

A
R E P L Y
“ POINT BY POINT ”

TO THE

Special Report

OF THE

DIRECTORS

OF THE

AFRICAN INSTITUTION.



Quod si qui simulatione, et inani ostentatione, et ficto non modo sermone,
sed etiam vultu, stabilem se gloriam consequi posse rentur, vehementer
errant—

Nec simulatum potest quidquam esse diuturnum—

CIC. DE OFF. Lib. ii.

BY ROBERT THORPE, ESQ. L. L. D.

LONDON :

PRINTED FOR F. C. AND J. RIVINGTON,

NO. 62, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH YARD ;

By R. & R. Gilbert, St. John's-Square, Clerkenwell.

1815.

A REPLY,

&c.

WHEN Mr. Horner declared in the House of Commons, "that the African Institution were preparing an answer, point by point, to the misrepresentations contained in my letter to Mr. Wilberforce," I hailed it as the dawn of investigation; but I could not have anticipated the extreme gratification I received on reading the "Special Report of the Directors of the Institution respecting allegations contained in my Letter," as it has produced from them a confession, where they intended a refutation, and confirmed a statement they had declared to be erroneous.

The Report having forced my character and conduct before the Public, I esteem the most fortunate circumstance of my life, because in simple vindication, such things must now be unfolded, to the Directors' manifest confusion, as otherwise would have been concealed, to my irreparable injury.

B

I have often exclaimed—" O that my enemy " would write a Book !" It is now happily accomplished, and I shall with pleasure fulfil the promise made in my Preface, " that I would reply " categorically to their detailed Report ;" but the death of a very near relative having obliged me to leave England, has unavoidably delayed my answer, though I waited for nearly six weeks after the Directors' anathema was pronounced against me, at Freemasons' Tavern, and applied to their Secretary and to an active Director to learn when the Report would be printed ; but unable to extract that information from either of these gentlemen, I was compelled to leave this malignant production thus long unexposed.

The Directors acknowledge they cannot accomplish what they were directed to perform ; " they " fear they must leave many mis-statements of " facts unrefuted, and many unfounded insinua- " tions unrepelled ;" " but, they confidently trust " that the statements they shall make will decisively " establish the utter groundlessness of those charges " which are the most important ; and that the " Public will learn from the specimens which the " Report shall afford them, what estimate to form " of other charges and insinuations." Extraor- dinary as this mode of reasoning must appear, I submit, and appeal to the Public in return, if the statements they make, do not decidedly establish the utter groundlessness of those charges which they consider the most important of mine ; whether my charges and insinuations which they do not

attempt to shake, must not be considered as unquestionably established.—“Charges and insinuations (as they are called) against individuals whom it is unnecessary to defend from the imputation of practising a deception on the public, or being actuated by corrupt or improper motives.” Then twenty names are introduced of most respectable Noblemen and Gentlemen, who had been Directors of the Sierra Leone Company. I solemnly declare, I never did consider them capable of having *intentionally* practised a deception on the Public, or of having been actuated by corrupt, and improper motives ; but, I cannot free the active personages from blame, for not minutely and personally enquiring, for suffering themselves to be so implicitly led, and completely deceived, that under the sanction of their great characters an immense subscription was squandered, the community deluded, and the best intentions frustrated.

The Reports and Statements of those Directors are to be conclusive, and my testimony is not to be regarded as of much moment, because I arrived in the Colony “three years and a half after the Company had ceased to govern it, and remained there but twenty-one months.”

From January, 1808, (when I was appointed) I read every publication I could find, either from the Directors, or respecting the conduct pursued by their servants ; I endeavoured to acquire know-

ledge from every person I could reach, who had been in the Colony ; I had valuable communications from the Colony ; I examined into the state of the Colony when I arrived ; I interrogated the oldest and most intelligent settlers on every particular occurrence for eighteen years precedent ; searched the Records of the Vice Admiralty Court, and the file of Affidavits ; sought from the neighboring Chieftains, and the persons who had resided near the Colony, every possible information, and heard the evidence given on oath in civil causes before myself. I was unprepossessed, and laboured to elicit truth, with the utmost sedulity, not merely for twenty one months, but for above seven years, yet my testimony is not of much moment when compared with the delusive Reports framed for those Gentlemen, convened in Birchin Lane, from partial or fabricated accounts and documents, plausibly modelled by interested individuals. I did not wish my statement to be considered conclusive ; I made it to induce investigation, that the Public might be satisfied that the *worthy* persons in the Institution were not criminal, but, deceived, and after the deception was manifest to the Directors, I did hope they would prove the sincerity of their declarations by laboring even at this late period, to carry them into effect, that Africa might still receive the promised blessing, and England the projected benefit.

The Directors, however, condescend to examine the charges more in detail.

1st. " That the Company had a monopoly of
 " trade at Sierra Leone ;" this they deny by
 assertions as unqualified as untrue, and reply,
 " that even within the Colony the Company had
 " to contend with rival traders from the first,
 " both British and American, and that they could
 " not have retained the Colonial trade, except by
 " regulating their profits on a more moderate scale
 " than would suit private adventurers." It is well
 known that they had no British nor American
 competitors, nor could they have such in the
 Colony, for no traders would settle where they
 could not procure purchasers, nor would they settle
 in a place where their competitors in trade con-
 stituted the ruling power ; besides the settlers had
 not money, the medium of traffic was paper, issued
 by the Governor, and received only at the Com-
 pany's store. The Company supplied the civil
 officers, and their own servants ; they stunted the
 growth of cultivation from the commencement, that
 they might employ the settlers as laborers, and
 volunteers, gave them such wages as they thought
 proper, paid them in provision or merchandise at
 such prices as they pleased, and kept them poor
 and discontented, as will appear from the Petition
 of the much traduced Nova Scotians *.

The white men employed by the Company were
 prohibited from trading, and being unable to sub-
 sist on their salaries, were driven to the neighbor-
 ing Chiefs, and some of them to the Slave Trade,

* Appendix, No. I. Letter to W. Wilberforce, Esq.

to obtain an adequate support ; yet the Report declares “ that the Company held out inducements “ to persons of property to settle as merchants in the “ Colony,” which is untrue ; and if the composer of the Report had not known it to be so, would he not have specifically mentioned the persons to whom those inducements had been offered ?

Why will the Directors continue to be thus deceived by the very person who has frustrated every benevolent intention ? Why will they not call on those who are sincere Abolitionists, who are really zealous for the civilization of Africa, and for the advancement of British commerce, to bring forward witnesses, and in person attend their examination, to elicit, while others are so vigilant *to elude the truth*. To state “ that the Directors “ have ascertained these things to their satisfaction,” is of no consequence to the Public.

2dly. “ The Company sunk almost to bankruptcy, from causes enveloped in mystery.” To clear up this mystery the composer of this part of the Special Report labors abundantly, and to establish it will require little discussion. The Proprietors’ Subscriptions with the Interest received on it, amounted to about Three Hundred Thousand Pounds, of which the Proprietors never received back any part of the principal or any Interest, nor any of the wonderful productions which were to spring from this land of promise. The Company received from Government One

Hundred Thousand Pounds for public works, and for the Four Hundred Thousand Pounds, when they surrendered the Colony to Government, there was nothing ostensible on which this money could have been expended, but a small Fort in decay, a useless Tower in preservation, a tolerable Storehouse, a bad Wharf, and three or four small Houses in miserable condition. I shall only call the reader's attention to the account furnished in the Appendix A. of their Special Report, in which all interest money is suppressed, and a few other sums omitted, making a deficiency of nearly One Hundred Thousand Pounds in the receipts. Let the items be examined, and then observe the manner in which a heterogeneous mass of articles is collected together, the enormous sums of 10,000, 12,000, 13,000, 14,000, 15,000, 20,000, 25,000, 30,000, 34,000, 67,000, &c. charged in a lump, thus he will be enabled to determine whether there has not been concealment, deception and spoliation. The subscribers have lost all, the Colony gained nothing; the Company's promises have been delusive, Africa injured, and England unbenefitted; but, we are answered, in the usual way, the "character of the Directors would of itself have been a guarantee against any corrupt appropriation of the funds; clear accounts have been regularly produced, and investigations have taken place before Lords and Commons." Let any person read the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons, in 1804, and he will be convinced of the truth and value of Admiral Hollo-

well's testimony, which was counteracted by Mr. Macaulay's on the same occasion. From this examination, a clear view of the Company's objects may be attained, and the same interested influence, defeating every beneficial interference, is manifest; but when we consider the number of indigent individuals who were induced to subscribe, and the calamitous loss they sustained, we must pronounce inattention in the managers to be, at least, unfeelingly culpable.

3d. "Their best servants were obliged to seek establishments under the Native Chiefs."—Messrs. Carr, Leigh, Gray and Macmillan were considered among their best servants, and were driven away, with others, as I have described, absolutely for a subsistence. Many of them are alive; call them, examine them, and prove my statement false. The Special Report states "that the high profits from the Slave Trade tempted the servants of the Company to enter into that traffic, though they were under bonds not to trade in slaves." In their wonderful zeal, why did they not enforce the penalty of the bond? One of those gentlemen is Mr. Macaulay's Agent at Sierra Leone, another is at present Sheriff of the Colony, and the third resides near and often visits there; surely it is evident the Company dare not attempt an act that would hazard enquiry, or the penalty would have been enforced.

The Composer of the Report concludes this part

of his reply, as he fancies, most sharply.—“ This sympathy with Slave Traders is a striking feature in the pamphlet of Mr. Thorpe.” The culprit detected and pursued, hopes to escape by recrimination !!

4th. “ Charges the Company with failing in their engagements to the Nova Scotian Settlers.” I refer to the Petition exhibited in Appendix I. in my Letter to Mr. Wilberforce, and I appeal to Lieutenant Clarkson, a gentleman of probity and truth, who entered into the engagements for the Company at Nova Scotia, whether those engagements have been fulfilled or not?—The composer of the Special Report most ingeniously confirms my statement, by introducing a paragraph from a letter of mine to Governor Maxwell, dated the 16th of May, 1812, which proves that the engagement entered into by the Sierra Leone Company to give each Nova Scotian Settler twenty acres of land, his wife ten, and each child five, was carried into effect by the King’s Government twenty years after it had been promised, and four years after the Company had surrendered the Colony; when it could no longer be an object with the Company to retard cultivation, and hold the settlers in a state of vassalage, the Reporter displays the benevolence of the Company, by declaring they caused Lord Liverpool to facilitate the grants; but “ that only three or four persons made application,” whereas almost every surviving Nova Scotian, his wife or children did apply, even before they had sufficient

dollars to pay the fees for obtaining the grant. Thus the liberality of the Company and the truth of the Report are equally conspicuous.

5th. "That implements to cultivate were difficult to find and too expensive to procure." Look to the Nova Scotian Petition, where it states that the Company promised to charge but ten per centum, yet charged above one hundred, as soon as Lieutenant Clarkson returned to England, and numbers could prove, they charged for many articles above two hundred per cent. It is indifferent whether implements to cultivate were or were not difficult to find, when they were too expensive to procure. If the benefit was not defeated by negligence, it was frustrated by avariciousness.

6th. "Mr. Thorpe maintains that the Company, from interested motives, discouraged cultivation in the Colony." This is a notorious fact. If they had wished to encourage cultivation, would not the first step have been to give secure grants of the stipulated lands; for who would cultivate wild land, not his own? To support the assertion that the Company's servants exerted themselves to promote cultivation, the Special Report gives an extract from a letter of Governor Thompson to Lord Castlereagh, written a few days after his landing in the Colony, in which, however, he does not mention cultivation; but as the institution depend on this very excellent authority, I shall give an extract from a letter of Governor Thompson's, when he

had been a year in the Colony, on the subject of
 cultivation :—“ Fort Thornton, Sierra Leone, Au-
 “ gust 14th, 1809.—I have not the smallest doubt
 “ that the Agents of the Sierra Leone Company
 “ *clearly saw* it to be *their interest* that the Colony
 “ should *not* be cultivated. It is true they pre-
 “ tended to encourage cultivation, but they took
 “ care always to leave good and sufficient weight
 “ in the other scale. *Who* would cultivate, when
 “ he did not know whether his land was secure to
 “ his children or to himself? *Who* would, cultivate,
 “ when, for want of any sufficient force to produce
 “ respectability in the eyes of the Natives, every
 “ man was afraid to go without the wall of the
 “ town, for fear of being murdered? And now to
 “ prove the allegation, the Agents of the Sierra
 “ Leone Company were the dealers in the Euro-
 “ pean and American goods. If the inhabitants
 “ *did not* cultivate, they employed themselves in
 “ some other way, (principally on public works)
 “ for which they received *paper money*. This
 “ paper money they were obliged to exchange for
 “ goods from the Agents of the Sierra Leone Com-
 “ pany to buy rice from the Natives. Had rice
 “ been grown in the Colony, it would have taken
 “ from the custom of the shops kept by the Agents.
 “ It is no wonder they were not very zealous. I
 “ verily believe this to be a true state of the fact.
 “ Many of the calumnies and inventions of the
 “ Agents of the Sierra Leone Company seem to
 “ point in the same direction. When I moved a
 “ party of the Natives of Bambarra into the moun-

“ tains, a death blow to their plans and a signal
 “ for cultivation that never will be forgiven, we
 “ were told that we were forming a banditti to
 “ plunder the Cassada fields, (for, God help them,
 “ they had nothing else to plunder) that they would
 “ be joined by the Natives, that they would—in
 “ short, there was no end of it.”—This is direct to
 the point, and from the authority referred to in the
 Special Report ; I shall only remark on a statement
 and quote a passage from the Philanthropist of July
 1815. In this valuable work, an accurate account is
 given, page 245, of the quantity of land cultivated
 by each individual at Sierra Leone, amounting in
 the whole to 593 acres, 250 acres in the possession
 of Governor Maxwell, and 50 acres in that of Mr.
 K. Macaulay. This was Crown land lately obtained
 by them, on which they employ the captured negroes,
 without any expense of food, clothing or wages,
 and from the produce of their labor, carry on a
 most profitable trade, Governor Maxwell having
 received from the navy, stationed on that coast,
 two-pence a pound for his yams, while the minor
 green-grocers of the Colony asked but a penny
 halfpenny. Thus we are accurately informed of
 the extent of cultivation ; and after deducting Go-
 vernor Maxwell’s and Mr. K. Macaulay’s farms, we
 have to divide among two thousand settlers, three
 hundred acres of improved land in twenty-two
 years after the settlement commenced. The Phi-
 lanthropist then very strongly remarks, page 246—
 “ We cannot conceal our disgust at the attempts
 “ which have been made to attribute the conse-

“ quences of mismanagement to the depravity and
 “ bad disposition of the settlers ; they have labour-
 “ ed under many discouragements, and it must
 “ be remembered that the promises made to the
 “ Nova Scotians before they quitted Halifax, have
 “ not to the present day been performed.”—The
 Philanthropist also informs us of a new society,
 founded by a few valuable men, with Thomas
 Clarkson (the legitimate father of the Abolition)
 at its head, for encouraging the settlers and native
 Africans in cultivation, by the sale of their pro-
 duce. This promises much ; but I also learn, they
 have excluded the old “ leaven of unrighteousness”
 from mixing in their councils, and that promises
 more.

The Report then declares “ the Company scru-
 “ pulously kept their engagements with those
 “ poor people ;” and boasts of the Company’s hav-
 ing expended thousands of pounds in supporting
 them ; whereas the Petition of the Nova Scotians
 expressly states “ that the promises of the Company
 “ were not fulfilled, and that the charges for
 “ every article from their store had become immo-
 “ derate, contrary to agreement.” In Faucon-
 bridge’s account of Sierra Leone, page 159, it is
 stated “ that the Company allowed the Nova Sco-
 tians twelve shillings a week for work, from which
 they deducted four shillings for provisions, and
 charged oppressively for bad articles of merchan-
 dise.” It is incontrovertible that the treatment the
 settlers experienced from the Company drove them
 into insurrection ; yet after twenty-four years, those

pure Christians and true moralists voluntarily calumniate the quiet well-disposed people, who have so long laboured for them, and without whose labour they could not have continued the settlement. “Hear, ye deaf, and look, ye blind, that ye may see.”

7th. “In civilization they proceeded so far as to send two persons to Teemboo, a few days walk from Sierra Leone, and educated half a dozen boys in England sufficient for common clerkships in the Colony.” The Special Report states that the Company expended twenty thousand pounds of the subscribers’ money on education—useless expenditure! for it is perfectly well known that the Colony does not contain much above half a dozen young men qualified for clerkships; Gabbedin, Frazer, Morgan, Wilson, York, Thorpe, and Edmunds, are all I ever heard of; and when I was in the Colony, there were not twenty educated there that could read and write intelligibly, exclusive of those mentioned. Very strange, after twenty years instruction, and twenty thousand pounds expense on persons, of whom the Report says, “no inferiority of capacity was to be observed.” As to civilizing and educating the native King’s children, and expatiating on the confidence the Chiefs had in the Company, I can refer to the letters in Arabic, deposited with Mr. Chisholm, to prove what a degrading opinion the neighbouring Chiefs had of the Agents employed by the Sierra Leone Company, and that the avowed Slave Trader was worthy of more confidence.

