



# BLACK CHRONICLE

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## Insurrection In Virginia!!!



Nat Turner (center, pointing) plots the revolt with followers.

### CINCINNATI Ousts Her Black Population

AUGUST 23, 1831—Of all the prejudices, assaults, and confining laws directed at free blacks in the Northern states, none have been more vicious than those in Cincinnati. Recent events there have prompted half the black population to move to Upper Canada.

Last year, a delegation to Philadelphia's National Negro Convention declared that similar treatment may cause black populations in several Northern states to emigrate to Canada. Our people there say they are "as free as the air we breathe."

Troubles in Cincinnati began two years ago with the following outrageous proclamation:

"The trustees of Cincinnati, hereby give notice, that . . . all black . . . persons who have emigrated to Cincinnati . . . (must pay a) bond of \$500 . . . within thirty days from this date. . . ."

After years of building a peaceful community, blacks were being forced to leave. The proclamation was based on Ohio's infamous "black laws" of 1807. Although never enforced, they required any free black entering Ohio to post a \$500 bond. They also provided fines for any white employing a black who had no certificate of freedom.

#### Freemen, Fugitives Bring On Enforcement

Two years ago, however, the growing numbers of free blacks and escaped slaves entering Cincinnati brought white demands for immediate enforcement of the 1807 law. At the same time, local whites went on a violent three-day rampage, which we remember as the "Riot of 1829." Without official protection, local men of color armed themselves and one white raider was killed.

Cincinnati blacks petitioned for repeal of these "obnoxious black laws." Two Negroes, Israel Lewis and Thomas Cressup, traveled to Canada, seeking land for resettlement. "If the act is enforced," said the petitioners, "we, the poor sons of Aethiopia, must take shelter where we can find it. . . ."

Their answer from the North was not long in coming. "Tell the Republicans on your side of the line," said the Governor of Upper Canada, "that we royalists do not know men by their color. Should you come to us you will be entitled to all the privileges of His Majesty's subjects."

1100 blacks traveled to Canada, where they have established the town of Wilberforce.

#### Black Laws Throughout Northern States

The Cincinnati "black laws" are, in the words of one well-known lawyer (who has asked to remain anonymous), an attempt to "discourage them (blacks) in every possible way . . . to annoy them in a thousand ways."

Similar treatment of blacks is common throughout many Northern states. Free blacks have been discouraged by law from entering Illinois, Indiana (this year) and the Michigan Territory. Two years ago, in 1829, the Pennsylvania legislature declared that removal of blacks would be "in the best interests of our country."

Several Northern "free states" have even prohibited our people from testifying in court cases involving whites. If a white man murders a Negro in the midst of black witnesses, he can escape prosecution unless there is a white witness willing to testify.

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SOUTHAMPTON, Virginia, Aug. 23, 1831—An insurrection has broken out in Southampton. By the last accounts, there were 60 whites killed and the militia was retreating.

An express to Petersburg says the blacks are continuing their revolt; that 300 militia were retreating in a body before 600-800 rebels.

A rain shower which came up as the militia was making an attack wet the powder so much that they were compelled to retreat, being armed only with shotguns.

### Negro Convention Plans College

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., June, 1831—The first annual Negro Convention has called for the establishment of a black college in New Haven, Conn. The 15 delegates, from New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, also attacked efforts by the white American Colonization Society to export blacks.

Calling America the "birthplace of our fathers" and the land where "our blood and sweat have been shed," the delegates urged black men to stay in America to help prepare the way for future black prosperity. They issued the following statement:

"The Convention is not unmindful of the operations of the Society and it respectfully suggests . . . they are pursuing the direct road to perpetuate slavery, in this boasted land of freedom."

#### Plan College

As part of its dream of black progress, the Convention made plans for a college to instruct children of colour in the art of manual labor.

The plan is for the black people to raise \$10,000 and the whites to raise a similar amount.

"All who wish to see our coloured population more prudent, virtuous and useful will lend us their patronage both in money and prayers," stated the Convention's school committee, chaired by sailmaker James Forten.

Although it is well-known Continued on page 2 col. 2

### SOUTH CAROLINA LAW UPHELD

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 1831—A South Carolina law requiring the imprisonment of free black sailors has been called constitutional by the U. S. Attorney General John Berrien. (In 1823, this same law was declared unconstitutional by a federal court!!!-Ed.)

In reply to questions raised by President Jackson, the Attorney General calls the law a "necessary exercise of police power."

Mr. Jackson's query was raised after British authorities protested the arrest of Daniel Fraser, black cook on a British vessel. Fraser was released when his ship left Charleston, but by law he could have been sold if his captain had not paid confinement costs.

South Carolina's law was passed ten years ago, after the discovery of a conspiracy led by Denmark Vesey, a freeman. Although the law has not been enforced for several years, the recent appearance of revolutionary pamphlets has caused Charleston authorities again to clamp down on free Negroes entering port.

Under the law, several black British sailors were imprisoned in the early '20's. In 1822, the British Ambassador demanded that the U. S. act "to prevent the recurrence of any such outrage in the future."

South Carolina flatly refused to heed either a request from the then Secretary of State, John Q. Adams, or the federal court decision of 1823.

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BULLETIN: Contrary to exaggerated reports only 60 to 80 blacks are believed involved. They have had only a brief encounter with the militia.

The rebel slaves are armed with muskets, scythes, axes, etc. White troops are marching to the scene of action. The Fayette Artillery and the Light Dragoons will leave this evening for Southampton. (The artillery will go in a steamboat, and the troops by land.)

