

# CONNECTING HISTORIES

## Guide

### Antislavery Pamphlet Collection

in Local Studies and History

- Birmingham Central Library

**Bound into five large volumes, Local Studies and History hold a rare collection of antislavery pamphlets, articles, speeches and legal documents, which together provide a rich and historically important source of information on the 18th and 19th century slave trade debates.**

**Refs: A 326.08 Vol. [C/1] [D/1] [D/2] [D/3] [D/4] [E/1]**

The pamphlets range across a wide time-span, from as early as 1784 until 1863 (when the U.S. was fighting a civil war over slavery), identifying many different geographical and social landscapes (Britain, Africa, America, Cuba, Brazil, the West Indies, India) affected by slave trades. It includes speeches made by many of the most important English abolitionists, such as Thomas Clarkson and William Wilberforce, who both campaigned for an end to slavery in the British Colonies. It provides us with detailed evidence of the complicated moral and political arguments that confronted the early Victorians: and the attempts of those, like Joseph Sturge, an abolitionist from Birmingham, to keep a clear moral objective in mind: *"I am one of those, who are never afraid to ask for justice for any man"* (*'A Report of the Proceedings of the Public Meeting Held At Exeter Hall'*).

Allowing us to widen our understanding of abolition from white English perspectives, an important number of the texts in these volumes are also written from the viewpoint of 19th century black authors, such as *'The History of Mary Prince, A West Indian Slave'* and also *'The Narrative of James Williams'*. Meanwhile, opening yet another perspective, the collection also includes texts written by abolitionist women, such as *'Immediate Not Gradual Abolition'* a highly radical piece of writing for the time, as can be inferred from the fact that the author, Elizabeth Heyrick, published the text anonymously (no name appears on the front cover).

These collections also have an important local significance. For instance, *'The Narrative of James Williams'* was written as a result of the campaign by Joseph Sturge to bring back evidence for abuse of apprentices in West Indies after 1807. Sturge was a key member of the Birmingham Anti-Slavery Society (otherwise known as the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society). Meanwhile, Elizabeth Heyrick acted as treasurer of the Birmingham Ladies Society for the Relief of the Negro.

Together, these texts show that Birmingham took just as much interest in what was happening in the debate over slavery as the cities of Liverpool, Bristol or London. There was a good reason for this: many of Birmingham's industrial produce, such as gun and metals, were directly part of the triangular trade system. The way these texts finally came to be gathered together for the Birmingham library may also tell us a vital, if elusive story about Birmingham's relationship with the abolitionist debate. A number of presentation plates gathered into the volumes identify that many of the pamphlets in this collection were a donation from one individual:

*Presented by W. Morgan Esq.  
Strawford, Nr (?) Winchester  
Date, June 1895*

The 'Minutes Book' of the Birmingham Anti-Slavery Society kept in City Archives [ref: IIR62] show that a 'William Morgan' was also a member of the same abolitionist group. It looks possible, therefore, that a large number of these antislavery pamphlets could have been collected by the Morgan family, read by the original Birmingham antislavery society activists, before later being passed back to the library as a public record. The volumes, therefore, are a memorial to Birmingham's role in the quest for the abolition of the Slave Trade. Reading and analysing the bound antislavery pamphlets alongside the libraries wider collection of materials on slavery, 19th century politics, diaspora and black history, offers us an important starting place for a discussion on the role Birmingham played in 'slave trade' debates.

## **Complete List of Titles**

### **Volume C/1**

*Rev. William Knibb's Speech, Proceedings of the Public Meeting held in Exeter Hall, May 22, 1840, on the occasion of the public reception of the Rev. William Knibb, H. Beckford, and E. Barrett (1840)*

**[130301]**

*(note: contains speech by Joseph Sturge as chairman of meeting; and illustration of Exeter Hall)*

*Speech of the right honourable Viscount Palmerston in the House of Commons, on Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 1841, on Lord Sandon's resolution (1841)*

**[130302]**

*The Fugitive Slave Law and its Victims (Antislavery Tracts 15) (1861)*

**[130303]**

*(note: this text was published in New York by the American Anti-Slavery Society. It bears the faint inscription of 'Sturge')*

*Free Church Alliance with Manstealers, Great Anti-Slavery Meeting in the City Hall, Glasgow containing speeches delivered by messrs, Wright, Douglass, and Buffum, from America, and by George Thompson Esq., of London (1846)*

