

colony, in the prosperity of which I shall ever feel a lively interest. That I do not exaggerate the effect produced by the publication of Mr. Des Vœux's letter, is evident, from the comments on it which I have seen. The *Anti-Slavery Reporter*, states that, "he arraigns the medical men employed "on the estates, the stipendiary magistrates, the clergy in "colonial pay, the sub-immigration agents, and even the late "governor, as sub-servient to the views of the planters, and "opposed to the interest of the immigrants, whom he declares "to have been long treated with gross deception, injustice, "and cruelty." Sir T. W. C. Murdoch, chairman of the Land and Emigration Commissioners, observes in his Report, "Mr. "Des Vœux impugns the conduct of every class in the "colony except the lowest; and imputes to the local government, previous to the assumption of the government by "Mr. Scott, and the magistrates, and medical men, cruel neglect of duty, and unworthy truckling to the planting interest, and to the planters generally, cruelty, falsehood, and "perversion of justice." In Earl Granville's dispatch to Governor Scott, transmitting a copy of Mr. Des Vœux's letter, his Lordship, observes: "Mr. Des Vœux alleges "against the employers, neglect, ill-usage, and mismanagement "of the immigrants, and against those who should enforce "the law for their protection, a general subserviency to the "planters." The gentleman who has preferred the very serious charges, described in the language which I have quoted, was appointed a stipendiary magistrate in British Guiana in the year 1863, and was a resident there, except during short periods of absence on leave, until about the middle of the year 1869, when he was appointed Colonial Secretary of the Island of St. Lucia. During his residence in British Guiana, Mr. Des Vœux abstained from communicating either to the local executive or to the Secretary of State, the facts and opinions, which after a residence of several months in another colony, he at length deemed it his duty to bring to the notice of the Secretary of State. The Commissioners will, I have no doubt, require Mr. Des Vœux to state the "various

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