

From these figures it is evident that from these islands alone the United States purchase one-third more sugar than does Great Britain, while from Trinidad, for every hundred thousand pounds which we buy the United States buy nearly a million, or in other words, for every pound which we buy they buy eight hundred and thirty!! which really means eight hundred and thirty times more than we buy, and from British Guiana and Barbadoes combined, for every hogshead which we buy the United States buy fifteen. But startling as these figures are, the exports from these Islands to the United States for 1888-9 will make the disparity still greater. I was assured by a gentleman largely engaged in the sugar trade in Trinidad, that the shipments of sugar to the United States from Demerara alone, say in a period of not more than ten weeks, that is, between November 1, 1888, and January 1, 1889, would amount to twenty thousand tons. Anyone calculating what sugar is worth per ton in New York or Philadelphia, will see the enormous sum represented by these figures; yet large as they may appear, to my mind they—from what I have witnessed—are perfectly plain. The vessel, for example, in which I came from Demerara brought to Philadelphia 1950 tons; while another large vessel engaged in the East Indian trade was being towed up the river at the same time having on board some 1600 tons. These two shipments, be it observed, reaching the port of Philadelphia in one day from one Colony, representing one-half the entire Canadian imports of sugar from Trinidad and British Guiana and Barbadoes for a whole year, are most suggestive. Do not let us forget in our desire to secure for our own country a greater measure of the West Indian trade than we have, that nothing is so sensitive as commerce, Nothing is more natural than that a nation will look most kindly upon that nation which takes its products, and will, as a consequence, the more readily take what it has to offer in return; that it will insensibly be drawn to the nation which deals most largely with it, and to that extent be influenced in its favor; that, above all, will it give the preference to that nation which affords the best facilities for the introduction of its products.

It will be readily understood that a nation of 60,000,000 must necessarily consume more sugar (to speak of one product only) than a nation of 5,000,000; but looking at the figures before us, one naturally inquires, when looking at the small amount which we are credited with as importing from the West Indian Islands: From whom do we buy our sugar to meet the wants of our people? We may of course buy from some of the smaller islands, whose trade returns I have not in my possession and am therefore unable to give the figures—from Jamaica as well as from the other islands; but the impression cannot be avoided that a very large amount of our sugar—nay, the bulk of it as it appears to me, must come from the United States, from middle men, that we are thus giving undue importance to their trade to the detriment of our own. So much is this the case that the gentleman from Trinidad, already referred to, stated to me that in estimating the sugar sales for the year, the operations with Canada were so small that Canada was never taken into account.