

of a body of men, neither few in number, nor wanting in influence; whose hatred of Missionaries and Missions is as blind, furious, malignant, and indiscriminate, as ever filled human bosoms. No articles so wicked, so atrocious, so malevolent, have ever issued from the public press, as those in two or three of the Jamaica newspapers, and especially in the infamous *Courant*, in which the whites have been exhorted to hunt, hang, or shoot the sectarians, as they are called. I do not scruple to say, that a spirit so perfectly diabolical was never exhibited by the savages of North America, or the cannibals of New-Zealand. But we must not forget that this dark picture is relieved by some circumstances of an opposite character. Amongst the foremost of these may be mentioned the promises of protection which his Majesty's Government have promptly given. On this I can make the most explicit statements. In reply to a letter to Lord Gadench, which the Committee had thought it their duty to draw up, an answer has been sent, in which his Lordship expresses his sense of the discretion and judgment of the Missionaries in Jamaica during the late disturbances. (Mr. Watson here read the letter to which he referred.) But there is another encouraging circumstance. It is true, that the enemies of Missions exhibit an indomitable malice,—a malice, by the bye, equally strong against all good men; for it is not to sectarians that it is confined, but extends to the pious and active Clergy and Catechists. The feeling is not bigotry, which is generally supposed to mean, and very often is, an extravagant attachment to what is in itself good; this is hatred of all that is good. Yet, though there are many such, there are some also of a very different character, and who manifest a very different conduct. And here I cannot but allude to a topic not before introduced,—the privileges lately conferred on the free coloured people by which the wretched prejudices against man for the mere colour of his skin have received their death blow. By this means, a class is raised into political existence who cannot but have the kindest sympathies with the bondsmen of those Islands. Many persons of this class are intelligent, educated, and influential, and being now admitted to equal civil rights, we may expect to see them in time elevated to the offices of the ma-

gistracy, and to the colonial assembly. These are the hope of the colonies, as to the honour be it spoken, they have stood by the Missionaries throughout the storm, and defended them against the mobs at the hazard of their lives. It with the highest pleasure, also, that advert to the noble stand made by our Jamaican priests, and more especially the *Watchman*. The tone it assumes more than creditable; in a land of slavery it dares to plead for freedom, and ably advocates the cause of justice, religion, and humanity against those who oppose them all.

The free people of colour have borne by their conduct and writings untold themselves to the deepest gratitude of the friends of Missions. We repel the charge so often alleged, that Missionaries have excited the slaves to revolt. We are not afraid to meet it. As to the unhappy event to which this unworthy aspersion refers, every body must lament it. A must see that the slaves, while doing some injury to others, are inflicting yet deeper on themselves. The "wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God;" and it is our duty to teach them this. We lament the insurrection as much as others; but surely it is utterly preposterous to pretend that this ever originated in Missions. There are other causes obvious as they are powerful. The greatest of all is slavery itself. The consequences by which it is necessarily attended, need no other solution than is furnished by itself; and we might well be surprised if it ever bore other fruits. You cannot make a man in love with chains and bondage, with unremitting and unrewarded labour. His heart must chafe and swell, it must abhor the chains that bind him, and the hated hand of him that imposes it. And not only must slavery under any circumstances, exasperate those who feel its oppressive yoke, but in the present case the slave had been led to expect speedy emancipation, by the very violent and public opposition of his master to the ameliorating plans of Government, and all the customary horrors of slavery were darkened and aggravated by the disappointed hope of freedom. How such a hope came to be entertained is by no means a mystery. However strict the jealousy which watches over them, however carefully closed may be the avenues by which intelligence from Europe may reach them, still they cannot