

Primary Source Quotes From People at the Time

For Students' Role Play (Use with Lesson 3)

Samuel Warner: “..Yet we cannot hold those entirely blameless, who first brought them from their native plains—who robbed them of their domestic joys—who tore them from their weeping children and dearest connections, and doomed them in this “Land of Liberty” to a state of cruel bondage!...The colonization scheme of which we have heard at Washington, was opened to the public with feeling and pathetic acknowledgements that Africans were men and that from us they had a right to look for justice.”

From http://www.gilderlehrman.org/search/display_results.php?id=GLC04548

Thomas Jefferson: “The whole commerce between master and slave is a perpetual exercise of the...most unremitting despotism on the one part, and degrading submissions on the other...Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever.”

From http://www.gilderlehrman.org/teacher/module7/tool_is_pop1.html

Richmond Enquirer author: “The case of Nat Turner warns us. No black man ought to be permitted to turn a Preacher through the country. The law must be enforced or the tragedy of Southampton appeals to us in vain.”

From <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part3/3h499t.html>

Richmond Enquirer author: “It is believed that all the brigands were slaves-and most, if not all these, the property of kind and indulgent masters.”

From <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part3/3h499t.html>

Governor Floyd: “Not only should the severest punishment be inflicted upon those disturbers of our peace...but decisive measures should be adopted to make all their measures abortive. The public good requires the negro preachers to be silenced, who, full of ignorance, are incapable of inculcating any thing but notions of the wildest superstition...I cannot fail to recommend to your early attention, the revisions of all the laws intended to preserve, in due subordination, the slave population of our State...”

From *The Southampton Slave Revolt* pg.434 Message of Governor Floyd to the Virginia Legislature

Thomas J. Randolph: “There is one circumstance to which we are to look as inevitable in the fullness of time; a dissolution of this Union. God grant it may not happen in our time, or that of our children; but sire, it must come, sooner or later, and

when it does come, border war follows it, as certain as the night follows the day.”
[Randolph put forth a plan of gradual emancipation]

From <http://www.americanheritage.com/articles/web/20051111-nat-turner-slavery-rebellion-virginia> spoken on the floor of the House of Delegates

Virginian: “[Slavery] is a mildew which has blighted in its course every region it has touched from the creation of the world.”

From Boyer, Paul, ed. *The Enduring Vision: A History of the American People*. 1990.

Chapter 10: “The Old South and Slavery, 1800-1860” pg.351

Richmond Enquirer: “The indications of public sentiment from every part of the commonwealth, show that the people are deeply impressed with the necessity of getting rid, as speedily as possible, of the free people of colour. No one feels this necessity more deeply than I do...”

From Tragle, Henry Irving. *The Southampton Slave Revolt of 1831*. Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press, 1971. *Richmond Enquirer*, 21 October 1831 Pg. 128

A Native of Eastern Virginia: “A memorial is circulating among you, the object of which is to call the attention of the ensuing Legislature to the subject of the bond and free coloured population of this State, and to urge upon them the necessity of devising some means by which the blacks may be removed beyond our borders, and by which, too, the number of slaves may be gradually diminished.”

From Tragle, Henry Irving. *The Southampton Slave Revolt of 1831*. Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press, 1971. *The Richmond Enquirer* 15 November 1831 pg.140

Written to the editors of the Enquirer: [If send slaves away] “Our State, which is now purely agricultural; and which ought to continue so for many years to come, will be no longer...It is important that they [slaves] should be kept at home, upon their respective plantations, that they should be prohibited from going upon other plantations, without a pass from their master or mistress! That they should be prevented from assembling on Sundays...”

From Tragle, Henry Irving. *The Southampton Slave Revolt of 1831*. Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press, 1971. *The Richmond Enquirer* 25 November 1831

Richmond Enquirer: “I am of the opinion that security is to be found only in the rigid enforcement of the laws, regulating this class of our population, united with humane and just treatment in the owners, and a determination to keep their slaves at

home:--in the observance of regular patrols, composed of men of character and discretion, in the formation of volunteer corps who might frequently traverse every part, and produce an impression by the exhibition of a military force always prepared for prompt action...”

From Tragle, Henry Irving. *The Southhampton Slave Revolt of 1831*. Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press, 1971.

Richmond Enquirer letter Jerusalem, September 21, 1831 pg.99