
The American Defence
Of The
Christian Golden Rule.

Argument the First.

THe more a Man becomes conformable to the Attributes of God, the more just and holy he is, and the more beloved of God, and consequently a more perfect Christian.

First, then, God hath given to man a Free-Will, so that he is Master of his own Choice (whether it be good or evil) and will in no way force and compel the Will of man; yea, not unto that part which is good, far less unto evil, notwithstanding his Attribute of Omnipotence. And seeing then, it is thus with God and his Creatures, we ought also to do so by our fellow mortals, and therefore we ought not to force and compel our fellow creatures, the Negroes, Nay, not although we judge it for them a better way of living; for when we force their will, this is a manifest Robbery of that noble Gift their bountiful Creator hath given them, and is a right down Contradiction to the aforesaid Attributes of God, and consequently an Anti-Christian Practice. And so, those that oppose God and his Attributes, they may expect
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to incur his Displeasure ; So they may find a pregnant Instance in *Pharaoh* and his Egyptian Task-Masters.

2^{dly}. This Practice contradicts Christs command, who commanded us, *To do to all men as we would they should do to us*, or as we would be done by. Now the buying and selling of the *Bodies* and *Souls* of Men, was and is the Merchandize of the Babylonish Merchants spoken of in the *Revelations*. Now the Tyranizing over and making Slaves of our Fellow Creatures, the Negroes, every one knows, or may know, this is not the way they would be done unto.

Now, I have shown you, *first*, That this Practice opposes God and his Attributes, and *2^{dly}*, That it opposes Christ and his Command ; And what is this in Effect but to bid Defiance, and to live in Opposition to Christ and his Gospel ? and it so, it is a high Degree of an Antichristian Life and Practice.

And now, *my beloved Friends*, who are concerned in this Practice, as you love the Welfare of your immortal Souls, I intreat you (for it is for your sakes I labour) not lightly to look over these considerations, if ye think to receive a *Reward for the Deeds done in the Body* ; For how will ye answer when ye are brought before *Gods Tribunal*, and there appear naked and bear before the Son of Man, if ye have lived and dyed in Opposition to his everlasting Gospel, for the confirmation of which, for our Sakes, cost him his precious Life, and now for a little worldly Interest, got in Opposition to Christ and his Gospel, by the Bandage and Inslaving of Negroes ; the very Reading of which is enough to make

all Hearts concerned to tremble; The very thoughts of this makes me declare, for all the Riches and Honours of this world, I would not be found in this Antichristian Life and Practice.

3/y, I have shewed before, That GOD, who is no respecter of persons, hath given to all men a Freedom of their Wills, to pitch upon their own choice, for both Soul and Body, which are the only parts, next unto the Life, the free donation of our heavenly Father, in this terrestrial world; But it would seem by the Negro-Masters Practice and Arguments, that God did miss the matter, by his Wisdom, when he gave the Negros (his Creatures) the Freedom of their Wills; but our Negro-Masters have found out, by their Ingenuity, how to mend this (seeming) Defect, in two respects, to wit, that is to rob them of their Freedom, and make them bond-Slaves and their Posterity forever. And in the next place, they can highly enrich themselves by the Bargain; by the unparalleled and never enough lamented Bondage and Slavery of those poor Creatures and handy work of God, And can afford to keep themselves with white hands, except at some Times they chance to be besparkled with the Blood of those poor Slaves, when they fall to beating them with their *twisted Hides* and *Horse-whips*, and other *Instruments of Cruelty*, too barbarous here to relate, all done in the name of their deservings and correction. And furthermore, they can afford (by their beloved *Diana*, their Slaves) to go with *sine powdered Perruigs*, and great *bunched Coats*;

Coats; and likewise keep their *Wives* idle (*Jezebel-like*) to *paint their Faces*, and *Puff*, and *powder their Hair*, and to bring up their *Sons* and *Daughters* in *Idleness* and *Wantonness*, and in all manner of *Pride* and *Prodigality*, in *dick'ng* and *adorn'ng* their *Carkises* with *puff* and *powdered Hair*, with *Ruffles* and *Top-knots*, *Ribbons* and *Lace*, and *gay Cloathing*, and what not; All, and much more, the miserable *Effects* produced by the *Slavery* of *Negroes*; and their *Slaves* in the *vilest Rags*, much ado to cover their *nakedness*, and many of them not a *Skirt* upon their *Backs*, and some of them not a *Shoe* upon their *Foot* in *cold Frosts* and *Snow* in the *Winter* Time, that many of them have their *Feet* and other *members frozen off*, by reason of their *Cruell Usage*; and some of them must lie by the *Fire* among the *Ashes*, or be driven out to lie in *Huts* out of *Doors* among the *worst* of their *Dogs*, for some of the *finest* of their *Dogs* they permit to lie in the *bed* with themselves.

