

and as it was desirable the members of the Institution should elect their officers with as little delay as possible, it would be proper to adjourn over for a few days to allow time for these points to be arranged.

It was agreed that in conformity with this recommendation another meeting should be held early next week. It was moved by the Attorney General that a vote of thanks should be passed to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor by acclamation for his able and zealous exertions in promoting the object of the meeting; and the call was cordially responded to by all present.

In returning his acknowledgements, the Lieutenant Governor took occasion to express the assurance of the interest which he should not cease to feel in the prosperity of this Colony even when removed from it; and that he should omit no opportunity either in London where he was a member of two Institutions, with which he hoped to bring the Mechanics' and Cottagers' Institution into correspondence, or elsewhere, of promoting the success of this Institution by bringing it into close connexion with those of a similar character established at home. He trusted to hear of their successful progress and firm establishment, and concluded by expressing his conviction that they would be well and ably supported by the friends in whose hands he left them.

The meeting was then adjourned.

II. The following is a copy of an Address presented to His Majesty on behalf of a proposed Institution, called the Metropolitan Benefit Societies' Asylum:—

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the humble, loyal and most dutiful Address, of the President, Vice-Presidents, &c., of the Metropolitan Benefit Societies' Asylum.

"SIRE,—Impressed with the most lively feelings of loyalty and attachment to your Royal Person and Illustrious Family, and emboldened by the many acts of princely munificence and paternal regard with which your grateful subjects have been honoured, since Divine Providence has called you to the British Throne, we humbly venture to approach your Royal Presence, and to solicit the high honour of your August Patronage on behalf of an Institution, which, though now in its infancy, promises ere long to be of the highest national importance.

"We trust, Sire, that while advocating the cause of the Metropolitan Benefit Societies' Asylum, we shall not be considered intrusive in submitting to your Majesty a few brief facts relative to its formation. Benefit or Friendly Societies, composed of persons moving in the humbler walks of life, and supported by funds drawn almost exclusively from their own limited resources, have been the means of supporting hundreds of thousands of industrious Mechanics and Labourers, when enfeebled by sickness, or oppressed with the infirmities of old age; thus effecting a most important reduction in the public burthens of the community.

"Still, Sire, great as the good has been in their establishment, it has been too often painfully felt that the relief thus afforded to the aged and infirm, has been, in very many instances, inadequate to their support. To obviate this evil—to afford to their weary and worn-out members a secure Asylum, wherein they may pass the brief remainder of their days in quietude and comfort—is the object of the Metropolitan Benefit Societies' Asylum.

"Sire, like the parent Institutions from which this has emanated, the Metropolitan Benefit Societies' Asylum had its origin in the spontaneous feeling of philanthropy existing among the industrious, prudent, yet humble class of society. Cheered, however, by the approbation and support of their superiors, they have ventured yet higher in their pursuit; and zealous in the cause of charity and benevolence, humbly and earnestly beg leave to solicit the exalted patronage and support of their most gracious and beloved Monarch.

"When, Sire, we remember with gratitude that it was under the benignant Reign of our late excellent and revered Sovereign, your Majesty's venerable Parent, that Friendly Societies first obtained Legislative sanction and protection, and which, under that protection, has increased to upwards of a million of heads of families, we cannot but be sanguine in our expectations, that our hopes will be realized in his Illustrious Son, and that your Majesty's faithful subjects will again have to bless the name of their common Friend and Protector.

"W. T. COPELAND, *President.*"

III. Copy of a letter addressed by Benjamin Hawes, Jun., Esquire, President of the Friendly Societies' Institution, to the Grant's Town Friendly Society.

Lambeth, August 13, 1836.

SIRS,—I beg to acknowledge the letter you have addressed to me, together with a copy of the rules and accounts of the Grant's Town Friendly Society; and I beg to assure you on the part of the Society and on my own part, that we receive your communication with unfeigned pleasure, and with an earnest desire for a continuance of that friendly intercourse which has thus sprung up between us.

little motives to disturb their steady course, and he impressed on them, that in the acquisition of useful knowledge, they should ever remember that there was a higher knowledge which they should sedulously cultivate, and without which, all their exertions in whatever pursuit would be unavailing.

