

**CONSIDERATIONS ON NEGRO SLAVERY; A  
LETTER ON THE PRESENT STATE OF THE SLAVE  
TRADE; 2ND LETTER TO THE FREEHOLDERS OF  
THE COUNTY OF YORK, ON NEGRO SLAVERY;  
AN ADDRESS FOR THE  
ABOLITION OF SLAVERY; A LETTER TO THE  
GOVERNORS LEGISLATURES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649555093

Considerations on Negro Slavery; A Letter on the Present State of the Slave Trade; 2nd Letter to the Freeholders of the County of York, on Negro Slavery; An Address for the Abolition of Slavery; A Letter to the Governors Legislatures by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

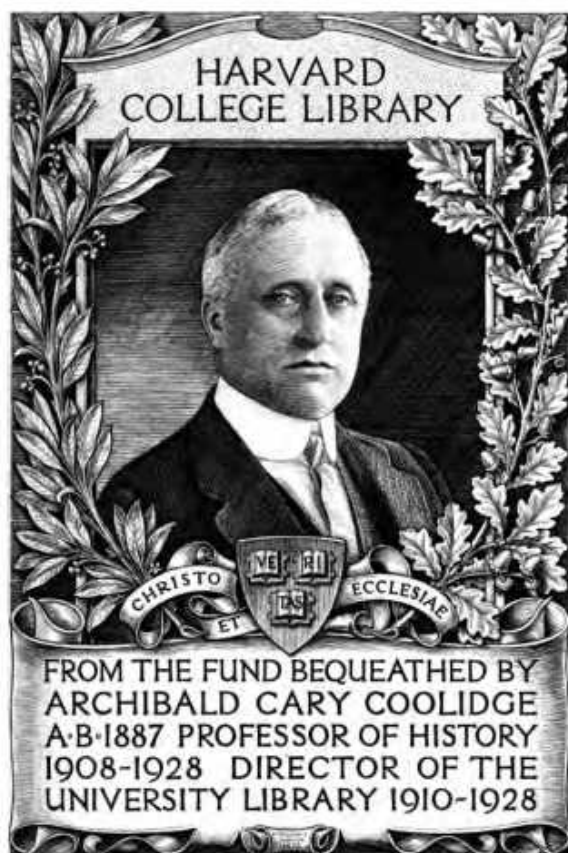
[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

# **VARIOUS**

**CONSIDERATIONS ON NEGRO SLAVERY; A  
LETTER ON THE PRESENT STATE OF THE SLAVE  
TRADE; 2ND LETTER TO THE FREEHOLDERS OF  
THE COUNTY OF YORK, ON NEGRO SLAVERY;  
AN ADDRESS FOR THE  
ABOLITION OF SLAVERY; A LETTER  
TO THE GOVERNORS LEGISLATURES**



3A 1175.37.10



✓  
3

**CONSIDERATIONS**

ON

**NEGRO SLAVERY;**

WITH

A BRIEF VIEW OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
RELATIVE TO IT,

IN THE

**British Parliament.**

---

**EDINBURGH:**  
*Printed by Anderson & Bryce;*  
FOR THE EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING THE MITIGATION  
AND ULTIMATE ABOLITION OF NEGRO SLAVERY; AND SOLD  
AT THE DEPOSITORY, 30, SOUTH BRIDGE-STREET;  
AND BY ALL THE BOOKSELLERS.

---

1824.

SA 1175.37.10

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY  
COOLIDGE FUND

JAN 7 1943

## SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

*For the Edinburgh Society for promoting the Mitigation and Ultimate  
Abolition of Negro Slavery, are received at the following places, viz.*

At the Treasurer's, WILLIAM BONAR, Esq. Banker, Royal Exchange; SIR WILLIAM FORBES, & Co., Bankers; COMMERCIAL BANK; MERCHANTS HALL; Mr OMAN's, Waterloo Tavern; Mr M'EWAN's, Royal-Exchange Coffee-house; Mr PLENDERLEATH's, North Bridge Street; ALEXANDER CRUICKSHANKS', Hosier, Nicolson Street; JOHN WIGMAN's, Manufacturer, Nicolson Street; J. & J. MACDONALD's, Ironmongers, High Street; WILLIAM WHYTE's, Bookseller, St Andrew's Street; DAVID BROWN's, Bookseller, St Andrew's Street; WAUGH & INNES's, Booksellers, Hunter Square; WILLIAM OLIPHANT's, Bookseller, South Bridge Street; YULE & ABERNETHY's North Bridge Street; ADAM BLACK's, Bookseller, North Bridge Street; CONSTABLE & Co's, Booksellers, Prince's Street; WILLIAM BLACKWOOD's, Bookseller, Prince's Street; and by the OFFICE-BEARERS of the SOCIETY.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12

CONSIDERATIONS  
ON  
NEGRO SLAVERY.

