

An Account of the Emancipation of the Slaves of Unity Valley Pen, In Jamaica

Publication/Creation

1811

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/yrym3neg>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Journal
of
P. H. R.

P
Betsy Gattton

f.1r

AN
ACCOUNT
OF THE
EMANCIPATION
OF THE
SLAVES
OF
UNITY VALLEY PEN, IN JAMAICA.



By DAVID BARCLAY.

" I would not have a *Slave* to till my ground,
" To carry me, to fan me while I sleep,
" And tremble when I wake, for all the wealth
" That *sinews*, *bought* and *sold*, have ever earn'd." *Coupar*.

SECOND EDITION, WITH AN APPENDIX.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY T. BENSLEY,
Bolt-court, Fleet-street.

1811.

INTRODUCTION.

HAVING been a Slave Owner, and much dissatisfied in being so, I determined to try the experiment of liberating my Slaves; firmly convinced, that the retaining my fellow creatures in bondage was not only irreconcilable with the precepts of Christianity, but subversive of the rights of human nature; and having now, after an experience of five years, had satisfactory proofs of its good effects, I am induced, for the information and encouragement of others, who may be in similar circumstances, to publish the annexed account. Experience has repeatedly proved, that a statement of *facts* well authenticated, is more convincing than the ablest theoretical reasoning; and by the facts here adduced, it will clearly appear, that the assertions of those who are inimical to the natural rights of mankind, are unfounded. I allude to the supposed *impolicy* and *impracticability* of emancipating slaves, even for the comfort and happiness of the black people themselves; but I am not without a hope, that the time may arrive when Britons

will be more generally convinced, that the holding of our fellow creatures in slavery, is inconsistent with every principle of religious and moral duty, as well as contrary to sound policy in a national point of view.^a At the same time I am decidedly of opinion, that emancipation must be *gradual*. Far be it from me to recommend that all the slaves in the West Indies should at once be liberated; because such a measure might tend to confusion and misery. I have, however, a strong desire, that the first session of the Imperial Parliament, in the first year of the nineteenth century, might be marked in the British history by an act to abolish that horrid traffick, the *Slave Trade*, agreeably to the repeated

- ^a See History of Guinea, by Anthony Benezet 1771. Phillips.
 A Sermon, by the Bishop of Chester - - - 1784. Rivingtons.
 A Summary of the Slave Trade, by the Society }
 instituted in London for the Purpose of } 1787. Phillips.
 effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade }
 An Essay on the Impolicy of the African Slave }
 Trade, by Thomas Clarkson - - - } 1788. ———
 An Essay on the Slavery and Commerce of the }
 Human Species, by Thomas Clarkson - - } 1788. ———
 The Dean of Middleton's Letter to the Trea- }
 surer of the Abolition Society - - - } 1788. ———
 An Essay on the Treatment, &c. of Slaves, by }
 James Ramsay - - - - - } 1788. ———
 Thoughts on the African Slave Trade, by John }
 Newton - - - - - } 1788. ———
 A Sermon, by John Hughes - - - - 1788. Cadell.
 Remarks on the Slave Trade, by Thomas Gis- }
 borne - - - - - } 1792. White.
 And many others.
 See also speeches in Parliament, 1791 and 1792, Wilberforce, Pitt,
 Fox, &c. sold by Woodfall.

humane and judicious motions in the House of Commons, made by William Wilberforce; which have been uniformly supported by the wisest men in these kingdoms. When we consider the great acquisition of new members from our sister kingdom, in both Houses of Parliament, may we not indulge ourselves in the expectation that this great object will be effected? The condition of the Negroes *now* in bondage would be ameliorated in consequence of such a measure; and, in *time*, they and their children would be made fit for emancipation; when their owners might, with security, have the heart-felt satisfaction of restoring human beings to their *natural rights*, as well as adding to society many useful members. This, I trust, will prove the case with those Blacks whose settlement in Philadelphia is stated in the following pages.

I embrace this opportunity of gratefully acknowledging the kind attention of my friends, viz. James Pemberton, Thomas Fisher, Samuel Fisher, Miers Fisher, Doctor Thomas Parke, Isaac Lloyd, Thomas Harrison, Joseph Moore, Abraham Lid-don, Mordecai Churchman, Richard Jones, John Letchworth, Benjamin Kite, and Daniel Thomas; and Absalom Jones and Richard Allen, pastors of the free congregation of the free blacks in Philadelphia; also of my friend Alexander Macleod, for his benevolent conduct towards the Slaves whilst under his agency; and lastly, of

my friend William Holden, for his prompt and judicious conduct, and unremitting attention, in the execution of this arduous business: and I earnestly desire that the following account may arrest the attention of all those who are concerned in Slaves.

DAVID BARCLAY.

WALTHAMSTOW, ESSEX,
1st of 5th Month, 1801.

AN ACCOUNT, &c.

