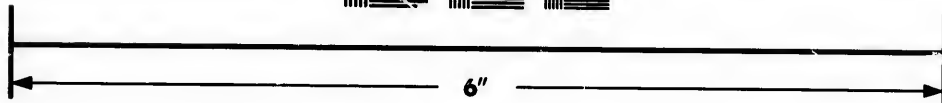
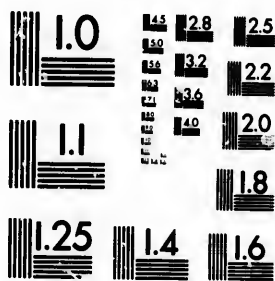


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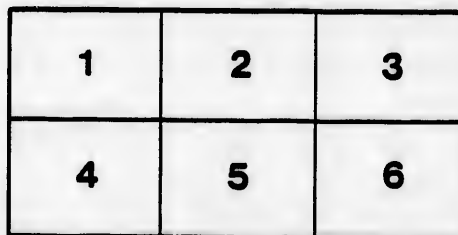
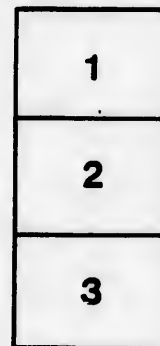
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UNDERGROUND - RAILROAD



the
Entered according to Act of Parliament
of Canada
in the year 1898.

BY

B. F. DORSEY,

TORONTO, ONT.

PREFACE.

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.—By this term we designate the many methods and system by which fugitive slaves from the Southern States were aided in escaping to the North or Canada.

After slavery was abolished in the North slaves frequently ran away from their masters and attempted to reach the free States of the North or better still, Canada where they were beyond the reach of their former masters.

These so-called railroads were most useful auxiliaries in giving aid to the negro. Fugitive slave laws gave masters the right to pursue the slaves into another state and bring them back. The men interested in these railroads were men who felt they should fear God rather than man, that the fugitive slave laws were unjust and that they should not be obeyed. They were composed of a chain of good men who stretched themselves across the land from the border of the slave states all the way to Canada. Many fugitive slaves were thus permitted to escape. They were carried by night to a place of safety and then turned over to another conductor who very often would load up and convey the fugitives in a covered wagon to the next station, thus they were carried on from one place to another.

DRAMA

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.

PART 1ST. A Planter and Slave Trader.

Mr. Simons and Mr. Shipley—

Mr. Shipley sits reading.

A knock at the door, Dinah is called to answer. Mr. Simons enters Good morning mister Shipley; Good morning Mr. Simons—a conversation as to business, &c. ensues.

Mr. Simons wants to buy two boys to make out his load, he is buying up slaves to sell in a Richmond market. Mr. Shipley wants \$15.00,00 for the two boys but is beat down to \$12.00,00. The bargain is made and the boys to be taken away in one week.

Before the bargain is completed Mr. Simons wants to see the boys. The bell is rung, Dinah enters, she is told to bring in some wine and call in the two boys. The boys enter Pete and Sam.

Mr. Shipley—Say, Sam I want you to take this gentleman's horse and clean and feed him, and Pete I want you to examine the horse and see what you think of him, I am thinking of making a trade.

While the boys are standing the trader is looking at them, they leave and the bargain is made. One Hundred Dollars is paid to bind the bargain—Dinah is listening at the door.

At night the boys and parents are all having a good time in the quarters—singing; playing and dancing, &c.

When Dinah comes in and tells them of the sale. She hid herself behind the door and heard all about the transaction, when the boys at once tumbled to the actions of their master and the stranger.

The following conversation took place.

Pete—Do you know what the Underground Railroad is Sing?

Sing—Yes it's not a road underground it's a train of men that take you from one to the other until you are safe in Canada—well Pete I think we had better find it.

Pete—There is an old free man lives way down creek, Old Uncle Jerry Byers if we go to him he will take us through. I have been looking for this long ago and I found out the way, I think we had better go down to night and see him and make arrangements for leaving Saturday night. After eleven o'clock at night they take two horses and start down to see Uncle Jerry.

