

Here, however, this court has been entirely precluded from any such inquiry. The law of this case has been pronounced by the tribunal in the last resort; and it has been returned to this court with special directions as to the mode in which that law is to be carried into effect. *Interest reipublicæ res judicatas non rescindi.* It is, therefore, now wholly unimportant, as regards the matter under consideration, what was the nature of the case on which the decree of the Court of Appeals was founded; or what were the reasons which induced that court to give the directions it has done; since it is not the reason, or applicability of the law, so laid down, which is in any manner the subject of consideration at this time; but simply in what mode the directions given for executing an unalterable judgment can be most correctly and effectually complied with. Litigation must end somewhere. It is certain, that this court cannot, in any one particular, however unimportant, revise, correct, or alter, any order or decree of the Court of Appeals; and it is questionable, whether even that court itself, confined as it is, by the express provisions of the constitution, to the exercise of none other than a specified degree of appellate power over the decisions of the tribunals of original jurisdiction, can, after the close of the term at which its decree has been passed, grant a rehearing or bill of review for any cause whatever. (*d*)

This case has been carried to the ultimate tribunal, and a final decree obtained; which having been sent here to be executed in the mode prescribed, it consequently becomes my duty promptly to obey. I therefore deem it proper to pass by, without further notice, all those portions of the argument, respecting the incomplete nature and unjust operation of the decree of the Court of Appeals, which have been so strongly urged, and to proceed to the execution of it, according to its clear and unequivocal meaning.

It has been finally and very distinctly declared, that the plaintiff is entitled to recover the value of the labour of certain negroes. That value I conceive has been correctly ascertained by the auditor's account A. I shall, therefore, award it to the plaintiff accordingly. It has been further very perspicuously decreed by the Court of Appeals, that the plaintiff is entitled to one moiety of the negroes

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(*d*) 1804, ch. 55, s. 5. *Barbon v. Searle*, 1 Vern. 416. *Penn v. Baltimore*, 1 Ves. 455. *Perry v. Whitehead*, 6 Ves. 547. *Willan v. Willan*, 16 Ves. 89. *Murray v. Coster*, 20 John. Rep. 603. *White v. Atkinson*, 3 Call. 376. *Campbell v. Price*, 3 Mun. 227. *Burn v. Posug*, 3 Desan. 614. *McCormick v. Sullivant*, 10 Wheat. 199. *Vattel*, b. 1, ch. 13, s. 165.