

SLAVERY IN UPPER CANADA.

On the 9th July, 1793, at the second session of the 1st Parliament of Upper Canada, assembled at Newark, an act was passed entitled "An act to prevent the further introduction of slaves and to limit the time of contract for servitudes within this Province.

To summarize the contents of this long act: 1st. After July 9, 1793 no new slaves can be introduced into the Province. 2nd. No negro, or slaves, owned by individuals in the Province are liberated by this act. 3rd. Children born of slave mothers are to remain as slaves until their 25th year.

This was abolition of slavery, it is true; but long drawn out. For instance, to give you an extreme case, suppose a negress slave 10 years of age on the 9th July, 1793, she might have had to remain a slave all her life time had she lived to be 100, she would have remained a slave up to 1883. She might have become mother of several children, the youngest of whom might have been born, say in her 45th year, in 1828 this child would not have gained its liberty until 1853, while the mother would remain in slavery 30 years longer, and then only be released by death, the great emancipator.

Some subsequent legislation to modify this first act may have been enacted by the Provincial legislation but again time has not permitted me to pursue my researches further in this direction. Anyway, the British act of emancipation of August. 1833, under the administration of Earl Grey, grand-father of our present Governor-General, affecting all British Countries and colonies alike, did put an end to slavery in Upper Canada as a British colony and wherever the Union Jack floated.

Permit me now to read you a few more newspaper advertisements, this time with reference to slavery in Upper Canada only. The Venerable Dr. Scadding's work, *Toronto of Old*, page 293 *et seq.* supplies us a few choice examples culled from the Gazette & Oracle, Toronto, Feb., 1806.

"To be sold a black woman named Peggy, aged 40