

“This distressed pair, on hearing they were to be separated, became frantic. They threw themselves on the ground, in the way of some of the ladies of the family, whom they saw passing by; and finding one was the daughter of their master, they could not be prevented from clinging round her to implore her assistance, and their grief could only be moderated by this lady’s humane assurance that she would interfere with her father not to part them. The master, too compassionate in so hard a case to make use of his right in keeping either of these unfortunate slaves by force, expostulated with the man, showing him how easy his own blacks lived, and telling him that if he remained with him, and was deserving, he should have many more indulgences. But the black fell at the merchant’s feet, and entreated him not to keep him, if he sent his companion away, saying, if he did, he would lose all the money he had paid for them both; for that, though knives and poison were kept out of the way, no one could force them to eat, and that no human means could make them break the oath they had already taken, in presence of the Deity, never to live asunder. In vain the merchant told this slave that the beauty of his companion had raised her far above the price of those bought for menial servitude, and that she must soon become the property of some rich Turk, and consequently be separated from him for ever. This barbarity, the slave replied, he expected, but still nothing should make him voluntarily leave her; adding, that when they were parted by force, it would be time enough for him to die, and go, according to their implicit belief, to their own country, to meet her, as, in spite of those who had her in their

power, he knew she would then be gone thither, and waiting for him to join her. The merchant, finding it impossible to persuade him by words to stay, would not detain him by force, but has left him at liberty to follow the fortunes of his companion.

“Among a number of these newly purchased slaves, ordered into the apartmen where we were, was the beautiful female black. For some time her attention was taken up with us, but the novelty of the sight did not keep her many minutes from bursting into the most extravagant grief again at the thought of her own situation. She ran from us, and, hiding her face with her hands, sat down in a corner of the gallery, while the rest of her companions, standing round her, frequently pulled her violently to partake with them of the sight of the Christians, at whom they gazed with fear, amazement, and admiration, while their more polished country-women, who had been longer in the family, laughed at them for their surprise and terror. But in these slaves, just dragged away from their native soil, hunted like wild animals from the woods, where they had taken shelter, and enticed from their dearest connexions, the sight of white people must naturally inspire every sentiment of disgust and horror. However, by the time they were a little convinced that their dread, at least of the Christians’ presence, was needless, some of them became quite pacified, and were ordered to make up a dance. About twenty of them stood up. The ablest amongst them took the lead, the rest, touching the tip of each other’s hand and foot, according to their manner of dancing, formed a long line, when each, with the greatest exactness, and the utmost grace imaginable repeated the steps and