

of the islands that stud and gem the globe. It is protected from hurricanes (long unknown in it) by a girdle of islands, consisting of the Windward Islands, Porto Rico, St. Domingo, and Cuba; among the West Indies it is central; and for the various lines of European, Canadian and United States traffic with Central America, it is admirably situated as a shelter and a depot.

When Central America is canalled for shipping, and the Caribbean Sea becomes the highway of the world, what benefits must such an island as Jamaica at once receive and confer! With plains so fertile, with hills and mountains so noble and fruitful, with ample shelter throughout its coast for shipping, with English language, laws, and institutions, and, above all, with the light and power and purity of the Christian religion, Jamaica cannot sink. She will doubtless emerge from the shadows of adversity, to combine secular prosperity with political liberty and Christian truth and life.

Who, that has seen this noble island and lived in it, can disregard or forget it? Many years have rolled away since we saw its glorious chain of hills recede from our vision, and still more have gone since we caught the first glimpse of its proud appearance; and though we may never have the pleasure of seeing it again, we love to remember it, and must ever desire its peace and prosperity. We have inhaled its gentle morning breezes, cool and balmy as the airs of Eden; we have listened to the murmurs and followed the windings and marked the precipitations of its beautiful streams; we have feasted our eyes on the living verdure and graceful forms of its palms and canes; we have climbed several of its successive elevations, and thence looked down on such groupings and distributions of nature as we had nowhere else beheld. We have proved the hospitality, courtesy and kindness of its people; and must ever cherish its image and rejoice in its welfare.

Jamaica was discovered by Columbus, on the 3rd of May, 1494; and in June, 1503, he was both shipwrecked and sheltered on its northern coast. Exactly 161 years from its discovery, or on the 3rd of May, 1655, it was taken from the Spaniards by the English, under Admiral Penn and General Venables. In 1663, its first legislative assembly was summoned; in 1728, coffee was