my consolation will be, that it is a disinterested and conscientious attempt to influence an important class of public men, of the same profession with myself, in favour of the great interests of humanity. On such a question all mankind have a right to think and speak.

"I am, Gentlemen,
"Your most obedient Servant,
"EDWARD BAINES.
"Leeds Mercury Office, July 1st, 1854."

CUBAN SLAVES IN ENGLAND.

On the 1st of July ultimo the African Steam Navigation Company's new ship, the Condace, sailed from Plymouth for the west coast of Africa. Amongst her passengers were twenty-three self-emancipated slaves, namely, eleven men, eight women, and four children, who had been brought from Havana to Southampton, on the 7th of June, by the West-India Mail Steamer, the Avon. In consequence of private information we had received from Havana, we were on the look-out for these unfortunate, who, on their arrival at Southampton, were kindly received by our excellent friend, Mr. Joseph Clark, and through his humane exertions at once provided for. They were in a most pitiable condition, being very scantily attired, and had suffered much from cold and wet, having been compelled to lie on the deck during the voyage, though they had paid for steerage berths. Their allowance of food was also very short, and they were indebted, several times during the voyage, to the humanity of the passengers for the means of appeasing the cravings of nature. Some difficulty was at first experienced in procuring suitable lodgings for so large a number of destitute persons, but their deplorable condition having excited the sympathy of Mr. and Madame Silva, the proprietors of Silva's Family Hotel, Queen's Terrace, they kindly received them, and appropriated four attics to their use. Mr. and Madame Silva having resided some years at Havana, were therefore able to communicate freely with them. Mr. Silva subsequently recognised one of the party as having been employed on the railway works on which Mr. Silva himself was engaged in the capacity of civil engineer. The narrative of these parties will be found extremely interesting. It throws considerable light on the condition of the slave population in Cuba, and exhibits the operation of the Spanish slave-law, which is altogether more humane than that of the United States. It will be seen, that under it the slaves have certain rights, which they can assert, and that their individuality as human beings is not obliterated, as in America, by their being also regarded as chattels. Their right to demand a change of masters, to manumit themselves on payment of a certain sum, fixed by the Government, to pay that amount either down or by instalments, and the privileges which they are entitled to in the latter case, appear to us to be worthy of notice, and go to shew, that if the slave population were not constantly recruited by new importations, and by the natural increase of the slave population, Slavery in Cuba must die out within a given time, dependent upon the extent to which the slaves availed themselves of their rights, and upon their ability to do so. The narratives we are about to submit will, we think, establish this fact, and probably throw a new light on one of the principal causes of the continuance of the slave-trade.

None of these self-manumitted negroes could speak English, but all of them conversed fluently in Spanish. They appeared to have little idea of religion, though they had all been baptized in the Roman-Catholic faith, as the Spanish law prescribes. The husbands and wives had never been married according to any Christian rite, but had chosen one another in Slavery, and seemed to regard their voluntary union as binding. None of them can read or write. That they should be able to do so was not, of course, to be expected.

They preferred going to Lagos rather than to Liberia or Sierra Leone, and were very fearful lest the ship in which they were going out to Africa should be captured, and they be forced again into Slavery. The women are very modest, and the men well-behaved. Most of them, when not animated by talking, have that woe-begone look which nothing but the suffering and degradation of Slavery can cause.

DEPOSITIONS OF THE CUBAN SLAVES.

