

Voice of Liberty, Primary Source Document 3

Ottobah Cugoano. *Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evil and Wicked Traffic of the Slavery and Commerce of the Human Species, Humbly Submitted to the Inhabitants of Great-Britain*. London, 1787. Page 3 and 4.

Cugoano was one of the earliest known African British abolitionists. Brought to England in 1772 by his owner, Alexander Campbell, he eventually came to be employed by the court painter, an appointment that he would use to his advantage. His *Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evil and Wicked Traffic of the Slavery and Commerce of the Human Species* first appeared as letters to London newspapers written with Olaudah Equiano. Around 1791, he wrote to his employer, asking to be sent to Nova Scotia to recruit settlers for a settlement in Sierra Leone; nothing is known of him after that.

“It is therefore manifest, that something else ought yet to be done; and what is required, is evidently the incumbent¹ duty of all men of enlightened understanding, and of every man that has any claim or affinity to the name of Christian, that the base treatment which the African Slaves undergo, ought to be abolished; and it is moreover evident, that the whole, or any part of that iniquitous² traffic of slavery, can no where, or in any degree, be admitted. . . . But the robbers of men, the kidnappers, ensnarers and slave-holders, who take away the common rights and privileges of others to support and enrich themselves, are universally those pitiful and detestable wretches . . . for ensnaring of others, and taking away their liberty by slavery and oppression is the worst kind of robberty. . . .”

¹ current

² wicked