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Richard Price, *Observations on the Importance of the American Revolution*, 1784

Of the NEGRO TRADE and SLAVERY.

The Negro Trade cannot be censured in language too severe. It is a traffick which, as it has hitherto been carried on, is shocking to humanity, cruel, wicked, and diabolical. I am happy to find that the united states are entering into measures for discountenancing it, and for abolishing the odious slavery which it has introduced. "Till they have done this, it will not appear they deserve the liberty for which they have been contending. For it is self evident, that if there are any men whom they have a right to hold in slavery, there may be others who have had a right to hold them in slavery.—I am sensible, however, that this is a work which they cannot accomplish at once.

The emancipation of the Negroes must, I suppose, be left in some measure to be the effect of time and of manners. But nothing can excuse the United States, if it is not done with as much speed and at the same time with as much effect as their particular circumstances and situation will allow. I rejoice that on this occasion I can recommend to them the example of my own country.—In *Britain*, a *Negro* becomes a *freeman* the moment he sets his foot on *British* ground.

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