

To whatever alternative the three large Colonies may therefore be driven by their necessities and large productions, and the Leeward Islands by similar reasons, (the smallness of their population considered) Jamaica has no such need. The latter possessing a population nearly equal to all the other Islands combined, now produces but 26,000 Tons of sugar, and any gain to producers by its introduction free into Canada would be more than repaid to the latter by the prospective benefits to accrue. Indeed, apart from this question and its visible and mutual advantages, the latent ones are so varied and important, that they should insure the warm support by every intelligent mind.

I perceive that Mr. Berkely intends visiting Ottawa with the obvious object of forming an independent Convention, or of tacking on the Leeward Islands to any arrangement made with the Government of Jamaica. Of course it would be quite open to the Canadian people to annex the Colonies represented by Mr. Berkeley, but in such event any treaty with Jamaica would fall through, and have to be abandoned, but I cannot believe that with a population of only 114,000, and a total Customs Revenue of £71,500, including many articles which cannot be supplied by Canada, the admission of these Islands, either with or without Jamaica, is a reasonable possibility.

The question of Reciprocity, according to Mr. Stewart's statement is laughed at, and properly so, since the British Government, instigated by the manufacturing interests of the United Kingdom, would never sanction any differential duties in favor of the Dominion unless shared by the British manufacturer, and we have already in evidence their declared statement, in reply to a question in the House of Commons (during I think, the month of November, when American Reciprocity was first mooted.) The matter, however, assumes a very different aspect with annexation.

As the position of the British West Indian producers is very critical, and there is absolutely nothing to gain from Reciprocity with America, it is clear the former will not now be disposed to make any important sacrifice of Revenue, to which, under different circumstances they would have willingly assented for the advantage of the sugar industry. It follows, therefore, that Canada has little to fear from the concessions that will now be made, and although the duty on Fish Stuffs will not be touched, Nova Scotia will inevitably lose her export trade in this article, especially with Jamaica in the absence of Confederation; indeed as Halifax would be the chief shipping port during a large portion of the year, that Province has much to gain from the union.

In the course of my correspondence with Sir Charles Tupper whilst the Premier was in London, I explained in identical terms with your suggestion, the reason of the rejection of Mr. Solomon's motion, which was fully anticipated. The latter gentleman's communications, as mine, with the Dominion Officials were purely the re-