

you lived eighteen hundred years ago, you would not have scrupled to buy and sell my blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, if, at least, he had been born black, and you had met with him before the same of his miracles began to arise; for, as "he was not only made in the likeness of men, and found in fashion as a man; but, moreover, made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and became obedient:"^b How could you have distinguished between him and such as you do enslave? But be that as it will, it is plain you buy and sell Christ mystically, that is, those who are united to him by faith, and are in the scriptures commonly called, "*the body of Christ*," and "*the members of his body*."^c Charity requires me to hope, Reverend Sir, that your girl whom you hold a slave, and her mother whom you sold, are members of the body of Christ; because you could not fail to be touched with more than ordinary compassion towards these poor ignorant creatures, to use uncommon diligence to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and to pour out many a fervent prayer for God's blessing upon the means you used with them; all which I trust would not be in vain: But if they be members of the body of Christ, does not he account them precious as himself? Are they not one spirit with the Lord, of his flesh, and of his bones? Does not he who touches them, touch the apple of his eye, and wound him in the tenderest part? Yes, Reverend Sir, for "In all their afflictions he is afflicted: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them, and he bears them, and carries them all their days."^d He cries from Heaven to all who hurt them in their liberty or property, as he did to him of Tarsus—Saul, Saul why persecutest me? Take heed then, lest he should resent what you do to them as much, if not more, than if it had been done to himself; and lest, when he shall sit upon the throne of his glory, and all nations are gathered before him, he should say to you, "depart from me thou cursed into everlasting fire; for I was in prison, and thou visitdest me not, but detaindest me a captive. In vain will you reply, When did I see thee in prison, and visited thee not, but detainest thee captive? for he will answer, "in as much as thou didst it unto the least, the very least of these, thou didst it unto me."

But if you tell me your slaves cannot be members of Christ, because they are ignorant, obstinate and wicked; I will answer thee, and thy companions with thee: Be it so; yet they may be converted from the error of their way. Others who were as desperate, like as they, are now singing the song of Moses and the Lamb. And if, in any future time, they shall be united to Christ, your guilt will be accounted the very same as if they were in him already; for he loves them now as dearly as he will then; because he has loved them with an everlasting love: Nay, though they should be eternally lost, it will make no alteration in your guilt; because whether they be saved or lost, for aught you know they may be saved. Besides, by consenting, in one instance, to the buying and selling of man, you subscribe your approbation of the whole of the slave trade, ancient and modern; and yet, certainly, some slaves have been good Christians; so you are still a buyer and seller of Christ. Reverend Sir, if these things are so, may not your sin bear a comparison with that of Judas? Did he sin knowingly? Surely yours cannot be through ignorance. Did he sin from covetousness? I appeal to your own conscience, if yours proceed not from the same source. Was he an Apostle? so are you. Did he sell his master? so have you. Judas sold the natural body of Christ for the very price appointed by the law of Moses for a slave, viz. thirty pieces or shekels of silver, Exod. xxi. 32; you have sold his mystical body at the very same rate.

Know you not, Reverend Sir, that the body of your slave is (or at least may be) "the temple of the Holy Ghost, who is in her, whom she has of God?" Her "body is the temple of the living God, as he hath said, I will dwell in them and walk in them, and I will be their God and they shall be my people." Again, "know you not that she is the temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwelleth in her? If any man deface the temple of God," (and what can deface it more than to enslave it?) "him will God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple she is."^e Take heed, lest all the sanctity of your office, and all the attainments of your profession be not able to shield you from this threatening. Simon Magus, after a fair profession of faith in Christ, was declared to be "in the gall of bitterness and bond of iniquity," for offering to "purchase the Holy Ghost with money;" and, perhaps you are too confident, if you are entirely free from fears of being in the same state; for your sin is greater than his, in as much as you have *actually* purchased and sold the temple of the Holy Ghost, wherein he dwells, and all that it contains.

^b 1. iil. ii. 7, 8. ^c Rom. xii. 27. ^d Eph. v. 30. ^e Isa. lxiii. 9. ^f 1 Cor. vi. 19, 2 Cor. vi. 16. 1 Cor. iii. 16, 17.