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George Fitzhugh's Arguments in Defense of Slavery

During the nineteenth century, a number of Americans made a shift in their understanding of the concept of slavery, changing it from a necessary evil to be perceived as a positive good. George Fitzhugh strongly believed that slavery was a significantly better option when putting in comparison with equality and liberty, and thus brought forward a highly consistent as well as sophisticated defense for slavery.

Fitzhugh's study vigorously attacked the northern society of America and defined them as corrupt; his study further defined slavery as a designed system whose objective is the protection of the inferior black race as well as the promotion of social harmony in the community.

Fitzhugh points out that the Northern States, as well as France, tried embracing liberty and equality with the objective of enhancing comfort and happiness instead of achieving this objective; crime as well as pauperism has increased significantly with trade unions, riots as well as strikes by workers demanding higher wages becoming a daily occurrence. Thus proving that liberty and equality only worsen their working and living conditions worse.

Secondly, a rich no matter how good of a man he is will employ a laborer to work for his wages. Not to mention that the employer will cheapen his worker; a poor man's wages through taking advantage of the steep competition for employment which leads to substantial underbidding and the excess supply of laborers for the employers.

Thirdly, Fitzhugh points out women in poor society have been forced into employment competition in order to efficiently support themselves and their children using their daily wages. A woman is forced to resort into a moral compromise to compete with their fellow male counterparts in their workplaces, with acts such as sexual favors. Thus, turning women's life into a ridiculous cycle of struggle to progress and survive with the state of unhealthy competition.

Moreover, Fitzhugh states that with domestic slavery the master is dependent on the profits he gains from his laborer work efforts. Therefore through domestic slavery, the master works towards providing for every slave both in infancy as well as in old age, in health and in health; in order to maximize his profits, the slaves' wants are greatly considered. Fitzhugh expresses that domestic slavery creates an environment with no rivalry as well as competition amongst the slaves and even between the slave and master. The master's interests greatly influence him for implicating his slaves' wages as well as allowances in cases of infancy and sickness to evade the risk of losing his slave.

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