



☆☆☆☆☆

[0 Reviews](#)

[Write review](#)

[About this book](#)

Search in this book

Go

[In My Library: Change](#)

Get this book

[University of Georgia Press](#)

[Amazon.com](#) - \$26.95

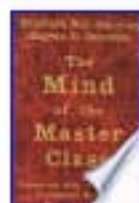
[Barnes&Noble.com](#) - \$26.05

[Books-A-Million](#)

[Find in a library](#)

[All sellers »](#)

Related books



[All related books »](#)

Sponsored Links

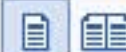
[Slavery at HISTORY™](#)

Journey Through the U.S. History of Slavery. Watch Videos Online Now.

[History.com](#)



Pages displayed by permission of [University of Georgia Press](#). Copyright.



[Contents](#)

Page 17



Origins of Proslavery in America

17

eral condemnation of slaveholding. Taking Sewall's pamphlet as a personal affront, Saffin, a slaveholder who had recently presided unwisely over a case contesting his claims to a slave, answered Sewall's charges in *A Brief and Candid Answer to a Late Printed Sheet, Entituled, The Selling of Joseph* (1701). Irritated with the epithet *manstealer*, Saffin defended his behavior in the disputed case and lodged a general defense of slaveholding.⁵

After upholding his right of ownership of the slave in question, Saffin appealed directly to biblical sanction and the example set by the Hebrew patriarchs. Since Abraham owned slaves, "our Imitation of him in this his Moral Action, is as warrantable as that of [adopting] his Faith." Not choosing to argue that "Blackamores are of the Posterity of Cham, and therefore under the Curse of Slavery," Saffin held that "any lawful Captives of Other Heathen Nations may be made Bond men." But "Tis unlawful," he admitted, "for Christians to Buy and Sell one another for slaves."⁶

Saffin then turned to the rights of man and challenged Sewall's notion that the sons of Adam "have equal right to Liberty, and all other Comforts of Life." By no means an equalitarian, Saffin argued that God had intentionally "set different Orders and Degrees of Men in the World" and that any push toward equality would be "to invert the Order that God had set." Phrasing a statement that was repeated endlessly in proslavery literature on the eve of the Civil War, Saffin wrote that God had ordained "some to be High and Honourable, some to be Low and Despicable; some to be Monarchs, Kings, Princes and Governours, Masters and Commanders, others to be Subjects, and to be Commanded; Ser-