

It often happens that whole families, husband, wife, and children, are separated by different purchasers, especially when they have not paid any part of their passage money. When a husband or wife has died at sea, when the ship has made more than half of its voyage, the survivor must pay or serve not only for himself or herself, but also for the deceased. When both parents have died over half-way at sea, their children, especially when they are young and have nothing to pawn or to pay, must stand for their own and their parents' debts, and serve till they are 21 years old. When one has served his or her term, he or she is entitled to a suit of clothes at parting; and if it has been so stipulated, a man gets in addition a horse and a cow.

When a serf has an opportunity to marry in this country, he or she must pay for each child or she would have yet to serve, 5 to 6 pounds. But many a one who has thus purchased a wife for his bride, has subsequently repented his bargain, so that he would gladly have sold her at an exorbitantly dear price, and lost the money besides.

If some one in this country runs away from his master, who has treated him harshly, and is taken far. Good provision has been made for such cases, so that a runaway is soon recovered. If a runaway detains or returns a deserter receives a good reward.

If such a runaway has been away from his master one day, he must serve for it as a week, for a week a month, and for a month half a year.

Text prepared by Garry Wiersma

for *From Revolution to Reconstruction - an HTML project.*

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