

THE AUGUST MAGAZINES.

LIPPINCOTT'S. From an article on "Joseph Jefferson," in the August number of Lippincott's, we take the following account of the ancestors of that favorite comedian:—

Not many weeks since the writer enjoyed the privilege of looking over a manuscript volume entitled "Jeffersoniana," handsomely illuminated by one of Mr. Joseph Jefferson's friends. With the assistance of such recollections as were gleaned from other sources, and a tolerable familiarity with the career of the present Mr. Jefferson, it is hoped that this sketch may find readers among a people with whom its principal subject has become so great a favorite.

There have been four Jeffersons in the field. If the American imagination can travel backward and restore the past as vividly as it pictures the future, it will find Jefferson the first in the palmy days of Old Drury, along with Garrick, and ranking with Barry, Mossop, and Sheridan. He lived in the golden age of the drama, which loyal sons of fathers still revere as infinitely superior to all that they can ever experience. Playing "Mirabel" in *The Way of the World* for Mrs. Abington's benefit; the "King" to Garrick's "Hamlet"; "Don Frederick" to Garrick's "Don John in Chains"; "Gloss" to Garrick's "Shore and Sherrin" in *Peter Delaney*; as "Colonel Rivers" in *Peter Delaney*; with the English Roscins as his leader, and Sam Foot and Barry, and Holland, and Wilkinson, and Mrs. Abington, and Kitty Clive, and Susanna Cibber as his companions; with Sir Joshua Reynolds and Horace Walpole, Goldsmith, and Dr. Johnson, William Hogarth and Edmund Burke as auditors—all actors will agree that Jefferson the First was fortunate to live in such an age.

It is not difficult, knowing the present Jefferson, and with the accounts that have been handed down to us, to form an agreeable acquaintance with Jefferson the First. An old-school English gentleman, and "all of the olden time," polite and gallant of the stage and naturally observing the etiquette of society on the stage, beloved of his friends and respected by his associate actors, he was a man whose artistic merits may never have excited envy, but whose personal graces always inspired love. Yet a scale of merits on the Irish stage, made by a prominent critic of the day, placed him only fourth on the list which included Barry and Mossop; and the *Gentleman's Magazine*, in an obituary notice which appeared in the March number of the year 1807, speaks of him as "Mr. Jefferson, comedian, the friend, contemporary, and exact prototype of the immortal Garrick. But, however decided his success may have been in comedy or tragedy—for he played both—the frank and honest nature of Jefferson the First raised him above all the petty jealousies which find room behind the scenes nowadays, and which, we may safely conclude, were not wanting in his own days; for there are cycles in the theatrical world, as in the social and political worlds, where certain weaknesses, common to human nature, repeat themselves. There is a paragraph in Tom Weston's will which bears witness to this popularity. It reads:—"I have played under the management of Mr. Jefferson at Richmond, and received from him every politeness. I therefore leave him all my stock of prudence, it being the only good quality I think he stands in need of."

There is equally good proof that Jefferson had the faculty of inspiring love as well as friendship. Victor's "Secret History of the Green-Room" informs us that, "conversant in amours, Mrs. Abington was resolved to separate her lovers into two different classes: the first, those whose liberality might enable her to live in splendor; and the second, those whom she must piteously pluck; and that Jefferson was one of the latter. Better evidence still is in the fact that, after he had married a sweet, virtuous, and accomplished woman—a Miss May. "She had one of the best dispositions," says Tate Wilkinson, "that ever harbored in a human breast; and, more extraordinary, joined to that meekness, she was one of the most elegant women I ever beheld." Miss May was a prize whom the handsome Jefferson did not win all too easily. The lady's father was opposed to the match, and especially abhorred the idea of her going upon the stage. There may have been a mercantile spirit underlying even Mr. May's opposition, however; for when he finally gave his assent to the marriage, it was under a penalty of five hundred pounds, payable when the lady made her first appearance in public. As a matter of course, the penalty was assumed; as a matter of course, the lady soon went upon the stage; and, as a matter of course, the penalty was never paid. Her first appearance was at an amateur entertainment for a charitable purpose, when Mrs. Jefferson played in *The Funeral*, and when Mr. May had to give way to the universal demand of the profession, the friends of the family, and the whole public to see this accomplished lady in a sphere for which she was a destined ornament.

