

his hands, a good subject, a true friend,
and a just. 1693

An Exhortation & Caution

TO

FRIENDS

Concerning buying or keeping of

NEGROES.



Sing our Lord Jesus Christ hath tasted Death for all
Man, and given himself a Ransom for all, to be testified
in due time, and that his Gospel of Peace, Liberty and
Redemption from Sin, Bondage and all Oppression, is free'y
to be preached unto all, without Exception, and that *Negroes,*
Blacks and Tannis are a real part of Mankind, for whom
Christ hath shed his precious Blood, and are capable of Salva-
tion, as well as *White Men*; and Christ the Light of the World
hath (in measure) enlightened them, and every Man that
cometh into the World; and that all such who are sincere
Christians and true Believers in Christ Jesus, and Followers of
him, bear his Image, and are made conformable unto him in
Love, Mercy, Goodness and Compassion, who came not to
destroy mans Lives, but to save them, nor to bring any part
of Mankind into outward Bondage, Slavery or Misery, nor
to detain them, or hold them therein, but to ease and deli-
ver the Oppressed and Distressed, and bring into Liberty both
ward and outward.

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Therefore

Therefore we judge it necessary that all faithful Friends should discover themselves to be true Christians by having the Gifts of the Spirit of Christ, which are Love, Mercy, Goodness, and Compassion towards all in Misery, and the suffering Oppression and severe Usage. In far as in them is possible to relieve and relieve them and let them free of their hard Bondage, whereby it may be hoped, that many of them will be gained by their beholding these good Works of sincere Christians, and persuaded thereby, through the Preaching the Gospel of Christ, to embrace the true Faith of Christ. And for this cause it is, as we judge, that in some places in Europe Negroes cannot be bought and sold for Money, or detained to be sold, because it suits not with the Mercy, Love & Clemency that is essential to Christianity, nor to the Doctrine of Christ, nor to the Liberty the Gospel teacheth all men unto, to whom it is preached. And to buy Souls and Bodies of men for Money, to enslave them and their Posterity to the end of the World, we judge is a great hinderance to the spreading of the Gospel, and is occasion of much War, Violence, Cruelty and Oppression, and Theft & Robbery of the highest Nature; for commonly the Negroes that are sold to white Men, are either stolen away or robbed from their Kindred, and to buy such is the way to continue these evil Practices of Man-stealing, and transgresseth that Golden Rule and Law, *To do to others what we would have others do to us.*

Therefore, in true Christian Love, we earnestly recommend it to all our Friends and Brethren, Not to buy any Negroes, unless it were on purpose to set them free, and that such who have bought any, and have them at present, after some reasonable time of moderate Service they have had of them, or may have of them, that may reasonably answer to the Charge of what they have laid out, especially in keeping
Negroes

Negroes Children born in their Houſe, or taken out their Houſe when under Age, that after a reasonable time of ſervice to anſwer that Charge, they may ſet them at Liberty, and during the time they have them, to teach them to read, and give them a Chriſtian Education.

Some Reasons and Cauſes of our being againſt keeping of Negroes for Term of Life.

Fiſt, Becauſe it is contrary to the Principles and Practice of the *Chriſtian Quakers* to buy Prize or ſtoolen Goods, which we bore a faithful Teſtimony againſt in our Native Country; and therefore it is our Duty to come forth in a Teſtimony againſt ſtoolen Slaves, it being accounted a far greater Crime under *Moses's Law* than the ſtealing of Goods: for ſuch were only to reſtore four fold, *but he that ſtealeth a Man and ſell him, if he be found in his hand, he ſhall ſurely be put to Death,* Exod. 21. 16. Therefore as we are not to buy ſtoolen Goods (but if at unawares it ſhould happen through Ignorance, we are to reſtore them to the Owners, and ſeek our Remedy of the Thief) no more are we to buy ſtoolen Slaves; neither ſhould ſuch as have them keep them and their Poſterity in perpetual Bondage and Slavery, as is uſually done, to the great Scandal of the *Chriſtian Profeſſion*.

Secondly, Becauſe Chriſt commanded, ſaying, *All things whatſoever ye would that men ſhould do unto you, do ye even ſo to them.* Therefore as we and our Children would not be kept in perpetual Bondage and Slavery againſt our Conſent, neither ſhould we keep them in perpetual Bondage and Slavery againſt their Conſent, it being ſuch intolerable Punishment to their Bodies and Minds, that none but none

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rious Criminal Offendors deserve the same. But these have done us no harm; therefore how inhumane is it in us so grievously to oppress them and their Children from one Generation to another.

