

One of the earliest acts of his administration was to convene the Colonial Parliament and lay before that body a review of the existing state of affairs in the Island. He pointed out to them, kindly but forcibly, the causes which had conduced to create and continue the evils under which they suffered, and urged upon their immediate consideration such measures as would tend to allay excitement and remove discontent.

He assured them of his most cordial co-operation in every means calculated to effect such a salutary change in public sentiment. He informed them that he had authority from the Imperial Government to suspend the constitution of the colony if he deemed such a measure necessary or advisable, but at the same time declared his intention to consider such authority as non-existent, and ended with the assurance that he placed his hopes of re-establishing the happiness and prosperity of the Island upon the wisdom, patriotism, and loyalty which he trusted would govern their deliberations.

The noble simplicity and manly frankness which prevailed this address, and marked his subsequent intercourse with the colonists, could hardly fail to have the desired effect ; and it will be an enduring monument to his fame, that all classes of a community, where hopeless discord had hitherto prevailed, were so thoroughly convinced of the entire honesty of purpose and singleness of heart by which he was actuated, that every measure of importance which he recommended to the consideration of the Legislature was passed with a previously unheard-of unanimity.

The happy effects resulting from this wise confidence in the advice of the Governor were soon eminently conspicuous, and it is now a matter of history that the preservation of the peace, happiness, and constitutional liberty of Jamaica, was mainly, if not entirely, owing to the kind and liberal policy which distinguished his administration.

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