From that first appearance till the day of her death Mrs. Jefferson added lustre to the name that shines so brilliantly in the annals of the drama. "Buckling of the day of the old masques of the day in his 'Life of Garrick,' Davies says:—"In this masque (*Britannia*, 1755) 'Britannia' was represented by Mrs. Jefferson, the most complete figure in beauty of countenance and symmetry of form I ever beheld. The good woman (for she was virtuous as fair) was so unaffected and simple in her behavior that she knew not her power of charming." The lady died suddenly after an active life, in which the harmony of her domestic circle was never marred.

Jefferson the First was a great friend of Garrick. Now we hear of him supporting that actor in his leading roles; now Mrs. Clive writes to Garrick that she is about playing at Jefferson's benefit; again, an actor named Catherley takes the pains to explain by letter to Garrick the cause of his not appearing at Jefferson's benefit, and says that some one, "envious of the happiness I enjoyed in your friendship, has been endeavoring to injure me in your opinion." That Jefferson the First endeared himself to all who knew him, and possessed in an eminent degree that good nature which has been inherited and Americanized by our own Jefferson, might be attested by a dozen different incidents. "When I acted at Bayes," Tate Wilkinson tells us, "and spoke a speech or two in the manner of old Andrew Brice (a printer of that city and an eccentric genius), it struck the whole audience like electricity. Mr. Jefferson, who performed Johnson, was so taken by surprise that he could not proceed for laughter." This magnanimous trait of readily and heartily recognizing the merit of others is one that has been bequeathed to

Jefferson the Fourth—Joseph Jefferson, the American comedian. The writer knows of an instance which happened in one of our Western cities. Mr. Jefferson had been playing his celebrated character of "Rip Van Winkle" four consecutive weeks—an unusually long run for a Western city—when the public demanded to see him in some other of the characters in which he has been almost equally successful. In canvassing the repertory of comedies, the manager suggested that the character of "Dr. Pangloss" should be chosen. "No," said Mr. Jefferson, although he has received many handsome compliments for his portrayal of the greedy pedagogue; "there is only one man in the country that can play 'Dr. Pangloss,' and that is William Warren." Though Jefferson the First was gathered unto his fathers more than sixty years ago, his generous spirit still finds a home in the breast of his great grandson.

The life of the first Jefferson, though rosy with the social and artistic charms that brightened his whole career, was not wanting in the darker episodes which seem to be incidental to the actor's vocation. He managed the Exeter Theatre and the Plymouth Theatre in Dublin for many years; but in spite of the public satisfaction which he gave, he was not ignorant of the ups and downs of theatrical management. The accomplishments of Mrs. Jefferson were not unfrequently subjected to the trying vicissitudes of an itinerant company of actors, where she played, as occasion demanded, juvenile lady parts or those of decrepit old men. Mr. Jefferson died in 1807, at a ripe old age, and at the home of his daughter in Yorkville, but he owed the chief support of his later days to the dramatic fund which he, with Mr. Hull—with whom he divided his reputation as father of the British stage—has established.

About twelve years before the death of the first Jefferson, who founded the dramatic family which we hope may extend down several generations of actors to lead and share the progressive prosperity of the American stage, Jefferson the Second came to America. He retained the paternal characteristics which are still so notably prominent in his grandson. He was a better actor than his father, developing fully the humorous talent of the family. "He was then (February, 1796) a youth," we read in Dunlap's "History of the American Stage," "but even then an artist. Of a small and neat figure, well formed, with a singular physiognomy, a nose perfectly Grecian, and blue eyes full of laughter, he had the faculty of exciting mirth to as great a degree by power of feature, although handsome, as any ugly-featured low comedian ever seen." N. P. Willis has remarked the striking resemblance which the present Joseph Jefferson bears to his grandfather, and at the same age the above description would answer for one as well as the other. Besides the personal appearance, there are other curious points of resemblance. Jefferson the Second was great in his delineation of old age; Jefferson the Fourth has achieved his greatest artistic success in his presentation of old Rip Van Winkle after his twenty years' sleep. Jefferson the Second was a greater actor than his father; and there are still living those whose fond recollections of him make him the greatest of all comedians; Jefferson the Fourth is a greater actor than his father, and the present generation of theatre-goers will scarcely admit another comedian to claim an equality in rank and ability. It is a curious fact that the autograph of the second Jefferson was a prototype of the fourth Jefferson's autograph, both being a graceful succession of parallel curve lines, from which it is difficult to make out the name; and that the latter had never seen a specimen of the former's penmanship until many years after his own signature had become stereotyped in form.