And they accomodate their *Slaves* which such *Names* as these, *Toby*, *Mando*, *Mingo*, *Jack*, *Heber* and *Hagar*, and such like *Names* they give to their *Dogs* and *Horses*.

And when their *Masters* see fit they will *hang* *them up by their Thumbs*, and then command another *Negro* to beat him so long, as his *Master* sees fit; this he must not refuse to do, if it were his *own Father*, nay, further, they will force them to be very *Hang-men*, And notwithstanding of all this, some of them must go with a *hang y Bely*, and that which they do get to eat (ye need not doubt

doubt but it) is the worst the House affords.

Now all that fear God cannot but know that those men who use such Cruelty are not only void of the *Fear of God*, but are even destitute of *humane Civility*, and *Pity* and *Mercy*; Therefore their Example can be no more a Rule for keeping Slaves than it is for using such inhumane Cruelty, which all sober Men abhor; For it cannot be expected that men of such Cruelty have much regard to the lawfulness of what they do, and it is great Pity that men who are naturally more moderate and merciful should be led to the Practice of an unlawful thing by the Example of the vilest of men.

But to return to the Servants of such cruel Masters; By this Description all may see, that they are put under an unavoidable Necessity of sinning to maintain *self-Preservation*, an Instinct of Nature belonging to all the Creatures of God; So self-preservation puts them to *steal*, *rob*, and *lie*, and many other sinfull Actions; nay, some of them when they see themselves surrounded and trapped with all the Miseries aforesaid, and many more, then they go into Dispair, and miserably *murder themselves*, and from their *Masters*, to get rid of their Tortures and miserable Slavish Life. There was one of them (I think) within less then two years ago, shot himself with a Gun, near his Masters House, within a few miles off the place where I write this lamentable story.

Now for those heinous Sins, as *Lying*, *stealing*, *Robbing*, and *Self-Murder*; they cannot
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escape Punishment, by the Justice of God. Now as I have said before, they being put under such necessity of sinning, and they themselves being but *Infidels*, I desire the Negro-Masters to inform me, who must answer for all these abominable Sins ?

And now, *Reader*, I have given thee a small View of the Usage and Treatment of these poor miserable Slaves ; for if I would enlarge upon their Usage, I need write nothing else to swell up a Book to I know not what bigness ; The *parting of Man and Wife* being such a heinous Sin committed by the Negro-Masters, I cannot pass by ; The parting the Husband from the Wife, and the Wife from the Husband, and their Children from them both, to make up their Masters Gains, they force them thus to break the seventh Command, and commit Adultery with other strangers, or other mens Wives or Husbands. These and the like Usages, is enough to make them believe, there is no God at all, and harden them in Idolatrous Worship, and make them blaspheme against the holy God, that he takes not immediate Vengeance on such notorious Offenders. And here are the *first three* Commands broken, occasioned by their Masters. And the breaking the *fourth* is evident to all, for some, for want of Food and other necessaries, for all their hard weeks Labour to enrich their Master, for to maintain Self-preservation, puts them to work on the First Day of the Week, to supply their pure Necessities, and so break that which their Masters call the Christian Sabbath.

Sabbath. And so, here is all the Commands of the first Table broken by them, occasioned by the Cruelty of their Masters. And their Children being sold from their Parents, they unavoidably cannot honour them; and here is the breach of the fifth. And to get rid of their miserable Tortures, many kill themselves and others; and here is the breach of the Sixth. The parting of Man and Wife makes them commit Adultery with others; and here is the breach of the Seventh. To maintain Self-preservation, they unavoidably must steal; and here is the breach of the Eighth. Then they run away to avoid their Tortures, and when they are caught their Master will ask them, *Do you not deserve to be hung up and Beat?* and here they must bear False witness against themselves (which is worse than against their Neighbours) and say, *yes, I do, we serve to be hung up and Beat;* and here is the breach of the ninth. And when they are in great necessity of Food and Rayment, and have it not of their own, they unavoidably must covet it of their Neighbours, and here is the breach of the Tenth.

