

and companionship with the Counsel or Barrister. This would have been considered an act of impropriety, and undue condescension by the latter.

There is one subject which at that early period came under legal discussion, in this Province, on which it may be interesting to the public to be informed, and of which, I feel confident, but very few if any of our population, except myself, have any knowledge whatever. It is that of the atrocious slave system. My readers will doubtless be startled at the thought, or supposition, that it could ever have been a question, whether that cruel outrage on humanity, ever existed in this Province. But the question did arise, and was legally argued and decided. I think it was in the year 1806. Before relating the case in which the decision was given, I must state some preliminary facts relating to the subject.—During the progress, and especially at the close of the revolutionary war in the British Provinces, now the United States, rather large numbers of the loyalist families left those lands, and came to Nova Scotia, which then included New Brunswick, and as I think the Islands of Cape Breton and St. John,—this latter now named Prince Edward. A large number of them settled in Shelburne. Several of these loyal or *refugee* families, as they were often called, brought with them in their service, individuals of the slave population, who came with the families, either from kind attachment to them, or hoping thus to secure their freedom. One of them abruptly left his master's service, in Shelburne, and came to Halifax. The master pursued him, and by some legal process, or other means, procured