DAVID BARCLAY and JOHN BARCLAY, of London, in consequence of a debt due to them from a correspondent in Jamaica, having come into possession of a Pen (or grazing farm) in that island, on which were thirty-two slaves, they determined to emancipate them, and signified their determination to their agent, Alexander Macleod, of Spanish Town;^b who, though he applauded the principle, declined executing a measure which would be very unpopular in the island; but consented to emancipate two of them, whom he thought most likely to provide for themselves by working on the Pen, and receiving wages at the rate of 17*l.* currency per annum, with some other advantages. Accordingly he manumitted a man about thirty years of age, named Hamlet, and a woman about the same age, named Prudence; but in less than a year, both of them so relaxed

^b A respectable gentleman, now retired from business, and residing at Muiravon, near Edinburgh.

in their labour,^c that Alexander Macleod thought their example would be very disadvantageous to the owners of the estate: he therefore discharged them, and agreed to allow to each, 5*l.* currency per annum,^d for life, agreeably to the law of the island on the emancipation of a slave. Hamlet set up in business as a horse-breaker, and Prudence, as a laundress; in which occupations they maintained themselves with good reputation.

The property having, according to the law of Jamaica, devolved on David Barclay, by the decease of his brother John Barclay, he determined to emancipate the rest of the slaves, and to remove them to Philadelphia, agreeably to his own and his late brother's wishes, and the desire of his brother's family. For this purpose he engaged William Holden to go to Jamaica, and to convey the thirty slaves to Philadelphia; in which city David Barclay, in consequence of his former mercantile concerns, had a numerous and respectable acquaintance; and where was already formed a Society for the abolition of slavery,

^c This was to be expected, when two slaves among thirty had their freedom; but supposing all of them had been on the same footing, and to have been paid according to their respective merits, there then would have been competition among them, as among all other labourers.

The assembly at Grenada states—I have their own words for it, “That although the Negroes are allowed the afternoon of only one day in every week, they will do as much work in that afternoon, when employed for their own benefit, as in the whole day when employed in their master's service.”—W. Pitt's speech, 1792, p. 149. Woodfall.

^d About 3*l.* 11*s.* sterling.

and for the benefit of free blacks, of which society he was an honorary member. This will account for his not having sent them to a more southerly climate. William Holden was instructed, on arrival, to deliver them *emancipated*, to John Ashley, the agent of David Barclay in Philadelphia. Letters were accordingly forwarded to apprise John Ashley of David Barclay's intention, and also letters to the president, and several Members of "The Society for improving the condition of Free Blacks,"^e to recommend these black people to its protection.

For the success of William Holden's mission, see the following letter.

Copy of a Letter from William Holden to David Barclay, dated Surry Place, 7th March, 1801.

DEAR SIR,

Agreeably to your desire, I commit to writing that which I have so frequently communicated to you in conversation, respecting the particulars of the pleasant mission in which I engaged, and by the complete success of which I was much gratified, notwithstanding I made three voyages in time of war, and left my family behind me.

On the 15th of January, 1795, I embarked in the packet for Jamaica, and arrived there on the

^e Instituted 1774, by the inhabitants of Philadelphia, of all religious persuasions.

10th of March; soon after which I delivered your letter to Mr. Alexander Macleod, of Spanish Town, who received me with much politeness, and treated me with the utmost kindness and hospitality, and assured me that he would readily assist in the execution of your orders for the transportation of the slaves; and accordingly invited me to accompany him to Unity Valley Pen, in the parish of St. Ann's, about forty miles from Kingston; and on our arrival there, he ordered all the slaves to be collected together for my inspection; when it appeared that two were so infirm and diseased as not to be fit for removal. I then, in the presence of Mr. Macleod, and the overseer of the Pen, endeavoured to convey to the adults, *sixteen* in number, your intention to make them free, with the children, in number *twelve*. Upon the strength of their unanimous consent to accept the offer, I engaged a vessel to convey them to Philadelphia, laid in provisions, clothed them properly, and, when all things were ready, caused them to be conveyed from the Pen to Kingston, in order to embark; but on their arrival on the wharf, where the ship's boat was ready to carry them on board, they unanimously declared they had altered their minds, and would *not* go, because they had been informed that "they were to be sold to the Spaniards." In this state of embarrassment I knew not, for some considerable time, how to act; and

for two hours I never experienced such agitation of mind; but after finding all my arguments were in vain, I took *John*^f (one of the most sensible and intelligent of them) aside; and having explained my intentions, and taken much pains with him, John said, " You are our massa (master), and we are your slaves, and you have a right to do with us what you please; I therefore will go with you, and will endeavour to prevail on the rest to go with you also." Soon after this they all went on board; previous to which they were *manumitted*;^g and on the voyage, which was short and pleasant, by proper attention to them, I obtained their entire confidence; and we arrived at Philadelphia on the 22d of July, all in high spirits; and on the same evening I delivered them to Messrs. James Pemberton, president to the society for improving the condition of free blacks, and Doctor Thomas Parke, one of its members; as will appear by the minutes of the committee, which I delivered to you, and which will best prove the great attention and kindness paid by the society to the black people, as also to me during my stay in Philadelphia; which city I left on the 16th of September, after taking leave of my newly acquired friends of colour,

^f 1808. 9th month, 12th. D. Barclay has lately heard, that *John Barclay* (all the manumitted slaves bearing that name) is become a considerable and respectable dealer in wood for fuel; which is generally used in the city of Philadelphia, and is a profitable trade.

