

Many persons in this country, who are opposed to the abolition of the Slave Trade, have entertained an opinion that the inhabitants of Africa would derive no benefit from such a measure. The following letter, which I find in every respectable London paper, and which is copied from a Sierra-Leone Gazette of March last, will not be uninteresting to thy readers; as it will at once shew the absurdity of such an opinion, and establish a fact highly grateful to the friends of humanity.

*To the Editor of the Sierra Leone Gazette.*

“Permit me to send you the following facts for your insertion, which will tend to shew in what manner some of the natives of this country are disposed to view the abolition of the Slave Trade.

“Since the abolition of the Slave Trade was made known in the neighbourhood of Goree, a quarrel took place between the King of Damel and the Maraboos; after several skirmishes the Maraboos drove them back, and carried away with them from 500 to 1000 head of cattle, saying, that as there was no sale for slaves, they would not take their people, but that as cattle could be turned to advantage, they would take them.

“I had some conversation with a man who took an active part against the king of Damel, he assured me that the natives in their neighbourhood had no intention of taking any more prisoners, as they would not sell; but, that the idea that those who might unavoidably be taken, would be put to death, was quite erroneous.

“*Mamadoo Saani*, a powerful and intelligent Chief on the river Gambia, told me that he regretted the abolition himself, as being the means of depriving him of some considerable emoluments, but that he believed, generally speaking, it would be of great service to the country. One very strong reason he gave was, that the want of

confidence in each other, occasioned by the fear of kidnapping, or otherwise making slaves, obliged the natives to be constantly armed, and every man to suspect his brother; but that since the abolition, they had already begun to lay aside their guns when they went out; and he had no doubt, but in a short time, they would clear away the woods from about their towns that were then built; and that, in building new ones, they would have them in more exposed situations, and that he himself had altered his mind as to the place he had chosen to build a town in, determined to build it now on the banks of the river, and cut down all the woods near him; and that he intended, as he knew many other natives did, to attend as much as possible to cultivation, particularly cotton, which grows there in great abundance.