

was a most zealous advocate. In a speech which he delivered in the Assembly in the year 1791, there is a strong trait of philanthropy.

Of this speech the following is a short extract: "You have heard of enormities that freeze you with horror; but Phalaris spoke not of his brazen bull, he lamented only the dagger that his own cruelty had raised against him. The colonists have related instances of ferocity; but give me, said he, an informed brute, and I will soon make a ferocious monster of him. It was a white man who first threw a negro into a burning oven; who dashed out the brains of a child in the presence of its father; who fed a slave with its own proper flesh. These are the monsters that have to account for the barbarity of the revolted savages. Millions of Africans have perished on this soil of blood. You break, at every step, the bones of the inhabitants, that nature has given to these islands: and you shudder at the relation of their vengeance. In this dreadful struggle the crimes of the whites are yet the most horrible. They are the offspring of despotism: whilst those of the blacks originate in the hatred of slavery, and the thirst of revenge. Is philosophy chargeable with these horrors? Does she require the blood of the colonists? Brethren, she cries, be just, be beneficent, and you will prosper.—Eternal slavery must be an eternal source of crimes;—divest it at least of the epithet *eternal*; for anguish that knows no limitation of period can only produce despair."

Upon the abolition of the French monarchy, in the month of September 1792, the Legislative Assembly dissolved itself. The constitution being dissolved by the abolition of the King, they conceived that it was the inherent right of the people to choose a new representation, in order to frame a new constitution, suited to the wishes of the people, and to the necessity of the existing circumstances of the times.

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