

**PARTIAL RESULTS OF RECENT CENSUS (1790)**

Free Men of Color Slaves Whites

Boston	781	None	17,277
N. Y.	1,078	2,184	29,043
Phila.	1,420	210	26,043
Balti.	323	1,255	11,925

# BLACK CHRONICLE

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Issue 2,

"Oh Africa, land of My Fathers, my heart bleeds for thy children."—An African Free School pupil

January 1, 1794

## FRUSTRATION IN BLACK COMMUNITY

BOSTON, Mass., Feb. 12, 1793 — At dusk, Colonel Middleton sits remembering. He recalls the days of battle, his wartime service with the revolutionary armies.

### ANALYSIS

Noises of a fight suddenly disrupt his thoughts. The old Negro opens his door to see several local whites, their faces filled with scorn and hatred, attacking his black neighbors.

The aging soldier thrusts his musket out the door, threatening to kill the first attacker who approaches. A white friend prevails upon the cowards to leave and, approaching Col. Middleton, has him put away his gun.

There have been changes here. The praise and promise of the war years have been replaced by hard looks and blows. Free black citizens of Boston and other cities almost daily suffer insults on the streets, most often on public days of recreation. We in the free black community have witnessed with despair unmistakable signs of conservatism and selfishness in white Americans since the war's end.

### Neighborhood Stays White

In Salem, Massachusetts, recently, a man of color attempted to settle in a white neighborhood. A white minister complained that his moving in would "depreciate property, drive out decent residents, and generally injure the welfare of the neighborhood."

Such incidents of white prejudice have caused Masonic leader Prince Hall to say: "He that despises a black man for the sake of his color reproacheth his Maker."

Although black men fought and died for American freedom 13 years ago, today we are prohibited from joining state militias and from carrying the mails; we cannot vote and rarely receive public education (despite several petitions to state legislatures). We are shamefully abused and insulted to such a degree that we may truly be said to carry our lives in our hands.

"Surely this was not (the) conduct in the last war," said Prince Hall in an address to his brethren, "for then they marched shoulder to shoulder, brother soldier and brother soldier to the field of battle."

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Your petitioners are justly alarmed at the INHUMAN AND CRUEL Treatment

That three of our Brethren, FREE CITIZENS Of the town of Boston, lately received. A Captain, under Pretence that his Vessel was in Distress On an island below in this Harbour, Having got them on board,

PUT THEM IN IRONS, and carried them off From their wives and Children, to be sold For SLAVES:

What then are our lives Worth, If they may be taken Away in such a Cruel And Unjust manner As this?

Above is the 1788 petition of freemen which led to the anti-slavery bill in Massachusetts.

## New York Abolition Society Calls National Meeting

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Feb. 1793 — Angered by the failure of Congress to fulfill its 1790 promise to end the foreign slave trade, the New York Society has called for the formation of a national Abolition Society.

The new American Convention of Abolition Societies will pressure Congress to outlaw America's trade to foreign ports and her outfitting of foreign slave ships.

### Pressure on Congress

Three years ago, under public pressure, Congress declared it had the Constitutional power to prohibit American activities in the foreign slave trade.

Although action based on its resolution would not affect the importing of kidnapped Africans to this country, it would mark the first time Congress has in any way limited the trade. (The 1787 Federal Convention ruled that Congress shall have no power over the American trade until 1808.)

Since the recent resolution, however, no legislation on the matter has been passed by Congress despite frequent petitions by the Societies.

Because Americans generally accept slavery as part of everyday living, abolition societies have directed most of their attacks against the slave trade. To overcome American indifference toward slavery itself, they have attempted to educate citizens.

Until today, abolition efforts by the 13 state societies have occurred at local levels. But the move by the N. Y. organization to form a national society seems to promise a more coordinated attack.

## THOMAS PETERS DIES

Ex-Sergeant Went To England

FEBRUARY 12, 1793 — We announce with sorrow the death of Thomas Peters, black sergeant in the British Army during the Revolutionary War. Peters, who fought for himself and his people, died last June of illness incurred during a hazardous sea journey from Nova Scotia to Sierra Leone, Africa. Word has just been received here by boat from that place.

Peters' bravery and persistence (and the help of English abolitionists) were in large part responsible for an English donation of African land to 1,100 American slaves who had fled to Canada during the late war.

In 1776, Peters escaped from his patriot "owner" to find freedom with the British Army.

As an enlistment bounty, Peters (and many black soldiers like him) had been promised freedom and land to farm in Canada. When Cornwallis was defeated in '81, Peters was among hundreds who traveled to Canada to await their land grants.

For six long years they

## FUGITIVE SLAVE BILL PASSED

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Feb. 12, 1793—A bill for catching criminals and fugitive slaves has been passed today by the Congress. The bill allows a slaveholder to seize his prey without a warrant of any kind.



## Yale Graduate Develops "GIN" for Cotton

A gentleman, having just returned from South Carolina, tells us of the development of an engine that will increase greatly the rate that cotton can be picked and processed.

The "gin" as it is called, has been developed by a young graduate of Yale University, Mr. Eli Whitney.

According to our correspondent, Mr. Whitney was visiting the Mulberry Bush Plantation in Virginia, after graduating from the University in New Haven, when he overheard two gentlemen talking about the problems involved in picking cotton.