2nd. Boys' arrive at Uncle Jerry's knock at door. Is this Uncle Jerry? Uncle Jerry comes to door with candle in hand enquires of their business; when they tell him they want to run away. Uncle Jerry asks when they want to go, what their names are, who they belong to, how much money they have, &c. arrangements are made to leave the Saturday coming twelve o'clock at night.

The boys leaving home Saturday night Mother, Father and Sisters weeping and crying after them, the boys try to console them tells they are sold and they will run chances and try to get free. They leave singing "goodbye mother Goodbye Father if I don't see you any more. I'll meet you in the Heavens in that blessed kingdom if I don't see you any more."

They have all day Sunday to go unnoticed by their master.

Monday morning, master calls for the boys, when aunt Dinah says the boys aint here: massa they done bin gone ever since Saturday night, I spect they done gone run away.

The master gets in a great rage calls for Jim to get out his horse, Dinah to get his revolvers and starts off to Frederick City to get out hand bills and advertise them.

While Mr. Shipley is on his way to the city Mrs. Shipley calls Aunt Dinah and Jenny tries to pick them and make them tell what they know about the boys, when they declare indeed, indeed, and double deed, Missus, I don't know nuffin 'tall about the boys.

There being an old colored conjurer in the neighborhood, she sends for him while Mr. Shipley is away.

Old Uncle Mingo comes.

Mrs. Shipley—Uncle Mingo, can you do tricks?

U. M.—Yes Missus.

Mrs. S.—Well, we have two boys run away and I want you to work them back.

Uncle Mingo sets his bag down, calls for a bowl of water, takes his two sticks and chicken foot and chews his roots, asks for three pieces of silver, starts to work shaking foot over bowl, &c. He tells her he has them turned around and wants three more pieces of silver to make them come back; he leaves by telling her he has stopped them from crossing the line.

By this time Mr. Shipley arrives at the printing office very much excited.

Is this the Sun Printing Office? Yes, sir. I want to get some bills and advertising done. What do you want?

Two runaways, five hundred dollars reward taken dead or alive. five hundred D— five hundred D— dead or alive. The printer has a hard time to get him straight. What is their names, &c.

Pete is 22 years, 5 feet 6 inches.

Sam is 19 years, 5 feet 9 inches.

Both dark complexions, Pete a scar over the right eye, &c.

The printer gets him straight and he pays the bill and leaves.

The boys are next seen at Uncle Jerry's travelling in the bush. Uncle Jerry leaves them pointing out the way. They are told to go five miles to the cross roads and they would come to Uncle Johnny Miller's, a Quaker, and he would take them to the next station.

They are next seen with Mr. Miller in the bush, when they run against the slave-catchers on their tracks.

They meet Uncle Johnny returning from hiding the boys away when they enquire of him;

Have you seen any runaways?

I seen them about two hours ago.

Where, where, where?

Uncle Johnny takes his time, takes some snuff, picks his teeth and tells them where he thinks they would be about that time—at the same time he is turning the catchers another way altogether from the run-aways.

Reading hand bills, five hundred dollars reward, &c.

The catchers start off as directed. Uncle Johnny takes the boys

another station further, where they are sent to Philadelphia.

Three more started from Kentucky—Anderson, Gibbs and Johnson. In the fight Johnson was shot, while Anderson and Gibbs got safe to Canada.

"It will be remembered that Anderson was betrayed and arrested in Simcoe, Canada, in 1858, and taken to Brantford, Canada.

"When Wm. Mathews, the Acting Magistrate, gave him up to the South the colored people of Brantford secured the services of Mr. A. S. Hardy, who appealed against the decision, and was sent to Toronto and given up again by Chief Justice Robertson. He was carried before a bench of twelve judges, cleared and sent to England."

Anderson was a plasterer by trade and belonged to a man in Kentucky by the name of Diggs. A slave trader came along by the name of Woodfork. He and Diggs have several games of cards, when the trader gets all of Diggs' money. Anderson is then put up and is won by the trader. Anderson finding out he was gambled off, makes up his mind to run away that night. Before leaving he tells his wife of the circumstance and to get his things ready, when a heart-rending scene takes place. He tries to console her by telling her he was sold and they would never meet again, but if he would run off and get to Canada he would send for her.—Leaves singing

"Grieve not my wife, grieve not for me,
Oh, do not break my heart,
'Tis naught but cruel slavery would cause me to depart;
If I should stay to quell your grief
Your grief I should augment,
For no one knows the day that we asunder would be rent, &c."

