

JAMAICA.

A British Subject in Cuba Looked After—Sugar Planting Statistics—New Plan for Labor Immigration—Filibusters—A Missionary Fraud.
KINGSTON, Feb. 9, 1867.

The case of Mr. MacNeill, a Scotchman, who has been confined in a Spanish dungeon by the authorities at Manzanillo on the unfounded and unsupported testimony of a negro slave, has received the attention of the British naval authorities, and Her Majesty's steamer *Heron* was despatched from Port Royal on Saturday, the 6th inst., to demand Mr. MacNeill's release at Manzanillo and indemnity for the wrongs he has been subjected to during his confinement.

The Governor is anxious to obtain correct statistical information regarding sugar properties in this island—those in operation and those abandoned. The several collectors of taxes and parochial treasurers have been charged with the duties of collecting this information.

It appears there are in cultivation in the parish of Westmoreland 25 sugar estates, of which are managed by resident proprietors 14, absentee proprietors 11, and these, in the year 1867-68, produced in sugar 5,380 hogsheads, rum 3,447 puncheons. In the parish of Trelawny there are 45 sugar estates in cultivation, and 40 which have been abandoned since 1840. Of the 45 sugar estates in cultivation there are under the management of resident proprietors 34 estates; absentee proprietors, 11 estates; and these 45 estates produced, sugar, 5,071 hogsheads; rum, 3,625 puncheons; and when compared with the 25 estates in Westmoreland it is found they have yielded in sugar 309 hogsheads less; rum, 79 puncheons more. Properties in Jamaica are beginning to look up again. Two sugar plantations in the parish of St. Ann, Home Castle and Dornock, owned by Dr. Dakyns, have just been purchased by Mr. Sewall, of this island, for the sum of £4,000.

It is stated that the Albion sugar estate in St. David's parish is expected to make 600 hogsheads of sugar this year. If 600 hogsheads, then at least 300 puncheons of rum, each hogshead averaging some 1,800 weight of 112 pounds, and each puncheon containing at least ninety gallons.

The cheering intelligence has reached this island that certain parties in England have been so reassured by Governor Grant's plan respecting coolie immigration that instructions will be sent out shortly for the resuscitation of five defunct sugar estates in Vere parish, one of the most favorable localities for sugar and rum cultivation and manufacture. This is almost too good to be true. The question has been started, in a Kingston paper, of the advisability of refining the muscovado in the island instead of sending it all the way to England to be refined, and thereby losing large quantities of molasses which would be available for the distillery.

In consequence of it having become known that filibustering parties are organizing at the Bahamas expeditions against the government of Spain on the Island of Cuba, her Majesty's ship *Cherub* was despatched to Nassau, N. P., to watch their proceedings and prevent the exportation of war material, and her Majesty's ship *Royalist* was despatched to Nuevitas to inquire into the landing of a body of filibusters who recently sailed from Nassau in a vessel named the *Galvanic*, with some 4,000 stand of arms, and are reported to have landed near Nuevitas. After investigating this matter she will communicate with her Majesty's ship *Eclipse*, and proceed to Nassau, N. P., where she will be joined by her Majesty's ship *Cherub*.

A Baptist missionary on the north side (the Rev. Ellis Fray) is discovered to have certified that a pauper named Betsey Sheddon was alive on the 7th of October last, when she actually died in August, and did not, therefore, receive the pauper's allowances the Rev. Mr. Fray was entrusted with the disbursement of, and which appears to have been disbursed to Betsey Sheddon on the face of his accounts. The Municipal Board of Trelawny and the press are severe in their exposure of this case.

The R. M. S. P. Company are likely to have the question of a chief transfer station soon settled by the government and the Admiralty. Barbados is strongly recommended by its people, but Kingston, probably, is the only spot suitable. The large steamers will soon cease running to Aspinwall, as it has been decided that the Australian and Newfoundland route via Panama is to discontinue.