

intentions of the pious fathers were in a measure defeated. The tribes soon learnt the value of slaves, and that they could barter them for firewater, and other commodities and in an incredibly short time slave hunting and trading became a regular business. Carver adds that, as early as 1693, the Jesuits wrote to the French Court complaining of the evils resulting from the new trade. So far I have been unable to verify the truth or find the origin of this statement.

In 1736, the number of slaves who had been given or obtained, or claimed to have been given their liberty, became so numerous that in some cases confusion arose, from the greater or lesser validity of these pretensions. Hence an ordinance was issued to legalize a formula of manumission of enfranchisement of a slave by gift, by purchase or otherwise; it ran thus:

“It having been brought to our notice that individuals
“residing in this colony had granted freedom to their
“slaves with no other legal formality than verbal consent, it has become necessary to proclaim an unvarying
“form of granting freedom. henceforth, We, after
“taking counsel with the Marquis de Beauharnois,
“Governor and the King’s Lieutenant General in this
“colony, order that in the future every individual,
“in this colony, whatever his condition or quality,
“desiring to enfranchise his slaves, shall cause a legal
“instrument to be drawn up by a notary, who shall
“keep a minute thereof and cause the same to be registered in the records of the nearest royal registry
“office. We further declare that manumissions must
“be made in the above manner to be valid. And the
“said ordinance shall be read. etc., etc.

(Sgd) HOCQUART.

Quebec, 1st September, 1736.

Now, it happened more frequently every year that runaway slaves from the English provinces reached Canada. It also happened that slaves were captured from the English or other enemies of France as a result of military expeditions; whose property did they be-