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miralty Court in June in 1738, and M. Verdelin was ordered to answer, Bouceaux being, by the judges placed "under the keeping of the King and of justice," as the phrase went (*sous la sauvegarde du Roi et de la justice*). Bouceaux followed up his petition for freedom with others praying payment to him by his master and mistress of wages due for nine and a half years as cook, and to be removed from prison on bail. The case came before the Court of Admiralty for hearing with M. Mallet, advocate for the slave, and M. Pribard for Sieur and Madame Verdelin. M. Mallet relied on an edict of 1685 which prescribed the limits and conditions of slavery. He showed that this applied only to the Colonies as there were then no slaves in France. It had been permitted to enslave negroes there for the cultivation of the soil and utility of commerce, and when these motives were removed, it was argued that the right to hold slaves no longer existed. An edict of 1716 referred to the bringing of negroes to France from the Colonies, but only that they might be instructed in the Christian religion or taught some trade or useful craft. When slaves were brought to France without the observance of the formalities imposed, and for other objects than so prescribed, then they were entitled to claim freedom, and M. Mallet contended that the respondents in the action had, through neglect or violation of the regal edicts, lost all right to the slave. M. Pribard argued that the law's requirements had been sufficiently complied with by the registering of the Colonial Governor's licence, both at Cape Francis St. Dominique, and at Rochelle.

M. le Clerk du Billet, Procureur du Roi of the Court, summed up the arguments. The court decided as follows :

"We pronounce and declare that the client of M. Mallet is free in his person and goods from the time of his arriving in France; in consequence we order that he be set at liberty, and taken from prison, and the writ against him be erased and cancelled, that the recorder and gaoler see to the carrying out of this order."

"We order the clients of M. Pribard to carry out the order of the court, and the case is adjourned for eight days in order to obtain an equitable adjustment, with the aid of the Procureur du Roi, as to the amount of wages, damages and other claims made by the petitioner."

It was thus declared that the slave's freedom was assured on his touching the soil of France, except under circumstances of special compliance with the conditions stated. And this was in