

slaves when they were not encouraged or protected by any of his Majesty's representatives. In some parts of Virginia and Carolina, there are four slaves to one white person ; in those places a general massacre might seem very practicable. If the slaves had embraced the measure so clearly pointed out by the governor ;* if they had fixed on some fatal night for shaking off the authority of rebels, and *speedily reducing the colony to a proper sense of their duty*, with the next day's sun Lord Dunmore might have received the joyful tidings that the Virginians were all dead ; What a glorious achievement ! Two or three hundred thousand men, women, and children, butchered in one night. This would have been a stroke worthy a favorite governor : it would have been a scene that Pluto himself might have viewed with pleasure ; to Jefferies it would have been the object of envy.†

Such, my Lord, are the outlines of ministerial conduct towards our unhappy fellow subjects in North America, such have been

* See Lord Dunmore's proclamation.---“ And I do hereby further declare all indented servants, NEGROES, and others, appertaining to rebels, FREE, that are able and willing to bear arms, they joining his Majesty's troops as soon as may be, *for the more speedy reducing this colony to a proper sense of their duty* to his Majesty's crown and dignity.

† For the mere attempt Lord Dunmore seems to have been rewarded by a seat in the house of Peers. Jefferies, for his bloody campaign in the west, was made lord high chancellor of England.