

jects." "We are all *citizens*, and inhabit the *freest country on earth*." Now, Sir, were you a slaveholder, or did I consider you as approving the conduct of others who are so, I should be inclined to take up your words, and examine them in the following manner:—

"The United States know no subjects." But a great majority of those very states know a character much more degrading, for they are well acquainted with *slaves!* and legalize the buying and selling of men, of women, and of children, as if they were brutes; have laws to extort human labour without wages; laws, too, for inflicting penalties where there are no crimes.

"The United States know no subjects." But they are no strangers to human beings in black or coloured skins, who are treated by them as if they had no souls, no parental or filial affections.

"The United States know no subjects." But they know, or presume to know, what it is to live in comparative ease and indolence, to acquire wealth, and to obtain superior stations in civil society, by extorting labour, and withholding wages, from more than half a million of their inhabitants. But they ought also to know, that God has pronounced an awful woe on those who are guilty of such conduct. For Jehovah says, "Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbour's services without wages, and giveth him not for his work." Jer. xxii. 13. See also Jer. xxxiv. 17.

"The United States know no subjects." But they know, that when the British government imposed taxes upon them, without their own consent, it was considered by them as an intolerable injury, and as an instance of tyranny which completely warranted hostile resistance, though

they never suspected the British government of intending to deprive them of their personal liberty. They also know great numbers of individuals, who are guilty of no other crimes than those of being either born in Africa, or descending from African parents, of whom they dispose as if they were four-footed animals, without suffering them to have the least voice in the representative body.

"We are all *citizens*." That is, we who have the happiness and honour of wearing not black, or mulatto, but white skins, possess liberty, personal, civil, and political; are capable of acquiring large property, and are eligible to the first honours in the federal government. But as for those hundreds of thousands among us, whom our common Father has marked with such infamous and ugly skins, and lips, and heads, we justly treat them as the mere tools of avarice, and the objects of oppression; as the refuse of mankind, and as unworthy the name of men. It is indeed asserted, in an old book, now but little regarded, "That God made of one blood all the nations of men;" but we, the genuine sons of liberty, will never be persuaded that our blood is specifically the same with that which flows in the veins of a black or a mulatto. To treat them, therefore, as if they were human creatures, would be to exalt brutes and degrade ourselves.

"We inhabit the *freest country on the earth*." Then every country on the globe must be in a wretched state indeed! for the freedom of any country respects the inhabitants of it; respects their being governed by laws that are just and equal, with regard to their persons, their character, and their property; and those laws duly executed, so that the rich and powerful cannot oppress the poorest and most obscure without being amenable in courts of justice. But is this