

to arm the negro insurgents in a mass, and this was called "the simple operation of purifying the colonial system of the French islands, for the purpose of accomplishing the destruction of all the British colonies."

I do not mean to enter into certain questions which this recital suggests. In the opinions of some, the West India islands are the regions of injustice, cruelty, and mortality; the grave of Europeans, and the hell of Africans: in the opinion of others, there exists neither a general unwholesomeness of the climate, nor cruelty in the condition and treatment of the slaves: whatever may be the truth in these opposite assertions, it must be submitted to the impression of time and of events.

So long, however, as we retain the valuable possessions alluded to, and in the system under which they are become an essential part of our prosperity, every consideration of regard to our commerce, of justice to nume-