

CHAPTER I.

The fearful excitement which existed, on the subject of Colonial Slavery, in England in 1832, as it compelled the Government to legislate upon it, with a view to its final extinction, cannot be speedily forgotten. Having determined to change my residence from England, for some of the Colonies of Great Britain, I was most agreeably surprised in meeting with an intelligent and liberal West India Planter, who had resolved on visiting Upper Canada, in order to make it his future residence, if the soil, climate, and other advantages were such as he had been induced to expect from the writings of those individuals who had resided in that country. Until that time, New South Wales had been the object of my choice ; but the kind invitation which I received from my valued and esteemed friend, to visit his property in the West Indies and afterwards accompany him to America, quickly induced me to change my mind. I confess that the lectures which I had heard in England, from the hired agents of the anti-Slavery society, and the natural abhorrence with which Englishmen contemplate a state of bondage, had induced me to form a very strong opinion on that subject, extremely hostile to the West India interest. My friend never obtruded the subject on me, it was one to him of a painful character, as his natural benevolence of disposition, and ardent love of liberty, at once compelled him to admit, and acknowledge that Slavery was theoretically,