I never heard of any attempt of the Directors to explore the interior of Africa for the purpose of civilization, nor have they produced any instance, except the case of Messrs. Watts and Winterbottom, who about twenty years since, went from Sierra Leone to Teemboo and Laby, a circuit of five hundred miles ; but from accurate enquiry, I know Teemboo is not eighty miles from Rochelle in the river Sierra Leone: when Mori Ibrahim, king of Port Logo, sent to invite me to his house, he desired his secretary to say, that I could walk from thence to Teemboo in three days, without fatigue.

It is necessary thus early to arrest the reader's attention, and to entreat him to consider the novel mode in which this Report proceeds. The composer makes two or three assertions, then draws a conclusion that every statement of mine is refuted, or declares, that " after a thorough investigation of " the evidence that relates to this part of the sub- " ject, every thing establishes the Company's good " conduct," without producing any evidence, or referring to any ; perhaps some garbled extracts or fabricated documents, or old statements burnished for the day may be alluded to, or persons called to answer particular questions for particular purposes, or the declarations of interested individuals received as proof among themselves ; but they cannot expect in this way to convince the public, that they have fulfilled any one profession, or promise of their own, or overturned any one statement of mine.

Surely there are white men and black men, easily procured, who could confirm or disprove every line I have written ; why desire to bury the truth ? Why not publicly examine, and cross-examine on both sides ? It is unworthy of great men to lend themselves to such littleness and deception, vainly attempting to impose on the nation that they had attended to the cultivation of any part of Africa, or to the civilization of its inhabitants.

18. “ In a similar spirit of invidious misrepresentation, Mr. Thorpe complains of the inattention to religion and morality. They had (as taken from my Letter) a Church of England Clergyman for a few months, and a Missionary for a few years, but Methodist teachers and preachers in abundance.” The Report then wishes to induce the public to believe that two regular clergymen were in the Colony about three years and a half, whereas they were not there a fourth part of the time ; then insinuates the Company had excellent churches, that I drove away Mr. Nylander, being offended with his plain preaching, and ironically asserts, that all this attack derives great weight from my private and public character.

This false statement, and contemptible insinuation, obliges me to relate the whole truth, in my own vindication.

I landed in the Colony on a Sunday morning, enquired for the church, heard there was not one,

asked for the clergyman's house, found him preparing to read prayers to a few children ; I remained, and was assured on coming out, that I was the first person in the colony observed to kneel at divine worship.

On the following Sunday, a public room was discovered, but it was shamefully dirty, and the whole appearance so incorrect, that I purchased crimson cotton velvet, and some gold lace for the pulpit and reading desk, to give it the appearance of a place for Church service. Mr. Nylander, most certainly, did not perform our regular service. I hinted the propriety of his reading the Litany, and the impropriety of singing Psalms from the pulpit. I offered him Blair's and Moorhead's sermons, but in such a manner as to oblige, not offend him, for we lived in polite intercourse, and parted perfect friends. On his leaving the colony, he assured me it was the vice and immorality of the people that drove him away ; he is alive, and can attest the truth of this declaration.

After the departure of this good man, I collected every Sunday all such as were inclined to religious worship, and in my own room read the Church service, and a sermon.

There was a number of sectarians in the colony when I arrived, and some time after Dr. Coke sent out six or eight teachers and preachers, under the recommendation of Mr. Wilberforce and Mr. Ma-

caulay. I considered the morals and industry of the community impaired by the tenets of those various sects. I therefore represented the necessity there was to send out a regular clergyman of the Established Church. I spoke to Mr. Wilberforce on the subject, in a Committee of the African Institution; he stated the great difficulty of procuring one; I offered to propose twenty clergymen of character, that he might select from, but all in vain.

I was not less attentive to the morals of the people than to religion. I punished violators of the Sabbath, I reduced the licences for retailing spirits from forty to five, and I have public documents to prove, that I repressed the violence and licentiousness of the people in every possible way. Such was the state of religion and morals when I arrived in the colony, and such my efforts to improve them. I have not joined with a set of men proclaiming their religion, morality, and charity in the market place, to augment political power, and therefore I have been calumniated and persecuted; but, however aptly such insinuations might have come from Mr. Macaulay, under his own name, yet when he handed them to be sanctioned by the Directors of the African Institution, it was disgraceful not to have spurned at such depravity. I can only account for it by supposing the amiable part of this Directory implicitly received whatever was poured from the old polluted source of information, that has frustrated the best intentions, and spotted the fairest fame. Was not this inexcusable?

9th. " Books and Agents removed, and the poor
 " settlers who had toiled for them left unpaid; I re-
 " quested their demands might be left to arbitration;
 " and even this was not complied with." The Re-
 port proceeds, " with respect to Kizell, the only
 " person specified by Mr. T." This statement is
 untrue, for I mentioned Read, Garell, and Camp-
 bell also, in consequence of which, Read and
 Garell have been paid, and if the misery entailed
 on Read, and on the family of Garell (from their
 just demands being so long resisted) was known, it
 would shock the public!

Kizell's demand is denied by producing an assign-
 ment of his house and lot to the Company, in the
 year 1810. Kizell was an illiterate man in matters
 of account, nor could he procure a person to draw
 his bill, until two Americans confined in gaol at
 Sierra Leone undertook to put it into form. When
 Campbell obtained a verdict against the Company
 for £400, Kizell wanted to proceed by law, but
 after the evidence on oath given in Campbell's case
 had shewn such disgraceful conduct in the Com-
 pany's agents, I wished to screen them from fur-
 ther exposure; and Kizell's account being very long,
 I assured him the best mode would be to propose
 settling it by arbitration, and he sent his papers to
 Mr. Allen for that purpose. I never heard of this
 assignment published, I cannot tell the cause of its
 being given, nor the ground on which it might be
 laid aside, but every one must determine, that
 where the poor settler has no means of obtaining

redress, common justice, independent of honor and humanity, should have induced the Directors to have referred it to arbitration.

I shall give Kizell's letter on the subject, which I have just received, let it speak for itself.

(COPY.)

“ Sierra Leone, March 18, 1815.

“ Respecting what Mr. Z. Macaulay has asserted
 “ about my acknowledgment of debt to the Sierra
 “ Leone Company, and about my requesting the
 “ Governor's forbearance, if I had acknowledged it
 “ twenty times over, Mr. A. Smith, who was offi-
 “ ciating as chief justice in the colony, and has had
 “ the books of the Company in his hands, and with
 “ the authority that was vested in him, might bring
 “ a man to say any thing, and I have no documents
 “ in my hands but what I have forwarded to you,
 “ being fairly attested copies from their originals,
 “ as for farther proof of them being in my debt,
 “ Mr. D. M. Hamilton, who is now in England,
 “ can affirm that he was told by Mr. George Caul-
 “ ker that Governor Ludlam did scold A. Smith
 “ very much, adding that he ought to be ashamed
 “ to try to bring me in debt to the Company, for
 “ they were greatly in debt to me: this was when
 “ they were bringing up the Company's books, and
 “ taking stock in their store. Now, I think, it would
 “ be a fair way to employ an accomptant, and to

“ get my bills and the Sierra Leone Company's
“ books compared.”

The Directors resist paying Campbell, because they had a verdict in their favour in 1809, when Mr. Thompson was governor. Mr. Thompson was not the judge, nor had he any control over the courts. I never heard of this verdict. I know not for what Campbell sued, nor why there was a verdict against him; nothing of this sort was advanced on the last trial, there was then a fair trial, a verdict for £400 against the Company, and judgment entered. The Charter of the Company having expired, no legal proceedings can now be instituted against them; Campbell is not to be paid, nor even his demand referred to arbitration! Surely the independent honest men who have been efficient members of the Company, will not suffer this pitiful subterfuge, as disgraceful as unjust, to be a barrier against his fair demand.

The conclusion is worse; Messrs. Vanneck, Hamilton, and Nicol, are made to say, “ they had “ heard of no such case” as Garell's, which is absolutely a false statement in the Report, for these gentlemen knew of both Read and Garell's demand, and Mr. Hamilton was the person with whom the settlement was made, as agent for Read, and friend to Garell's orphans, since I had applied for them: also Mr. Hamilton knew of Campbell's demand, for he was in court at the trial.

The Report states, " that Mr. Vanneck affirms " the labourers were paid every week"—what has that to do with this question? Kizell and Campbell were not labourers, but traders for the Company out of the Colony, and not attached to Mr. Vanneck's department.

The public may now judge of the conclusive and honorable mode in which the Report refutes my statement from this logical deduction: " in short, " the Board is fully persuaded, that this very serious charge has not even the slightest colour of " probability to support it," though they paid two out of the four persons I had mentioned, and the other two they resist in defiance of a verdict and judgment, and the most equitable proposal for arbitration, because the time for enforcing legal demands has expired with their Charter! Such is the manner in which these men of " hitherto unblemished character" allow themselves to be defended—Is not this conduct pitifully mean, if not positively dishonest?

10th. " The Company demanded to be paid by " Government for their buildings, and did accordingly receive a large sum, although they had obtained one hundred thousand pounds for improving the Colony." Their mode of refuting this, is, by acknowledging they did receive two thousand pounds!

11th. The most serious of all the accusations

“ against the Company, and their Agents, is that of
 “ Slave trading.” Here they repeat having obliged
 their Servants to enter into bonds not to engage in
 the Slave Trade, but they do not produce an in-
 stance of their having enforced the penalty on any
 one of those bonds. The Report proceeds, “ No
 “ one can read their Reports (the Company’s)
 “ without feeling they were the intelligent, deter-
 “ mined, and fearless adversaries of the Slave
 “ Trade. In 1799, Mr. Thornton introduced a
 “ Bill into Parliament for prohibiting the Slave
 “ Trade in the river Sierra Leone, and for 500
 “ miles on each side of it. All the Slave Traders
 “ and Merchants opposed the Bill, but they never
 “ imputed Slave trading to the Company ; till that
 “ period, therefore, it may be presumed they were
 “ guiltless.”

I have before stated, that great wealth could not
 have been derived from Sierra Leone, until after
 our Abolition Act had passed, because the Slave
 Trader was then driven from the market, and the
 store keepers in the Colony left to supply the neigh-
 bouring part of the coast without competition ; and
 if Mr. Thornton’s Bill had passed, the only advan-
 tage that would have arisen, must have been to the
 Company, by giving them nearly a monopoly of
 the trade for five hundred miles on each side Sierra
 Leone, for a Chief desirous of selling a cargo,
 would with as little repugnance drive his slaves
 five hundred as five miles ; and does it follow, that
 the Company were not chargeable with aiding the
 Slave Trade, because they were not charged with

that crime at this particular period? As to the Reports of the Company, they are the prototype of the Reports of the African Institution, moulded by the same journeyman, and as delusive and fallacious from beginning to end.

Much is said about the enquiry before a Committee of the House of Commons in 1804. I have only to refer the reader, as on a former occasion, to Admiral Hollowell's evidence before that Committee, and then he will be enabled to judge how the Report was influenced.

“ Mr. Thorpe affirms that the servants of the
 “ Company constantly purchased the natives, and
 “ he adds in a note, that this fact was given in evi-
 “ dence, on oath, before Governor Thompson, and
 “ himself.” I alluded to the trials in the Vice-Ad-
 miralty Court, before Governor Thompson, where
 the evidence is recorded, some of which was pub-
 lished in the Sierra Leone Gazette at the time, and
 also by Mr. Grant in 1810; but I was most parti-
 cularly astonished by the evidence of Dalu Moham-
 med, Chief of Lunged, on the opposite side of the
 Sierra Leone river; this was too long for publica-
 tion I suppose, but goes direct to establish the
 Slave trading of the Company's servants. In the
 action brought by Campbell against the Company,
 tried before myself, it was proved that the Com-
 pany's servants purchased Slaves, and hired them
 for work; that settlers brought Slaves into the Colo-
 ny, and took them away, that Slaves who fled to the
 Colony for protection were delivered up to their

Masters, and even to Slave ships. I read the notes of this trial before a Committee of the African Institution, and will publish them if the Directors desire it.

I have read the affidavit of Jesse Porter, and Thomas Gudgeon, charging Messrs. Ludlam and Dawes with a knowledge of Slaves being sold in the Colony. I have also read some of the Arabic letters from the chiefs on the Coast, to our venerated King, charging the Company's servants with dealing in Slaves; with many other documents to the same effect*.

The Report proceeds to state the case of one Bradford, who kidnapped eleven natives, and acknowledges that six of them were sold in the Colony for six hundred dollars, which was applied to give the chiefs compensation; was this conduct worthy of the servants of those men of "hitherto

* Jan. 11, 1793, Sierra Leone,—The Duke of Buccleugh sailed yesterday, and the Frenchmen this day. I understand Mr. Dawes has purchased some articles of provisions from the Frenchmen, who would have nothing but slaves in return; and for the sake of accommodation, Mr. Dawes gave him an order on Mr. Rennieu, who pays him in slaves. I think if this is not, it borders on, an infringement of the Act of Parliament for incorporating the Company, which says, "The Company shall not, through the medium of their servants, or otherwise directly or indirectly traffic in slaves." It seems as if Providence frowns on this purchase, for an unusual high tide carried away part of the provisions after they were landed.—*Fauconbridge's Account*, page 191.

“ unblemished character?” Would it not have been more correct to have spared fifty pounds from their four hundred thousand, and given it in presents to those chiefs, than to have violated their Charter, and stained themselves by such a transaction?

“ The Company’s servants purchased natives, worked them without pay, and hired them for pay.” The Report in various places admits the purchasing of natives, the working of them followed of course,—they were not procured for ornament; and James Reed, on oath, stated in court, that the Company hired out their slaves, that he had paid their Accountant four dollars a month for the labour of some whom he had hired himself.

But purchasing slaves, when practised by the Company, is termed “ redeeming natives” of Africa from slavery, who were bound to the purchaser for a limited time. I know not how many of those purchased were bound, but I was in the Colony twenty years after the Company commenced, and never heard of a single individual who was liberated after serving his apprenticeship. I will examine this “ redemption of the natives,” which Mr. Ludlam, and Mr. Macaulay acknowledge was a “ speculative error.” The purchase is confessed, the slave is brought to Sierra Leone, not sent to the West Indies; for every market there must be sellers and buyers; when the purchase is made, does it injure or benefit the market to have the merchan-

disc carried to an adjacent, or a distant part? The article is paid for, carried away, and the trade encouraged. If a tradesman purchases twenty pieces of cloth, and works them up himself, does he not encourage the trade as much as the person who sells them to another to be used in the same way? Though school boys would laugh at such a pitiful subterfuge, it is gravely delivered (under the sanction of great names) as a vindication from the charge of Slave Trading.

12th. "The servants of the Company suffered slaves to be brought into, and taken out of the colony; and allowed them to be seized and delivered to their masters when they sought protection from the Company." The first part of this is not denied; the Reporter, after some bold assertions, only attempts to evade it, by saying, "instances of this kind have been suspected by the Governor and Council, when proof of the fact could not be obtained." Examples of this practice have been related to me by persons who had ocular knowledge of them. A Mr. Cooper went into the Soosoo country, purchased eleven natives, and brought them to Sierra Leone; in his absence, they were refractory to his wife, and she was allowed to send them to a neighbouring factory to be sold! Slaves, who made their escape from neighbouring factories, were, on application, delivered up to their masters by the Governor, and even before application, they were sent to gaol until applied for; some slaves that escaped from Banice Island, were seized, flogged, and sent

back by the Governor. Slaves also, who swam to the shore from slave ships in the River, were seized by the civil power in their famous Freetown, and remanded to their fetters! A noted slave captain, of the name of Brown, recovered some slaves who had escaped from him while lying in the river. Tobias, a blacksmith now in Sierra Leone, having escaped from a slave ship, was seized by the Governor's order, and thrown into prison; but effecting his escape also from thence, he concealed himself in the mountains until his persecutors had sailed away, and he is at present in the colony a very useful settler. The Reporter concludes in his old way—“*the injustice of the whole of this charge has been fully demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Directors.*” Could the proofs have brought conviction to the meanest understanding, would they not have been produced? Let the Directors reflect how they have implicated themselves by this sort of acquiescence.

