

come? This question was settled by a Royal ordinance reaffirming certain colonial ordinances dating back to 1692 and which declared that on and after the 23rd July, 1745 such captured slaves were the property of His Most Christian Majesty, and that the produce of their sale was to go to the Royal Treasury. This ordinance further specified that in the case of four negro slaves, who had escaped from the English island of Antigua and landed in Guadeloupe the moneys obtained for them were to be credited to the Treasurer of the Windward Islands and spent in improvements to the fortifications of the said Islands.

Under the French Régime property in slaves was governed by a special code known as the "Code Noir" (The Black Code) which had been (since 1685) in force in the French West Indian Islands and incorporated in the "Coûtume de Paris." It received the Royal sanction as applicable to all French colonies in America on the 13th November, 1705. According to this code negro slaves are declared movable property, *meubles*. Here is an extract of the judicial declaration on this point: "We after consulting with the elder lawyers "and Procurators (or solicitors), the advisors of the "King, and the Counsellors of the Bench, say, that "according to the usage of the Coutume de Paris, cattle "on farms etc., are not part thereof, but are to be sold "separately, and in successions they are the property "of the specified heirs to the movables, etc. etc., just as "on the Island of San Domingo the "Coûtume de "Paris" obtains, the negro slaves on this island are not "considered as immovables, but are sold as movables. "This we attest as true; this decision is not in conform- "ity with the practice of the country where the written "law obtains, but is a municipal law which is always ob- "served where ever the Coûtume de Paris rules."

In Canada the Coûtume de Paris was the law and therefore all slaves were movable property.

Were slaves numerous in the colony previous to the Conquest? It appears not.

Beyond Carver's statement, so far not corroborated with regard to the Jesuits which I have quoted, I have so far found no record proving that religious commu-