

are simply delightful, and the nights generally so cool that one can sleep with the utmost comfort. The mean temperature of Trinidad is about 75°: at all events that was the mean temperature for 1890. The thermometer ranges from 66° to 91°, a variation of only 25°, which, by the way, is a pleasant enough contrast from one point of view with your experience in Canada, where, as one of my venerable correspondents has just written me, on January 4th of the present year, the thermometer stood at 14° below zero, and thus twice during his 57 years' residence in Ontario he saw the mercury at 37° below, and once at the opposite extreme of 98°, giving a range of 135°. When I was about leaving Nova Scotia last summer, a gentleman whom I met in the Merchants' Reading Room, Halifax, who had spent some years in the Tropics, said to me, "The climate out there is celestial; a man can live as long as he likes in the West Indies." That statement, of course, needs to be taken—as I have no doubt it was intended to be taken—with limitations: but if my friend were challenged, he would probably appeal to Columbus himself, who was so struck with "the softness and purity" of the climate at the time of his discovery of the island, that he believed he had arrived "at the base of the earthly Paradise." There is, indeed, as is well known, another side to the story, for it is indisputable that at certain seasons Trinidad, at least in some parts of it, is more or less unhealthy, especially for Europeans; but, in consequence of greater attention to sanitary laws, and a growing acquaintance with the natural causes which render some localities less healthy than others, matters in this respect have vastly improved. Further, Trinidad is outside the range usually taken by hurricanes and cyclones. Its earthquakes are very slight, winds and violent storms are extremely rare, and, curiously enough, cases of sunstroke are almost unknown.

For its size and population, the trade of Trinidad is large. Though it has an area of less than 2,000 square miles, and a population of only 200,000, its imports for 1890 amounted to \$10,794,686; its exports of the produce and manufactures of the island, \$6,783,014; its exports of British, foreign, and other colonial produce and manufactures, \$3,678,259—raising the total exports to \$10,461,273, making, therefore, an aggregate trade