An express states that several families have been killed. The names and precise numbers are not mentioned. (Another letter to the Post Master supports this intelligence.-Ed.) Prompt measures are being taken by Virginia's Governor John Floyd to call out a force large enough to put down the insurrection.

The following letters have been received from Virginia.

Letter from Belfield, Greensville Co., Va. 24 Aug. 1831

In the greatest haste I write you a few lines. I can merely say that we are all in arms and in great excitement on account of the insurrection which broke out on Sunday night. Those fellows begin by murdering a family, taking their arms and horses, and pushing on to the next house with all possible speed, where they massacre every white.

Continued on page 3 col. 1

#### Family Reads Own Death Notice

Rumormongers, who spread panic and terror through the South, have amazed one family, who recently read an account of their own death in the newspaper.

### Opening of Ohio Canal



DISTANCE 309 MILES—THROUGH IN 80 HOURS.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Aug. 1831—The mail from the West describes the opening at Columbus of the Ohio Canal, and the introduction of the first boats within the limits of that city. The canal is now open from Lake Erie to Chillicothe. The event was celebrated with great joyousness on Saturday, the 22nd day of last month.

The Governor of Ohio attended, and was heartily welcomed. The ladies, taking part in the pleasures and duties of the day, marched in procession to the first packet boat at Columbus, and presented it with a flag.

After this happy omen for the Canal's navigation, eight boats made their first and triumphal entry into the very heart of the town, amidst the thunder of artillery and the loud, long and enthusiastic cheerings of 8,000 people. They lined the banks of

the houses, and crowded the doors and windows.

The editor of the *Seton Gazette* says it was "fiction realized—the anticipation of the most wild and extravagant theorist reduced to fact."

The other great work in the West is the start of construction on the Lexington and Ohio Railroad, the cornerstone of which (by a remarkable coincidence) was laid on the very day on which the above named Canal opened.

The whole affair went off very well, and we have high hopes for the undertaking. A public spirit is shown here which puts to shame the older States that stand still with folded arms whilst their younger sisters, the emigrant States, are setting such glorious examples of what can be accomplished by energy, industry, and intelligence combined.

## EXTRA! REVOLT CRUSHED

SOUTHAMPTON, Va., Aug. 31, 1831—The killing of the whites is over. By now, nearly 30 Negroes have been killed, and the jail at Jerusalem is overflowing.

The revolt is believed entirely suppressed and the blacks all killed or taken. The dead bodies of white and black lay just as they were slain, unburied.

Passengers on the Fayetteville stage say that by the latest account 120 Negroes have been killed throughout the state.

● At Cross Keys, the people are wound up to such a high pitch of rage that precaution is necessary to protect the lives of the captives. Scouting parties are out, and the insurrection may be considered already suppressed.

● Several prisoners have been taken, and in one or two instances, put to death by the enraged inhabitants (!!!!)

All the leaders, except Nat Turner, the prophet, have been shot or taken prisoner. Several have confessed assisting in the murders.

PARTIAL LIST OF REBELS CAPTURED: SLAVES: Daniel, Moses, Jacob, Jack, Lucy, Nathan, Tom and Davy (boys). FREE: Arnold (artist); Exam

### Nat Turner

Reports indicate that a slave, Nat Turner, is the leader of the insurrection in Virginia. He is said to be a Baptist preacher, held in high esteem by slaves throughout Southampton. Nat is reported to have been deeply impressed by the Biblical words "Seek ye the kingdom of Heaven and all things shall be added unto you." Other stories tell of a vision Nat had several years ago, in which "White spirits and black spirits engaged in battle, and the sun was darkened—the thunder rolled in the Heavens, and blood flowed in streams."

It would seem that Christianity, introduced by slave owners to pacify their slaves, may become

**THE INSURRECTION**

Two years ago, David Walker called on oppressed bondsmen to rise and strike for freedom. Last year Mr. Walker was found dead in the doorway of his shop. (Many friends believe he was poisoned.)

Today, in a terrible answer to Walker's *Appeal*, an insurrection in Virginia is bringing death to hundreds. Most of the killed are blacks, victims of revengeful slave owners.

All reports (even half-truths from Southern newspapers) describe widespread slaughter of Negroes who took no part in the actual insurrection. In many cases, black suspects are shot dead rather than taken as prisoners. Some stories tell of severed heads being displayed in towns.

Have the righteous Southern murderers considered the desperation behind this and other slave revolts? Whether or not the slaves have been "well-treated" makes no difference; MEN will not be held in bondage!

We pray slave owners will finally thrust the poison of slavery from their breasts, having witnessed its inevitable results. But we fear they will take the opposite path, by tightening the chains on our African brothers with stern legislation and punishments.

Free Negroes, too, will surely suffer the terror and abuse. We urge them to come North. Together we can try to halt the atrocities committed against all black men.

For even here, in the so-called *free states*, black people are denied the rights and privileges of citizenship. Foreigners, within a few years, receive these, but we native-born black Americans, sons of the soil, are (most of us) shut out.

But with increased numbers, however, we can work both for ourselves and for those enslaved. We must petition Congress, join with the growing number of abolitionists, and do all that is in our power to help those in bondage.

Unless we act now, the obstacles in the pathway of all men of color are likely to remain.

At the same time, we must work to improve ourselves, multiplying the number of our schools and sending our children regularly. For in our youth rests the departed glory of ancient Africa. It is in them that all our hopes for the future are fixed.

