

that of the United States, to the sale of 15,000? It is pretty well ascertained that the English islands received in the 106 years preceding 1786, more than 2,130,000 negroes, forcibly carried from the coast of Africa. At the period of the French revolution, the slave-trade furnished (according to Mr. Norris) 74,000 slaves annually, of which the English colonies absorbed 38,000, and the French 20,000. It would be easy to prove that the whole of the West Indian archipelago, which now comprises scarcely 2,400,000 negroes and mulattoes (free and slaves), received, from 1670 to 1825, nearly 5,000,000 of Africans. These revolting calculations respecting the consumption of the human species, do not include the number of unfortunate slaves who have perished in the passage, or have been thrown into the sea as damaged merchandize.* By how many thousands must we have augmented the loss, if the two nations most distinguished for ardour and intelligence in the development of commerce and industry, the English and the inhabitants of the United States, had continued, from 1807, to carry on the trade as freely as some other nations of Europe? Sad experience has proved how much the treaties of the 15th July, 1814, and of the 22nd January, 1815, by which Spain and Portugal reserved to themselves† “the trade in blacks” during a certain number of years, have been fatal to humanity.

The local authorities, or rather the rich proprietors, forming the Ayuntamiento of the Havannah, the Consulado, and the Patriotic Society, have on several occasions shown a disposition favourable to the amelioration of the condition of the slaves.† If the government of the mother-country, instead of dreading the least appearance of innovation, had

* Vol. vii, p. 151. See also the eloquent speech of the Duke de Broglie (March 28th, 1822), pp. 40, 43, 96.

† “Dicen nuestros Indios del Rio Caura cuando se confiesan que ya entienden que es pecado comer carne humana; pero piden que se les permita desacostumbrarse poco a poco; quieren comer la carne humana una vez al mes, despues cada tres meses, hasta que sin sentirlo pierdan la costumbre.” *Cartas de los Rev. Padres Observantes*, No. 7 M.S. [“Our negroes of the River Caura say, when they confess, that they know it is sinful to eat human flesh; they beg to be permitted to break themselves of the custom, little by little: they wish to eat human flesh once a month, and afterwards once every three months, until they feel they have cured themselves of the practice.”]