**[205415]**

*(note: contains speech with Frederick Douglass, who visited Birmingham, Sturge, and the Birmingham Anti-Slavery Society in 1846)*

*Speech of George Thompson, Esq., M.P., delivered at the Anti-Slavery Meeting, Broadmead, Bristol, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1851 (1851)*

**[205416]**

*The American Question. Secession. Tariff. Slavery* (1862)  
**[205417]**

*Horrors of West Indian Slavery* (1805)  
**[218729]**

(note: bears faint inscription of the name Gibbins)

*The Black Slaves of Prussia.* Frank Weston (1918)  
**[387091]**

*An Address to... the Methodists concerning the evil of the Slave Trade.* Samuel Bradburn (1792)  
**[577601]**

## **Volume D/1**

*Two Letters, Severally Addressed to the Christian Observer and the Editor of the Christian Rembrancer, relative to the Slave-Cultured Estates of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.* Rev. J. Riland (Curate of Yoxall, Staffordshire) (1828)  
**[130304]**

*Letter Addressed To A Clerical Advocate of the British and Foreign Bible, Church Missionary, and Hibernian Societies, On the Intimate Connection of Similar Institutions with the Abolition of Colonial Slavery.* Rev. J. Riland (1829)  
**[130305]**

*Negro Apprenticeship in the British Colonies.* Office of the Anti-Slavery Society, London (1838)  
**[130306]**

*A Letter to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell from Thomas Fowell Buxton on Certain Allegations Recently Made in the House of Commons in the Debate on Sir George Strickland's Motion for the Abolition of Negro Apprenticeship.* Thomas Fowell Buxton (1838)  
**[130307]**

*A Report of the Proceedings of the Public Meeting Held At Exeter Hall, on Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, 1837, To Take into Consideration the Present Condition of the Negro Apprentices in the British Colonies.* Printed For The Central Negro Emancipation Committee (1837)  
**[130308]**

*Negro Apprenticeship in the Colonies: A Review of the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons* (1837)  
**[130309]**

(note: front cover bears hand written inscription 'Rev'd. Thomas Morgan, Regent Place')

*Colonial Laws as Examined by a Committee of the House of Commons in the Year 1836. Exhibiting Some of the Principle Discrepancies Between Those Laws and the Imperial Act of Abolition* (1837)  
**[130310]**

*A Letter to Thomas Clarkson by James Cropper and Prejudice Visible; or, The Practicability of Conquering Prejudice by the Better Means than by Slavery and Exile; in Relation to the American Colonization Society.* Charles Stuart (1832)

**[130311]**

*Immediate Not Gradual Abolition; Or, An Inquiry into the Shortest, Safest, And Most Effectual Means of Getting Rid of West Indian Slavery.* Elizabeth Heyrick (1824)

**[130312]**

*(note: no author is printed on the title page, however, this text is known to be written by Elizabeth Heyrick. She Acted as Treasurer of the Female Society for the Relief of The Negro in Birmingham)*

*A Review of the Report of a Select Committee of the House of Commons, on the State of the West India Colonies, Ordered to be Printed, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 1832; or The Interests of the Country and The Prosperity of the West India Planters Mutually Secured by the Immediate Abolition of Slavery.* James Cropper (1833)

**[130313]**

*(note: front cover reads: 'P [?] or T[?] Morgan with Joseph Sturge's thanks [?])'*

*Thoughts on the Present States of the West India Colonies and on Measures for Their Improvement, Tending To The Extinction of the African Slave Trade.* J. Innes (1840)

**[130314]**

*Sermon on the Emancipation of The Slaves.* Rev. P. Brewster (1838)

**[130315]**

*(note: front cover bears hand written inscription: 'To The Rev. William Morgan From the Author')*

*Speech Delivered in The House of Commons Upon The Motion of Sir Eardley Wilmot for the Immediate Abolition of Negro Apprenticeship in the British Colonies, on Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1838.* Edward Lytton Bulwer Esq. M.P. M.A. (1838)

**[130316]**

*A Narrative of Events Since The 1<sup>st</sup> of August, 1834.* James Williams (1838)

**[130317]**

*The History of Mary Prince, A West Indian Slave. Related by Herself. To Which is Added, The Narrative of Asa-Asa, A Captured African* (1831)

**[130318]**

*(note: front cover bears hand written inscription 'J.Morgan... Read it & Return it...')*

*The West India Question.* Charles Stuart (1832)

