

slaveholders cared little for the moral training of their servants. In morals the average slave was utterly wanting. The women were without a vestige of womanly chastity, and the men were almost universally dishonest. This may have been partly due to the natural tendencies of the race; but it was in a great measure due to the evils of the system. A woman who felt herself owned absolutely by a master could hardly be expected to take an interest in herself, or to cherish a feeling of womanhood. A man who did not and could not own property, not even himself or his children, could not have much idea of the rights of property.<sup>144</sup>

The most revolting feature of slavery in America, one that the historian blushes to record (but history must deal with facts), was that too often the attractive slave woman was a prostitute to her master, that her children bore the stamp of his countenance; and yet according to the inflexible rule of the slave states, they shared the condition of the mother, and were sold by their own father. This evil was widespread at the South, as the mixed condition of the black race to-day will testify. A sister of President Madison declared that though the southern ladies were complimented with the name of wife, they were only the mistresses of seraglios. A leading southern lady declared to Harriet Martineau that the wife of many a planter was but the chief slave of his harem. Some slave owners, however, could not bear the thought of selling their own children, and they often planned for their ultimate freedom. But the death of the master often caused his plans to miscarry.

<sup>144</sup> Some humane masters, however, permitted their slaves to spend their leisure hours in earning money for themselves. Coffin reports that one man and wife saved \$300, which they used in escaping to Canada and setting up a home.