

your Narrative believe that you are not a native of Africa? I see therefore no good reason for not printing a fifth edition, on account of a scandalous paragraph in a newspaper.

I remain,

DEAR SIR,

Your sincere Friend,
J. BAKER.

Grosvenor-street, May 14, 1792.

TO THE LORDS SPIRITUAL AND TEMPORAL, AND THE
COMMONS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN.¹²

My Lords and Gentlemen,

PERMIT me with the greatest deference and respect, to lay at your feet the following genuine Narrative; the chief design of which is to excite in your august assemblies a sense of compassion for the miseries which the Slave Trade has entailed on my unfortunate countrymen. By the horrors of that trade I was first torn away from all the tender connexions that were dear to my heart; but these, through the mysterious ways of Providence, I ought to regard as infinitely more than compensated by the introduction I have thence obtained to the knowledge of the Christian religion, and of a nation which, by its liberal sentiments, its humanity, the glorious freedom of its government, and its proficiency in arts and sciences, has exalted the dignity of human nature.

I am sensible I ought to entreat your pardon for addressing to you a work so wholly devoid of literary merit; but, as the production of an unlettered African, who is actuated by the hope of becoming an instrument towards the relief of his suffering countrymen. I trust that *such a man*, pleading in *such a cause*, will be acquitted of boldness and presumption.¹³

May the god of Heaven inspire your hearts with peculiar benevolence on that important day when the question of Abolition

is to be discussed, when thousands, in consequence of your determination, are to look for Happiness or Misery!

I am,

My LORDS and GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient,

And devoted humble servant,

OLAUDAH EQUIANO,

OR

GUSTAVUS VASSA.

*March 1789.*¹⁴

TO THE CHAIRMEN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE
ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE.¹⁵

Magdalen College, Cambridge, May 26 1790.

GENTLEMEN,

I TAKE the liberty, as being joined with you in the same laudable endeavours to support the cause of humanity in the Abolition of the Slave Trade, to recommend to your protection the bearer of this note GUSTAVUS VASSA, an African; and to beg the favour of your assistance to him in the sale of his book.

I am, with great respect,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient servant,

P. PECKARD.

*Manchester, July 23, 1790.*¹⁶

THOMAS WALKER has great pleasure in recommending the sale of the NARRATIVE of GUSTAVUS VASSA to the friends of justice and humanity, he being well entitled to their protection