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This book contains two pamphlets showing two diametrically opposed points of view on the slavery question. British philanthropist Elizabeth Heyrick (1769–1831) was a strong supporter of complete emancipation for African slaves in the British West Indies, and published *Immediate, Not Gradual Abolition* in 1824. This work not only criticises anti-slavery campaigners of the time, such as William Wilberforce and Thomas Clarkson, whose efforts Heyrick considered too cautious and indirect; they also call for a boycott of all slave-produced goods from the West Indies – particularly sugar – and underline the collective responsibility of British citizens in the matter. Alexander McDonnell (1794–1875) was an equally vigorous propagandist for the sugar-planters of the West Indies, and published *Compulsory Manumission: or, An Examination of the Actual State of the West India Question*, in 1827. These two works show the strength of feeling on both sides of the argument in Britain nearly twenty years after the abolition of the slave trade itself.

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Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paolo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108020305

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2010

This edition first published 1824-7 This digitally printed version 2010

ISBN 978-1-108-02030-5 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

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