

scene stands vividly before us. Here may yet be seen in the dormitory of these waifs and strays from the mother land coming to our far stretching country, above the wide staircase the gallery for spectators but of course many changes have been made since 1870 when it was bought for this philanthropic object.

Our present Courthouse was built in 1847 and the building of 1817 was only used as a jail till St. Catharines became the County Town in 1862 and a jail was built there in 1864. The cruel and harsh treatment of Robert Gourlay and the imprisonment of a Niagara editor for publishing one of his letters, the imprisonment accompanied with a heavy fine and standing in the pillory seems to us in these days a perversion of justice not easily understood. But these were also the days when hanging was punishment for theft as shewn by a notice in the newspaper of 1826. "David Springfield convicted of sheep stealing, sentenced to be hanged; Ben Green stole 10s. sentenced to imprisonment and 30 lashes; Oct. 23th, 1826 great disappointment, great numbers, many from the United States came into town to see three men hung but His Excellency had suspended the sentence. A wagon load of cakes and gingerbread had to be sold at reduced rates." The mingling of the horrible and the grotesque, the desire of the crowds to see the gruesome sight and appeasing their hunger with cakes and gingerbread, is a sad picture of the times. In Sept. 1826 Wm. Corbin and A. Graves sentenced each for stealing a horse. In 1837 occurred the Marka slave rescue which reads to us like a romance too strange to be true. A slave Moseby who had escaped from Kentucky was followed by human bloodhounds and claimed as guilty of stealing his master's horse to escape. While awaiting the decision of the court he was confined in the Niagara jail and when finally an order was given for his return to slavery, a gathering of several hundred blacks waited the jail day and night for two weeks to prevent his being given up. Finally the slave escaped but two of the leaders were shot, the military being called out, the Riot Act read etc. The people of the town generally sympathized with the slave and those who made such efforts to save him from return to bondage.

Here too we read of men being imprisoned for debt, a letter