

Proslavery: A History of the Defense of Slavery in America, 1701-1840 By Larry E. Tise

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the institution of slavery.

A close look at the positive good arguments cited by Jenkins reveals the error of his hypothesis. His first example was taken from Charles Cotesworth Pinckney's 1829 *Address*. For comparison his statement appears first below, followed by similar proslavery statements of other writers.

Jenkins

Charles C. Pinckney, 1829: That slavery, as it exists here, is a greater or more unusual evil than befalls the poor in general, we are not prepared to admit.

Comparative Statements

Richard Nisbet, 1773: A Negro may be said to have fewer cares, and less reason to be anxious about tomorrow, than any other individual of our species. . . . They may be pronounced happier than the common people of many of the arbitrary governments in Europe. . . .

Captain McCarty, 1792: I consider the Negroes in the British West India Islands to be in as COMFORTABLE A STATE, AS THE LOWER ORDERS OF MANKIND IN ANY COUNTRY IN EUROPE.

Robert Walsh, 1819: The physical condition of the American negro is, on the whole, not comparatively alone, but *positively good*, and he is exempt from those racking anxieties—the exacerbations of despair, to which the English manufacturer and peasant are subject to in the pursuit of their pittance.²

Pinckney's defense was a comparison of American slavery with the labor conditions in Europe and in the northern United States. Despite Jenkins's