^g See a copy of the deed of manumission, p. 17.

and having seen them settled to their satisfaction. I arrived 26th October at Portsmouth, and had the great pleasure of finding my family well, and that I had executed my mission to the satisfaction of yourself, to the family of your late brother Mr. John Barclay, and very much so to my own.

I am with much respect, &c.

WILLIAM HOLDEN.

Extracts from the Minutes of the Committee of the Society for improving the Condition of Free Blacks, appointed to attend to the case of certain Blacks expected to arrive from Jamaica.

At a meeting of the Committee for improving the condition of Free Blacks, held the 30th of Sixth Month, 1795, Thomas Harrison communicated several letters, which were read, viz. one from David Barclay, of London, dated 6th of Second Month last, to James Pemberton, president of the Abolition Society; one to John Ashley, D. Barclay's agent here; one from William Holden, dated Jamaica, the 24th of Third Month last; by which it appears, that the late brother of the said David Barclay, and himself, became possessed of about thirty black people

in Jamaica, and who are expected shortly to arrive in this city, sent by David Barclay, *emancipated*, under the care of William Holden, addressed to John Ashley, to be put in a condition to provide comfortably for themselves. It is therefore agreed, that the following named persons be a Committee, to afford such assistance to John Ashley, William Holden, or any other of the persons named in the letters of David Barclay, in carrying his benevolent designs into execution, as shall appear to them right, viz. Isaac Lloyd, Thomas Harrison, Joseph Moore, Abraham Liddon, Mordecai Churchman, Richard Jones, John Letchworth, and Benjamin Kite.

BENJAMIN KITE, Secretary.

Philadelphia, 23d of Seventh Month, 1795.—
Some of us understanding yesterday that the said black people had arrived in the brig West Indian, and were under the care of William Holden, specially employed by David Barclay and the executors of John Barclay to conduct them here, procured of the trustees of the African Methodist meeting-house that building for a temporary residence for them; to which they were conducted last evening. And several of us attended this morning at the house of Thomas Harrison, and having consulted upon the business, adjourned to meet to-morrow morning.

24th of Seventh Month.—It being thought advisable to confer with the agents and confidential friends of David Barclay, before the Committee proceeded to act in the case committed to their care, they all but one met at James Pemberton's, this afternoon, for that purpose; when William Holden, in writing, agreeably to his instructions, resigned his trust to James Pemberton and Doctor Thomas Parke, (John Ashley, the other agent, being absent from the city), and the said James Pemberton and Doctor Thomas Parke, by the following writing, intrusted their agency in the business to the Committee of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, for improving the condition of Free Blacks, who had previously appointed this Committee for that purpose.

To the Committee of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, for improving the Condition of Free Blacks.

“ Having heretofore requested you to take charge of the black people about to be sent from Jamaica, by David Barclay, and the executors of John Barclay, under the care of their agent, William Holden, to us; and they being now arrived, we request you to expedite the transaction of this business with all convenient speed, in such manner as will be most likely to fulfil

the benevolent views of the said David Barclay, &c. and the real good of the blacks, who are the objects of this concern; desiring you to keep regular minutes of your proceedings in the business. We deliver to you the instrument of emancipation, dated at Jamaica the 15th day of June, in the present year, which we desire to be put on record. In placing out the minors, we request that provision may be made for their school-learning, and that they may be taught mechanick trades in preference to any other business."

Signed,

24th of Seventh Month,
1795.

JAMES PEMBERTON,
JOHN ASHLEY,
THOMAS PARKE.

The names and ages of the said blacks are as follows, viz.

Two Eleven Women, several of Girls whom are Africans.	{	Sabina	-	-	about 40
		Bathsheba	-	-	35
		Clarissa	-	-	35
		Mintas	-	-	34
		Patience	-	-	32
	{	Amelia	-	-	28
		Nancy	-	-	26
		Nanny	-	-	24
		Dido	-	-	24
		Phillis	-	-	22
	{	Juba	-	-	14
		Charlotte	-	-	5
		Sukey	-	-	4
			-	-	
Five Men, native Africans.	{	John	-	-	about 32
		Bacchus	-	-	23
		London	-	-	42
		Simon	-	-	25
		Kingston	-	-	23
	{	Charles	-	-	14
		Prince	-	-	14
		Yawo	-	-	14
		Toby	-	-	12
		Wiltshire	-	-	11
		Sancho	-	-	10
		Mingo	-	-	10
		October	-	-	8
		Quashie	-	-	7
		Cæsar	-	-	6
Ten Boys, natives of Jamaica.	{		-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
	{		-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	

Adjourned.