The Lieutenant Governor then suggested that as there were several blanks to be filled up in the Regulations which had been read,

It is gratifying to find that neither distance nor distinction of any sort really separates those who are engaged in promoting the common welfare of their species. They may be far distant from each other, but one day or another they find themselves united as we do, and co-operating in the promotion of useful objects.

Friendly Societies such as those you support, can only lead to good. The principles of frugality and forethought they practically teach, are the very basis of personal independence and moral improvement. They exhibit the wholesome fruit of industry; they inculcate a respect for property; they are closely connected with freedom whilst they can exist only whilst a love of order and a respect for the law is maintained.

To shew you the extent to which they have been carried in this part of the empire, I have sent you a history of the Savings' Banks of England, which gives you the number of Friendly Societies also in connexion with those Banks. This book will shew you the importance attached to them amongst us; and I hope encourage the formation of more amongst yourselves.

I also beg you to accept a little book, to shew you how much human toil may be lightened, and how much more extensively human wants may be supplied by the aid of machinery. Perhaps when in the cultivation of the soil in your part of the world, you see machines introduced, you may think them injurious. This little book will shew you their value and importance to all classes.

I shall be most happy to render you any service in my power; and I remain your sincere friend and well-wisher.

(Signed)

B. HAWES, *President.*

To the Grant's Town Friendly Society.

IV. The following paper was read at a meeting of the Institution, held on Monday the 24th October:—

CALCULATION OF THE PROFITS ARISING FROM A PLANTAIN GROVE.
(From *Flinter's Account of Puerto Rico.*)

A proof more convincing of the extraordinary fertility of this Island than the following calculation of the produce of nineteen acres of land under plantains, cultivated by one man, cannot be offered. I shall proceed to demonstrate the truth of what is known by experience, that the labour of one man yearly will maintain 240 individuals for the same period. A cord of land (which is one-tenth less than an English acre) will contain 625 plantain trees, planted in the usual manner. The number of shoots which are left to each tree under proper culture, is three. Each shoot yields one bunch of plantains yearly, and every bunch on an average contains twenty-five plantains, which gives for every tree annually seventy-five plantains. The original trees being 625, the number produced by one cord of land will be 46,875 plantains. The plantain groves require very little cultivation. The grass that grows among the plants is trifling, in consequence of the shade cast by their large and spreading leaves. The moderate work of a free labourer in a plantain grove daily, is to clear from weeds an extent of land measuring five yards in breadth, and twenty-five in length; so that one man is able with ease to weed a cord of land in five days. Calculating three weedings annually, which is the most required, one man, working fifteen days in the year, can keep it in a perfect state of cultivation. Deducting from the year 75 Sundays and holidays, the working days will be reduced to 290 days, and this number being divided by 15, which is the number of days necessary for one man to keep a cord of plantain trees in order, we find that by the work of one man nineteen cords of land under plantains may be kept in perfect order. Each cord will yield, according to the foregoing calculation, 46,875 plantains, which, multiplied by 19, the number of cords which one man can cultivate, we shall have 890,625, which is the total produce in plantains of nineteen cords. Supposing that a man will consume ten plantain daily (which is a liberal allowance,) he will require for a year's subsistence 3650 plantains. Therefore, dividing the number of plantains produced by the labour of one man, 890,625, we find the number 244, which represents the number of men which may be maintained with this fruit by the moderate labour of one individual.

To the inhabitant of Europe, who does not know, or cannot conceive the fertility of this soil, or the productive force of tropical vegetation, this calculation may appear extravagant, but it is nevertheless very exact and true.

The amount of capital required to undertake this species of industry is no less surprising. Nineteen cords of the best land may cost at the maximum, \$1900
The simple implements necessary for this class of cultivation, 100
Clearing and preparing nineteen cords of land, 200
Making a fence, 160
Allowing three bullocks and a horse for working, the former at 40 dollars each, the horse at 30 150
Two slaves to take care of the animals, etc.* 800

Capital, \$3310

We have already observed that nineteen cords of plantain trees produce 890,625 plantains, which, sold at the lowest customary price, twenty four for a real, or six pence sterling, or 192 for a dollar, or four shillings, are worth 4639 dollars, which is more than 140 per cent. on the capital employed.

This calculation is made, supposing the plantains to be sold on

* Supposing slaves necessary to take care of the animals; but with free labourers it would be still cheaper.