The second Jefferson had a prosperous career of thirty-six years in this country. He was the companion and friend of the older William Warren. He died in 1832, while playing an engagement at his son's theatre in Harrisburg. He had virtually retired from the stage some time before his farewell benefit in Philadelphia (after which he spent most of his time in rest) having been one of the saddest episodes in a bright professional life. Ten years after his death, an old friend and admirer (Chief Justice Gibson, of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania), paid an eloquent tribute to his memory by marking his grave with a handsome slab and an appropriate epitaph. Wemyss has left us the following portrait:—"Mr. Joseph Jefferson was an actor formed by Nature's merriest mood—a genuine son of Momus. There was a vein of rich humor running through all he did, which forced you to laugh despite of yourself. He discarded grimace as unworthy of him, although no actor ever possessed a greater command over the muscles of his own face or the faces of his audience, compelling you to laugh or cry at his pleasure. His excellent personation of old men acquired for him before he had reached the meridian of life the title of 'Old Jefferson.' The astonishment of strangers at seeing a good-looking young man pointed out on the street as Old Jefferson, whom they had seen the night previous at the theatre toiling apparently in the range of existence, was the greatest compliment that could be paid to the talent of the actor. His versatility was astonishing—light comedy, old men, pantomime, low comedy, and occasionally juvenile tragedy. Educated in the very best school for acquiring knowledge in his profession, his father having been an actor of no mean repute at Drury Lane Theatre during the reign of Garrick, Jefferson was an adept in all the trickery of the stage, which, when it suited his purpose, he could turn to excellent account. * * * In his social relations he was what a gentleman should be—a kind husband, an affectionate father, a warm friend, and a truly honest man."

The second Jefferson left a son and a daughter. Miss Jefferson made her debut as "Rosina" in *The Spanish Barber*. Though her first appearance is recorded as having been a failure, she was afterward, as Mrs. Chapman, one of the leading actresses of her day, occupying a prominent position in the old Park Theatre. His son Joseph—Jefferson the Third—was born in Philadelphia in 1804. His career was a short one, as death overtook him at the age of thirty-eight years, and just at the time when he was at the turning point of his theatrical reputation.

Jefferson the Third was not a great actor, and perhaps he never would have been such had he lived to a greater age. He inherited the family art, but in his case it took another direction. He developed an early taste and an ardent love for painting, and was placed under the instruction of Coyle, a celebrated English scenic artist. But Jefferson loved his art too well to be successful in this most practical branch of it. His application was not equal to his fondness, and his work, like his character, was sketchy. It showed talent, but it lacked finish. The man and the artist were too much merged together to achieve great things. The family connection with the stage and Jefferson's own familiarity with life behind the scenes, attracted him from the art which he should have made the study and practice of his life. Yet his excessive modesty, in spite of serious application, kept him from making his appearance for several years, although he became a theatrical manager in the mean time. Perhaps he never would have made an appearance in character, had it not been for a circumstance which involved his keeping faith with the public—a matter in which he was strictly conscientious. This circumstance occurred in 1821, when he was managing a theatre in Washington. An unusually large audience assembled one evening, when a play was to be given in which the comedian of the company was to be cast for the leading part. While the orchestra played the customary overture, and everything seemed quiet and pleasant in front of the curtain, there was great commotion behind the scenes. The comedian was nowhere to be found, and Manager Jefferson was in despair. Waiting until the last, unwilling to make an apology or dismiss the audience, and urged to do so by all of the company, Mr. Jefferson resolved to play the part of the missing comedian. The part was one which Jefferson had studied before, but in which, with the best preparation, he could never make up his mind to appear. Yet, with no preparation, but under the excitement of the moment, he made his debut, and attained a marked success.

