

quarters may be earnestly excited to suffer the affecting importance of this evil, religiously to improve their minds, that our lights (in relation thereto) may shine before men; and assuredly they will shine more abundantly, as we are concerned to watch carefully over ourselves, attended with a prudent and religious zeal against the encouragement, either directly or indirectly, of the unnecessary use of all intoxicating liquors. And however a medicinal quality may remain to be urged, in favour of the use of spirituous liquors, yet we believe it to be incumbent on all, both by example and affectionate entreaty, to caution and dissuade all our members against either the importation, distillation, or vending of them, or giving countenance thereto; more especially as it regards that perversion of the blessing of heaven, attendant upon the distillation of grain; which besides other evil consequences, has the effect to enhance the price of bread to the poor.

Negroes and Slaves.

As a religious society, we have found it to be our indispensable duty to declare to the world, our belief of the repugnancy of slavery to the christian religion. It therefore remains to be our continued concern to prohibit our members from holding in bondage our fellow-men. And at the present time we apprehend it to be incumbent on every individual, deeply to consider his own particular share in this testimony. The slow progress in the emancipation of this part of the human family, we lament; but nevertheless, do not despair of their ultimate enlargement. And we desire that friends may not suffer the deplorable condition of these our enslaved fellow-beings, to lose its force upon their minds, through the delay which the opposition of interested men, may occasion in this work of justice and mercy; but rather be animated to consider, that the longer the opposition remains, the greater is the necessity, on the side of righteousness and benevolence, for our steady perseverance in pleading their cause.

Let us also, amidst our sympathy for the sufferers, not forget to cultivate those sensations, which direct the mind in pity towards the deplorable state of such men, whether in foreign countries, or our own, as promote, procure and execute, the tearing away of the Africans from their native land, as well as for those who detain them in bondage; remembering, that they are men equally interested with us in the rewards of futurity. Believing, therefore, as we do, that a just and dreadful retribution awaits the unrepenting and obdurate oppressor, at that awful tribunal, where sophistry will not prevail to exculpate; let us seek for, and cherish, that disposition of mind, which can pray for these enemies of humanity, and fervently breathe for their restoration to soundness of judgment, and purity of principle.

In relation to this oppressed people, we earnestly desire, that such of them as may be under the care of any of our members, may be treated with kindness, and, as objects of the common salvation, instructed in the principles of the christian religion, as well as in such branches of school-learning as may fit them for freedom, and to become useful members of civil society. Also, that friends, in their respective neighbourhoods, advise and assist such of them as are at liberty, in the education of their children, and common worldly concerns.

If any in membership with us, should hire slaves to assist them in their business, it is the judgment of the yearly meeting, that in so doing, such promote the unrighteous traffic, and oppose our testimony against slavery. And where they cannot be prevailed upon to desist therefrom, monthly meetings are at liberty to declare their disunity with them.

If any of our members should purchase slaves to be liberated after a term of years, however they may be induced thereto, from an apparent motive of contributing to the cause of humanity, yet it is the judgment of the yearly meeting, that it is a practice which ought to be discouraged, believing that upon due reflection it will be found, that those do not support a faithful testimony against slavery.

We believe also that a proper regard to this testimony, would