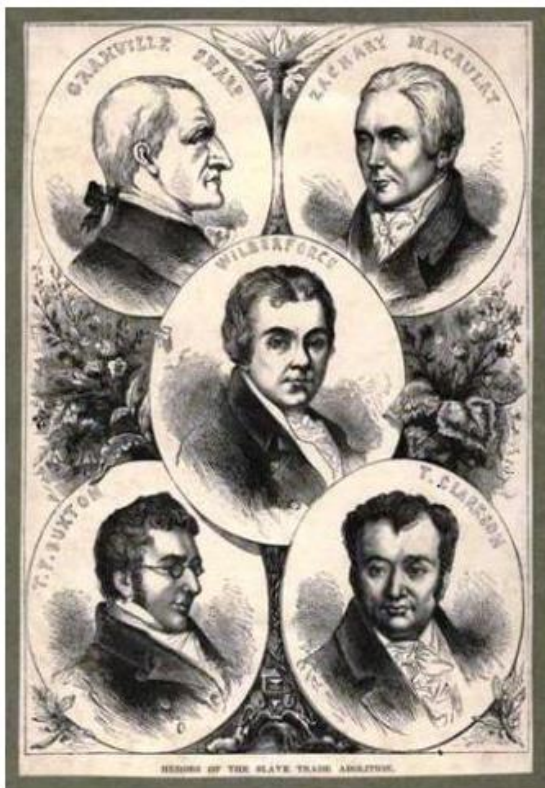


Outstanding Personalities of British Emancipation

Introduction:

The main persons who played an active role in this organization and committee were:

- (a) Granville Sharpe
- (b) Thomas Buxton
- (c) Thomas Clarkson
- (d) William Wilberforce
- (e) Zachary Macaulay
- (f) James Ramsay



Clarkson visited the busy slave trading ports of Liverpool and Bristol and collected cruel objects used to restrain and force feed the slaves during the Middle

Passage, items such as shackles, thumbscrews and mouth openers. These were then put on public display as evidence of the cruelty of the system.

Despite the 'hype' and the feelings of anger and opposition that were stirred in the people, the slave trade was a legal enterprise. Only a law could end it. The Society was fortunate to have **William Wilberforce** on their team. He was a member of the British Parliament. He presented the petitions and case for the ending of the slave trade to Parliament. He was to become the chief spokesman for the movement. He was also a friend of the **Prime Minister William Pitt**.

After several presentations in Parliament, the bill to abolish the slave trade throughout the British Empire was finally passed into law on **March 26, 1807**. The new law would take effect on **January 1, 1808**. They had crossed the first hurdle!

Britain put in place several measures to prevent the illegal trafficking of slaves. She began to police the waters. She sent warships to search for British slave ships (slavers). Any British captain caught transporting slaves would be fined a sum for EACH slave found on board his ship. The slaves would be released.

The abolitionists felt that this was not enough. This might stop the **sellers** but they clamoured for an act that would also apply to the **buyers** of slaves.