Young Whitney, an enterprising sort, spent two days sketching a gadget. The raw cotton is thrust in the machine's opening, the handle is turned, and the "gin" separates the fiber from the seeds at a remarkable rate.

## WASHINGTON'S SLAVE Eludes Capture

FEBRUARY, 1793 — A female slave of President Washington's has escaped to New Hampshire and it does not seem likely that she will be returned to her illustrious owner.

The President, it seems, sent a messenger to New Hampshire's Governor Gilman requesting her capture. But the Governor neglected a fair opportunity to arrest her, and even put her out of reach of her pursuers.

This account was taken from the lips of the slave woman herself, who is now living in New Hampshire.

Other sources reveal that His Excellency sent a letter to Mr. Whipple, the Collector of Portsmouth, describing the fugitive and particularly expressing the desire of "her Mistress," Mrs. Washington, for her return.

Fearing a public outcry, however, he cautioned the Collector:

"I do not mean, however, by this request that such violent measures should be used as would excite a mob or riot, which might be the case if she has adherents, or even uneasy sensations in the minds of well-disposed citizens. Rather than either of these should

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It was passed in the House of Representatives after only scattered debate. (Yeas 48, Nays 7)

With its passage, southern slaveholders have won a victory in their struggle to recover their escaping slaves. For now they can legally seize a slave anywhere in the nation. According to the bill, "When a person held to labour ... shall escape ... the person to whom such labour or service is due ... is hereby empowered to seize or arrest such a fugitive...."

The vague term "fugitive from labour" refers to escaped slaves, whose numbers are increasing daily, partly because of Quaker encouragement and assistance. (See *Fugitive Slaves*, page 3 col. 1)

### Slave Owners' Anger

Slave owners have been particularly enraged by a Massachusetts law which requires a jury trial for any black man accused of being a fugitive. Today's legislation, however, wipes away that provision; for now, the captured man cannot even testify in his own behalf.

As it relates to a criminal, the bill assures the serving of Justice by requiring specific legal procedures in accordance with this nation's Bill of Rights, approved only two years ago. These include an indictment or affidavit signed by the state governor or chief magistrate.

But only the word of the slave owner is required for retrieving any black man accused of being a runaway. In addition,

Continued on page 4 col. 2

## BANNEKER Proposes Department of PEACE

JANUARY, 1793 — Black scientist Benjamin Banneker has proposed a Department of Peace for this nation.

The plan, recently published in his celebrated *Almanac*, laments the Constitution's total silence upon "the subject of ... an office for promoting and preserving perpetual peace in our country."

In his 7-point proposal, Banneker asks that:

1. A Secretary of Peace be appointed.
2. The Secretary have power to establish free schools everywhere in the United States.
3. Every family be furnished with a Bible.
4. The following be inscribed over the door of every home: "The Son Of Man Came Into The World, Not To Destroy Men's Lives, But To Save Them."
5. All those laws be repealed which authorize juries, judges, sheriffs, or hangmen to commit murder in cold blood in any case whatever. (This suggestion would do away with the death penalty for crimes.—Ed.)
6. A familiarity with weapons, military dress and titles should be carefully avoided.

## EXTRA

### FUGITIVE FLEES!

BOSTON, Mass., Feb. 20, 1793 — The first attempt to enforce the new odious Fugitive Slave Bill here has met with failure!

A fugitive slave, grabbed by his master on the streets of Boston and taken to court under the new law, fled from the courtroom, leaving the constables sprawled on the floor.

As he left, cries of "Run! Run!" "Quick!" "Get Away!" were shouted by citizens of Boston watching the spectacle.

The crowd, rather than attempting to apprehend him, in fact did everything but detain his master to prevent him pursuing the slave. This incident signals the attitude of many in

## PRIVATE PROPERTY VERSUS HUMAN FREEDOM

America's love of freedom has been in deep conflict with her undying defense of property rights. The conflict has occurred because American men and women own African men and women as property.

But the conflict seems to have been settled today -- at the expense of human freedom.

Southern slave owners, whose estates are composed of human "property," can now reach anywhere in the nation to snatch a black man who desires his rightful property -- FREEDOM.

For FREEDOM is a man's most valuable property. In the words of Messrs. Voltaire, Rousseau, and Locke, it is every man's NATURAL RIGHT.

Today, murder and chaos in the French rebellion have brought disfavor on the expression NATURAL RIGHT.

But can we Americans condemn the black slaves of St. Dominique who, having suffered torture, crucifixion, and miserable DEATH for hundreds of years, battle for their NATURAL RIGHTS this very day under the great Toussaint?

Since the days of war, white Americans have been building up their shops, settling land, raising crops, and buying and selling cargoes. But today, Americans buy and sell MEN, WOMEN and CHILDREN. They raise crops with the help of SLAVES. Do not AFRICANS deserve the same Natural Rights for which AMERICANS struggled in the late war?

How can men sail to Africa, steal our brothers and sisters, fill their ship's holds, sell them like sheep for the slaughter, and then return here and still call themselves Christians?

Recent experience leads us to believe that many states will do little on their own to end slavery and its trade. We believe the task may one day fall to the central government.

