

*9th Month, 25th.* I pursued my way to Richmond in the mail stage, through a beautiful country, but clouded and debased by Negro slavery. At the house where I breakfasted, which is called the Bowling-green, I was told that the owner had in his possession 200 slaves. In one field near the house, planted with tobacco, I counted nearly 20 women and children, employed in picking grubs from the plant. In the afternoon I passed by a field in which several poor slaves had lately been executed, on the charge of having an intention to rise against their masters. A lawyer who was present at their trials at Richmond, informed me that on one of them being asked, what he had to say to the court on his defence, he replied, in a manly tone of voice: "I have nothing more to offer than what General Washington would have had to offer, had he been taken by the British and put to trial by them. I have adventured my life in endeavouring to obtain the liberty of my countrymen, and am a willing sacrifice in their cause: and I beg, as a favour, that I may be immediately led to execution. I know that you have pre-determined to shed my blood, why then all this mockery of a trial?"

In the evening I arrived at Richmond, the capital of Virginia. In one respect, this has a good deal the appearance of an English town, having a cloud of smoke hanging over it, occasioned by the use of pit-coal. They have great plenty of this

article in the neighbourhood, a considerable quantity of which they ship to other parts of the United States. There is also a navigable canal for the conveyance of coal, on which a great deal of business is done, and the canal appears to be as well managed as those in England.

*9th Month, 26th.* Having business with C. A. of Gouchland, at a distance of about 30 miles on a cross road, I hired a horse and rode to his house in the course of the day. My road lying, part of the way, through extensive plantations cultivated by negro slaves, many of whom dwell in small clusters of huts at no great distance from their master's house, I had the curiosity to look into some of their little habitations; but all that I examined were wretched in the extreme, and far inferior to many Indian cottages I have seen.

In passing along I observed in some places that the land was very productive in tobacco, being a fine rich black mould.

*9th Month, 27th.* I slept at C. A's, and this morning set out for Fredericksburg, being accompanied by his young man, our road lying through the woods great part of the way. At the place where we dined, we were waited on by two mullatto girls, whose only clothing appeared to