

To illuminate those vast and hitherto impenetrable regions is an object for the ambition of Christians; but, in order to effect it, our attention must be first directed to that unhappy race whom we have transported thence to our own plantations. The duty of imparting to them religious knowledge was always incumbent on their Christian masters; but is more powerfully urged upon us at the present moment for evident and striking reasons.

The iniquity of the trade is now publicly acknowledged by all parties; the pleas drawn from pretended necessity or private interest being found as groundless, as they were before disgraceful. Our guilt, therefore, in having so long permitted this traffic, which is now left without excuse, requires of us a speedy and vigorous attempt to indemnify, as far as we are able, these injured men. It is also clear, that to instruct and improve them will be every day rendered more practicable than it was during the continual importation of fresh negroes, who seldom failed to corrupt their countrymen, and to occasion the revival of their old, savage, and brutal habits.

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