We, the free blacks of the eastern states, are treated at times with humanity. But we are not given the financial credit by white merchants which would enable us to undertake extensive commerce. We are confined to menial trades, not because we lack capacity, but because the Prejudices of Whites lay obstacles in our way.

And although we are of a strong physical character, more of our children die. This owes less to Nature than to a lack of physicians and surgeons.

We submit these serious complaints to the government, knowing by experience that its honorable representatives will do us the JUSTICE that our present condition requires, according to the LAWS of GOD and this nation.



### Letters to the Editor

Twelve years have passed since this nation won its freedom. Lt. Enos Reeves, a soldier in the American armies for Freedom, wrote the following letter.

I took a walk to the town in order to refresh myself, and when I drew near I heard a man crying out 'one hundred pounds! who bids any more?' I drew near the circle, there stood a mulatto slave for sale; he was about forty years of age. 'One hundred and five pounds!' God help thee thought I! 'One hundred and ten pounds! What, nobody will give any more for this slave who may live these twenty years.' God knows, he looked much more likely to die in five. He seemed to have a feeling for his own situation. The tears ran trickling down his cheeks.

Heavens! is this Liberty? - is this the land of Liberty I've been fighting for these six years? 'Tis but the name, where so many thousands are held in perpetual slavery. And what is worse no measures taken to alter it - the slaves are kept in total ignorance. They hardly know there is a God, a great sin in a country so enlightened as ours. But I am of the opinion that it would be somewhat difficult to alter it at present. Enos Reeves

Dear Editor. Although this letter is in regard to an incident that occurred 12 years ago, I would like to take the opportunity to praise a slave by the name of Latchom for saving the life of my friend, General John Cropper of Accomack County, Virginia.

The incident of which I speak occurred during the battle of Henry's Point in 1781. The General ordered his men to retreat and gallantly stayed to fire the last shots himself. As he began his own retreat he stuck fast in a boggy marsh.

At this critical juncture, the faithful colored man fired and killed the foremost redcoat, a squad leader who was preparing to bayonet the General. He then dragged my friend by pure strength out of the mud and taking him on his back he carried him safely to dry land.

Latchom, at that time a slave, was later purchased and set free by the General.

Thanks and congratulations to Latchom and all other colored men who have proved themselves to be true patriots.

Yours, A fellow patriot

Sir: ... I am one of that unfortunate race of men, distinguished from the rest of the human species by a black skin and woolly hair.

Can it be, that a difference of color alone can constitute a difference of species?

To attempt to escape from the cruelties exercised over us, is punished sometimes with death.

And yet I learn from writers that "master" and "slave" are in a state of war.

But, when a Negro feels the wrongs of his brothers and attempts to revenge them, I see him treated as the most horrible of mankind.

Do the rights of nature cease to be when a Negro is to enjoy them? Why is patriotism, in the heart of an African, called treason? From a free Negro

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## Abolitionist's Secret Mission Disclosed

A confidential source has disclosed that Mr. John Jay, President of the N. Y. State Abolitionist Society and Chief Justice of the United States, was secretly carrying guns for the patriots in the spring of 1778 long before he was believed to have favored separation. According to our sources, Mr. Jay obtained guns, cannon, and shot for the defense of the Hudson River.

### Black Frustration Growing Continued from page 1 col. 1

The single most important indication of America's growing conservatism came in 1787. Behind doors that were closed to the citizenry, delegates from the several states drafted a Federal Constitution that permits Americans to kidnap and import our African brothers for 15 years more, until 1808. And although avoiding use of the word "slave," this Compact allows southern states to base their representation on a population that includes slaves.

When the Constitution's compromises became clear, the revolutionary hopes for black freedom were crushed.

Black leaders have very respectfully pointed out the injustices we suffer to the state legislatures and, aware of our small numbers, have requested our people's patience.

But the law of the land still PERMITS SLAVERY. Until it is STRUCK OUT, fear, hopelessness, and a growing bitterness will mark our stay in this land of liberty.

## Congress "Forgets" Bill to Tax Slave Imports

### New England Profits From Trade

FEBRUARY, 1793 - Congress seems to have totally "forgotten" a proposed bill to tax slave traders on the kidnapped Africans they import. The bill was drafted by Mr. Jonathan Parker of Virginia, upon request of Congress, after his earlier attempt to tax the trade was defeated.

Congressional silence on his second bill may be related to the substantial profits the trade brings to merchants from New England to Georgia. Mr. Parker, a dedicated enemy of slavery, proposed the tax four years ago. His committee had just added china, stoneware, looking glasses and brushes to the list of taxable items, when he resolved to add black slaves at ten dollars a head.

### First Proposal

Mr. Parker's proposal was immediately attacked by representatives from South Carolina and Georgia. One suggested that "Gentlemen ought to let their neighbors get supplied before they impose such a burden upon importation."

But some observers were surprised when congressmen from Massachusetts and Connecticut joined the attack. Connecticut's Mr. Sherman said he could not reconcile himself to the insertion of human beings as articles of duty among goods, wares, and merchandise.

There is some reason to believe that the northerners objected not for humanitarian reasons, but because Mr. Parker's tax would imperil the great



profits brought by the slave trade to New England. In Mr. Sherman's state, Connecticut, slaves are advertised regularly, along with other "merchandise."

