

prietor. In the first place I would have my property carefully surveyed, and laid out in lots of three acres, placing one of my cottages, which the present horrible system has already obliged me to build and keep in repair, upon each lot; or rather upon as many lots as year by year I should think it prudent to lease out, as it will be obvious that for one or two years I should still be obliged, even *at a loss*, to keep enough in cultivation on my own account to supply the wants of my intended tenants while their allotments were unproductive. I should then have fair and honest leases for twenty-one years drawn for each lot under the following terms:—for three years at a barley-corn rent; for the fourth year, at 4s. 2d. per acre; fifth, 8s. 4d.; sixth, 12s. 6d.; seventh, 16s. 8d.; eighth and succeeding years of the term, £1; originally leasing but one acre out of the three laid off, but binding myself to increase the allotment to two acres when half an acre of the original acre was in good and healthy cane cultivation, and the remaining half acre completely planted in provisions; and to three acres when the second was one half or the whole, if the tenant considered (as he decidedly must) that cane cultivation was more profitable than provisions; but leaving this matter entirely to his own choice, was also under healthy cultivation. Taking the average of a family to be five persons, say three able to work, a man and his wife could with the greatest ease cultivate two acres and a-half, and leave the spare hand to work at the provisions for the family use. Against this may be raised the old cry that the negro will not plant canes if let alone; but what right has the planter to assume this? What makes him (the planter) cultivate this plant? Is it not because he *knows* the supply of provisions *must* be limited and can at best be only profitable to a few? And if this is so well understood by some weaver, butcher, or else turned into planter, what reason is there to suppose that the negro, whom it is universally admitted is cunning and alive to his own interest, will not come to the same conclusion? On the other hand, I certainly must admit that no negro does resort to the field when he can get other employment; but this is because it is at present an employment at which he can but get a bare subsistence; because he is wholly at the caprice of some ignorant manager who has the power to oppress him in a thousand shapes; because he has no certainty of tenure in his habitation and the lands around, which are to supply him with food, to encourage him to plant his provisions; because agriculture, instead of being looked upon as a calling awakening the highest attachment to the Almighty, has in these Colonies been the employment of the most degraded—rendered disreputable and oftentimes in slavery the penitentiary of the misbehaved artisan or domestic: but reverse this order; make agriculture honourable and independent, give certainty of tenure, and at the same time liberally infuse education into your peasantry, and I have no fear but the planter, with an interested partner in the prosperity of his property, will find that with no trouble, no risk, no anxiety, no sullenness, no disinclination to labour, but, on the contrary, a desire for it, will find peace, contentment, and prosperity reigning in the places of their opposites with which he now has to contend.