

noblest opportunities to the most worthless ends, and failing in the achievement of the most obvious mission. I have spoken sanguinely of New Zealand and Australia; but when we turn our wandering gaze nearer home, and suffer it to rest for a few moments, before I conclude my paper, on the West Indian group, my hopes yield to apprehensions, and I own with a sigh that the same perverse folly which has ruined Jamaica and Barbadoes may destroy the rising prosperity of Adelaide and Auckland.

Discovered by Columbus in 1494, Jamaica was conquered from the Spaniards by England in 1655; but for many years very little sugar was obtained from it, and its prosperity may be said to date from 1787, when the ruin of St. Domingo deprived Europe of her accustomed supply of sugar from that great colony. The negro population, which at first only equalled in number that of the white, has now far exceeded it; and as the horrible notion that negroes have no souls to be saved is now for ever exploded, the number of clergy, churches, schools, and schoolmasters, required by the altered social condition of Jamaica is very great. But whatever errors may be attributed to the planters of former years, at least in this respect they did well: they liberally provided for the celebration of Divine worship and the work of education; and, although emancipation undoubtedly found the negro population in a great degree unprepared to benefit by the change, still successful efforts had been made by the colonial legislatures and the great Church societies in England to place the means of education and the ordinances of religion within reach of the manumitted slaves. Ten years before that event Jamaica was erected into a bishopric, Sunday markets were abolished, slave marriages legalized; and when Sir Edward Cust visited the West Indies, in 1838, he found that "The Church of England, under the auspices of a most active and intelligent prelate, and with a clergy well worthy of being classed in respectability and general attainments with their brethren at home, has advanced, and is advancing, in all the British colonies with strides only limited by the amount of her means, and with results that are the most cheerful and promising for the rising negro population. Her churches are rearing on every side, and her schools are the accompaniment of her churches, not in single buildings, but