

# CUBA.

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## **Proposed Emancipation of the Slaves—Introduction of Free African Laborers.**

The question of abolishing slavery in the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico has called forth a proposal from several influential planters and merchants of Cuba, of which the following is a summary:—

The national government should decree the immediate and simultaneous abolition of slavery in the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico. All slavenolders to liberate their slaves without indemnification whatever on the part of the government. All slaves between the ages of ten and sixty years to remain under their former owners as laborers for the term of ten consecutive years. The conditions of labor and pay to remain the same as before, with the exception of a nominal sum to be paid by the employers per month and in proportion to the age of the persons so employed. During the term of apprenticeship the employers to bind themselves to educate their servants in a manner to render them capable to make their own way in the world. A committee shall be called from among the supporters of this movement, who shall form a "Spanish Christian Society of Free Native Africans of the Island of Cuba," which society shall have the exclusive privilege of introducing free African labor for the term of twenty-five years. Native Africans introduced under the auspices of said society shall be bound to serve an apprenticeship of ten years, and shall be educated the same as the liberated slaves.