

SLAVERY AT QUEBEC.

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SLAVERY with us, is a thing of the past : it was so we may say, at the beginning of the century. Though the colony can boast of having abolished domestic slavery long before our progressive neighbors succeeded to stamp it out of the "land of freedom," after wading knee deep in the blue blood of the South, its origin and existence at Quebec is not without interest.

The *Relations des Jésuites** tell how in 1628, a black boy from Madagascar was sold at Quebec, by one of the Kertks to one Le Bailly for fifty half crowns—*cinquante écus*. This is the earliest trace of the "peculiar institution" we could discover. Our colonial archives and legislation bear ample provisions, relating to slavery as early as 1689. Leave that year was asked from the French King, and permitted for the importation of slaves from the Indies, on account of the scarcity of labour. This subject engaged the attention of several Canadian writers—Garneau, Jacq Viger, Bibaud, Judge Lafontaine. Sir L. H. Lafontaine, in an exhaustive disquisition to be found amongst the publications of the *Société Historique de Montreal*, sets forth the authorities bearing on the question. After enumerating the *Déclarations Royales* and other regulations under French dominion, he quotes the article 47 of the Capitulation of Montreal of 8th Sept., 1760, to show that slavery was maintained and recognised by the Capitulation : Article 47. "The negroes and Panis of both sexes shall remain in their quality of slaves in the possession of the French and Canadians, to whom they belong. They shall be at liberty to keep them in their service in the colony, or to sell them, and they may also continue to bring bring them up in the Roman religion.

* *Relations des Jésuites* for 1632, page 12.
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