8 o'clock, P. M.—The Committee again met, when it was agreed, that Isaac Lloyd, Thomas Harrison, and Abraham Liddon, visit the black people, consult with them upon what business will be most agreeable to them, and consider what they are fit for, and inform this Committee. In the mean time, it is expected that all the members will receive applications for them. Adjourned.

25th of Seventh Month.—Committee met. The Sub-committee appointed last evening to confer with the Blacks, &c. report that they all visited them this day, and have agreed to place several of them out, viz. Charles and Mingo with William Clifton, who proposes to teach them to be Nailers, to give them such school-learning as may be agreed upon, he to pay ten pounds apiece, one half at the time of binding, and the other half at the expiration of their apprenticeship;^h which is considered by this Committee as an advantageous proposal, and agreed to. Adjourned.

The Society continued to meet until the 10th of Ninth Month, when in twenty-one sittings, they had completed the placing out the Black people, as per account in pages 19, 20, and 21, delivered to William Holden.

N. B. Benjamin Kite having desired to resign, Daniel Thomas was appointed in his room.

^h The sums received from those to whom the younger blacks were apprenticed, formed a fund for the relief of the elder ones, in case such relief should become necessary.

11th of Ninth Month.—Thomas Harrison, Joseph Moore, John Letchworth, and Mordecai Churchman attended, arranged and revised the minutes and proceedings of this Committee, and Mordecai Churchman is nominated to transcribe them, in order that William Holden, who is about to embark for London, may have a copy to transmit to David Barclay.

Although William Holden, on his arrival with the Blacks, transferred his charge of them, as is heretofore stated, this Committee conceive it their duty to express their high sense of his unremitted care and assistance, through the whole course of their proceedings in the business.

ISAAC LLOYD,	MORDECAI CHURCHMAN,
THOMAS HARRISON,	DANIEL THOMAS,
JOSEPH MOORE,	RICHARD JONES,
ABRAHAM LIDDON,	JOHN LETCHWORTH.

Copy of the Instrument of Manumission.

Jamaica, ss. To all whom these presents shall come, or may in any wise concern. David Barclay, of Lympstone, in the county of Devon, in the kingdom of Great Britain,¹ Esquire, by Alexander Macleod, of the parish of St. Catherine, in the county of Middlesex, in the island afore-

¹ Should have been, of London, Banker.

said, Esquire, his attorney, duly constituted and appointed, sends greeting. Know ye that for and in consideration of the sum of ten shillings, current money of Jamaica, to him in hand well and duly paid, by William Holden, of the parish of Kingston, in the county of Surry and island aforesaid, Esquire, at or before the execution hereof, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged; he, the said David Barclay, by his attorney aforesaid, hath liberated, enfranchised, manumitted, and for ever set free, all those Negro male and female slaves, named, London, Bacchus, Simon, John, Kingston, Charles, Mintas, Nanny, Dido, Bathsheba, Patience, Amelia, Clarissa, Nancy, Sabina, Juba, Phillis, Prince, Yawo, Toby, Wiltshire, Sancho, Mingo, October, Quashie, Cæsar, Charlotte, and Sukey, with the future increase and issue of the females of the said slaves, [being now wholly the property of the said David Barclay, from all manner of servitude and slavery whatever: to hold the said liberty and freedom hereby granted unto them the said London, Bacchus, Simon, John, Kingston, Charles, Mintas, Nanny, Dido, Bathsheba, Patience, Amelia, Clarissa, Nancy, Sabina, Juba, Phillis, Prince, Yawo, Toby, Wiltshire, Sancho, Mingo, October, Quashie, Cæsar, Charlotte, and Sukey, with the future issue and increase of the females of the said slaves,] from henceforth and for evermore: in witness whereof the said David

Barclay, by the said Alexander Macleod, his attorney, and the said Alexander Macleod, as attorney to the said David Barclay, have hereunto set their hands and seals, this fifteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-five.

Sealed and delivered
in the presence of
Robert Allison.

DAVID BARCLAY, (L. S.)

By Alex. Macleod his Attorney.

ALEX. MACLEOD, (L. S.)

Attorney to David Barclay.

