

Guinea Coast, and Panis captured and sold to the new settlers. The Panis however were not nearly as satisfactory laborers as the negroes. The innate love of freedom was far more highly developed in them than in the African negro. The Indian is naturally indolent, unused to great exertions except in spells and then his employment must be entirely congenial, the chase, for instance, or war. In Louisiana the Panis still stood on his own ground; he was continually on the lookout for an opportunity of running to the woods; when once under their shelter he defied pursuit. He could find his subsistence there and doubtless in time, if he followed the course of the great Mississippi, its western branches would lead him to the hunting ground of his tribe. Not so the negro in Canada or in Louisiana, if he deserted he would perish in a wilderness new to him, or fall into the hands of some wandering Indian who would soon enough put an end to his miserable existence, and gain a woolly scalp-lock for his belt. In a word the negro was a better laborer and could not easily desert. Hence a luminous idea suggested itself to Bienville, interim Governor of Louisiana; on the 12th October 1708, he wrote to the Court of France begging its sanction for the following scheme: For any two able-bodied Panis sent to the French West Indian Islands, one negro would be brought to Louisiana. The Panis once on strange tropical islands desertion would be impossible and they would in time become useful laborers. This plan however did not commend itself to the French King.

It is a well known fact that the North American Indians spared some of their captives in war for the purpose of making slaves of them. Jonathan Carver, who wrote his travels about 1765, tells us (4th American edition, page 199) that the Chiefs sometimes made presents of slaves to French officers in command of outposts. The Jesuits, he adds, seized on the idea of obtaining captives and sending them to the east for the double and laudable purpose of 1° saving their lives and 2° leading them to the knowledge of Christianity. They even encouraged some traders to buy slaves from the warring tribes for the same purpose. The good