He leaves that night and gets about ten miles away to a bush, where he is followed by his master and two others, and a big fight takes place, Anderson striking his master with a club, laying him out for dead. While the others were trying to bring Diggs to Anderson made good his escape and got safely on the Underground Railroad. Anderson went to Brantford, Canada, where his master came after him, but did not take him back.

The last station on the Underground Railroad was in Philadelphia, Penn. From thence they were put on the cars and sent to Canada. There being about five to be sent away, all seated around in the sitting room having a good time, after having a good supper.

Mr. Hill walks in and congratulates them on their arrival safe in Philadelphia, and tells them they have an hour and a half before the bus would leave for the station and to have a good time. He enquires of each one where they are from, and how they got away—when each one told his story of escape.

Mr. Hill enquires of No. 1 and No. 2 where are you from, your names and your masters', and how you made your escape, &c. My name is Peter Davis, my name is Davis, we belong to a man by the name of Tom Shipley in Frederick County, Md.

Mr. Hill—Well give us an old Maryland gig and song.

Mr. Hill—Well where are you from, &c.

I am from Richmond, Vir., I belong to a man named Tom Slater, my name is Wm. Brown; they put me in a box and just left room for me to use my hand with a gimlet to make holes to get my breath. They marked the box right side up with care, but sometimes I was standing on my head, and when I landed in Philadelphia they opened the box and I hopped out, and there was not a dry thread on me.

Mr. Hill—Gord boy, well give us a Virginia song.

Where did you come from, etc.? I come from Georgia.

Mr. Hill—How did you get here from Georgia?

The Captain put me down in the bottom of the boat and piled a lot cotton bales over me, but when I got to Philadelphia I was nearly gone.

The next was Anderson from Kentucky; he told the story as related previously. After a few more songs, the bus comes and all march around shaking hands and singing:

I am on my way to Canara that free and happy land,
The dire effect of slavery I can't no longer stand.

THE SOUTH IN THE DAYS OF SLAVERY.

Mr. Hammond is a wealthy planter in Carol County, M.D.

Mr. Hammond's wife was a daughter of a wealthy planter by the name of Major Johnson. At his death he left her six slaves, the younger ones to be free at the age of 25 years and the older ones for her to take care of until they died.

She was very good to her slaves. Uncle Jeff and Aunt Ceily being on the old list. Nancy was housemaid and Alfred their carriage driver. Uncle Jeff spent the most of his time sitting in the corner smoking his pipe.

Mr. Hammond had three children, Miss Polly, Miss Safrona and Master Norman. Miss Safrona, a fine looking young lady of 16 years, was very wild and playful. She thought a great deal of Alfred and it kept Aunt Ceily busy trying to keep her out of the kitchen. She often had to take the broomstick to drive the young master out to keep him from Nancy, while it kept Uncle Jeff busy jumping up with his staff trying to keep order. Alfred comes in, speaks to the old man, wants to know his age, &c., when the old man tells him the first time he was sold he heard his master say he was born in 1790; it does the old man so much good to give a history of his past life, what a good man he was and what a fighter, &c.

By this time Miss Safrona comes skipping out, she makes for Alf and in the tussel knocks the old man over, when Aunt Ceily threatens to call her mother out and send her in the house.

Nancy comes running out screaming and her young master, Norman, after her. In the scuffle the old man is tumbled over again. The old lady and old man try to run them out again.

Miss Safrona wants to take a drive, comes out after Alf, when her brother interferes, and tells her she shall not go out again without her sister went with her. She got very angry and goes into a mad hysterical fit, when her mother runs out and remonstrates with her. Nancy goes after the camphor, but Norman puts hartshorn to her nose and she soon revives.

The mistress orders the horse hitched up and she would go.