A General View of the Appropriation of the Blacks.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>About Years old.</i>	<i>To whom bound.</i>	<i>When bound.</i>	<i>Conditions.</i>
			1795.	
Bacchus	23	Lydia Gilpin	4th of 8th Mo.	For 2 years, to be found in clothes, and to be paid 40 dollars when free.
Dido	24	Catherine Parker	ditto	2 years, to be provided with clothes, and to be paid 26½ dollars when free.
Juba	14	Jeremiah Paul	ditto	4 years, to be taught to read and write, found in clothes, &c. and have freedom dues, viz. two complete suits of apparel, one of which to be new.
Toby	12	Benjamin Cresson	ditto	9 years, to be taught to pull and cut fur, colour and finish hats, and to read and write, to be found in clothes, &c. and have freedom dues.
Simon	25	Betton and Harrison	5th of 8th Mo.	2 years, to be provided with clothes, &c. and to be paid 40 dollars when free.
Sancho	10	Isaac Parish	ditto	11 years, to learn to pull and cut fur, and colour and finish hats, to be taught to read and write, and have freedom dues.
Prince	14	John Ashley	ditto	7 years, to be taught to read and write, found in clothes, &c. and have freedom dues.
Charles Mingo	14 10	William Clifton	ditto	7 years, to learn to make nails, be taught to read and write, found in clothes, &c. and have freedom dues.

Continued in the next Page.

101

A General View of the Appropriation of the Blacks, continued.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>About Years old.</i>	<i>To whom bound.</i>	<i>When bound.</i>	<i>Conditions.</i>
1795.				
Clarissa	35	Thomas Annesley	7th of 8th Mo.	2 years, to be found in clothes, and 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ dollars when free.
Quashie, alias George Barclay	7	Samuel Betton	ditto	{ 14 years, to be taught to read and write, found in clothes, &c. and have freedom dues, and to be paid 10 dollars when free.
Cesar		Richard Robinett	8th of 8th Mo.	
Sukey, alias Susanna	4	James Mc'Gathery	ditto	{ 15 years. He died, and was interred in the Potter's field; attended by Absalom Jones, minister of the African church, William Holden, and several of the Committee.
Kingston		Ellis Yarnall	11th of 8th Mo.	
John	25	George Latimer	ditto	14 years, to be taught to read and write, found in clothes, &c. have freedom dues, and be paid 10 dollars when free.
Sabina	32	Silas Engles	ditto	2 years, to be found in clothes, and paid 40 dollars when free.
Nanny	40	Samuel Richards, jun.	ditto	Conditions, the same as Kingston.
Bathsheba	24	Samuel Richards, jun.	ditto	For 2 years, to be found, &c. and paid 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ dollars when free.
Amelia	35	Mary Richie	26th of 8th Mo.	2 years, on the same conditions as Sabina, the money to be paid by the master.
	26			2 years, on the same conditions as Nanny.
				2 years, ditto.

Continued in the next Page.

A General View of the Appropriation of the Blacks, continued.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>About Years old.</i>	<i>To whom bound.</i>	<i>When bound.</i>	<i>Conditions.</i>
			1795.	
Yawo, alias David Barclay	14	James Widdifield	ditto	{ 7 years, to learn the Carpenter's trade, be taught to read and write, and have freedom dues.
October, alias Robert Barclay	8	John Chapman	26th of 9th Mo.	{ 13 years, to learn the trade of a Windsor Chair-maker, to be taught to read and write, found in clothes, &c. and have freedom dues.
London	42	John Wall	ditto	{ 2 years, to be found in clothes, and paid 40 dollars.
Charlotte	5	Capt. Matthew Strong	2d of 9th Mo.	{ 13 years, to be taught housewifery, to read and write, and have freedom dues.
Mintas	34	- - - - -	- - - - -	{ Not yet bound; but placed with S. R. Fisher.
Phillis	22	- - - - -	- - - - -	{ In the Pennsylvania hospital.
Wiltshire	11	- - - - -	- - - - -	{ Ditto.
Nancy	26	- - - - -	- - - - -	{ Died, and was interred in the Potter's field, the corpse attended by William Holden, some of the Committee, and a respectable company of black people.
Patience	32	- - - - -	- - - - -	{ Not bound.

N. B. The family name of *Barclay* has been annexed in all the indentures of those who are bound, to distinguish them.

Two years servitude of adults entitles them to settlement.

111

*Extracts of two Letters from Alexander Macleod
to David Barclay.*

New York, November 14, 1796.

" Having been obliged to quit Jamaica on account of my health; when at Philadelphia I had very great pleasure in seeing several of the Black people you sent there, very comfortably settled, and highly satisfied with their condition. Several of them called on me, and expressed their gratitude to you for the benevolent part you have acted. When I return, in ten days hence, I shall probably see the rest of them."

Jamaica, Spanish Town, Feb. 16, 1797.

" When I was in Philadelphia, I saw several of my old Unity Valley acquaintance, who looked decent, well dressed, said they lived well and happy, but complained of the cold climate. I attended divine service at the African church, and had much pleasure to see them there, apparently impressed with a proper notion of morality and religion, and as far as I could see or learn, practising its precepts and commands."

