

The Derby Mercury

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In Cape Town there is a Malay population, formerly slaves under the Dutch rule, but whose freedom was purchased by the English Government on becoming possessed of the colony. He had always considered that act of the English Government—when more than twenty million slaves were set free—one of the noblest deeds which any nation under heaven ever performed,—an act of the national conscience which had tended strongly to draw down God's blessing on this country, and on the efforts of the missionaries which followed thereafter. Among the Malays there was a Mahomedan population, and one of the difficulties which missionaries had encountered among the Malays was they say that they like Mahomedans better than Christians because they showed greater kindness. It was too true that there had gone among these people emigrants ill-instructed in the faith of Christ, and who had apostatised from Christianity to Mahomedanism. There are such instances still in existence; but he thanked God that a great check had been put on such practices; and just as Christians become more Christian, in the same degree does Mahomedanism fade and decline. There are in Cape Town missionaries planted for the express purpose of converting the Malays and Mahomedans, and some of these converts he was happy to say, had been admitted to the missionary college of St. Augustine.