

fembly on this occasion, and the conduct of the joint Committee, in every part of the funeral ceremony, reflect infinite honour on the whole community; and effectually wipe off the aspersion which ignorance or malevolence has frequently thrown on the colonies, particularly that of Jamaica, representing them as a people impatient of subjection, averse to all government, and amongst whom a mild and virtuous administration always meets with disappointment and disregard.

Mr. URBAN,

Proposals having just been published for printing by subscription, some poems written by Phillis, a negro servant of Mr. Wheatley, of Boston, in New England, the following account has been received from her master.

“Phillis was brought from Africa to America in the year 1761, between seven and eight years of age, without any assistance from school education; and by only what she was taught in the family, she, in sixteen months time from her arrival, attained the English language, to which she was an utter stranger before, to such a degree as to read any the most difficult parts of the sacred writings, to the great astonishment of all who heard her.

“As to her writing, her own curiosity led her to it; and this she learned in so short a time, that, in the year 1765, she wrote a letter to the Rev. Mr. Occom, the Indian minister, while in England.

“She has a great inclination to learn the Latin tongue, and has made some progress in it. This relation is given by her master, who bought her, and with whom she now lives.

John Wheatley.

Boston, Nov. 14, 1772.”

As many perhaps will be ready to suspect that these poems are not really the writings of Phillis, an attestation has been procured from the governor, lieutenant governor, and several others of the most respectable persons in Boston, certifying, That “the poems there specified were (as they verily believe) written by Phillis, a young negro girl, who was but a few years since brought an uncultivated barbarian from Africa, and has been, and now is, under the disadvantage of serving as a slave in a family in Boston; and that she has been examined by the

best judges, and is thought qualified to write them.”

P. S. It is hoped (though it is not so expressed) that the profits of this publication will, in the first place, be applied towards purchasing the freedom of the author: and, if so, it is not doubted that every friend to the rights of humanity will liberally contribute to such an emancipation, both of mind and body, from a condition always dreadful, but felt with double poignancy by genius and sensibility.

To the TITHE-COMMITTEE at
the Crown and Anchor in the Strand.

Gentlemen,

I HAVE read with uncommon satisfaction the advertisement you have printed, together with the eloquent speech said to be made by one of your members at your meeting on the 17th of March; and I greatly honour the noble spirit of freedom and patriotism by which you seem to be actuated. Whatever hard things a few cynical men may say of the present times, it is certain that none have been more prolific in meetings, associations, resolutions, and subscriptions for the good of our dear country. That wise and virtuous body, the Supporters of the Bill of Rights, first led the way, and were followed by the Constitutional Club, by clubs of Journeymen Tailors, Journeymen Cabinet-makers, and Journeymen Barbers; who all met, and resolved, and subscribed, for the redress of grievances, and the support of their respective rights and privileges. Projects, too, have started up in quick succession, one after another, to the immortal honour of their inventors, and the infinite advantage of the kingdom in general. To Mr. Moore's ingenuity it is owing that our carriages are now drawn without horses; to Mr. Blake we are obliged for the present reasonable price of fish; to the Association at the Chapter Coffee-house we are indebted for the plenty and cheapness of all other provisions; and to the illustrious society of Chairmen and Hackney Coachmen, our thanks are due for the noble stand they made against the iniquitous and oppressive design of raising the price of porter. The livery and common council of London have also taken a large share in the great work of national reformation. They have resolved, instructed, petitioned, and remonstrated, till they begin to think it necessary to look about them.