

**SLAVERY ILLUSTRATED IN
ITS
EFFECTS UPON WOMAN
AND DOMESTIC SOCIETY**

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Slavery Illustrated in Its Effects Upon Woman and Domestic Society by George Bourne

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Copy

"A generation, O how lofty are their eyes!—whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men!"—*AGAR.*

"They have given a boy for a harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink!"—*JOSEPH.*

"They sold the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of shoes; and turn aside the way of the meek. A man and his father will go in unto the same maid, to profane my holy name!"—*AMOS.*

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THIS VOLUME
IS
Effectronately Enscrbed
TO
All the Members of
FEMALE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETIES,
WITH PROFOUND SOLICITUDE
That those sisters in pbilantropy may be stimulated to
UNTAINING RESERTION IN BEHALF OF
TWELVE HUNDRED THOUSAND
WOMEN,
Who are now chained in
THE AMERICAN
HOUSE OF BONDAGE.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

What! shall we guard our neighbor still,
While ~~we~~ ~~man~~ ~~abrids~~ beneath his rod,
And while he tramples down at will,
The image of our common God?

Whittier:

THE ensuing concise delineation of American Slavery, in the effects which result from one sphere of its operation, is not designed to demonstrate its abstract unrighteousness, as a theory for disputation; or its oppressions as totally subversive of all human freedom and conscientious rights. That slavery is equally unscriptural and barbarous, and as unconstitutional as it is unjust, is a proposition which no argument and no evidence can render more certain and convincing to all men whose rational faculties are in ordinary exercise. Slave-drivers and their abettors do not want illumination; but moral sensibility and Christian principles.

The most common, and yet the most unholy of all the excuses which are alleged for the infatuated adhesion to the system of slavery in the United States, are these:—The early prejudices which the slaveholders imbibe; and the habits of life to which they were educated, and to which they have been inured from in-

fancy. What influence those things might have upon the formation of character among that part of mankind who, "having no hope, are without God in the world," it is irrelevant to discuss. Our inquiry adverts to American citizens alone, who have been born and educated in the United States since the ratification of our Federal Constitution. Their first lesson has been this — "All men are created equal, and are possessed of certain inalienable rights." Their boast and their shout, "Liberty!" Their denunciation of almost all other countries, that their inhabitants in different degrees are fettered by tyrannical potentates. Their almost unceasing chorus — "We never will be slaves."

These distinctive features are rendered more vivid by another consideration; that all their mental and moral acquisitions have been obtained amid the splendors, and under the acknowledged supremacy and sanction of the gospel of Christ; which inculcates reciprocal rectitude, and personal responsibility to Jehovah, as the result of the divinely bestowed boon of civil and religious freedom.

Notwithstanding, therefore, all those immunities, and all those proud exultations, and all the egotism which have emanated from the possession of these invaluable enjoyments; there is existing in this Republic a system of slavery, than which nothing more adverse to all human comfort and improvement can possibly be imagined — and than which, no ingenuity of wickedness can contrive a machinery more efficient to despoil man of all his loftiest privileges, to drive him into the

most brutal degradation, and to insure for him the wrath of God. And it should be deeply impressed upon our minds, that all this machination of evil is impelled and prolonged by men whose every feeling, conviction, motive, and desire, with all their constant declarations, it ever most strenuously and directly contradicts.

When we speak of prejudices of education or early habits of life, in common parlance, we never intend by it to convey the impression that departures from domestic purity and social equity are the result of an inveterate constitutional bias, similar to the animal instinctive loathings or attachments. Yet we are told that slavery may be excused, or rather that the slave-dealer and the slave-torturer are, in a great measure to be pardoned, and notwithstanding its inherent and incurable injustice and inhumanity, that the system itself is extenuated, because the "broker in the trade of blood," has been brought up in the midst of its scenes, and he "knows no better," through early prepossessions and habits.

It is one of the grave charges against some of the pretended moral casuists of the European continent, that they taught that deadly doctrine — that men might be *inevitably ignorant* that violations of the divine commandments are sins ; and therefore, that although they are profane, or cruel, or unclean, or mendacious, or fraudulent, or impious, or criminal in every degree, they are not worthy of punishment, because they were not acquainted with the moral law of God, and its authority and obligations, when the act was pepe-

trated. That doctrine, although it directly subverts all morals and all religion, is the foundation upon which is erected that unhallowed castle where slave-holders attempt to intrench themselves against the evangelical artillery with which the Christian philanthropists are endeavoring to overthrow that stronghold of ungodliness and despotism.

No melancholy facts in the annals of human depravity are more direful than the prominent circumstances connected with American slavery. That slavery should be extenuated under the plea of education, juvenile habits, long associations, and widely influential example, is most disgraceful to our country, and especially when combined with our public extravagant professions of "*Liberty and Equality!*" But that slavery should have become fortified in the Christian church; and sixty years after the American Declaration of Independence and the Bills of Rights; and fifty years subsequent to the adoption of our national confederated constitution, that the ministers, officers, and members of the religious denominations should constitute the prominent and most inveterate actors and defenders of the vilest practical curse which ever desolated mankind, is an anomaly so atrocious and heart-rending, that, were it not a visible, and oral, and tangible fact, its very enormity alone would utterly preclude any rational persons from crediting its existence.

That hardness of heart and astounding criminality hitherto have been assailed in vain. The incongruity of liberty and slavery; the utter irreconcilableness of