

CHAP.
VII.

not be misunderstood, to urge the negroes to rise up and murder their masters without mercy.—“ Resistance,” say they, “ is always justifiable where force is the substitute of right: *nor is the commission of a civil crime possible in a state of slavery.*” These sentiments are repeated in a thousand different forms; and in order that they might not lose their effect by abstract reasoning, a reverend divine of the church of England, in a pamphlet addressed to the chairman or president of the society, pours forth the most earnest prayers, in the most undisguised expressions, that the negroes would destroy all the white people, men, women, and children, in the West Indies: “ Should we not, (he exclaims) approve their conduct in their violence? Should we not crown it with eulogium, if they exterminate their tyrants with fire and sword! *Should they even deliberately inflict the most exquisite tortures on those tyrants, would they not be excusable in the moral judgment of those who properly value those inestimable blessings, rational and religious liberty (a)?*”

Besides distributing pamphlets of this complexion *gratis*, at the doors of all the churches and places of worship in the kingdom, and throughout the colonies, the society caused a medal to be struck, containing the figure of a naked negro, loaded with

(a) This is a fair extract from a letter addressed to Granville Sharp, Esq; chairman of the society in the Old Jewry, by the Reverend Percival Stockdale, A. M. Of such writers the planters may well exclaim, “ *Forgive them, they know not what they do!*” The same ejaculation I applied to the learned and pious Samuel Johnson, who possessed a negro servant, and before whom he frequently gave as a toast, “ *A speedy rebellion of the negroes in Jamaica, and success to them!*”

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