---

THE following pages have been drawn up with the view of communicating a clear knowledge of the question respecting Negro Slavery, as it exists in the West Indies, to those who may not have had an opportunity of perusing the numerous pamphlets that have been published on the subject. The Committee under whose direction this tract has been prepared, are very far from wishing to excite a temporary glow of feeling, by exaggerating the horrors of slavery, or by representing individual instances of cruelty as fair specimens of the usual conduct of West India planters towards their slaves. They look to the gradual and lasting operation of reason and information upon religious and liberal minds; and they have no doubt but that, when these have been allowed sufficient time to operate, a nation, which, like Scotland, has been taught to consider religion as the first, and freedom as the next blessing it has derived from the bounty of God, will rise as one man to declare, that it is neither consistent with the honour, the interest, nor the duty of the nation, to debar *six hundred thousand* of our fellow-subjects from any, the slightest participation in these blessings.

Those who take any interest in this most important subject, are aware, that considerable exertions have been made in Parliament, for effecting the immediate Mitigation, and ultimate Abolition of Negro Slavery: and these exertions have been seconded by Associations in London, Edinburgh, and almost all the principal towns of the United Kingdom. The single object of these Associations is to alleviate the state of Negro Slavery in the West Indies, and so to raise the character of the Negroes, by religious instruction, and by political regulations, as gradually to fit them for the enjoyment of personal freedom; and of this, after all that has been written on the subject, they see no reason whatever for being ashamed; nor has the evidence that has been brought forward by the advocates for Slavery as it exists, tended in the slightest degree to shake their confidence in the justice and feasibility of their object. They do not assume, nor do they even insinuate, that the slave-holders are generally cruel; but they assert, that from the present state of the law, they may be so, almost to any extent, without any risk of punishment. They do not assert that no improvements have taken place in the Slave laws; but they assert that they still give such powers to the White, as can scarcely be possessed without being abused\*. They do not assert that nothing has been done for the religious and moral instruction of the Negroes; but they assert (on the authority of their opponents) that, at this day, after a lapse of two hundred years, during which British planters have had the absolute command of the Negro population, that population remains in a state of gross ignorance and brutal immorality; that as now circumstanced they are incapable of appreciating or using the liberty which we are anxious should be communicated to them; that marriage, the very first element of civil society, is incom-

---

\* See Note A.

patible with their happiness, and unrecognised and unprotected by the laws under which they live\* ; and, finally, that such is their indolence and apathy, that to expect liberated Negroes to work beyond what is actually necessary for the supply of their immediate animal wants, is to betray a total ignorance of their character.

Such is the representation of the actual state of the Slave population, as drawn by those who deprecate any alteration in the system under which this character has been formed ; and such is the state which, we are unwillingly obliged to say, a reverend advocate for Slavery, with an obtuseness of moral feeling fully equal to that which he has been describing, ventures to call superior to that of the British peasantry †.

We have now to shew that this debased state of character is not to be attributed to any peculiarities of constitution in the Negro, but that it is solely and entirely to be attributed to the system under which he has been placed. And, in order to prove this, we need not have recourse to those true, though hackneyed arguments, by which philosophers of old, and even school-boys in our time, have proved that Slavery is destructive of all the higher virtues. We are fortunately enabled to appeal to facts,—to facts existing at this moment. We can refer to a Negro population of nearly 17,000, the greater portion having been liberated from Slavery ‡, of whom we may assert, that they are at least rapidly advancing to an equality with our own countrymen in knowledge, industry, and morality. We refer to the colony of Sierra Leone, the greater portion of whose inhabitants have, during the last ten years, been rescued by British cruisers from such Slave ships as have been

---

\* See Note B.

† See Note C.

‡ By the last returns the population is 16,661 ; of these more than 15,000 are natives of Africa, the rest being Europeans, and Maroon or Nova Scotia settlers.

found transgressing the treaties of 1815; and having shewn what the West Indian system, operating for two centuries, has produced, we may now turn to the opposite example, and shew what has been effected in a few years by a system of liberal policy and religious instruction.

At Sierra Leone, then, instead of compulsory labour and incorrigible indolence, we behold 17,000 of our fellow-creatures rescued from Slavery, and living under a free government, rising rapidly from brute ignorance into an intelligent, a civilized, and an industrious population. The Gazette of the colony, appealing to facts within the cognizance of its readers, asserts, "that the superiority of the mountain roads, the cleanness and respectable appearance of the villages, the immense forests cleared away, and the soil covered with the various productions of the climate, fully attest the *unwearing* industry, (we are quoting the very words of the Gazette,) the *unwearied* industry of this interesting people."

With respect to morality and intelligence, we find the Chief-Justice of the colony observing, that ten years ago, when the population was only 4000, there were 40 cases on the calendar; and now that the population was upwards of 16,000, there were only six cases. We again find the same magistrate declaring, that many of the liberated Africans are perfectly qualified to serve upon juries, and that they have so served with perfect satisfaction to their fellow-jurors. We could easily multiply proofs, equally strong, of the industry, intelligence, and moral character of the liberated Negroes at Sierra Leone. What we have stated is fully sufficient to prove, not merely that the Negroes possess all the natural qualifications for liberty in common with their fellow-creatures of a different colour, but that they have made more rapid progress in the knowledge and practice of Christianity, and in the arts and duties of civilized life, than was ever before made by any barbarous people whatever.