*Extract of a Letter from Doctor Thomas Parke,
to David Barclay, dated Philadelphia, 6th of
5th Month, 1799.*

" I have now the satisfaction of informing thee, that the business respecting the Black people, from Jamaica, with our Abolition Society, is finally settled.

" As all the survivors have obtained, by servitude, a right of support from the public (if unable to maintain themselves), Miers Fisher and myself have paid (per J. Ashley), the Abolition Society 139*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* currency, being for sundry expenses incurred by them for maintaining several of the Blacks in sickness, &c. I have enclosed a list of the Blacks, describing their present situation, &c. which I obtained by visiting and examining them. It is satisfactory to observe, that most of them conduct themselves reputably, and procure decent support; a few, however, appear helpless, particularly Sabina, Clarissa, and Juba, who seem incapable of maintaining themselves, our severe weather in the winter almost disqualifies them for labour.

" Several of them requested me to express their gratitude to thee for thy kindness, and promise by their behaviour to afford good examples to their brethren."

1799—5th Month.

List of Blacks liberated by David Barclay, in Jamaica, and placed out in Philadelphia by the Committee of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, and visited by Doctor Thomas Parke.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>About Years.</i>	<i>To whom bound.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
London Barclay	46	J. Wall	is now married and lives with John.
John	36	G. Latimer	is now married to Amelia, and conducts himself well.
Simon	30	Betton and Co.	conducts himself prudently, and is married to Mintas.
Kingston	28	E. Yarnall	continues in E. Y.'s service, as a free servant, and is industrious and sober.
Prince	18	J. Ashley	promises to be an useful servant.
Charles	18	W. Clifton	still in his apprenticeship as Nailer.
Yawo, alias David	18	J. Widdifield	ditto as Carpenter.
Toby	16	B. Cresson	} ditto as Hatters.
Sancho	14	J. Parish	
Mingo	14	W. Clifton	ditto as Nailer.
October, alias Robert	12	J. Chapman	ditto as Windsor Chair-maker.
Quashie, alias George	11	S. Betton	still an indented servant.
Sabina	44	S. Engles	out of her time.

Continued in the next Page.



1799—5th Month.

List of Blacks liberated by David Barclay, in Jamaica, and placed out in Philadelphia by the Committee of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, and visited by Doctor Thomas Parke, continued.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>About Years.</i>	<i>To whom bound.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
Bathsheba	39	S. Richards	out of her time.
Clarissa	39	T. Annesley	ditto.
Mintas	38	S. R. Fisher	is married to Simon, and conducts herself respectably.
Amelia	32	M. Ritch	is married to John.
Nanny	26	S. Richards, jun.	deceased—but gave great satisfaction to her employers when living.
Juba	18	J. Paul	term of her servitude being expired, she now lives with her mother Clarissa.
Charlotte	9	M. Strong	still in her place.
Sukey, alias Susanna	8	J. M. Glatheary	ditto.
Dido	—	C. Parker	- - - - - died 1798.
Bacchus	—	L. Gilpin	- - - - - died 1798.
Phillis	—	- - - - -	{ perverse disposition and very troublesome, } died 6th Month 25th, 1798.
			{ was boarded in the Alms' house }
Patience	—	- - - - -	ditto ditto died 6th Month, 1798.

26

f.13v

*Extract of a Letter from James Pemberton, to
William Dillwyn, of Walthamstow, Essex, dated
Philadelphia, 29th of 11th Month, 1800.*

" I request thee to present to our mutual friend, David Barclay, my kindest respects, and inform him that I have the satisfaction to find, that his humane views towards the Blacks from Jamaica, to whom he had manifested such unprecedented benevolence and liberality, are so far realized, that these objects of his concern enjoy their freedom with comfort to themselves, and are respectable in their characters; keeping up a friendly intercourse with each other, avoiding to intermix with the common blacks of the city, being sober in their conduct and industrious in their business."

Soon after the removal of the slaves, the Pen, with the stock of cattle, was sold for 5500*l.* sterling, with agreement for the purchaser to treat kindly the survivor of the two negroes, who were infirm and diseased, and left on the Pen; also to pay Hamlet and Prudence 5*l.* currency per ann. each for their lives. Had the thirty slaves been sold with the Pen, about 8000*l.* sterling might

have been obtained. The expense of removing the slaves, and their expenses at Philadelphia, were about 500*l.* sterling, exclusive of remuneration to William Holden for his services. But the satisfaction which resulted to the minds of David Barclay and his family, fully compensated the trouble, expense, and anxiety experienced during the accomplishment of the undertaking.

Had David Barclay not been so advanced in age, he would have inclined to have made a trial of employing on the Pen *white* labourers from Britain, there being reason to believe, from Long's History of Jamaica,^k that in the most flourishing state of Barbadoes, the *sugar cane* there, was principally cultivated by hired *white* servants; in confirmation of which see the following letter from W. Holden; and it must be allowed (in a political point of view) that inviting British subjects to go to our own colonies, would be far more eligible than their trans-migrating to foreign countries.^l

Surry Place, 20th March, 1801.

