

thing is really and truly *property*, which had hitherto been considered as *property*, the dispute becomes a matter in which every Member of the Community is either nearly or remotely interested; for although every Man in this Province is not possessed of this species of property, yet every Man *may* be possessed of it. Nothing; therefore, can be of more extensive utility to the Public, than to have this question put so fast a-sleep, that it may never awake again. How far the publication of these papers may go towards effecting this, the event only can tell.—Thus much as to my motive.

As to the *manner* in which I became possessed of these papers, I desire leave to refer the Reader to the following short Narrative.

ABOUT a year ago, I heard that Col. Delancy (an old acquaintance of mine, and who lives near Annapolis, in our neighbouring Province) had instituted a suit against a Mr. Wooden for detaining his Negro Slave. I heard also, that after a verdict in his favour, there was a motion in arrest of judgment grounded upon the idea, that an action of Trover (as Lawyers call it) would not lie for a Negro in that Province, but that some other action was the proper one. All this happened at the last September Term of the Supreme Court there. And I since find, that the hearing of the motion was delayed till the September Term in the present year.

Now, happening since to understand, that Col. Delancy had resorted to several of the most learned Counsellors in England for their opinions on this interesting subject, and that he had obtained opinions from them parallel to his most sanguine wishes, I thought I should be doing well were I to request Col. Delancy, by letter, to send me a copy of those opinions, with his leave to show them where I might think they would be of service. Accordingly I wrote him, and receive  
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