

had been procured as slaves, and to remove doubts as to ownership, it was ordained that all such Panis and negroes who had been so bought or held should belong to the person so owning them in full proprietorship. Attached to this is the certificate of one Cognet, that he had duly published the ordinance by reading it after mass, in certain churches in City of Quebec. The 47th article of the capitulation of Canada to the English provides, that all such negroes and Panis should remain in their condition of slavery. This was on September 8th, 1760. The negroes so introduced were mostly from African cargoes landed at Jamaica, and other West India Islands. Some were from the United States.

Slaves were often cited and described in legal and other notices and documents in Lower Canada as chattels, such as "negroes, effects, and merchandise." By Act of the English Parliament in 1732, 5 Geo. II., cap. 7, houses, lands, negroes, and real estate within the colony, were liable to be sold as assets to satisfy their owner's debts. Both negroes and Panis appear on the parish records. Thus on the 13th March, 1755, at Longue Pointe, it is reported that Louise, a negress of M. de Chambault, had been buried, and on the same register is the certificate of baptism, dated 4th November, 1756, of Marie Judith, Pani, about twelve years of age, belonging to the Sieur Preville.

In the newspapers of the time are several advertisements for sale. In the *Montreal Gazette* of 18th March, 1784, Madame Perrault offers a negress for sale, and a week later is advertised "a negress about 25 years, who has had the smallpox and goes under the name of Peg."

In March, 1788, the Montreal Court of Common Pleas had before it the case of *Jacobs v. Fisher*, claiming the delivery to the plaintiff of "two negro wenches," and judgment was given that the slaves should be given up or £50 damages be paid. Several similar cases are on record in Montreal and Quebec.

BRITISH LEGISLATION TOUCHING COLONIAL SLAVERY.

In July, 1797, an Imperial statute was passed which recited the Act of George II. referred to, and that it was deemed expedient that change could be made in the law in so far as the compulsory sale of slaves under execution was provided. That provision of the Act was therefore repealed as far as it referred to negroes in his Majesty's plantations. The agitation against the slave system had then fully begun in England. Lord Mansfield had decided the celebrated *Somerset* case, freeing the negro slave brought from Jamaica to England. This, and the misconstruction of the last recited Act, soon had a marked effect on the future