

and prophets, for God hath avenged you on her; but among the Merchants of the earth, we have paid no more for her, because no man buyeth their merchandize any more; the merchants of god and silver—and slaves, and souls of men." The enslaving of man is a practice truly anti-christian, and it is a lasting reproach to the Protestant name that, it is able to be peculiar to an Atheist. O shame! O indelible disgrace! That Protestant, that ten ministris, who of all others should keep farthest off from her, should be found publicly committing fornication with the great Whore, drinking then his lives drunk, and stupping their consciences with her filthy wine. But blessed be God, though he has join in hand the Negroes in all her trade. It is hoped the period is not far distant. Whoever considers, upon the one hand, the rapid progress that I think sophy, the fair harbinger of Liberty, now makes in the popish or despotic kingdoms of Europe, and, upon the unavoidable consequences of the late memorable revolution in America must see that Providence is making haste, to overturn forever the pillars of tyranny, and to restore the world to its liberty. For this glorious day let us often and fervently pray. No friend of mankind need be discouraged for that the spirit of freedom should not soon reach Africa; for when the flames of vice kindled it will quickly spread to the utmost boundaries of the earth. Navigation hath already explored every coast, and hath hardly left an island throughout the globe undiscovered. It remains only that it should change its tyrant masters (under whom that useful art hath been too long abused to the vilest of purposes) for friends of mankind, and then it will carry liberty and happiness, temporal and spiritual to every corner of the world, with more speed and alacrity than ever it carried slavery and death.

I would further ask you, Reverend Sir, How can you appeal to the heart searching God, and say, as a minister "I have not shunned to declare the whole counsel of God," as a Christian I discharge my duty to my fellow-creatures as faithfully as I could, while you are obliged to teach that girl, that she is entirely under your power, and has no right to use any means for the salvation of her soul, but such as are subservient to the secular interests of your family. How can you lay your hand upon your breast and say I wish to love my neighbour as myself, and, whatsoever I will that others should do to me I endeavour to do the same to them? What sort of obedience give you to the Almighty command of preferring one another, with brotherly love, in honour, or, of giving to servants that which is just and equal, knowing that ye also have a master in heaven?" &c. &c.

Be pleased, my dear sir, to consider that, except the word of God, liberty is the most precious gift of Heaven to man, a gift without which there can be no enjoyment in the world, a gift bestowed as freely and universally as the light of the sun, or the air that we breathe, a gift the love of which is far more deeply implanted in the heart of man than that of life itself, a gift, consequently, of which no man may deprive another without being guilty of the highest contempt of God, and his best bounty, and of something more horrid than murder with respect to his brother. Shall a heathen say,

— in Cato's judgment,

"A day, an hour of virtuous liberty

"Is worth a whole eternity of bondage?"

And shall a Minister of the Gospel reply, I will enslave, and till I die I will not renounce my liberty to enslave?

I would entreat you, Reverend Sir, to consider what a baleful influence your example will have upon others. Doubtless it has already drawn others into the sin; and it may draw others into it for generations after you are rotten in your grave. Many will shield themselves against strong arguments with this: surely when the Reverend Mr. ———, a good minister, does it, there cannot be any harm in it. In a word, though nothing could be said against slavery from scripture or reason, but that advice of the Apostle to a slave, "If thou mayst be free, use it rather," it were enough for a man of a tender conscience, who needs only to know his master's will, that he may do it. But, Reverend Sir, you have continued so long in this horrible sin that I am afraid your conscience is wasted, your understanding darkened, and your heart hardened, through long habit, that you cannot see the evil of it. I am persuaded that your conscience checked you at the beginning, but you quenched it. Be sure it will awake and when it will, you may wish you had never bought a Negro though you had died for want.

Therefore