13th. “The Company is next accused of having permitted their store-keeper to supply the slave factors and slave ships, and to feed the trade in every possible way.” Here the Reporter ingeniously wants to mix the native chiefs with the slave traders, and to shew the Company could have had no trade, but with slave traders, which is not the fact. The slave is the staple commodity, the chief barter the slave as long as he can, to obtain his comforts; but when there is no demand for slaves, he barter camwood, rice, ivory, cattle, fruits, fowls, &c. &c. but he never barter what he receives

for such articles for slaves ; we might deal for ever with native chiefs, and it would curtail not increase the slave trade. But I will suppose it to be a fact that the Company could only deal in such a manner as to feed the slave trade : what should those men of “ hitherto unblemished character ” have exclaimed ? “ Let the Company perish, that our character may live uncontaminated ; give back to each proprietor his portion ; our professions must be held sacred, we cannot barter fame and honor for camwood and ivory.” Had the Company supplied the chiefs at a very low rate of profit, with every article required, they might have helped to wean them from the slave trade, by proving that more was to be obtained by selling produce, and natural acquisitions, than from supplying slaves to factors and ships : at the same time the Company should have withheld a supply from their store, to such as would barter their merchandise for slaves : whereas the conduct of the Company was the very reverse ; they supplied the factors and slave captain, who supplied the chiefs, and nurtured the viper they were pledged to destroy ; enabling Botifer, and other alert slave traders, to boast that their principal advantage arose from their friendly intercourse with Sierra Leone, and from the selection of articles they procured from the Company’s stores.

14th. “ Even in Mr. Ludlam’s last administration of government, (Mr. Thorpe states) two cargoes of slaves taken from the Americans were publicly sold at twenty dollars a head.” They

admit this, and defend it thus; "Mr. Ludlam was not the Company's Governor," because two months before this occurred, some form passed for transferring the colony to the crown, but no alteration had taken place, no person had been sent from England, not an office, nor an officer, changed from the Company's establishment; and they produce a letter of exculpation from Mr. Ludlam to his old masters the Directors, and an answer from their secretary to him on the subject, which proves not only that he considered himself responsible to them, but also their admission that he was so. They say it was a novel case; novel indeed, for when vessels are carried to places where there is no Vice-Admiralty Courts, to try them, it is the practice to dispatch them to proper places for adjudication. Surely these vessels should have been sent to Barbadoes or England, and the slaves landed and taken care of until an account was received of their condemnation or liberation. Captain Parker, (who captured these vessels and slaves) was a friend of the Company's Directors; something was to be made for him; and accordingly without any trial the whole was sold for the benefit of the captors! Was not this unpardonable? Then they affirm the slaves were not sold; I may be mistaken—but the slaves were driven to a public market, they were publicly cried for sale, through Freetown, by the town crier; they were exposed at a public auction,—there was a seller, a buyer,—a price paid—the article purchased—delivered and carried away—yet this was no sale! Mr. Nylander, Mr. Hamilton, and Mr.

Vanneck, were offered some, but declared they would not buy slaves; Mrs. Forbes purchased two, and on leaving the colony, she asked Governor Ludlam whether she might sell them? he answered, "she might,"—and accordingly she did sell them again for the same price, twenty dollars each, which was about the price of such slaves in the adjacent rivers. Mr. Ludlam in the letter, published as his, writes (Page 58, Sp. Rep.) "I do not urge all this as meaning to contend that slaves were never allowed to be purchased, or as I must call it redeemed in this colony; but I contend these were neither purchased nor redeemed." Now I contend, and can prove, by testimony of those present at the time, that there never was a more complete sale of slaves in the West Indies, though I cannot speak of the manner in which (according to Governor Ludlam) they purchased or redeemed slaves before in the colony. It is obvious, Governor Ludlam might have distributed the slaves, as he thought fit, and it is also well known that any person obtained the slaves who bid and paid for them.

The Report asserts, "that Governor Ludlam took forty of the ablest men into the service of Government, promising them their full liberty at the end of three years."—I was in the colony about three years after this transaction, but I never heard of this promised liberation being executed. Then to introduce a panegyric on themselves and Mr. Macaulay, with an attack on Mr. Thompson and myself—they say "Mr. Thorpe would insinuate that this transac-

tion had been concealed by the Sierra Leone Company and African Institution."—I never insinuated any such thing, for I knew Mr. Thompson had made public the whole transaction in 1808, but Mr. Thompson (though unfortunately at present in India) is able and willing to defend himself, and happily relieved from all restraint, by this vindictive attack, I am satisfied he will publicly state the conduct of those immaculate men at Sierra Leone.

Having finished my reply to the Special Report, so far as it relates to the Sierra Leone Company, I shall beg leave to put a few questions for the consideration of the Directors.

Did not the Act of Parliament, for incorporating their Company, declare, "That it shall not be lawful for the said Company, either directly or indirectly, for itself or themselves, or by the agents or servants of the said Company, or otherwise howsoever, to deal or traffic in the buying or selling of slaves, or in any manner whatsoever to have, hold, appropriate, or employ any person or persons in a state of slavery in the service of the said Company?" And has not the confession of their own servants, as given in their own publications, together with the proofs I have exhibited, and referred to, established that their servants did buy slaves, that they had held, appropriated, and employed them as such; yet have not the Directors of this Company fostered, protected, praised and promoted those very servants?

Did not the 47th of the King, Chap. 44, Section 4, enact, “ That it shall not be lawful for any person or persons whatsoever, inhabiting, or being, or who shall at any time hereafter inhabit or be within the said Peninsula or Colony of Sierra Leone, either directly or indirectly to deal or traffic in, buy or sell, or to be aiding or assisting in the dealing or trafficking, in the buying or selling of slaves, either within the said Peninsula or elsewhere?” Yet does not Governor Ludlam *confess* that he purchased forty slaves for the government service from the cargoes of the American sloop Baltimore and schooner Eliza, brought into Sierra Leone by H. M. S. Derwent, but never condemned in any court ; and does not the said Governor Ludlam *confess* that he did aid and assist in the buying and selling of slaves from the said cargoes in the Colony of Sierra Leone after the passing of this Act? Was not the said Mr. Ludlam, after this transaction, appointed to a place under government, with a salary of fifteen hundred a year by the Directors’ recommendation? Was not their friend, Mr. A. Macaulay, the brother and agent of Mr. Z. Macaulay, a purchaser on this occasion, and an active partizan and agent for the captors at the slave auction? Was not Mr. A. Smith a promoter of and a purchaser at this slave market, yet did not some of the active Directors recommend Mr. Smith to Captain Columbine to fill my station as Judge of the Vice Admiralty? Have they not induced Lord Bathurst to order him seven hundred pounds out of my salary; and have they not excused his iniquitous conduct while he presided in

D

my Court? In short, have they not endeavoured to palliate this abominable, illegal sale and purchase of slaves, and to screen and assist all their old servants engaged in it?

Did not the principal Directors of the Company declare they considered the slave trade as unjust and inhuman? Did they not consider fine and forfeiture insufficient, and therefore obtained an Act of Parliament, the 51st of Geo. III. c. 23, making it felony to carry on, or to aid, abet or assist in any way, by servants, agents, factors or otherwise; yet has it not been allowed by Governor Ludlam and others that the Company's agents and factors did purchase slaves in Africa, or, as he terms it, *redeeming natives*, remove them to Sierra Leone, work them without pay, and hire them for pay? and has it not been confessed in the Special Report, that the Company's servants did supply the slave factories, and the masters of slave ships, with the articles they wanted to purchase slaves with? which undeniably was aiding and assisting them in carrying on that traffic: and if the same conduct was pursued at this time, the same articles furnished and proved to be sold to such persons for such purposes, would not the persons so acting by themselves, their agents or servants be liable on conviction to transportation as felons for fourteen years? and is there not the same moral turpitude attached to those persons acting thus before the Act passed, as after, though the just punishment cannot be inflicted? yet the very men, whose servants did so act, are termed "the intelligent, determined and fear-

“less adversaries” of this traffic; and these very servants who did thus purchase, and employ Slaves, and did so aid and assist with *assorted articles* of Merchandise from the Company’s Store, others in the open purchase of Slaves for sixteen years, are countenanced by those very Directors to this moment!

Such men may have been of “hitherto unblemished character,” but I do not believe the World will continue to consider them so immaculate, while they persist in patronising, promoting, and praising those who confess and defend such conduct, (page 48, Special Report) and I am led to think, they will rather be considered as aiders and abettors to that crime which they have always so loudly professed to abhor, though the Reporter assures us “they have satisfied the Directors of their purity.” These are not “trifles light as air,” but “confirmations strong.”

I lament so much exposure has been wrung from me. I labored to save the fame and popularity of those whom I considered truly worthy of respect and attention, and I endeavored to induce them to carry into effect their professions, and promises for Africa: but if they will pertinaciously persist to delude, in expectation of upholding their own pride, and an insignificant individual’s profit, they must sink themselves, when they intended to overwhelm me; all the persecution I have experienced does not surprise me, though it has

gone to the extent of human malignity. I wrote in page 37 of my Letter to Mr. Wilberforce, " I often pause as I write, to consider if fame, wealth, and power, can over-awe the investigation of truth ; but, as I reflect on the English character, I am encouraged to proceed ;" and that reflection has been my only incitement to this very hour. If the most distinguished personages in the Empire will continue to lend their names with credulous complaisance, to uphold public delusion, respect even for them, must be diminished.

I have now to reply to the answer which the Board of Directors of the African Institution have thought proper to make to such parts of my Letter to Mr. Wilberforce as applied to themselves; and as a preliminary observation, I must beg leave to say, that Letter was indited most respectfully with regard to the African Institution, and I hope it is sufficiently manifest that it must have been written from the most disinterested motives. I considered the Institution as composed of the best men in the nation, possessing talents, information and power, and actuated by the purest principles. I was sincerely anxious for the civilization of Africa, and the universal Abolition of the Slave Trade, and conceived the greatest favor I could confer on the unbiassed members, and the principal means by which I could promote the great cause for benefitting Africa and England, was to point out to those elevated and good men, how completely they had been deluded; that none of

their promises and professions had been carried into effect, that their funds were wasted, that their fame would be tarnished by the fallacious representations made under the authority of their names, and that I was anxious and ready to assist their benevolent efforts by the information I had acquired from nearly eight years' unremitting attention to the chief objects of the Institution.

The Report proceeds in extenuation, "That the Directors, relying on the liberality of the Public, had calculated on obtaining funds which would have enabled them to pursue with vigour the various objects they were desirous to promote." The funds were certainly sufficient to have commenced the various objects they professed to promote, but the funds were not expended on those objects, and wisdom withheld, what ostentation would have lavished.

The Report next states, "that their first duty obviously was to watch over the laws recently made for the Abolition of the Slave Trade, to endeavour to prevent their infraction, to suggest the means of rendering them more effectual, and to promote the Abolition of this trade by Foreign Powers." When Laws are enacted, there are always persons whose duty it is to watch over and enforce them; but certainly the only step the Institution should have taken, (in my humble opinion) or could have taken, with effect, was to have induced the Secretary of State to

stimulate the attention of the Constituted Authorities, by a circular letter to the Governors of Colonies, and when they heard of any infraction of the Abolition Acts, they should have informed the Law Officers, whose duty it would have been to prosecute the offenders. In the Houses of Parliament, they might have proposed the means of rendering those Acts more effectual, and from their influence with the Ministers, or by an Address to the Executive, they should have promoted the Abolition of the Slave Trade with Foreign Powers, but for all this, not one pound from the Subscription fund was necessary.

“ The Directors will proceed to consider the specific charges against the Institution. 1st, “ The alledged neglect of Education.” This they admit, but endeavour to excuse themselves by attributing the neglect to Governor Thompson, who is now in the East Indies; this sincere Abolitionist, and true friend to the civilization of Africa, was a Fellow of Queen’s College, Cambridge, and most zealous to extend education; if he did not make those African youths School Masters, I conclude he found them so inadequately instructed, that he could not entrust them with the instruction of others. No person could be more inclined to carry into effect the ostensible wishes of the Institution, and to prove it he gave One Hundred Pounds Subscription, and became a Member, but, when he found their avowed objects were never attempted to be carried into effect, but

the mercantile views of the individual who managed the Institution alone considered, he gave them up in disgust. Next it is asserted that Captain Columbine's state of health prevented the wishes of the Institution from being carried forward, and that Colonel Maxwell did not think it necessary to apply the funds of the Society to this object. The question stands thus—the Directors allow they had no schools; they allow in the five first Reports they induced the Public to believe they had, which they must have known to be untrue, because if the Schools had been established by them, the Institution must have been called on for their support. The Treasurer's Accounts (annually published) shewed there were no sums drawn for any such purpose; therefore it is conclusive that they were knowingly deluding the Public on the subject of Education, for at least five years. After six years' promise, and two of exposure, they prove the necessity of having Schools, by sending out Mr. and Mrs. Sutherland, and they declare "that their offers of providing for the expense of Schools, are irrefragable proofs of their having attempted civilization." This is the acme of their efforts—this offer, the demonstration of the fulfilment of their professions and promises. Let the great Personages, who have lent themselves so unsuspectingly, only read what is delivered to the Public under their sanction, and they must sufficiently feel their humiliated situation. Then the Special Report says, "Mr. T. charges the Directors with deluding a liberal Nation," because they stated,

“ A better chance will also thus be afforded for
 “ restoring some of the captured Negroes to their
 “ former connexions, and some of them after hav-
 “ ing enjoyed the advantages of instruction in agri-
 “ culture, and in other useful arts in the Colony,
 “ may possibly be beneficially employed in dis-
 “ seminating in other parts of Africa the know-
 “ ledge which they may have thus acquired.”—
 Surely after reiterating for years the wonders they
 were doing, their Schools (in nubibus) for Arabic,
 Soosoo, English, Writing, and the Arts, with
 Farms annexed for Instruction in Agriculture,
 when not one of those admirable plans were ever
 put into execution, nor one of the captured Negroes
 returned to his own country, or ever received any
 instruction in ours, it was just to consider this
 pompous representation a delusion on this liberal
 nation ; and in support of their statement, they
 refer to that miserable expensive production (made
 up in their own way) by Captain Columbine and
 Mr. Dawes, and denominated a Report of Survey
 of the Coast, to the Secretary of State ; confirming
 what Governor Thompson writes (as given in page
 3, Preface, 4th Edition) “ tempting me to aid the
 “ covert Slave traffic, which had already been
 “ established, and *to join in the general System of*
 “ *misrepresentation to the British Government.*”

The extract from the Report of Survey contains
 the following passage ; “ When any of the cap-
 “ tured Negroes desired to return to their own
 “ country, and such return was deemed practi-

“ cable, they have been allowed to do so, being
 “ first provided with a paper under the hand and
 “ seal of the Governor, certifying that they were
 “ to be considered as his people, and under his
 “ protection, which is looked on according to the
 “ Custom and Laws of Africa, as a sufficient secu-
 “ rity against further molestation ;” this is all
 delusion also ; no such paper having been issued, and
 no such Law or Custom subsisting in Africa, but
 fabricated for the same purposes, and in the same
 way at Mr. K. Macaulay’s statement of the disposal
 of the captured Negroes (given in the Appendix,
 Preface, 3d Edition, p. 25). I have heard of a
 solitary instance of an attempt to send some
 Jolliffes home, but they were suffered to be sold
 into slavery on the way ! So much for the asser-
 tion that near five hundred captured Negroes have
 been restored to their own country.

This Report concludes the first head.—Mr. T.
 adds, “ the British Government paid two Black
 “ Boys, who wrote badly and read worse, for
 “ teaching the Children to read and write ; the
 “ truth and spirit of this allegation will be seen by
 “ the annexed specimens of the hand-writing of
 “ these youths.” I remember while I was in the
 Colony, Peter Wilson, one of their educated youths,
 was at the head of the School, and he could
 neither read nor write intelligibly ; but “ the
 “ specimens of the hand-writing of these youths
 “ they have exhibited to the Board,” who could form
 a judgement of a boy’s proficiency in writing by

such a production? However we must recollect how complaisant the Board constantly proves itself, in being easily satisfied!

2d. " Mr. T. proceeds at page 10, to blame the
 " Institution for having sent Cotton Seeds and
 " various Machines to the Colony before they could
 " be of any use." The passage in my Letter,
 page 10, alluding to a great display having been
 made in the Institution Report about sending
 Cotton Seed and Machines to the Colony,—states,
 " they did send out such things before the Set-
 " tlers had Land granted to them, before Land
 " was prepared for the Seed, or Implements in
 " the Colony to prepare the Land with, the Seed
 " was thrown into the River rotten, and the Ma-
 " chines suffered to decay ;" and I added in a
 note, " many persons in the Colony who were
 " present when the articles arrived, can prove
 " this statement, and even in London sufficient
 " evidence can be found to establish the fact."
 Now, would it not have been more dignified and
 correct in those great Directors, when sitting in
 judgment on my statement, to have called on me
 to have produced those witnesses, and after ex-
 amining them, to have pronounced judgment?
 instead of attacking Governor Thompson, attri-
 buting to him the failure of those things, *because*
he was recalled, arguing in their old way, from
 what he might have said, but did not say, and of
 his approbation of the Institution by his sending
 a Subscription of One Hundred Pounds. Mr.

Thompson is as incapable of such littleness, as he was zealous to promote every thing that could be beneficial to Africa; and, in truth, he considered himself Governor of Sierra Leone for two years after the seed went out; for he writes to me from Hull, December 3, 1810.—“ I was sent for home “ to communicate with Ministers in my capacity “ of Governor, and as such, in all appearance, I “ stand to this day.” He was never charged with any act of impropriety; he was removed by the influence of the little select party, because he would not become an instrument of delusion; he would have made “ agriculture overspread that al- “ most depopulated part of Africa;” he would have broken the tube of deception, and the bubble having burst, profit would be diminished and popularity paralyzed; the Manager must have pliable tools for intricate manufacture—Thompson was English oak, unbending, and sound to the heart.