Now Reader, here are all the Ten Commands of God (occasioned by their Masters) broken by them. This is such a Charge, that I doubt it will be too hot or too heavy for the Negro-Masters to answer.

And now that those Christians who in their Baptism did engage to keep all Gods holy commands, should not keep them, but break them themselves and for their own Gains, do lay all manner of unavoidable Necessities upon their Slaves

to break them also; This is a poor encouragement for Godfathers indeed.

I may truly say, as *Nestorius* did, who was Arch-Bishop of *Constantinople*, and was banished from them by the prevailing Party in his Time, to the outermost part of the *Roman Empire* among the *Barbarians*, because he said and taught, That *Mary* ought not to be called the *Mother of God*, but the *Mother of Christ*, and that it could not go down with him to say, that God was a year old, or a Month, or a Day old, &c. As we may read in that great Book called *Eusebius*. And when he found great Kindness from those Barbarians he wrote a learned and eloquent Letter to those Christians that banished him, to this Effect, that *For his Banishment he could undergo it patiently, but his Fear and Lamentation was, that their Actions should go unto the Heathen, that thereby they should be emboldened in Heathenism, and give them Advantage to blaspheme against Christ and the Christian Religion*; And so advised them not to be a stop and a Hinderance to that glorious Gospel that had cost so many Lives for the spreading and advancing of it.

Now, I can truly say, that this is my concern as it was the concern of *Nestorius*, that ever the Actions of our *American* Negro-Matters should go unto the *Turks* and other *Heathen Nations*, to harden them in *Mahometanism* and other *Heathenism*, and to embolden them to blaspheme against Christ and his Gospel, and the purest Christianity.

I wish this may come to be the concern of
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our Negro-Masters, That they be not hinderes, but Advancers of the glorious Gospel, and then I am sure they will be loath to do to any other Man what they would not be done by themselves.

Now, it is not unpossible but that an *American Negro Master* and a *Turk* should meet and discourse this Point betwixt them, And the *Turk* should say, "I am well pleased, Brother that you
 ,, and we agree so well in this Point, viz. in making Slaves of them we can have the Mastery
 ,, over ; And I doubt not but many of us have
 ,, been at a stand whether it may not be a sin to
 ,, use our fellow Creatures so cruelly : but now
 ,, I think it is Time to give over such Doubts,
 ,, when we see it so mightily practised by the *Christians*, I mean the *American Christians*; I make
 ,, this Distinction, because it is not practised in
 ,, *Europe*.

,, And now, Brother, I would argue a little
 ,, plainer with you , How comes it to pass, that
 ,, you find Fault with us for making Slaves of
 ,, Men, when you your selves do the same? How
 ,, can that be an evil and a sin in us, which is a
 ,, Christian Practice among yourselves? And I
 ,, hear, that when any of your Slaves turns
 ,, Christian, and is baptized and receives the
 ,, Christian Faith, you keep them in perpetual
 ,, Slavery for all, and so they have no encouragement to turn Christian upon that score,
 ,, which shews to me, that you have but a small
 ,, Esteem for your Religion, or at least are very
 ,, lukewarm for *Profelytes*.

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„ This is worse then *Turks*; for when any of
 „ our Slaves turn, and embraces the *Muhamme-*
 „ *tan Faith*, they are no longer Slaves, but pre-
 „ sently set free, and many Times preferred
 „ to Places of *Trust* and *Dignity*, such zeal have
 „ we for Profelytes, and our Religion.

