

the service of Great Britain, in which he should have the rank of captain ; promising that lands should be given to them all, in proportion to their respective ranks, on a peace taking place ; assuring them, that their property should be guaranteed, and their persons protected ; and asking, in return, that they would cease all hostilities against Spain, or the allies of Great Britain, and place their ships and vessels under the British commanding officer on that station, until the commander in chief's pleasure should be known, with a guarantee of their fair value at all events."* There wanted only to exemplify the debasement of such an act, the occurrence, that the pirate should spurn the proffered alliance ; and, accordingly, Lafitte's answer was indignantly given, by a delivery of the letter, containing the British proposition, to the American governor of Louisiana.

There were other sources, however, of support, which Great Britain was prompted by her vengeance to employ, in opposition to the plainest dictates of her own colonial policy. The events which have extirpated or dispersed the white population of St. Domingo, are in the recollection of all men. Although British humanity might not shrink, from the infliction of similar calamities upon the southern states of America, the danger of that course, either as an incitement to revolt, of the slaves of the British islands, or as a cause of retaliation, on the part of the United States, ought to have admonished her against its adoption. Yet, in a formal proclamation issued by the commander in chief of his Britannic majesty's squadrons, upon the American station, the slaves

*See the letter addressed by Edward Nichols, lieutenant colonel, commanding his Britannic majesty's force in the the Floridas, to Monsieur Lafite, or the commandant at Barrataria, dated the 31st of August, 1814.