The next thing under the same head—“ Mr, “ T. affirms that the cotton seed was as useless to “ the natives as the settlers, for they had no im- “ plements of husbandry, nor any sort of instru- “ ments to prepare the ground for the seed.” An attempt is here made to display their knowledge of African agriculture and manufacture, which is not illustrative. The Africans plant the cotton seed on the same ground with the rice, and after taking in the rice, they hoe the cotton; but when this seed was offered, the natives were informed it was of a different quality from what they had used be-

fore, and that directions were sent out for its management. They refused the seed, as they will not give up old habits until they see a *beneficial change*. I stated in my note, page 10, Letter to Mr. Wilberforce, that there were in London gentlemen who could establish the fact. I naturally wish for investigation, because I am upheld only by truth; they evidently resist it, because they float only on its suppression.

3d. “ In the Third Report, the same old delusion practised by the Sierra Leone Company is kept up. The Report states that the Colony would produce hemp, rope, cotton, silk, sugar, tea, bark, camphor, castor oil, tobacco, &c. &c.” Let any person read the Company’s Report in 1794, three years after they were established, and the Third Report of the African Institution, and determine if it must not be pronounced the same old delusion; also if the whole intention is not to shew that the Colony would produce these articles, not one of which (except a little cotton) was produced at the time; however, they give an extract from Mr. Vanneck’s letter, which proves that great care had been taken of every plant sent out, and that they were entrusted to him by Governor Thompson. Here they allow care was bestowed, without giving Governor Thompson the praise he merited, and about the cotton seed they make him negligent, to load him with censure unmerited.

I affirm again, I never heard of, or saw, any of

those valuable productions stated in their Third Report, because they were not in existence; and if they imagine I am in error by considering them public impositions, why do they not expose my detraction? but the Special Report never presumes to prove in support of their Third Report, that the Colony does produce hemp, rope, silk, sugar, tea, bark, camphor, castor oil, tobacco, &c. &c. which I asserted they published to delude the nation. The Directors vent their vexation in insinuation and reproach against Mr. Thompson and myself, hoping to uphold themselves by turning the reader's attention from the weakness of their cause to the strength of their invective.

4th. The Directors do not deny they deceived and misled the Navy Commanders, by inducing them to believe that, under the Abolition Act, they were to receive from the Treasury for every slave they captured (after being condemned to the King, and delivered to the executive officer) forty pounds for each man, thirty for each woman, and ten for each child.

5th. The Directors do not deny what I have said respecting the Fourth African Institution Report, but excuse their impropriety in falsely construing the Abolition Act, by stating that they published the act itself; as if a commander could doubt the *great law authority* of the Institution, and refer to their Appendix for the Act. Ultimately, I suppose, all parties will be satisfied; the Institution

paid for printing their errors from the *African poor box*, and they will procure compensation to those who followed them, from the *public purse*.

As to their fallacious statement in the Fourth Report, the Special Report declares they must have been deceived by Mr. Thompson; but they do not publish any document that would prove the deception. This is all very liberal, as they know Captain Thompson is in the East Indies; but if this gentleman ever sees this Special Report, I am convinced he will defend himself, and make a greater exposure than has been extorted from me.

6th. “ Mr. T—— attacks the Fifth Report, as
 “ proving the ignorance of the Directors respect-
 “ ing the Portuguese possessions north of the
 “ Equator. All that the Directors said on the sub-
 “ ject was, that the Portuguese have no possessions
 “ north of the Equator, with the exception only of
 “ the small island of Bissao. What there is incor-
 “ rect in this statement, is not obvious.” The
 islands of St. Thomas, Princes, and the Cape de
 Verds, are all Portuguese possessions, and the
 Slave Trade is carried on at those places. The
 Portuguese have possessions at Adjuda, and also
 north-east of Bissao on the Continent; from these
 also the Slave Trade is pursued; and they are all
 north of the Equator. Only let the reader consider
 how this ignorance is persevered in, under the
 sanction of these credulous Directors; surely it is
 evident how implicitly they believe, how tacitly

they receive, and how conspicuously they are deceived by an ignorant and interested individual.

7th. A long extract from my letter to Mr. Wilberforce is given, where I mentioned the Commission of Survey. I said “ that an useless commission, to gratify the little select party, by giving two of their old servants £1500 a year each, had cost Great Britain £10,000.” They cannot deny it. I said Captain Columbine was qualified, and they incapacitated him, by having him also appointed Governör. They cannot deny it. I said, if the commission had been useful, the other commissioners were not qualified. One of them they do not defend, and as to the other, I shall only appeal to his Report, and to every intelligent gentleman accustomed to the coast, whether there is, or not, one particle of information that could not have been attained at Cape Coast Castle, or in London, without trouble or expence? The observations and hints on the state of the Slave Trade, contained in the Report, are unfounded, the remarks about Sierra Leone mischievous, and obviously intended to further the views of the trading Patron.

The Report continues.—“ But perhaps Mr. T. means to object to the propriety of continuing their salaries to the commissioners during their involuntary inactivity; if so, the Directors think it necessary to state, *not by way of recrimination*, but for the purpose of enabling the Institution to judge of the justness of Mr.

“ Thorpe’s claim to a character for superior regard
 “ to public economy ; that he himself enjoyed a
 “ salary, as Chief Justice and Judge of the Vice
 “ Admiralty Court at Sierra Leone, for several
 “ years, although his actual residence in the Colony
 “ did not exceed twenty-one months ; his salary,
 “ which was £1500 a year, commenced from the
 “ month of January 1808, and he received it with-
 “ out any deduction for three years and a half be-
 “ fore he set his foot in the Colony ; but not content
 “ with this large sinecure emolument, soon after
 “ he landed at Sierra Leone, he demanded of Mr.
 “ Smith (the gentleman who had done the whole
 “ duty of the office of Judge of the Vice Admiralty
 “ Court for nearly eighteen months previous to his
 “ arrival) to pay over to him all the fees he had
 “ received in that capacity ; and on Mr. Smith’s
 “ refusing to comply with this demand, Mr. Thorpe
 “ brought an action against him in the Court in
 “ which he himself usually presided, for a £1000,
 “ and there pleading his own cause, he obtained a
 “ verdict for £320, and actually *compelled* Mr.
 “ Smith, by a writ addressed to the Sheriff, to pay
 “ this sum within a few days after the verdict had
 “ been given.”

Since they have most *liberally* introduced
 this irrelevant subject, and travelled out of the
 Pamphlet to make a personal attack, and carry
 the reader’s attention from their fallacious Re-
 ports, I shall begin with noticing eight false
 statements in half a page, and then obtrude on the

patience of my reader a true statement of the whole matter. I never received any salary as Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court; it was distinctly settled that I was to be remunerated by the fees arising from that office; I did not make any demand on Mr. Smith soon after I arrived in the Colony, nor until several sessions afterwards; I never demanded the whole of the fees; Mr. Smith did not act for nearly eighteen months; I never pleaded my own cause; I never obtained a verdict for £320; I never actually *compelled* Mr. Smith to pay, nor was any particular writ addressed to the Sheriff on the subject, within a few days after the verdict had been given.

I was removed from my judicial situation in Canada, to be appointed Chief Justice of Sierra Leone; my salary was to cease for the one on the 31st of December 1807, and commence for the other on the 1st of January 1808, from the hour I was appointed I was prepared to embark. I applied often to Government to assume my station. The Secretary of State three times directed me to hold myself in readiness. Lord Castlereagh ordered me to sail by his Majesty's ship Solbay. Lord Liverpool directed me to go by his Majesty's ship Crocodile. I was four times actually equipped for going on board, but secret influence always produced a detention. It was asserted I could not go without the new Charter for the Colony, which was not ready, though the new Charter neither increased nor diminished my power of discharging

E

every duty required. I might have presided in the Admiralty Court; I might have acted as Chief Justice; I might have presided at the criminal commissions, from being first in council; and I might have presided in the Civil Court, if I had been appointed Mayor; all without the new Charter; but the little select party did not wish me there, and I was detained until Mr. Whitbread's enquiry in the House of Commons into the cause of my detention, obliged me to assume my station. Now, I only ask, if, in justice, one shilling of my salary could have been withheld? Certainly Lords Liverpool and Castlereagh considered me entitled, for they directed that I should be paid. Mr. Smith was a person originally sent out by the Sierra Leone Company at a salary of £40 or £50 a year; as I have been informed, to instruct the boys and girls in spelling, and the men and women in Psalm singing; he then became a storekeeper for the Company, and next a shopkeeper for himself. Mr. Smith happened to be in England when Captain Columbine was going out in his Majesty's ship Crocodile, to be Governor of Sierra Leone and Commodore on the station. I applied to go in the Crocodile, but Mr. Smith was considered a more complaisant gentleman. I was refused a passage, and Mr. Smith taken out, and appointed acting Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court, by Commodore Columbine, who had his own ship constantly bringing in vessels for adjudication, and at their trials he dictated the judgments of the Court for Mr. Smith to pronounce! But if Mr. Smith did

not approve of those sentences, (though he pronounced them) he altered them as he thought fit, long after they were recorded; and lest the original ship's papers should ever come forth in judgment against him, in cases of appeal from his sentences of condemnation, he suffered them to be taken away entirely! Mr. Smith had also much facility in supplying his shop from the condemned cargoes, so that his judicial appointment was universally considered a pretty profitable trading concern. Mr. Smith having long been the great oracle of the Colony, felt his consequence lessened on the arrival of Governor Maxwell and myself; and informed the inhabitants, he " might
 " have been Governor, Chief Justice, or one of the
 " Council, if he had pleased; that he would not
 " assist the constituted authorities, but suffer their
 " ignorance to ruin them, after which he would
 " set all right!"

Having tolerated Mr. Smith in this mode of conduct for six months, and perceiving its injurious tendency, I spoke of it to Governor Maxwell, and sent a very cool, sensible gentleman to Mr. Smith, who pointed out the impropriety of his conduct, and assured him that if he did not desist, I should be obliged to expose him, by proving he had been appointed a Magistrate and acting Judge, in violation of the Charter and Admiralty Commission, and as he had no legal right to the fees he had received, he would be obliged to refund them. This expostulation was answered by defiance. I then put the

whole business under the management of Mr. Francis Hopkins, who brought an action, proved my case, and established that Mr. Smith had not only acted as Judge without any commission being in the Colony, but in direct violation of the commission I held! Mr. K. Macaulay, the Marshal of the Vice Admiralty Court, proved that he knew of fees amounting to more than eight hundred and fifty pounds, which Mr. Smith had received, and also that Mr. Smith had received fees himself, of which Mr. K. Macaulay (as Marshal) did not know the exact amount. And when Mr. A. Macaulay was called as a witness, I asked him, "if he had not heard Mr. Smith declare he might have been Governor, Judge, or one of the Council; that he would not take any part at present in the Government, but suffer those in authority to ruin themselves by their ignorance, and then he would set every thing right?" To this question Mr. A. Macaulay answered in the affirmative. I told the Jury, "that fearful of the injurious consequences that might arise from this presumption, I had brought the action to expose Mr. Smith's arrogant conduct, and assuring them that I did not seek for damages, requested they would allow him amply *pro labore et opere*." I took no further part in the action from beginning to end. The Court, the Jury, and the witnesses were all Mr. Smith's old friends. A verdict was brought in for the Plaintiff, with £300 damages. It was recorded, and in the following term, according to general practice, (no appeal having been entered)

execution issued of course, and I received the damages.

I then concluded all other demands from Mr. Smith precluded; but the little select party prevailed on Lord Bathurst to stop seven hundred pounds of my salary as Chief Justice, and appropriate it to Mr. Smith, as acting Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court! not from my salary which became due while Mr. Smith was acting, (for I was paid all my salary for that time by direction of Lord Liverpool) but from what became due (two years afterwards) during my leave of absence for the recovery of my health. By this deduction, and stoppages equally oppressive, nearly three thousand pounds of my salary have been withheld, which might have caused me to have been thrown into a prison, and by disabling me from the power of obeying any order to return to my station in the Colony, a dismissal from my appointment would have followed of course. Could such an object have been contemplated by such pure and benevolent gentlemen? Every liberal mind, I am convinced, will be gratified by this exposure of malignity, and the great men who have suffered their names to sanction such a vitious attempt at detraction, must feel ashamed; but the noble Lord who has been so misled as to become the instrument of such unprovoked persecution, will, on learning the truth, feel indignant at their audacity. I hope this plain statement will warn the fabricator of this Report to beware of such continued arrogance; his

hatred of truth makes him vindictive against me; his adulation of rank, disrespectful of himself; but he might have considered the personages who have so thoughtlessly lent the sanction of their great names to such unqualified malignity.—“ It out-herods Herod.”

8th. “ Mr. Thorpe blames the information the “ Directors gave to the navy in the Fifth Report.” They acknowledge the information was erroneous, in stating, as they did, that it was necessary that vessels carrying on the Portuguese Slave Trade should have been built in Portuguese dominions, or condemned in Portuguese Courts of Admiralty; but say, it was once an opinion in which “ Mr. T. “ himself appears to have entirely and unreservedly concurred, as may be seen from several of “ his own decisions, as the cases of the Calypso, “ Urbano, and Paquet Volante.” In the first place, the Calypso had nothing to do with the case; she was condemned on different points from the others, and the cause of the Urbano, and Paquet Volante being condemned was this:—When Captain Bones brought them into Sierra Leone, he produced not only the errors of the African Institution, but also directions from the Lords of the Admiralty to the same effect. I never attended to the fallaciousness of the Institution, but I considered myself bound by the directions of the Admiralty in that instance. An Admiralty Judge, I conceive to be directed not only by the civil law, and Admiralty proceedings, but, to be in some measure, directed by his own

government; therefore, under that authority, I condemned, but informed Captain Bones I was convinced the sentence would be reversed, and exposed the absurd confusion made about the Portuguese Treaties, in such a way before Captains Irby and Scobell, as to prevent any more captures from being made on the same ground.

The Directors next introduce what they call the substance of a conversation of mine with Lieutenant Pascoe, (who was universally revered in life, and covered with glory in death.) This conversation is irrelevant to the subject of their erroneous information furnished to the navy, and would be perfectly ridiculous for me to attend to in its present state, though the supposed *substance of my conversation* was "submitted to two respectable naval officers." When any decision of mine is appealed from, and comes before the court above, I shall willingly furnish the reasons for my judgment when required, as I have heretofore done, and though in error, if I have discharged my duty with integrity, I would not be considered culpable; but those who mischievously mislead from obtrusive ostentation, are in my opinion highly criminal.

At page 27, "Mr. T. refers to his own exposition of the 10th Article of the Portuguese Treaty, as more correct than Lord Castlereagh's." That is not true—I never did say my exposition was more correct than Lord Castlereagh's: such presumption I leave to the managers of the Institution; "and

" he," (Mr. T.) " adds that his construction has
 " not been overruled by higher authority. This
 " assertion, it is much to be regretted, is equally
 " incorrect with the rest of his Pamphlet. Previ-
 " ous to its appearance, that construction had al-
 " ready been overruled by Sir William Grant, Sir
 " William Scott, and Sir John Nicholl, in the
 " cases of the Calypso, Urbano, and Paquet Vo-
 " lante, and *has since* been overruled in the case
 " of the St. Juan." In the first place, the deci-
 sion of the Calypso has not been overruled, but
 stands over; the condemnation was not confirmed
 from the King's Advocate being misled by the ig-
 norance of Mr. Macaulay, the captor's prize agent.
 When I informed the King's Advocate where the
 slaves were taken from, by referring to the log
 book of the Calypso, and proved by affidavit, that
 those places were not on the Coast de Mina, he ap-
 plied to the Court to be heard again, but the argu-
 ment was closed; however the condemnation was
 not overruled. Secondly, the cases of the Urbano,
 and Paquet Volante have nothing to do with my
 exposition of the treaty. I never stated, " it was
 " necessary that vessels carrying on the Portuguese
 " Slave Trade, should have been built in the do-
 " minions of Portugal, or condemned in a Portu-
 " guese Court of Admiralty;" that I leave for the
 exposition of the African Institution; and as to the
 St. Juan, the Special Report admits this case was
 not decided until after my pamphlet was published;
 the reasons for reversing that condemnation may
 have been the *same* that prevented the condemna-

tion of the *Calypso* from being confirmed at once, as Mr. Macaulay was prize agent in her case also. Then the Report persists liberally to decide, “ but “ besides this, the irregularity of Mr. Thorpe’s proceedings, as judge of the Vice-Admiralty at “ Sierra Leone, appears to have produced on the “ minds of the judges of the prize court, a very “ unfavourable impression of the justice of his “ proceedings; and in that way may have proved “ materially prejudicial to the general cause of “ Abolition.” I defy these defective Abolitionists to state a single sentence that ever passed the lips of those admirable judges, that could have been distorted into a censure on the justice of my decisions, and if my decisions had been unjust, how could that have prejudiced the cause of Abolition? In the case of the *Diana* (Dod. Adm. Rep. p. 95) Sir William Scott most correctly reprobated the conduct of the Court at Sierra Leone, but the little select party’s judge and friend, Mr. Smith, presided, and the precedents sent by his judicious friends of the Institution, produced much of his error.