### Parker Disgrees

Mr. Parker pressed his argument: "It is degrading to the human species to enumerate them with goods, wares, and merchandise," he said, "but I would rather do that than continue the actual evil of importing slaves a minute longer."

Mr. Jackson, of Georgia, heatedly insisted, "Our slaves are not in a worse situation than they were on the coast of Africa. ... Are they not better here," he asked, "where they have a master bound by ... law to provide for their support ... in old age? Georgia," he concluded, "would be oppressed by the tax."

When the resolution was brought to a vote, New England representatives sided with their southern allies to defeat it. Mr. Parker was asked to write another bill on the matter. He did so, but it was postponed and has not been mentioned since.

\*New England ports also outfit the huge slave ships with food, water, and shackles of various sizes (for men, women and children). - Ed.



Black Harry--"The Preacher"--who is said by many to be the greatest public speaker in America.

## BLACK CHURCH GROWS FROM EXCLUSION

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Feb., 1793 -- Two highly respected Philadelphia men of color, Richard Allen and Absalom Jones, have announced plans to establish separate black churches here.

Despite strong opposition from white Methodists, they have purchased and broken ground on two lots.

Several years ago, Allen and Jones established the first organization for free blacks in the United States, the renowned Free African Society. Their action was closely related to cruel exclusion they and their followers experienced at the magnificent St. George's Methodist Church.

For several years after the late war with Britain, black Methodists worshipped harmoniously with whites in Philadelphia's leading Methodist church. But they found themselves increasingly scorned and insulted. First required to sit around the outer walls of the church they had helped build, they were one day expelled to the upper gallery.

### "Kneel-in"

Describing the final separation, Allen says that he, Jones, and a small number of blacks knelt during prayer near front gallery seats. "Shortly thereafter," said Allen, "I saw a trustee seize brother Jones, and attempt to pull him from his knees, saying he could not kneel there ... after a brief consultation, we all went out of the church in a body and the

church was plagued with us no more!"

Within months, the two men formed the Free African Society, designed to assist needy black citizens. To receive assistance when they needed it, black members had only to pay one shilling per month and were required to maintain a steady, sober, upright character.

By 1790, the society had amassed the large sum of 42 pounds, nine shillings and one penny. Under its influence similar organizations grew up in Boston, Massachusetts and Newport, Rhode Island.

### Masons in Boston

White exclusion has also prompted Prince Hall of Boston to establish the Black Masons. At first refused admission to the White Masons of America, he joined a British lodge. After the war, in 1784, Mr. Hall formed this country's first black masonic lodge.

### A Pattern?

If the pattern followed by Allen, Jones, and Hall continues, exclusion by whites will lead blacks to develop their own communities, schools and social organizations. For all we know, black people may one day establish separate states in some of the unsettled western lands.

## Indian News

CUMBERLAND, North Carolina, April, 1787 -Indians killed old Mr. Buchanan at his own door. They killed William Mulkarin as he attempted to run across the yard to another hut. One other man who thought to break through the Indians has not been heard of. The rest, who shut themselves up in their huts, are safe.

### Troubles in Pa.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., 1793 - The friendly disposition of the Indians in favor of the first settlers here has been very much changed. This is principally owing to the great influx of people, the views of many of whom are to amass wealth. They have very much reversed the system of happiness so long and successfully pursued. Pennsylvania has enjoyed an uninterrupted peace for more than 60 years. Now, like the other colonies, she is suffering severely from the attacks of the natives.

DO NOT USE  
SUGAR  
OR OTHER  
PRODUCTS OF  
SLAVE LABOR

## Jefferson Calls Negroes Inferior

"Comparing them (Negroes) by their faculties of memory, reason, and imagination, it appears to me that in memory they are equal to the whites; in reason much inferior, as I think one could be scarcely found to be capable of tracing and comprehending the investigations of Euclid; and that in imagination they are dull, (and) tasteless .... Religion, indeed, has produced a Phillis Wheatley; but it could not produce a poet. The compositions published under her name are below the dignity of criticism...I advance it, therefore, as a suspicion only, that the blacks, whether originally a distinct race, or made distinct by time and circumstances, are inferior to the whites in the endowments both of body and mind."

## Banneker Replies

"Now Sir, I apprehend you will embrace every opportunity to eradicate that train of absurd and false ideas and opinions which so generally prevails with respect to us; and that your sentiments are concurrent with mine, which are, that one universal Father hath given being to us all; and that he hath not only made us all of one flesh, but that he hath also, without partiality, afforded us all the same sensations and endowed us all with the same faculties; and that however variable we may be in society or religion, however diversified in situation or colour, we are all of the same family and stand in the same relation to Him ....

"Sir, suffer me to recall to your mind that time, in which the arms and tyranny of the British crown were exerted with every powerful effort, in order to reduce you to a state of servitude .... This, Sir, was a time when you clearly saw the injustice of a state of slavery and in which you had just apprehensions of the horrors of its condition .... you publicly held forth this true and invaluable doctrine, which is worthy to be recorded and remembered in all succeeding ages: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights and that among these are, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.'"

### Thomas Peters Dies

Continued from page 1 col. 3

the plight of the 102 black families in Canada. The petition stated they would stay in Canada if provisions could be made. Otherwise, they would travel to Africa for their land.

