

the estate of his father William Best, M.P.P., of Halifax (the great-great-grandfather of the writer), who was one of the early Wardens of St. Paul's. It has been a family tradition that he brought slaves with him from England, in 1749. One was named "Portsmouth," which suggests that he was brought from the old home. On July 13th, 1784, Richard Best "leases the Gloster Farm, for twenty years, *also the use of one negro man* for and during the first five years, *also the use of one negro man* until the twentieth day of December next."

Running away seemed to be a popular form of excitement among the slaves. They were nearly always recovered for there were few hiding places, where the negroes would be safe and still be able to obtain food and shelter; and then, too, their costumes were rather conspicuous. In 1773, Jacob Hurd, an old settler of Halifax, offered a reward of five pounds, with the payment of all necessary charges, for the apprehension of "his runaway negro—Cromwell—described as a short, thick-set strong fellow, badly marked by small-pox, especially on the nose, and having on when he went away, a green cloth jacket and a cocked hat."

In the local journal is found the following: "Ran away from her master, John Rock, on Monday, a negro girl, named Thursday, about four and a half feet high, broad-set, with a lump over her right eye. Had on when she went away, a red cloth petticoat, a red baize bed-gown, and a red ribbon about her head." Thursday did get sent back, for she is mentioned in Mr. Rock's will in 1776. He was one of the leading men in St. Paul's Church, Halifax.

On March 11th, 1811, Secretary Jarvis had up before the Courts at Toronto, "a negro boy Prince, and a negro girl, his slaves, who had