" DEAR SIR,

" In answer to your query, whether it is my opinion that *white* labourers might be employed

^k Vol. p. 502, 505.

^l It has been confidently asserted, that although white people cannot endure the heat of the sun in the West Indies as many hours in the day as blacks, yet, that white labourers will perform in a given time double the work of Slaves followed by a driver and a whip.

on Unity Valley Pen, I reply in the affirmative; and my reasons for thinking so are—

“ 1st. That in my late residence at Barbadoes, I had many families of *white* people employed to my satisfaction on the estates which were under my management; there being more poor *white* labouring people in that island than in any other of the British islands in the West Indies.

“ 2dly. Jamaica is near six degrees to the northward of Barbadoes, and Unity Valley Pen is on the N. E. part of the island, about fourteen miles only from the sea; and the Pen, consisting of about two thousand acres, on two-thirds of which are very lofty trees, viz. mahogany, cedar, fustick, &c. which afford much shade. The value of the timber, were it practicable to convey it to Britain, would be incalculable; but the access to the sea is mountainous, and too difficult.

“ 3dly. The labour on a Pen is much lighter than on a sugar plantation, the employment of the former being only to look after cattle, horses, mules, &c. and to attend to them in the same manner as is practised by graziers in England, in order to sell them when fat or improved in age, to remove them from pasture to pasture, and to water, there being on the Pen about 430 acres of Guinea grass^m in eleven enclosures, 75 acres of

^m A fine long grass remarkable for the fatting of cattle.

common pasture, 12 acres of ground for raising yams, potatoes, garden stuff, &c. for the overseer and the negroes, the former residing in a comfortable house, and the latter in cottages near thereto. They are also employed in weeding the pastures, keeping up the fences, &c. and when not otherwise occupied, they clear more land, by cutting down and burning the fine trees, stocking their roots, and spreading the ashes on the land.

“ As a proof of the coolness of the spot, on the different visits I made to Unity Valley, I found that a blanket on my bed (which was hung with woollen curtains), was very comfortable and even necessary. The situation of the Pen is remarkably pleasant, where a man, his family, and white labourers, might live very comfortably, and gain property, if he had any knowledge of grazing.

“ I am, with much respect, &c.

“ WILLIAM HOLDEN.”

APPENDIX.

THE Author sent a copy of the first edition to each of the Members of the Imperial Parliament, from several of whom he received letters approving the publication, and one among many others appeared to be so much in point, that he has, with the consent of the writer, (Sir John Macpherson, Bart. late Governor General of India) extracted the following paragraphs:

“ Of nothing am I more convinced, from what I have seen in India, than that *free labour* would answer the best purposes to our *West India Planters*; they would thereby save *capital*; and necessity, which is often the mother of virtue as of invention, will teach them in a short time, that on the present system, they cannot long rival the produce of *free labour* in the *East*.”

“ The people of Asia are *free*, and from their habits of life, their religion, and their climate, their wants are fully supplied at little expense. The trees that surround the Hindoo's little clay

dwelling, give him his curry fruits. The three crops of the season, from one field, give him rice, and every vegetable in plenty, and at the cheapest rates. He wants but little clothing, and he is occasionally a weaver under the shade, and a cultivator of the ground, as the season changes."

CHARACTERS
OF
DAVID BARCLAY,
EXTRACTED FROM
ARIS'S BIRMINGHAM GAZETTE,
AND
THE MORNING CHRONICLE.

CHARACTERS, &c.

ON Tuesday evening, May 30, 1809, died, in the 81st year of his age, Mr. David Barclay, of Walthamstow, a member of the society of the Quakers, of which he was a distinguished ornament. By nature he had been blessed with her choicest gifts; an exterior, expressive of the dignified, the intelligent and benevolent character of his mind. His life was one uninterrupted series of beneficence, influenced by principles the most liberal, and directed by a judgment the most enlightened, correct, and comprehensive. Endowed with a liberal portion of that ethereal spirit which Lord Bolingbroke says, "the Author of Nature is graciously pleased to bestow upon those who are designed to be the tutors and guardians of the human kind," his conduct exhibited a model for the imitation of the virtuous, and a theme for the applause of the wise and the good. It may be said of him in the words of Job, "When he went out to the gate the young men saw him and hid themselves,

the aged rose and stood up, the princes refrained talking, the nobles held their peace. When the ear heard him, then it blessed him; and when the eye saw him, it gave witness to him, because he delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless that had none to help him. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon him, and he caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. He put on righteousness, and his judgment was as a robe and a diadem. He was eyes to the blind, and feet was he to the lame. He was a father to the poor, and the cause which he knew not he searched out. He sat chief, and dwelt as a king; as one that comforted the mourners."—*Aris's Birmingham Gazette*.

