



IN THE BAHAMAS.

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR WILLIAM GREY-WILSON, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of the Bahamas.

sembly. Their banking business is already largely done with Canadian banks, the Royal Bank having a branch at Nassau. Canadian bank bills pass freely at par. It was a pleasant surprise to me to find that I need not change my money into American currency. (Applause.) They place their life assurance with our Canadian companies. The better classes send their children to Canadian schools for higher education. They come to Canada for their holidays, and when they travel to England they do so by way of Montreal. They are already in sympathy with us. They are intensely loyal, and they would fit in with our Canadian institutions admirably from the very first.

A remark made to me by Hon. J. P. Sands, the leader of the Government, may interest you. He said: "We prefer to deal with Canadians rather than with Americans, other things being equal." Why? "Well, Mr. Macaulay, we are under the same flag. That creates a sort of—well, I can only describe it as a sort of free-masonry. You belong to us, and we belong

to you." (Applause.) Gentlemen, will not these people make good Canadians? They are already accustomed to sing with heart and soul "God Save the King," and lately, when saying good-bye to Mr. Macdonald, for the first time in their history the band played "The Maple Leaf," and gentlemen, I myself have received a request for copies of the song "Oh, Canada." (Applause.)

But you ask, how about the race problem? If you mean a problem such as they have in the Southern States, there is none. It has been solved already. I am told that there has never been an outrage or a lynching in the history of the Colony. There is no attempt to keep the colored people under. There is no color line. As an illustration, I might say that I was present at the Episcopal Cathedral at a service attended by the Governor himself, and the collection was taken up by six gentlemen—four white and two colored. The congregation was one-third colored, and two-thirds white. The races live in perfect harmony. Of the twenty-nine elected members of the Lower House, twenty-five are white and but four colored, although the colored population is in the overwhelming majority. The colored people are proud of their standing as British subjects, and are loyal to a man. They consider that they owe their freedom from the race difficulties of the Southern States to the British Government, (applause) and I was told again and again that not one colored man in the whole of the islands would vote for annexation to the United States. I may illustrate their feeling by repeating the remark of a stenographer of colored blood who did some work for me. She said: "Mr. Macaulay, I do so hope that this agitation will succeed, and that the islands will be admitted to Canada, but (very solemnly), if it were a question of annexation to the United States, I would rather that a hurricane would pass over the islands and blot them out of existence, than have all the race troubles they have in the Southern States introduced here." That gives you the key to their attitude.

Another point to note is, that the colored people of the whole of the West Indian Islands are, I think, on the average much superior to those of the Southern States. They have men of decided ability and influence in their ranks. I could give striking instances, but time forbids.

I do not claim that there are not difficulties to be considered, serious difficulties, but I myself am convinced that a thoroughly safe, fair and satisfactory solution can be found at every point.

But, gentlemen, all these considerations are