

C H A P.
X.

These were ready to pour down, as occasion might offer, on all nations alike ; and, instead of joining the English on their landing, would rejoice to sacrifice both the victors and the vanquished, the invaders and invaded, in one common destruction.

CONCERNING the white proprietors, on whom alone our dependence was placed, a large proportion, as we have seen, perhaps more than one half of the whole, had quitted the country. Of those that remained, *some* there were, undoubtedly, who sincerely wished for the restoration of order, and the blessings of regular government ; but the greatest part were persons of a different character : they were men who had nothing to lose, and every thing to gain, by confusion and anarchy : not a few of them had obtained possession of the effects and estates of absent proprietors. From people of this stamp, the most determined opposition was necessarily to be expected ; and unfortunately, among those of better principle, I am afraid but a very small number were cordially attached to the English. The majority seem to have had nothing in view but to obtain by any means the restoration of their estates and possessions. Many of them, under their ancient government, had belonged to the

month of September in each year they are at liberty to make a new choice, or to confirm that of the preceding year. Such, to the best of my remembrance (for I speak from memory) are the chief provisions of this celebrated proclamation, which I think extended only to the Western and Southern provinces ; Santhonax being empowered to make what other regulations he might think proper for the Northern province. The whole appears to have been a matchless piece of absurdity ; betraying a lamentable degree of ignorance concerning the manners and dispositions of the negroes, and totally impracticable in itself.

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