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HONDURAS.

Extract of a LETTER from Captain *R. Maclean*, of His Majesty's sloop *Bustard*, dated the 2d March 1824, at Port Royal, Jamaica, and addressed to Vice-Admiral Sir L. W. Halsted, K. C. B.

— “ THE present Inhabitants of our settlement of Balize, consist of on or about, - - -

White Inhabitants	150
Slaves	2,600
Free people of colour	600
Free blacks	500
Black pensioners, late belonging to the West India regiments disbanded	650
A detachment of the 2d West India regiment	200
Total number of Souls	4,700

“ In this small community there has been 376 slaves manumitted from 1808 to 1823, generally gifted them from their good conduct, some being allowed to purchase their manumission : many of these are now wealthy.”

“ It is with much satisfaction I refer to the emulation which appears amongst the negro population in this settlement. They are particularly well fed, and treated with proper care. There is very little occasion to punish them, they are so well disposed; and I did not observe any driver carrying a whip. Indeed many of the large gangs, employed at the mahogany works far distant from their owners, are managed by one of their superior negroes ; and, so far as I could learn and perceive, their privileges are very great, being permitted two days in the week to themselves, and permission to cultivate the soil to any extent for their own immediate profit, to build canoes and raise any sort of stock ; indeed the proprietor frequently becomes a large purchaser of the negroes industry, thereby encouraging it. Their allowance from the owner consists of pork, flour, plantains, rum, tobacco, powder, shot, &c. (to kill game, which is numerous,) and two suits of clothes in the year ; and I understand it is very common for them to accumulate large sums of money.”

“ The inhabitants for their subsistence obtain large supplies of cattle from Omoa, and are now raising quantities of vegetables, small stock, India and Guinea corn up the rivers : they have plenty of fish and turtle. Flour, and all the United States produce, is brought by the vessels of that nation in exchange for logwood and mahogany.”

“ I have been particular in detailing the treatment of the negro population in our settlement of Honduras, having recently read reports in our public journals very contradictory to my statement, and I have every reason to believe wholly erroneous. My report on that head is founded from my own observations during several visits to that settlement.”

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