

cially in matters of trade; and to effect this purpose, the writer of this tract, who was then an advocate in the Royal Court of Guernsey, was offered, in 1823, a judicial situation in St. Lucia. This appointment he declined; but, further propositions having been made to him, he eventually accepted it in October, 1824, and arrived at St. Lucia, in February, 1825, in possession of the office of chief justice or first president of the Royal Court, which office he has continued to hold until he was recently appointed to another situation at the Mauritius.

At the time the tender of an appointment was first made to him, he was unacquainted with a single individual in the service of the colonial department, and his political opinions were rather opposed to the then government. On the question of slavery, he was thoroughly indifferent; indeed, it was so remote from his usual pursuits that he may fairly say he had never given it a thought. In the interval between the first proposal, and his accepting office, his professional avocations brought him to England, and on this occasion (probably owing to this proposal) his curiosity prompted him to attend an Anti-Slavery Meeting; he believes the second. The impression made on his mind at that meeting was rather unfavourable than otherwise to the abolitionists. He heard much declamation, much angry and eloquent declamation, but, accustomed from early life to sift evidence, it struck him that there was then a deficiency of facts and of evidence on which to ground that declamation. One gentleman only appeared who ever professed to have seen the West Indies, and this was at least some thirty years before, whilst he confined his arguments to matters in no way connected with his experience.* With this impression, the writer went to the

* On reading over these proceedings now, it is singular how altered they appear to my mind. With the experience I have since had of slavery, there is not a sentiment that I could not now adopt.