

colony, I estimate the number of labourers at 17,000, which would give 3529 lbs. to each labourer. This, at 2 cents the lb., would be 70.58 dols. If each labourer in Trinidad should work on the average 220 days, and should earn 32 cents, he would receive 70.40 dols. While I am persuaded that labour in Trinidad does not cost over 2 cents the lb. I do not feel the same confidence in the numbers. I am inclined to think that the number of labourers is under estimated, and the daily average earnings of 32 cents exaggerated. The main point, however, is the cost of the free labour, and it will scarcely be alleged that more than 1,200,000 dollars, which is 2 cents the lb., is paid for labour on the sugar estates of Trinidad. The result, then, is, that labour in Cuba is 3 cents per lb., or  $2\frac{3}{10}$  on the choicest estates. In Louisiana it is about  $3\frac{2}{10}$  cents; in Barbados  $1\frac{4}{10}$  cents; and in Trinidad 2 cents. In Barbados the produce per head is lower than in Trinidad, and in both much lower than in Cuba, but a fair allowance must be made for the number of working days. I have no satisfactory statistics within my reach as to the product from each acre in Cuba, but I have little doubt that the large returns obtained on the seventeen estates specially referred to were owing to the great productiveness of the new land. The above calculations may appear startling, having reference to the alleged large profits in Cuba and Louisiana, and to the ruling prices of sugar. I must again remind the reader, that in each country the same labourer produces a considerable quantity of rum or molasses, or both. I must further point out that the value of land in Cuba is only 1500 dollars the caballeria, which is 33 acres, or less than 50 dollars the acre. In Barbados the cost of labour is probably about one-third of the cost of sugar, allowing a fair return for the capital invested in land. In Cuba the labour, reckoning, as I have of course done, the interest on the capital invested in the slaves, is doubtless much more than half the entire cost. It is further to be observed, that many of the Cuban estates are unprofitable. My estimates are averages, and the estates where great returns are made are exceptions. I have only to add, in conclusion, that having no object but to arrive at truth, I shall be glad to receive any information which may throw further light on the subject.

F. H.