

WHITNEY PLANTATION

Module One:

Economy

Video Included:

- What is a plantation economy?
- What was the Transatlantic Slave Trade?
- What was the Domestic Slave Trade?
- How was sugar grown and harvested?

Primary Resources Included:

Part 1

- Norman's Chart of the Lower Mississippi River or From Natchez to New Orleans
- Sugar trade of the United States, annual statement, 1863

Part 2

- Stowage of the British slave ship Brookes under the regulated slave trade act 1788.
- Gorée Island, 1728

Part 3

- Old slave block in St. Louis Hotel, New Orleans, La.
- Excerpt from Lands of the slave and the free; or, Cuba, the United States, and Canada.
- United States slave trade, 1830

Part 4

- Sale of enslaved individuals from the sale of Jean Jacques Haydel, 1840, page one
- Excerpt from A Journey in the Seaboard Slave States: With Remarks on their Economy

PART ONE

Video– What is a Plantation Economy?

1. Where is this video filmed? _____ Why is this an important spot?
2. What is being described?
3. What stands out to you the most about what is being said?

Primary Sources:

1. What does the map show?
2. What is the title of the document with all of the words on it? _____ What does it describe?
3. If you consider these documents together, what conclusions can you draw about the plantation economy of the southern United States?

PARTS TWO and THREE

Video – What was the Transatlantic Slave Trade?

1. Where is this video filmed? _____ Why is that an important place?

2. What stands out to you in this video? What is this video about?

Video – What was the Domestic Slave Trade?

1. Where is this video filmed? _____ Why is that an important place?

2. What stands out to you in this video?

Primary Sources:

1. What are the drawings in these primary sources showing? Describe them.

2. What happened in the St. Louis Hotel?

3. Describe the photo of the auction block – what do you see, and what conclusions can you draw?
(Hint excerpt from “Lands of the Slave and the Free” might help here)

4. What are the names of the enslaved people sold by the Haydel family? How old are they? How many people in total were sold from the Haydel plantation on April 30, 1840?

PART FOUR

Video- How was sugar grown and harvested?

1. Where is this video filmed? _____ Why is that an important place?

2. What was the process for making sugar. Describe a couple of steps.

3. What were some of the risks involved in the production of sugar?

4. What stands out to you the most in this video?

Primary Sources:

- 1. What is the attitude towards the manufacture of sugar you can discern in the excerpt from “Our Slave States”?**

- 2. Describe what you see in the two drawings. Does this look like what was described in the video? What are the similarities/differences?**

Narratives: For each of following excerpts, connect the story which is being told to either the videos from the Whitney Plantation, or to one of the primary sources. These are the voices of enslaved workers who were interviewed in the 1930’s, a part of the Works Project Administration project to preserve the experiences of formally enslaved Americans.

What was a plantation economy?

“Ev’ry thing was made on de plantation by plantation people.”

- Elizabeth Ross Hite

“Florizone was a big plantation, dey raise most sugar cane, dere was a big sugar house on de plantation, an’ a great big house for de white people. It’s good to have a fine house to live in, but if dey don’ have Christ, where de soul goin’ to go? Dis is de dressing room, dere’s no repentance in de grave.

It was a big place, twenty houses in de quarters; all de houses packed wid people. Oh Lawd (Lord), I come up in hard times,- slavery times.

Everybody worked,- young an’ ole, if yo’ could only carry two or three sugar cane yo’ worked. No school, no church- yo’ couldn’t sing an’ Saturday night dey always have a dance, but yo’ worked. Sunday, Monday, it all de same, an’ if yo’ say ‘Lawd a’ mercy’- de Overseer whip yo’. De ole people, dey jes’ sat down an’ cry- it like a heathen part o’ de country.

Yo’ has to put yo’ candle out early an’ shut yo’ self up. Den get up while it’s still dark an’ start to work.”

- Ceceil George

**What
the**

are

connections between these two narratives and the videos/primary sources?

Video Connections:

Primary Source Connections:

What emotions/attitudes/feelings can be found in the testimony of Ms. George? How can you tell?