But if, after banding together to work for our own betterment, one section is still enslaved and the other treated like slaves, then, we fear, the future may rest with men like David Walker and Nat Turner.

**LETTERS TO  
THE EDITOR**



Sir: The unfortunate individual who has the stamp of darkness impressed upon his complexion is never free from contempt and insult. Virginia is considering action to expel the free blacks from her territory, and Ohio has already prohibited them. Now Pennsylvania is planning to adopt similar measures. When all the states in the Union have passed statutes to prevent an influx of the free coloured race, where shall the liberated black go? Nothing but extermination, total and entire, can result from such strange legislative proceedings.

*Northampton Courier*

Sir: The Colonization Society is trying to effect their unhallowed object. It seems their motto is: Onward to the work of oppression. They may gild their arguments with the high sounding phrases of justice, humanity, and what-not, but their intentions are as easily seen through as gauze held up to the light. Their cause is one of oppression, cruelty and injustice, and as such it must perish.

When I think on this subject, I am worked up to such a pitch of excitement that I must either speak or write my sentiments.

*A Friend*

**WE ANNOUNCE WITH REGRET  
THE SUSPENSION OF FREEDOM'S JOURNAL**

(First Black Weekly Newspaper in America)

We shall always agree with its sentiments:

"Too long have others spoken for us. Too long has the public been deceived by mere representations. Daily standers, we think that there ought to be some channel of communication in defense of 500,000 free people of colour."

Ed. Note: *Freedom's Journal* appeared from 1827 to 1829, its editors, Mr. Samuel Cornish and Mr. John H. Rusawurm (presently in Liberia), are among our most respected black men of press.

**Our Free Country!**

AUGUST, 1831—Several free Negroes were recently brought before the County Court of Jefferson County, Ky., under a law of 1803 which forbids any free Negro from entering the State. Punishment consists of being "sold by the Sheriff to the highest bidder" for one year's duration, unless they pay a large bond and promise to depart and never more return.

Surely this is a FREE country!—where a man who happens to have a dark skin is deprived of his liberty (one of those "unalienable rights" which our Declaration of Independence says is common to all mankind) and converted into a slave, for no other crime than having removed from one state into another.

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**Negro Convention Plans College**

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that the city of New Haven opposes the proposal, city officials have not been available for comment.

Discussing the Convention in a letter to the *Liberator*, editor William L. Garrison said: "Great things are in embryo. The coloured people begin to feel their strength and to use it. The proceeding of the Convention will command the attention of the whole country, and operate upon the coloured population with the power of electricity."

**Richard Allen Honored**

The Convention also paid its deepest respects to the late Bishop Richard Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the President of the founding Negro Convention. Black Bishop Morris Brown referred to him as "the greatest man of his race."

**Incredible Rise Of The  
Slavocracy**

ANALYSIS

BOSTON, Mass., Aug. 23, 1831—Today's insurrection of slaves (we still do not know how many) would never have occurred if the past years had not witnessed the incredible rise of the slave power, the Slavocracy.

Some of us remember that slavery was dying in the years during and after the War of Revolution. In 1807, Congress officially ended the trade in humans. Emancipation was proceeding slowly but surely in all the Northern states; many observers saw a death knell for Southern slavery in the shrinking demand for rice and tobacco.

**Industry and Slaves**

The invention in 1785 of the power loom in England started it. The loom revolutionized textile manufacturing and brought the use of raw cotton in England from 13,000 bales in 1781 to 871,000 today.

Then, in 1793, Eli Whitney designed the cotton gin, which produced usable cotton fibers at an unheard-of rate. Within months, American planters wanted all the raw cotton they could get, and they wanted it cheap.

To buyers and sellers of humanity, the answer was simple—slave labor. One of the first mechanical devices in this nation had assured the growth of slavery.

By 1806, Americans were kidnapping 15,000 Africans every year. By 1819, 15,000 slaves were carried to Virginia alone. Today, "business" is even better. As many as 150,000 slaves are smuggled every year into North and South America.

Galveston, Texas, has become a "market-place" where plantation owners from all Southern states buy their black laborers. (Black women are often sold there for breeding, another reliable method slave owners use to increase their "property-holdings.")

And the production of cotton still increases. Prices seldom fall below 15¢ a pound and this year the South is expected to produce 1,600,000 bales. Huge plantations are growing up in the soil-rich lands of Alabama and Mississippi. To obtain more fertile land for planting, American slave holders have settled the Louisiana Territory, and Texas.

**Where Is Prohibition?**

Men are making fortunes growing cotton.

Perhaps for this reason, the American prohibition of the slave trade in 1807 has been ignored by our government, and, of course, by the traders.

Occasionally, an armed U. S. vessel patrols American and West African waters. (Governor McCarthy of Sierra Leone, Africa, reports the rivers there are filled with American slave ships!) To avoid even minor harassment, most American slave traders simply fly Spanish flags.

Slave trading between states is carried on by crooks and "gentlemen" alike. The vilest traders of all obtain their Africans from thieves and kidnapers. The notorious Murrell gang, for one, roams the woods, kidnapping slaves and free men.

**Riches and Slaves**

Currently, Southern states, recovering from an agricultural depression of half a century, are planting more cotton than ever before. Slaves work in gangs, gathering huge profits for their "masters." Carolinians and Georgians feed cotton to English mills in Manchester and Lowell.

"Cotton fever" has infected Mississippi and Louisiana as well. Today, in this nation, there are 2,000,000 slaves.