LORENZO CLARK: Age from 35 to 38. Has been about twenty-two years in Cuba. Tacon was Captain-General. Is a native of Lagos, and was made prisoner in a war between the native chiefs. Was brought from Lagos in the brig Negrito, with 550 more, of whom many were women. The latter were separated from the men. There was much sickness on board, and twenty-two died. They were very much crowded between decks; and had scarcely room to lie, sit, or stand. During the voyage the ladies and women were allowed to come on deck, but the adult males were kept in close confinement below. About a fortnight before they got to Cuba, an English map of war purposed and captured the Negrito. There was firing for quite an hour and a half before the capture was effected. As soon as the cruiser hove in sight, the ladies that were on deck were driven below, and the hatches were battened down. One lad resisted, and tried to get up the hatch, but one of the crew chopped his hand off above the wrist with a hatchet, as he grasped the side of the hatchway. As soon as the Negrito was taken, her captain and crew were shifted on board the man of war, and a portion of the crew of the latter took charge of the prize. On the arrival of the vessel at Havana, the slaves were taken to the government barracoons on the Almodes, near the Morro. Here they remained twenty-two days, until their strength
was recruited. They were then divided into two lots, one half being conducted to the Consulado del Cerro, the other to the Consulado del Lucillo. Deponent was taken to the former. Their names were entered in a book, and deponent was set to work on the public roads for the local Government. Was told that at the end of ten years he would be entitled to his freedom as an Emancipado. He worked on these roads, and then on the Havanah and Guines railway for twelve years. There was an American employed on these same works, in the capacity of assistant engineer. His name was Clarke. Deponent became his servant, and therefore adopted his name. He saved a little money and put it into the lottery. He drew a prize of three hundred dollars, which sum he handed over to Clarke to save for him. Lezart, some time after, that Clarke was preparing to return to America. Asked him for the three hundred dollars. Clarke refused to give them up. Deponent complained to Don Antonio Escovedo, Secretary of the Railway Company, who advised him to tell the Captain-General. Deponent did so, and was referred by the Captain-General to the Syndic. The latter took his case in hand, compelled Clarke to give up the money, which was at once transferred to deponent. The Syndic questioned deponent, informed him that he was entitled to his freedom as an Emancipado, and his free papers were given to him. Deponent then went to work on his own account, as a porter, on the wharfs and quays. Has a wife and three children, two boys and a girl. The boys are named José and Roche, the girl, Isabel. They have all come over with him. He paid four hundred and twenty-five dollars for their passage and his own. Paid the money to the British Consul, and told him he wanted to go back to Lagos. Was informed he must first go to London, and that he would be sent on from there. Has some money left now, but not much. Was earning a good living in Cuba, but did not want to stay. Wished to return to Africa to farm. Knows he shall find some there, because he has heard of them quite recently through some new slaves, who have been brought from the same place.

Marea Rosalia Garcia, wife of Lorenzo Clarke: is about 30 years of age. Native of Lagos, and was taken from there on board the Negrito, when about eight years old. Was sold from the government barracanos to one Deorex Garcia, whose name she took. This person was an emboiderer. Government, however, demanded back deponent, and placed her at the Beneficiencia, where she remained eight or nine days. Was taken from there by Don Francisco la Moneda, a shoemaker, who hired her out to work, she paying him two dollars and a quarter a week. Deponent used to work as a laundress. At the end of four years she paid him sixty-eight dollars for her liberty, and procured her papers as an Emancipado. Has been free about ten or eleven years. Is not married to Clarke, as white people are, but he is her husband.

Miguel Marino. Is a native of Lagos, and is about 60 years of age. Has known almost all the others a very long time. Has been twenty-four years at Havanah. Was taken from Lagos on board a Spanish vessel with some 300 others, of whom thirty-two died during the voyage. It was a very long one. They were three months getting to Cuba, having been closely pursued by a cruiser, and compelled to put back several times, after being some days at sea. They were landed at a coffee estate on the Cuban coast at last, and taken thence to the barracks at the Havanah, called Castillo Principio. Deponent was bought from there by Don Juan de Cruz, a baker, with whom he remained two years, and who then sold him to Miguel Marino, also a baker, who baptized him by his name. This all masters are compelled by law to do. Remained with Marino eight years, when he died. Deponent was then sold again to another baker, named Don Pancho Aguir with whom he remained a year and a half. Saved some money, and put it into the lottery, and drew a prize of five hundred dollars. Bought himself for five hundred dollars, and his wife for three hundred dollars: On gaining his freedom he began to work as a porter. Has a wife, Margarita Cabrera. The little girl, Matea Marino, is his child, but not Margarita's. He paid two hundred dollars for his passage and that of his wife.

