

general prosperity, & aggravate the evils of which we complain, by corrupting our Slaves & increasing their discontent. Denied the enjoyment of the most ordinary rights that pertain to our citizens, they cannot be expected to cherish attachment to institutions, however free & enlightened, in other respects, which doom them, wretchedly, to a state of social & political degradation. Though anomalous, it is a positive fact, that while, in our Declaration of Independence & Bill of Rights, we proclaim the doctrine that all men are free & equal, by an adverse & uncontrollable necessity imposed upon us by our ancestors, in our daily practices we are cultivating the opposite principle. This incongruity is too obvious to be concealed; & has been, to other nations, an object of severe animadversion. Much less could we hope to disguise it from the observation of those who are more immediately concerned.