population of this state, or insubordination among the slaves, shall, at the discretion of the court, *suffer death, or imprison­ment at hard labour for life."* The same language used in any public discourse from the bar, the bench, the stage, the pulpit, or in any place, or in private conversation, or the bringing into the state any paper, pamphlet, or book, hav­ing any such tendency, shall subject the offender to not less than three years and not more than twenty years hard la­bour, or death. The teaching of a slave, or permitting or causing to be taught, any slave, to read or write, is de­clared punishable with imprisonment for not less than one and not more than twelve months. Another act pro­vides for the expulsion from the state of all free people of colour who came into it subsequent to the year 1807 ; it prohibits any of this class from entering the state, and sen­tences to imprisonment or hard labour for life such as dis­obey the order for their departure. These laws present a revolting picture of degradation and suffering on the one hand, and of disquiet and terror on the other. The ruling class live in daily terror of vengeance from their wretched slaves, and hence these cruel precautions. Their cruelty brings its punishment along with it ; it is the measure of their misery; and therefore in relaxing the bonds of sla­very, the happiness of all parties would be promoted.

in Europe, many cruel and unjust laws have been passed, which have fallen into disuse with the progress of society. But in the slave-holding states of America, congenial man­ners give force to tyrannical laws. With some exceptions, the general treatment of slaves is harsh and cruel ; a fact to which all travellers in the southern states of the Union bear ample testimony. Mr Stuart, already mentioned, and the duke of Saxe-Weimar, in describing the treatment of Ame­rican slaves, give the particulars of the grossest cruelty, by individuals who are in the habit of beating and ill-using their slaves on the slightest offence, or sending them to gaol, where the slave, on the payment of a fee to the gaoler, is, without further inquiry, fastened to a machine and lashed without mercy. “ Nothing is more common,” says Mr Stuart, “ than for the masters and mistresses of slaves, either male or female, when they wish them to be punished, to send them to a prison, with a note to the gaoler, specifying the number of lashes to be inflicted. If the master so orders it, the slave receives his whipping laid flat upon his face upon the earth, with his hands and feet bound to posts. In passing the prison in the morning, the cries of the poor creatures are dreadful.”@@1 At the pub­lic sales of slaves, where the ties of nature are rudely tom asunder, scenes occur which are revolting to humanity, and which, without the aid of laws, would be utterly repudiate<l by the improved manners of Europe. Where these maxims prevail, they forbid all hope of alleviating the lot of the slave ; and the great point would therefore be, to impress on the slave-holders themselves, not only the cruelty, but the error of their measures. They are no doubt obstinate and prejudiced ; but in time the voice of reason may prevail so far as to lead to a mitigation of the present harsh code, and pave the way for the abolition of slavery throughout the country.

In the southern states of the Union, namely, the Caro­linas Virginia, Georgia, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi\* Tennessee, Arkansas, slavery appears to have fixed its per­manent abode ; and, according to the following table, which exhibits the progressive increase of the two different races for the last forty years, there has not been so rapid an increase in the white as in the black population.

*Increase on each* 100 *of the Whites and the Blacks in North Carolina.*

Slaves. Whites.

From 1790 to 1800 133 121

1800 to 1810 126 116

Slaves. MiHtcs.

From 1810 to 1820 122 116

1820 to 1830 119 115

*South Carolina.*

From 1790 to 1800 13G 138

1800 to 1810 134 ..120 1810 to 1820 132 121 1820 to 1830 122... 115

*Virginia.*

From 1790 to 1800 ..118 118

1800 to 1810 114 110 1810 to 1820 108 109 1820 to 1830 105 114

*Georgia.*

From 1790 to 1800 203 197

1800 to 1810 144 155 1810 to 1820 142 135 1820 to 1830 146 151

*Kentucky.*

From 1810 to 1820 157 134

1820 to 1830 131 122

*Alabama.*

From 1820 to 1830 285 244

*Mississippi.*

From 1820 to 1830 203 181

*Tennessee.*

From 1790 to 1800 433 300

1800 to 1810 337 248 1810 to 1820 181 161 1820 to 1830 176 161

In France and England, and probably in Europe at large, the females exceed the males by two or three per cent. ; but in the United States generally, the males exceed the fe­males by nearly four per cent. In the newest states, the excess is as high as nineteen per cent. (Seybert, p.42.) The difference is still more striking in what relates to ages. In the United States, children form a much greater, and aged persons a much smaller, proportion of the population than in Europe. In Sweden, according to Wargentin’s Tables, the persons under the age of sixteen form thirty-six per cent. of the population ; in Britain, according to the last census, forty ; and in the United States fifty per cent. The persons aged above forty-five form twenty-two per cent. of the whole population in Sweden, eighteen per cent. in Britain, and twelve per cent. in the United States. This peculiarity arises from the rapidly progressive state of the population. Since the inhabitants of the United States quadruple their numbers in fifty years, a person born half a century ago belongs by his birth to a society of two millions and a half of persons but now lives in a society of ten millions which will furnish four times as many old men to a future and equidistant period. The annual amount of immigration (to borrow an American word) is very variable, and its effects have been greatly overrated. The whole number of pas­sengers who arrived in 1817, at the ten principal ports, was 22,240, including citizens, and persons on business who did not mean to remain in the country. In 1816, it was esti­mated at 20,000; in 1818 and 1819, at 28,000 each, not more than one half of whom, very probably, were strangers

@@@1 Stuart's Three Years in America, vol. ii. p. 26.