What was the Transatlantic Slave Trade?

“They brought my grandpa from Afficay (Africa).... They stole him from there and my mother was born in New Iberia”

- Carlyle Stewart

“I interviewed a colored woman named Frances Doby. Frances was born in Opelousas in 1845, of parents from the Congo. Like people of Guinea, she is very tiny, the reason for her being known as Guinea.”

-Interview with former slave Frances Doby

What locations are mentioned in these narratives? Circle the ones in the USA, underline those that are “Transatlantic”.

What was the Domestic Slave Trade?

“I remember our plantation was sold twice befor’ de war. It was a sheriff’s sale, de white people dey stand up on de porch, an’ de black man an’ women an’ children stand on de ground an’ de man he shout, ‘How much am I offered fo’ plantation an’ fine men an’ women?’ Somebody would say so many thousand.... an’ after a while one man buy it all. ...come from the north with a trade, he sold for six thousand dollars, but de man that buys him gets ten dollars a day fo’ his work.”

– Albert Patterson

“Us first belong to Baugois, a creole. He sho was a mean man. After he died us was auctioned off. My older brothers an’ sisters was sold by deyselves but me, I was too young, I was sold along with my ma. We belonged to Guitlot. He was a Creole too- dats who we was sold to.

My sister, Mary an’ Jane, an’ Paul an’ Adam, was all sold an’ sent off. We never is knowed where dey went....My maw had one boy by her Boss, that was the Missus’ brother’s chile. You see ever’ time she was sold she had to take another man. Her had fifteen chilluns after she was sold de las’ time; she was a good breeder.

- Julia Woodrich

What connections to the videos can you find in these two narratives? Be specific as you work, and find four points of reference.

1.

2.

3.

4.

How was sugar grown and harvested?

“We raised sugar cane an’ made sugar, no refinery, we’d boil it in big kettles an’ there was a colored man from Mississippi that known when the sugar grain. We’d work de fields in the day an’ make sugar at night.”

– Albert Patterson

“I worked in the cane juice place. Big boats stopped at our landin’ an’ they’d take on maybe a 150 barrels of sugar, 400 bbls. molasses at a time, sugar wuz king in those days.”

– Hunton Love

What connections to the videos can you see in these two narratives?

What is the *metaphor* that Mr. Love uses in his testimony when he says “sugar wuz king in those days.”?

What does this tell you about the entire plantation economy?

Description: 1858 chart by B.M. Norman, map showing plantations from New Orleans, LA to Natchez, MS titled by land owner. Habitation Haydel is located in St. John the Baptist Parish, upriver from New Orleans between New Orleans and Baton Rouge.