**[130319]**

*Minutes of the Proceedings of the General Anti-Slavery Convention Called by the Committee of the British And Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, Held in London on the 12<sup>th</sup> June, 1840* (1840)

**[130320]**

*Right and Wrong Among the Abolitionists of the United States: or the Objects, Principles, And Measures of the Original American Anti-Slavery Society, Unchanged*  
[...] John Collins [etc] (1841)  
**[130321]**

*Anti-Slavery Crisis: Policy of Ministers* (1838)  
**[130322]**

*The Operation of the Apprenticeship System in the British Colonies.* Rev. W. Bevan (1838)  
**[130323]**

*Wages of the Whip. An Essay on The Comparative Cost and Productiveness of Freed and Slave Labour.* Josiah Conder (1833)  
**[130324]**

*The Memorial of the Anti-Slavery and Abolition Societies in the United Kingdom.* (1835)  
**[130325]**

*Fate of the Colonies: A Letter by R. Alexander.* (1830)  
**[204389]**

(note: front cover bears inscription: 'M.J. Sadler Esq. With The Authors Compliments')

## **Volume D/2**

*Case and Claims of the Emancipated Slaves of the Unites States; being the Address of the Society of Friends in Great Britain and Ireland, to their fellow members and the British Public* (1865)  
**[130326]**

*Life and Character of the Rev. Charles Follen. Who Perished , Jan 13, 1840, in the conflagration of Lexington. Delivered before the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, in the Marlborough Chapel, Boston, April 17, 1840.* Samuel J. May (1840)  
**[130327]**

*Speech of Samuel Bowly, Esq., upon the present condition of the Negro Apprentices in the British Colonies. Delivered at a Public Meeting held at Exeter Hall, 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1837.* Samuel Bowly (1837)  
**[130328]**

*Report of the Discussion on American Slavery between Mr George Thompson and the Rev. J. Breckinridge, of Baltimore, United States.* Taken from the Glasgow Chronicle (1836)  
**[130329]**

(note: front cover bears the signature of 'William Morgan, 110 New Street')

*The Cruel Nature and Injurious Effects of the Foreign Slave Trade. A letter to the Right. Hon. Lord Brougham. By Thomas Roberts, Baptist Minister.* Thomas Roberts (1836)  
**[130330]**

(note: front cover bears inscription: 'with E Hanis's affectionate regards to Mrs Conway - whose acceptance is respectfully requested')

*The Moral Influence of Slavery. The Substance of a Paper Presented to The Anti-Slavery Convention, Held in London, June, 1840, by William Bevan.* (1840)  
**[130331]**

*Hill Coolies. A Brief Exposure of the Deplorable Condition of the Hill Coolies, in British Guiana and Mauritius, and of the nefarious means by which they were induced to resort to these Colonies.* John Scoble [?] (1840)  
**[130332]**

*The Polynesian Slave Trade: Its character and tendencies: with Reasons Adduced for its Total and Immediate Prohibition.* Thomas Harvey (1872)  
**[130333]**

(note: front cover bears faint inscription 'W. Morgan')

*The Slaveholders War: An Argument for the North and The Negro.* W. E Adams (1863)  
**[130335]**

*A Serious Address to The Members of the Anti-Slavery Society on its Present Position and Prospects.* William Howitt (1843)  
**[130335]**

*Speech of His Grace The Duke Of Argyle at the Westminster Palace, May 17<sup>th</sup>* (1865)  
**[130336]**

*The Anti Slavery Examiner. Emancipation in the West Indies. A Six Months Tour in Antigua, Barbados, and Jamaica, in the Year 1837.* (Published by the American Anti-Slavery Society) Jas. A. Thome, and J. Horace Kimball (1838)  
**[130337]**

(note: contains references to Sturge's Visit to The West Indies)

*British Guiana. A speech delivered at the Anti- Slavery Meeting in Exeter Hall on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1838.* J. Scoble (1838)  
**[130338]**

*Description of Haydon's Picture of The Great Meeting of the Delegates Held at the Freemason's Tavern, June 1840 for The Abolition of Slavery and the Slave Trade Throughout The World.* Thomas Clarkson, President (1840)  
**[130339]**

(note: includes a reference to nine delegates in the portrait who came from Birmingham)

*Slavery in India.* William Adams of Cambridge, Massachusetts (1840)  
**[130340]**

*Slavery In India. The Present State of India Slavery; Chiefly Extracted from The Parliamentary Papers on the Subject. By James Peggs, Late Missionary in Orissa.*  
J. Peggs (1840)  
**[130341]**