Public sentiment favored the black families and brought about the consent of Parliament. Peters and his people would be given up to 50 acres of land per family in Sierra Leone on the west coast of Africa.

### Sailing Home

Peters returned to Canada and joined 1190 of his people for the voyage to Africa.

Many died at sea and during the first months of settlement Peters himself was among these. His efforts in behalf of his people have been rewarded.

Although his friends work long hours and live in dwellings that are often inadequate, their new home still bears the sweet sounding name ... FREETOWN.



## Fugitive Slaves A Growing Class

A growing class of fugitives is forming in the North.

Slave owners have begun offering large rewards for their "property," and promoting anti-fugitive legislation.

So common are newspaper advertisements for fugitive slaves, that the *New London Gazette* has designed a standard picture for the ads. A fugitive black is pictured carrying a bundle on his head and a stick in his hand.

In several states, if free blacks are not carrying papers they may be arrested as fugitives and sold.

Rhode Island Quakers have been bitterly accused of encouraging slaves to escape to Massachusetts.

Referring to formation of the Union, South Carolina Congressman Smith said, "We took each other with our mutual bad habits and respective evils; for better, for worse, the Northern states adopted us with our slaves and we adopted them with their ..."



Not only Jefferson but also President Washington, himself, owns slaves. (See above.)

## THOMAS JEFFERSON Slave Owner

FEBRUARY, 1793 - Despite his misgivings about slavery, Thomas Jefferson himself owns over 200 slaves. An often quoted reason for his reluctance to free them is that he might face financial ruin by doing so.

His dilemma is a common one. However, it is not shared by all who oppose the practice. Dr. Benjamin Rush, President of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, recently turned down a job in Charleston, S.C., in which he would have earned 1,000 guineas a year, because, in his words, "I am unwilling to live in a place where wealth has been accumulated only by the sweat and blood of Negro slaves."

Like many, Jefferson has expressed a fear of revenge by the blacks if they are freed, but accepts the fact that their freedom is inevitable.

"Nothing is more certainly written in the book of fate than that these people are to be free. Nor is it less certain that the two races, equally free, cannot live in the same government," he says.

Toward this end Mr. Jefferson has suggested that slaves after a certain specified date should be freed, trained at public expense for useful employment and then sent away to colonies either abroad, or west towards the territories.

His feelings about separation, however, do not cause Jefferson to be cruel to his slaves.

When he sells or uses his slaves for payment he tries not to separate families.

According to Isaac Jefferson, one of his slaves, he provides the clothing and food in generous proportion, and even offers ...

# Black Sail Maker Promoted

FEBRUARY, 1793 - James Forten, a courageous young black man loyal to his country, has been promoted to *Foreman* in the sailmaking business of Mr. Robert Bridges of Philadelphia.

Having returned from London, where he watched the struggle between liberty and slavery with great excitement, he obtained an apprenticeship with Mr. Bridges. Young Forten was not long at his trade, when his great skill, energy, diligence, and good conduct prompted his master to promote him.

Mr. Bridges, who neither discriminates against nor appreciates a man for the mere color of his skin, served his own interest by rewarding Forten.

Forten was born in Philadelphia on the 2nd day of September, 1766. His father, Thomas Forten, died when he was but seven years old. His mother filled young James' heart with the feeling of a patriot.

In the year of 1775 he left school and five years later, a mere 14 years old, he embarked on the ship *Royal Louis* as a powder boy. During a severe battle the entire ship was captured. He was well aware that blacks were usually excluded from the list of prisoners to be exchanged. They were usually doomed to a slave's life in the West Indies.

To this day, Forten enjoys telling the story of how he escaped this fate. Taken aboard the ship *Amphion*, he was allowed to play with the captain's son, whom he soundly beat at a game of marbles. Astounded by the black youth's skill, the child called his father, who also marveled at the feat.

A fresh and deeper interest

### President's Slave Escapes

Continued from page 1 col. 4

happen, I would forego her services altogether, and the example, also, which is of infinite more importance."

In his reply, Mr. Whipple recognized the President's request:

"I will now, Sir, agreeably to your desires, send her to Alexandria, Virginia, if it be acceptable without the consequence which you expect, that of exciting a riot or mob, or creating uneasy sensations in the minds of well-disposed persons."

"So far as I have had opportunity, I perceive that difficult sentiments are entertained on this subject."

So far no actions have been taken to return the woman and local abolitionists have hinted that she will not be given up without great embarrassment to the President, who at times expresses himself with various degrees of force against slavery.

### Answers

- from page 4
1. Boston
  2. New Hampshire
  3. Sierra Leone
  4. Peace
  5. Churches
  6. Prince Hall
  7. Poll Tax

## SHEEP

It is often said that American sheep yield less wool than European sheep. This is due to the long winters here and the constant snow, which prevents their picking up as much nourishment as the sheep in Europe. Hence they drop their wool from weakness during winter and spring.

To prevent this, a farmer has found that half a gill of Indian corn every day will strengthen the sheep, and increase the quantity of wool. Also it will help the sheep retain the wool until time for shearing.

was from that moment taken in young Forten. The captain offered him a passage to England, the allurements of wealth, a good education, equality, and happiness.

Having failed to convince him, the Captain ordered him to that floating hell, the frigate *Old Jersey*, but requested that Forten not be forgotten on the prisoner exchange list.

