

yet remain in slavery—The liberty of these they should be allowed to purchase in the same manner as they have done their own: justice requires it, and humanity will permit no man to refuse selling the children to their father. As to the value to be fixed upon individuals of different ages and degrees of utility, there is no prescribing any general rule: this will lay in the breast of the proprietor; and as no person will adopt this scheme without some degree of humanity, or of justice, we may hope the same feelings will direct him to estimate with equity.

It may be said that no plantation can be carried on with regularity, without an equal number of hands to labour on every working day in the week, which cannot be, when the slaves have purchased the freedom of certain days; however, this we presume can produce no such inconvenience, as without labour, the slaves can have procured no liberty at all, nor can procure any further; and where can they labour to more advantage than in the plantation they reside on: so that all the difference is, they must be paid or allowed on those days, the usual wages of the country, which is no hardship to the master, as he has received an equivalent in value to this day, and may be easily determined, as there are in every island and province some free negroes who work for hire; and in the islands particularly, many slaves belonging to proprietors who have no
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