeared to be extremely slight, and occurred only
in a few cases, I had taken but little notice of it. Now it appeared and
attacked the Africans with great rapidity, and to a great extent. This
disease is called catapora by the Portuguese, and by the Benguelas
"aitchingongo catito," which means mild smallpox. The negro defini-
tion is not a bad one, for it is certainly a varioloid affection. It is pre-
ceded, like the smallpox, by constitutional symptoms, which, however,
are not in general very severe; and it seems to be infectious. Isolated
cases sometimes occurred on board the hospital ship, on patients con-
valescent of smallpox; but when one African on shore became affected
with it, it usually ran through many others in a very short time.
Though easily contracted by the negroes, yet no European or mulatto
overseer or their children ever took the disease, although living toge-
ther in the same locality.

Catapora is ushered in with shiverings, followed by great heat of
skin, increasing in degree towards the evening, as in all febrile affec-
tions which are not intermittent. Pains in the head, back, pit of
stomach, and limbs, attend this stage of the complaint. Weakness of
the frame, giddiness, nausea, with a disposition to sleep, are also in-
duced; the patient, moreover, is troubled in almost every instance with
a sore throat, which is more or less covered with apthae and vesicles.
After the symptoms just enumerated have existed for a day or two,
small papulae break out on the face and neck, not extending to the
chest till the next day, and the eruption will probably not show itself
on the inferior extremities till the day after. Up to the present time
no physician could discover the difference between it and mild small-
pox. The severity of the symptoms, premonitory to the appearance of
the eruption, and its characters and march from the upper parts down-
wards, exactly resemble what takes place in smallpox, and distinguish
it from chicken-pox, from which again the circumstance of its not being
infectious among Europeans helps to form a diagnosis. Had the
catapora been nothing more nor less than chicken-pox, why did not the
officials and their children who lived on the Station, and who had never
had the chicken-pox, take it? Dr. Heberden declares he has never
seen above a dozen spots on the face in the worst cases of chicken-pox,
and it is well known to come out on the breast before it appears on the
face. On the contrary, catapora runs the same course downwards as
smallpox does, and will often attack the face to a great extent. The
catapora, I should say, holds a middle rank between smallpox and
chicken-pox, like the former during the first four days, and resembling
the latter in the rest of its course.
The appearance of the papulae usually mitigates the virulence of the preceding febrile symptoms, and the headache and sickness become relieved. The pimples, the size of pin-points at first, quickly grow larger, and in twenty to twenty-four hours become vesicular with a slight central depression. In another twenty-four hours the vesicles arrive at their maturity; they then consist of a fine transparent membrane, containing a perfectly clear fluid; they are now plump and full without any depression; they are also of different forms, some describing an oval on the skin, others a circle, others again irregular figures, and their apex will be flattish, round, or acuminated. The skin at the base of the vesicles becomes swelled and red, and apparently tightened; but from the eruption rarely assuming a confluent character, or extending thickly over any part, the skin is never so red and swelled as in smallpox, neither is the pain so severe. On the following day the lymph of the vesicles is no longer limpid like water, but turns of a milky diaphanous colour from the admixture of a small quantity of pus, the result of slight suppuration of the true skin below, as I should conjecture; the vesicles now completely resemble pearl-beads. After presenting the opaque whitish appearance, the vesicles soon fall in at their centre, where a lightish brown scab begins to form, and as the fluids inside dry up, the scabs increase in size probably at the expense of the lymph, and the surrounding skin gets purplish and puckered up with radiations. In the course of a day or two more the scabs are perfectly formed, and will be then found lying level with the neighbouring skin, or sometimes a little below it, which latter appearance arises no doubt from the ulceration of the cutis vera, and wherever it is observed there is sure to be left a pit on the spot. I have seen faces of patients marked by catapora in the same way they are disfigured by smallpox, only that the pits are in general larger.

I am not prepared to pronounce whether the vesicles of catapora are composed of distinct cells, as is the case in variola and varicella. I rather think not. But the elucidation of this fact could be easily solved by directing inquiries to be made on the subject by the naval surgeons on board of the cruisers employed on the coast of Africa.

There is not the least doubt that catapora bears as strong a relation to smallpox as cowpox does, though in a different manner. In its physical characters the resemblance is more complete, as it is in the nature of the constitutional symptoms that precede the appearance of the eruption, in its diffusion over the body, and the sort of pits it leaves behind it. With the two diseases named, and likewise with chicken-pox, it is possible that it will yet be discovered to be connected in many particulars sufficient to justify nosologists to consider them but as varieties of the same malady. One attack of catapora seems to protect the constitution from another, for I never saw the same person affected twice.

