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978-1-108-06015-8 - The Just Limitation of Slavery in the Laws of God: Compared with the Unbounded Claims of the African Traders and British American Slaveholders

Granville Sharp

Frontmatter

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The Just Limitation of Slavery in the Laws of God

The author and campaigner Granville Sharp (1735–1813) was born in Durham to a religious family. In 1765, a chance encounter with a slave, Jonathan Strong, sparked the serious interest in abolitionism that in due course saw him become a founding member of the London committee of the Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade. Due in part to his efforts and writings, the anti-slavery movement in Britain gained public attention and became a more focused and organised campaign. This tract, originally published in 1776, is one of several anti-slavery works that Sharp produced in that year. A rigorous defence of liberty and of ‘the honour of holy Scriptures’, it is a riposte to the idea that slavery is sanctioned by God, citing the biblical doctrines of ‘Thou shalt not oppress a stranger’ and ‘Love thy neighbour as thyself’. Also included are several appendices of material relating to the abolitionist cause.

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