As they become weak in vindication, and more confused in reasoning, they grow strong in fallacious statement, and personal acrimony;—it is a miserable subterfuge;—the imbecility of the head cannot be supplied by the depravity of the heart.

9th. “ Another theme of invective strangely “ adduced by Mr. Thorpe, is the conviction of

“ Brodie, Cooke, and Dunbar, under the Slave “ Felony Act.” Then eleven pages of falsehood and malignity issue with more effrontery than was ever before exhibited. It must be evident to the nation, that the active Directors and their manager, who have laboured for my removal for years, would with avidity have laid charges against me, if any thing tangible could have been found ; they studied to make Samo’s trial a charge ; toiled over my Letter to Mr. Wilberforce ; and the public will credit the assurance, that I have positive proof of their having scrutinized every action of mine to find some error to lay before the Secretary of State. It is scarcely necessary to attend to their invectives, which only confirm “ their infinite wrath “ and infinite despair.” I have always dared them to public accusation, and courted enquiry.

Knowing how they have endeavoured to prejudice Lord Bathurst against me, and to whisper away my character whenever they could find credulous listeners ; I requested his Lordship to let me know what had been insinuated to my disadvantage, and assured him that I would not require a day to satisfy his Lordship as to its falsehood and wickedness, but a particle of charge never came forth.

The Special Report proceeds to state the manner in which Brodie, Cooke, and Dunbar pleaded, and how they were circumstanced, all of which is false, as the men themselves, now in England, can prove.

The Directors wish to shew, that the precedent I established in the first case of prosecution for Slave trading, was followed in the proceedings against these men, and the blame of their conviction must attach to me ; to support this, they appeal to some published trials. I know nothing of those trials, though I make no doubt (from the respectability of the Editor) I uttered whatever was published as mine ; I have not read them ; but I appeal to my own Letter, part of which Colonel Maxwell and the Directors have so honourably given to the public, in which I stated that I was annoyed on Colonel Maxwell's account, after Samo and Hickson had been brought to Sierra Leone.

Governor Maxwell, without my knowledge, sent his Majesty's schooner Vesta to the Isles de Loss, had Samo and Hickson seized, and dragged from their houses, as prisoners to Sierra Leone on a suspicion of slave trading. I never had seen the 51st. of the King, Cap. 23, at this time, it was only in Governor Maxwell's possession. I did not wish that the Slave Trade should be encouraged, by shewing that the authorities in the Colony had no power to control the traders residing in the Rio Pongas, nor did I wish that the Governor, who had ordered those men to be seized without sufficient authority, should be ruined by damages and disgrace, which inevitably would have been the case, if Samo and Hickson had been liberated, and had proceeded

against Colonel Maxwell. It was also of the most vital importance to the cause of Abolition, that these men should not be permitted to escape without trial, because on their discharge they would have returned to their factories, revived the Slave Trade with increased vigour, and encouraged many others under the impunity by which they would have discovered themselves shielded. I therefore advised that Mr. Biggs should be sent to the Rio Pongas, to prevail on the King of the Soosoo nation, and the chiefs around him, *to permit the process of our court to extend to the white men in their dominions*, which was granted, and a sufficient number of competent witnesses were subpoenaed and brought to Sierra Leone. Hickson was acquitted; and after the jury had given a verdict of guilty against Samo, I endeavoured to prove to Governor Maxwell that the prisoner could not be legally convicted under the Act. He would not be convinced, and produced the *Edinburgh Review* to satisfy me I was wrong; however, I told him, as I could not pass sentence on Samo, he had better induce the native King, the Chiefs, and the Slave Traders, in the country where Samo had so long resided, to petition for his pardon, and, as an inducement to have it granted, solemnly promise that they would renounce the Slave Trade for ever; this they did, and Samo was liberated. When the miserable predicament into which I was thrown is considered, I leave it to the nation to determine, whether I served the Abolition cause, and saved Governor Maxwell or not.

No one was injured ; Samo had been confined for a few weeks, but there was an information filed against him for selling eighteen slaves, and he was fined eighteen hundred pounds, which was forgiven ; this was sufficient compensation ; but the pernicious consequences that must have arisen from his liberation without trial, were incalculable, he could not have been sent to England without witnesses to have convicted him, and such could not have been procured. As to Colonel Maxwell, every thing that friendship could dictate, I said, wrote, and did, to screen him in this case, and to prevent his ever exercising arbitrary power again, as my letters and conduct fully prove. I assured him I could not legally pronounce sentence on Samo ; also in the letter given by the Directors, (page 101, Special Report) I advise him not to exceed the powers vested in him by his commission and the Royal Instructions, and in my letter given in their Appendix, I mention, that on my return to England *, “ the “ difficulties and doubts that *are now* on my mind “ will be removed :” yet the Directors publicly declare, that it was under the precedent of my con-

* The difficulties and doubts that were on my mind, I communicated specifically to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, or to the first Lord of the Admiralty, as they happened to be appropriate either department, as regularly as to the Governor ; had I been in error I presumed I should have been corrected, yet my mind was not satisfied. I confess I did not consult the very *high authority of the Institution*, though they inform the nation they were in the habit of instructing the Secretary of State.

R. T.

duct on Samo's seizure, that Governor Maxwell proceeded in the cases of Brodie, Cooke, and Dunbar, after my return to England.

The Report continues, " but Mr. Thorpe had, " while in the exercise of the same jurisdiction, " tried several Slave Traders, convicted three, sentenced one to seven years transportation, another " to three years hard labour on the public works, " in cases to all of which the same objection applied." This is as unfounded as the rest of the assertions made against me in the Special Report. The fact is, two of those persons who admitted themselves to be British subjects were brought from Bance Island, where they had committed the crime of Slave Trading, which island was held by Mr. Anderson by a grant from the Crown, and at the time of the trial was in our possession as a depot for the recruiting party from the West India regiments; I maintain they were legally tried and convicted under the Act, though pardoned.

A British subject also was sent from Dick's Cove, (a settlement on the Gold Coast in possession of the Crown) to Sierra Leone, to be tried for aiding and abetting the Slave Trade; now I contend this person was legally tried, and I defy the Institution and all their vindictive partizans, to produce one instance of my having acted illegally in my public, or immorally in my private conduct; the Nation (from the Special Report) will be convinced they would if they could, lay charges and induce conviction.

As for the assertion that Colonel Maxwell or Mr. Purdie followed my precedents, it is well known that from the hour I left the Colony they overturned and derided every thing I had done in the court, or out of the court, pointedly pursued a directly opposite course, and declared they did not desire law to be the rule of their conduct, and never suffered it to be a restraint.

The Directors conclude—" As to the respectful
 " and sympathetic style in which Mr. T. speaks of
 " these men, one of whom he had himself adjudged
 " to the pillory, and all of whom he admits to have
 " been Slave Traders, it would be difficult to ex-
 " plain, even on the principles assumed by him-
 " self. With his affected zeal for the Abolition, it
 " is still less reconcilable." I never spoke of these
 men respectfully—I punished one of them when
 the law would reach him; was I to sacrifice the
 law to administer to their popularity? They have
 proved my zeal for the Abolition, thanks to their
 malignity.

10th. " The Trial and Condemnation of Bostwick
 " and Mac Queen, mentioned by Mr. T. in terms of
 " strong censure, stand on precisely the same
 " ground as those of Brodie, Cooke and Dunbar."
 This is another false statement; for those men, under
 the influence of both hope and fear, and a promise of
 immediate pardon, were induced to acknowledge
 they had been concerned in the Slave Trade, and
 without any grand jury, indictment, witnesses, coun-
 sel, or form of trial, they were sentenced to fourteen

years transportation, and have been sent to Botany Bay;—of this fact, there is now abundance of proof in England,—the voice of justice and humanity has reached the throne; and I have been informed, that orders have issued for reversing their sentence, by which they will ultimately be relieved from their illegal sufferings.

Surely there never was such conduct exhibited under the pretence of administering English Law!! nor such atrocities ever practised by any civilized nation.

11th. “ Mr. T. also severely censures the conduct of Governor Maxwell, and Captains Scobell and Maxwell, for destroying the slave factories, in the rivers Mesarado and Pongas, and liberating the slaves found there.” I did not mention the names of Captains Scobell and Maxwell, that was reserved for their kind friends in the Institution. The Special Report states, “ the slave factories, which were destroyed, belonged *exclusively* to British and American subjects.”—This is not true. “ The factories were planted on ground over which the native jurisdiction did not extend.”—This is not true. “ They were distinct and separate from the towns and villages of the natives.”—This is not true. The “ attack and destruction of the factories, Mr. T. calls an invasion of the territories of our allies;”—“ the liberation of the captives detained in the slave yard, or in the chains of those contemners of the laws of their country, he denominates carrying away the subjects of our allies,

“ and the demolition of the slave houses, and slave
 “ holds of these British and American miscreants,
 “ he calls destroying the possessions of the natives.”
 There never was such a fallacious rhapsody published
 before, under the sanction of great names; and if all
 this statement were true, it would not invalidate my
 assertion. Great Britain has no possessions at Cape
 Mesarado, nor in the Rio Pongas, yet the Governor
 of Sierra Leone sent an armed force, and destroyed
 the habitations, and carried away the property of the
 white men indiscriminately, who had for twenty
 years resided in the dominion, and under the pro-
 tection, of the African Kings and Chieftains. All
 slaves, on this occasion, were seized upon, without
 distinction, whether they belonged to white or black
 men, and many were taken, that were not slaves;
 some persons, who in their own country, resisted
 these violent depredations, were killed or wounded,
 or obliged to fly from their homes. The white men
 were caught, carried in irons to Sierra Leone, and
 condemned by an illegal power to transportation,
 while the black natives thus seized were condemned
 to our Sovereign, and instantly turned into soldiers
 for life, or placed as the Governor thought fit;
 for these acts of lawless power, in forcing the na-
 tives from their masters, parents, and happiness, ap-
 plause is demanded from the nation, and head
 money from the treasury. Undoubtedly, it was as
 much an invasion of the territories of our allies, as if
 we had invaded Russia or Holland in the same way;
 and much more disgraceful and cruel, because the
 blacks are poor, defenceless, inoffensive beings, look-

ing to the English for example, precept and protection. Bostwick was dragged to a prison, and without trial, transported for fourteen years; his houses burned, his property destroyed; his respectable widowed mother disgraced; every prospect in life blasted, and every hour embittered; he was asked to accuse some merchants in Liverpool for being concerned in the slave trade; he declared he knew of none; then he was told to acknowledge he had been in the trade himself, and he would be liberated; he did so, and was thrown into irons; not an accusation made, or a witness produced. M'Queen was similarly circumstanced, and they are now in Botany Bay. Brodie declares, he is ready to prove that from the moment he renounced the slave trade on Samo's pardon, he never had the slightest concern with that trade in any shape. Two little negro boys, under eleven years of age, without having the least knowledge of an oath, or knowledge of our language, were induced to say, under the utmost terror and in tears, that he was their *father*, and then it was proved that a person who had been his servant sold them; this man's property was completely destroyed, and from the severe treatment he experienced, I learn that half of his face has been eaten away by disease; he has been restored, by a reversion of his sentence, indigent and disfigured, to a reputable family. Hickson is now labouring on the public works at Sierra Leone. We are indignant that a white man, a British subject, in such a climate, at all seasons, should toil under a vertical sun; but every feeling is agonized, when we know he was illegally

sentenced to such punishment. Of Cooke and Dunbar, I know little more than that one is an American and the other a Spaniard. All this is applauded by those religious, moral, benevolent gentlemen, who, because they cannot extricate their partizans, would entangle me in their criminality; and, because I have not implicit faith in all they profess, nor revere them as immaculate, they load me with opprobrious epithets, as profusely, as they lavish panegyrics on themselves. This storm of passion blows them into a sea of absurdity, while they declare "I sympathize with slave traders," they publish to the world irrefragable proof from my letters, that I dedicated my whole mind, resigned every comfort on earth, and would have hazarded my life in the cause of Abolition. They preach their zeal to conciliate the African Chiefs, and at the same time praise those who have irritated, and driven them to the verge of war; they proclaim themselves the Protectors of Sierra Leone; and, after causing insurrection by breach of promise to the settlers, they endanger the extermination of its inhabitants by breach of faith with the neighbour chiefs.

I feel it incumbent on me, while treating on this subject, to point out a new instance of this voraciousness for head-money, and a propensity to oppression, under the mask of Abolition. Colonel Maxwell, having heard there was a ship in the river Sherborough, (not in British territory) intending to take on board a cargo of two hundred slaves, sent a force and brought her to Sierra Leone, where Sur-

geon Purdie condemned her and two hundred slaves who were never on board the ship, nor brought to Sierra Leone! However, this *slight defect* was to be repaired, and Governor Maxwell sent an order to the chiefs "forthwith to send the slaves, or all their habitations and property should be destroyed." All they could procure were sent, and a promissory note given for the remainder. Shortly after this mandate, a gentleman, who had long resided at Sierra Leone, stopped at the entrance of the Sherborough, and found all the people moving from their houses. He enquired the reason, and was told they were ordered to send slaves to Sierra Leone; that as they had none, their possessions were to be destroyed. Just at that time, Colonel Maxwell having fortunately sailed for England, the gentleman informed the Chief that he would apply to Colonel Macarthy (then commanding at Sierra Leone) for a protection, that he might relate the circumstance in person; he obtained a protection, and the son of the Chief being sent to Sierra Leone, assured the Lieutenant Governor they had no slaves, that he had fifty brothers and sisters, with whom they could not part; he expressed a hope, that as his countrymen had done the Colony no injury, their property and habitations should not be destroyed; and that he would purchase slaves as fast he could, and send them by six and seven at a time to Sierra Leone, till the two hundred demanded as the tribute for their safety was made up. Lieutenant Governor Macarthy very properly refused to receive the slaves, and the Chief escaped having his town destroyed by

Governor Maxwell's absence, without purchasing slaves for its redemption. This statement can be proved by persons now in London ; and I leave it to the Paragraph writers, Magazine editors, Pamphleteers and Reviewers amongst and about the little select party to defend. " I can nothing to abominate add, greater than this."

The Special Report attempts to impose an idea on the public, that Great Britain has the same right over Cape Mesarado, and the Rio Pongas, as she possesses over the British Forts, on the Gold Coast ; there is only this *small* difference ; the forts on the Gold Coast are held by a chartered Company, were always considered as British possessions, and are supported by an annual Parliamentary grant of twenty-five thousand a-year, whereas Great Britain has not a fort, or a possession of any sort at Mesarado, or the Rio Pongas, nor does she claim or pay for one foot of territory there ; nor do the Native Chiefs allow to Great Britain any authority over those places. So independent do they consider themselves, that in 1812, on some trifling complaint, a Chieftain in the Rio Pongas seized the government schooner of Sierra Leone, dismantled her, and threw the master and crew into prison. The Reporter's information and veracity is equally conspicuous on all these subjects.

The Report endeavours to shew that I countenanced these depredations, and that this outrageous conduct may be considered as derived from my own

authority; this is *happily* established by extracts from letters, said to be mine, to Governor Maxwell, and expressions which I am supposed to have used at trials. Now, on examination, these letters will be found to contain the most friendly advice to Governor Maxwell, to guard him against exercising arbitrary power, and to hold himself not justifiable in doing what his commission or instructions did not authorize. It is evident, those atrocious acts could never have been committed, had my advice been followed; but the moment I left the colony, all restraint was removed, Governor Maxwell conceived the African Institution would support him through every thing, and those unparalleled acts may be considered, as committed under their own sanction. The predatory expeditions on the African coast were popular tales in England; the Institution declared their zeal for Abolition, and applauded their partizans to partake of the praise; but when truth came forth, and popularity retreated, every despotic and illegal proceeding was to be attributed to my advising Governor Maxwell to send Mr. Biggs to the Rio Pongas, to induce the Chiefs to permit the process of our Courts to attach to white men in their dominions, that evidence might be procured against slave traders. I wished to screen Colonel Maxwell, to restrain him from arbitrary acts, to gain him merit, to conciliate the Chiefs, and wean them from the slave trade by supplying their comforts, for their produce: this is termed "sympathising with slave traders," this is authorising barbarous invasion of, and merciless depredations in our Allies' territories, without which

the Report declares, "there is an end of all hope, either of extinguishing the slave trade, or of civilizing Africa." Merciful and wise Devotees; unintentional ignorance might palliate, if wilful malignity did not criminate you, beyond redemption.