Margarita Cabrera. Is a Caravali, a cannibal tribe in the interior of Africa, on the west coast. Was kidnapped when about 20 or 24 years of age. Is now about 30. Does not know the name of the place on the coast from which she was brought, nor how many slaves were on board, but a great many: quite full. They were landed at Havanah at La Punto. Deponent was sold to Cabrera, a merchant, with whom she remained fifteen years. She worked on his plantations, cultivating sugar-cane and coffee. The slaves used to work from three in the morning till noon, when they used to breakfast: They fared very badly, and were severely tasked and dogged. After breakfast they returned to their work and went on till sunset, and often later. After serving her first master for fifteen years, deponent was sold to Don Scipiano Aguir, a saddler and harness-maker. She used to do the washing. Remained nine years with him, when she was bought by a black woman, also a Caravali, who had been brought to Cuba as a slave, but had ransomed herself, and was now following the occupation of a laundress. This woman's name was Manuela Munoz. With her deponent remained a year and a half; when her husband bought her off for three hundred dollars. In her country they make slaves in war. The white man buys all their slaves, and the chiefs then make more war for more slaves. Does not think it is so bad for black men to have slaves as it is for white men. "Black men no Jesu: white men all religion."

Matea Marino. A little girl about 5 years old. Her mother is a black Creole, and is at the Havanah. Her father is Miguel Marino.

This is a beautiful little creature, a perfect model of form, and singularly intelligent. She is as black as Indian ink. Her face is
round, like a cherub's, and the facial angle is quite after the Caucasian type. But for her woolly hair and flat nose, her negro origin might be doubted. She expressed willingness to remain in England, and an offer was made to her father and Margarita to bring her up in this country. They declined, however, especially Margarita, who said, "We have only that one, Senor."

**IGNAZIO MONI:** is about 41 years of age. Was brought direct from Lagos and landed at Havannah, at Castillo Principe, in Tacon's time. There were 350 mere slaves, men and women, on board, of whom six died during the passage. The cargo was taken to the barracoon of Don Manuel Barriero, a negro-trader, since dead. Dependent was sold to a builder named Don Antonio Mayo, who re-sold him, two months after, to a father, one Don J. P. Moni, whose name dependent took. Remained with him until the last nine years. Dependent had taken a wife, also a slave, and both set to work to buy themselves off. Dependent purchased her first. Paid five hundred dollars for her. Her mistress wanted seven hundred, but dependent appealed to the Syndic, who compelled her owner to take the five hundred dollars. Bought himself for a similar sum. After this, worked as a porter on the wharfs and quays. Saved enough to pay the passage of himself and wife, which cost him two hundred dollars. Expects to find his mother and brothers at Lagos. Has heard of them within the last eight or nine months from new slaves landed at Havannah.

**CATARINA BOSO,** wife of the above dependent. Is about 40 years of age, and has been about twenty years in Havannah. Was taken from Lagos by a Spanish slaver, with some 600 more. Only two died on the passage, that she knew of. Shortly after her arrival, was sold to a merchant named Boso, in whose service she remained, as cook and laundress, for four years and a half. Boso then sold her to a negro named Rosalia Aguirre, a seller of provisions in the streets, and who kept an eating-house. Rosalia was a Caravali. Dependent remained with her five years and a half, when her husband Ignatius Moni, bought her for five hundred dollars.

We would call attention to the circumstance of Ignatius Moni's having compelled his wife's owner to receive five hundred dollars for her ransom. This, it appears, is the highest sum—as fixed by the Government—that any owner can demand as the price of his slave, when the latter is in a position to offer this sum down for his freedom. Should he refuse, or demand more, the slave has the right of appealing to a local functionary called a Syndic, who can compel the owner to accept the sum-proffered, and forthwith free the slave.

**GABRIEL CRUSATI.** Does not know his age, but thinks about 40. Has been resident seven years in Havannah. Was taken from Lagos by a Spanish slaver, with some 200 more, of whom many were women. Four slaves died on the passage. They were landed on the Cuban coast, in a wood, and thence taken to the barracoons. Dependent was purchased from the barracoons by Don Luis Dresoo, a merchant, and was employed by him on the wharf. Remained with him seven months, when he was sold to another merchant, Joaquim Lupicio, who employed him in a similar manner. This man was a relative of Crusati's, whose name was given to dependent. Remained with him six years. Had a little money when sold to Lupicio; and at the end of seven years had saved enough to buy himself off for five hundred dollars. Has a wife, Luisa Macorra, who is with him now. After he became free, dependent worked on the wharfs and quays. He and his wife paid each a hundred dollars for their passage.