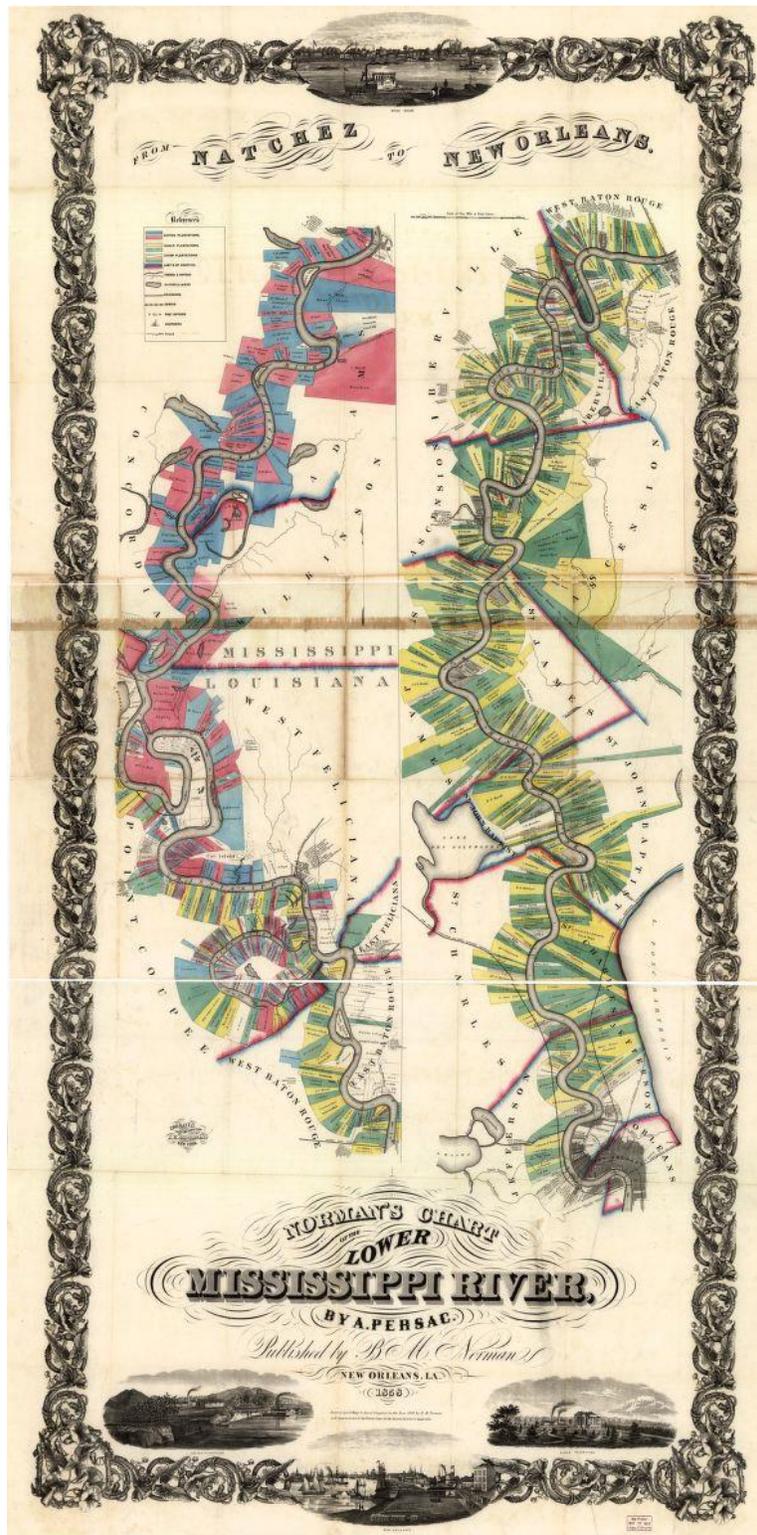


Photo Courtesy: Library of Congress

PART TWO and THREE

Title: Stowage of the British slave ship *Brookes* under the regulated slave trade act 1788.

Description: Image of slave holding ship, showing enslaved persons stowed below deck of the ship like cargo.

