CHAP. IX.

not wiſh that avarice, ambition, and cruelty may be thus always entangled in their own projects?

THE reader is doubtleſs apprized that I here allude to the eſtabliſhment in St. Domingo of that daring and deſperate band of adventurers, the *Bucaniers*;—an aſſociation conſtituted of men of all countries and deſcriptions, but of whom it may truly be ſaid that, if ſelf-preſervation be a law of nature, the hoſtilities which they maintained for upwards of fifty years againſt their oppreſſors, were more juſtifiable and legitimate in their origin, than all the wars which the pride and ambition of kingdoms and nations have occaſioned, from the beginning of the world to the preſent hour. As the cruelty of the Spaniards firſt compelled theſe men, from a ſenſe of common danger, to unite their ſtrength, ſo the blind policy of ſtocking with cattle a country of ſuch extent, became their ſupport; for the fleſh of thoſe animals ſupplied them with food, and they purchaſed arms, ammunition, and clothing with the ſkins.

OF the riſe of theſe people, and the primary cauſe of their combining together to make repriſals on the Spaniſh ſettlements, a ſhort account may be neceſſary. I have elſewhere treated the ſubject more at large *(a)*.—They conſiſted originally of a body of French and Engliſh planters, whom, in the year 1629, a Spaniſh armament had expelled from the iſland of St. Chriſtopher, with circumſtances of outrageous barbarity. Driven from thence, by a force which they could not reſiſt, as the only alternative of

(a) Hiſt. of the Britiſh Colonies, Book ii. C. 2.

eſcaping