*Slavery and the Slave Trade in British India; with notices of the existence of these Evils in the Islands of Ceylon, Malacca, and Penang, drawn from Official Documents* (1841)  
**[130342]**

*A Brief View of Slavery and the Slave Trade in British India* (1841)  
**[130343]**

*Speech of the Right Hon. Lord Brougham on The Liabilities of British Subjects, To the Related Penalties of the Law, for Holding and Trafficking in Slaves in Foreign Countries, and on Slavery In British India* (1841)  
**[130344]**

*Statements and Observations on the Working of the Laws for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, and on The Present State of The Negro Population* (1836)  
**[130345]**

(note: cover bears mark of 'Thomas Morgan')

*Address on Slavery in Cuba, Presented to The General Anti-Slavery Convention.* R.R. Madden  
**[130346]**

*Paper presented to the General Anti-Slavery Convention.* Rev. B. Godwin  
**[130347]**

*Report on Free Labour, presented to the General Anti-Slavery Convention, By Joseph Sturge, Esq., of Birmingham* (1840?)  
**[130348]**

### **Volume D/3**

*A Particular Examination of Mr Harris's Scriptural Researches on the Licitness of the Slave Trade.* Henry Dannett (Minister of St. John's, Liverpool) (1788)  
**[205418]**

*An Abstract of the Evidence Delivered Before A Select Committee of the House of Commons on Abolition in the Years of 1790 and 1791; on the part of the Petitioners for the Abolition of the Slave Trade* (1791)  
**[205419]**

*Substance of the Debate within the House of Common's on the 15<sup>th</sup> May, 1823, On A Motion for Mitigation and Gradual Abolition of Slavery Throughout The British Dominion* (1823)  
**[205420]**

*Negro Slavery, or, A View of Some of the more Prominent Features of That State of Society As it Exists in the United States of America And In the Colonies of the West Indies, Especially in Jamaica* (1823)

**[205421]**

*Appeal to the Religion, Justice, and Humanity of the Inhabitants of The British Empire, in Behalf of the Negro Slaves In The West Indies.* William Wilberforce (1823)

**[205422]**

*The Impolicy of Slavery [A Tract]* (1825?)

**[205423]**

*A Letter to M. Jean-Baptiste Say on the Comparative Expense of Free and Slave Labour.* Adam Hodgson (1823)

**[205424]**

*An Impartial Appeal To The Reason, Justice, And Patriotism of the People Of Illinois on the Injurious Effects of Slave Labour.* Printed for the Society Mitigation and Gradual Abolition of Slavery Throughout The British Dominions (1824)

**[205425]**

*Debate in House of Commons on the 16<sup>th</sup> Day of March 1824, on the Measures adopted by his Majesty's Government for the Amelioration of Condition of Slave Population in his Majesty's Dominion's in the West Indies* (1824)

**[205426]**

*Second Report of the Committee of the Society for Mitigation and Gradual Abolition of Slavery Throughout the British Dominion's* (1825)

**[205427]**

## **Volume D/4**

*An Address to the Inhabitants of Europe on the Iniquity of the Slave Trade; issued by the Religious Society of Friends, Commonly Called Quakers* (1822)

**[205428]**

*Thoughts on The Necessity of Improving the Condition of the Slaves in the British Colonies With A View to Their Ultimate Emancipation; and On The Practicality, the Safety, and The Advantages of the Latter Measure.* Third Edition. Thomas Clarkson (1823)

**[205429]**

*England Enslaved by her own Slave Colonies. An Address to Electors and People of The United Kingdom.* James Stephen (1826)

**[205430]**

*The Slave Colonies of Great Britain. A Picture of Negro Slavery drawn by The Colonists Themselves* (1826)

**[205431]**



*Address to the Public On The Present State of The Question Relative to Negro Slavery in the British Colonies* (1828)

**[205432]**

*The Duty of Prompt and Complete Abolition of Colonial Slavery: A Sermon Preached At Bentinck Chapel, St. Mary-Le-Bone, on Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 1830.* Rev. S.C. Wilks (1830)

**[205433]**

*Speech of T.C. Granger at a meeting of the Inhabitants of the City of Durham, on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1830, for the purpose of Petitioning Parliament for the Abolition of Colonial Slavery* (1830)

**[205434]**

*Opinions of Henry Brougham, Esq., On Negro Slavery* (1830)

