

of supply. I have not had an opportunity of reading the letter of your correspondent, who points out that in the event of annexation United States fish would, under the Washington Treaty, enter free into Jamaica markets, nor am I acquainted with the terms of the Treaty itself; but such a conclusion is evidently incorrect, for at the date of its signature Jamaica was not a portion of the Dominion. In this we have a clear guide in the most favored nation Treaty between the United Kingdom and United States, in which the West India Colonies having by inadvertence been omitted, the latter cannot claim entrance into American markets under this convention, but are seeking these facilities under a new one. In any case, however, it is erroneous to affirm that annexation would not extend the market for this article. The removal of a duty representing 25 per cent on first cost would ensure that result.

Beyond expressing my dissent from the misconceptions on which they are based, and my great regret for the spirit in which they are expressed, it is impossible for me in the limited time at my command to deal as fully as I would desire with your other remarks. Assertion is not argument, and whatever the result of the present exchange of opinions, I am assured a general desire prevails that no irritation should intrude on the satisfactory relations that have hitherto existed between those who are part and parcel of the same people and owe allegiance to the same throne. Fairly treated, as the masses of other countries, the people of Jamaica offer favorable contrast. A more orderly and law abiding people are not to be found, and if they do not labor as they might it is because of the bounties of nature which surround them, and the want of those incentives which I believe annexation would impart.

Speaking with all respect to the reasonable aspirations of my fellow-colonists, I think you over-rate their legal claim to representation in the Canadian Parliament, or if legal their actual desires. I believe two or three Representatives at the outset would satisfy their wishes, and that whoever they may select, would do anything but discredit to any deliberative body with which they may be associated. A community raising without difficulty a revenue of about £600,000 cannot be said to be in difficulties. The sudden collapse in the sugar industry has extended to other and larger centres, and there is no evidence to prove, nor is it reasonable to assert, that in the case of Jamaica it is ascribable either to an idle population, lack of business shrewdness, or improvidence.

In seeking annexation, it is not proposed to obtain help that will not be more than abundantly required, and so far from being a burden to the Dominion, the projected movement would, I am persuaded, entail mutual and lasting cause for satisfaction.

If I have succeeded in convincing you that the scheme is neither absurd nor unreasonable, and if the people of both communities can be induced to enter, at least, into a dispassionate consideration of