Jefferson the Third was too improvident and careless in business matters to succeed in management. This hereditary misfortune, which at last had the effect of closing his Washington theatre, was offset by the most genial disposition in the world. The day after his failure in Washington, a personal friend called at Jefferson's house to offer condolence. He was informed that Mr. Jefferson had gone out fishing. Troubled with an apprehension lest Jefferson, overcome by his losses, had resolved to do away with himself, the friend went in search of him. He found the ex-manager quietly reclining on the banks of the Brandywine; his sketch-book lying open at his side, and his fishing-rod stretched out over the water.

"Why, Jefferson," asked the friend, in surprise, "how can you devote your time to the pleasures of art when you are in the verge of despair?" "Confound it, old boy!" was the answer. "I have lost everything, and am so poor, as a consequence, that I can't even afford to let anything trouble me." This characteristic love of art and nature, this fondness for sport and this imperturbable ease of mind, were all bequeathed to Jefferson the Fourth, the American comedian of to-day, who is the son of Jefferson the Third and Mrs. Burke, the celebrated vocalist, and a half-brother of Charles Burke, who was also a famous comedian of much the same style of acting. A couple of incidents will serve to illustrate the fact to which allusion is made. Jefferson is what some of his professional friends call "spooney on art." He, too, sketches, and, without making any pretensions, sketches passably well. His vacations from professional duty are always spent in the open country, and his companions are his gun, his fishing-rod, and his sketch-book. Some time ago, and before good old John Sefton passed to that bourne where he will probably never play "Jemmy Twitche" again, Jefferson saw him near his home in Paradise valley, whether the latter had gone upon one of his summer trips. He found Sefton with his breeches and coat-sleeves both rolled up, and standing in the middle of a clear and shallow stream, where one could scarcely step without spoiling the sports of the brook-trout which sparkled through the crystal waters. Sefton stood in a crouching attitude, watching with mingled disappointment and good humor a little pig which the stream was carrying down its current, and which, pig-like, had slipped from the hands of its owner in its natural aversion to being washed. Jefferson, with the true instinct of an artist, dropped his fishing-tackle, and took his sketch-book to transfer the ludicrous scene to paper. Sefton appreciated the humor of the situation, and only objected when Jefferson began to fill in the background with a dilapidated old barn, at which the old gentleman demurred on account of its wretched appearance. The artist insisted that it was picturesque, however, and proceeded to put it down. Sefton had to submit, but he had his revenge by writing back to New York that "Jefferson is here, drawing the worst 'houses' I ever saw."

That Jefferson's love of art and indifference to profit are as largely developed as were his other qualities, is proved by the following incidents. Not many months since he bought a panorama because he admired it, and put it in charge of an agent who had been with him a long time. The panorama failed to attract in spite of its merits, and the agent wrote back that he despaired of ever doing anything with it besides losing money. "Never mind," was Jefferson's answer: "it will be a gratification for those who do go to see it, and you may draw on me for what money you need." But the result was that the panoramic beauties now blash unseen in the garret of a Philadelphia theatre. The Philadelphia public has not forgotten the tribute which Jefferson paid to art in the production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The piece was afterwards produced in the West, newly appointed, and in every way as complete, but it did not meet with a patronage equal to the one that had been expended upon it. "It is all right," said Jefferson to the manager when the attendance began to fall off; "we have done our duty and have made an artistic success of the piece. If the people will not come to see it, it is more their misfortune than ours."

J. B. Austin contributes the following paper on "Manifest Destiny":— "This nation should be one from the Pole to the Isthmus of Panama, and should dominate the Caribbean Sea by the possession of the chain of the Antilles. The purpose of the present article is to demonstrate that the policy of 'Manifest Destiny' is not only entirely practicable, but that its attainment would be eminently sound political economy, and that it can be secured without the echo of a cannon, except in salutes, while it would be attended by the spontaneous and enthusiastic support of the vast majority of contiguous populations."

