us that ſo late as the ninth or tenth century a man, when fairly purchaſed, was, in England, as much the property oſ the buyer as the horſe on which he rode, or the ox which dragged his plough. In the ſame country, now ſo nobly tenacious of freedom and the rights of man, a ſpecies of ſlavery ſimilar to that which prevailed among the ancient Germans ſubſiſted even to the end of the ſixteenth century. This appears from a commiſſion iſſued by Queen Elizabeth in 1574, for in­quiring into the lands and goods of all her *bond-men* and *bond-women* in the counties of Cornwall, Devon, Somerſet,and Glouceſter, in order to compound with them for their manumiſſion, that they might enjoy their lands and goods as freemen @@\*. In Scotland there certainly exiſted an order of ſlaves or bond-men, who tilled the ground, were attached to the soil, and with it were transferable from one proprietor to another, at a period *ſo* late as the thirteenth century ; but when or how thoſe villains, as they were called, obtained their free­dom, ſeems to be unknown to every lawyer and antiqua­ry of the preſent day. Coalliers and ſalters were, in the ſame country, ſlaves till little more than 20 years ago, that they were manumitted by an act of the Britiſh legiſlature, and reſtored to the rights of freemen and citizens. Before that period the ſons of coalliers could follow no buſineſs but that of their fathers ; nor were they at li­berty to ſeek employment in any other mines than thoſe to which they were attached by birth, without the conſent of the lord of the manor, who, if he had no uſe for their ſervices himſelf, transferred them by a written deed to ſome neighbouring proprietor.

That the ſavage nations of Africa were at any period of hiſtory exempted from this opprobrium of our nature which ſpread over all the reſt of the world, the enligh­tened reader will not ſuppoſe. It is indeed in that vaſt country that ſlavery has in every age appeared in its uglieſt form. We have already obſerved, that about the era of the Trojan war, a commerce in ſlaves was carried on between Phoenicia and Lybia : and the Carthaginians, who were a colony of Phoenicians, and revered the cuſtoms, manners, and religion of their parent ſtate, un­doubtedly continued the Tyrian traffic in human fleſh with the interior tribes of Africa. Of this we might reſt aſſured, although we had no other evidence of the fact than what results from the practice of human ſacrifices ſo prevalent in the republic of Carthage. The genuine inſtincts of nature are often ſubdued by dire ſuperſtition, but they cannot be wholly eradicated ; and the rich Carthaginian, when a human victim was demanded from him to the gods, would be ready to ſupply the place of his own child by the ſon of a poor ſtranger, persidiouſly purchaſed at whatever price. That this was, indeed, a very common practice among them, we learn from the teſtimony of various hiſtorians@@\*, who aſſure us, that when Agathocles the tyrant of Syracuſe had overthrown their generals Hanno and Bomilcar, and threatened Carthage itſelf with a ſiege, the people attributed their misfortunes to the juſt anger of Saturn for having been worſhipped, for ſome years, by the ſacrifices of children meanly born and ſecretly *bought,* inſtead of thoſe of noble extraction. Theſe ſubſtitutions of one offering for another were conſider­ed as a profane deviation from the religion of their fore- fathers ; and therefore to expiate the guilt of ſo horrid an impiety, a ſacriſice of two hundred children of the

firſt rank was on that occaſion made to the bloody god. As the Carthaginians were a commercial people, we cannot ſuppoſe that they purchaſed ſlaves only for ſacrifices. They undoubtedly condemned many of their priſoners of war to the ſtate of ſervitude, and either sold them to foreigners, or diſtributed them among their ſenators and the leaders of their armies. Hanno, who endeavoured to uſurp the ſupreme power in Car­thage whilſt that republic was engaged in war with Timoleon in Sicily @@\*, armed twenty thouſand of his ſlaves in order to carry his nefarious purpoſe into exe­cution ; and Hannibal, after his deciſive victory at Can­nae, sold to the Greeks many of his priſoners whom the Roman ſenate refuſed to redeem @@\*. That illuſtrious commander was indeed more humane, as well as more politic, than the generality of his countrymen. Before his days it was cuſtomary with the Carthaginians either to maſſacre their captives in cold blood, that they might never again bear arms againſt them, or to offer them in ſacriſice as a grateful acknowledgment to the gods by whoſe aſſiſtance they believed that they were vanquiſhed ; but this was not always done even by their moſt ſuperſtitious or moſt unprincipled leaders. Among other rich ſpoils which Agathocles, after his victory already men­tioned, found in the camp of Hanno and Bomilcar, were twenty thouſand pair of fetters and manacles, which thoſe generals had provided for ſuch of the Sicilian prisoners as they intended to preſerve alive and reduce to a ſtate of ſlavery.

With the ancient ſtate of the other African nations we are but very little acquainted. The Numidians, Mauritanians, Getulians, and Garamantes, are indeed mentioned by the Roman hiſtorians, who give us ample details of the battles which they fought in attempting to preſerve their national independence ; but we have no particular account of their different manners and cuſtoms in that age when Rome was diſputing with Carthage the sovereignty of the world. All the Afri­can ſtates of which we know any thing, were in alliance with one or other of thoſe rival republics; and as the people of thoſe ſtates appear, to have been leſs enlighten­ed than either the Romans or the Carthaginians, we cannot ſuppoſe that they had purer morals, or a greater regard for the ſacred rights of man, than the powerful nations by whom they were either protected or oppreſſed. They would, indeed, inſenſibly adopt their cuſ­toms ; and the ready market which Marius found for the prisoners taken in the town Capſa, although Salluſt acknowledges @@\* that the ſale was contrary to the laws of war, ſhows that ſlavery was then no ſtrange thing to the Nunaidians. It ſeems indeed to have prevailed through all Africa from the very firſt peopling of that unexplored country ; and we doubt if in any age of the world the unhappy negro was abſolutely secure of his perſonal freedom, or even of not being sold to a foreign trader.

It is the common opinion that the practice of ma­king ſlaves of the negroes is of a very modern date ; that it owes its origin to the incurſions of the Portuguese on the weitem coaſt oſ Africa ; and that but for the cunning or cruelty of Europeans, it would not now exiſt, and would never have exiſted. But all this is a compli­cation of miſtakes. A learned writer has lately proved, with a force of evidence which admits of no reply@@\*, that from the Coaſt of Guinea a great trade in ſlaves

@@@\*[m] Kames's Sketches, book i. sketch 5.

@@@\*[m] Polyb. Q. Curt. Diod. Sic. See also Ancient Universal History, vol. xv.

@@@[m]\* Justin. lib. xxi. cap. 6. a Universal History.

@@@[m]\* Tit. L. Appian Zonaras.

@@@[m]\* Bell. J. cap. 91.

@@@[m]\* Whitaker's Review of Gibbon's Roman History.