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Doc. 2 Un plaidoyer abolitionniste – texte en anglais

**THE ESSAY OF “VOX AFRICANORUM”
MARYLAND GAZETTE, MAY 15, 1783**

To a people whose characteristic virtues are *justice* and *fortitude*, in the exercise of which they have become the wonder and astonishment of the universe, we, the black inhabitants of these United States, humbly submit the following address.

When Great-Britain essayed to make her first unjust and wicked attempts to forge chains to enslave America, the noble spirit of liberty and freedom uttered her voice. America, with the meekness of a lamb, remonstrated against the wickedness of the attempt; but Britain, lost to every sentiment of justice and virtue, and sunk in every vice, obstinately persisted in the rash attempt. America then, nobly animated with the love of liberty, assuming the fortitude of a lion, stepped forth, and proclaimed, “We Will be Free.” The world beheld with admiration mingled with applause, and heaven smiled approbation.

Determined in her resolutions, America has borne the storms and complicated pressures of an eight years war, purchased at the price of her blood and treasure, and even at the risque of her existence, she has at length obtained her liberty, the darling object of her soul; universal joy has diffused itself through all her borders; acclamations of gratitude on this occasion, from the lips of her every freeborn son have ascended to the throne on high; the glorious deeds of America are recorded in the court of heaven.

When an address is made to men [...] whose hearts are warm—whose minds are expanded with the *recent acquisition of their own liberty and freedom*—to men whose actions and whose sufferings have been unparalleled in the annals of mankind during a conduct of many years, to retain, and to transmit, without diminution, the rights of humanity [...] can we doubt of their becoming he friends and advocates of the enslaved and oppressed?

<https://www.americanrevolutioninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/The-Essay-of-Vox-Africanorum-Maryland-Gazette-May-15-1783.pdf>