Yet another incident proves his generous and benevolent heart: An officer of the American Navy was about to be exchanged for a British prisoner, when Forten conceived the idea of escaping in the officer's chest.

Before putting his plan into action, however, he thought about a young prisoner who was suffering from a disease and in much worse condition than he. Instead of escaping himself, Forten allowed his prisoner to climb into the chest and greatly enjoyed carrying it to the dock.

After remaining a prisoner on board the *Old Jersey* for seven months, he was released without a shoe upon his feet. When he reached Trenton, he was generously supplied with clothes, but still reached home in wretched condition, having among other evidences of great hardships endured, his hair nearly worn from his head.

Although now a freed man of some means, Forten has not forgotten the wretched condition of his African brothers here, and has expressed support for the growing number of anti-slavery societies in the north.

## SIX POUNDS REWARD

The following ad was printed yesterday by the Federal Gazette.

RAN-AWAY on the sixth of September last a FRENCH NEGRO LAD, about eighteen years of age, about five feet high; has a mark on his left cheek.

## MASONS

Attend a Meeting on Thursday Next, Mar. 7, 1793.

To be discussed:

WHAT SHOULD BE the ATTITUDE of BLACK MASONS towards WHITE AMERICAN MASONS?

Any Black man wishing to join the AFRICAN GRAND LODGE is WELCOME TO ATTEND PRINCE HALL.

## FOR THE TEETH SCURVEY IN THE GUMS & TOOTH ACHE



Two Tinctures of known and established Reputation, long successfully used by the Nobility and Gentry of the Kingdom and of Ireland are sold by Jonas Greenough, Apothecary, at the Patriot Arms, and Pistle & Mortar in Ludgate Street over against the North Door of the Church.

The Tincture for preserving the Teeth cleanses and takes off all their Foulness, and renders them white and beautiful, fastens such as are loose, prevents their decay and entirely cures the Scurvy in the Gums.

## SOUTH CAROLINA BLACKS PROTEST POLL-TAX

DECEMBER, 1793 - Twenty-eight freemen petitioned South Carolina recently for relief from a 25 cent tax levied against every free black in the state. Although the state ignored their appeal, the men vowed to continue the struggle.

Black landowners and tradesmen must pay the new tax as well as their property tax. One group, planning a second petition, told a *Black Chronicle* reporter that, while it pained him to trouble the legislature, they were forced to it by so truly mortifying an act.

In addition, widows with large families and women scarcely able to support themselves are being followed and payment extorted from them by state tax collectors.

According to the State, the tax is for "funding and ultimately discharging the foreign debt incurred during the war."

A new petition by protesters, now numbering 34 blacks and 44 of their white friends, is being drawn up. It is said to be more forceful than the last which pleaded:

"Your Petitioners are generally a poor needy people, just a small remove from Slavery .... They are likely to suffer continued inconvenience and disadvantages; and in the end to be reduced to poverty and want relief."

Use of a poll or head tax against free blacks is not new in South Carolina, but the harassing of women and the inclusion of property owners has made it even more burdensome. Hopefully, the vigorous struggle by South Carolina men of colour will have some effect or bring on some redress by that state.

## INHUMAN BRITISHER!

A *Black Chronicle* staff member has uncovered a letter revealing the most horrible use of our people by that brutish tool of a wretched tyrant, redcoat General Leslie.

In 1781, every day General Leslie received scores of blacks, many of whom had risked their lives to come fight with the British in return for their freedom. But because many were stricken with Smallpox, General Leslie resolved to use the poor wretches to his advantage. He wrote Gen. Cornwallis, "I shall distribute them about the *Rebell Plantation*."

## Ohio Company

ADVENTURERS in the Ohio Company are hereby notified to meet at the BUNCH OF GRAPES TAVERN, in Street-Street on Wed. the 28th current at TEN O'CLOCK in the Morning. This Company has purchased LANDS from Congress, and Matters of Importance are to be discussed. A GENERAL AND PUNCTUAL Attendance is desired. JOSEPH MAY, Sec'y

## method of DESTROYING CATERPILLARS upon Trees

TAKE LIGHTED charcoal in a chaffing dish: throw thereon some pinches of brimstone in powder; place the same under the branches that are loaded with caterpillars. The vapour of the sulphur, which is mortal to these insects, will not only destroy all that are on the tree but prevent its being infected by them afterwards. A pound of sulphur will clear as many trees as grow on several acres!

# SLAVE BECOMES DOCTOR

*The Penn. Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery and the Relief of Free Negroes Unlawfully Held in Bondage has released the following communication.*

NEW ORLEANS, La., Feb. 1793 - There is now in the city a black man of the name of James Derham, a practitioner of medicine. This man was born a slave into a family which taught him reading, writing and the principles of Christianity. When a boy he was transferred by his master to the late Dr. John Kearsly, Jr., who employed him occasionally to compound medicines and to perform other humble acts.

After passing through several hands, Derham became the property of Dr. George Wess, a British surgeon under whom, during the late war in America, he performed many minor medical duties.

At the war's end, he was sold to Dr. Robert Dove, of New Orleans, who employed him as an assistant. His ability gained him so much confidence and friendship, that Dr. Dove consented to liberate him after two or three years.

