

short, comparatively very short, space of time, slavery will die away and disappear, without loss, expence, or inconvenience to the mother country; the compensation, where required, being supplied by the persons benefited, or by others who would assist them. The advantage of substituting a system of moderate coercion and much encouragement, for excessive coercion without any encouragement, would soon be so generally felt, that the change, however slow at first, would, as it proceeded, advance more and more rapidly.

But if any thing more be required, then compensation must be afforded, and immediate, not eventual compensation.

In this respect, differing from many gentlemen whose opinions he highly values; and from the principles advanced by a Society, which, as his experience has since taught him, has conferred essential services on humanity; the author feels bound to state distinctly the grounds on which he conceives the planters have a claim to *immediate* compensation to a certain extent.

He perfectly agrees that it is contrary to the usual practice, and to general principles, to grant compensation *beforehand*, or to hold out any promise of compensation, for *contingent losses* arising from any general measures of political regulation, or national policy; and that, therefore, the government were well founded in refusing to award immediate compensation for any eventual loss occurring from the suppression of the slave trade. Nay, he goes farther, and conceives that claims of this kind are, in every case, rather claims on the *liberality* than on the *justice* of the legislature. A change from war to peace, the shifting of a duty from one commodity to another, the constructing of a street or rail road,—all those acts of policy entail loss on some individuals, but benefits on others. The community is indemnified on one side, or is expected to be so, for what it loses on another. And never yet could it be expected that a legislature will adjust the balance, and indemnify the losers, any more than it would claim to share in the