

harvest be gathered—let the fruit season also set in—let further experiments go on in the use of sugar in brewing—let the markets of the world become settled, and, consequently, the exact consuming power of different countries be properly ascertained, and I feel convinced that sugar, (although it can never again be at an exorbitant price) will yet reach a remunerative one to the industrious and skilful planter (which, as far as my experience in the West Indies goes, I am inclined to fix at four dollars); and I have no fear, for a century to come, but that the increase of consumption will keep pace with the increase of production. On the passing of the Sugar Bill I ventured to predict this sum of four dollars as the average of 1851, when an entirely equal market will exist, and I also went so far as to assert that the producing power of Great Britain and Ireland, then 240,000 tons, would in 1851 be 450,000. Some commercial friends here ridiculed the calculation as absurd and chimerical; but, Sir, what has been the case in one short year? Does it not entirely bear me out? And when we bring to bear the certain increase which will ultimately ensue, with England being able with cheaper sugar to enter into competition with the fruit trade of France; the inevitable reduction of the duty on tea within the proscribed time, as a matter of policy in assistance of the revenue, causing, perhaps, a small reduction on that particular article, but prodigiously increasing it; when we consider the immense increase of consumption of sugar the use of every extra pound of tea would cause; the certain increase of the quantity in the breweries when the use is better understood—for I look with some surprise that a larger introduction has not already taken place, and can only attribute this to the disinclination of mankind to leave beaten tracks even with certainty of success; perhaps, in no instance better verified than in the opposition to railroads, and the defence of turnpikes; these sources enumerated, and innumerable others may be adduced, and I conceive argued upon with certainty to prove that no apprehension need exist as to an immense increase of consumption year by year, as the duties gradually assimilate; and with such increase of consumption a certain increase of price must follow, and the British West Indies of course participate, not in a monopolised market but in the markets of the world. It will be said that, although this may be true, it is unfair to bring those who are in a state of transition from slavery to freedom, into competition with the slave-grower. This, sir, is as universal a nostrum as quack pills. Let me pause for one moment to inquire the value of this argument. The value of a gang of slaves in 1834 in Trinidad, or Demerara, was £100 sterling per head. The interest on this sum, as money is and was valued, would be £6. The insurance of the life when the hard life of an agricultural labourer in the Colonies is considered, and when the large number of deaths among the children is taken into consideration, cannot be valued at a less sum than £6; for when in London, at the age of 23, strong and healthy, my life was valued at this sum to live in Demerara by two competent offices; and I therefore do not consider I am treating the subject unfairly to consider the facilities, I would have in procuring better and more attentive medical assistance, as well as better nourishment, when I place the slave in the same