Dr. Derham had become so well acquainted with the healing art, as to commence practice at New Orleans under the patronage of his last master. He is now about 26 years of age, has a wife, but no children, and does business to the amount of \$3,000 a year.

Doctors have conversed with him upon most of the acute and epidemic diseases of the country where he lives, and were pleased to find him perfectly acquainted with the modern simple modes of treating those diseases. "I had expected to have suggested some new medicines to him," said Dr. Benjamin Rush, "but he suggested more to me."

By some accident, although born in a religious family belonging to the Church of England, he was not baptised in his infancy. Consequently, he recently applied to Bishop White, to be received into the Episcopal Church. The Bishop found him qualified and performed the ceremony in one of the churches in this city.

### Banneker Proposes Peace Dept.

*Continued from page 1 col. 5*

7. Over the door of his office there he painted a Lamb, a Dove, and an Olive Branch.

Banneker claims the Department of Peace should be established despite the current war with the Indians. "As the War Office of the United States was established in time of peace, (during the convention of 1787)," he writes, "it is equally reasonable that a Peace Office should be established in time of war."

It seems unlikely that Banneker's Department of Peace will be accepted, but perhaps government policy-makers will heed the words he asks be inscribed over the Secretary's Office: "Ah! Why Will Men Forget That They Are Brethren?"

## FOR SALE A Handsome Chariot

As GOOD as NEW with a pair of steady family horses; the owner going away, will be sold VERY CHEAP INDEED.

## SUGAR MAPLE



## KILLER OF SLAVERY?

Lately, many friends of the oppressed have been viewing the sugar maple tree as a savior that will end slavery. They see it as a source of sugar that may make sugar cane and the slave labor required to produce it totally unnecessary. "I cannot help contemplating," says Dr. Benjamin Rush, "each sugar maple tree with affection, because I see in it the happy means of making slavery as unnecessary as it has always been inhuman and unjust."

Thomas Jefferson himself has planted an orchard of sugar-maples and is said to have no other sugar on his family table. These men are among many who believe that once

### Fugitive Slave Bill Passed

*Continued from page 1 col. 5*

while no punishment is specified in the bill for harboring a criminal, aiding a runaway carries a \$500 fine.

After seizing the fugitive, a slave owner can at his leisure drag him before a judge of his own choice. (No time limit is specified as it is in the case of a criminal.)

If the slaveholder satisfies the judge of his claim, says John Jay, of the New York Abolitionist Society, "the wretched prisoner is surrendered to him, a slave for life..."

### Kidnapping Leads to Bill

Ironically, the kidnapping of a free Pennsylvania black man named John brought about today's legislation. He had been seized and taken to Virginia by two native Virginians. Pennsylvania authorities requested that the kidnappers be captured and returned. (The whereabouts of the kidnapped man are still unknown.) But the Governor of Virginia refused, asserting that federal legislation had not yet been written for interstate return of fugitives.

Realizing the need for legislation, members of Congress soon after drew up today's bill for the extradition of criminals. Southern members, however, refused to support the bill unless it also applied to fugitive slaves. After sharp debate in the Senate, a compromise bill was finally passed and sent on to the House, where it met almost no opposition.

Today's bill is not the first attempt by Congress to recover fugitive slaves. Two years ago, a treaty with the Creek Indians provided that "The Creek Nation shall deliver ... any such prisoners or negroes on or before the first day of June next ensuing."

## The Will

Among the Requests of George Fox, Who Died Last Year, are mentioned: 1 Negro Man, 1 warming Pan, 1 old looking-glass, & 1 gun.

## Wins Lottery, Buys Freedom

Newport Gardner, a slave in

# Benjamin Franklin Stuns Congress

## Anti-Slavery Petition Attacked

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Feb. 12, 1793 -- Today's passage of the Fugitive Slave Bill is a tragic moment in our short history. It is difficult to believe that only three years ago our cause received the support of one of this nation's greatest men - Benjamin Franklin.

On Feb. 3, 1790, as President of Philadelphia's Abolition Society, he stunned members of Congress by presenting a petition for "restoration of liberty to those unhappy men, who alone, in this land of freedom, are degraded to perpetual bondage. Slavery," he added, was an "inconsistency in the character of the American people."

His petition was immediately attacked on the floor of the House. "I am surprised," declared Mr. Tucker of South Carolina, "to see another memorial on the same subject signed by a man who ought to have known the Constitution better."

"We would never have entered the Confederation," Mr. Smith of South Carolina added angrily, "unless our property had been guaranteed to us. I don't think my constituents want to learn morals from the petitioners," he continued. "If they do, they can learn it at home."

President Washington was not available for comment. Mr. Franklin's reactions to his opponents were made clear in a humorous letter, sent soon after to the *Federal Gazette*.

Franklin described an imaginary situation, in which an Arab legislator defended the enslavement of Christians. In his speech the Arab attacked a group, the *Erika*, petitioning to end Christian slavery (just as Franklin had done). "If we forbear," the Arab began, "to

make slaves of their people, who in this hot climate will cultivate our lands? Must we not then be our own slaves? And is there not more favor due us as Mussulmen than to these Christian dogs?"