To commence with Canada. The common impression that the Dominion is intensely English is an error; the mass of the people there see their own interests as clearly as similar communities do elsewhere. The traveler through the country, particularly if admitted into local society, sees but one side of the question, and may gather altogether erroneous impressions of general sentiment. This is especially the case through Central and Eastern Canada. Each town or city has a local aristocracy, composed of members of the Government, of the Parliament, of the officers of the army and navy, and civilians who emigrate to the Province to obtain higher interest on small capital and with cheaper living to maintain a better position in social life than they could afford in the mother country. These, with the officials, officers of the garrisons and a remnant of the descendants of the old Loyalists who emigrated from the American colonies during the war of the Revolution constitute a very minute but exceedingly pronounced aristocracy, and are naturally firm in loyalty and apprehensive of any change which would tend to bring all classes of the population to a common level of political equality. But underlying this class is the vast multitude of producers—the lumbermen, millers, farmers, manufacturers, and traders—to whom free intercourse with the neighboring republic is a matter of vital necessity. They possess loyalty to the Crown to a certain extent. With many of them it is strong, and with full reciprocity of trade with their neighbors they would remain in their present political status possibly for generations to come; but without it, union with the States is in the near future.

By the termination of the Reciprocity Treaty between the United States and Great Britain, the burdens of restricted intercourse have been again laid on Canadian producers, and the result is manifest in a strong and growing sentiment in favor of political union with the great republic to counteract the government of the Dominion is every effort to bring about another convention for reciprocity of trade.

Canada is not Utopia yet. Its taxation is high, and its facilities for procuring loans for internal improvements limited, owing to the extravagant system adopted by its authorities in administering previous trusts: the government of the Dominion is cumbersome and costly, and the people see that the scheme was projected for the benefit of but a few politicians anxious to perpetuate their power and bask in the sunshine of semi-royal splendor. In 1861, one of its prominent officials informed the writer that the debt of the two provinces—East and West—amounted to eight dollars per acre upon the entire amount of land then actually under cultivation. Immigration merely passes through it on its way to the prairies of the Northwestern States and Territories of this republic, and at the present time a formidable exodus is taking place among that excellent class, the hardy, industrious, economical French of Canada East.

It is curious to observe, upon public occasions—agricultural dinners, etc.—when the citizens of French and English descent are brought together, a certain overstrained courtesy, the superficial gloss of compliment which only half conceals a deep antipathy of race. This jealousy continually crops out in the halls of legislation. If an internal improvement is projected for Western or Central Canada, a rider to the bill is immediately attached in the shape of a pier, a half a mile or a mile long, to be built into the St. Lawrence from some small French-Canadian village down below Quebec, or some other expensive and unnecessary work to equalize the appropriations. Under the Dominion these antagonisms have become still deeper and the dissatisfaction still more decided, particularly through Canada West. There the burdens of non-reciprocity are more seriously experienced; and owing to the character of the inhabitants, their proximity to the border, and the identity of interests, under wise political action upon this side the overtures for annexation will first come from Ottawa, and the card-house of the Dominion tumble to pieces by the removal of its base of support.

It is self-interest, and that alone, which will decide the question. Conversing with a prominent Canadian, some one remarked that the day after annexation property in the Dominion would advance in value twenty per cent. "Yes," was the reply—"nearer fifty." Hence the question may safely be left to the arbitration of time. Given ten years, possibly five, of the existing commercial status, and Canada West will be in the American Union. How long the remainder can stay out does not require much consideration. The sentiment throughout New Brunswick and Nova Scotia is still more decided. These provinces were always prosperous, out of debt, and progressive; they were dragged into the Confederation, and in Nova Scotia the first act of the Dominion authorities was to take possession of the surplus of the provincial treasury, while increased taxation was imposed to meet its proportion of the common debt—an obligation incurred for the great sums squandered by the Canadian administration for its purely local purposes, and now distributed upon these new and independent members. The writer, in a tour through Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in 1863, was surprised at the bitterness of public sentiment against incorporation in the Dominion, and the eagerness and favor with which annexation to the republic was almost generally entertained.

