

RIGHTS OF BLACK MEN. *Continued.*

IN the last war, we called those *savages and monsters in human shape*, who would be hired to assist in reducing us to allegiance. We agreed to ascribe all the glory to Heaven; if we might be prospered; but in all our histories since the war, have ascribed all the glory to ourselves; *politely* trusting that the goodness of our Heavenly Father needed not our praises. Zealous in the *theory* of liberty, we talked in high strains about the equal rights of man, and formed ourselves into societies for the abolition of slavery. The poetry of some of the states has, to their honor, reduced this theory to practice. In other states, liberty and property clashed, and the last, as usual, gained the victory. The blacks are still enslaved within the United States. The Indians are driven in to the society of savage beasts, and we glory in the equal rights of men, provided that *our white men can enjoy the whole of them.*

On every sabbath, we hear fervent prayers for the poor blacks, and earnest supplications that Ethiopia may stretch forth her hands, and be known among the free christian nations of the earth. On Monday we read of a ship-load of Africans, who took and massacred master and mariners, and took possession of the ship, and of freedom.

Terrible news!—On Tuesday we read of a black man's murdering his overseer,—*O shocking!* On Wednesday, the insurgents in the West-Indies killed 43 of the white people, and took 12 prisoners,—*distressing intelligence!*—On Thursday, we are told of a party of blacks falling out upon the whites; that they were all repulsed, with great loss; that 20 were taken and hung on a gallows, after some exemplary tortures. *Now, this is comforting!*—On Friday, 'tis currently reported, that the blacks are very undisciplined; daily dying; almost out of provisions—*O excellent news!*

On Friday evening, the society for the abolition of slavery is convened, where the President, Vice-President, the honourable and esquired Members of the corresponding Committee, the Secretary, Vice-Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-Treasurer, and honourable Members, are unanimously of opinion, that though the blacks are entitled to freedom, they ought to *have petitioned for it*, and not to have taken up arms.

On Saturday, we send to Thomas and Andrews's to buy the last edition of Paine's Rights of Man, which we read with great conviction; and on Sunday are again convened to pray for the poor blacks.

My friends, whether your prayers are heard or not heard, God is taking his own way to emancipate these blacks. Notwithstanding your tardy measures, votes and corresponding letters, he has put it into their hearts to assert their own cause. He is leading them to work out their political salvation, as he led you to do it. He is teaching them, as he taught you, that freedom from the tyranny of men is to be had only at the price of blood. By this lesson, he instructs them, as he did you, in the value of freedom.

If that, which is the right of the blacks cannot be quietly obtained, I wish success to their arms, with all my heart, and lament, that it is not in my power to afford them effectual assistance. The sword is drawn, blood must be shed, and freedom must be obtained.—Shall Americans hesitate whose part to take? Does our allegiance with France oblige us to murder our fellow-creatures, for doing that, which we have called Heaven to witness was just? Americans may decide as they will; their decision upon this subject may not prove final.—They may send arms and powder and provisions; all the instruments of death, and the means of life, and may assist in reducing to slavery, men born free as ourselves.—A blessed commentary upon their opposition to Great-Britain! A glorious effort of men, composing liberating societies!—A fine translation of the Rights of Man!

The cry of the poor wretches, who are now fighting for their liberties and lives, for their wives and children, has gone up into the ears of the God of Sabbath. He had promised to hear the cry of the prisoner and of the oppressed. He has come down to avenge their wrongs. If his hand was ever visible, it is at this moment. He has made bare his arm; he will scatter the proud, and make the oppressor to flee before him. Then shall the free blacks enjoy that country, which they have dearly earned by sweat and blood; then shall they labour with cheerfulness, knowing, that they will enjoy the fruit of their toils and weariness. This seems to be the moment for the liberating societies in Europe and America, to come forward, and to shew the sincerity of their professions, and their unwavering attachment to the Rights of Man.

Whether white or black blood is spilt, is equal in the eye of that Being, who will never decide by their colour, the fate of the creatures, whom he has made.

If the blacks are ignorant, they will soon be otherwise—they are now in the school of

experience. If they have been despised, they will assume their native consequence. Even now they feel distress, as much as we do.—If their little all is at stake, it is as dear to them, as our all is to us.

“Even the poor Beetle, that we tread upon,

“In corporal suffering, feels a pang as great

“As when a Giant dies.”

THEY feel; we ought to feel for them; to pray for them; to assist them; and to shew, that we have not been hypocrites in the cause of freedom; that we dare, upon all occasions, to testify our respect for the rights of man, our humanity for the oppressed, and ever to think, speak and act, as becomes *decided Americans.*

(To be continued.)

J.P.M.