From not being acquainted with the previous history of my patients, I could not draw the satisfactory conclusions I might otherwise have done, from the extensive experience afforded me of observing the catapora. As it was impossible to discover who among the Liberated Africans had been attacked with it in their own country before their arrival
African Establishment at St. Helena.

at St. Helena (for it seldom disfigures the person, being much milder than smallpox, rarely leaving marks behind it), it was difficult to place any reliance on the accuracy of the facts I imagined I had elicited in the course of my investigations.

I thought I remarked that catapora generally accompanied smallpox, or followed it, seeming as if it were the dregs of the disease. Certainly the previous invasion of smallpox will not guarantee against its appearance. When it does occur after the recovery from smallpox, it only attacks one or two persons, constituting solitary instances. For example, when upwards of a hundred Africans would be on board the "Andorinha," all of them in a convalescent state from smallpox, perhaps half-a-dozen of them would exhibit the vesicles of catapora, which would not extend to the remainder. In these cases no fever preceded or accompanied the eruption, which seemed to come out on those occasions just as boils, or other common papular or herpetic eruptions. In one single instance I witnessed the coexistence of the vesicles of catapora with the pustules of smallpox; neither of the combined affections was severe. I mention this as an extraordinary circumstance.

I may also add, that an individual who has had catapora may be susceptible to the invasion of smallpox, but the latter disease is always slight—at least it was so in the instances to which I refer.

Whenever catapora broke out on shore amongst the Africans who had not suffered from smallpox, it was then far more severe in its symptoms, and appeared to be much more infectious.

From what took place at St. Helena, I should infer that the Benguelas were more exempt from its attacks than any other tribe, for no cases of it occurred on shore, and but very few on board—a-ship, during the existence of quarantine—the slaves on board of the "Julia," "Marcianna," and "Louiza" being principally Benguelas. This was probably owing to the continual prevalence of varioloid diseases in their country: hence the greater part of them had been most likely attacked with both smallpox and catapora in early life. Although smallpox, when introduced into St. Helena, was always brought from Benguela, yet the negroes who arrived in the infected vessels did not in general suffer so much as the Mozambique and Angolans who were located on shore, and to whom the infection had been communicated from the Benguelas.

A very singular experiment which I tried I shall relate here, leaving it to medical men to draw what inference they choose from it, and trusting that it may lead to a more minute inquiry into the pathology of catapora.

From among the Africans living on shore I took eight boys, who said they had never been attacked with either the catapora or variola, but whose statements, of course, could not be relied on, and inoculated them with the lymph of catapora; and, two days afterwards, put them on board of the "Andorinha," among cases of smallpox. The inoculation succeeded with only two out of the eight. These two had a perfectly-formed vesicle on the spot of the punctures, and a few more on the arm around. Of the two, one took the smallpox, and had it
mildly; while the other escaped, along with all the six who were proof against the inoculation of the catapora. It may be alleged that there was nothing extraordinary in any of these eight cases; that the reason why six of them escaped both diseases was, because they had had them both before; and that if one out of the two on whom the inoculation of catapora succeeded did not afterwards take smallpox, it was owing to his having been already attacked with it at some period beyond his recollection. All these assumptions may be correct, but they require to be proved. When I add, however, that not only on these eight persons, but on every one who had been previously attacked by catapora, vaccination invariably failed, there seems to be some grounds for the supposition, that there exists some unexplained connexion between catapora, variola, and varicella; and, from what experience I derived from the interesting subject, I do think I should be warranted in considering them to be only modifications of the same disease.

So much does catapora resemble smallpox, that when the latter disease spread through St. Helena, many negro servants, who were affected with only catapora, were pronounced by the Health Officer and Colonial Surgeon to be attacked with smallpox, and were accordingly sent to the hospital ship, lying off Lemon Valley. Likewise, when an African emigrant vessel arrived about five years ago at Demerara with a party of negroes, among whom catapora was raging, the disease was suspected to be smallpox, and the vessel was put in quarantine in consequence, and only liberated when the mistake was discovered. I shall adduce just another instance to prove the very strong resemblance that exists between the two diseases. When the barque "Salsette" was ready to sail from St. Helena for Jamaica, in the end of 1843, with a large complement of African emigrants, the surgeon on board having pronounced that smallpox had broken out, the captain would not put out to sea for several days, being under the impression that great mortality would take place, and that the vessel would be put in quarantine on their arrival at Kingston. I was sent for to give my opinion respecting the malady in question, and when I assured them it was not smallpox, but a slight affection in comparison, never proving fatal, although certainly infectious among black people, my statements were not relied on, until they were corroborated by the mild progress of the complaint during three days, at the end of which time the captain would not depart without a written certificate from me, that it was not smallpox which they had on board.
THE CEYLON SPICE DUTIES.

