

TRUE! The 9th section of the law regulating crimes and punishments which they have taken good care not to publish, is as follows, viz:

"2. No negro, mulatto or Indian, shall at any time purchase any servant other than of his own complexion, and if any of the persons aforesaid shall nevertheless presume to purchase a white servant, such servant shall immediately become free, and shall be so held, deemed and taken."

Why did they suppress this section? Because they intended to cheat the People, to falsify the record! They have very convenient memories too, to have forgotten that North Carolina has had on her Statute book for half a century laws in many particulars similar to, and in others, more severe than the Indiana or Ohio law. The following is a part of a law re-enacted by our Legislature in the year 1791, and published in Iredell's Revision (page 85.) The first section recognizes the relation of Master and Servant between White persons:

"III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any Christian servant shall by violent hands on his or her master or mistress, or overman, or shall obstinately refuse to obey the lawful commands of any of them, upon proof thereof by one or more evidence before any Justice of the Peace, he or she shall, for every such offence, suffer such corporal punishment as the said Justice shall think fit to adjudge, not exceeding Twenty-one lashes."

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all Servants by indenture or otherwise as aforesaid, shall have their complaints received by a Justice of the Peace, who, if he find cause, shall bind the master, mistress or overman, over, to answer the complaint at the next County Court; and it shall be there determined; And all complaints of any Servant or Servants shall and may, either directly or as aforesaid, by virtue hereof, be received at any time, upon petition or information in the Court of the County wherein they reside, without the formal process of an action; and also, full power and authority is hereby given to the said Court, at their discretion, (having first summoned the master, mistress, or overman, to justify themselves, if they think fit,) to adjudge, order and appoint what shall be necessary as to diet, lodging, clothing, or correction: And if any master, mistress, or overman, shall not thereupon comply with the order of the said Court, the said Court is hereby authorized and empowered, upon a second complaint, to order the charges on such master, mistress, or overman, at public vendue, by the Sheriff; and after the charges are deducted, the remainder of what the said Servant or Servants shall be sold for, to be paid to the owner."

XIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in all cases of penal Laws, whereby persons free are punishable by fine, Servants shall be punished by Whipping, at the discretion of any Court, of Justice or Justices before whom such fine or fines are recoverable, not exceeding thirty-nine Lashes; unless the Servant or Servants can and will procure some person or persons to pay the fine."

XIV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no free man or trader whatsoever, shall buy, sell, trade, barter, or borrow any commodity whatsoever, with, to, or from any Apprentice or Servant, whether so by indenture or otherwise, or with any Slave within this Government, without the consent of the master, mistress or owner of such Apprentice, Servant or Slave, upon pain of forfeiting treble the value of the commodity or commodities so traded for, bartered or sold; and also, shall pay the sum of six pounds proclamation money, to the use of the said master, mistress or owner; to be recovered, in the Court of the County where the offence shall be committed, by action of debt, bill, plaint or information, wherein no assize, protection, injunction, or writ of Law, shall be allowed or admitted of: And if it shall so happen, that the person so offending shall be unable to pay treble the value of the commodities so traded for, sold or bartered, and the sum of six pounds, such persons shall then be adjudged, by the County Court, TO BE SOLD AS A SERVANT for the same."

XVIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any woman Servant shall hereafter be delivered of a child, begotten by her master, such Servant shall, immediately after delivery, be sold, by the churchwardens of the parish where the offence shall be committed, for one year, after the time of service, by indenture, or otherwise is expired; and the money arising by such sale, shall be to the use of the Parish: And if any white Servant woman shall during the time of her servitude, be delivered of a child, begotten by any negro, mulatto, or Indian, such Servant, over and above the time she is by this Act to serve her master or owner for such offence, shall be sold by the churchwardens of the Parish, for two years, after the time by indenture or otherwise is expired; and the money arising thereby applied to the use of the said Parish; and such mulatto child or children of such Servant, to be bound, by the County Court, until he or she arrives at the age of twenty-one years."

Here then the White servant could be whipped, whether male or female—he, or she could have been sold, and if a free white man traded with one of such servants, though he may have been his brother or son, he, the free white man, was liable to be fined, and if unable to pay to be sold out himself as a servant! This law was sanctioned by soldiers and statesmen of the Revolution, men who achieved our liberties and could better appreciate their value than we do, yet will any man have the audacity to assert that they were enemies to the poor!—they were unfriendly to liberty! No!—none dare say so! And yet if their argument be admitted, our Revolutionary fathers will be guilty of a worse offence than that they charge General Harrison with."

In the year 1787, our Revolutionary forefathers approved also the following law, (See Haywood's Manual 281.) Read and compare it to the Ohio and Indiana laws!

