

4 THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONAL LIBERTY

first to sweep aside the technicalities of feudal law, and to assert freedom as a national birthright.*

It is clear there were negro slaves in England until 1797.

In the city of London, advertisements appeared the counterparts of those found in the United States and Canada, regarding negro chattels. The public Ledger of 31st Dec. 1761, had the following :

"FOR SALE. A healthy negro girl, aged about fifteen years, speaks good English, works at her needle, washes well, does household work and has had the smallpox."

The Gazetteer of 18th April 1769, had an advertisement, "Horses. Tim Wiskey and Black Boy. To be sold at the Bull and Gate Inn, Holborn, a very good Tim Wiskey, little the worse for wear, a chestnut gelding, a very good grey mare, and a well-made good-tempered black boy, he has lately had the smallpox, and will be sold to any gentleman."†

The same paper contains a description of "*Jeremiah* a negroe man," concluding thus, "Whoever delivers him to Capt. M. W.— on board the *Elisabeth* at Princess Stairs, Rotherhithe, shall receive Thirty Guineas reward."

The Daily Advertiser of same date offers for sale a Creole Boy. (Anthony Benezet's Historical account of Guinea and the Slave trade 1772.)

An Act passed in 1775, recited that by the Statute Law of Scotland, as explained by the Courts of Law there, many colliers and coal bearers and salters, are in a state of slavery or bondage, bound to the collieries or salt works where they work for life, transferable with the collieries or salt works."

In an Act of 1799 it was declared that, notwithstanding the former Act, many colliers and coal-bearers still continue in a state of bondage.

Hugh Miller, in "My Schools and Schoolmasters" gives an account of them.

II.

In 1750 Attorney-General, afterwards Lord Hardwicke, and Solicitor-General, afterwards Lord Talbot, gave their opinion to certain merchants and planters that they might lawfully import and hold slaves as property in England. Twenty years passed and

*Greene's History of the English people, 211.

†The Tim Wiskey was a small carriage.