The present efforts in these Provinces to throw off the shackles of Canadian authority are still more indicative of the final result, and we may expect the acquisition of a common line to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which will give us the valuable fisheries, forests and mines belonging to the included territories and the navigation of the St. Lawrence river. The same identity of interest will bring in the Hudson's Bay possessions, and the authority of the republic will extend to the Arctic Ocean.

Leaving the North, we find Cuba in the convulsion of insurrection, the prelude to its ultimate destiny; Mexico, almost ready for the protestants which will be synonymous with its incorporation; and a large and growing party throughout the States of Central America urging the extension of the power and influence of the great republic down to the Isthmus of Panama.

An eminent professor of this country, just returned from a scientific exploration of the island of St. Domingo, brings with him a letter from one of the most influential of its statesmen, in which he says, "Tell General Grant that if he wants this island he can have it." Porto Rico will undoubtedly follow the lead of Cuba sooner or later, and with most of the Antilles it is but a question of time. The necessity for dominating the Caribbean Sea is absolute and immediate for this country, and the effort for the acquisition of St. Thomas by the administration of President Johnson was a far-sighted and statesmanlike movement. In the present condition of naval improvements, steam will exercise a controlling influence in the event of war; and a war vessel leaving our naval stations, even from as far south as Pensacola, will have exhausted much of her coal before reaching the meridian of St. Thomas; hence, the necessity of a strong station and post of supply and refit well up the windward. Nothing but the malignity of partisan opposition, joined perhaps to gross ignorance on the part of Congressional committees, frustrated the appropriations necessary to carry into effect the treaty of cession negotiated with the Government of Denmark. Great Britain holds four powerful positions of constant menace to this nation—Halifax, Bermuda, Barbados, and Jamaica, with the small naval station at Antigua besides. All these places are fortified and stocked with warlike material, and conveniences for supply and repairs. Halifax and Bermuda are immensely powerful both for sea and land offenses; all the stations are within easy steaming distance of each other, and within this chain of posts we need to secure and maintain a substantial foothold.

There is a marked deficiency in the information of the public at large concerning the real condition of the West Indian Islands. Some general idea prevails of the injuries inflicted upon the British Islands by the arbitrary action of the home government in the emancipation of the slaves and the abolition of differential duties in favor of colonial sugars, whereby the industry of these once important colonies was for a time entirely prostrated, and the whole system of their labor absolutely demoralized. But since the perpetration of these positive wrongs, the policy pursued by the Government has been almost equally disastrous, in its neglect and in the influence accorded to pseudo philanthropists in regulating to so great an extent all action respecting the prosperity of the colonies. These two conditions, neglect and prejudiced administration, have alienated to a great degree the affections of the colonists as respects their government, and induced them to look to the elements of prosperity existing in other systems, and their results upon the interests of their people. In 1858, when the writer passed through the islands on a mission to the sentiment in favor of affiliation with the United States not only strong in many of the colonies, but in some decidedly demonstrative. Planters in British Guiana, commenting upon the injuries inflicted by the course of the home government, did not hesitate to assert that if the United States would hold out the necessary encouragement, they would run up the flag at once; and a leading legal officer at Trinidad remarked, "You are a young man in the opening of your official life, and you can in no way secure for yourself a higher fame, nor engage in a work of such permanent usefulness, as to devote yourself to the annexation of these islands to the United States."

Repeated visits since to the different colonies have but confirmed these views, and the reason is evident. All of them suffer from a want of labor; they need a firm policy with that useless mass of negro population now left in their midst as an encumbrance, and for which they cannot legislate effectually. At present the tide of emigration passes away from them, and their magnificent soil, climate, and natural position are almost wasted. They produce articles of prime necessity, to mankind—sugar, cotton, tobacco, cocoa, and coffee—yet from the scarcity of labor are obliged to import food from America. The British Provinces send cargoes of salt fish, rice is brought from India to feed the coolie laborers, and lumber, flour, butter, lard, salt beef, pork, biscuit, hay, and oats from the United States. Incorporated into the American Union as States, money would flow in upon them for internal improvements, their labor would be regulated, immigration attracted, and their produce reaching its principal consumers free of duties, every plantation would at once appreciate in value to an enormous amount, and their production be stimulated and expanded. The advantages are too obvious to need recapitulation, and force themselves upon the attention of every reflecting mind.