**MARIA LUISA MACORRA,** wife of the above, is about 26, and has been seventeen years in Havannah. Is a Lucumi, and came from Lagos. There were 420 more slaves on board the vessel. One of them jumped overboard, but was picked up, and severely punished by flogging. He died in consequence. The men were then all put in irons. The cargo was taken to Castillo Principe. Dependent was bought by Don Jose Macorra, who kept a lottery-office. Served in the capacity of a house domestic. Remained with him seven years, but he was a very bad master, and therefore dependent exercised his right to demand that he should sell her. Dependent had met with a relation, named now Briglia Pina, whom she prevailed upon to buy her. Briglia sold provisions. She died a year after she had purchased dependent. Her heirs left her "cuartada" in three hundred dollars, and sold her for this sum to another relation named Mauricio Rodriguez, a bricklayer. Dependent used to pay him nine dollars a month. Remained three years with him, when she became "cuartada" in one hundred dollars to Don Alejandro Mines. After this time she completed the purchase of herself for this sum. Has been about four years free, and got her living by cooking. Paid her own passage, one hundred dollars.

The foregoing case is extremely interesting, as illustrating two other humane features in the Spanish slave-law. The first is, that the slave, if dissatisfied with his master, may insist upon the latter's selling him to another. In such case, the slave must seek a new owner himself within three days, who purchases him at the price originally paid for him, or at a fair deduction for depreciation in value from hard service or other sufficient cause.

The second point in the Spanish law favourable to the slave is, that if he desire to manumit himself, and has not the sum of five hundred dollars to pay down to his master, but only a portion thereof, small or large, he can become what is called "cuartada." He agrees with his master that the price of his freedom shall be fixed: at a given sum, on which he pays an instalment. His master then gives him a licence to hire himself out, and to work on his own account, the slave
being bound to pay to the master at the rate of one shilling per day on every hundred dollars of the balance left unpaid of the amount agreed upon as his purchase-money. This is being "en cuartada." But the law goes yet further, for the slave thus situated cannot be re-enslaved entirely. If his master dies, the slave becomes only the "cuartada" of the heir, (as is exemplified in the case of Macorra given above,) who, should he sell him, cannot do so for more than the sum remaining unpaid. Macorra, it will be observed, was first sold for three hundred dollars, being then "cuartada" to Pina's heirs to this amount, and afterwards for only one hundred dollars, she having reduced by two-thirds the sum she owed for herself.

DOLORE RÉAL: Is about 40 years of age, and has been thirty years in Havana. Is a native of Lagos, of the Lucomi tribe, and was taken thence by a Spanish slaver, a large vessel, with many more slaves, but does not know how many. They were landed near Cardenas, and taken to the barracoons in Havana, where they remained a month. Deponent was bought by Carmen Réal, a free negro woman, also a native of Lagos. Réal was a laundress, and had eight or nine other female slaves. Remained with her six years, when she was sold to Paire Léon, a priest, as a servant. At the end of seven years deponent bought herself for four hundred and fifty dollars. On regaining her freedom she resumed her occupation as a laundress, earning about fifteen dollars a month. Deponent paid one hundred and four dollars for her passage back to Lagos, where she is now going.

Deponent knows she shall find her mother and her three brothers when she gets back. Has heard of them within the last four months, through some Borals, newly-imported from Lagos. Unable to give the date, but that within a month, she said she had converse with some self-manumitted negroes who had gone back to Lagos from Havana some time ago. This circumstance is not at all uncommon. The slaves in Havana often hear of their relatives through the newly-imported Borals. Self-manumitted slaves are also constantly going back home. Some years ago a large number of them freighted a Spanish vessel direct from Havana to Lagos, entirely at their own cost. Through many slaves sent news home to their friends.

