

## Affairs in the Antilles.

The desperate strait to which the revolutionists in the eastern part of Cuba have been reduced is evinced by their declaration of the abolition of slavery. When the Secessionists of the South were similarly hard pressed and on the eve of surrendering, they determined on arming their slaves; but, though the enlistment of the blacks was authorized by the rebel Congress, only a few companies were organized. The abolition of slavery, forced by their reverses on the Cubans, will have no better effect; the decree, to prove effective, comes from the wrong party, and will, we fear, result in giving actual and desirable freedom to no one. The pacificatory measures adopted by Gen. DULCE have, on the contrary, been liberal, and wise and practical. They have already had great effect in the insurrectionary districts, and, we may hope, will lead to the speedy close of the revolution.

There is some hope, too, that peace will be restored to the Haytian half of the Island of St. Domingo, though the failure of the Baez Government in the other half is said to be threatened in consequence of financial schemes that have gone awry. President SALNAVE, of Hayti, has of late displayed considerable energy in the prosecution of the campaign against the several rebel chiefs who have, for nearly a year, waged war against him; and his authority along the coast is now almost secured as firmly as it has always been in the interior. SALNAVE represents the agricultural class of Hayti; the rebels against his authority were, generally speaking, idlers of the sea-coast towns; and since Hayti must depend for her commercial prosperity on the products of her soil, this success of the agricultural class will be welcomed here as a sign of returning peace and prosperity. SALNAVE is generally regarded as the ablest and most honest ruler that Hayti has had since the death of BOYER. He has certainly displayed as much energy as BOYER, though not precisely in the same direction; but once united under him, Hayti ought to have a prosperous era.

Signs of returning prosperity to Jamaica are also to be noted, the evil effects of Gov. EYRE's conduct there having been gradually effaced. It is noteworthy that the prosperity of Jamaica, like that of Cuba, has been the result of changes of a liberal, political and commercial character in the Government. England has found no difficulty in controlling her negro subjects while giving them the protection of a strong Government, liberally and humanely administered.

The Antilles, in short, never had better prospects than at present. There never was a time when American commerce was more attracted to that rich district; and American merchants in the West India trade are looking forward to a year of unprecedented prosperity. The West India trade, combined with that of the South American Coast, ought to be one of the most valuable to American merchants and steamers, and with peace on the Plate and quiet in the Antilles, we see no reason why a vast commerce between us and those countries should not spring up. At present European nations control and direct that which ought to be ours.

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