**South Carolina Law Upheld**

Continued from page 1 col. 4

Because of such problems, British Minister William Ogilby has simply asked South Carolina to be more careful and not arrest British black sailors.

Challenging a similar law in North Carolina, a British diplomat recently took two black sailors into his home, determined to protect them "from oppression."

The conflict has raised many problems both in Washington and Britain. "These Yankees may kidnap one another," said a British official in the Department of Labor, "but they must



**DAVID WALKER'S  
CALL TO REVOLT**

Excerpts from Davis Walker's *APPEAL* (Published Sept., 1829) And Some Responses.

Are we men!—I ask you, O my brethren! Are we MEN? Did our Creator make us to be slaves to dust and ashes like ourselves? Are they not dying worms as well as we? Have they not to make their appearance before the tribunal of Heaven, to answer for the deeds done in the body, as well as we? How we could be so submissive to a gang of men, whom we cannot tell whether they are as good as ourselves or not, I never could conceive.

"Well done, David Walker! I like your spirit..." - "V", *The Liberator*

Remember that unless you are united you will be afraid to trust your secrets to each other, and thus perpetuate our misery under the *Christianity*! Never make an attempt to gain our freedom or natural right, from under our cruel oppressors and murderers, until you see your way clear—when that hour arrives and you move, be not afraid or dismayed; for be you assured that Jesus Christ will surely go before you.

"... Your people cannot hold in more absolute detestation, the sentiment of the writer (Walker) than do the people of this city..." - Mayor Otis of Boston to the *Mayor of Savannah, Ga.*

Do they not institute laws to prohibit us from marrying among the whites? I would wish, candidly, however, before the

Lord, to be understood that I would not give a *pinch of snuff* to be married to any white person I ever saw in all the days of my life.

"He... revolts at the prohibitory law, conceiving it to be a manifesto of the supposed inferiority of his people. This is the proper view of the subject..." - "V", *The Liberator*

Let us review Mr. Jefferson's remarks (Notes From Virginia 1792) respecting us... Comparing our miserable fathers with the learned philosophers of Greece, he says: "Yet notwithstanding these and other discouraging circumstances among the Romans, their (white) slaves were often their rarest artists. They excelled too, in science, inasmuch as to be usually employed as tutors to their master's children. It is not their condition then, but nature, which has produced the distinction."

See this, my brethren!! Do you believe that this is swallowed by millions of the whites?... Unless we try to refute Mr. Jefferson's arguments respecting us we will only establish them.

"I have reason to believe, that the book is disapproved of by the decent portion even of the free coloured population in this place..." - Mayor Otis of Boston to the Governor of Virginia.

The man who would not fight under our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, in the glorious and heavenly cause of freedom and of God ought to be kept, with all his children or family, in slavery, or in chains, to be butchered by his cruel enemies.

"The circulation of pamphlets of evil tendency among our domestics" is punishable by death. - Georgia Legislature, 1829



Captured Africans being led off to a life of slavery.

**Slave-Ship Captured**

From London we have news about the British frigate *Sybilie*, cruising upon the coast of Africa for suppressing the slave trade. Proceeding to the Nigerian coast, the *Sybilie* searched for vessels which were known to be secretly engaged in that cruel trade.

Commander Turner has returned to England with 40 of these pirates, whose atrocities it is hoped will bring them to punishment. This deserving young white officer has rescued from slavery upwards of 2,000

**Cincinnati Quits Blacks**

Continued from page 1 col. 2

**The Spread of White  
Democracy**

President Andrew Jackson has often spoken of the "new" democracy in our nation. But state laws which are said to permit "universal" suffrage have maintained severe property qualifications for black people in order to restrict the vote to white males. One legislator has claimed our people "a peculiar people" unable to vote intelligently.

And when such oppressive laws have not discouraged our setting in a Northern state, whites become violent. On *Black Friday*, January 1, 1830, 80 of our brethren were driven out of Portsmouth, Ohio. And in Cincinnati, of course, there was the

# The Growing Split

The Black Chronicle is privileged to print the following edited excerpts from a forthcoming book by M. Alexis de Tocqueville. The French engineer-philosopher has been traveling through America.

I have observed in my travels that the North is superior to the South in both commerce and manufacture.

Slavery, which has been abolished in the North, is fatal to the prosperity of the Southern states. The immigrants from Europe, just beginning to enter the country, are settling in the free states, primarily because they refuse to work beside slaves. Another reason is that most of the land in the South is held by big landowners, making settling difficult.

Sailors are usually obtained from the lowest rank of the population. In the South, this would mean slaves. But it is very difficult to employ slaves at sea, for fear of them mutinying. (Blacks worked and fought on ships during the War of Revolution when there was hope of Freedom.-Ed.)

The population of a country is the first element of its wealth and power. (People not only serve as a work force, but also determine the number of representatives in the federal government.-Ed.) The states

which increase less rapidly tend to look upon those more fortunate ones with envy and suspicion.

Virginia's number of representatives continued to increase until 1813 when it began to decrease. During the same period, New York's (number) had increased to 27 and was still increasing in 1823 with 34.

I am inclined to think that the hostile attitude taken by the South recently is attributable to no other cause. The inhabitants of the Southern states would assuredly suffer most from being left to themselves, and yet they are the only ones who threaten to break the tie of confidence.

The South is induced to support the Union in order to avail themselves of its protection against the blacks, (our italics)

It is easy to perceive that the South is becoming more and more irritated.

