

A HISTORY OF SLAVERY IN VIRGINIA

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A History of Slavery in Virginia by James Curtis Ballagh

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JAMES CURTIS BALLAGH

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IN VIRGINIA**

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BY

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TO THE MEMORY OF

MY AUNTS

SUSAN CATHERINE WITHROW

AND

PHOEBE CAROLINE PATTERSON

1870

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
PREFACE.....	vii
 CHAPTER I. SLAVE TRADE AND SLAVE POPULATION.	
Slavery as a Stage in Social Progress.....	1
Origin and Progress of the Modern Slave Trade.....	3
Importation of the Subjects of Slavery.....	6
Restrictive Duties and Petitions to the Crown.....	11
Prohibition Attempted and Realized.....	19
Slave Population and the Domestic Slave Trade.....	24
 CHAPTER II. DEVELOPMENT OF SLAVERY.	
<i>Legal Status of the Slave.</i>	
Origin of Status.....	27
Status of the Early Negroes and Indians.....	28
Relation of Servitude to Slavery.....	31
Subjects and Principles of Enslavement.....	45
Mulattoes, Mestizos and Persons of Color.....	56
Incidents of Slavery; Rights and Duties.....	62
Penal Legislation concerning Slaves.....	82
 <i>Social Status of the Slave.</i>	
Regulation by Custom.....	96
Personality of the Slave and Customary Rights.....	97
Maintenance, Guardianship, Education and Liberty.....	102
Negro Preachers.....	110
 CHAPTER III. MANUMISSION, EMANCIPATION AND THE FREE MAN.	
Withdrawal of Restrictions to Liberty.....	116
Public and Private Manumission.....	119
Suits for Freedom.....	123
Transportation of Freedmen.....	125
Anti-Slavery Sentiment.....	127
Plans for Emancipation.....	130
Slavery Polemics and Apologetics.....	142
Status of the Free Negro.....	145
 BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	 149

PREFACE.

In the literature upon American slavery there is no such distinctive study of its institutional origin, development and relations as has been made of certain similar forms of social organization in Europe. This fact will serve to explain the method, constructive rather than narrative, of the present volume and the reference, somewhat more general than the title suggests, to the experience of other American colonies and States, and to that of Europe where it has seemed necessary.

It is recognized that objective views of the local character of slavery in every division of the present United States where it has existed are prerequisite to its true history in this country. My wish has been to contribute to this end by a careful investigation of the institution as it existed in one of these, Virginia, with a candid statement of results. The priority of this colony and the long coexistence there of forms of dependence give unusual interest and value to its institutional experience, and make it the natural starting point of the general inquiry.

For the invariable kindness with which the historical materials relating to the subject have been made accessible to me I desire to thank particularly, among many who have aided me, Messrs. Philip A. Bruce and W. G. Stanard, of the Virginia Historical Society; W. W. Scott, of the Virginia State Library; John L. Campbell, Secretary of the Washington and Lee University; Frederick W. Page, Librarian of the University of Virginia; Dr. Philip R. Uhler, Provost of the Peabody Library, Baltimore, and Hon. A. R. Spofford, of the Library of Congress, Washington.

Portions of Chapter II. have appeared, in somewhat modified form, in the pages of the *Conservative Review* and the permission to make use of this matter is due to the courtesy of the editors of that periodical.