

"ter's right to his services may *possibly* remain." By this last passage it no less appears that a Negro, before he lands in England, is a Slave.

I understand attempts to have been made, to make the Case of a Negro, and that of a villain, parallel Cases.

On this head I would just observe, that the most characteristic marks of difference which at present occurs to me, between these two description of Men, seem to be these. First, a villain was, at the worst of times, capable of holding lands by long usage or immemorial custom. Secondly, if he purchased lands or goods, and afterwards sold them before his Lord had seized upon them, the last purchaser would hold them against the claim of his Lord. But neither of these languid sparks of Freedom belong to a Negro Slave. For if lands should be devised to such a Slave, I apprehend the Master could not enter upon them, but that the heir at Law might enter, and claim them as an undisposed part of the real Estate. I believe it to have been a generally received opinion, even in New-England, where Slaves were treated with great humanity, that they were rendered so incapable of acquiring property themselves, that it could not be derived through them to any one else.— In short, they were considered as incapable of receiving any thing, except through their Masters: And consequently their Masters could not receive any thing through them, except their earnings and services. No Man, who coolly reflects on the state of a Negro Slave, in all the aspects of it, can help seeing, that the state of a villain is but very faintly analogous to that of the former.

No Man who has the lawful possession of goods, can be the object of an action of Trover, till after demand and refusal, because, till then, there can be no conversion. The conversion, therefore, being the very point of the action, must necessarily be under the controul of the

the Law
If a Jar
gland,
is adm
there.

could h
laid: A
which
Master
while h
languag
vices.—

"ces of
"son?"
ways i
Negro
protecti
be prop
propert
be non

"Bu
"it tha
Let Bl

"with
"acqui
"mas,
"fore;
"life,
"of fe

Now,
of Joh
sion; f
services
"not t
"this g
means,