tend to confirm the impressions we have held (hear, hear.) Therefore, sir, I do make this appeal, in the face of the British parliament, to those two countries which are responsible for the continuance of this traffic, not only by considerations of duty and regard to the positive will and order of the Supreme Being we all worship, but also from a regard to the most ordinary considerations of policy and self-interest."

(From the North American.)

BRITISH POLICY.

We noticed recently the views of a free trader and advocate of emancipation, as given in the *whig radical* Westminster Review, in regard to the condition and prospects of the slave trade, and of the recently emancipated black population in the West Indies. We will now do the same with regard to the opinions of a decided advocate of the colonial system, and opponent of free trade, which we find in the last number of the *tory* Blackwood, and doubt not our readers will be as much surprised as we have been to find how nearly they arrive at the same conclusions.

Mr. McQueen, the writer in Blackwood, says, that after Great Britain having expended twenty millions of pounds in attempting to extinguish the slave trade, during the last thirty-six years, that traffic, instead of being destroyed, has been trebled, "while Africa has reaped no advantage whatever." She has, besides, expended twenty millions in abolishing slavery in the West Indies, yet that measure has been so little successful, that one hundred millions of fixed capital invested in those colonies, stands on the brink of destruction, while, as he says, "*in addition to former sums*, the *people of Great Britain have, from the enhanced prices of produce, paid during the last six or seven years, ten millions more, which have gone chiefly, if not wholly, into the pockets of the negro labourers, in excessive high wages, the great evil of the West Indies.*"

The sum and substance of this is, that the emancipated labourers of the West Indies have preferred play to work; and as they were protected by the differential duty of thirty-nine shillings, or nearly ten dollars per hundred weight on sugar, they have been enabled to follow their inclinations. With every diminution in the amount of produce exported, there was an increase of prices at which it was sold, by which the taxation of the free white labourer of England was increased, to enable the free coloured man of Jamaica to dispense with labour. Although we doubt the propriety of thus *robbing* Peter to pay Paul—for it must be remembered that but a very small portion of the labouring classes of Great Britain exercise the right of suffrage, or have any control over the makers of the laws by which these contributions are enforced,—yet we should not so much object to it, if we could see that the measures adopted by that country, and carried out at such enormous expense, had been or were likely to be, productive of real advantage as regards the diminution of the slave trade, or an improvement in the condition of the people of the West Indies.

Mr. McQueen says, that the effect of the reduction in the amount of produce is so great, that England is not able to supply Europe, as she formerly did, "in some of the most important articles," but has barely sufficient to supply her own wants.

"*While the whole of her colonial possessions, East, West, North and South, are at this moment supplied with—and as respects the article of sugar are consuming—foreign slave produce, brought direct, or refined in bond, exported and sold in the colonies as cheap, if not really cheaper, than British Muscavado, the produce of those colonies!*"

Here we see that the effect of the emancipation of the slaves of Jamaica, Barbadoes and Antigua, has been to increase the demand for the products of Cuba and Brazil, and to offer direct encouragement to the slave trade, and thus, after an expenditure of two hundred millions of dollars, affairs are really, we fear, in a worse condition than they were twenty years since.

Seeing that the increase of the slave trade, and of the amount of the produce of slave labour, is accompanied by a great increase in the markets which are thus given to "the manufacturers of the countries," while the productions and commerce of the British colonies are steadily decreasing, and with this, the market for British manufactures, Mr. McQueen is satisfied that the time has come for applying "an effectual remedy," which is to be found in the application of free labour *in Africa*.

During nearly the whole period that has elapsed since England was committed to the anti-slavery faith, she has spared neither pains nor expense to induce others to follow in her footsteps. It was not sufficient that a nation should have abolished the trade so far as regarded her own subjects or citizens, nor that she should have adopted her own course as regards the possible or probable future emancipation of the slaves already existing, but it was required that she should adopt the measures, wise or unwise, that England chose to adopt—and if she did not, if she preferred to follow her own course—no language was too severe to be applied to her. And yet it is now *admitted* on all sides, that the whole expenditure incurred for the suppression of the slave trade has been thrown away, that the slave trade has increased rapidly, while the destruction of life has been more than trebled. It is *admitted* that labour has become far less productive, and that a heavy tax has been imposed upon the poor labourer of Great Britain by this measure of emancipation. It is *admitted* on all sides that this tax must be removed. It is *admitted* that it is nearly impossible that cultivation can be carried on in the British Islands after it shall have been removed; and we fear greatly that it will soon be necessary *to admit* that the only effect resulting from a contribution of thirty millions has been, to deteriorate the condition of all classes throughout those Islands, and that the whole course of Great Britain in regard to this matter has been erroneous.

While thus employed in inducing other nations, by dint of threats and persuasions, to follow her example, language has been too severe to be applied to the colonization system of the United States; and yet, after all this expenditure—all the threats—all the persuasions, and all the abuse, it is now discovered that the only method to root out slavery and the slave-trade, is that of applying free labor within Africa, *under British control*, to the production of sugar, cotton and coffee, or, in other words, to the establishment of an extensive system of colonization.

These are lamentable facts and conclusions. But the facts we do not make, and the conclusions we cannot help. The dire evil of slavery we deplore as deeply as any man. Under any form, we regard it as an evil which must ultimately give way before the advance of truth and justice. But whatever be our faith or our hope in the matter, we do not feel at liberty, as a public journalist, to withhold the statements which we have made above, upon authority which seems unquestionable. We should rejoice most heartily to receive the proof, could it be afforded, that the course of Great Britain regarding her West India colonies and the suppression of the slave trade, had tended to diminish slavery in the aggregate. With the opposite testimony now before us, we can hardly expect this. The true friends of the slave will grieve to come to this opinion; but however painful, however mortifying it may be, it is better to adopt it, and study some other mode of giving freedom to the African race, than abide by it to the greater detriment of human beings already so grievously oppressed.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XII. Newspapers
A. Maryland Colonization Journal

2. June 1841 (n.s. I, 1)--May 1861 (n.s. X, 24)

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