This touching incident in slave life as it is in Cuba, will, we feel sure, not pass unnoticed by our readers. The circumstance of so many of this unfortunate class toiling to save money to return home is extremely interesting, illustrating the strength of their natural affections, which Slavery so rudely and wantonly outrages, and their industrious habits when left to labour for themselves.

MARIBA MERCEDES PILOTO: Has been twenty-two years in Havana. Does not know her age, but her free-papers state her to be 35, which she believes is nearly correct. Is a Luco-

mi, from Lagos, whence she was shipped on a Spanish vessel, with many others, and landed up a creek on the coast, near Havana. Was at once taken to her master, who had a share in the venture. His name was Don Antonio la Fe. He kept a grocer's store. Deponent was hired out to a laundress, and soon after sold, but does not remember the name of the party who purchased her. He sold her again to a Monsieur Thibault, a Frenchman, who died soon after. Deponent remained with Madame Thibault. The latter was a dress-maker. Deponent saved money, and ultimately bought herself for the legal sum of five hundred dollars paid down. Has been free four years, and paid one hundred dollars for her passage.

They were all very badly used coming from Havana. They had not enough food, and the crew threw water over them when they were lying about sick on the deck. They came from Havana to St. Thomas, and were twenty-five days on the passage from the latter place.

LUCA MARTINO: is about 45, and has been thirty-one years in Havana. Is brother to Miguel Marino. Was brought from Lagos on board a Spanish vessel, which, almost immediately after it had sailed, was captured by a British cruiser. The slaves were landed at Casa Blanca, opposite Havana, and placed in the government barracoons. Deponent remained here three months. Was then hired out from the barracoons to Don Manuel Martino, who, on condition of receiving from deponent three dollars a week, allowed him to work as a water-carrier. When Martino hired him, no entry of deponent's name was made in any register. Eight years after, deponent accidentally met his brother in the public streets. He was very glad. They embraced each other and cried. Deponent remained with Martino till Martino died, when he became the property of a son, of whom he ultimately bought himself for four hundred dollars. Deponent has a wife and five children in Havana. She was a free-born Creole. Deponent had not money enough to pay for their passage, so it was agreed he should go to Africa and work there till he had earned sufficient to send for them. Deponent has brothers and sisters at Lagos, and is anxious to see them. They will lend him money to send for his wife and family. Has been free since 1840, but though an emancipado, he has not his papers as one. Those he has shew he has freed himself. Many more emancipados are similarly circumstanced. Does not know, but thinks Martino paid the Government a sum of money for him. Deponent means that Government sold him as though he had been a slave. If this had not been so, does not know why the son of Martino should have made deponent pay four hundred dollars for his liberty.

The reader will understand that the above-named deponent, having been captured by a British cruiser, became entitled, as an emancipado, to his freedom, on the expiration of his apprenticeship, or term of servitude, which should not have exceeded five years from the time of his being indentured. Instead of this,
he was virtually sold, inasmuch as the local Government would appear to have exacted a certain bonus from the party who purchased his services, which sum became a permanent debt upon himself until he was able to discharge it, and thus purchase his own freedom.

This is an illustration of one of the many abuses which have sprung out of a system devised on the false supposition that "the slave requires to be prepared for freedom."

TELFORD SAVEDRA: is about 48 years of age, a native of Lagos, and has been in Havanah twenty-nine years. Was brought away by a Spanish vessel, with some 300 more, men and women. Seven were punished during the voyage, of whom six died in consequence. Five others also died from natural causes. When they were about four days' sail from Havana they were captured by an English cruiser. The slaves were taken to the Government barracoons, where they remained fifteen days. At the end of this time, deponent was hired out, under the Consulate surveillance, to a chocolate manufacturer and confectioner named Savedra, with whom he remained two years. The man flogged him very badly sometimes. Was then hired by a Monsieur Greffe, in the same trade, who paid Government ten doublons (about 32£ sterling) for his term. Deponent remained with Greffe twelve years, by which time he had saved up the ten doublons. Greffe had paid for him. Took this sum to the Consulate, and paid it back. On this his paper was handed to him. He was permitted to use the Commissary of Police, a fee of two dollars and a quarter. Has now been free seven years, during which time he has worked at his trade. Paid one hundred dollars for his passage.

