slave more discontented with his condition, and more hostile towards his master, by adding the sentiments of resentment and revenge to his original dissatisfaction, often renders him more refractory more idle and more worthless, and thus induces the real or supposed necessity of still greater harshness, on the part of his master. Such is the tendency of the comparison which the slave cannot easily avoid making, between his own situation and that of the free people of his own colour, who are his companions, and in every thing except ~~the~~ exemption from the authority of a master his equals: whose condition though often much more than his own, naturally appears better to him, and being continually under his observation, and in close contact with his feelings, is apt to chafe goad and irritate him incessantly

incessantly. This effect indeed is not always produced; but such is the tendency of this state of things; and it operates more extensively, and with greater force, than is commonly supposed.

But this effect, injurious as it must be to the character and conduct of the slaves, and consequently to their comfort and happiness, is far from being the worst that is produced by the existence of free blacks among us. A vast majority of the free blacks, as we have seen, are and must be an idle worthless and thievish race. It is with this part of them that the slaves will necessarily associate, the most frequently and the most intimately. Those of the better class, who gain a comfortable subsistance by regular industry