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A Relic of Slavery.

There is a man in Landerdale county, Tennessee, who still insists upon holding in servitude two colord girls, the children of a woman he claimed to be the owner of in ante-bellum days. He was idicted in the United States Circuit Court, under the act of Congress which makes it a penal offense to carry away, any person with intent to sell him into slavery or to hold him as a slave, but it was decided that since the abolition of slavery this act cannot be enforced. The slaveholder consequently escaped the penalty. It seems that if the persons engaged in this prosecution, instead of seeking to punish the slaveholder under the provisions of an obsolete statute, had sued out a writ of habeas corpus, the two girls would have been set at liberty by a much simpler process.

This Tennessee Bourbon, who has for fourteen years refused to recognize the validity of the Thirteenth amendment to the Constitution, is not the only slaveholder in the South. At the close of the war a large number of the late slaveowners went before the local courts and had the small children of their former slaves bound to them under the provisions of the State laws. This was especially the case in the border states, where in many counties the Judges of the courts were only too willing to assist in perpetuating the "peculiar institution." Such of these children as have not arrived at twenty-one years of age, are held in involuntary servitude. As late as 1870 Judge Bond set children free in the lower counties of Maryland, who had been bound to their former masters without their own consent or that of their parents.

In the Corolinas and in the Gulf States the ex-slaveholders cling to the old customs with great tenacity. Their system of domestic discipline does not differ from that which obtained on the plantations in the "good old days." They still look upon the lash as the most efficacious and cheapest instrument of punishment, and wherever it can be used without subjecting those who wield it to a prosecution for assault it is constantly applied for offenses great and small. When the seceded States attempted to reconstruct themselves during the first two years of President Johnson's administration, the State Legislatures took special care to perpetuate the lash, the whipping-post and the compulsory servitude of minor colored children. The South Carolina Legislature in the somewhat celebrated "Act to regulate the domestic relations" prescribed the number of lashes that should be given for particular offences, and also named the hours at which the colored people should go to bed and get up in the morning.

A great deal of opprobrium has been heaped upon the so-called "carpet-bag rule" in the South, but in point of fact, if it had not been for the men of Northern birth who assisted in framing the new Constitutions of the seceded States, after President Johnson's plan of reconstruction had been overthrown, a system of involuntary apprenticeship would have taken the place of the institution which the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth amendment to the Constitution forever abolished. The Tennessee farmer who refused to recognize the validity of these great public acts is a fair representative of the men who would have made the Constitutions and laws of the Southern States if Congress had not assisted in the work of reconstruction.—*Philadelphia Press.*