

make the measure of its necessity and value depend on the amount of exportable produce raised in the British Colonies.—What would have been the condition of the West India body at this time had not the abolition of slavery taken place? In 1832, they were on the verge of ruin, their credit in the money-market utterly gone, and their slaves decreasing at the rate of 5,000 per annum. They had stimulated production by the most cruel means to its utmost limit to cover the interest due to mortgagees and merchants in the mother country, and to meet the current expenditure of their estates; and with what effect, let Lord Stanley say, ‘In all the islands there had been a general increase in the production of sugar, and a *corresponding decrease in the amount of the labouring population.*’ The medium slave-population, in Jamaica, during the 3 years ending June, 1826, was 333,393, and the average quantity of sugar raised was 1,354,448 cwts. The medium population during three years ending June, 1832, was 327,464, the average amount of sugar raised was 1,410,026 cwts.! Demerara showed a more frightful result. For the first period referred to, the slave-population was 72,722, the quantity of sugar raised, 552,336 cwts.; for the second period, the population had decreased to 67,741, and they were compelled to produce 806,120, cwts. of sugar! Now what did emancipation do when it arrested in its course this murderous system? Did it complete the ruin of the West India body? No! It restored their lost credit. It took from them the weapon with which they were destroying themselves, and we venture to say, that were the alternative placed before them this hour, of returning to the system which has been abolished, they would utterly refuse it on the mere ground of pecuniary gain. But slavery has been abolished throughout the British Colonies, and the songs of freemen have succeeded the wailings of slaves. The rights of humanity have been vindicated—the demands of justice have been met—and the claims of religion have been regarded; the person, the liberty, the property of the late slave have been rendered inviolable; and now under the protection of impartial law, he can sit as a free man beneath the shade of his own palm-tree, ‘none daring to make him afraid.’”