

SLAVES AND COLORED SERVANTS.

Colored servants were early owned or employed on the east side of the river. As early as 1653 the records concerning land division inform us about servants "as men have, that they have either bought or bought up." In Vol. LXXIX., p. 247, State Archives, is a petition from Richard Heard, to the effect that he had a negro man in His Majesty's service, in Capt. John Nixon's company, and that he was taken sick at Deerfield on his way home, and remained there sick for a long time; and that he had to take his two horses and go after him. He asked the General Court to consider his case, and the committee reported "twenty-five shillings in full to be paid to Col. John Noyes for the use of the Petitioner."

Rev. John Swift of Framingham disposed of five slaves by his will, one of whom, named Nero, he gave to Dr. Ebenezer Roby, his son-in-law, of Sudbury.

In the old burying ground are small slate stones that mark the graves of two colored persons, who were once evidently servants in the old Noyes family. On one of the stones is the following inscription:—

PETER BOAZ
A Coloured Man
Æt 63.

On the other stone is the inscription:—

FLORA
A Coloured Woman
Æt 91.

These graves are placed in an easterly and westerly direction at the foot of graves of the descendants of Mr. Peter Noyes, "gentleman," who came to America in the ship "Confidence" in 1638, and was one of the town's early grantees (see p. 2).

But few negroes were living in town a century and a half ago. The following is a statement of their number, as given in "Memoirs of Sudbury," which is a small sketch of Sudbury history, supposed to have been written by Rev. Israel Loring:—

Number of white people in town on both sides of the river	1,745
Number of Negroes, males	15
Number of Negroes, females	12
Total number of blacks	27

There is reason for supposing that colored people were held in a good degree of respect among the white inhabitants in whose families they lived. Dr. Israel Loring writes very kindly in his diary about a servant named Simeon, who was born and bred in his household, and died just after he arrived at the age of freedom. He writes: "April 30th, 1755, this morning Simeon was taken ill of colic, but soon recovered." "May 10th, Simeon died, aged 21. Altho' he partly recovered, he grew worse again. He was greatly beloved by the family, and has drowned us in tears. In the evening we committed the remains of Simeon to the grave. A great number of the congregation attended the funeral." The Sabbath following Mr. Loring preached a sermon on his death, taking his text from Ps. lxxxix. 48. In the central and older portion of the old burying ground at Sudbury Centre is a gravestone with the following inscription:—

Here Lies y^e Body of Simeon y^e
Once Faithful & Beloved
Servant of y^e Rv^d M^r Isra^l
Loring, who Died May y^e 10, 1755,
in y^e 22 Year of His Age.