

droon, whom he had educated for freedom. The purchaser brought Maria to the city, and established her in a well-furnished home; but she refused his conditions of peace and plenty—"meat twice a day and bread without stint"—so long that his patience as a suitor was worn out. He tried a bread and water regimen, keeping her locked in her chamber, and employing an old negro hag as a jailor; but still she spurned his suit. He brought his clerk to help him bring her to terms, and together they bound and scourged her until she was dripping with blood; but she was only aroused to phrenzy, and fearfully swore she would take her own life or his at the first opportunity, if he made her more than his servant, which she was resigned to be. The whipping was repeated again and again, but the neighbour women had got into the secret, and made a disturbance about it. Then he sent her to the work-house as a disobedient slave, and had her whipped by the public officer; but the case had been reported to some ladies who were aroused to compassion. They went to see her, and the master thought best to accept the offer of one to buy her; A lady from Louisiana purchased her and took her home."

No. V.

CHARACTER AND CONDITION OF FREE PEOPLE OF COLOR.

Let us present a few facts in regard to the free People of Color, who are generally regarded as an idle and improvident class. As early as 1829, Governor Giles of Virginia states in one of his letters to Lafayette, that "the proportion of annual convictions to the whole population, is as one to five thousand. This and other facts prove to demonstration—1st. That this class of the population is by no means so degraded, vicious and demoralized, as represented by their prejudiced friends; and 2nd., That the evils attributed to this caste are vastly magnified and exaggerated." Two or three years ago, the Society of Friends in Philadelphia appointed a committee to investigate their condition in that city. The result of this Report "exhibits a population to a considerable degree sober, industrious, and independent; steadily advancing in wealth and social improvements—supporting from its own resources, charitable and religious associations—exercising most of the handicraft arts—desirous of education and instruction, and possessing all the elements of civil respectability and social happiness."

During the last Summer, in a remonstrance presented to the Legislature of Pennsylvania against the Acts brought forward to oppress them, the free blacks of the city and county of Philadelphia say:

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| " There are among us 120 Mutual Beneficial Societies, consisting of about 6,500 members, who expend annually for their sick and burying their dead | | \$ 22,000 |
| The amount of property in the city and districts, | - - - - - | 800,000 |
| Public Property, - | - - - - - | 148,000 |
| Amount of House Rent paid, - | - - - - - | 239,000 |
| Water Rents, - | - - - - - | 2,000 |
| Volumes in Private Libraries, - | - - - - - | 20,000 |
| do Public do - | - - - - - | 600 |
| Debating Societies, - | - - - - - | 3 |

Average number of colored prisoners sent to the County Prison, from 1835 to 1840, 121; from 1840 to 1845, 94-8; from 1845 to 1848, 79-67.