This case, like the foregoing, would go to prove, that the local authorities derive considerable fees from hiring out the slaves who come under the category of emancipados. No wonder the official returns present such a bare account of their numbers. It will be seen that they are virtually held in servitude.

AUGUSTIN ACOSTA: is about 40. Has been twenty-four years in Havana. Was taken from Lagos by a Spanish slave. There were 400 or 500 other negroes on board, men and women. They were pretty well treated during the voyage. None died, though the small- pox broke out amongst them. The cargo was landed in a bye-place on the coast near Havana. The slaves were taken thence to a barracoons. Deponent was sold with forty others to one Trebecio Yané, a dealer, who hired him out as a labourer on different sugar and coffee-estates in the interior, some distance apart. Deponent worked in the field and in the sugar-house. The hours of labour were from day-light, or about four in the morning; to midnight, one hour being allowed in the middle of the day for meals. The daily allowance was a bit of dried salt beef, about as large as your three fingers. They had no bread, but yams and plantains. They went very short of food; but had plenty of sugar and water to drink. Lived under Yané twelve years. Yané always hired deponent out on condition that he should not be flogged, but the others used to be severely whipped. Yané sold him to one Lopez Diez, who lived in one of the provinces, and with whom he remained two years, as a house-servant. Deponent was then sold to Don Manuel Acosta, a planter, who had coffee and sugar-estates. With him deponent remained nine years, when he became able to buy himself off for fifty dollars. Paid one hundred dollars for his passage from Havana to England, and expects to be sent free of cost to Lagos.

JOAQUIN PEREZ: is between 50 and 60 years of age, and has been from twenty-nine to thirty years in Havana. Is a native of Lagos. Was brought from thence in a Spanish vessel with 300 men and women. The small-pox broke out during the voyage, and they lost four by this disease. They were landed under the hills on the coast, in open day, and were taken to the barracoons of Castillo Principe. This place has been converted into an estate. Deponent remained in the barracoons three days. Was fetched away by his master, who had a share in the venture. His name was Perez, and deponent remained with him twelve years. He was a merchant, and deponent worked on the quay, with a gang of other slaves. Perez then sold him to Joaquim Lupicio, whom he served for fifteen years. Deponent had been able to save, and was at length enabled to buy himself off, which he did for five hundred and fifty dollars. It took him a long time to save so much. Has a wife, Martina Segui, and a son. They have accompanied him. The son is eighteen. Deponent has paid three hundred dollars for their passage.

MARTINA SEGUI: wife of the above deponent. Is about 42 to 45 years old, as near as she can guess. Was quite a girl when she came to Havana, and has been there thirty-one years. Is a native of Lagos, whence she was brought to Havana, with upwards of 500 more. Twenty negroes died during the passage. They were landed between two woods, at a retired place on the coast, and distributed as they were landed. They were expected. Deponent was sold to one Don Jose Morales, a planter, who sent her out to vend provisions. Was with him a year, and then sold to Segui, a Mandingo, now free, and who was foreman on the quay. She pursued her former occupation under him, and became his "quartada." She was valued at four hundred dollars, and gave him two hundred down, agreeing to bring him three dollars a week. Altogether, was with him twenty years. Was then sold to two hundred dollars to one Joaquim Mendola, and after she had been in his service three years, was able to free herself. In the mean time she had bought off her son for one hundred and fifty dollars. Has been free seven years. Her son's name is CAZENICO SEGUI. He is a cigarrmaker by trade, and is now eighteen years old.