If the changes which I have described were gradual, the danger would be less, but the progress of society in America is almost revolutionary.

Insurrection in Virginia  
Continued from page 1 col. 5

They continue in this manner until they are interrupted, and they escape and skulk about the woods. When another favorable opportunity occurs they collect together and repeat their horrible massacres. Between 25 and 30 (sic.) families have already been entirely destroyed.

Letter from Norfolk, Va.,  
24 Aug. 1831

It is now five o'clock - Thompson's Stage has just arrived - reports of the rebellion are confirmed, adding still more to the number of the slain. We are encouraged, however, by the Richmond Whig, which says the following: "Serious danger of course there is none. The deluded wretches have rushed on a certain destruction." The rebels have had an encounter with a small number of militia, who killed six and took eight of them prisoners. They are headed for the Dismal Swamp, a huge stretch of marsh.

According to a Southern gentleman at the battle scene, there is little chance that the revolt will spread. "There is very little dissatisfaction in the slaves generally," he says, "and they cannot muster a force sufficient to effect any object of importance. The few who have thus rushed headlong into the arena will be shot down like crows, or captured and made examples of."

### Later Details

A letter from North Carolina states that the insurrection had its origin with the trial of a white man in Southampton. After he was sentenced by the Courts to pay a fine of \$1,000, his sons were so exasperated that they resolved to have revenge upon the whole country. They inducted ten or a dozen Negroes to join them, and immediately commenced the work of destruction by cutting off the heads of all the whites and killing all the blacks who refused to unite with them. - from Lowell Journal.

(We cannot place much confidence in the above account of the origin of the revolt. It appears that freedom, not plunder, was the motive of the black rebels and that no whites were involved. Nor has there been evidence to support the argument that any blacks were forced to join the revolt.-Ed.)

There was a mob in Paris on the 9th, which attacked the hotel of the Russian Ambassador, amid cries of "Down with the Russians!" and "The Poles forever!"

# SLAVES AS SKILLED LABOR

By Our Correspondent

CHARLESTON, Aug. 1831—The large plantation houses and the iron grillwork on gates and balconies throughout the South have been fashioned by skilled slaves.

Unlike most enslaved blacks, who labor either as field hands or house servants, these black men have been taught trades and special skills.

### Slaves Rented

They serve as double assets for their "masters," for they are not only used on the plantation, but also "let out" (rented) for money.

"Letting out" has greatly extended the traditional use of black slave labor. Slaves now work as blacksmiths and weavers and are employed in foundries and factories throughout the South. The most delicate Southern wrought iron is fashioned by blacks. Jacob, a slave, is a master silversmith, whose work is so exquisite that his services are demanded throughout Louisiana. Under this system, whites too poor to own slaves rent them.



Slaves working as printers.

Industrial firms with steady crews take on additional "hands" at the busy seasons. Cities themselves hire slaves for grading, paving, and cleaning streets. They also build bridges, collect garbage, and dig canal-type sewers.

The most unusual public use of slaves, however, is as firemen. In Savannah, they comprise the crack fire engine teams as well as the axe and bucket brigades, and are the pride of the town.

With the introduction of the railroad in the South thousands of slaves are laying railbeds. A slave shovelled coal last year into the "Best Friend," first locomotive built for service in the United States.

### Proud Workers

Although slave artisans are usually treated better than field hands, they have not lost contact with their brothers, often sharing the same quarters. Unlike house servants, who "gratefully accept old clothes" from their masters, they are not submissive.

When they are bonded to an unusually cruel white man, skilled slaves often hide in the swamps, returning only after the bond period is over. Their masters, having already received money for their service, and not anxious to have their servants run away again, may not even punish them.

### Swamp Hideaway

For a runaway, life in the swamps is not as difficult as one might suppose. Other slaves, who feel any act against the master is justified, provide them with food. According to one slave, some runaways even slip into the slave cabins to sleep.

One white man, who lives near a swamp, has said he sees fires at night as the slaves cook sheep, pigs, calves and other livestock taken from the white people.

### NOTICE

The subscriber would inform the coloured Ladies and Gentlemen of Boston, that his School for Instruction in Sacred Music will be held, for the present, every Sunday evening in the African School-House, Belknap Street. Terms for twenty-six lessons - for a lady, \$1 00; for a gentleman, \$2 00.

# Slaves Resist

Slaves are not happy, docile servants. In the manner of livestock they are usually worked unmercifully, then kept in huts or shackles until their service is required again.

But despite their suffering and deprivation these human beings resist, and resist daily.

Rebellious acts have been largely suppressed by the news. Both slave owners and, to some degree, white abolitionists are responsible.

### Slaves With False Image

To win public sympathy, abolitionists have tried to project an image of the "wretched, faithful worker," beaten and abused by his master. Slave holders, on the other hand, desiring to maintain the fiction that they "protect dumb, helpless creatures," cannot reveal serious dissatisfaction among their slaves.

Black Chronicle is fortunate to have spoken with several escaped slaves. They expressed deep resentment for their "masters," the men who reaped the benefits of their work.

To resist, we were told, slaves will do almost anything.

Planters have reported losing over half their tobacco crops because their slaves slow down during the best picking seasons.

When worked beyond endurance, slaves often flee to the swamps, returning when their demands for better conditions are met. Occasionally, they simply refuse to work.

"In working niggers," one plantation owner has said, "we always calculate that they will never labor at all, except to avoid punishment, and they will never do more than 'just enough' to save themselves from being punished."