„ And how comes it that you differ among
 „ your selves in this Practice? for there are some
 „ zealous men among you, that both dispute and
 „ write against you, and they declare it to be
 „ an Antichristian Practice; And the Christians
 „ in *Europe* do not practice it. And I have
 „ heard that the Gospel was, *Glory to God in the*
 „ *Highest*, and *Peace and Good Will to all Men*
 „ *upon Earth*, and that ye should do to all men as
 „ ye would they should do to you. And if this
 „ be the Gospel of the blessed Messiah, I will tell
 „ you plainly, I look upon you to be apostatized
 „ in this Point, and I would advise you either
 „ to embrace the rest of our *Mahometan* Practices
 „ (and then we would receive you) or otherwise to
 „ walk more closely to the Rules and Practice of
 „ *Christianity*; and not to content your selves with
 „ a Name, and to be a perpetual Scandal to the
 „ rest of Christians.

So far *Mahometan*.

AND now, *Christians* of after Ages to come, Its
 not unlikely, but ye may meet with the
 Force and Assaults of *Negro-Masters*; as we in
 this Age have done, (And so, *Christian*, defend
 thy self as we have done before thee) And so to
 cloak

cloak their Impiety, and to make the best
 ſew of Pretences they can, they may thus
 begin.

N-gr. Maſter. Had not Gods People (in all Ages)
 had Slaves, bought with their Money ?

Chriſtians Answer. So had they their many
 Wives and Concubines, and I ſee no more Reaſon
 to plead for Slaves then to plead for many Wives
 and Concubines.

N-gr. Maſter. It is true, we have as good
 Grounds for the one as for the other, and I will
 freely acknowledge that if the many Wives and
 Concubines would bring in ſuch Advantage to us
 as our Negro-Slaves do, I doubt not but we ſhould
 plead as ſt for the one as for the other; But
 the many Wives and Concubines not being ad-
 vantagous, we in Diſcretion drop that part of
 our Argument, and keep cloſe to that which
 brings us Gains? So I need not enlarge to trouble
 my ſelf to cite every chapter and Verſe, for I
 take it for a Maxim, That all the *Old Teſtament*,
 where it treats upon that ſubject, is upon our
 ſide; and I have heard ſome of us alledge out
 of the New Teſtament, that *Philemon* was a
 Slave, but ſince I have read *Pool's Annotations*
 on the Place, I will not be ſo unmanly as to
 aſſert it as a Proof; I think I have Proof enough,
 that have the *Old Teſtament*, although I meddle
 not with the *New*.

And now I think I have proved by Scripture,
 that keeping of Slaves was praſiſed of Old;
 And now I intend to ſhew that it is according
 to the *Conſiſtancy of our Times*, *Fiſt* by the con-

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sent and agreement of all the several *Sects* of Christians.

I begin then with the famous *Bishops* of *E g.* and (who are not ignorant of our Negro-Practice) who by their Christian care do send their *Missionaries* hither to *America*, to teach the Inhabitants here the Principles and Practices of Christianity; And it is evident those *Missionaries* do make their Gains by Negro Slaves, and have their Houses crawling *black* with them, by which they set an Example to others to follow their steps; And not a word of Sin in all this. And I never heard that a Bishop ever wrote a word against it; by which I think it is evident that the making Slaves of Negroes is according to *Church-Christianity*.

And *Secondly*, I can shew by that famous and zealous Sect of *Presbyterians*, who have been diligent followers of the Principles and Practices of the *Reformation*, witness the Rejecting the ~~Common Prayer~~ Mass-Book, and many other Roman Superstitions, so kind kindly entertained (as they think) by some of their Protestant Brethren; and a People very zealous in their Lives and Church Discipline; and yet, both Preachers and People do joyntly agree with the Church in making Slaves of Negroes.

Thirdly, I can shew by that pious Sect of *Anabaptists*, Witness some of them their Modesty in Apparel, and their Dexterity in the Point of Water-Baptism, in telling the rest of Christians in Print, that they do cheat the World in the Point of Infant Baptism; but they very Lovingly

Lovingly embrace this Practice in making Slaves of Negroes.

Now if the *Church*, and *Presbyterians*, and *Baptists* did but agree to lovingly in other Points as they do in making Slaves of Negroes, I think they might be stiled *One Community*.

