

justice and truth ; and when both are united, and exert their powers in combination, nothing else can be expected than an utter disregard of the precepts of morality, the claims of benevolence, and the fear of God. A selfish concern for his own personal safety may have led the unhappy subject of this passion to be cautious not to offend against the letter of human laws ; but no other semblance of regard to honour or to virtue can be expected from him, or is to be discovered in his practice.

The rapacious spirit of modern commerce, having thrown off all moral restraint, is prepared for every species of dishonourable artifice, and therefore adopts, without reluctance or hesitation, measures of the most unjustifiable character, regardless alike of the property or the lives of others. It is as cruel as it is indiscriminating. The only question is, whether the gain which is sought, be it just or unjust, is likely to be obtained. All other considerations are thrown to the winds. Shame is absent, and conscience is asleep. We need not travel far for examples of this unprincipled rapacity. Some of our own traders—I am ashamed to avow it—in their dealings with the Indians, not only purchased their valuable articles for very trifling and inferior considerations, but by the introduction of ardent spirits among them, to inebriate and deceive them, have inflicted upon them a lasting injury, which centuries will be insufficient to remove. To such a height had this abomination ascended, that it was found necessary to restrain it by authority. The North West Company, much to their honour, have