### Eye Servants

Because slaves must always be watched, annoyed plantation owners call them "eye servants" and employ hated white overseers to keep them working. When, as sometimes happens, a slave is made overseer, he is often sympathetic to his brothers and sisters. One black overseer has said:

"I learned to handle the whip with precision, throwing the lash within a hair of the back. If the master is watching, they squirm and screech as if in agony, although not one of them has, in fact, been grazed."

We were told that black overseers do not even attempt to stop slaves from destroying their "master's" property. They let cattle wander in fields of ripe crops, leave gates open so animals can escape, and destroy tools as rapidly as they are replaced.

### Illness

Slaves pretend illness to avoid forced labor, to prevent being purchased by a mean master, and even to revenge themselves on a former owner by lowering their "value" on the auction block.

Black women claim pregnancy not only to avoid work, but also to get extra food rations for their families.

Slaves sometimes injure themselves rather than obey the man who calls himself their owner.



This colored woman killed her children to prevent their sale into slavery.

General Leslie Combs of Lexington, Ky., tells of bargaining to sell his slave, Ennis, down the river. But, he angrily reports, Ennis took a broadaxe and cut off one hand. He then lifted the axe under his arm and let it fall on the other hand, cutting off the ends of his fingers.

In the greatest act of resistance, some slaves commit suicide and others kill members of their family. "I had 13 children," boasted one black woman. "Every one I destroyed with my own hands rather than have them suffer slavery."

Slaveholders know that such frustration could lead to their destruction. "The least unusual noise at night alarms them greatly," said one slave. "They cry out. What is that? Are the boys all in?"

Loss of Lives—It is said that between 70 and 80 lives were lost on board the steamboat Frolic, which was recently cast away near Cowbridge, England.

# CLASSIFIEDS



NEW YORK AFRICAN FREE-SCHOOLS, No. 5. Copied from a drawing done by P. Jones, a pupil, April 18, 1830.

### THE HISTORY OF THE NEW YORK AFRICAN FREE-SCHOOLS

From Their Establishment In 1787 to the Present Time With An Appendix

BY CHARLES C. ANDREWS, teacher of the male school.

We have a map of the United States, drawn and lettered by a lad ten years old. It can be examined at this office. By order of the Board of Trustees. Price 5 Cents.

**A CARD**  
Respectable Persons  
Of Color  
None else can be accommodated  
At The House of  
Peter Gardiner  
No. 19, Powell Street  
Philadelphia

# School Wanted

A respectable coloured gentleman, teacher of youth for the last three years, wishes to obtain a school for the instruction of young ladies and gentlemen of colour. He teaches Spelling, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, English Grammar, Mathematics, etc. Reference respecting his qualifications may

# LEST WE FORGET

The following incident on a slave ship was related to Black Chronicle by a black man who was a prisoner there.

When they put us in irons... the men who fastened the irons on these mothers took the children out of their hands and threw them over the side of the ship into the water... two of the women leaped overboard after the children—the third was already confined by a chain... and could not get into the water, but in struggling to free herself, she broke her arm and died a few days after of a fever. One of the two women in the river was carried down by the weight of her irons before she could be rescued; but the other was taken up by some men in a boat and brought on board.

A famine prevails in the west of Ireland, county of Mayo, in a population of 30,000. The potato crop has failed twice in succession.

# ANSWERS

from page 4

1. Cincinnati
2. Nat Turner
3. Colonization
4. Appeal
5. Cotton Gin
6. Freedom's Journal
7. Let out
8. Black Terror

# Collector's Sale

Let those who are careless about the abolition of Slavery, read the following advertisements.

Will be offered for public sale Thursday next at Urgant's Tavern, in Friendship, one Negro woman named Nelly, one girl named Harriet, one boy named William, and one named John and three head of horses. Seized and taken to satisfy county taxes due for 1830 and 1831.

ISRAEL DAVIDSON  
Maryland Republican

Run away, a NEGRO WOMAN and two children; a few days before she went off, I burnt her with a hot iron, on the left side of her face. I tried to make the letter M. Raleigh Standard

Any person having sick Negroes, considered incurable by their respective physicians and

## MEXICO TEXAS FIGHTING

NACOGDOCHES, Texas, August, 1831—The long simmering friction here between American settlers and the Mexican government has developed into open riots and gun battles.

Mexican authorities may even be encouraging insurrections among Texas slaves. In any event, American slaves know of Mexico's sympathy.

Slave owners, in turn, have responded by setting dogs on slaves for the slightest offense.

When the new Mexican Republic first provided for the gradual extinction of slavery, in 1824, some Americans revolted and declared Texas independent. They were soon put down, however.

Finally, in what was possibly an attempt to discourage other Americans from entering Texas, Mexico in 1829 emancipated all the slaves in her lands.

American settlers responded by sending to the United States for arms. Mexico then decided to permit a modified "apprenticeship" of slaves, but for no more than ten years.

Now the peace has ended. American settlers in Texas are determined to keep perpetual slavery, and last year the Mexicans prohibited further American settlement in Texas. Open skirmishes occur frequently between the two sides.

The anti-slavery attitude of Mexico and the spirit of revolution among American settlers in Texas reminds us somewhat of the Revolutionary War. Again, our enslaved people are suffering, caught in a white struggle for Rights.

## DAY Makes A Deal

MILTON, N. C.—Thomas Day, famous free black furniture-maker, has made another of his remarkable deals.

