

chains, and in the attitude of imploring mercy; thousands of which also they found means to disperse among the negroes in each of the sugar islands, for the instruction, I presume, of such of them as could not read; but, unhappily, this instance of provident caution was not requisite; for so many negro domesticks return annually from Europe to the West Indies, as constantly furnish a sufficient number of living instructors; and certain it is (I pronounce it from my own knowledge respecting Jamaica) that the labours of the society on their behalf, as well as many of the most violent speeches in the British parliament, wherein the whole body of planters were painted as a herd of blood-thirsty and remorseless tyrants, were explained to the negro slaves, in terms well adapted to their capacities, and suited, as might have been supposed, to their feelings. It will be difficult to say what other measures the Old Jewry associates could have taken to excite a rebellion, except that of furnishing the objects of their solicitude with fire arms and ammunition.

HITHERTO, this society had served as a model and exemplar to that of Paris; but a disposition to stop at half measures constitutes no part of the French character; and the society of *Amis des Noirs* resorted, without scruple, to those measures which their fellow labourers in London still hesitated to adopt: beginning with the class of free mulattoes, because they found many of them in France, who became the willing instruments of their purposes; and who undertook to interpret to the negroes in the French colonies the wishes and good intentions towards them of their friends in the mother country. Thus an opening was made towards conciliation and union between the

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