Everyone recognized these as the very arguments advanced by the slave powers in defense of black slavery. The Arab concluded: "Let us, then, hear no more of this detestable proposition - the freeing of Christian slaves. I have, therefore, no doubt but this wise council will prefer the comfort and happiness of a whole nation to the whim of a few *Erika* and dismiss their petition." The conclusion of the Arab legislature, says Mr. Franklin, was that it is in the "interest of the State to continue the practice of Christian slavery, and therefore, let the petition be rejected. And it was rejected."

Although Mr. Franklin's letter brilliantly ridiculed pro-slavery arguments, slavery still haunts black people. The legislature, rather than heeding men such as Franklin, has passed the fugitive slave law, leaving no safe place in this nation for blacks who escape the ILLEGAL bonds of SLAVERY.

Ed. note: Benjamin Franklin died only 20 days after writing his humorous attack. We know he would stand alongside us today in our unwavering opposition to the fugitive slave bill. We can only hope that today's new outrage will spur more like him to join our cause.

## IN MEMORIAM 12 YEARS AFTER

NEW LONDON, Conn., Sept., 1793 -- In the fall, this small fishing town is one of New England's most beautiful spots. It is hard to imagine that only 12 years ago this was the site of the tragic battle of Groton Heights. Here, a force of bitter redcoats murdered scores of defenders, among them two brave black soldiers, JORDAN FREEMAN and LAMBO LATHAM.

The war was in its final days. General Washington's forces were closing in on Gen. Cornwallis in Yorktown. To turn attention from the certain southern defeat, the British command sent a force led by Benedict Arnold to capture this Connecticut port.

The British landed on Sept. 6 and met fierce resistance. The patriots, commanded by Col. William Ledyard, fired with deadly accuracy from sandy trenches. JORDAN FREEMAN was Ledyard's orderly, and LAMBO LATHAM was a slave who insisted on joining the fight. After four hours of battle, the outnumbered patriots took cover in Fort Griswold on Groton Heights.

JORDAN FREEMAN and another man fatally speared a British Officer. LATHAM, according to a survivor, fought "manfully" alongside the others.

Finally, the heavily outnumbered patriots surrendered. But when Colonel Ledyard handed his sword to the British officer, the heartless Redcoat stabbed him with it. The British murderers then massacred nearly all the remaining patriots.

Only 43 days later at Yorktown the Commander of British Forces, Lord Cornwallis, surrendered. He was allowed to return to Britain, defeated, but alive.

## POEMS on Comic, Serious, and Moral Subjects by Phillis Wheatley

Printed for J. French bookseller (1784)

Ed. Note: We express our deep sorrow at the death of Miss Wheatley, who after an unfortunate marriage to John Peters (who neglected her and

## NOTICE



### Board of Health

The season has now arrived for emptying the contents of Privys.

It is earnestly recommended that the Inhabitants immediately empty all Privys. Notice is hereby given that suitable carts for the purpose have been purchased by this Board at the expense of the Town.

## WEBSTER'S BOOK

### Economic Attack On Slavery

In his new book, *EFFECTS OF SLAVERY ON MORALS AND INDUSTRY*, Mr. Noah Webster proves that a land which employs slaves will become impoverished.

He offers facts and calculations proving that the labor of freemen is much more productive than that of slaves. "When laboring people enjoy the fruits of their labor," he writes, "their countries tend to become rich and powerful. Slaves, however, are unable to work for themselves and become mere machines, moving only when compelled." Mr. Webster's conclusions have been supported recently by the observations of travelers.

Mr. Webster's theme was broadened recently by Kentucky's abolitionist Minister, David Rice. "When slavery becomes common," he said "industry sinks into disgrace. To labor is to slave, to work is to work like a Negro."

Discouraged by general indifference to slavery, Mr. Webster and other abolitionists have begun making strong appeals to economic self-interest. Ninety years ago, in 1703, Mr. Samuel Sewall made similar observations. Slavery, he said, was unprofitable not only because of importation costs but also because "their continual speeding after their forbidden freedom renders them Unwilling Servants."

Rev. Samuel Hopkins thinks that blacks who work the land have more right to it than their white "masters."

"The lands are theirs by rights," he says, "and they ought to be allowed to possess them as free men, and enjoy the fruits of their labor."

Mr. Webster is not hopeful about the future. After studying villenage (the European system in which peasants labored for their lords) he feels slavery may remain in the U.S. for another 200 years.



### THE COMMITTEE OF GUARDIANS Of The Philadelphia Abolition Society

Is Now  
Placing Free  
BLACK CHILDREN  
With HONEST TRADESMEN  
To Help Them Acquire Trades!  
Other Society Committees  
Designed to Aid the Black Man:  
Education, Inspection (of Morals)  
and Employment

## QUIZ

1. The first attempt to enforce the Fugitive Slave Law, in the City of \_\_\_\_\_, failed.
2. A female slave who escaped from President Washington is now living in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A group of blacks who fought for the British were eventually re-settled in \_\_\_\_\_ on the west coast of Africa.
4. The black astronomer, Benjamin Banneker, recently proposed a Department of \_\_\_\_\_ for this nation.
5. Richard Allen and Absalom Jones plan to establish two all-black \_\_\_\_\_ in Philadelphia.
6. The first black Masonic Lodge was established recently in Boston by \_\_\_\_\_.