

63. a piece of Ground which they cultivate at odd times when not wanted by their master. & produce all kind of vegetable. green corn for the Master lends them his team & they proceed to the nearest market Town or city & very quickly dispose of them to good advantage as the proprietors of Inns & Hotels are glad to purchase their produce - all the money they receive in this way is bonafide their own but they are expected to buy their clothes with it leaving them a good surplus of cash to do what they think proper with it not unfrequently happens with the Married slave that the husband & wife are separated perhaps 10 miles apart - in cases of this kind the husband is allowed to visit his wife for 2 days in the week - it is frequently the case that a slave or owner in possession of perhaps of 50 slaves will let them out as servants to tradesmen merchants & farmers for so much per Annum.

So that the situation of the slave is quite as comfortable under their master & mistress in Missouri as the situation of a servant in a free state with this melancholy exception they are not their own they are bought with a piece of character & organization. Once every year the slaves in Missouri have an holiday given them about Christmas or new Years when they meet together from all parts of the