MANUEL VIDAL: is about 42 years old. Was taken prisoner at Lagos in a war, and thence shipped to Havana, in 1834, on board a Spanish
vessel. Was landed near Matanzas. Three hundred more were brought by the same vessel, from the same place, but two died during the passage. There was a great number of women. Deponent was sold from the barraconos to one Don Manuel Vidau, who kept a general shop, and was a cigar maker. Remained with him eleven years. Used to make 400 cigars a day, which is considered an average good day's work. When he did not work well, and make his quantity, he used to be stripped, tied down, and dogged with the cow-hide. Has been very badly-dogged. Vidau, his late master, has now sold his slaves, and returned to Spain with a large fortune. He sold deponent to one Don Pedro Carrera, a coffee and sugar-broker. This party has also retired from business, and returned to Spain, but his sons remain at Havana. Carrera licensed deponent to hire himself out to work. Used to earn six and seven dollars a week, making cigars, and paid his master four dollars and a half. Saved money and joined thirty-nine others in a lottery ticket. The draw was a prize of sixteen thousand dollars, which they divided equally, deponent getting four hundred. Bought himself for five hundred and eighty-nine dollars. Has now been free from seven to eight years, and earned a living making cigars. Earned sufficient to keep himself, wife, and an adopted child, and saved enough to pay their passage to London. It cost him two hundred and twenty-five dollars. Could get a very good livelihood in Havana, but wished to return to Lagos, to his relatives.

This deponent is a remarkably handsome and well-formed negro. He is the leader of the party, who obey him implicitly. They call him capitôn or captain. He is also the most intelligent of the number.

Maria Luísa Picard, wife of Vidau. Is about 32, and has been in Havana twenty-one years. Is also a native of Lagos. Was brought from thence in a Spanish vessel, with a large number of other slaves, male and female. They were landed on the coast, near Havana, and taken to the barraconos. About one-third of the number were ill. Deponent was sold to Don José Maria Picard, a broker, and served in his family as nurse and cook. Was with him four years. Was then sold to Don Pedro Maximo Valdez, a gentleman, as a house-servant. After being with him two years, she became his "guar-tada" for two hundred dollars, having paid him two hundred and fifty dollars on account. Was in Valdez' family eight years. Has been free about seven years. About that time, Manuel Vidau took her as his wife. They have no children of their own, but Manuel Aye, who is with them, is their child by adoption. He is about four years and a half old. Both his parents are dead: they died of cholera in 1852. They were blood relations of her husband's. Manuel Aye is their nephew. They have brought him up by hand since he was four months' old. His parents could not take care of him. They had bad masters, and had no time to attend to the child.

Although the foregoing narratives may exhibit Slavery in Cuba under some of its more favourable aspects, as compared with Slavery in the Southern States of the American Union, it must be borne in mind, that, with the exception of two of the deponents, all of them were urban slaves. Now, although the Spanish slave-law possesses many humane features, and the rights of the slaves under it are guaranteed by a public opinion greatly in advance of any that ever prevailed in our own colonies, or that now exists in America, yet in the provinces it is by no means easy for the slaves employed on estates to assert their rights and claim their privileges, owing to their being so remote from any local authority. Thus the humane provisions of the law are rendered almost inoperative. The cases of Margarita Cabrera and Augustin Acosta, however, go to show, that even when employed on the plantations, instances do occur of slaves being able to emancipate themselves.

Nearly the whole of the deponents are of the Lucomi tribe, from the vicinity of Lagos. They are said to be the most docile and industrious of all the negroes that are imported, and the majority of those who manumit themselves by purchase are of this tribe. We are informed that as many as eighty-three more were preparing to leave Havana. If this be so, they are likely to prove a heavy charge upon private benevolence, or upon the Government.

It may not be out of place to mention here that the decree recently promulgated from Madrid, "providing for the restriction of slave-labour to agricultural purposes," will, by converting the urban slaves into field labourers, to a great extent render self-emancipation more difficult in future. As the slaves will be removed to remote districts, they will not only not have ready access to the authorities, but will be deprived altogether of the opportunity of being employed in remunerative, if not even lucrative occupations.

Slavery Facetiae.—Let none of our readers give credit to Punch, or any like wicked wag, for the following rich little bit of satire on "the peculiar institution." It is clipped from the Southern Episcopalian, a said and reputable religious monthly, published at Charleston, S. C., and may be taken as "specimen bricks" of a catechism for slaves contained in the April number. Viewed in all its bearings, it certainly out-punches Punch:

"Who keeps the snakes and all bid things from hurting you?"
"God does."
"Who gave you a master and a mistress?"
"God gave them to me."
"Who says that you must obey them?"
"God says that I must."
"What book tells you these things?"
"The Bible."