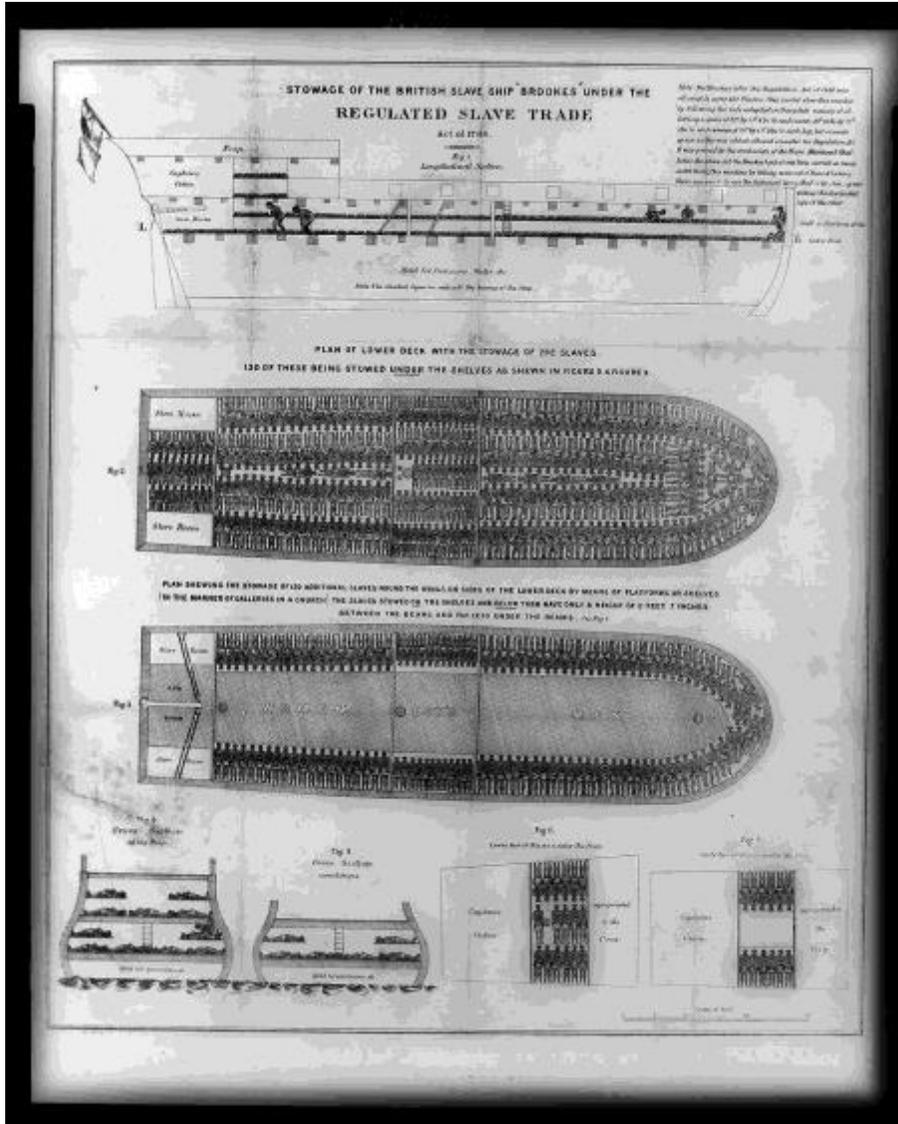


Photo Courtesy: Library of Congress

Title: Gorée Island, 1728

Description: From the 15th to 19th century Gorée Island was the largest slave trading center on the African coast. Located off the coast of Senegal, opposite Dakar the country's capital. Ruled in order by Portuguese, Dutch, English and French.

