

bable amount of the indemnity;—the postulate here is so to graduate the change, from coercion to free labour, from the *whip to wages*, that little if any capital shall be thrown out of employ in its progress. One plan would be to purchase a given number of slaves every year, beginning with the older slaves, and thus buy off the whole in the course of six, eight, or ten years. So, on the first of January next, let all male slaves, above 45, be emancipated with their wives and children under 12; on the 1st of January, 1834, all above 40, and so on to 20 years of age, when all that remained might be emancipated at once.

By this means, justice would be first done to those who have suffered longest; the conversion would be gradual; and the planter could find no difficulty in hiring first a few labourers, and then a few more, or he would have the choice of circumscribing his operations. Before the second period of emancipation arrived, the preceding batch of free labourers would be absorbed. In any case, children, as they obtained freedom, would find a home with their parents, which is the great difficulty (besides the injustice, as regards the older slaves,) of merely emancipating children born after a given day;—a plan tardy in its effects, and which sets the manager's interest directly in opposition to procreation.

Should this mode be considered too expensive, another plan, equally possible and certain, though less expeditious, is that of Mr. Macaulay, which, in 1824, was sanctioned by the approbation of Lord Liverpool and Mr. Canning, namely, to purchase the females. This, too, might be graduated like the other; it might be done in one year, or ten. Or a third, and perhaps the best, plan would be, to combine both, to purchase first the females, and then the males.

On either plan, the effect would be certain. Not only would slavery be extinguished by its direct operation, but it would give a great impulse to equitable manumission. A period being fixed, the slave would only have to buy the remainder