

## CHAPTER VI.

*Apology for those parts of the preceding Journal which may appear either illegal, or harsh.—Objections foreseen and answered.—Difficulties which we had to overcome stated.—Natives' opinion of the European character.—Advantages resulting from our having remained upon the island.*

HAVING brought my Journal to a conclusion, it may be necessary to say a few words on two or three points which might appear to require explanation, and to anticipate some objections which it is probable may be made to some of the transactions related therein.

Motives for requiring the colonists' assent to be governed by that constitution which we had promised to set aside previous to our leaving England.

Had I foreseen the exact situation in which I was to be placed, on the departure of the *Calypso* from the island of *Bulama*, I am not sure that I should have sailed on the expedition; not that the prospect of the difficulties to be encountered would have deterred me; but, the persuasion that, if I remained behind after the sailing of that ship, the law had armed me with no power to act with energy, would, I trust, have deterred persons less scrupulously obedient to the laws of their country than myself, from voluntarily placing themselves in such a situation.

To begin by avowing that the first act of mine, in the direction of the reduced colony, was an illegal one, seems to argue a degree of moral turpitude, inconsistent with the virtues which such a situation required. But when it is proved that such a