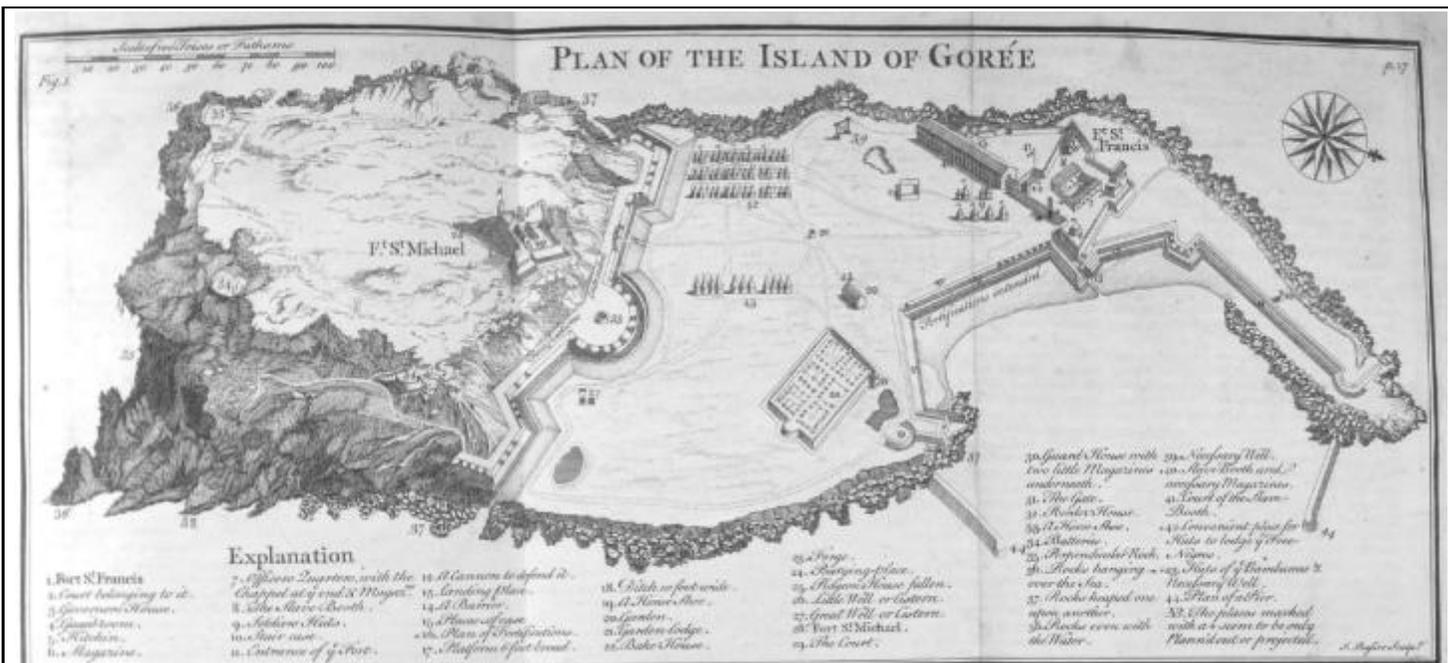


Photo Courtesy: Slaveryimages.org

Title: Old slave block in St. Louis Hotel, New Orleans, La.

Description: Photo ca. 1906 Picture of the slave block at the St. Louis Hotel in New Orleans, where enslaved people were placed standing on the block until sold at auction.



Photo Courtesy: Library of Congress

Title: Image 177 of Lands of the slave and the free; or, Cuba, the United States, and Canada.

Description: Henry Murry published London, New York, G. Routledge & Co., 1857. Writings on travels through Cuba, the United States and Canada. Text describes the scene inside the St. Louis Hotel.

The St. Louis is at present the largest; but the St. Charles, which is being rebuilt, was, and will again be, the hotel pride of New Orleans.* They are both enormous establishments, well arranged, and, with the locomotive propensities of the people, sure to be well filled during the winter months, at which period only they are open. When I arrived at the St. Louis, it was so full that the only room I could get was like a large Newfoundland dog's kennel, with but little light and less air. The hotel was originally built for an Exchange, and the rotundo in the centre is one of the finest pieces of architecture in the States. It is a lofty, vaulted hall, eighty feet in diameter, with an aisle running all round, supported by a row of fine pillars fifty feet in height; the dome rises nearly as many feet more, and has a large skylight in the centre; the sides thereof are ornamented by well-executed works in *chiaroscuro*, representing various successful actions gained during the struggle for independence, and several of the leading men who figured during that eventful period. A great portion of the aisle is occupied by the all-important bar, where drinks flow as freely as the river outside; but there is another feature in the aisles which contrasts strangely with the pictorial ornaments round the dome above—a succession of platforms are to be seen, on which human flesh and blood is exposed to public auction, and the champions of the

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A FRIEND IN NEED.

equal rights of man are thus made to endorse, as it were, the sale of their fellow-creatures.

Photo Courtesy: Library of Congress

Title: United States slave trade, 1830

Description: Image print possibly engraved in 1830 for abolitionist use. Shows a group of enslaved people chained together. In the background is the U.S. Capitol building. In the foreground, you can see men chained together separated from women and children chained together.



UNITED STATES SLAVE TRADE.
1850.

Photo Courtesy: Library of Congress

Title: Image of the first page of the sale of enslaved individuals from the sale of Jean Jacques Haydel Jr. Dated April 30, 1840.

