ken in war, but alſo 127 priſoners of different kinds, that he might have a ſufficiency of ſkulls to adorn the walls of his palace ; though at the very time of that massacre he *knew* that there were six ſlave-ſhips in the road of Whidah from which he could have got for eve­ry prime ſlave a price little ſhort of thirty pounds Ster­ling @@\*.

Theſe facts, and numberleſs others which the reader will find detailed in the 13th volume of the Modern Univerſal Hiſtory, by writers who were at the greateſt pains to procure authentic information ; who were nei­ther biaſſed by intereſt nor blinded by enthuſiasm ; and who appear to have held the infamous traffic in utter abhorrence—prove beyond the poſſibility of doubt, that ſlavery of the worſt kind muſt have prevailed among all the negro nations before they were viſited either by the Portugueſe or by the Arabs @@(I). Theſe two nations may indeed have been the firſt who dragged the unhap­py negro from his native continent, and made his ſlavery doubly ſevere, by compelling him to labour, without his own conſent, for masters whom he hardly conſidered as human beings.

On the beginning of this commerce, or the dreadful cruelty with which it has been carried on to the preſent day, it is impoſſible to reflect without horror : but there is ſome conſolation, however ſmall, in knowing that its original authors were not Europeans. The purchaſe of Guinea blacks for ſlaves by foreign nations commenced ages before the Portugueſe had laid that country open to the intercourſe of Europe. Even after they had made many incurſions into it, the inhabitants were as regularly purchaſed for ſlaves by ſome of the adjoining ſtates as they are now by the maritime Europeans.

“ The Arabs of Egypt having reduced all the north of Africa, and carrying with them their love of black ſervants, would be ſure to open a ready communication for themſelves to their country. They certainly had one ſo early as 1512, and before the Europeans had any for that purpoſe @@(K). @@They went from Barbary by a route that was ſo much practiſed, as to be denomi­nated expreſsly ‘ the way of the camels.’ Meeting to­gether at the town of Cape Cantin, that of Valadie near it, the commercial caravan traverſed the vaſt deſerts,

thoſe of Sarra, which run like the tropic of Cancer over them in a long line acroſs the country ; to a place of great population called Hoden, the W*aden* or *Hoden* of our maps, and a little to the ſouth-weſt of Cape Blanco. From Hoden they turned to the left, and puſhed di­rectly into the interior of the continent, to reach Tegazza, the *Tagazel* or *Tagaza* of our maps, and lying nearly eaſt of Hoden. Here affuredly they did, as the caravan does certainly at this day ; and added to the other wares upon their camels a quantity of ſalt from thoſe mines of rock-ſalt, which are extraordinary enough to be noticed as rocks in our maps. This they carried, as they ſtill carry it, toTanbut, the *Tombut* or the maps, and a town in the heart of the African continent. And from this town they turned on the right for the ſea-coaſt again, and reached it in the great kingdom of Mele, the *Melli* of our maps, to the ſouth of the Gambia, and just at the ſpringing as it were of that grand arch of ſea which curves ſo deeply into the body of the land, and conſtitutes the extenſive gulph of Guinea. At Melli and at Tombut they received a meaſure of gold for a meaſure of ſalt. The caravan collects gold at Tombut to the preſent time ; but at Melli they purchaſed gold, and alſo ſilver, in pieces as large as peb­bles. And at Hoden they had *a great mart for βαves ;* the blacks being brought thither from the countries ad­joining, and bartered away to the traders. Such was the Slave Coaſt and the Gold Coaſt of former days. The ſtaple commodity of Hoden is only transferred now to Whidah ; and diverted from the Arabs of Barbary to the Chriſtians of Europe,” by whom the negroes are carried to the continent of America or to the Sugar Iſlands in the West Indies. In theſe countries they are all ſold like beaſts in a market; but they experience very different degrees of ſervitude from the different maſters who hold them as property. Such of them as are reconciled to the appearance of white men, or have been born in the European colonies, feel themſelves as happy under a humane maſter as they could be in their native continent @@(l) ; and we believe that few of them in ſuch circumſtances have expreſſed a deſire to return.”

In the French Well India iſlands, before the late re-

@@@[m\*] Dalzel's History of the Kingdom of Dabomy.

@@@[m] Whitaker's review, p. 185.

@@(I) The ſame thing appears from the voyages of M. Saugnier, who had an opportunity of converſing with many tribes of negroes, and who always ſpeaks of ſlavery as an eſtabliſhed practice among them ; adding, that ſuch as are ſold for crimes are put to death by their own countrymen if they fly from their maſter. It appears likewiſe in a ſtill more ſtriking light from Dalzel’s Hiſtory of Dahomy, where we are told that all the Dahomans, from the loweſt to the higheſt, acknowledge the right of the ſovereign to diſpoſe of their perſons and pro­perties at pleaſure ; and where we learn, that the ſovereign himſelf aſſured Mr Abſon the Engliſh governor at Whidah, that all his anceſtors had from time immemorial put to death every priſoner of war whom they could not sell as a ſlave.

@@@(K) In the year 1442, Anthony Gonſalez, a Portugueſe adventurer, reſtored to their native country ſome Mooriſh priſoners whom he had two years before forcibly carried off from the coaſt of Africa. He landed them at *Rio del-Oro,* and received from the Moors in exchange ten blacks and a quantity of gold duſt. This transaction proves, that a commerce in black ſervants was then regularly carried on by the Moors and not by the Portu­gueſe. So early as the year 1502, the Spaniards began to employ a few negroes in the mines of Hiſpaniola ; but in the year following, Ovando, the governor of that iſland, forbade the further importation of them, alleging that they taught the Indians all manner of wickedneſs, and rendered them leſs tractable than formerly : and it was not till the year 1517 that the ſupply of negroes to the Spaniſh American plantations became an eſtabliſhed and regular branch of commerce. *Edward's History of the Weft Indies,* Book IV. Chap. ii.

@@@(l) “ I have obſerved many of my ſlaves go on board the vesſel with joy, on my aſſurance that they would be well treated and happy on the plantation where I was going to send them. When the Banbarans find that they are truſted by the whites, they never think of making their eſcape, chooſing to be the ſlaves of *Europeans* rather