

chargeable, that he secure himself from that burthen, by retaining * one day as security for that purpose, by making the remaining half-purchase of the slave chargeable, in equal payments for the liberty of the two next days; these payments made, nothing in justice or reason should retard the negro being wholly free, but the payment to his late proprietor (who now becomes his bondsman to the public) of an equivalent to the probability of his becoming a charge in his old age. This equivalent ought to be paid in hand, but should the freed man take a very considerable time, it can be no loss to the bondsman, as the retention of one day's labour in the week will (except in very advanced ages) be equal or superior to the interest and risk of not being paid, and we may suppose a sufficient spur to the negro, to procure and pay the sum wanted.

After slaves, male or female, by their own industry have thus emancipated themselves, their children or near connections may possibly

* This day might be equally retained by allowing the negro to purchase the remaining three days as he did the other, viz. by paying only one-sixth of his value for each; but then as the absolute freedom of the last day could not be had without the payment likewise of the equivalent, to the prospect of his future maintenance, which in slaves of advanced ages would be so considerable, that joined to one-sixth of their value to be previously paid, such negro might think it much more than one day of the week was worth, and consequently content himself with paying his master five-sixths of his value, to purchase five days in the six, and so leave him liable, and without due recompence, to maintain him in his old age.