Now, if those several Sects of Christians and their unanimous Agreement in this Practice of making *Slaves of Negroes*, as I have already shewed, does not amount to a Proof, I know not what will,

Christians Answer, I do confess this is a Proof, that some of all those several Sects do Practise this Point of Impiety, which I would readily have confessed without a word of Proof, except what mine Eyes have seen; For all these Sects of People both by Principle and Practice do *Fight*, and *Kill*, and take away the Lives of many Thousands in Battles, for their enriching of themselves, and for their own Advantages, and therefore it is no Wonder that all those Sects agree so well in making Slaves of Negroes, or others whom they can get the Mastery over (for their own Advantage.)

But as this is very forreign from *Christianity*, and out of the Peaceable Gospel of the blessed Messiah (for *worrying*, *Tearing* and *Killing* are the marks of *Dogs*, *Wolves* and *Bears*, which is the Practice of those aforesaid Sects of *Christians*, as they call themselves: but the Innocence of *Lambs* and *Doves* was and is the Characteristick of *Christians*) so I think this is sufficient to over-
set what was alledged for a Proof by the Practice

Since of all those several S & S of Christians for enslaving of their fellow Creatures the Negroes; For I thought the Gospel had not been Cruelty, but had been *Innocence, Love, Meekness, Patience, Long-Suffering*, and plenteous in *Forgiveness*, and other *Emblems* of the Attributes of God, and that Christians were to *give their Backs to the Smiter, and their Cheeks to them that pluck off the Hair.*

But I have a further Answer for you, and that is, I utterly deny that either *Church-men* or *Presbyterians* have generally agreed in making Slaves of Negroes; For some of both have preached, and some have printed against it here in *North-America*; And some that have had Negroes, their Conscience would not allow them to keep them for Slaves, but after some Time of Service they set them free.

Hence I infer, That making Slaves of men, is an evil so abominable in the nature of it, that men whose Principles are so large as to allow of *Killing men*, cannot allow of making Men *Slaves*, accounting it worse to *Rob* men of their *Liberty* and *Labour*, who have done them no harm, then it is to kill them that rise up against them.

And hence I infer, that none would believe it lawfull, if they were not either blinded with the love of Gain, or with the plausible Pretences of such as are.

Negro Master. Hold! I think I have another Proof, which, according to your own Argument, I think will bind you. There is another numerous and famous sect of Christians, called *Quakers,*

Quakers, who by their Practice do show that they have all those aforeſaid Marks which thou haſt nominated, and therefore by conſequence of your Argument the only *true* and *real* *Chriſtians*, and yet there is no People more forward to make Slaves of *Negros* than they are; And now, if they be infallibly guided in all the other Principles and Practices of *Chriſtianity*, one would think they could not be erroneous in this, *viz.* in making Slaves of *Negros*. And now, although all my other Arguments ſhould fail, yet this laſt, one would think, ſhould ſilence you.

Chriſtians Answer. This, I confeſs, is the greateſt Wonder, to ſee a People ſo conformable to the reſt of the Principles and Practices of *Chriſtianity*, induced by the Example of the looſer Sorts of *Chriſtians*, to embrace an enriching Sin, and ſacrifice that command of *Chriſt*, to do to others what they would not be done by.

And yet I cannot ſee how they can be a Proof in this, above all other *Chriſtians*, eſpecially when it is thought by ſome of the *honest* *hearted* among them, that about the *eleventh* Year of the eighteenth Century the moſt of them ſacrificed their primitive *Innocence*, when they ſo lovingly agreed and joyned wth the other *Se&ts* to pay the *Souldiers* their proportion of Wages to go in the Expedition againſt their Neighbours of *Canada*; And when they loſe their *Innocence*, I know not what they keep that is *lovely* among them.

But here I muſt make a *Diſtinction*; There

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was an honest hearted Remnant among them, that suffered joyfully the spoiling of their Goods in that Day, for the Answer of a good Conscience, and the Defence of the Antient Innocent Principle, in *Denying the use of the Carnal Sword*, Although it was not permitted to be recorded of *suffering for the Truth*, because the most numerous Party of them was guilty ; But if the Reader, or any other, should come to question, whether they denied the Use of the carnal Sword in any sense, for Proof of this, I refer such to their *Writings*, Particularly to *Robert Barclay's Apology*, and to the *Key* wrote by *William Penn*, Where the Reader may see that they deny the Use of the Carnal Sword in any sense, yea, even in *self-preservation*, or so much as in *Self-Defence*, such Innocence was once maintained among them, which made *Robert Barclay* say, that it was their *Innocent Lives and Practice* that convinced him before he inspected into their *Principles*. The Innocent Lives of that People was the motive that convinced this pious learned man. He did not then see them lanching out Money to pay Souldiers to go and kill their fellow Creatures, nor did he see any of them making Slaves of Negroes ; These and the like Practices were very remote from that innocent and harmless People, called *Quakers* in *Robert Barclay's* convincing day.

