



CONCEALING ENSLAVEMENT IN  
AMERICAN VISUAL CULTURE



PLAINTS  
BY  
RACHEL STEPHENS

PLAINTS  
BY  
RACHEL STEPHENS

# CONTENTS

PREFACE VIII

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS X



*Introduction* 2

1.

*“Pictorial Record Should  
Issue from the South”:*

ART AND VISUAL CULTURE OF  
THE SLAVERY DEFENSE 22

2.

*“Tyranny without Mercy”:*

PROSLAVERY DESTRUCTION  
IN RESPONSE TO ABOLITIONISM 72

3.

*“Concealed by Some  
of Their Negroes”:*

SARCASTIC INDICTMENTS  
OF SLAVERY AND SOUTHERN  
CONCEALMENT 102

4.  
*“The Family White and Black”*:  
ANTEBELLUM PHOTOGRAPHS  
OF ENSLAVED WOMEN 140

5.  
*“Entire Secrecy Had  
to Be Preserved”*:  
ADALBERT VOLCK’S  
CONFIDENTIAL WORK FOR  
THE CONFEDERACY 180

6.  
*“Whatever Is Un-Virginian  
is Wrong”*:  
LOYAL SLAVES, CONFEDERATE  
HEROES, AND LOST CAUSE  
IDEOLOGY IN THE ART OF  
CONFEDERATE VIRGINIA 230

CONCLUSION 274

NOTES 277

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY 307

INDEX 309

