

RIGHTS OF BLACK MEN.

IF Freedom depends upon colour, and if the Blacks were born for slaves, those in the West-India Islands may be called Insurgents and Murderers. If Freedom depends upon colour, we have only to seek for the whitest man in the world, that we may find the freest, and for the blackest, that we may find the greatest slave. But the enlightened mind of Americans will not receive such ideas. We believe, that Freedom is the natural right of all rational beings, and we

know that the Blacks have never voluntarily resigned that freedom. — Then is not their cause as just as ours? We fought with bravery, and prayed earnestly for success upon our righteous cause, when we drew the sword, and shed the blood of Englishmen—for what!—Not to gain Freedom; for we were never Slaves; but to rid ourselves of taxes, imposed without our consent, and from the growing evils of usurpation. Believing our cause to have been just, I believe firmly, that the cause of the Blacks is just. They are asserting those rights by the sword, which it was impossible to secure by mild measures.—Stripes, imprisonment, hunger, nakedness, cruel tortures and death, were the portion of those Blacks who even talked of liberty, or who, for a moment, conducted like Freemen. Did we talk coolly about the cruel murders of our brothers and sisters at the Northward?—Did we act coolly, when our officers and soldiers were loaded with chains in loathsome dungeons, and dying by hundreds in prison-ships?—We did not.—Then shall we preach lessons of coolness and moderation to the Blacks?—Alas, they are not in a situation to hear us. Gallowses are erected, and tortures prepared for them at this very moment.

Review the history of their past sufferings, be but a moment in their situation, and judge whether, in a climate warm as theirs, your blood would flow coolly. Let us be consistent Americans, and if we justify our own conduct in the late glorious Revolution, let us justify those, who, in a cause like ours, fight with equal bravery.

We may feel in the cause of humanity, and may lament, that the blood of white men is spilling. It would be happy indeed, if the rights of man could in all countries be asserted as coolly and judiciously, as they have been in France; but, in the French West-India Islands, this could not have been done. The effort of the Blacks for a peaceable assertion would have cost them their lives. Arms gave them courage in a common cause. If their Lords had kept them in savage ignorance, shall they be blamed, that they fight like savages? Had they been learnt the art of war, they might have conducted their measures more according to Baron Sreunt. Had they been treated with mildness, perhaps their measures had been more mild.

We talked in the late war about the hand of Providence. Since that we have seen the wonders of Providence in various parts of the world, and have gloried that men, long oppressed, had dared to assert their rights. Shall we now cease to glory?—Shall we now sacrifice principle to a paltry partiality for colour? Can we believe that the French people were ever oppressed as the Blacks have been?—Let those differ from me, who will, I have a firm confidence, that we shall now see the hand of Providence more visibly, than ever. *The Universal Father seems now demonstrating, that of one blood, he has created all nations of men, that dwell on the face of the earth.*

J. P. MARTIN.

[To be continued.]