

remedy even against that part to which my sister objects, of doing servants wrong: for I do not deny that some mistresses may injure their servants, and there ought to be no wrong on either hand.

First niece. I have known a mistress refuse to give a poor servant a character, only because she was unwilling to part with her, and yet at the same time use her ill too.

Sec. niece. Such things may happen, I do not deny that.

First niece. I have also known a mistress injure a servant by her partiality in favour of other servants, and give a maid an ill character, when she has not deserved it, by the mere reproaches raised on her by others.

Sec. niece. It is not possible to reckon up all the cases in which a mistress may injure a servant 'tis true, and there can be no rule set so exact, as that nobody shall be oppressed; but I have two things to say:

1. All the injustice that can be supposed to happen that way, is not equal to that which mistresses and families now suffer from the insolence and baseness of servants; and therefore the remedy is to be embraced, and the lesser evil chosen.

2. There may be methods directed by the law, that in such cases, where mistresses have nothing capital to charge upon a servant, they shall be obliged to give them certificates of their behaviour.

Aunt. I have often thought of that: but unless the form of that certificate be settled and adjusted by that very act of parliament, the mistresses will just write what they please, and when they are produced against a servant, will say nothing in their certificates that shall do them any service, or recommend them at all to any one else.

Sec. niece. Those must be very malicious people that will go that length with a servant.

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