Negro Master. What have we to do with such far-fetch't Proofs ? or what was in *Barclay's Day* ? I love to keep at home, and the Practice of our *American Christians* ; Are there not famous men here

here among the *Quakers*? and yet they are both Merchants and Masters of Negroes. But I think to argue this Point a little more closely; For before the eleventh year of the eighteenth Century (which is the year thou mentionedst) that they could not be a proof in this Point, more then other Christians, because they joyned with other Sects in the Wars against *Canada*) they had Negro Slaves. But I will bring you to another Instance, viz. All the Time preceeding that fore-mentioned Year, particularly *One thousand six hundred ninety two*, when *Andrew Hamilton* was Governour of the *Jersies*, Did not all the *Quakers* refuse to pay the Souldiers to fight against the French at *Albany*? for the which Refusal, great Havock was made of their Goods by Constables. Were not all the *Quakers* at *Anboy* strained, excepting one man that paid to maintain the Wars at *Albany*? And thou sayest, it was no wonder that this man afterward became a Negro-Master; For he was the first of that People that ever I heard of, that sacrificed that Innocent Principle (as thou callest it) and did pay the Rate that was raised to maintain the *Albany* War. Were they not all strained in *Freehold*? And did they not suffer in *Shrewsbury*? was their not a Barrel of Pork rolled out of one of their Cellers in *Shrewsbury*, because they refused in any sense to have a hand in the Wars of *Albany*? And yet, all this Time of their Innocence, they did not forget their Interest, but did become Negro-Masters.

I know Practice and Example will go a great way in *Education*, and why should it not go as far

far in *Argument*? and if it do, I have the left to do but make a short Review how I have Proved by the Practice and Example of all that diversity of Sects of our *American Christians*, and lastly and mainly by our *American Quakers*.

Now, if what I have said do not amount to a perfect Proof that we may make Slaves of Negroes, or any other that we can get the Mastery over, I think the ~~Roman-Catholics~~ forever may be silent to bring in the Example and Agreement of the East and West-Orthodox, to be a Proof in that Point of the *Real Presence*.

Christians Answer. There is a good Body of People without the Bounds of your Instance, and that is the *German-Quakers*, who live in *German-Town* near *Philadelphia*, Who (to their renowned Praise be it spoken) have above all other Sects in *America*, kept their Hands clean from that *vile Oppression* and *inriching Sin* of making Slaves of their fellow Creatures, the Negroes, as I was credibly informed by one of themselves, and so have particular Men of all Sects kept themselves free from this inriching sin.

But now I come to your Instance of *Ninety-Two*, that the *Quakers* were all *Innocent* then, excepting one Man. This amounts to no more then this, that they were an excellent People in that day, far exceeding other Sects of *Christians*, and yet were most shamefully overtaken with this inriching Sin, in breaking Christs Command in making Slaves of Negroes, which they would be loath to be done by. Ay, but I have a further Reply to make to you upon that
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Head (which I think will utterly overturn all that you have said upon it) The *Quakers* had before that Time, embraced *Magistracy*, which cannot be upheld without the *Carnal Sword*, whereby they being apostatized from their primitive Innocency and Purity, and become, in that like the rest of the World, it is no Wonder to see them in a Practice so agreeable to it, in making Slaves of their fellow Creatures for their Gain and Advantage.

For it was the making Slaves of Negroes, to enrich themselves, and the embracing of *Magistracy*, which could not be executed without the *carnal Sword*, which were the two pincipia Baits that Caught many of that once most Worthy People.

Thus far the *Negro-Master* and the *Christian* in *in after Ages*.

