

much as these duties are exclusively applied to colonial purposes, and in this island only amount to about one-sixth of the total duties collected, the deficiency, therefore, would have to be immediately made up by imposts not less onerous. But, that this meeting would now gladly hail such an approximation to the general principles of "free trade," as, by a modification of the existing Navigation Laws, would enable British colonists to avail themselves of the cheapest "bottoms" for carrying their produce to the home market as well as bringing their outward supplies, an advantage at present denied them, but at the command of their opponents, the slave-holders.

6.—That upon the same free-trade principles, this meeting claims, as a right, the admission of rum, the produce of British Possessions, for consumption in the United Kingdom, at the same rate of duty as that charged upon home-made spirits; and also, the use of British plantation sugar and molasses in all manufactories in which they can be employed.

7.—That it is the opinion of this meeting, that the threatened measure is one infallibly calculated to give a fresh impetus to the slave trade, and to aggravate its horrors and miseries; and this meeting most earnestly calls upon the British Government to adopt and perseveringly carry through, the most stringent measures for the effectual extinction of slavery throughout the world.

8.—That Messrs. H. Scott, S. Samuel, R. E. Adams, A. W. Anderson, W. Ulrich, and R. S. Darling, be appointed as a deputation to wait on his Excellency Lord Harris, with a copy of these resolutions, and to request his Lordship to forward them to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, with such recommendations for their favourable consideration as he may deem, from the exigency of the case, they merit. And the meeting takes this opportunity of expressing its hopes that his Excellency and the Legislative Council of Government will adopt such early measures as may be best suited to mitigate the severity of the struggle in which this colony is likely soon to find itself engaged.

(signed) SAM. SAMUEL, Chairman.
R. C. ADAMS, Secretary.

No. 3.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Lord HARRIS to Earl GREY, dated Trinidad, 20th January 1847.

BUT what I intended to ask, is whether any relaxation in the terms of the Navigation Laws might be hoped for; such, as I am informed, has already been granted to the Mauritius, and which the nature of the population of this island and its position might warrant, so as to allow the goods of all nations to be brought here in any vessels without restriction, it would undoubtedly promote an extensive and direct commerce between Trinidad and France and Spain, which is now much retarded and restricted by being carried on by way of Martinique and the Spanish Main. Another great advantage would accrue respecting immigration, as the freight of immigrants would be much reduced. When Coolie labour was first proposed to be introduced, American vessels could have been procured to bring them at 9% per head, whereas the present charge is nearly 18%.

No. 4.

(No. 117.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Governor Lord HARRIS, dated Downing Street, 1st March 1847.

WITH respect to the Navigation Laws, I cannot venture to anticipate what may be the judgment to which Parliament may come as to the propriety of maintaining or of modifying them, in consequence of the inquiry now in progress before a Committee of the House of Commons. Any information, however, which it may be in your power to afford as to the practical working of these laws in Trinidad, or any suggestions which you may be able to throw out for their alteration, in order to remove any injurious effects they may have been found to produce, I will, if you should do me the favour to communicate them to me, take measures for having them brought under the notice of the Committee.

No. 3.
Governor
Lord Harris
to
Earl Grey,
20th Jan. 1847.

No. 4.
Earl Grey
to
Governor
Lord Harris,
1st March 1847.