

POLICE BRUTALITY: A READING OF CLOTEL AND THE GARIES AND THEIR FRIENDS

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Abstract:

The following paper belongs to African Diaspora in America. The aim of the paper is to show that there is police brutality in The United States of America not only in twenty-first century but it has a long history starting from slavery. Earliest African-American novels were written in the nineteenth century. Even though slavery was abolished in the Northern States of America, African-Americans were dehumanized and insulted. In 'The Garies and Their Friends', Webb highlighted that Blacks were considered as servants and inferior in the Free States. Lynching and maiming not only happened in twenty-first century but also in the nineteenth century. In both 'Clotel' and 'The Garies and Their Friends', there were instances of lynching. In the Southern States of America, plantations were the open prisons wherein Blacks were handcuffed, blind-folded and beaten. Since no importance was given to the lives of African-Americans, they were murdered and killed brutally. The racial prejudice is being carried forward from generation to generation. Thus, there are various instances of police brutality even today. Today, African-Americans should be respected. Love and humanity stand on a higher pedestal than colour, race, creed, gender or religion.

Keywords: Police Brutality, slavery, African-Americans, racial prejudice etc

In February 2012, George Zimmerman, a White neighborhood-watch volunteer shot an unarmed Black teenager Trayvon Martin as he thought the teenager looked 'suspicious'. Blacks Lives Matter Movement was co-founded as an online movement and formed in the United States to fight racism and Anti-Black violence, especially in the form of police brutality. The movement condemned the unjust killings of Blacks by Whites and demanded that the lives of Blacks matter just like Whites in the society. The movement expanded in 2014 after two Black unarmed men Eric Garner and Michael Brown were killed by the police. Garner was choked by

a police officer and died in New York. Michael Brown was shot and killed by another white police officer in Missouri. On 25 May, 2020 an African-American George Floyd was arrested by the police in Minneapolis after he was accused of using a counterfeit twenty dollars note at a local deli. After Floyd got out from his car on the order of the police, the police officers handcuffed him. A white police officer Derek Chauvin restrained Floyd and knelt on his neck for at least seven minutes. Floyd told them multiple times that “I can’t breathe” but no officer listened to him. The officer remained in that position even after Floyd became unconscious. In the process of pressing his neck, Floyd died and was murdered by the hands of the police.

National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) formed in 1909 was an inter-racial American organization created to work for the abolition of segregation and discrimination. It ensures constitutional rights to African-Americans. NAACP called the incident “public lynching without a rope.” Derek Chauvin was charged with second-degree murder in addition to third-degree murder and also charged with second-degree manslaughter. The other officers were charged as aiding and abetting in the death of an unarmed Black man. Many other unarmed Black and coloured men were beaten, shot and murdered by White men and police officers. These incidents cannot only be looked in its twenty first century context as police brutality has its own history.

The United States has a long, mired history of police brutality of African-Americans starting with slavery. Blacks were forced to work as slaves in plantations and as servants in the houses of Whites. They were dehumanized, exploited and harassed to work. In 1850, Fugitive Slaves Law was passed by Congress that required all escaped slaves to be returned to their owners and American citizens to cooperate with the captures. Northern states of America opposed this fugitive law and later became Free States. The intersection of race, class and colour had produced a dehumanized view of African-Americans that continued to influence their experiences with the Whites and police. There were different forms of police brutality like lynching, mayhem, maiming, castration, beatings, murder, torture, hanging, sexual assault and verbal abuse both in Slave and Free States. There were issues of police misconduct, racial bias and mass incarceration of Black males. Blacks were generally more likely to be beseeched, beaten and arrested by the police. They were the victims of police use of force and reported negative police experiences than members of other racial groups. African-Americans feared the unjust treatment of Whites. Social psychological research demonstrates subconscious mental associations between race and crime and suggests that police officers hold more racially biased and xenophobic attitudes than members of the general public.

Ward gave a term ‘slow violence’ that refers to the structural violence of deprivation that serves to establish economic inequalities and maintain relations of racial domination and subordination. These include physical violence, property destruction, racial resentment and distrust of police. The Blacks or African-American race was criminalized. They were

considered as criminals who were meant to bare torture and receive beatings. “Being a young Black male is to be associated with criminality, deviousness and violence and to be considered innately inferior, violent and animalistic; a person who should be feared. Black men deserve to be shot dead.” (Adedoyin, Christson et al, 6) Racial taxonomies justified the enslavement of Black people. Whites thought that they were the owners or masters of African-Americans and practiced police brutality by different means.