There are some of the islands of no particular value, except as completing the claim of possession—such as the Virgin group and the Dutch colonies—but these could be purchased for moderate amounts and with the hearty assent of their limited populations. The French islands, Guadeloupe and Martinique, are so well governed and generally prosperous that only the superior commercial privileges, and an augmentation of the value of their estates arising from the free market for their products would influence the choice of their planters; but the English possessions would soon enter by an open door, particularly those where the energy and wisdom of local administration have re-established agriculture by the introduction of coolie labor. Antigua is something like a Canadian town in its sentiment of local aristocracy, and consequent loyalty; and in Barbados the English prejudice remains as a consequence of unprejudiced property arising from its unique position as respects the control of its labor subsequent to emancipation; but Barbados is exclusively a sugar-producing island, and self-interest would swamp national prejudices; while St. Vincent, Grenada, Tobago, St. Lucia, Trinidad, and British Guiana would undoubtedly welcome political union as soon as its full attendant advantages became generally appreciated by their planters and merchants.

Dominica is almost abandoned to an idle negro population, and Jamaica, by passing through a political transformation which is still uncertain as to its results upon the white residents of the island. Both are remarkably valuable as possessions, and to each the same general benefits would become apparent in the course of time.

In Santa Cruz, upon the promulgation of the treaty of cession of St. Thomas by Denmark, strong manifestations of disappointment were made by the people that it had not also been included in the transfer, the resultant advantages being great in view of its extent, position, and the effect upon the values of its tropical products, and consequent appreciation in the worth of its properties and commercial expansion.

The principle of severely letting the colonies alone has been firmly established in Great Britain, as well as their freedom of choice to

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There are some of the islands of no particular value, except as completing the claim of possession—such as the Virgin group and the Dutch colonies—but these could be purchased for moderate amounts and with the hearty assent of their limited populations. The French islands, Guadeloupe and Martinique, are so well governed and generally prosperous that only the superior commercial privileges, and an augmentation of the value of their estates arising from the free market for their products would influence the choice of their planters; but the English possessions would soon enter by an open door, particularly those where the energy and wisdom of local administration have re-established agriculture by the introduction of coolie labor. Antigua is something like a Canadian town in its sentiment of local aristocracy, and consequent loyalty; and in Barbados the English prejudice remains as a consequence of unprejudiced property arising from its unique position as respects the control of its labor subsequent to emancipation; but Barbados is exclusively a sugar-producing island, and self-interest would swamp national prejudices; while St. Vincent, Grenada, Tobago, St. Lucia, Trinidad, and British Guiana would undoubtedly welcome political union as soon as its full attendant advantages became generally appreciated by their planters and merchants.

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Porto Rico will undoubtedly follow the lead of Cuba sooner or later, and with most of the Antilles it is but a question of time. The necessity for dominating the Caribbean Sea is absolute and immediate for this country, and the effort for the acquisition of St. Thomas by the administration of President Johnson was a far-sighted and statesmanlike movement. In the present condition of naval improvements, steam will exercise a controlling influence in the event of war; and a war vessel leaving our naval stations, even from as far south as Pensacola, will have exhausted much of her coal before reaching the meridian of St. Thomas; hence, the necessity of a strong station and post of supply and refit well up the windward. Nothing but the malignity of partisan opposition, joined perhaps to gross ignorance on the part of Congressional committees, frustrated the appropriations necessary to carry into effect the treaty of cession negotiated with the Government of Denmark.

Great Britain holds four powerful positions of constant menace to this nation—Halifax, Bermuda, Barbados, and Jamaica, with the small naval station at Antigua besides. All these places are fortified and stocked with warlike material, and conveniences for supply and repairs. Halifax and Bermuda are immensely powerful both for sea and land offenses; all the stations are within easy steaming distance of each other, and within this chain of posts we need to secure and maintain a substantial foothold.

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