This ordinance leaves no doubt as to the conditions and necessities of the times which brought it forth. Slavery under the authority of the rescript of 1688, had taken root in the colony, but the law was too vague to be considered sufficiently binding, and the legality of ownership had been apparently questioned.

The capture of Panis slaves had become quite an important trade among the tribes bordering on the white settlements in the Carolinas. It follows that these tribes played on this continent, at that period, the infamous role of slave traders and slave hunters as the mongrel Arabs of Eastern Africa do to the present day. The Iroquois. Eries, Sakis, Miamis, Illinois, Poutuouatomies and their sub-tribes all participated more or less in this trade.

The people of the Panis nation were thought more docile, more susceptible of becoming useful field laborers. Probably they were less fierce, less warlike than their neighbors. They were comparatively safe people to attack and kidnap. Moreover they dwelt in a country so remote that the temptation to escape was lessened. It was next to impossible for a solitary Indian to travel alone through the vast wilderness which stretched between the early settlers and his former home. Let alone the imminent danger of being taken alive by wandering Indians and losing his scalp and likely tortured.

Young men and maidens were the game most sought after, particularly the latter. The prairies of the West must have been the scene in former times of many outrages on peaceful communities, of many foraging parties returning to the East with long trains of unfortunate captives destined to an existence in some cases worse than death, for it is well known that the red man prizes the freedom of God's earth more highly than any other human being.

From the beginnings of the colony of Louisiana, which of course was part of New France and in communication with the older northern provinces through the chain of Lakes and the Mississipi, negro slaves were imported from the West Indian islands and the