Thirdly, Because the Lord hath commanded, saying, *Thou shalt not deliver unto his Master the Servant that is escaped from his Master unto thee, he shall dwell with thee, even amongst you in that place which he shall chuse in one of thy Gates, where it liketh him best; thou shalt not oppress him.* Deut. 23. 15, 16. By which it appeareth, that those which are at Liberty and freed from their Bondage, should not by us be delivered into Bondage again, neither by us should they be oppressed, but being escaped from his Master, should have the liberty to dwell amongst us, where it liketh him best. Therefore, if God extend such Mercy under the legal Ministration and Dispensation to poor Servants, he doth and will extend much more of his Grace and Mercy to them under the clear Gospel Ministration; so that instead of punishing them and their Posterity with cruel Bondage and perpetual Slavery, he will cause the Everlasting Gospel to be preached effectually to all Nations, to them as well as others; *And the Lord will extend Peace to his People like a River, and the Glory of the Gentiles like a flowing Stream; And it shall come to pass, saith the Lord, that I will gather all Nations and Tongues, and they shall come and see my Glory, and I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the Nations, to Fairish, Pull and Lud that draw the Bow to Tuball and Javan, to the Isles afar off that have not heard my Fame, neither have seen my Glory, and they shall declare my Glory among the Gentiles,* Isa. 66. 12-18.

Fourthly, Because the Lord hath commanded, saying, *Thou shalt*

Thou shalt not oppress an hired Servant that is poor and needy, whether
 he be of thy Brethren, or of the Strangers that are in thy Land
 within thy Gates, lest he cry against thee unto the Lord, and it be
 in unto thee; Thou shalt neither vex a Stranger nor oppress him,
 for ye were Strangers in the Land of Egypt, Deut. 24. 14, 15.
 Exod. 12. 21. But what greater Oppression can there be
 inflicted upon our Fellow Creatures, than is inflicted on the
 poor Negroes! they being brought from their own Country
 against their Wills, some of them being stolen, others taken
 for payment of Debt owing by their Parents, and others
 taken Captive in War, and sold to Merchants, who bring
 them to the *American* Plantations, and sell them for Bond-
 Slaves to them that will give most for them; the Husband
 from the Wife, and the Children from the Parents; and many
 that buy them do exceedingly afflict them and oppress them,
 not only by continual hard Labour, but by cruel Whippings,
 and other cruel Punishments, and by short allowance of
 Food, some Planters in *Barbadoes* and *Jamaica*, 'tis said,
 keeping one hundred of them, and some more, and some
 less, and giving them hardly any thing more than they raise
 on a little piece of Ground appointed them, on which they
 work for themselves the seventh dayes of the Week in the
 after-noon, and on the first days, to raise their own Pro-
 visions, to wit, Corn and Potatoes. and other Roots, &c.
 the remainder of their time being spent in their Masters
 service; which doubtless is far worse usage than is practised
 by the *Turks* and *Moors* upon their Slaves. Which tends to
 the great Reproach of the *Christian Profession*; therefore it
 would be better for all such as fall short of the Practice of
 those *Infidels*, to refuse the Name of a *Christian*, that those
Heathen and *Infidels* may not be provoked to blaspheme against
 the blessed Name of Christ, by reason of the unparalleled

Cruelty

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Cruelty of these cruel and hard hearted pretended Christians
Surely the Lord doth behold their Oppressions & Afflictions,
and will further visit for the same by his righteous and just
Judgments, except they break off their sins by Repentance,
and their Iniquity by shewing Mercy to these poor afflicted,
ormented miserable Slaves!

Fiftieth. Because Slaves and Souls of Men are some of the
Merchandise of Babylon by which the Merchants of the Earth
are made Rich; but those Riches which they have heaped
together, through the cruel Oppression of these miserable
Creatures, will be a means to draw Gods Judgments upon
them; therefore, Brethren, let us hearken to the Voice of the
Lord, who saith, Come out of Babylon, my People, that ye be
not partakers of her Sins, and that ye receive not her Plagues;
for her Sins have reached unto Heaven, and God hath remembered
her Iniquities; for he that leads into Captivity shall go into Cap-
tivity, Rev. 18. 4, 5. & 13. 10.

Given forth by our Monthly Meeting in Philadelphia, the
13th day of the 8th Month, 1697. and recommended to
all our Friends and Brethren, who are one with us in our Te-
stimony for the Lord Jesus Christ, and to all others professing
Christianity.

T H E E N D.