Description: Sale Total for 62 people: \$57,075

New Orleans, 30th April 1840

Sold at the Bath Saloon of the St. Louis Hotel, by Joseph L. Carpentier, Auctioneer, by virtue of an order from the Honorable the District Court for the First Judicial District of the State of Louisiana, dated 29th March 1840, and at the request of the syndics of the creditors of Jean Jacques Baylet, after the advertisements required by law, to wit: In the Bee (the paper) in french and English, March 27th, April 13th, 20th & 27th and in the Louisiana Courier in french & English, March 27th, April 13th, 20th & 27th the following Slaves.

Terms: One half payable in March 1841, and one half in March 1842 in notes fully endorsed and bearing mortgage until final payment; Said notes must be made payable in New Orleans, and in case of non payment when due will bear from the day of expiration, an interest of 10 % per annum until final payment. Said clause not to be taken advantage of to delay the payment of any note. The slaves will be delivered to the purchaser when the conditions of the sale will be fulfilled. The acts of sale to be passed, as the case of the purchaser, before Felix Grima Esq. Notary public.

Negres

1	John Guim	50 years, african To M. Etienne Villere for one hundred and seventy dollars	\$ 170
2	Paul	45 years, Congo To M. Cyrille Tremoulet for three hundred dollars	" 300
3	Achille	48 years, Carter & Ploughman To M. Achille Leno for eight hundred dollars	" 800
4	George	45 years, American To M. Edmeare Fagard for two hundred and fifty dollars	" 650
5	Big John	48 years, American, Carter & Ploughman To M. Phil Lambert for 47 hundred and twenty five dollars	" 675
6	Boul	50 years, American, Carter & Ploughman To M. Felix Garcia for thirteen hundred and twenty five dollars	1325
7	Jouis	34 years, American, superior, Carter & Ploughman To M. Felix Garcia for fourteen hundred dollars	" 1400
8	Muelle	32 years, American, Carter & Ploughman To M. Felix Garcia for fourteen hundred and twenty five dollars	1425
			\$ 6745

Document Courtesy: NONA, Felix Grima, Vol. 30, Act 462. June 27, 1840.

PART FOUR

Title: A Journey in the Seaboard Slave States: With Remarks on their Economy, 1856, p.667-668

Description: Frederick Law Olmsted published New York: Dix & Edward; London: Sampson Low, Son & Co., 1856. Law talks about the schedule for work required of enslaved individuals during the grinding season for sugar cane.

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OUR SLAVE STATES.

during which time, the greatest possible activity and the utmost labor of which the hands are capable, are required to secure the product of the previous labor of the year. Mr. R. assured me that during the last grinding-season nearly every man, woman, and child on his plantation, including his overseer and himself, were at work fully eighteen hours a day. From the moment grinding first commences, until the end of the season, it is never discontinued; the fires under the boiler never go out, and the negroes rest only for six hours in the twenty-four, by relays—three-quarters of them being constantly at work.

