

## THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

## A BREEZY LETTER FROM BARBADOES.

The Rev. John Morton, of Trinidad, writes to the Halifax Witness in the following interesting strain:

When you have swallowed Fowler's Solution of Arsenic by the ounce, Fellow's Compound Hypophosphites, Cod Liver Oil, and other pleasant medicines by the bottle, and will still persist in troubling the doctor, he prescribes "Clear out," and sends you down to the sea-side, and if all the houses there are full, orders Barbadoes in December, or Canada in May. It being December we came to Barbadoes, and settled for a time at Hastings. This is a suburb of Bridgetown. By tramway it is two miles from the Careuage, where you land from ship at Bridgetown, to Hastings, where the sea dashes against the rocks, and the cool air and delightful view attract the nurses and babies in the morning and the grown-up babies in the evening. Here seats are provided for visitors, and the band plays once a week. Full in view

The stately ships go on  
To the haven under the hill.

One morning we counted eight sailing ships all under full canvas, hurrying on to Carlyle Bay. There are bathing houses to be rented by the hour, day, week or month; but for boys and their father by far the most enjoyable plan is to walk half a mile along the shore, make a bathing house of the trees, and take to the open bay where the sand is soft as velvet—the shore a gentle descent, good at all tides, and you can toss in the surf or swim beyond it with equal safety. It is one of the compensations of life in the tropics that a sick man can enjoy bathing such as this in January. And though sick we did enjoy it.

But man is never content. If inclined personally to be satisfied, his fellows will not allow him. We were constantly told Hasting is nothing to Bathsheba. We could have resisted the less potent outside influences, but when the wife who has shared our salt for the last five and twenty years, looked anxiously in our face, and said, "John, dear, you are not improving fast enough, let us go to Bathsheba," the matter was decided, and to Bathsheba we came. To get to Bathsheba you pay 40 cents and step into a first-class carriage at Bridgetown. Barbadoes has a railway company and a railway twenty-four miles long. The railway, we were told, was not strong, and the company weaker. In fact we heard the railway abused and held up to scorn. Dispraise is, however, often an advantage. Where nothing is expected, one is pleased, with little. We were pleased with the railway, and feel that much might be said in its favour. If slow, it is the more safe, and why should people be so perpetually in a hurry, as if meditation in a railway carriage were altogether a waste of time. It is a small railway but the country is small, and the traffic is small, and a broad gauge would be ridiculous. When I hinted this to a grumbler, he replied: "Oh, yes, but why will they persist in comparing it to 'the London and Brighton,' or 'the Canadian Pacific?'" I could only answer, "Why not, if it gratifies them?" It is regarded, I may mention, as a glaring weakness of the average Barbadian, that he considers his country and all its institutions equal at least to the best in the universe. If this be a weakness, and I suppose I am expected to admit that it is, it is surely harmless. If it be ridiculous, let us enjoy it and laugh. But it is better than harmless, it is commendable because it is loyal and promotes

peace. This thing is not understood. Barbadoes must be good for something, or it would never have won the love of its people so thoroughly, and the people are all the better for this loyalty to their island home. Fancy people eating the sugar of a country—not to speak of its eddoes and flying fish—and then perpetually abusing it. The thing is too contemptible. Whatever others may do, no Barbadian would ever be guilty of such a thing. I honour him for this.

"Grumbling is good for the crops," said a Trinidad planter. "The only year the planters thought the weather perfect and left off grumbling, the crops were short 7,000 hds." I told him I read the lesson differently. It seemed to me from his own confession that the planters did not know what weather was good, and grumbled at the wrong time. What, indeed, is the right time to grumble, and what is the right subject? Well, the Barbadian seems to have come to one clear resolution, that never at any time will he grumble at his country. The weather—well that is different. I believe he does indeed grumble when no rain falls. Too much rain he can scarcely get for his porous soil. The price of sugar—that is entirely different. Barbadoes is not to blame for that. It is all due to free trade in England and bounty-led beet-root sugar on the continent and these may be freely grumbled at, or even cursed. But be the weather what it may, or the price of sugar, Barbadoes, as an island with civilized inhabitants, and free institutions, is not to be grumbled at or spoken against.

Sugar is almost their only export crop; but they have a great many internal resources. Visitors, shipping and the army bring money in. Fish from the sea and cattle on land supply much food.

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