

of the negro in Lower Canada. In February, 1798, "Charlotte," a colored slave, was claimed by her mistress and released on *habeas corpus* by Chief Justice Sir James Monk at Montreal. "Jude," another negress was soon afterwards arrested, as a runaway slave, by order of a magistrate. The negroes in Montreal, knowing of the "Charlotte" case, became excited and threatened to revolt, but when the woman was brought before the Chief Justice, he released her also, and declared to the effect, that in his opinion slavery was ended. On the 18th February, 1800, the case of "Robin" came before the full Court of King's Bench, Mr. James Fraser claiming him, when, after argument, it is recorded that it was ordered "that the said Robin *alias* Robert be discharged from his confinement." It seems clear that the court was wrong in its judgment, and that slavery in law existed in Lower Canada until the Imperial Act of 1833 removed it from all the colonies. An effort was made in the Provincial Legislature to obtain an act to define the true position, but without success. The masters, who were mostly residents of Montreal and Quebec, and the country members not having such property, had no interest in sustaining the system for the benefit of the wealthier citizens, who had to acquiesce in the inevitable, and slavery ceased *de facto* in that Province from and after the decision in the "Robin" case, 18th February, 1800.

SLAVERY IN UPPER CANADA.



The system was here introduced before the separation of the Upper and Lower Provinces in 1791, but our population was then small and scattered. We had a few hundred negro and a few Pawnee slaves, mostly around the Niagara, Home and Western districts.

In 1793 the first Parliament of the Province, meeting in its second session in Navy Hall, of which part remains in the low, brown, wooden buildings still visible from the wharf at Niagara, then called Newark, passed an Act which, while it prohibited the importation of slaves, confirmed the ownership in slaves then owned, and provided that their children should be free on attaining 25 years of age. The members of this first Parliament, thirteen in number, with Mr. Macdonell, of Glengarry, as Speaker, were mostly strong U. E. Loyalists. The Act regarding slavery was, it is thought, drawn by Chief Justice Osgoode (who became C. J. of Upper Canada, 29th July, 1792) at the suggestion of that good Englishman, Governor Simcoe, who in his speech on closing the session of 1793, and consenting to this Act, expresses