The aim of the paper is to chart out the concept and history of police brutality against Blacks in nineteenth century in order to lay down its foundation in twenty-first century. The analytical perspective is adopted to show how African-Americans were treated as criminals in Northern and Southern States of America through the earliest African-American novels ‘Clotel’ and ‘The Garies and Their Friends’ by William Wells Brown and Frank J. Webb respectively.

In the Slave States of America, the slave-patrols or paddy-rollers were one of the earliest and most prolific forms of policing. Slave-patrols first emerged in South-Carolina in the early 1700’s and later spread to different parts of the Southern States. They served as a proxy police to maintain not only law and order but also the system of enslavement. They was Whites, mostly men. They were known for their high level of police brutality and ruthlessness. There was both physical and psychological violence on African-Americans. The government passed laws like Black Codes which were against the protection of African-Americans. In 1705, a law was passed in Virginia that allowed for whipping and mutilation by slaveholders as punishment for crimes committed by the slaves. According to Maryland law passed in 1723, if an African-American struck a White person, his/hers ears were cut off as a punishment.

Slave-patrols included night watchers, slave-catchers and overseers to carry out their functions and responsibilities. Night-watchers were employed to prevent the escape of any African-American to the North and punished them if they found any. Slave- catchers were the White and free people who turned the runaway slaves over to law enforcement, put them into Negro- pens or prisons until their owners arrived or returned the runaway slaves to owners themselves. For these people, slave- catching was a business and found pleasure in doing it. They received rewards and compensations from the owners of the runaway slaves. Slave catchers often used dogs called ‘negro dogs’ to sniff out their targets. They were of multiple breeds but bloodhounds were very common. On the order of slave- catchers, dogs attacked a Negro and clanged to him as the “bull-dog will cling to the beast.” (Brown 60) However, there was no guarantee if the slave would be secured alive or dead when the dogs once got on his track. On the other hand, overseers were employed by the Whites who owned plantations to direct the daily tasks of the slaves to work well in order to earn greater profits.

By the early nineteenth century, print media was developed in the form of newspapers and posters. Advertisements were published both in newspapers and magazines. Frequently,

there were advertisements for books, medicines, lotteries and employments particularly for servants, horses, dogs and slave- auctions. When a slave ran away, the advertisements were published in the newspaper of a runaway slave with his or her name, description of the character mentioning how much white or dark he or she is, expected age, clothes and the price of reward which were signed by the owner of the slave. The slave catchers read newspapers every morning to carry out their business of hunting and slave-catching. Sometimes, they gave their advertisements mentioning which stock of dogs they own and if they were well-trained. They also mentioned different charges for hunting and taking a Negro along with the location of their residence.

Print media was used not only as an informative medium to make the Whites aware of slave auctions and the prices of slave-patrollers but also as a means of entertainment and deriving pleasure of reading the reports and articles of how a runaway slave was captured or punished.

In the novel 'Clotel', Brown gave an account of different advertisements published in the newspapers in the vicinity and highlighted how slave catchers hunted their "Negroes who believe in the doctrine that all men are created free." (Brown 59) In his advertisement, William Gambrel, the slave-catcher mentioned that he bought the entire pack of dogs which were of the Hay and Allen stock. He also mentioned that his charges for hunting and catching a runaway would be three dollars a day and fifteen dollars respectively along with his place of residence i.e. three and a half miles north of Livingston. The other advertisement was by a slave -catcher James W. Hall who mentioned that he lived on Carroway Lake and was ready with his well trained dogs to hunt 'runaway Negroes'. He also mentioned his terms and conditions for hunting and catching slaves.

There were many prisons or 'Negro pens' wherein Whites chained and whipped Blacks. They made false-arrests of African-Americans as they found pleasure in it. African-Americans were collected or occupied together before taking them to the slave-auctions and slave markets or after slave-auctions to hand them over to their respective masters. They were handcuffed, blind-folded and chained so that they cannot escape from the cells and prisons. They were not given sufficient food or water. Before selling the slaves, their owners and slave-speculators trained them to earn greater profits. Their marketing strategy was to purchase slaves who were old in low prices and tried to sell them for five or ten years younger than they actually were to get a good sum of profits. During training, the slaves were flogged and beaten if they committed mistakes.

