

to as great an extent as those who have many times his capital, and though his gains will not be so great as those that have no labour to pay, they will be much greater on the capital employed; and this is certainly the criterion to go by.

Now, as to the man of large capital, we may venture to say, he will not value an annuity on the life of any new slave at eight years purchase, equal to legal interest for his money: therefore, as good slaves, on an average, are worth £. 50 * sterling per head, and good mechanics are, many of them, bought and sold as high as £. 100, it would be equally his interest to hire the former at £. 6 . 5, yearly wages, with all necessary cloathing and provisions, and the latter at £. 12 . 10, with the same allowances, as to purchase them.

It would even be better, because the planter would be under no engagement to maintain the hired men in their old age. These wages and other attendants, are, in reality, as much, or more, than are usually paid in many parts of England for farmers' servants and country mechanics. And is there no difference between the labour of a freeman and a slave? Yes, reason tells us there must be: The one

* Slaves from some part of the coast (where they are of less value) may be bought on importation at so low as about £. 36 per head, provided men and women, with a considerable proportion of boys and girls of 12 years of age and upwards, be taken together as they run, with a right only of refusal of one in fifteen or twenty.