And now, *Christ an Reader*, If thou hast any tender Love to that harmless Lamb, the innocent Messiah, and his harmless and innocent Gospel, thou canst not but see that the making Slaves of Negroes is an abominable Anti-Christian Practice. And (*Christian*) I will tell thee, It will be very much if I get not a Lash with their Tongues, as they used to lash the Backs of their Slaves (and that I doubt not was with little Mercy some times) especially when there is such an Affront as this offered to their most beloved *black Diana*.

There is one thing more, and then I think to take my leave at present, of our *Negro-Masters*, and that is, I earnestly invite them to
Repent-

Repentance; But how to attain to their Repentance, is the Question, for such a heinous sin; for they will find it to be a sin of the *Second Table*, that is, in plainer words a sin *against God and Man both*; And I am of Opinion, that such Sins cannot be repented of without *Restitution* made to them that they have wronged; for until the *Cause be removed*, I know not how the *Effect should cease*. But they that live and dye without making *Restitution* to them that they have wronged, how they can expect the Forgiveness of God, I leave this to the Reader to judge, and then they cannot blame the Writer for a false Construction. But if it should happen that a Reader should construe, that if the *Negro-Masters* do not make *Restitution* to the *Negroes* for the wrong that they have done them, the Forgiveness of God cannot well be obtained, and then leave it to the *Negro-Masters* to judge of the Consequence.

The next thing that comes into Consideration, What and if our *Negro-Masters* should live and dye without making any *Restitution* at all, to their miserable *Slaves* whom they have so unjustly wronged? The Question then will be, *Whether they may expect ever any Restitution at all?* I Answer This Question in the Affirmative, That they may certainly expect it.

But for the further understanding of this Answer, I suppose then that God hath allotted unto all Mankind an Inheritance of *Eternal Life*, and has written their Names in the *Book of Life*, and this appears by the frequent mentioni

tioning of it in Scripture, of the blotting their Names out of the Book of Life, which could not be, except their Names were first written therein; and so all Men may expect to enjoy their Fathers Gift, the Inheritance of Eternal Life, except they forfeit the same in sinning against God, or sinning against God and Man, and then their Names are blotted out, as God said unto *Moses*, Him that sinneth against me, him will I blot out.

And now I come to the Restitution again, and say, It cannot stand with the Justice of God that the Negroes or the wronged shall have no Restitution at all; and seeing then that they must be restored of the Wrongs that they have suffered, it must be restored out of the Property of him that hath wronged them; and this Property is his Interest of Eternal Life; and such a proportion of this as will be equivalent to the Wrongs done unto the Negroes or any others, must go to make up this Restitution; for they will have it.

For they will have it made up out of your *Portion in Glory*, if you have any left for your selves; and if you have not, you may expect so much the more *Torment*; and if the Negroes or Wronged have no *Portion* left in *Glory* to be increased by it, they may expect to have so much the less *Torment*;

For God will right all Wrongs, and do Justice between all his Creatures; and what is not in our Power, God doth not require, but he will not forgive what we have in our Power to amend,
and

and will not do it, so Reason says. And this is the Period of that Branch, the Doing Wrong to Man; But the other Branch, viz. The Sinning against God, our Negro-Masters cannot make Restitution to God for the Sin committed against him, and therefore must Suffer the Punishment due for such a Sin; and I know no way for our Negro Masters to escape any thing of this, so long as the Attributes of God are *Righteousness* and *Justice*, Except they *Repent* and make *Restitution*.

But if any Negro Master should dislike any thing of this my *Answer*, I grant him the Liberty which I take, and that is, to answer it himself; And if they have any Truth on their side, I desire them to bring it to the open View of all Men.

Reader, I here also present thee with the Christian Labours of another Hand, and a-to that *Answer*, called, *The Athenian Oracle*. first printed at *London* And I think to end with the saying of the Wise Man, That *A three-fold Cord is not easily broken*.

And so, the Negro-Masters may here see,
 Some of their Dangers in Eternitie.
 For there is no Repentance in the Graves,
 Of the Wrougs done unto heir Negro-Slaves.
 The present time is their Repentant-Day;
 When that is done, I have no more to say.
If they persist in their ungodly Gains,
I'm like to get my Labour for my Pains.
I'll come to a close, hoping they'll amend,
In giving God the praise; and so I End.

J. H.

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