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of Tolerating Slavery
Granville Sharp
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A Representation of the Injustice and Dangerous Tendency of Tolerating Slavery

This work by the anti-slavery campaigner Granville Sharp (1735–1813) brings together legal and historical documents, as well as the author's own legal arguments, demonstrating that slavery was illegal and therefore could not be upheld in England. Furthering his own intellectual development while working for a linen draper, Sharp later became a government clerk and pursued a writing career. His awakening to the horrors of the slave trade resulted from a chance encounter with an injured slave seeking help from his physician brother. Carrying out the necessary legal research, Sharp published this book in 1769 to demonstrate that slavery has no basis in English law. In 1772, the landmark case of James Somerset was brought before Lord Mansfield, who upheld Sharp's contention: as a result, it was henceforth understood that any slave reaching the shores of England became free. Sharp's memoirs of his life are also reissued in this series.

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O R O F
A D M I T T I N G T H E L E A S T C L A I M
O F
Private Property in the Persons of Men,
in England.

I N F O U R P A R T S .

C O N T A I N I N G ,

- I. Remarks on an Opinion given in the Year 1729, by the (then) Attorney General and Solicitor General, concerning the Case of Slaves in Great Britain.
- II. The Answer to an Objection, which has been made to the foregoing Remarks.
- III. An Examination of the Advantages and Disadvantages of tolerating Slavery in England. The latter are illustrated by some Remarks on the Spirit of the Plantation Laws, occasionally introduced in Notes, which demonstrate the cruel Oppression, not only of Slaves, but of Free Negroes, Mulattoes, and Indians, and even of Christian White Servants in the British Colonies.
- IV. Some Remarks on the ancient Villenage, shewing, that the obsolete Laws and Customs, which favoured that horrid Oppression, cannot justify the Admission of the modern West Indian Slavery into this Kingdom, nor the least Claim of Property, or Right of Service, deducible therefrom.

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