DAVID BARCLAY.

AN erroneous account of this most honourable man appeared in an Evening Paper of Saturday last (June 3). He is there stated to be the father of the celebrated pedestrian (now performing a feat on the Newmarket course), and to have been at one time the Member for Kincardineshire. We feel it incumbent upon us to correct this error. The late David Barclay, who died in his 81st year, at Walthamstow, was the only surviving grandson of Robert Barclay, of Urie, Author of the celebrated Apology for the Quakers. He was bred to business in the city of London, and was long at the head of a most extensive house in Cheapside, chiefly engaged in the American trade, and the affairs of which he closed at the commencement of the Revolution. He was, at that time, as much distinguished by his talents, knowledge, integrity, and power, as a merchant, as he has ever since in retirement by his patriotism, philanthropy, and munificence. We cannot form to ourselves, even in imagination, the idea of a character more perfect than that of David Barclay. Graced by nature with a most noble form, all the qualities of his mind and heart corresponded with the grandeur of his exterior. The superiority of his

understanding confirmed the impression which the dignity of his demeanor made on all; and though, by the tenets of his religious faith, he abstained from all the honours of public trust to which he was frequently invited by his fellow-citizens, yet his influence was justly great on all the public questions of the day: his examination at the bar of the House of Commons, and his advice on the subject of the American dispute, were so clear, so intelligent, and so wise, that, though not followed, Lord North publicly acknowledged he had derived more information from him than from all others on the east of Temple-bar. It was the revolution that determined him to wind up his extensive concerns, and to retire; but not as busy men generally retire, to the indulgence of mere personal luxury. His benevolent heart continued active in his retreat. He distributed his ample fortune in the most sublime ways. Instead of making all those persons whom he loved dependant on his future bounty, as expectants at his death, he became, himself, the executor of his own will, and by the most magnificent aid to all his relatives, he not only laid the foundation, but lived to see the maturity of all those establishments which now give such importance to his family. Nor was it merely to his relations that this seasonable friendship was given, but to the young men, whom he had bred in his mercantile house, and of whose virtuous

dispositions he approved. Some of the most eminent merchants in the city of London are proud to acknowledge the gratitude they owe to David Barclay, for the means of their first introduction into life, and for the benefits of his counsel and countenance in their early stages of it. It is a proof of the sagacity of his patronage that he had very few occasions to repent of the protection he had conferred. And the uninterrupted happiness he enjoyed for many years in the midst of the numerous connections he had reared, held out a lively example and a lesson to others of the value of a just and well-directed beneficence.

His virtue was not limited to his relatives, to his friends, to his sect, to his country, or to the colour of his species—he was a man of the warmest affections, and therefore loved his family and friends—he was a patriot, and therefore preferred his own country to all others; but he was a Christian, and felt for the human race. No man therefore was ever more active than David Barclay, in promoting whatever might ameliorate the condition of man—largely endowed by Providence with the means, he felt it to be his duty to set great examples; and when an argument was set up against the emancipation of the negroes from slavery, “that they were too ignorant and too barbarous for freedom,” he resolved at his own expense to demonstrate the

fallacy of the imputation. Having had an estate in Jamaica fall to him, he determined at the expense of 10,000*l.* to emancipate the whole *gang* (as they are termed) of slaves. He did this with his usual prudence as well as generosity. He sent out an agent to Jamaica, and made him hire a vessel, in which they were all transported to America, where the little community was established in various handicraft trades; the Members of it prospered under the blessing of his care, and lived to shew that the black skin enclosed hearts as full of gratitude, and minds as capable of improvement, as that of the proudest white. Such was the conduct of this English merchant! During all this course of well-doing, his own manners were simple; his hospitality large, and his charities universal. He founded a house of industry near his own residence, on such solid principles, that though it cost him 1500*l.* for several years, he succeeded in his object of making it a source of comfort, and even of independence, to all the well-disposed families of the poor around. We could fill a column with the recital of individual acts of his benevolence, which, though discriminate, was never degraded by the narrowness of a religious distinction.

Mr. David Barclay was married twice—he had but one daughter by his first marriage, who was married to Richard Gurney, Esq. of Norwich.

She was a most beautiful and benevolent woman, every way worthy of such a father. She died some years ago, leaving issue Hudson Gurney, Esq. and the wife of Sampson Hanbury, Esq.

We have thought it right to give this short sketch of a most honourable Citizen, in consequence of the erroneous statement given on Saturday. He was himself no friend to posthumous blazonry; and we learn that the simple notice of his death inserted in this paper was directed, if not actually dictated, by himself before his departure. Nothing could surpass the tranquillity of his last moments. He was composed, chearful, and resigned. He had no struggle with life; he rather ceased to live than felt the pang of death.

FINIS.

