

ABSTRACT

It was only with the appointment of a bishop to the island that the Anglican Church in Jamaica seriously concerned itself with the religious instruction of the slave population of the island.

Religious instruction, moral training and education were for all churches active in missionary work in the island at this time, one and the same thing. The church through Sunday Schools and Day Schools sought to support its work of conversion. The skill these schools prided themselves on imparting was that of reading but over time other skills were to be taught.

In the post-emancipation period all the religious societies in Jamaica attempted to extend their work. The Anglican Church assisted by local bodies and individuals and with support from British Missionary societies connected to the church and funds from the Negro Education Grant, built up one of the largest educational establishments in the island by the early 1840's. The rapid decline of assistance to the church from both local and foreign sources at this period however, made it necessary for the church to ask for payment of small school fees and forced the church to make some reduction of the school establishment. But the church convinced that education was a means of improving the spiritual condition of the people, managed to maintain a large school establishment in the island in the difficult years ahead.