

policy, or by force, have almost wholly eradicated the ancient inhabitants of those regions; while they hold thousands and ten thousands of wretched Africans under a cruel bondage, from which the most painful death would be a joyful deliverance.

Can we believe, that deeds have been committed in another quarter of the globe, by natives of these islands, that will make the odious names of Cortes and Pizarro be forgotten, and stain the British annals to the latest posterity? In times of ignorance and bigotry, the minds of men have been known to run a career of enthusiastic fury that astonished themselves when they became cool; and stern war is an apology for the most atrocious actions. But, in a period enlightened like the present, in profound peace, amidst intercourses of mutual confidence, and the mild operations of commerce, to surpass all former ages in perfidious barbarity! Ah! Cursed thirst of gold! thou canst transform man, even when refined and civilized, into a furious beast of prey!

Nor can we, as a nation, clear ourselves of the guilt of these great crimes, if we have
suffered