

## CHAP.

## I.

the caprice and tyranny of all those whom the accident of birth had placed above them. By the colonial governments they were treated as slaves in the strictest sense; compelled, on attaining the age of manhood, to serve three years in a military establishment called the *maréchaussée* (*e*), and on the expiration of that term they were subject, great part of the year, to the burthen of the *corvées*;—a species of labour allotted for the repair of the highways, of which the hardships were insupportable. They were compelled moreover to serve in the militia of the province or quarter to which they belonged, without pay or allowance of any kind, and in the horse or foot, at the pleasure of the commanding officer; and obliged also to supply themselves, at their own expence, with arms, ammunition, and accoutrements. Their days of muster were frequent, and the rigour with which the King's lieutenants, majors, and aides-major, enforced their authority on those occasions over these people, had degenerated into the basest tyranny.

THEY were forbidden to hold any publick office, trust, or employment, however insignificant; they were not even allowed to exercise any of those professions, to which some sort of liberal education is supposed to be necessary. All the naval and military departments, all degrees in law, physick, and divinity, were appropriated exclusively by the whites. A mulatto could not

(*e*) It consisted of certain companies of infantry, which were chiefly employed as *rangers* in clearing the woods of *maron* or runaway slaves. This establishment was afterwards very prudently dissolved, and the companies disbanded; it appearing that the mulattoes acquired, by communication with each other, a sense of common interest and of common strength, which was beginning to render them formidable to their employers.