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Reading Response - WLGarrison

Slavery was a very controversial topic in the 1800’s, many felt that slaves had the same rights as any other humans did, while others didn't even consider slaves to be human at all. Its not so easy to abolish something when people who support in the abolishment of slavery have slaves. One prominent abolitionist was William Lloyd Garrison, best known for his newspaper “The Liberator”. This paper covers whats wrong with slavery in several different ways and why we should abolish it such as religious reasons, Englands done it and the origins of slavery.

Unlike today in the 1800’s it was near impossible to find someone who wasn’t part of a religion. God is merciful God is kind, God loves all his children he doesn't pick favorites. William was disgusted that a “Christian” could hold their brethren in bondage as if they were animals. If one is truly christian then they must strive to be Christ like, and Christ had no slaves. Slavery was in Williams eyes slavery not only contradictory of Christian teachings but one who practiced it might as well be excommunicated for being guilty of man-stealing. This being said how could the majority of wealthy americans own slaves? The church is made up of slave owners going against the teachings, this was no small misdeed to William. Not only did slavery have huge religious conflict but the very country we went to war with for freedom abolished it before we did.

The Baptists in England successfully overthrew slavery in the british colonies and felt they should help us and give us insight in this difficult time. A letter was received from the Board of Baptist Ministers hoping that we would be equally active to abolish slavery as they have. William feels as if our response to this letter was cold, feeble, and avoiding the main issue here, religion. We should like to know why its hard for someone in another country to understand our difficulty with slavery or if for some reason there is special circumstances in America that make it more difficult than it was for England William argues. It must be rough for abolitionists to watch as the country America thought be better than abolish slavery before America did.

Slavery has been around for quite sometime, long before America was even established. We’d say things like we did not originate slavery here and have done a lot to get rid of it. William argues that this is a sad excuse using radical but powerful statements like the republic did not originate murder or adultery so should the ones practicing such things not be punished? He argues that we have done nothing within our power to diminish slavery as we used to have but 400,000 slaves but now have 2.5 million slaves. Not only had we done nothing to fight slavery, but we have accepted and helped slavery grow.

In conclusion slavery is not something easy to abolish but many truly believes that it is something that must happen for us to progress in more than one way. Not only is it a huge religious problem as the prominent religion is christian and slavery is not christ like. England our previous country that we broke off from to progress has already done away with slavery and Americans believe to be advancing faster than England. Just because slavery did originate here doesn't mean its okay to practice. All these arguments by William are powerful and left their mark on the history of America.