

With respect to the Negroes, the Doctor is not particular in his Accusation of the Society, and therefore a general Answer will suffice. He observes justly, that *our West India Islands abound with them,** and so do some of our plantations on the Continent. But in both they live under the absolute Government, chiefly of hard Masters; too many of whom forbid them to be instructed in Religion, and others deprive them of Time for it, by making it necessary that on *Sundays* they should work for themselves. Where they are allowed to attend the Minister of the Parish, they are properly under his Care; and where Negroes abound most, the Parishes are in general so well endowed, that the Society have not, and need not have, Missionaries in them; but Provision, even for the lowest of the People, may be easily made without them. Where they have Missionaries, the Negroes are understood to be Part of their Flock, whom they have been strictly charged not to neglect.

In these Places where there are no Ministers, it is impossible to appoint a separate Missionary or Catechist for the Negroes of each Family, and almost impossible to assemble those of distant Families together. The Proprietors of large Numbers of them are usually well able to get them instructed by some of their upper Servants, or a neighbouring Schoolmaster; and if they are unwilling, would be very apt to defeat the Endeavours of Persons appointed by the Society. If such in any Place, as are well disposed, will form any reasonable Plan for the Instruction of the Negroes belonging to them, or near them, which they may contrive much better on the Spot than the Society can at a Distance, they will be sure to receive as much Help from it, as they can expect. The Society hath for many Years maintained Catechists for the Negroes in the two great Cities of *New-York* and *Philadelphia*, with very good Effect. And of late they have been blamed for it as overdoing, because the Inhabitants may well bear that Burthen themselves. However this be, they can truly answer to the Doctor's Charge, that they have refused no Assistance

* Page 99.