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UNCLE TOM'S CABIN BY HARRIET BEECHER STOWE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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# UNCLE TOM'S CABIN

BY

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE.

WITH A NEW PREFACE  
EXPRESSLY WRITTEN FOR THIS EDITION, AUTHORIZED FOR  
THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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BERNH. TAUCHNITZ JUN.

1852.

## PREFACE

TO THE EUROPEAN EDITION.

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IN authorising the circulation of this work on the continent of Europe the author has only the apology that the love of *man* is higher than the love of country.

The great mystery which all Christian nations hold in common the *union of God with man* thro' the humanity of Jesus Christ invests human existence with an awful sacredness and in the eye of the true believer in Jesus, he who tramples on the rights of his meanest fellow man, is not only inhuman but sacrilegious — and the worst form of this sacrilege is the institution of *slavery*.

It has been said that the representations of this book are exaggerations! and oh would that this were true! would that this book were indeed a fiction, and not a close wrought mosaic of facts! but that it is not a fiction the proofs lie bleeding in thousands of hearts — they have been attested and confirmed by thousands of witnesses in the slave states, they have

been endorsed by slaveholders themselves! with express reference to this book. — If other proofs were wanting, we have only to refer the whole civilised world to the written published legal code of the slave states which is a perfect, clear, legal chrystallisation and arrangement of every cruelty and every enormity which man can perpetrate on the soul and body of his fellow man — if such be law what must be its results! — Since thus it is thanks be to God that this mighty cry — this wail of an unutterable anguish has at last been heard! —

It has been said that the slave population is entirely unfit for freedom and incapable of it and that such characters as are described in this book are fictitious exaggerations and impossibilities. — Whatever may be said of the African race by itself, the slave population of America is now to a very wide extent a *mixed race* in whose veins the best of Anglo Saxon blood is circulating — characters like that of George Harris and Eliza are by no means uncommon among slaves. Lest the description of “Uncle Tom” be considered a creation having no type in reality we quote the following tribute to the merits of a favourite slave from the published will of Judge Upshur late Secretary of State under President Tyler.

“I emancipate and set free my servant David Rice and direct my executors to give him *one hundred dollars*. I recommend him in the strongest manner to

the respect, esteem and confidence of any community in which he may happen to live. He has been my slave twenty-four years during all which time he has been trusted to every extent and in every respect. My confidence in him has been unbounded; his relations to myself and family have always been such as to afford him daily opportunities to deceive and injure us and yet he has never been detected in a serious fault, nor even in an unintentional breach of the decorum of his station. His intelligence is of a high order, his integrity above all suspicion and his sense of right and propriety correct and even refined. I feel that he is justly entitled to carry this certificate from me in the new relations which he must now form; it is due to his long and most faithful services and to the sincere and steady friendship which I bear him. In the uninterrupted confidential intercourse of twenty-four years I have never given, nor had occasion to give him one unpleasant word. I know no man who has fewer faults or more excellencies than he."

It is not pretended that such a character as that of Uncle Tom is a common occurrence but it has more than once had its existence and so much of obloquy, contempt, and of enforced vice has been heaped upon the head of the unhappy African, that he is in justice entitled to benefit of the fairest representation which accords with probability and fact.

It is not in utter despair but in solemn hope and