

THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

CONCLUSION OF MR. MORTON'S LETTER.

I have prepared no statistics for your readers. For this I think they ought to thank me. Statistics are so misleading. Here is a sample given me by a grumbler—not a native: "The island is wretchedly poor. Sugar is their only crop. They make 60,000 hhd. per annum, and there are 180,000 people to feed." The inference seemed to be that one hhd. of sugar supported three people. That is a delusion.

Yams, sweet potatoes and eddoes, second to none in the world, are cultivated wherever a spot of land can be had. Much is made of the smallest resources. Necessity may have taught the virtue, but there is a thrift to be seen in Barbadoes that I have seen in no other West Indian island. It is with regret I write that Barbadians seem to lose this virtue by residence in Trinidad. It may be our climate, or the contagion of our extravagant manners that corrupts their virtue; but whatever it is, it is a most regrettable circumstance.

This, I am afraid, is a digression. We were, I think, on the railway going to Bathsheba, and had it been "the Canadian Pacific" would have been there before now. An English officer, in undress, and his wife, were my *vis a vis* on the railway. This lady noticed a coloured woman making for the train at one of the stations, but too late by, at least, two minutes, even if she ran. From the way she spoke to her husband I supposed that she was their servant who had arranged to join them at this point, for he left the train, signalled to the woman to encourage her, interviewed the guard, and got a promise that the train would wait two minutes if she could be got forward by that time. At two and a half

minutes past the time she stepped on our platform, and the train was off. Having recovered breath, she passed through our car to the next class, and I asked the lady, "Do you not know her? Is she not your servant?" "No," she said, "I do not know her at all; only I thought she would be disappointed if she lost the train." "It was very kind of you," I said, "and is it not curious that the poor woman will never know to whose thoughtfulness she was indebted for the stopping of the train?" "Oh! I never thought of that," she said. When her husband came in from the platform, she smiled her thanks to him, and then all the *man* in him broke out. "Yes, she caught the train, but she deserved to have lost it—turned back, I suppose, at the last moment to say a few unnecessary words." But his wife looked as if she knew that that was only "exhausted steam." Well, we made up our two and a half minutes, waiting made no difference to us. What difference it made to the poor woman we do not know—perhaps little—perhaps a great deal. But the kindly act made a great difference at least to the person who did it.

It is denied by some that all men are of the same race, and ethnology and physiology and other learned sciences are called in to prove that we are, or that we are not. As I am not entitled to write P. Q. R. S. X. Y. Z. after my name, I must leave these lofty themes to others, and write only of what I can see with eyes. And I never travel by railway without seeing as plain as the whiskers on a man's face that all men are of one race. This is to be seen very clearly in the way they catch the train. Among races—English, Scotch, Irish, Germans, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Hindus of some eight or ten different languages, and Africans of innumerable shades

you will find the following types brought out in the way they catch the railway train. First, the nervous—who are always too soon and divide their time between looking at the clock, and gazing along the line till the train comes in. Second, your men of common sense—who come from three to five minutes before the time, allowing a minute or two for difference of clock, and as much more to get tickets. Third, your proudly exact men—who enter the station as the train comes in, and move as deliberately as if they had a special arrangement with the conductor that the train was never to leave without them. Lastly, the dilatory, who are to be seen frantically running at the last moment to catch the train. This is the class which, more than any other, proves the unity of the human race. No race is always in time for the train, and all races, even the stolid Chinese, laugh at the man who is left.

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