**[205435]**

*Emancipation; or Practical Advice to British Slave Holders With Suggestions For The General Improvement of West India Affairs.* T.S. Winn (1824)

**[205436]**

*First Letter to the Freeholders of the County of York on Negro Slavery: An inquiry into the claims of the West Indians for Equitable Compensation.* Right Hon. R. Wilmot Horton (1830)

**[205437]**

*The Abolition of Slavery Considered With Reference to the State of the West Indies since Emancipation.* W. Neilson Hancock (of the Dublin Statistical Society) (1852)

**[205438]**

*Should the Holders of Slave Property receive Compensation on the Abolition of Slavery?* J. Haughton (1853)

**[205439]**

*Progress of the British West India Colonies under Freedom.* J. Haughton (1859)

**[205440]**

*Illicit Slave Trade of Cuba and Brazil, and other Countries producing the Foreign Sugar Now Refining in England* (1831)

**[204441]**

*The Martyr Age of the United States of America.* Harriet Martineau (1840)

**[205442]**

*Rebellion and Recognition. Slavery, Sovereignty, Secession and Recognition Considered.* J.H. Estcourt (1863)

**[205443]**

*War Ships for The Southern Confederacy: Report of the Public Meeting in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester.* Union and Emancipation Society (1863)

**[205444]**

*Character of the Southern States of America.* F.W. Newman (1863)

**[205445]**

*Slavery in the United States.* Robert Trimble (1863)  
**[205446]**

*The Proposed Slave Empire: its Antecedents, Constitution and Policy.*  
C.S. Miall (1863)  
**[205447]**

*The Western Coast of Africa: Comprising Suggestions on The Best Means of Exterminating The Slave Trade and Some Account of The Success of the Gospel, and of the Present State and Prospects of the Wesleyan Missions on that Coast. With Remarks on the Climate, and Hints for The Preservation of Health. By William Fox, Upwards of Ten Years a Missionary on the Gambia.* William Fox (1851)  
**[205448]**

*Is Slavery Defensible from Scripture?* Charles Stuart (1831)  
**[300845]**

*Remarks on the Colony of Liberia.* Charles Stuart (1832)  
**[300842]**

*The American Colonization Scheme further Unravelled.* Charles Stuart.  
**[300843]**

## **Volume E/1**

*The Evidence of the Real Merits of the Negro Apprenticeship.* Justus (1838)  
**[130349]**

*The Past and Present Efforts for the Extinction of the African Slave Trade.* W.R. Greg (1840)  
**[130350]**

*Official Responsibility Affirmed and Enforced - a letter on the administration of the act for the abolition of British Colonial slavery.* John Birt (1837)  
**[120351]**

*The American Freedmen's Aid Commission* (Date Unknown)  
**[130352]**

*The Foreign Slave Trade I.* Published by London Anti Slavery Society [?] (1837)  
**[130353]**

*The Foreign Slave Trade II.* Published by London Anti Slavery Society [?] (1838)  
**[130354]**

*Letter to Lord Brougham on the Alleged Breach of the Colonial Apprenticeship Contract.*  
William Bevan (1838)  
**[130355]**

*Slavery Forbidden at the word of God: A lecture. Delivered at the Request of the Free Church Anti Slavery Society.* Rev. David Young (1847)  
**[130356]**

*The Fugitive Slave Circulars; or, England the protector of the negro slave.*  
Edward Hutchinson (1876)  
**[130357]**

*The Slave Circular: Speeches of Lords Cardwell and Selbourne in The House of Lords* (1876)  
**[210334]**

*The Regulated Slave Trade: reprinted from Evidence of Robert Stokes given before the select committee of the House of Lords, in 1849. With A Plate Showing The Stowage of a British Slave Ship* (1850) (Facsimile Plate)  
**[293961]**

*Copy of The West Indian Reporter.* Includes Report on Slavery in Jamaica (1827)  
**[508188]**

*A Caution to Great Britain on the Calamitous State of Enslaved Negroes.* A. Benezet (1784)  
**[546819]**

*An Account of the Emancipation of the Slaves of Unity Valley Pen, in Jamaica.* David Barclay (1801)  
**[845984]**

*(note: bears inscription, 'from the author')*

*A Particular Account of the Insurrection of the Negroes of St. Domingo, begun August 1791*  
**[885683]**

*Old Truths and Established Facts, being an answer to a Very New Pamphlet indeed!* (1792)  
**[892109]**

*Compiled by Dr A. Green, September 2006*

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