

CHAP.  
VIII.

FOUR members out of the six whites that composed a moiety of the *commission intermediaire*, met with similar treatment. They ventured to offer their opinion on a measure of finance, in opposition to that of M. Santhonax. The commissioners commended their frankness, and M. Santhonax invited them to a supper. The invitation was accepted; but at the hour appointed, they found themselves surrounded by a detachment of the military, which conveyed them to very sorry entertainment in the hold of a ship, and there left them as state prisoners (*d*).

THE commissioners, in the next place, fell out among themselves; and Santhonax and Polverel determined to get quit of their associate Ailhaud. Prudently judging, however, that the publick degradation of one of their own body would reflect some degree of ignominy on them all, they persuaded him to be content with a proportion of the common plunder, and silently quit the country. Ailhaud submitted with a good grace to what he could not avoid.

By these, and other means, above all by the practice of bestowing largesses on the troops, and the acquisition of a desperate band of auxiliaries, composed of some of the revolted slaves, and vagabonds of all colours and descriptions, mostly collected from the jails, Santhonax and Polverel, in the beginning of the year

(*d*) To one of these gentlemen I am indebted for more valuable and extensive information than I have been able to collect through any other channel. In his voyage to Europe, the ship in which he was confined was (fortunately for him) captured by an English frigate, which brought him to England, where I had the happiness to render him some acceptable service.