

What we would now wish to propose is, that the government of each island or province should take upon them the future maintenance that may be necessary for every slave, free of bodily infirmities, hereafter to be liberated, on condition of there being paid into their treasury, such sums as ought to be according to their respective ages. As to the age of the party, where it can, it ought to be proved indubitably; but where it cannot, to be then determined by skilful persons appointed by a magistrate, who, from what evidence they could gather, and from appearances, might fix it to the best of their judgment.

However, until such time as the emancipated negroes fall further under the consideration of the respective governments, it is easy for individuals who make them free, or afford them the means of doing it, to take such equivalent into their own hands, and in consequence engage to maintain them when they can no longer do it by their own labour; that is, to take them again into their own plantations as soon as they require it, and there maintain them, reaping the benefit of such little employment as they are capable of—All this being premised, it will be easy to form a plan of emancipation that shall be fraught with no detriment to the proprietors of slaves.

If I am informed right, it is a custom in some of the Spanish settlements, that whenever a cargo of slaves arrives, the price each
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