

May 2018

Broadside Begin - West Indian Slavery.

Follow this and additional works at: http://dh.howard.edu/og_slavery

Recommended Citation

"Broadside Begin - West Indian Slavery." (2018). *(Documents Relating to) Slavery/Freedmen (Prior to 1866)*. 116.
http://dh.howard.edu/og_slavery/116

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the OG Series at Digital Howard @ Howard University. It has been accepted for inclusion in (Documents Relating to) Slavery/Freedmen (Prior to 1866) by an authorized administrator of Digital Howard @ Howard University. For more information, please contact lopez.matthews@howard.edu.



WEST INDIAN SLAVERY.

The subject of WEST INDIAN SLAVERY has, during the last thirty years, occupied the public mind to a degree of intensity that speaks its importance. Argument and eloquence have been employed to exhaustion, and facts of the most distressing nature have so fully illustrated the injustice, inhumanity, and impolicy of the system, that the people of England have long since arrived at the deliberate *unchangeable* conclusion, that Slavery is a blot on the national character,—an outrage on the principles of the British constitution,—and an utter violation of those rights, which no length of time, no custom, no law can abrogate or render exclusive.

If these premises be admitted, the question then presents itself, How is Slavery to be abolished? Will the Planters themselves, by encouraging the manumission of Slaves, prepare for their gradual (however slow) and final emancipation? Experience has convinced us, that so far from their entertaining such an idea, they will not patiently hear of it. Are the Government of the country then disposed to lend a helping hand to effect this great object, and, by forwarding the views of the Abolitionists, shew themselves sincere in their professions? Let the progress made in the cause since the Slave-trade was abolished answer this question, and it will be seen that, in a political point of light, we are as far from the wished-for result as when we set out. Indeed, the Planters themselves, however desponding they appeared when the regulations of

1822-3 were promulgated, are now perfectly satisfied that nothing immediately hostile to the system of Slavery is contemplated by the Government, whose agents indeed are using every method to neutralize the views of the Abolitionists. Nothing therefore remains to the friends of the cause but to take the weapons into their own hands, and by *resolutely abstaining from the use of West India produce themselves, and inculcating the same principle in others*, to bring the Planters to terms. This step is justifiable on the principles of humanity—of morality—of religion; and it well becomes the ministers of the latter to use every exertion in so sacred a cause. If the great Creator of the universe has made all the different tribes of mankind alike responsible for their actions, and imparted to them the same feelings, passions, and affections;—if the difference of colour in mankind is accidental, and in no respect affects the essential qualities of the mind, or the future destiny of the soul;—and if *that* which renders one human being subject imperatively to the uncontrolled caprice and lawless domination of another, debases the mind, and unfits it for the high duties to which the Creator has destined it;—then is West Indian Slavery an abomination in the sight of God and man, and it behoves the friends of religion to practise and recommend the most rigid self-denial, and to use all their influence, and exert all their energies, to procure its abolition, and thus restore to their African brethren those rights which they have *never yet been shewn to have forfeited*.

LONDON—Sold by F. Westley, 10, Stationers' Court, & S. Burton, 156, Leadenhall Street.

PRICE ONE HALFPENNY, OR THREE SHILLINGS PER HUNDRED.

Burton & Co. Printers, Bishopsgate, London.