Mr. Hammond has not got much love for Alf, he thinks he is spoiled, and thinks he is a little too fresh. He falls upon a plan to sell him as he did one before and make out that he had run off on the Underground Railroad. He writes to Mr. Woodfork, a slave trader, to come down. Mr. Woodfork comes, Nancy is called to bring in some wine and she listens to the conversation at the crack of the door. Mr. Woodfork wanted to see him, but Mr. Hammond told him he was the carriage driver and he knew who he was. The sale was made with the understanding that he (Woodfork) would sell him as far south as he could so his folks could not see him or know where he was.

Nancy did not lose much time in running in and telling her mistress.

Mrs. Hammond comes out and says is this Woodfork? Yes madam. Have you bought my boy? Yes, I bought one.

Mrs. Hammond makes things pretty lively around there for a while. She also finds out he had sold the other one to him that she thought had run off. She threatens Woodfork and her husband to make them suffer for selling her property. She drives Woodfork out with a chair and then goes for her husband and a general house-fight takes place, all the children and slaves fighting for their mother and mistress, the old man playing a prominent part most of the time under their feet. Also Cluff, a 10 year-old boy who is always in mischief and as troublesome as Peck's Bad Boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson of West Virginia were going to take a trip to Philadelphia to see her mother, &c. Mrs. Johnson sat reading. Mr. Johnson comes in. Come Mol, it's time you were getting ready. Mrs. J.—Is it time to get ready? Yes. Well, I don't feel much like going, I feel like something's going to happen. Nonsense, nonsense, get ready, what's the matter? Well, I am afraid they might run away with the house, but I guess we can trust them for a few days.

They got ready, Mrs. Johnson calling the housemaid, giving her a lecture and instructions how to take care of the place, &c. They got ready and left, bidding all good-bye.

They had told Betsy some time previous to their going the time they intended to leave, so Betsy and the servants made arrangements to have a big party on that night. She sent out her invitations all around and got ready for a big time.

Instead of going to Philadelphia, they changed their mind and only went as far as Petersburg and returned back that night. When they got near home they heard fiddling and dancing. They watched them to their satisfaction and opened the door and walked in, and then the trouble came—some jumping out of the window, turn stricken, running in all directions, knocking Mr. and Mrs. Johnson down and running over them.

While they all are having a good time, before the arrival of their master, Betsy would sing—"Joy yourselves, joy yourselves ladies and gentlemen, marse gone to Philadelphia, left me all the keys."

About this time the master comes.

SONGS.

Ho! the car of emancipation
Rides majestic through our nation,
Bearing on its train the story
Liberty a nation's glory.

CHORUS.

Roll it along, roll it along, roll it
along
Through the nation freedom car
emancipation.

All true friends of emancipation
Haste to freedom's railroad station,
Quick into the cars get seated
All is ready and completed.

CHORUS.
Put on the steam, put on the steam,
put on the steam,
They are all trying, liberty a nation's
crying.

Railroad to emancipation
Can not rest on clay's foundation
And the road that Polk directs us
Leads to Slavery and to Texas.

CHORUS.

Pull up the rails, pull up the rails,
pull up the rails,
They all are trying, liberty a nation
crying.

I'M ON MY WAY TO CANADA.

May be sung to the tune Oh! Susannah.

I'm on my way to Canada,
That free and happy land,
The dire effects of slavery
I can no longer stand;
My soul is vexed within me so,
To think I am a slave,
I'm now resolved to strike the
blow
To freedom or the grave.

Cho—Oh! righteous Father
Wilt thou pity me
And aid me on to Canada,
Where colored men are
free.

I heard old master pray last
night,
I heard him pray for me,
That God would come with all
His might,
From Satan set me free.
If I from Satan would escape
And flee the wrath to come;
If there's a fiend in human shape
Old master must be one.

Cho—Oh! Oh! master,
While you pray for me,
I'm doing all I can to reach
The land of liberty.

I heard that Queen Victoria said
If we would all forsake
Our native land of slavery,
And come across the lake,
That she was standing on the shore,
With arms extended wide,
To give us all a peaceful home
Beyond the rolling tide.

Cho—Farewell! old master,
That's enough for me,
I'm just in sight of Canada,
Where colored men are free.