X. § 1. All and every person who shall be found guilty of any charge exhibited against him or them by indictment or presentment, and shall be unwilling and unable to pay the office fees that are or may be consequent thereon, shall be hired out by the Sheriff of the County where such person is or may be convicted, for such time as any person will take him or them to serve for the said fees the said Sheriff first advertising the time and place of hiring at least ten days previous thereto."

This law was in force till the year 1828 when the Supreme Court decided in the case of the State vs. Hood (1 Dev. Reports 506) that it had been impliedly repealed by the act of 1797, allowing persons to take the insolvent oath for Office fees, &c."

It never was expressly repealed by the Legislature. Under this law a Free Negro could hire a white man or woman."

Again: We refer you to the Vagrant Law, first passed in the year 1784 as follows. (See R. S. 201.)

44. If any person or persons, who have no apparent means of subsistence, or neglect applying themselves to some honest calling for the support of themselves and families, shall be found mending, sloth, and endeavoring to maintain themselves by gaming or other undue means, it shall and may be lawful for any Justice of the Peace of the county, wherein such person may be found, on due proof made, to issue his warrant for such offending person, and cause him to be brought before said Justice, who is hereby empowered, on conviction, to demand security for his or their good behavior, and in case of refusal or neglect, to commit him or them to the jail of the County for any term not exceeding ten days, at the expiration of which time he shall be set at liberty if nothing criminal appears against him, the said offender paying all charges arising from such imprisonment; and if such person be guilty of the like offence from and after the space of twenty days, and be subject to one month's imprisonment, with all costs accruing thereon, which if he neglects or refuses to pay, he may be continued in prison until the next Court of the County, which may proceed to try the said offender, and if found guilty by a verdict of a jury of good and lawful men, said Court may proceed to hire the offender for any time, not exceeding the space of six months, to make satisfaction for all costs; but if such person or persons be of ill fame, so that he or they cannot be hired for the costs, nor give sufficient security for the same, and his or their future good behavior, in that case it shall and may be lawful for said Court to cause the offender or offenders to receive thirty-nine lashes on his or their bare back, after which he or they shall be set at liberty, and the costs arising thereon shall become a County charge, which punishment may be inflicted as often as the person may be guilty, allowing twenty days between the punishment and the offence."

By this law, a man or woman can be hired out for "costs" alone, and if no one should bid him or her off, he or she is to be whipped! Under this law too, a FREE NEGRO can hire a WHITE MAN or WOMAN! Now pray who voted to restore this law even after it was considered by many obnoxious? NO LESS THAN THE WHOLE VAN BUREN MEMBERS OF OUR LEGISLATURE! At the session of 1836-7, all the acts printed in the Revised Statutes were read three times in each House and passed! At the last Session, a bill passed both branches without a dissenting voice, to give effect to the Revised Statutes as printed. (See Jo. House Com. 537, and Jo. Sen. 143.) This law is published at large in the printed copy thus passed. If any Van Buren man was opposed to it, why did he not move to repeal it? How can he, after voting for such a law, stand up and accuse Gen. Harrison? Here, then, is a law far more objectionable than those which received the sanction of Gen. Harrison—standing on the pages of our Statute book—re-enacted in the last two years, approved by the entire Van Buren representation in the Legislature—defended by many of the same party as just and politic; yet Gen. Harrison is denounced because he did not exhibit the same sympathy for CRIMES AND CRIMINALS that they are now exhibiting! Let the People examine the Journals, and call those to account, who thus by condemning others, have so effectually condemned themselves!

As additional proof of the infamous character of this attack on Gen. Harrison, we call attention to the following extract from the Message of the Van Buren Governor of New Hampshire, (Mr. Page.) Read it, Fellow Citizens, and ask yourselves what right have the friends of Martin Van Buren to condemn others. Let the Mechanics read it!

"So fluctuating have been the prices of manufactured articles in the market, that few are disposed to contract for the labor of the carpenter; PERHAPS THOSE CONVICTS WHO ARE MECHANICS CAN BE ADVANTAGEOUSLY LET FOR PARTICULAR BRANCHES OF BUSINESS. I would therefore suggest the propriety of continuing authority to HIRE OUT a part or ALL the convicts on suitable terms."

Again: In the year 1801, Congress passed an Act, adopting for the Government of the District of Columbia, the Laws of Maryland and Virginia. (See Story's Laws, vol. 3d, Page 208th.) In each of these States there are laws similar to those approved by Gen. Harrison—which the Van Buren Members of Congress are now sanctioning! Why do they not move to repeal them? Why has not Mr. Van Buren recommended their repeal? Can the people place confidence in those who daily cry out against acts, when done by others, and approve them when done by themselves or their Party? Shame!

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