I am censured for publishing Mr. Macaulay's private letters, which I did not do; they were letters long before the public, which I made illustrative of the subject on which I wrote. Surely this was justifiable; but the Directors publish my letters, written in the most confidential privacy, and this will be considered worthy of praise; but I submit to pass through the ordeal produced for my destruction, and to be judged by those very letters—The enraged viper perishes by his own venom.

I leave it to the Directors to reflect on the acts they have endeavored to justify, the persons they are laboring to promote, and the continued calamity their interference has caused. Delusive good intention cannot excuse the pertinacious protection of depravity. Those personages (who denominate themselves "the best benefactors of oppressed Africa,") cannot be ignorant of the present disturbed state of that Continent in and about Sierra Leone; that the faithless and perfidious disregard of territorial rights, the plunder and destruction of subjects and friends, has roused the Chiefs to unite against Sierra Leone; the inhabitants of which place have been obliged to send a remonstrance to the British Government, conceiving the white men and their property most perilously

circumstanced ; a deputation from the black men has arrived in London, complaining of accumulated oppressions, and the harbour of Sierra Leone is crowded with slave ships, waiting for adjudication, but there is neither law to redress the settler, nor to emancipate the slave. Such is the condition of this renowned spot, selected for a display of philanthropy and benevolence ; such the effect produced by these celebrated protectors, professors and promisers, after twenty-four years of clamour. Had these worthy Directors only possessed the authority they desired, * from the Gambia to Angola, it is evident, that calamity would have been heaped on calamity, until England's interference, must have become the bane of African happiness ; for literally, Upas like, they poison every thing salutary within their influence.

12th. Answered already in my reply to the 6th.

13th. Great names prove nothing.

14th. " Mr. T. insinuates that the Board wished " to conceal the affair of the 167 Negroes being sold " at Sierra Leone." I never insinuated any such thing, because I knew they could not conceal that public sale, however anxiously they might have wished it buried in oblivion, for Governor Thompson made it sufficiently notorious ; shortly after his arrival in the Colony, he published the whole transaction, and detailed every circumstance to the Secretary of State. If the select party would

* See Mr. Macaulay's *disinterested* letter, page 38, Pamphlet, page 73.

employ their influence usefully, they might procure for those truly concerned for Africa, Captain Thompson's correspondence (while Governor of Sierra Leone) with Lord Castlereagh, then Secretary of State. Let them print these six long interesting letters, not six irrelevant lines; they will then do Captain Thompson justice and Africa benefit. The interference of the Institution on the sale of the 167 Slaves at Sierra Leone, does not appear to have arisen from a desire to redress the injury to the cause, but to secure the profit to their Friend.

15th. I leave this for Capt. Thompson's reply.

16th. There never was a greater combination of falsehood and wickedness than is contained in this whole paragraph: it quotes a passage from my Letter, page 16, "Truth and honor, says Mr. Thorpe, were Mr. Thompson's qualifications," and then the Special Report says, I stigmatize Colonel Maxwell as a man "destitute of truth and honor"—and mark it as a passage from my public Letter, though I never wrote or published any such sentence.

Attempting to make my conduct appear inconsistent, the Directors published a Letter of mine to Colonel Maxwell, dated March, 1813, and six extracts from former Letters to the same person, all of which are complimentary and friendly; then they continue, "Governor Maxwell on his return to England in September last, deemed it his

“ duty to prefer grave and serious charges against
 “ Mr. Thorpe, before the Secretary of State for
 “ the Colonial Department ;” “ for the sake of
 “ peace, and as he conceived for the very existence
 “ of the Colony, he was compelled to prefer those
 “ complaints against Mr. Thorpe, which have
 “ issued in his dismissal.” To exhibit the vicious-
 ness of this statement, I must produce such docu-
 ments as will prove it one of the most detestable
 fabrications ever published. I never heard of those
 grave and serious charges, or of any charge being
 preferred against me by Governor Maxwell, or
 any other person, and the ostensible cause assigned
 for my dismissal rested on the very reverse of any
 charge being preferred against me, as will appear
 from Mr. Goulburn’s Letter,

I lived in habits of intimacy and friendship with
 Colonel Maxwell ; for nearly two years he was my
 sole companion, his manners were engaging, and
 his attention so unremitting, that every wish was
 anticipated. Was I not bound by politeness to pay
 him every flattering attention ? The most friendly
 intercourse induced me to give him the best advice :
 to support his administration was my duty, to give
 it praise, my wish ; to suffer every thing meritorious
 to be attributed to him, to mark out salutary con-
 duct, and stimulate him to pursue it, my letters prove
 these to have been my only objects. The impropriety
 of his conduct never came before me officially ; and
 no person could presume to relate any thing to
 me while in the Colony, injurious to him. Major

Winkfield once attempted to speak reproachfully of him, and to shew me the charges he was to exhibit against Governor Maxwell, on his arrival in England, I suppressed all conversation on the subject in the commencement; but the moment I left the Colony all restraint vanished, every passion was unbridled, and the most oppressive, injurious and disgraceful proceedings took place.

The people expecting my return hoped for redress, and held in a state of terror, did not openly utter their complaints until they were assured that such interest would be exerted in England, as must prevent my return; therefore on Colonel Maxwell's leaving the Colony, the Inhabitants forwarded to me such charges against the Governor, as they expected would have prevented his return; they also promised to supply additional charges of as much enormity as those transmitted, and they have done so.

I considered the charges, the proofs, and the declaration that I was not to return; I consulted such persons as could give me information, and clearly saw there was a firm combination of power to prevent me from resuming my situation, lest I should be enabled more fully to expose and convict the perpetrators of these oppressions. I therefore sent the charges against Governor Maxwell to Lord Bathurst, almost in the words I had received them, with a request that he would transmit them to the

Privy Council; and in ten days afterwards, sent my Letter to Mr. Wilberforce, to be published, in which I mentioned that “ the calamitous accounts “ I had recently received from Sierra Leone, “ imperiously demanded from me some effort at “ that moment.”

Having thus discharged my duty, I should have silently suffered the whole matter to remain with the Secretary of State, had not the little Select Party by exerting their influence to oppress, and their malice to traduce, forced the subject before that Public, whose august tribunal can elevate the highest or degrade the greatest, and we now stand for judgment.

About the end of March, when my Memorial to the King in Council had lain two months unanswered by Lord Bathurst, I received a Letter from Mr. Goulburn, the under Secretary of State, by his Lordship's directions, containing the following passage——“ With regard to the Memorial “ bringing forward various charges against the “ Governor (Maxwell) and some subordinate Offi- “ cers of the Colony, I am to acquaint you, that “ Lord Bathurst views it with considerable sur- “ prize, whether the charges contained in it be “ true, or false, it evinces on your part a most “ culpable dereliction of your public duty, render- “ ing you in every respect unfit for the station “ you have held. If it be true, as you now state,

“ that Governor Maxwell has defrauded the Trea-
 “ sury of this Country, has oppressed the Inhabi-
 “ tants of Sierra Leone, by illegal exactions, and
 “ other arbitrary measures, and in some instances
 “ committed crimes of a most heinous complexion,
 “ it was clearly your duty, as the first Magistrate
 “ of the Colony, to have represented these circum-
 “ stances to Government, and to have given them
 “ the opportunity of redressing the grievances and
 “ punishing the offenders ; so far from doing this,
 “ you have never hinted at any impropriety in
 “ Governor Maxwell’s conduct or administration,
 “ and since your return, you have repeatedly both
 “ in personal interviews, and by letter, expressed
 “ the highest opinion of Governor Maxwell’s
 “ general character, and above all of ‘ his judg-
 “ ment and integrity.’ I need only refer to your
 “ own letters as transmitted with your Memorials
 “ for evidence of these assertions. If on the other
 “ hand the charges upon enquiry should prove to
 “ be unfounded, your conduct, in that case, is
 “ indefensible. Under these circumstances there-
 “ fore, Lord Bathurst has thought it his duty to
 “ submit to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent,
 “ the necessity of removing you from the situation
 “ of Chief Justice of the Colony of Sierra Leone.”

(Signed)

HENRY GOULBURN.

Dated March 1815, without any day of the
 month.—This Letter, I answered nearly in the
 following words :

“ For the information of Lord Bathurst, I beg
“ leave concisely and respectfully to reply, that no-
“ thing in the slightest degree connected with those
“ charges ever came before me publicly or officially,
“ nor was it possible for me to be acquainted with
“ those circumstances when in the Colony, as they
“ have nearly *all occurred since my departure from*
“ *thence* ; of the few minor circumstances, that did
“ occur during my residence, the vicious part was
“ carefully concealed from me, therefore I could not
“ have represented to Government matter of which
“ I had neither knowledge nor proof ; it is very
“ lately that the subject matter of the charges was
“ detailed to me, and until then I had no communi-
“ cation with those enabled to establish the truth of
“ these statements. Complaints were not sent to
“ me until the Settlers were assured I never would
“ be suffered to return to the Colony. The little
“ I did know, I privately labored to have re-
“ dressed ; and as to any thing I have either said
“ or written, about Colonel Maxwell, I am ready
“ to shew it was perfectly compatible with the
“ exhibition of those charges made on the 23d of
“ January last ; therefore I am satisfied Lord
“ Bathurst would not submit any proposition to
“ His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, for my
“ removal, at least until on enquiry the charges
“ are proved unfounded ; but should his Lordship,
“ by any possibility be induced to make any re-
“ presentation for my removal, his high sense of
“ honor and justice will induce him to give me
“ such notice as will enable me to defend my

“ conduct and character before the King in Coun-
 “ cil. Then it will be known how far I have
 “ been guilty of a ‘ culpable dereliction of my
 “ public duty,’ or my conduct been indefensible.
 “ His Lordship would not wish to have any person
 “ condemned untried ; he would not on imaginary
 “ crime, inflict punishment, nor would he desire
 “ to have a person who had relinquished the
 “ practice of his profession, for the service of
 “ Government, and faithfully discharged the duties
 “ of a Judge for thirteen years, removed, without
 “ enquiry or remuneration.”

(Signed)

ROBERT THORPE.

Dated March 27th, 1815.

On the 7th of April, I had the honour of re-
 ceiving a Letter from Lord Bathurst, informing
 me that His Royal Highness the Prince Regent
 had *revoked* my appointment, and nominated Mr.
 Hogan to succeed me.

There is here no manifestation of charges being
 exhibited against me, and a direct refutation is given
 to the assertion, “ that I was dismissed on account
 “ of those complaints which Governor Maxwell
 “ was obliged to prefer against me for the sake
 “ of peace, and for the very existence of the Colony.”

The Public must read with astonishment this
 Special Report, which for misrepresentation, malign-
 ity, persecution, and fabrication is unexampled.

It is apparent no impartial investigation had taken place, but that I was dismissed for not doing that which by no physical possibility I could have done; therefore it is also clear that Lord Bathurst (whose mind was continually occupied with a multitude of more important concerns) was deceived with regard to me and my conduct, by a continued series of misrepresentations.

I must call the reader's attention to page 6, of my Letter to Mr. Wilberforce, where I write—
 “ Did the Directors of the Sierra Leone Company
 “ imagine, by blazoning the virtues of those who
 “ seemed anxious to exterminate the Slave Trade,
 “ they would prevent their transactions from being
 “ divulged, or if *revealed*, they could induce this
 “ nation to discredit any authority that might dare
 “ to give them utterance ?” and beg of him to reflect how forcibly the Report has shewn that they hold themselves too high to be reached, and with the voice of defamation can blast and wither all beneath, that dare to reveal their conduct; but most providentially, “ my enemy has written a book,” and we are now fully before a tribunal, where *truth* must prevail.

17th. “ Mr. Thorpe charges the Institution
 “ with fallaciously representing that the Slave
 “ Trade was diminishing,” and by garbled extracts from my letters to Colonel Maxwell, the Special Report tries to prove me inconsistent. In these extracts, I state that I had crippled the

Slave Trade, and that there was an interval in which it did not appear so brisk. This is all true; but it did not diminish the Slave Trade, for after the Portuguese knew my decisions, they confined themselves more to Adjuda, Princes, Cabenda, St. Paul's de Loandes, Nova Rodunda, and St. Philip Benguila, as places from whence they conceived themselves justified in taking Slaves by the Treaty of 1810. Thus they safely exported double their former numbers; and although their trade was crippled north, it increased south of the Equator. The Spaniards also changed their system; they gave up large ships, and procured schooners, with American navigators, which went in and out of the rivers so expeditiously, that they were seldom captured, and the business of the Vice Admiralty Court was consequently much diminished.

It is scarcely necessary to arrest the Reader's attention, to the conduct of the composers of this Report, in so repeatedly giving extracts from my private letters to Colonel Maxwell, or to point out the ignominy that must attach to the person who retained and furnished them. Contemplate this man, while I considered myself imbosomed in the most friendly security, collecting my confidential communications, bundling them to Birchin Lane, and hovering about me, like a bird of prey, to catch the moment for my destruction; most happily, they frustrate the malignant design for which they were supplied. They manifest with what indefatigable zeal I laboured in the cause of

G

Abolition ; that though in an infirm state of health, I was determined to return to the Coast, at the hazard of my life, to sacrifice every comfort, and even the prosperity of my family, to promote the cause. I never promulgated the purport of those letters ; I never claimed any merit, but ascribed to Colonel Maxwell every benefit that arose. Yet now that my exertions must be apparent to those professors of attachment to Africa, they combine to oppress and traduce me, and induce my dismissal from that station, in which they prove I had done much for the Abolition, and could still have done more. If sincere in the cause, they might hate the man, yet love his zeal, and stimulate his ardour ; but every breath must be suppressed, that does not fan their popularity.

. 18th. It is really irritating to unfold the deception of this plausible Report, on the subject of the treatment of the captured negroes. The Directors begin by referring to the fabricated statement from Mr. Macaulay's relative, as given in the Report of the 28th of February, 1810, which I exposed in my answer to that Report. The Special Report insists on the difficulty of making arrangements for the disposal of the captured negroes, eight years after the regulations should have been settled. Governor Thompson found no difficulty, for at the commencement he placed them on farms, gave them implements for cultivation, some clothing, and agreed to supply them with rice for a year ; but after that period they were to subsist by

their own exertions. Thus matured from infancy and stimulated to industry, they fulfilled their engagement, and became useful settlers ; but from the moment Governor Thompson was removed, and the partizans of the manager restored, emolument succeeded protection, and enlistment, liberation.

An extract is next given from a letter, without *name* or *date*, and the public are told it was written *without any view to the present enquiry*. This extract points out the settlements of the captured negroes, falsely stating that the plan was begun at Cabenda, whereas Governor Thompson commenced it with the Bambana people, when he placed them in Leicester mountain. The Cabenda people fled from Freetown, and settled in the mountains ; one very excellent settlement has been made at the Hogbrook, since I stated the situation of the captured negroes, on my arrival in England from Sierra Leone. It is also stated in this anonymous letter, that the " captured negroes get two complete suits of English clothes on their landing." This is true. Since Governor Maxwell turned trader, he has supplied them from his own store, and charged as high a price to Government as any merchant on the coast would have done. Does this benefit appear to have been conferred for the comfort of the negro, or for the profit of the trade ? as I learn there was seventy-five per cent. charged on the article, without duty ; though affirmed it was to prevent extortion, *the Governor sold slops*. Then it is said I should have made minutes in the Council, and protested against

the evil. I am ready to produce undoubted testimony that I did every thing my station would allow; that when I arrived in the Colony, I found the treatment of the captured negroes was as bad as it could have been in the West Indies; that I protected them from every oppression in my power. I caused several persons to be prosecuted for unmercifully chastising them; I caused the apprentices to be in some measure clothed, and complained of their ill treatment in the hospital. The captured negroes could not be instructed, for they were enlisted or apprenticed; nor could they be settled on farms, when the men and boys were thus disposed of. I never complained of proper and voluntary enlistments, but assisted them officially; had the captured negroes been judiciously treated, a sufficient supply would have been found among them well inclined to serve; and, many, to save punishment directed by the law, might have received pardon on becoming soldiers. By conciliating the native Chiefs, and establishing depôts on the coast, (as I recommended in my letters published by the Directors,) many advantages might have been effected; but I could not sanction the seizure of the poor ignorant captured negro the moment he landed a freeman, nor, their driving a terrified Being to the fort, who knew not what was said to him, nor what was to become of him, and without his feelings, knowledge or consent being in the least consulted, making him a soldier for life!! I could not counteract what an act of parliament seemed to authorise, nor even effect a melioration.

When the African Corps was formed, for the purpose of inflicting punishment and restraining execution, it consisted of four or five companies, commanded by a lieutenant colonel, and had one major; but it was a great object with the principal officers to increase the corps to eleven companies, by making the captured negroes soldiers; for it then became entitled to a colonel, two lieutenant colonels, and two majors, and is now one of the most lucrative regiments in the service. Here was rank, patronage and profit acquired at the expence of freedom, justice and humanity! What could I do to counteract this pernicious system? How could I oppose any arbitrary measures in a Council which was composed of the Governor, his Brigade Major, his Secretary, and myself? It was only on points of law that I could interfere, and even on such occasions, I was opposed, justice frustrated, and my protest not suffered by the Governor to be entered on the minutes. This I was informed of in October, 1814, and having an opportunity of reading the charge, some time after to the Clerk of the Council, then in London, he did not deny the fact, but said he was obliged to submit to power, and has been promoted, since, for his subserviency.