We publish below a petition agreed on by the cinnamon planters and other parties connected with that article of commerce in Ceylon, praying that Her Majesty's Colonial Secretary will be pleased to take measures for relieving them from the oppressive and mischievous burthen of the export duty now charged upon their spice. So far as regards the framing of the document in question, it appears to us that the most has not been made of a powerful case, by those who drew it up: the petition consisting only of some brief allegations relative to the mistaken and injurious nature of the impost pointed at, with but few arguments to enforce, and fewer facts to illustrate, the propriety of a demand for its withdrawal. Doubtless the inexpediency and injustice of the tax are so apparent, that no laboured reasoning is necessary to convince a candid inquirer on the subject; but we should have held it more judicious in the petitioners, had they, instead of leaving the Secretary for the Colonies to draw on his own knowledge for proofs and examples of the evil whose magnitude they generally represented, been prepared to go before him with a statement so full, practical, and conclusive, as to preclude the possibility of cavilling, and to shut up every avenue of escape from the wholesome results whereat they would have him to arrive. The cinnamon cultivation of Ceylon, thanks to the exorbitant one-shilling duty, is now carried on under circumstances of such a highly disadvantageous nature, as that it will presently be abandoned by all who can find a more remunerative investment for their capital. What the Colonial Minister has to take into his consideration therefore is, the future existence or non-existence of that spice as a cultivated article of export from Ceylon. By maintaining a preposterous charge upon it, during the period of her fancied secure monopoly of its production in time past, England brought the Dutch and other competitors into the market; thereby irreparably lowering the value of her own spice and occasioning a consequent loss to her Singhalese colonists, who were the only cultivators of it. In like manner, by adhering for a few years longer to the wretched principle which wrought the former evil, she may if she pleases consummate it by giving the whole cinnamon market to her rivals; whose production will go forward as her own declines. It is well known that the exports of this spice from Java are so regulated by the Dutch Government, as to prevent the g'utting of their European market, and that a far larger quantity than now finds its way into the trade could be supplied from thence, whenever a remunerative opening for it was provided. If therefore the British Cabinet pursue their present system, and contract the cinnamon cultivation in Ceylon by fiscally devouring all its profits, they may rest assured that Java and the Malabar Coast, where no such grievous
burthen clogs its progress, will soon supplant their ill-used island altogether. Nor let it be imagined that any subsequent adoption of more statesmanlike and liberal views will easily reinstate her, when once it has been forfeited through the imprudence of the mother-country, in that relative position toward other spice-producing dependencies which she has now the fortune to enjoy. The English cinnamon market is a kind of close borough, wherein a little knot of brokers exercise an almost unlimited and irresponsible control, and as the consumption of the article does not, like that of most other commodities, increase pari passu with a decline of the price, it follows that the copious reintroduction of Ceylon produce, after its withdrawal for a time sufficient to make the supply elsewhere obtainable equivalent with the demand, would not by rivalry force Java from her hold upon the old market, nor yet create a new one. The superior quality of the Singhalese spice would indeed operate partially in its favour, but who shall say to what a measure of perfection the Javanese article might not be brought, when Holland had for several years monopolised, or nearly so, the European trade? And even under the most favourable circumstances that could befall her, a long period must necessarily clasp ere the Briti-h island could recover the ground that she has lost.

We earnestly hope therefore that the Ceylon petitioners will urge their claim upon Lord Stanley, or his successor in office, with all the strength and perseverance in their power, and that should his Lordship hesitate to grant them the relief desired, they will betake themselves to Parliament for succour during the ensuing session. As however the one-shilling duty on cinnamon was retained by him chiefly in an experimental point of view, when the last abatement took place, there is good ground to hope that he will not maintain it, now that the consequences have been shown to be so unequivocally evil.

To the Right Honourable Lord Stanley, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies—The Petition of the undersigned Landholders, Merchants, Planters, and Inhabitants of Ceylon;

Respectfully Showeth,

That being individually and generally deeply interested in the prosperity of this island in every branch of its commerce and agriculture, we trust to your Lordship's kind consideration of and attention to the following observations, which in duty to ourselves and the Government we consider we are bound to submit, as regards the causes and effects of the present depressed state of the trade in Cinnamon, once the staple article of its exports.

The received opinion that Ceylon had and would continue to possess a natural and exclusive monopoly of the spice was long held to be a sufficient warrant for supposing it might be burthened with the most exorbitant taxation without injury to the grower or fear of competition, and that the consumer alone would have to pay the revenue derived from the imposition. The fallacy of this hypothesis has been fearfully proved of late years by the increased introduction of the article into the European markets from Java and the Southern Districts of the Indian Continent, countries rendered capable of competing with us solely by their freedom from these excessive fiscal regulations which we have to strive against, highly pernicious in their effect in that they operate to foreigners as a bonus to contend for and usurp our position as regards this species of trade in the mercantile world, and have a tendency to