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by J N

Submission date: 14-Jul-2021 05:29PM (UTC-0400)

Submission ID: 1619678504

File name: Chicago.docx (28.73K)

Word count: 793

Character count: 3973

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

Student's Name

Class Information

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African American History

Slavery in the United States stayed for long and caused immense reputation to the African American population. Both the authors Williams Wells-Brown and Wilson Harriet, presented a novel with a story concerning slavery in their life. The African Americans experienced tremendous challenges that they will not forget through slavery. The trade between the masters and the slaves was a perpetual practice of the most active passions, the most incessant absolutism on one side and humiliating plans on the other side. The slavery experiences were ruthless, tormenting, and full of inequality, which made the slaves use strategies such as getting help and the following religion to escape the experiences of sexual abuse from their masters because of their gender.

The experiences between the slaves and those that are free are enormous. For instance, as stated by¹, Curre was a mixed-race slave at the same time had two white daughters named Thomas Jefferson. Nevertheless, upon Jefferson's death, Curre, together with the daughters, were regarded as slaves and taken back to slavery. On the other hand, the slaves experienced inequality in their operations and life chores because of their color. Racism made the whites believe they are superior because of their color and treated the slaves as resistance and could tolerate doing a lot of work. For instance, Frado was taken as a slave by Mrs. Bellmont. Frado used to work on the assigned duties, which made her life deteriorate, and she became helpless and nervous as the room for Mr. Bellmont continues to be quiet². Furthermore, the same source

¹ Brown, William Wells. "Clotel; or, The President's Daughter: A Narrative of Slave Life in the United States. 1853." *Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's* (2000).

² Wilson, Harriet E. *Our Nig*. BoD—Books on Demand, 2018.

stated that Frado's nights became more serene, and she was unable to stand while working on her chores because Mrs. Belmont, who was white, had no sympathy for her.

Also, the experience of the slaves was tormenting because, despite the white realizing how the slaves suffer while working, they are not taken care of well. For instance, although Frado informed Mrs. Belmont concerning her sickness, she requires a response when asking something and thus results in hitting Frado blow and falling on the floor³. Furthermore, although Curre was living a good life with her husband, she also experienced challenges when the husband died because she was sold as a slave again to the master, a preacher, Mr. Peck. Mr. Peck did not develop a good relationship with Curre and thus did not care about the slave, making her die due to yellow fever⁴.

Both Curre and Frado had varying strategies for resisting their oppression. One of the ways of resisting the oppression used is through getting help. For instance, Curre used outside help from Mr. Peck's daughter, who needed to liberate her, although the plan did not complete because she had already died before the escape⁵. On the other hand, Frado used a different strategy because she opted to use fighting, which she did not do. Frado hoped that she could easily end her sadness by beating her oppressor to death⁶. Also, another strategy that worked was becoming a believer in God. Although Frado was reluctant to be the believer at first because she

³ Wilson, Harriet E. *Our Nig*. BoD—Books on Demand, 2018.

⁴ Brown, William Wells. "Clotel; or, The President's Daughter: A Narrative of Slave Life in the United States. 1853." *Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's* (2000).

⁵ Brown, William Wells. "Clotel; or, The President's Daughter: A Narrative of Slave Life in the United States. 1853." *Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's* (2000).

⁶ Wilson, Harriet E. *Our Nig*. BoD—Books on Demand, 2018.

did not believe in a heaven for the black, she later accepted and started to read the bible alone⁷. Similarly, this strategy is the same as Curre's in getting help because Aunt Abby helped her accept a concerned Jesus as her savior.

Gender played a key role to the masters because the slaves' roles differed based on gender in most cases. Therefore, both Curre and Frado are female and thus could easily face challenges such as rape or sexual abuse. Curre had daughters and thus was forced to leave her daughter when she was purchased by Mr. Peck and faced the challenges of seeing her daughters exploited sexually by the masters. For instance, Clotel was a common-law wife to Horatio Green, who later made her a slave⁸. Similarly, Frado is forced to do more chores than her masters' daughters because she is strong by stating that they are like black snakes that cannot be killed. Frado is forced to work on jobs that could be done with two girls.

In summation, slavery had substantial effects on the slaves. Frado and Curre had varying experiences with the whites because they were taken as property sold, subject to harsh living conditions, and their health deteriorated. Also, they developed strategies to escape the oppressors where Curre seek help and Frado joined the oppressors in religion. However, the female is more vulnerable than the male.

⁷ Wilson, Harriet E. *Our Nig*. BoD–Books on Demand, 2018.

⁸ Brown, William Wells. "Clotel; or, The President's Daughter: A Narrative of Slave Life in the United States. 1853." *Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's (2000)*.

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