Mr. Day, whose mahogany tables and chairs grace the wealthiest Southern homes, has talked the Presbyterian church into giving him a pew on the ground floor. For this privilege, Day will build mahogany pews for the church.

This feat does not top Day's heroic persistence two years ago, however, when he threatened to leave Milton if he was not legally allowed to bring his wife, a free Negro from Virginia, into the state.

Not wanting to lose the skilled carpenter, 60 white citizens wrote to the state capital, calling the black man a "first rate workman and remarkably sober, steady and industrious."

Day owns a mahogany furniture store in the converted Yellow Tavern. He employs both white and black workers.

### Ohio Canal Opens

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### Other News From the West

A friend of Stephen Austin has kindly shown us a letter sent by Austin from the troubled Mexican Territory of Texas.

Young Austin, leader of American emigrants to that territory, says he has bid an everlasting farewell to his native country and intends to "fulfill rigidly all the duties and obligations of a Mexican citizen."

Married settlers in Texas are said to receive 4,428 acres from Mexico for less than \$200.



Word has arrived from Oregon territory that the American Fur Company's steamboat has proceeded as far up the Missouri River as Council Bluffs! No one would have believed such a thing possible 20 years ago, when the first steamboat struck viewers as a "boat moving without appearance of sail, oar, pole, or any manual labor—moving within the secrets of her own mechanism

## SLAVE REVOLTS

Be not misled. Today's insurrection is not the first. For two hundred years, our people have fought for their freedom. A partial list follows:

1672—VIRGINIA. Fugitive slaves in small armed bands raided nearby towns hoping to convince others to join them. The Assembly urged their capture dead or alive, saying "very dangerous consequences may arise if other Negroes fly forth and joyne them."

1712—NEW YORK CITY. A group of slaves plotting rebellion bound themselves to secrecy by "sucking ye blood of each Others hand." Several months later, they set fire to a building and attacked approaching whites, killing nine. Eventually, 70 Negroes were taken. Six were pardoned and 27 condemned, one being hung alive in chains so, stated the Governor "...there has been the most exemplary punishment inflicted that could be possibly thought of..."

1739—STONO, SOUTH CAROLINA. Twelve slaves rebelled and attempted to fight their way to Florida. Soon, about 75 had gathered. An eyewitness wrote: "They called out Liberty, marched on with Colours displayed, and two Drums beating." When pursued by militia, the blacks fought boldly, but were defeated. About 25 whites and 50 blacks were killed.

1740—NEW YORK. Slaves were accused of planning to poison their masters' water supply. Most New Yorkers began buying spring water from vendors who carried it about the streets. The next year, 31 slaves and four poor whites were executed for setting the city afire.

1800—HENRICO COUNTY, VA. Gabriel Prosser led a conspiracy that involved at least 1,000 slaves. Other leaders included Jack Bowler, 28 years old, 6 feet 5, who said that "we had as much right to fight for our liberty as any men."

The plot was kept with incredible secrecy for several months. Two slaves, however, informed on the plotters and the capital was posted with cannon and men.

About 1,000 armed slaves gathered six miles outside the capital, Richmond. But that very evening, there came the most terrible thunder accompanied with an enormous rain, making the passage to Richmond impossible.

The slaves disbanded, scores were later arrested. Gabriel was betrayed by two slaves in Norfolk. His execution was postponed by Governor James Monroe in the hope he would inform on others. After interviewing Prosser, the Governor announced, "He seemed to have made up his mind to die, and to say but little on the subject."

1822—CHARLESTON, S. C. Denmark Vesey, a free black artisan in his late fifties, planned a revolt involving thousands of slaves. Leaders observed great caution, never mentioning it to "those waiting men who receive presents of old coats from their masters, or they'll betray us." Someone, however, did speak to a "house slave," who informed his master. Thirty-seven were hanged; the informer was given a pension of \$50.

1829—VANCEBURG, Ky. Two slaves in a coffin (a line of chained slaves) of 96 persons filed through their shackles and escaped, killing two guards. They were captured when a black slave trader summoned the militia. Of the six executed, one was a pregnant woman who was not hanged until her "valuable" child was born.

1829—AUGUSTA, Ga. A slave-set fire swept the city. Governor Forsyth appealed to U. S. Secretary of War, for "arms to protect the people of the state in case of slave revolt."

1831—DELAWARE, JAN. 7. Report: "There has been much shooting of Negroes in this neighborhood recently, consequence of the symptoms of liberty having been discovered among them."



### FROM THE "CHARLESTON MERCURY"

"FOR SALE, a girl very prolific in her generating qualities. A rare opportunity to any person who wishes to raise a family of strong and healthy servants for their own use."

## QUIZ

1. The "Riot of 1829" took place in the City of \_\_\_\_\_
  2. The leader of the Virginia slave revolt is \_\_\_\_\_
  3. The all-white American Society wants to re-settle Freedmen outside the country.
  4. The strongest anti-slavery statement yet published is David Walker's \_\_\_\_\_
  5. The rise of the slavocracy was stimulated by Eli Whitney's invention, the \_\_\_\_\_
  6. The first black newspaper was called \_\_\_\_\_
  7. Highly skilled black slaves are often "\_\_\_\_\_ for money by their masters.
  8. The great bare-knuckle fighter, Bill Richmond, became known as "\_\_\_\_\_"
- Answers page 3 col. 2

## Revolt Follows 3 Years Repressive Legislation

The revolt in Virginia has occurred despite three years of oppressive Southern legislation:

Virginia, in April of 1831, made "all meetings of free Negroes or mulattoes for teaching reading or writing unlawful." This crime may be punished by 20 lashes for a black and a \$50 fine for any white involved.

