

To derive advantage from the colonies, the importation of Negroes must be protected; but, it is at the same time the interest of government, to watch that the inhabitants do not abuse the power given them by the laws.

After the cruel experience of St. Domingo, which probably has opened the eyes of all those philanthropists, who consider as nothing the prosperity of empires when it is in contradiction to their sentimental notions of humanity. I am far from advising the government to relax the chains of slavery, which either must subsist, or the colonies be lost.

In Lower Louisiana, the Negroes are badly fed; each individual does not receive above a barrel of maize in the ears every month, which is not more than one third of a barrel in grain. They must procure the remainder of their food and clothes by the produce of their labour on Sundays. If they do not, they must remain naked during the rigorous season. In winter they generally wear a shirt, and a woollen covering in the form of a great-coat.

Ought not a master to provide his slave with clothing and food, in proportion to the work required of him? Does not a day of rest belong to every man, and more especially to those employed in the labours of the field? These questions would have been unnecessary, if avarice, more powerful than humanity, did not govern all men, but especially the inhabitants of the colonies. What are the consequences of this avarice? The Negroes, badly fed and fatigued, are soon exhausted; weakness, disease, and death succeed. Thus does the master by increasing his revenues lose the capital, without being rendered wiser by experience. I am not unacquainted that the Negroes are unlike other men; they cannot be managed by mildness or sentiment; that they deride those who treat them with kindness; that they belong by their moral constitution as much to the brute, as by their physical, they do to man; but, let us at least take the same care of them as of the quadrupeds which we employ; let us feed them well, that they may work well, and not require of them more than they are able.

The Negroes are naturally crafty, idle, cruel, and thieves; I need not add, that in their hearts they are all enemies to the Whites. The serpent endeavours to bite him that tramples him under his feet; the slave must hate his master. But it is difficult to account for the brutality and aversion of the free Blacks to those of their own species. They are treated by them worse than by the Whites.

Although the free Blacks lose very little of their hatred to the Whites, yet they are far from being as dangerous as the Mulattoes. These seem to participate as much of the vices of