The Special Report then triumphantly states:
 “ The Directors, however, believe that those state-
 “ ments are unfounded; they have prosecuted
 “ their enquiries into the subject with much soli-
 “ titude, and the only particular instance they

“ have been able to discover since the period of
 “ Mr. Thorpe’s arrival in the Colony, is one of
 “ which the learned Judge himself appears to have
 “ been guilty. On the 29th, he addressed the fol-
 “ lowing note to G. Cristy, Esq. of the Royal
 “ African Corps, commanding at Fort Thornton :—
 “ Dear Sir, I beg you will put the three boys, named
 “ Jack, Sabby and Toby, that I send up, to a great
 “ deal of work and very little food, for three months,
 “ for stealing, or being accessory to the thefts of two
 “ goats, big in kid.”—I remember having sent two
 goats to the care of three boys, apprentices to Mr.
 Craig, which were stolen by them, or with their
 connivance, from them ; and would these merciful
 and judicious Directors have considered it more
 correct, had I caused those boys to have been com-
 mitted to gaol, where they would have been im-
 mured for months, tried by persons without any
 knowledge of criminal law, made liable to severe
 punishment, and have entailed heavy expence on
 the Colony. It was necessary to deter them
 from continuing this conduct, and it is pro-
 bable I wrote such a note (as the Directors have
 liberally published,) with the boys sent to
 Lieutenant Cristy. It is now to be considered,
 that the only place of confinement or punish-
 ment we had in the Colony, was a small house,
 containing four rooms, therefore, while the fort
 was repairing, we made it a kind of penitentiary
 place for sending pilfering boys and abandoned
 girls to work, by carrying earth in a box to the
 ramparts ; and as they considered that disgraceful,

I do not imagine those wise and benevolent Directors could have devised a better and less expensive mode of preventing a repetition of thefts or persistence in wanton profligacy. The boys remained in the fort a few days, with less work and less food, perhaps, than they would have had at home, and were liberated on application of their master.

Having ever maintained the "*Justum et tenacem propositi virum*," the Directors may bring forth every line I have written, and every commitment I have made; but they expect to slip through a heavy charge, by producing a note of mine, written in intimacy to an officer, who could not be treated as a gaoler, purloined from his bureau, and published above three years after his death, to distort lenity, into oppression.

Concerning the enlistment of captured negroes, the Directors refer to a letter of mine, which they publish in the Appendix to the Report. This does not shew any repugnance in me to the enlistment of blacks correctly; but, on the contrary, proposes a plan, by which we could obtain a superabundance of black soldiers voluntarily. The system they support were seizing the slaves of our allies, who had many prospects of redemption, (if they had not been captured,) and making them serve us involuntarily for life, without a hope of liberation, except by death. The system I proposed would have produced voluntary enlistment, and insured national advantage, without perfidy and disgrace.

The Report proceeds. "The Directors will
 "advert to one of Mr. Thorpe's charges, which is
 "made particularly prominent." "The women
 "and girls were selected for the basest purposes;"
 and from a note of mine they add, "the conduct of
 "those high in office, with respect to the captured
 "negro girls, is now under consideration, al-
 "luding, as the Directors presume, to some coun-
 "ter charges which Mr. T. thought proper to pre-
 "fer against Governor Maxwell. The Directors
 "have taken pains to investigate this very serious
 "imputation, but they have hitherto met with no
 "evidence, either oral or documentary, to support
 "it." Let any person interested in the cause, only
 reflect on the statement I have made concerning
 our treatment of the captured negroes, as contained
 in pages 23, 24 and 25 of my Letter to Mr. Wil-
 berforce; the injustice, inhumanity and national
 disgrace it exposes: yet those gentlemen, of unpa-
 ralleled excellence, conceive it sufficient to assure
 the public, "they have investigated this serious im-
 "putation, and find neither oral nor documentary
 "evidence to support it," Very probable, be-
 cause they never sought for a credible witness, nor
 a satisfactory document to examine; if they could
 have procured a scintillation of proof to have
 refuted my statement, would it not have been held
 forth most conspicuously? This alone demonstrates
 that there is nothing too base for palliation, no-
 thing too disgraceful for defence, every thing
 estimable may be sacrificed, if they are sup-
 ported, and their system preserved; but with con-

tinued *profession* they declare, "they are anxious
 " every abuse should be guarded against, and every
 " charge of misconduct vigorously investigated,
 " and, if well founded, severely punished," though
 they never would institute any enquiry that could
 induce truth. However, I have the pleasure to in-
 form those anxious Directors, that the charges pre-
 ferred by me, with large additions, are in a train
 for public investigation. This may serve as a timely
 notice to prepare all such charges as they have an-
 ticipated, and all such as they can fabricate against
 me. I will joyfully hail their appearance, for I
 shall ultimately find justice, unless she is entombed
 in England.

19th. In my representation of the state of morals
 at Sierra Leone, the Directors admit "there is
 " much truth." Thus these moral and religious
 men, with their wondrous promises, after possess-
 ing a few acres in Africa for twenty-three years,
 cannot deny that they have rendered it more de-
 praved than any other spot on that continent;
 "but they cannot help entertaining some doubts
 "whether the example of even Mr. Thorpe him-
 "self was particularly calculated to diminish the
 "evil." How detestable these vicious insinuations
 must make them appear to every amiable and li-
 beral mind! I have said enough before to disgrace
 them for this insinuation, as vicious, as false, and
 I will not speak of myself, unless compelled. It is
 disgusting to find those people assert with reiterat-
 ed assertion, and expose their assertion ever so

clearly, they assert the same again and again with unexampled effrontery ; proof they deprecate, and investigation they resist ; but if they ever have the hardihood to come forward with any thing tangible, (for I cannot intrude more of myself into this reply) I will produce such proof of my exertions to restore, those moral principles, which the depravity of their system had expelled, as will load them with reproach. After merging into Methodism the whole community, and demoralizing the settlers by the impiety of their tenets, these Puritans vilify every person who will not become a party bigot, a popularity zealot, and a sectarian fanatic.

20th. The backward state of cultivation the Directors attribute to the Militia law, because it drove the Maroons from the Colony, and next make me the cause of its being passed. Let it be remembered, the Act to which they allude was enacted in 1812, twenty years after the Colony came under the management of these efficient Directors, first in the Company's time, and afterwards under the Institution ; therefore their inattention to cultivation for twenty years, is confessed. Now I shall examine their truth and liberality in declaring the Militia Act to be an offspring of mine. Governor Maxwell informed me he wished a Militia law to be drawn, and sent Mr. Hamilton, the acting Attorney General, for instructions. I gave him the Local Militia Act of England, and desired him to make that his precedent ; he did so, and carried it to the Governor, who struck from the manuscript

the meliorating clauses, and gave instructions in writing, " that all persons from thirteen to sixty
 " should be enrolled, and that all persons not en-
 " rolled should be considered out of the protection
 " of the law;" which he added was the French mode, and better than ours. Mr. Hamilton brought to me the original manuscript, the Governor's instructions, and Bill drawn as directed. I collected three or four of the principal gentlemen of the Colony, and asked their opinion of the Bill as altered by the Governor; they agreed with me, and said it would be very objectionable in that form. I expostulated with the Governor; he answered, " it was a military law, and on that
 " subject he was the best judge;" and it was passed in the form he had prescribed. When it became a law, I did not consider it correct to yield instantly to a clamour, and when the Maroons resisted it, I went publicly and spoke to them; I then conversed with some of them at my own house, and was the means of inducing at least twelve of the principal families to remain, and suffer themselves to be enrolled. I would by degrees have reconciled them all, but Governor Maxwell published a most violent Proclamation* in the

* " George the Third, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain
 " and Ireland, King, &c. &c.

" A PROCLAMATION.

" Whereas, we have hitherto forbore carrying into effect
 " the penalty consequent to refusal of the oath prescribed
 " by an Act of our Governor and Council of this our Co-

King's name, without my advice, consent, or even knowledge, which drove the Maroons from the

“ lony, bearing date the 20th day of November, 1811, under
 “ the idea that the whole of the inhabitants affected thereby
 “ would return to a proper sense of their duty ; and this for-
 “ bearance, instead of producing those salutary effects, which
 “ we hoped would result from it, has, on the contrary, made
 “ erroneous impressions on many : We have therefore, by and
 “ with the advice of our Captain General and Governor in
 “ Chief, and also with the advice of our Council for this our
 “ Colony, thought fit to issue this our Royal Proclamation, to
 “ publish and declare, that for the immediate safety as well as
 “ future security of this infant Colony, all persons coming
 “ within the limits of the aforesaid Act, or between the ages
 “ of thirteen and sixty, who by refusing to take the said Mi-
 “ litia oath, have set an example of disaffection and insubor-
 “ dination to their children and apprentices, have forfeited
 “ every right and title to all and every species of property,
 “ whether moveable or immoveable, and are hereby, agree-
 “ ably to the first and second sections of the said Act, declared
 “ outlaws. That indulgence, which we granted them from
 “ motives of humanity, and which they have not had either
 “ gratitude to appreciate, or thankfulness to acknowledge,
 “ draws fast to a close. Know therefore, that as soon as the
 “ rains are well over, or on the 20th of November next ensuing,
 “ it is our will and pleasure, that every person coming within
 “ the operation of the Militia Act, and persisting in refusal to
 “ conform to this or any other law by which our subjects are
 “ governed, shall cease to be residents in any part of the penin-
 “ sula of Sierra Leone. In conformity, however, with that
 “ moderation which has guided us in every measure of the
 “ Government of this our Colony, and which by some may
 “ have been ascribed to timidity, we are pleased to declare
 “ that the Princess Charlotte, or some other of our vessels,
 “ shall convey to whatever part of the coast, in the neighbour-
 “ hood they may point out, such people, with their families,
 “ as are dissatisfied with our laws.

Colony ; their houses and property were then seized upon in the King's name, and marked with the broad arrow. I learn Governor Maxwell converted some of them to his own use. One instance I shall relate, as detailed to me by good authority : Governor Maxwell ordered the house of a Maroon, named Herbert Jarrat, to be sold, and purchased it himself for one hundred and seven pounds, the sister of Jarrat offered the money it was sold for ; but he retained the purchase, and ordered some of the African Corps who were mechanics to put the house into repair, after which he sold it to Government for five hundred pounds, and received bills on the Treasury for the amount. There are persons now in London who can attest what I have said respecting the Militia Act and the purchase and sale of Jarrat's house.

The Special Report proceeds, " Had it not been
 " for the moderation and forbearance of Governor
 " Maxwell, these violent counsels of Mr. Thorpe
 " might have produced the most calamitous conse-
 " quences, by pursuing a more lenient course the set-
 " tlers were reclaimed to their duty, returned to the
 " colony, and resumed their farms, but not until a
 " month or two after Mr. Thorpe had quitted it."

" Witness his Excellency Charles William Maxwell, Captain
 " General, and Governor in Chief in and over our Colony of
 " Sierra Leone, Chancellor Ordinary and Vice Admiral of the
 " same, at Freetown, the 26th day of September, in the year
 " of our Lord 1812, and in the 52d of our Reign.

" GOD SAVE THE KING."

What will the Directors say, when the public are assured, that there has been a deputation from the Maroons in London for three months past, whose declared object is to complain against the oppressive proceedings of Governor Maxwell, and if they are not redressed, they declare it to be their intention to abandon the colony of Sierra Leone and return to Jamaica, or to emigrate to the Boolam shore : they have also declared, that if Colonel Maxwell shall be permitted to return as Governor to Sierra Leone, that they will leave the colony as it is not possible to enjoy the blessings of English Law, under his arbitrary government ; such is the substance of their complaints.

This is the developement of what the Directors term Colonel Maxwell's " moderation, forbearance, and lenient course for conciliation," and the result of " my violent counsels which produced the most calamitous consequences ;" but with their accustomed veracity, they declare Colonel Maxwell, in a month or two after my departure from the colony, had induced the Maroons " to return and resume their farms," this is publicly made above two years after I had left the colony, and one month after this declaration, a deputation arrives from the Maroons, to assure the British Government that they would rather relinquish every comfort, their industry for fourteen years had created, than remain under Colonel Maxwell. The truth is literally this, from the moment Governor Maxwell would pass the Act, I laboured to sooth and reconcile the Maroons to it, and was provoked at their not placing more implicit reliance on my construction ; but previous to their releav-

ing the colony, I sent confidentially one of the leading men to their active Chief, with such a communication as I considered would have changed their intention; to this I received no reply, and finding them so obstinate and violent, I might have written such a letter as the Directors have vindictively and uselessly published as mine, but the message was not delivered, my confidence betrayed, and the benefit prevented.

The Act might have been palliated, but the arbitrary proclamation in the King's name, with the despotic conversion of property for private emolument, is consigned for approbation and applause to those Directors, whose Manager it was openly asserted in the Colony, had pledged himself to carry the Governor safely through every action; then after imboldening atrocity, with the confidence of impunity; the most nefarious statements are made to smother inquiry, and the most malignant falsehoods published, to crush the upholders of truth.—I wish I could separate the innocent from the guilty, but it is the manager's art to mix great names in such a manner as to render it impossible. Their quiver is empty, and the arrows have recoiled upon themselves.

21st. Here for the fourth time they have attempted to insinuate, I could know little from having resided only twenty-one months in the colony. I have to refer to what I have answered on this accusation in the commencement of the Reply, and to add that I saw the depositions of nearly two hundred slave traders, conversed with the most intelligent of them,

and read the private correspondence of thousands from the coast of Africa to the Brazils, and from the Brazils to the coast, detailing the most minute circumstances concerning the trade in both continents: I have visited almost every considerable settlement from Senegal to Annobona, south of the equator; and the Directors will admit I have not been inattentive to the subjects since my return; therefore, although I have been for seven years and a half incessantly drawing; from every source I could discover, all possible information that could attach to the colony, the western coast of Africa in general, and the slave trade in particular, yet I cannot communicate any species of intelligence that might be important; but an interested trader, who has only been at Sierra Leone once for about two years, twenty years since; and knows nothing of any other part of Africa, or the Slave Trade, can alone inform all England, generally, particularly, and correctly on all African subjects!

The Special Report proceeds, "In opposition to the testimony of almost every other individual that has known Sierra Leone, Mr. T. states, that *nothing* has been effected or even *attempted* in civilization, either by the Sierra Leone Company, the African Institution; or servants of his Majesty." Here they choose to mix themselves with the servants of the Crown, and assert that I had done the same, though I had never mentioned the servants of the Crown; and they speak of "the testimony of almost every individual that knew Sierra Leone," but carefully avoid any names, like the fabricated letter

they produce, as "written without any view to the present enquiry." I have defied them to bring forth a credible witness, who could declare that the Sierra Leone Company, or African Institution, had ever effected or attempted any thing beneficial towards civilizing Africa. They go on, "In addition to any attempts which have been made by the African Institution in the work of direct instruction, much has been effected by the Church Missionary Society." They have confessed already that the African Institution attempted nothing in education, until they sent out Mr. Sutherland, a few months ago, as a school-master, and now write irrelevantly as to what other Societies are beneficially doing, hoping to attract a little for the African Institution. As to the Church Missionary Society, I never intimated any thing derogatory to their exertions; but, on the contrary, have applauded their efforts in education. Exultingly the Directors exclaim, "If the great bar to African civilization be the Slave Trade, then they flatter themselves they have attempted much for Africa." I have shewn in pages 50 and 51 of my Letter to Mr. Wilberforce, how little the abolition of the Slave Trade had been promoted; now I will shew how much it has been injured by their efforts, and leave it for the public to pronounce how much "they flatter themselves," in expecting to continue this delusion much longer.

22d. "Mr. T. asks why the Institution did not labor to have the Slave Trade pronounced a viola-

H

“ tion of the law of nature and nations by the European Powers assembled in Congress ?” Then they answer for themselves, “ Did they not do so ?” I answer, they did make an ostentations display of exertion ; but it was done so injudiciously and injuriously, as to leave their *object* doubtful ; for I have already shewn, that whenever universal Abolition is attained, the trader’s profit at Sierra Leone must diminish, and the popularity plaything evaporate.