Georgia lawmakers in 1829 prohibited the circulation of pamphlets of "evil tendency" and punished those teaching any black to read or write.

In 1829, North Carolina made illegal the sale of firearms, gun powder, or lead to any slave who did not have the written consent of his master. Penalties include three months imprisonment for whites and 39 lashes for Negroes.

In 1830, a North Carolina law provided that anyone circulating literature intended to "excite insurrection, conspiracy

be pilloried, whipped and imprisoned for one year." A second offense is punishable by death without clergy. The law also makes teaching slaves to read or write illegal. (Counting, however, is permitted.)

The North Carolina law requires that all Negroes emancipated after 1830 leave the state within 90 days. A Negro resident who remains out of the state for 90 days is not permitted to return. (This prevents free blacks educated elsewhere from returning to teach others.)

In 1830, Louisiana lawmakers compelled all free blacks who entered the state since 1825 to leave.

In Mississippi since 1829, any slave who strikes a white man with an intent to kill is to



## HEROIC BLACKS In The War of 1812

AUG. 23, 1831—President Jackson seems to have turned his back upon a people whose help he once sought in waging war.

Black Chronicle has learned that Jackson has instructed Martin Van Buren to question the British minister on the possibility of establishing a treaty to allow slave owners to reclaim slaves from Canada.

This seems something of a turnabout for Jackson, the Hero of New Orleans, who appealed to coloured freemen in 1814 to fight the British with these words:

### Adopted Children

"As sons of freedom you are now called upon to defend our greatest blessing. As Americans, our country looks upon her adopted children for heroic support..."

Responding to Jackson's appeal, two battalions of blacks were quickly formed, one of which covered itself with glory at the Battle of Chalmette Plains.

And in the Battle of New Orleans, where the two coloured battalions fought hard by the side of Jackson himself, blacks helped win the day. In fact, the killing of the British commander has been attributed by Jackson to a black man.

Jackson said of the battle: "The two corps of coloured volunteers have not disappointed the hopes that were formed of their courage...in the performance of duty."

Such bravery was matched time and again in the war.

## THE BLACK TERROR

### OBITUARY

Born: ? Died: Dec. 28, 1829

We say farewell to Bill Richmond, the world's great black bare-knuckle fighter. He died two years ago in England where he won fame as one of the greatest pugilists of all time.

Richmond had been a slave in Staten Island, New York, and belonged to the Duke of Northumberland. At the outbreak of the great war with Britain he returned there with his master and received in his words, a "tolerably good education" in an English school.

At the age of 42, Bill Richmond entered the boxing ring. He thrashed every opponent who faced him, earning the title "The Black Terror." In October, 1805, he finally met his match in Tom Cribb, who beat him after a battle that lasted one hour and 30 minutes.

That was the end of Bill's career in the ring. But he soon opened an inn, *The Horse and Dolphin*, and a boxing academy for English nobility and gentry.

### Instances of Bravery

In his report of the Battle of Lake Erie, Capt. O. H. Perry spoke most highly of the conduct of the black seamen. "They seemed to be absolutely insensible to danger," he said.

Earlier in the war, the captain of the American privateer *Governor Tomkins* saw blacks fight with such bravery he concluded that, "While America has such sailors as these, she has little to fear from the tyrants of the ocean."

Coloured freemen's bravery seemed only to be matched by their loyalty. One such patriot was Charles Black. He lost \$900 owed him by England when he refused to fight in their service. Thrown in prison and surrounded by five walls (the outermost was a mile from the prison), he managed to escape. He made his way to this country in time to fight the British on Lake Champlain. Black's father, by the way, fought for the colonies at Bunker Hill and his grandfather was in the French and Indian War!

### Heroism Forgotten

It is this legacy of bravery and loyalty which white America—even the President—seems to have forgotten. Now that the threat of war has subsided, the heroic deeds of America's Negroes have been forgotten.

It would be far wiser for the whites who treat us now so oppressively to take heed of the words of New York's Doctor Clarke: "On Lakes Erie and Champlain, where (you) triumphed over a foe superior in numbers and engines of death, (your fleets) were manned in large proportion by men of colour. These were times when a man who shouldered his musket bared his bosom to the enemy; and in these times these people were found as ready and as willing to volunteer in your service as any other. They were not compelled to go; they were not drafted. They were volunteers."

## BENNETT,

Bookseller, Publisher, Stationer, AND

### BOOKBINDER,

No. 5, Cornhill-Street, PLYMOUTH.

## HEALTH ALMANAC

This valuable work, for 1831, has been published by Key, Meike & Biddle, and should be read. The numerous recommendations, respecting food, exercise, and the regulation of the passions, entitle it to the attention of all.

## To The Free Colored Population of America

THE PUREST PRINCIPLES OF RELIGION and the most exalted patriotism, have ever motivated THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY in our efforts to aid the degraded and long-suffering AFRICANS in this country.

WITH OUR RESOURCES, & the cheering encouragement and partial aid of the Government, we appear to be nearing our goal: THE TRANSPORTATION OF THE ENTIRE FREE NEGRO POPULATION TO LIBERIA!

ALL THAT IS NEEDED is the support of our coloured friends and their earnest and full participation in helping us achieve our happy goal, the return of free Africans to THE LAND OF THEIR FOREFATHERS!