Text Courtesy: Library of Congress

Title: Gathering the Cane

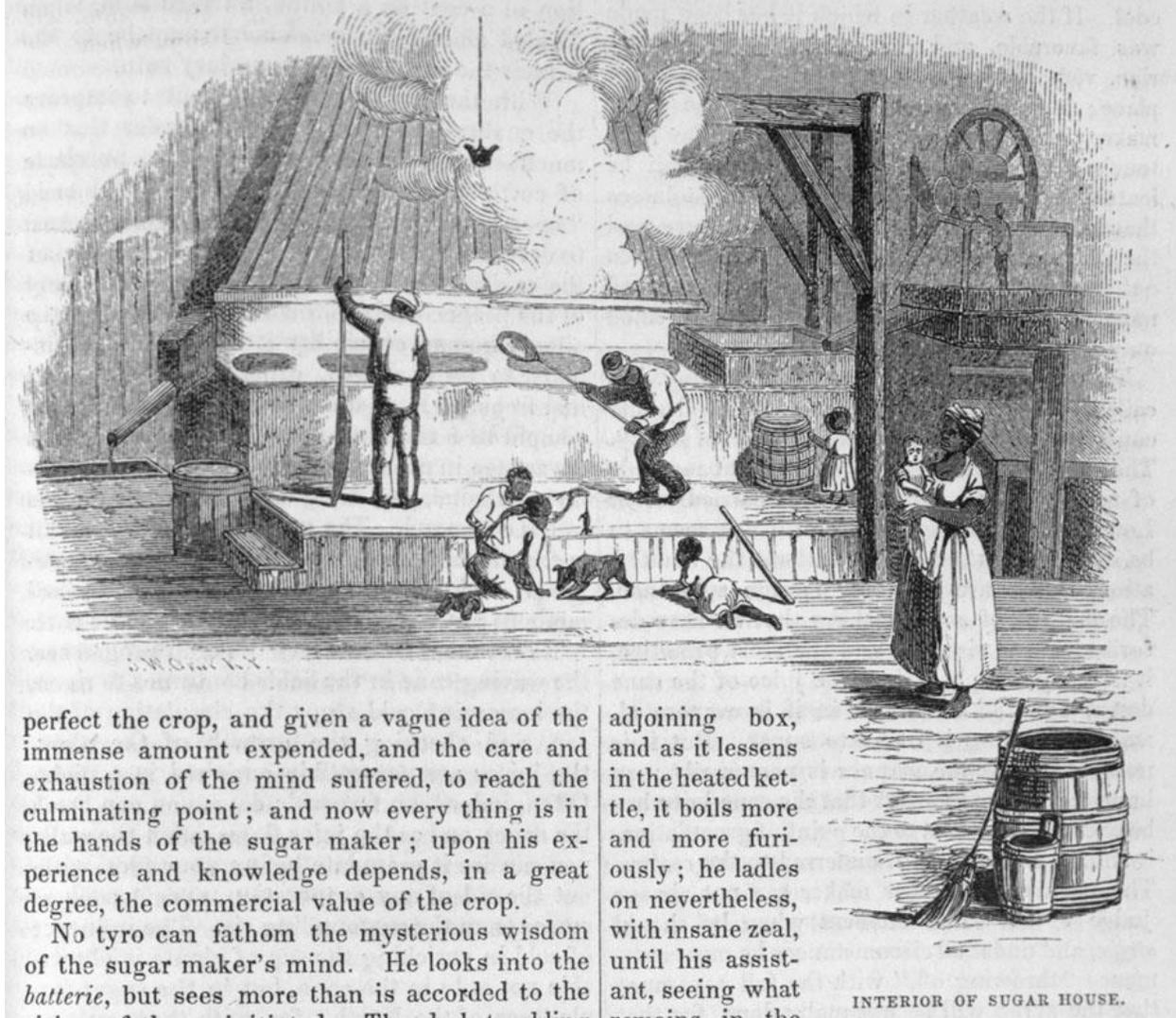
Description: Source: Harper's New Monthly Magazine (1853), vol. 9, p. 760. (Copy in Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library) Caption, "Gathering the Cane"; men cutting cane, women gathering the stalks; and ox cart to haul the stalks to the mill with carter (whip in hand).



Photo Courtesy: slaveryimages.org

Title: Sugar and the Sugar region of Louisiana

Description: Harper's New Monthly Magazine (1853), vol. 9, p. 765. (Copy in Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library) Comments: Caption: "Interior of Sugar House"; men boiling sugar; others present include women holding a child and several children playing.



perfect the crop, and given a vague idea of the immense amount expended, and the care and exhaustion of the mind suffered, to reach the culminating point; and now every thing is in the hands of the sugar maker; upon his experience and knowledge depends, in a great degree, the commercial value of the crop.

No tyro can fathom the mysterious wisdom of the sugar maker's mind. He looks into the *batterie*, but sees more than is accorded to the

adjoining box, and as it lessens in the heated kettle, it boils more and more furiously; he ladles on nevertheless, with insane zeal, until his assistant, seeing what remains in the

INTERIOR OF SUGAR HOUSE.