

THE PANIS—AN HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF CANADIAN INDIAN SLAVERY IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. BY JAMES CLELAND HAMILTON, M.A., LL.B.

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- I. Examples of early American slavery among the Portuguese, Spaniards, and New-Englanders. Story of Inkle and Yarico. Reference to panis in writings of Hennepin, Charlevoix, Colonel Landmann, and Captain Knox. Dr. D. G. Brinton, J. G. Shea, and Horatio Hale as to the Pawnees, and Pani stock and their habitat. The New York and other early Colonial documents referred to.
- II. The Lower Canada records as to panis in cities of Quebec, Three Rivers, Montreal, and elsewhere. The punishment of slaves, the pillory, carcan and the rack. Panis in Montreal Hospital, in the seigniories.
- III. Legal position of Canadian slaves: The statutes, ordinances, and edicts as to them.
- IV. Panis in Upper Canada, at Niagara and Amherstberg. The Huron Treaty of 1764. The last pani.

I. The Portuguese in 1500 sent out an expedition to North America under Gaspar Cortereal, which entered Hudson's Straits. They brought away fifty-seven natives, to be sold as slaves and used as laborers.

The supposed excellent quality of these kidnapped natives, and the large supply which the country was likely to furnish, caused it, as our author alleges, to be called Terra Laborador, or the land of laborers, whence its present name (1). This seems to have been the beginning of the subjugation of aborigines on the North American Continent to slavery by Europeans and their descendants.

Before this the Spaniards had been active in Hayti and Jamaica in reducing the natives there to servitude, working them in the mines, and exporting many to the home slave market. In 1498 Christopher Columbus sent 600 of the natives to Spain and wrote as to them in impious blasphemy: "In the name of the Holy Trinity there can be sent as many slaves as sale can be found for in Spain, and they tell me 4,000 can be sold." He is said to have repented of his cruelty after being in turn sent to Spain in chains by Bovadilla. Tennyson makes him thus bemoan his fate, and theirs:—

" Ah God, the harmless people whom we found
In Hispaniola's island paradise—
Who took us for the very gods from heaven,
And we have sent them very fiends from hell.
And I, myself, myself not blameless, I
Could sometimes wish I had never led the way."

The Spaniards' cruelty in the Antilles was only paralleled by their conduct toward the natives of Mexico. The enslavement of red, as well as of black men,

(1) History of Nova Scotia and other British Provinces, by James S. Buckingham, p. 168. Other derivations have been given, but the above seems appropriate and well founded.