

I am able to say that when in Demerara a very large number of the representative men of the Colony, merchants, bankers, planters, attorneys of estates, and others, were good enough to afford me an opportunity of addressing them in the Exchange rooms; of addressing them as a private individual travelling for my own pleasure and information, having with me, it is true, a letter signed by the President and Secretary of your Board, and under its seal of Incorporation, accrediting me as a member of its Council, of listening to me, as I assured them that any utterance of mine committed no one but myself, and that statements made by me were made solely upon my own responsibility;—yet were good enough, I say, to pass a resolution declaring:

“That this Colony warmly desires closer business relations with Canada.”

My reference to Demerara is made with no invidious distinction.

The same sentiments were uttered by merchants and planters in the other islands and in the same generous manner; but the time at my disposal in the other islands was too brief to have the marked and unanimous expression which characterized the meeting in Demerara presented in the other islands.

Be assured then that the Colonies are ripe for any arrangement which will be of mutual advantage to them and to us. Such an arrangement they desire, and will rejoice when it will so ripen as to bring the merchants of both countries into closer business intimacy.

To some present this address has been, I have no doubt, disappointing.

They came here, it may be, expecting some description possibly of the physical conformation and of the products of these islands, of the people, of the institutions, of the climate.

To them I would say, go and visit these islands if you can possibly spare the time, and witness with your own eyes that beauty which no words of mine could picture.

To others I have perhaps presented figures which have revealed facts not hitherto known, and have possibly made it apparent to them that there is a large and an increasing trade to be carried on between Canada and the West Indies. To such I would say also, go make the circuit of the islands which I have made, and in every one, in addition to the new world which it will open to you, you will find possibilities of business which perhaps have not hitherto engaged your attention. Go to Santa Cruz, to St. Kitts, to Antigua, to Montserrat, to Guadaloup, to Tobago. Go to Barbadoes, to Trinidad, to Demerara; see the harbours of these latter places crowded with shipping from every quarter of the globe, see the bustle and activity which characterize wharves and landing places, and while you will bring back with you lasting impressions, as I am sure you will, of what British enterprise can accomplish, as evidenced in these colonies, leave upon them your own impression of what can be accomplished by Canadian energy.

I feel that I cannot bring my remarks to a close more fittingly than by putting into a very few words the impressions which, in my journeying, I found took possession of me.