

*either be looked on as an accession of so many subjects, or as the means of such a national acquisition of property as they have paid for their emancipation: which increase of capital in proper hands, in a commercial nation, will always be turned to its advantage.*

Had the labour of the negroes in our islands been voluntary, we never should have heard of their frequent insurrections and murder of their masters—nor of these bloody wars at different times, for near a century past, with the runaway negroes in Jamaica, whom at last we have been obliged to acknowledge independent.

We do not mean to infer that proprietors of slaves should free them without recompence, because this act of generosity, to the diminution of their own fortunes, can with no more reason be expected of them than that other individuals should apply their private property to the same purpose—to the reimbursement of the sums they cost their proprietors.

What we wish to have adopted is, to look on the cost or value of a negro as a debt due from him, for which we retain his labour as security for principal and interest, and to put the payment of it as much as possible in his power by permitting him to pay it off as he is able, and gradually redeem his own; which is no more indulgence than we would readily allow any other debtor. Should we not think