

hills united in a single base. But it is neither its name, ancient or modern, nor its beauty, that gives it its chief importance. For whether one thinks of its size relatively to other islands, its situation, soil, climate, resources, or trade, he can readily see that it is capable of playing a part of considerable importance, more particularly in its relations to its nearest neighbours. With respect to size, though Canadians might think it insignificant as compared with their half a continent, yet it takes rank in the second position among the British West India Islands, Jamaica alone exceeding it in area. If one could lop off its two peninsulas, one at the north-western and the other at the south-western corner of the island, its form would be almost a perfect rectangle, some 50 miles in length from north to south, and 40 miles in breadth from east to west. Trinidad, however, would protest with the utmost vigour against such an operation. She could ill spare these extremities, as they constitute the arms with which she embraces the Gulf of Paria, the magnificent sheet of water that separates her from Venezuela in South America, and by her embrace protects it from violent Atlantic storms; thus making what is one of the largest harbours in the world, one of the safest and most excellent. The area of the Island is 1750 square miles, *i.e.*, it is nearly one-twelfth as large as Nova Scotia or about four-fifths the size of Prince Edward Island.

In consequence of the unsettled state of matters in Venezuela, and the unfriendly attitude which its feeble, corrupt, and imbecile government has assumed towards Trinidad, the channels of trade in this direction are at the present moment sadly obstructed, yet so favourable is the commercial situation of this Island in its relations to the lines of traffic, extending to or going past it, that during the year before last no fewer than 2,144 sailing vessels, with an average carrying capacity of 70 tons, were entered at its ports; while the steamships entered for the same year numbered 473, or nearly 40 every month, with an average capacity of more than 1,000 tons.

With respect to climate even, much may be said in favour of Trinidad. It is true the heat is sometimes oppressive. For a few hours at midday during the hottest season of the year and occasionally at other seasons, there seems to be serious danger of liquefaction; but the mornings and evenings all the year round