

and judicious consideration, will any ways lessen their right of being treated as strangers. If the treatment which many of them meet with, be rightly examined and compared with those precepts, “Thou shalt not vex him nor oppress him; he shall be as one born amongst you, and thou shalt love him as thyself,” Lev. xix. 33. Deut. xxvii. 19. there will appear an important difference betwixt them.

It may be objected there is cost of purchase, and risque of their lives to them who possess 'em, and therefore needful that they make the best use of their time: in a practice just and reasonable, such objections may have weight; but if the work be wrong from the beginning, there is little or no force in them. If I purchase a man who hath never forfeited his liberty, the natural right of freedom is in him; and shall I keep him and his posterity in servitude and ignorance? “How should I approve of this conduct, were I in his circumstances, and he in mine?” It may be thought, that to treat them as we would willingly be treated, our gain by them would be inconsiderable: and it were, in divers respects, better that there were none in our country.

We may further consider, that they are now amongst us, and those of our nation the cause of their being here; that whatsoever difficulty accrues thereon, we are justly chargeable with, and to bear all inconveniencies attending it, with a serious and weigh-