

demanded of the Merchant *what price or value he set upon that Servant?* He replied, *A thousand Half-pence.* Xanthus disgusting a price so vast, went from this, and applyed himself to the other, and ask'd him likewise *what he could doe?* He replied, *All things.* The Philosopher demanded again of the Merchant *at what rate he held Grammaticus?* *Three thousand Half-pence,* said he. But Xanthus not well resenting a rate of that bulk and importance, did declare both to the Merchant and the Scholars that accompanied him, that he would buy no Servants that were rated at so Extraordinary a value: whereupon the Scholars suggested to Xanthus to buy Æsop, since that uncouth person might perform his work, and they would absolve the price. *It is not fit* (said Xanthus) *that I should buy him and you make good the payment: Moreover, my Wife would very ill resent that so mishapen and discompos'd a person should ever be subservient or ministerial to her affairs.* The Scholars reply'd, *We are not always oblig'd to comply with the desires of a Woman; therefore let us examine what Ingenuity is resident in this deformed Lump.* Wherefore addressing themselves to Æsop, Xanthus bid him be comforted. *Was I ever sad?* reply'd Æsop. *Of what place are you a Native?* said the Philosopher. *I am a Negro,* said Æsop. *I do not ask you this,* urg'd he; *but where you were born?* Æsop answered, *Of my Mothers belly. I demand not this of you,* said Xanthus, *but what place you were born in?* *My Mother never informed me,* answered Æsop, *whether it was above or below.* *What canst thou perform?* said the Philosopher. *Nothing,* reply'd Æsop; *the two former whom already you have applyed your self to can do all things, wherefore nothing remains for me to doe.* Said Xanthus, *Are you willing I should buy you?* *You ought* (answered Æsop) *to reflect upon your own bargain, must you needs have my advice? If you are willing, pay down the price, and wind up your business.* *If I buy thee* (said Xanthus)