

Abolitionists of Ontario



Fugitives and Freeman

Provincial Freeman, July 1 1854, page 2

A Slave Murdered in Virginia.

The following is from a letter from a gentleman who has been observing men and things at the South. It was written on the 20th ult. We extract an account of a horrid affair which occurred in Nelson county, Va., on the 18th, two days before the letter was written:

“I had not thought that so heart-rending a scene from ‘Uncle Tom’s Cabin’ would come under my own observation. Day before yesterday a slave, a young man in the prime of life, was whipped to death by the overseer of a plantation in this neighborhood. ‘He was worth \$1,000.’

The overseer tied him in the barn, and beat him for four hours. I am told that he was whipped for a very trifling offence.

When so exhausted that he fainted, the poor fellow was washed with brine, then whipped, and washed again. This was repeated six times. He was tied up soon after breakfast, and

released about one o’clock, and sent to the field to work. He fainted in the field. A shower came on, and he contrived to get into the barn, where he died.

While the overseer was beating him, he begged of him to shoot him; while he could speak, he kept moaning, ‘O massa!’ His master and mistress are not at home. There is great indignation in the neighborhood, but what they will do I cannot say.

This is not the first Legree I have heard tell about; but it is the first genuine Legree case that has fallen under my observation. The overseer has not been arrested, and moves about as if he had done nothing uncommon.”

—*Buffalo Democrat.*

“Self-reliance is the True Road to Independence”

Legree: the slave-owning villain of Harriet Beecher Stowe’s novel Uncle Tom’s Cabin. Simon Legree buys Tom at a slave market and puts him to work on his plantation. When Tom helps other slaves escape, Legree has him beaten to death.

Learn more at

<http://images.ourontario.ca/exhibits/476/exhibits/11>

Published May 2019

Handout from
ourdigitalworld.org

