

his maid, with a rod, and he die under his hand, he shall surely be punished; notwithstanding, if he continue a day or two, he shall not be punished, for he is his money."

Let it be observed, in the first place, that in no case did a man become bound in servitude by the act of another—save in the following cases, or similar ones :

1st. A thief might be sold into a state of servitude, as a fine, imposed for his crime ; just as now, he would be sent to penitentiary. See Ex. xxii : 3.

2nd. An insolvent debtor, (it would seem), by law, became the servant of his creditor. 2 Kings, iv : 1.

3rd. A father might sell his children ; just as at present, he may bind them as apprentices, or otherwise in their nonage. Exodus xxi. : 7.

The only other way in which a man could become bound, as a servant, was the most common and ordinary way, viz.: A man might sell himself. Lev. xxv : 39 & 47.

It was made a capital crime for any one to sell another to the nations around them. "He that stealeth a man, and selleth him, or if he be found in his hand, he shall surely be put to death." Ex. xxi : 16. Again : if any master was cruel to a servant, and he escaped from him, every one to whom he might come was bound to shelter him, and not give him up. Deut. xxiii : 15 & 16.

One law regulated servitude among the Hebrews, viz: That none could be bound for a term of more than *seven years*, and even then, he must receive wages in some sort. Deut. xv : 11 & 15. When any one required to hire, it was presumptive evidence, that he was poor, and usually required his wages in *advance*. Hence the natural and obvious meaning of the phrase : "Buy a servant." The amount being already paid for the service, the servant so engaged was the "money" of the master—not that he was a chattel or piece of property ; but his *service* was, which could not be separated from his person, until it was fulfilled. The patriarch, or head of a family held very much the office of a magistrate, or judge, and levied judgment on the guilty. His power, however, was duly guarded and limited ; but in the case of the servant whose wages were already paid, it would be regarded as presumptive evidence that he did not intend undue severity, because it would be contrary to his own interests, "He is his money."

The children of the servant, so bought, were regarded as part of the household to which he belonged, and the master was bound to provide for, and instruct them accordingly. These were

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