

WHAT the learned Blackstone says upon this subject, in the 424th page of his Commentaries, will shew that I have had a right apprehension of the opinion of the Court, as it stands reported in the preceding Case by Salkeld and Raymond. This profound Lawyer, speaking of the abhorred state of Slavery, has these remarkable words:—"And now it is laid down, that a Slave or Negro, the instant he lands in England, becomes a Freeman; that is, the Law will protect him in the enjoyment of his person and his property."—Two things decidedly appear from this recited clause. First, that a Negro, before he lands in England, either is or may be a Slave. Secondly, that the instant he lands in England, he becomes a Freeman. He next proceeds to describe the distinguishing badges of Freedom; and accordingly he adds, that "the Law," (meaning the common Law of England) "will protect him in the enjoyment of his person and his property."—Hence it is clear, that a Negro, who had been incapable of acquiring property, while remaining under the Plantation Laws, may nevertheless acquire property after he gets to England. He is now capable of taking by devise, or gift, no less than acquiring property by lawful traffic. But this he could not do, while he remained under a Plantationjurisprudence. Nor could he hold property acquired in England, after his return, if he took it along with him; for then his property, as well as his person, fall immediately again under the power and dominion of his owner.

THIS same learned author tells us before in p. 127, pretty nearly what he tells us in the before recited passage. Here he says, that "the spirit of liberty is so deeply implanted into our Constitution, and rooted in our very soil, that a Slave or a Negro, the moment he lands in England, falls under the protection of the Laws, and so far becomes a Freeman; though his Mas-

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