

JAMAICA.

their own exertions, that these exertions may be wholly unfettered, and that the people of Jamaica may be permitted to enjoy a free commercial intercourse with all nations whose interests may lead them to her shores.

Your memorialists could point out the advantages possessed by the island of Jamaica for becoming a commercial depôt, especially as to position with respect to both continents of America and the surrounding islands. If the Navigation Laws were withdrawn, foreigners would bring assortments of goods from Europe, Asia, and North America, and other foreigners would come to purchase and re-export these; and, as the Government of England already permits the abolition of all differential duties hitherto enforced for the protection of her manufactures, no injury could arise from an extension of this permission and a relaxation of the Navigation Laws.

Your memorialists would call to Your Majesty's consideration, that the prosperity of Your Majesty's colonies cannot but be beneficial to the people of England, who always have been able to undersell the manufacturers of all other countries, and could not fail to find, in the free ports of Jamaica, a profitable outlet and depôt for their productions, both for consumption and exportation, nor could any loss occur to them in regard to their shipping, which has ever competed successfully with that of the world; a great demand would inevitably arise both for ships and manufactures, and merchandize of all kinds.

The benefit to Jamaica from such relaxation of the Navigation Laws would be infinite; it is the most desirable boon that her inhabitants could solicit or receive from Your Majesty's Government, it would aid Jamaica out of her difficulties; it would be hailed with exultation, and acknowledged with every sentiment of gratitude and respect, and it would be an honourable and generous concession on the part of Great Britain, which would exalt her in the esteem and admiration of all other nations.

Your memorialists therefore humbly pray that Your Majesty would be graciously pleased to declare that the ports of Your Majesty's island of Jamaica be free ports.

Passed the Assembly, this 1st day of April 1847.

(signed) S. J. DALLAS,
Speaker.

No. 2.

Governor
Sir C. E. Grey
to
Earl Grey,
6th Nov. 1848.

No. 2.

(No. 106.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor the Right Honourable Sir C. E. GREY to Earl GREY, dated King's House, Jamaica, 6th November 1847.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Lordship a copy of my Speech at the opening of the Session, under date of the 19th October.

Encl. in No. 2.

Enclosure in No. 2.

EXTRACT from the GOVERNOR'S SPEECH on opening the Session on 19th October 1847.

When I plainly avow to you that the two modes of relief which I have indicated, and perhaps some relaxation of the Navigation Laws, are the only ones in which I can at present perceive any reasonable hope of your having the assistance of the Imperial Parliament, it nevertheless seems to me that you not only ought not to despair, but that you have the strongest incentives to apply your own legislative powers to the people, the soil, the products, the agriculture, the manufactures, and the trade and commerce of the island.

No. 3.

Earl Grey
to
Governor
Sir C. E. Grey,
22d Dec. 1847.

No. 3.

(No. 122.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Sir CHARLES E. GREY, dated Downing Street, 22d December 1847.

I HAVE the honour to receive your Despatch, No. 106, of 6th November, enclosing copies of the Speech made by you to the Legislature of Jamaica on opening the Session. * * * * *

Parliament has already relieved the trade of the West Indian Colonies from nearly all the restrictions which were estimated in a paper officially communicated to the Board of Trade in the year 1830, by the committee of West India planters and merchants, as equivalent to a charge of more than 5s. per cwt. on the production of sugar; and Her Majesty's Government have recommended to the consideration of Parliament the question of altering the Navigation Laws, the only restrictive laws by which the colonists appear to be exposed to any serious disadvantage.