

THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE



A Black wearing a phrygian cap.
Castle Museum, Nantes



French Marine Archive - Vincennes.

The English who originated the abolitionist movement were the first to abolish Slave Trade with the Plymouth Act of May 27th, 1807. The United States followed in the end of 1807. In 1815, under the pressure of England, the leading nations gathered in Vienna to sign a convention making slave trade illegal.

In spite of this prohibition, the trade continued illegally. Almost two million Africans were transported to America after 1815 on a frequency almost as high as before.

The United States' territories that tolerated the trade were Louisiana and the east of Florida where the transit harbors towards the North of America were located : Barataria Bay, south of New Orleans and Amelia Island off Jacksonville shores were some of these harbors.