The Directors ask, “ by whom was the example first set of calling meetings to petition the Legislature, and by whom was the expence chiefly borne ? The African Institution.” Now with great respect for many persons who assisted in calling the meeting at Freemasons’ Hall, I must declare that I should have considered public meetings in all the counties and great towns in Great Britain, regularly convened, more correct and dignified : I did view that meeting, as improper and degrading. The managing Director of the African Institution became master of the ceremonies at Freemasons’ Tavern ; he ordered the most distinguished personages in the kingdom to public exhibition ; he had the Resolutions settled, the proposer and seconder called forth, and the moment this ceremony was over, the assembly broke up. After collecting many petitions, they get the opinion of England on the Slave Trade laid before the Congress, without having established any foundation for its good reception. The Sovereign Powers assembled, knew

Great Britain had abolished the Slave Trade herself; and now she called on them to make all other nations do the same; this must naturally have appeared a strong measure, to control independent kingdoms, in what they considered a legitimate trade; they hesitated, and concluded that they would exercise a great extent of power, by resolving it should expire in eight years, which was continuing it for three years and a half beyond the time Lord Castlereagh had settled with France. Now I ask every impartial person, if a great diplomatic document had been ably drawn up, proving the Slave Trade “to be
 “ illegitimate, as it was a violation of the law of
 “ nature and nations; that each individual nation is
 “ bound to contribute to the prosperity and perfec-
 “ tion of all the others”—“ that no one nation
 “ should hinder another from attaining the ends of
 “ civil society, or render her incapable of attaining
 “ it, which general principle forbids nations to
 “ practise any evil manœuvres, tending to create
 “ disturbances in another state, to foment discord, to
 “ corrupt its people, or deprive them of natural ad-
 “ vantages;” and lastly, “ that it is the duty of so-
 “ vereigns to chastise nations which are guilty of
 “ enormous transgressions against the Law of
 “ Nature”—Whether such a manifesto, would not
 have laid the foundation of a combined protest against
 this abhorred traffic, and made it imperative on the
 assembled Sovereigns to have annihilated the trade?
 It is natural to conclude, that when Great Britain
 had pledged France by treaty to aid her in the uni-
 versal suppression of the trade in five years, that

these two pre-eminent Powers must have effected it, as Spain and Portugal alone persisted in this inhuman traffic; whereas, it is now postponed for eight years by the ill-judged application to Congress, which arose from the improper tavern meetings convened for popularity.

Surely then if the Institution proclaim themselves the promoters of this application in such an improvident manner, they must admit themselves to be the authors of the procrastination of an universal abolition of the Slave Trade; yet they tell the nation they are bearing every expense, and constitute the main spring by which every effort for universal Abolition is set in motion. Are these continued professions to excuse continued injury? Can a declaration of pure motives, excuse profuse expenditure, and shall delusive good intention, excuse presumption?

The Directors also tell the public, “ that Lord Castlereagh will not scruple to admit that his efforts were in no small degree assisted by communications from members of the Board”—when the documents and admissions come forth, they will receive full credit!

23rd. They transcribe a page and a quarter of my Pamphlet, beginning with, “ I have no time for condensation,” and then they declare, “ now the fact is, that Mr. Thorpe had made almost all the charges contained in his Pamphlet above:

" a year before, though he now complains of
 " not having time for condensation." I sup-
 pose they allude to the marginal notes I was
 importuned to make in seven of their delusive and
 fallacious Reports, for this was all I ever wrote to
 them, and as to my possessing the information
 before I wrote, no one will doubt that; but, I can
 solemnly declare I never thought of publishing a
 Letter to Mr. Wilberforce, collected materials, or
 arranged an argument on the subject it contains,
 until December last; besides my allusions to the In-
 stitution do not exceed twenty pages of the Pamphlet.
 Then they say, " Mr. Thorpe admits a Committee
 " was appointed to enquire into these charges." I
 never admitted any such thing, for the Committee
 was appointed before I gave any information, and the
 examination of myself and Messrs. Hamilton, Van-
 neck, and Nicol was over before I returned their
 seven Reports, with my remarks upon them. At
 last they make this extraordinary assertion, " the
 " result of the examination was the falsification of
 " the charges of Mr. Thorpe, by Messrs. Hamil-
 " ton, Vanneck, and Nicol, and a Report in unison
 " with that now made." I will undertake to say,
 that Messrs. Hamilton, Vanneck, and Nicol will
 declare, first, that the examination was an ex parte
 enquiry, and incapable of producing any full and
 explicit account of the real state of Sierra Leone;
 secondly, that they never had falsified every charge,
 or any charge I had made, for they overheard much
 of my examination, and I shewed to them my re-
 marks on the African Reports, with which they

agreed, before I sent them to the Committee, nor did I ever hear an observation from them on Africa that was not coincident with my own, and we have had various conversations on the subject. Now, let the African Institution produce their evidence, obtain the signatures of those gentlemen acknowledging what they produce to be correct, compare the evidence with the charges I have made, and thus shew the falsification : it will not cost them any thing, for they have clerks to copy, paper and printing all liberally paid from the poor box, constituted for the civilization and happiness of Africa, and if they do not establish this assertion they must be considered as premeditated imposers on national credulity, to bear down an individual who has dared to uphold truth in defiance of fabrication.

The Directors conclude their answer to my charges by the old recrimination, “ of my being “ indifferent, and even hostile to the cause of “ Africa ;” but my publications, and the conduct manifested by the letters of mine which they have printed, establish not only my professions but my actions, these will “ plead trumpet tongued” against their contemptible insinuations.

Having now broken down the rotten rundles of this popularity ladder, on which the little select party have ascended to such undeserved elevation, I hope they will in future obtain some sounder footing, by which the sincerity of their promises may be proved, by the benefits they confer, and the purity

of their motives established, by the execution of their professions.

The Special Report gives nearly six pages of panegyric on Mr. Wilberforce and Mr. Macaulay, men composed, I conceive, of very incongruous materials, however it is their fashion to mix them; the succulent ivy will entwine about the oak, but let them reflect, its embrace is deadly!

Mr. Clarkson's History of the Abolition, Mr. Wilberforce's Letter to Prince Talleyrand, and my reply to Mr. Macaulay will refute all that is said in those six pages.

The Reporter having sharpened his virulence towards the conclusion, "speaks of my remarkable disregard of candour, of my flippant malignity, that my accusations are as senseless as false, and that the Directors feel the highest astonishment at the effrontery of the libeller;" this might ornament the bureau of Davoust, though it disgraces the Institution; why not prosecute this libeller, the African Poor Box would pay the expense, and it would constitute as honorable an item as many others in the account. Every one who has ever read their Special Report will acknowledge they would prosecute if they could with impunity, and when assertion constitutes proof, and malignity law, they will; but viciousness is cowardly, and where there is danger, it is difficult to animate.

The Directors conclude ; “ they console themselves that this exposition of the series of proceedings in Africa will set the question at rest with all those whose opinion is worthy of regard, will increase the public attention to their interesting cause, and *enable them to prosecute their course with more vigour and effect.*”

The public will now see, that neither the Company nor Institution have done one beneficial act for Africa, that not a profession or a promise has been fulfilled, but that they have committed great mischief by interfering with the law, the ministers, the congress, the natives of Africa and the Colony of Sierra Leone ; that their whole pursuit has been popularity ; they declare they are bestowing every comfort on Africa, while they are increasing her calamities, and they promote, augment the profit, and gain employment for the very beings who have nurtured the Slave Trade, defeated benevolence, entailed misery on Africa, and disgrace on England ; lastly, they have traduced those persons by whose information, integrity, truth, and unbiassed zeal in the cause of Abolition and Africa, England would learn the real state of the trade, the true condition of that Continent, and develope the delusions practised by themselves for twenty-four years ; yet to continue their fallacies, and retain their popularity, they unblushingly demand fresh supplies of money to enable them to *prosecute this course with more vigour and effect.*

The Directors acknowledge they have received nearly ten thousand pounds for benefiting Africa, and they cannot produce one instance of their even attempting any thing serviceable until this year, when they sent out a school-master, after the greatest possible exposure of their fallacy and delusion about schools. Their own accounts will shew their useless, profuse, and unwarrantable expenditure of the subscription money ; viz. " 1st. Clerks £450." Do they civilize Africa? 2nd. " Porterage, carriage of Reports, Rent, &c. £1214."—Does this civilize Africa? 3rd. " Insertions in Newspapers, £237." This is not for African civilization, but for Institution ostentation. 4th. " Printing Reports £1126." Did those productions ever benefit any person but Mr. Z. Macaulay? they are baits to catch agencies, and puff employers. 5th. " Printing Tracts in foreign languages £650." mere ostentation! 6th. " Expences of Paul Cuffee, rescuing a free man, and sending back natives"—these last items might have cost something, but not £202. 7th. " Education of African youths for school-masters £728." It has been proved how little they have done on the head of education, but £728 was useful to partizans. 8th. " Seeds for Sierra Leone £499." a rotten job. 9th. " Law Proceedings £768." Did this benefit Africa? mere ostentation and persecution. 10th. " Pieces of Plate and Premium £265." Mr. Macaulay might have benefited by these—not Africa. 11th. " Expences of Petitions £1865." These could have been obtained constitutionally without expense, and from

the injudicious way they were managed, the Slave Trade was extended for three years and a half, and the Poor Box plundered—was this for the civilization of Africa? In the whole account nothing appears to have been done towards benefiting or civilizing Africa, for which the money was subscribed, but educating a few boys, and sending a few natives back to their country, on which perhaps £200 might have been expended usefully, and, on the other side, the incalculable mischiefs they have accumulated on that unhappy Continent; and the immoderate expence heaped on England is deplorable, yet the Reporter asks for fresh funds, and increased confidence to augment calamity and continue popularity.

In page 137, the Directors express their annoyance at my calling for “open, fair, and full enquiry,” and they ask “who Mr. Thorpe is, that claims all this attention from the world, and demands public enquiry.” To say who I am might be ostentation, to say who I am not, might point strongly who the enquirer was. I shall quietly answer, that having been appointed to a professional station, which obliged me to attend to the Abolition, to Africa in general, and Sierra Leone in particular, I found the one, little advanced, the other not improved, and the last vitiated; every evil arising out of the very source that advancement, happiness, and improvement was promised to flow from; I read the African Institution Reports, and perceived the members of that Society considered themselves as

the chief Directors in every thing concerning Africa, and from local experience judged they must have been egregiously deceived, as their representations were diametrically opposed to truth.

Justice, humanity, the faithful discharge of my duty, and respect for the great characters in the Institution, obliged me to develop the deception; the door of office was locked, the anti-chamber of the Institution was occupied by interest, I was driven to public appeal, I requested investigation to establish where I was right, and correct where I was wrong; this was denied me by the Institution. But involuntarily produced by their attempts at defence, and by the ostentation of their defenders, much improvement has taken place, already has the law been considered; the captured negro, from unrewarded servitude, has been placed in a progressive state of civilization; the slave has become a farmer, and the prostitute admitted to instruction; the native chieftain will no longer be insulted, nor his subjects torn from his protection; the settlers have been restored to their families, their properties, and to British law, those who were illegally convicted have been pardoned, and unjustifiable condemnations have been reversed, the British character has been rescued, the public money wrested from depredation, and the depredators removed; almost every desirable object has been effected; enquiry was vigorously advancing, while it was ineffectually endeavoured to be retarded. The Abolition cause, has been served: the highly distinguished characters in the Institution have been a little separated

from those deserving reproach, and the mercenary deluders have sunk to their original insignificance; the public will determine whether I am deserving of censure or praise for having claimed their attention, and whether I was justifiable or arrogant in seeking enquiry. But when the Reporter asserts that my charges have been refuted, he forgets that he has admitted most, and only palliated a few. Surely he can no longer expect to continue credulity, and spread inanity over the nation. The Reporter assures us the Board have enquired, the Committee reported, the Directors are satisfied, and that they are not accountable to any tribunal but their own little conclave; it may be a convenient court of Conscience, where the criminals are judges, and pronounce acquittal on themselves; but why inform the public of their benevolent, liberal, and magnanimous, interference in this great national question? Why submit their conduct to the public by a printed Report annually; yet declare no decision shall be passed on their proceedings except by themselves? surely this is inconsistent and absurd; if the Institution would confine itself to private deliberations and private distribution, the nation would discover their munificent disbursements, and benevolent exertions by the effect produced; this would proclaim their services, and call forth involuntary praise on their progress in improvement; but I fear political power is the leading object: that is to be attained by numbers, and effected by popularity; the Institution can declare their motives to be the purest, their benevolence the greatest, their characters the

highest ; they can praise themselves profusely, and judge of themselves most liberally ; if this is all just, Why not confirm it by proof ? Why labour to extinguish any light that may be thrown on their actions, unless concealment is necessary ? But if the Public can catch at that which makes the “ darkness visible,” they will blow it into a flame, until delusion, falsehood, hypocrisy, and avariciousness, perish in the conflagration ; the Reporter will only submit to private enquiry, while I demand public investigation.

The Directors finish their Special Report with declaring, “ they will not give Mr. T. consequence by taking the slightest notice of any thing he may in future think it for his amusement or interest to utter to the World.” As for amusement, no one will suspect I have derived much from this contest : as for interest, this Reply exhibits documents to prove my losses and deprivations ; and the World will be persuaded that had I not resolved to hazard every consideration of comfort, emolument or promotion, for the cause of humanity, truth and justice, I might have conciliated a combination of parties and power, not have encountered them ; I might have bartered principle for profit, and by succumbing to the interested views of hypocritical persons, have retained what I held, or obtained what I desired. But the ways of Providence are not to be scrutinized. Much has been produced, valuable to the

great cause for which I have devoted myself; and if the deprivations I have endured should be continued, the benefits I have assisted in confirming, shall become my consolation. The innocent have been restored, and the guilty removed.

Before I close, I must express my fervent and sincere hope that His Majesty's Ministers will hold France to her present Abolition of the Slave Trade. The Usurper of the Throne of France knew well the French people, and he would not have dared to abolish the Trade at that moment, if it had not accorded with their wishes: therefore the legitimate Monarch finding his own benevolent principles supported by the liberal voice of his Nation, will naturally rejoice in continuing the Abolition.

The Noble Lord at the head of our Foreign Department, fully aware that the Spanish Licence for Trading in Slaves to the Coast of Africa, will expire in 1816; and that Spain has neither territory, nor even a Fort in Africa, will inform the Spanish Monarch, that the People of England considering freedom the greatest blessing on earth, have interceded for their fellow-creatures in Africa, and that the Prince Regent considering that "each individual Nation is bound to contribute to the happiness of other States;" and that "no one Nation should hinder another from attaining the ends of civil Society," feels it his duty as much as his inclination, in conformity with the

wishes of his Father's People, to insist that the Licence should not be renewed.—The Noble Lord will also convince Portugal that she must preserve her Treaty which confines her Trade for Slaves to her own dominions on the Coast of Africa, and that she has no dominion, in fact, except from St. Paul's de Loanda to St. Philip's Benquila, therefore to those places she must confine her Trade. Lastly, that Portugal had promised a gradual Abolition in 1810, and that if nine years are allowed, for the extinction of what she terms an inhuman, unjust and impolitic Trade, every Nation in the World must consider it a most equitable portion of time; besides France having in 1814, agreed to assist England in obtaining a universal Abolition in five years, we shall obtain the aid of that great Power, from Treaty to support our determination. By these means the Trade will be abolished next year by every Power but Portugal, and in three years from that time by every Nation in the World. Thus the Noble Lord will most deservedly obtain the universal applause of England, and the *Select* will be left, where they began, promising civilization to augment party, and professing Abolition to increase popularity; at the same time his Lordship may expect that when all shall be accomplished, the *benevolent set*, with their usual candour, will assure the World, they laid the foundation, they raised the superstructure, they capped the Pyramid —“*Vox et præterea nihil.*”——

Misrepresentation and detraction pursue me with such a continued coruscation, that after having been induced to mention Lord Castlereagh, at different times, in these publications, I beg leave to state, that although I have had the honor of his Lordship's acquaintance for twenty seven years, yet to my recollection I never did ask a favour for myself, or for any other person from him ; nor is it now, nor was it ever in my contemplation to do so. I considered his Lordship from station, investigation and ability, most efficient to serve the cause, therefore implored his aid, and unconvinced that by his exertions universal Abolition will be effected. Had my views been interested, I must have been insane to have entangled myself with such vindictive and overwhelming power.—I only sought redress for the oppressed, and much has been bestowed.

I intreat the Public to pardon the length of this Reply, and the hurried and indignant style of the composition. I had nearly one hundred and sixty pages to answer ; had a paragraph escaped notice, I should have been accused of avoiding the strong and seizing the weak points of the Report. A mind lacerated by assertions and insinuations as plausible as untrue, could not be healed by the polish of a period : it was to be relieved quickly, and in doing so, an honest indignation, at such unprecedented malignity, I hope is excuseable. If the ardor of feeling has in any instance carried me beyond the

bounds of decorum, it is not from disrespect to the distinguished personages in the Institution, but from beholding the calamities heaped on those creatures, whom they would have comforted, had the disinterested and amiable part of the Institution not been deceived; at the same time I confess myself hurt, that a combination of great personages should have sanctioned a composition, so disgracefully vindictive, and so degradingly fallacious. I hope I have not obtruded myself where the Report did not call me forth; to unjustifiable attack, I may be allowed, a justifiable defence; where I cannot expect approbation, I hope to escape censure; and if I have been too warm, let it be remembered, that "the coldest flint will emit fire, by a continued application of steel."

ROBERT THORPE.

Foley Place, Aug, 5th, 1815.

FINIS.