

CURACOA.

Another Candidate for Annexation—Holland Tired of Her West India Possessions—Refugees from Cuba—Affairs in Venezuela.

CURACOA, W. I., April 13, 1869.

As West Indian annexation to the United States is again talked of the good people of this colony are entering into the spirit of the affair on their own account. It is well known that the six Dutch islands of Curaçoa, Bonaire, Aruba, St. Eustatius, Saba and St. Martin are an annual expense to Holland of which that country would gladly be rid. In fact, the expenditures made by the home government for these islands exceed annually the receipts from them by about a hundred thousand dollars. Accordingly the mother country would like to be rid of these colonies on the easiest terms possible. So strong, indeed, is the conviction here that the island is to be "annexed" by somebody, that when a short time ago the Prussian war steamer Victoria was here the object of her visit was generally believed to be the annexation of Curaçoa to the dominions of Bismarck. Now, however, the colonial authorities here are seriously considering the question of asking Holland to give away this island to the United States, and I understand the project meets with general approval. Were these islands tendered, however, as a gift the United States would gain but little by their acceptance. They are merely barren, unproductive rocks in the sea, peopled for the most part by an ignorant and shiftless negro population, and the best harbor, that of Curaçoa, is too far to leeward and too much out of the thoroughfare of South American trade to be of much use as a naval station.

Several refugees have arrived here from Cuba, and a steamer is expected in a few days with several hundred more.

From Venezuela we learn that the British Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Pagan, died at Caracas on the last of last month of yellow fever. Politically there is little news. In Maracaibo there is general distrust in Páez's good faith in his promises to abide by the new order of things, and an outbreak is said to be imminent. In the meantime, Sutherland remains here, and instead of going to Europe is probably plotting to turn out Páez and reinstate himself.

The new steamer purchased in Europe by Mr. A. J. Jesurun arrived here on the 7th inst. She is named the *Honfleur*, Captain Cleaver. She left on the 10th for a trip to Laguayra and St. Domingo. As soon as the necessary preliminaries are adjusted she will run as a packet to St. Thomas in place of the *Estrella*, wrecked last December.

The weather is very dry, but the health of the island is good.