In the novel 'Clotel', Dick Walker was the slave speculator. After he purchased Curren and her youngest daughter Althesa, he had put them in prison until his 'gang of slaves' was made up before starting a journey for the New Orleans slave market. He wanted to start the

journey early in the morning so that he could not witness the common scenes of separation of slaves with their family members or relatives. When they started sailing for New Orleans, Walker called his servant Pompey and instructed him to 'getting the Negroes ready for the market'. For a long time, Pompey was the servant of Dick Walker and he knew his business well. When Pompey was training a man of appearance who was not less than forty, he ordered the man that he is not forty but thirty years old. The man replied that he was more than thirty but he was threatened by Pompey. Pompey told him when someone in the market ask him his age, he should reply 'thirty' or the master would tie him up and 'whip like smoke'.

On the fourth day, while at Natchez, Dick Walker was on the shore to see some of his old customers accompanied by a clergyman Mr. Peck. When Mr. Peck told Walker that he wanted a woman for house service, Curren was sold to him. When the boat arrived at New Orleans, the passengers went to the hotels and the slaves went to the slave market. Since the slave auction was the next day after their arrival, Dick Walker took his quarters at a slave pen with 'his gang of human cattle'. The slave- pen was a large two story flat building surrounded by a stone wall. It was twelve feet high and its top was covered with bits of glass. The building was constructed as to prevent the possibility of anyone passing over it without getting any injury. In the building, many rooms resembled cells in a prison. There was a store room wherein iron collars, hobbles, handcuffs, thumbscrews, cowhides, whips, chains, gags and yokes were kept.

Similarly, in the novel 'The Garies and Their Friends', Frank J. Webb gave instances to show the harshness of proxy police in the form of slave patrols. Emily told Mr. Garie that after Celeste's husband was killed, their property was mortgaged to the worst White man of Savannah Mac Turk. He possessed all their property and imprisoned Celeste with her children in a slave-pen from which they would be sold to the 'highest bidder at a sheriff's sale'.

Before buying slaves, many overseers and masters examined them in order to know how much a person was whipped. If the number of marks on a slave's body were less, then he was a good slave or otherwise he was not.

In the chapter 'The Slave Market' of 'Clotel', a cotton planter interviewed a slave named Aaron on the day of the sale of slaves. When the cotton planter asked Aaron to show his back to see the number of marks he was lashed, he hesitated. After Pompey ordered him to examine his limbs, Aaron unstrapped himself. Moreover, the cotton planter told Aaron that if he failed to complete the daily task in the cotton field, he would receive 'five stripes from the cat' for each pound that was left to complete.

Similarly, in Frank J. Webb's 'The Garies and Their Friends', George Winston had been a slave. He was the son of a mulatto field-hand by her master. He was sold in the auction-

block in the neighboring town of Savannah. Winston like many other African-Americans was considered a puppet that had to follow the orders of his masters without thinking. Webb wrote that he had been 'made to jump', 'show his teeth', 'shout to test his lungs', and had been 'handled and examined' by negro-traders and amateur buyers. Like many slaves, he was not given a proper cloth to cover himself and sustained his life on very less food i.e. a peck of corn for an entire week. He was beaten, kicked, received curses and verbal abuse from his overseer.

Lynching was very common in United States of America especially in the Slave States. It refers to a form of violence in which a mob, under the pretext of administering justice without trial executes a defender, often after inflicting torture and corporal mutilation. There were Lynch courts that imposed sentence on a Black or coloured person without due process of law. "Lynching became an effective tool of policing Black communities and for depicting Black males as a social problem." (Adedoyin, A. Christson et al, 6) From 1881 to 1968 more than 4,000 lynching cases were recorded, and 70% were Black males. The common practice among Whites was to burn the slaves alive in front of other slaves to set an example among African-Americans for the crime they might commit. The practice of mayhem or maiming was also very common during nineteenth century. It refers to maliciously injuring or maiming the enemy, so as to render the enemy defenseless. Whites shot or whipped slaves only to wound and make them weak to fight back but sometimes they died.

In the South, plantations became the open prisons wherein Blacks or coloured people were brutally treated by whites. They were chained, whipped and lashed from different weapons like cow-skin, hatchets, cats, sticks, and hickory slats until blood flowed on the grounds. On the plantations, there were murders, executions and lynching of African-Americans by proxy police. Though, they were not given sufficient food to eat and clothes to wear especially during cold weathers they had to work in the plantations or they were punished.

In the novel 'Clotel', Brown described the scene of slave hunt that took place near Natchez. Two slaves had run away from their masters knowing the brutal punishment they would receive if they are caught. The dogs were put on the scent of the slave before their trial. The slaves went into the swamps with the hope that the dogs would not be able to follow them through the water. The dogs soon took the swamp. They swam all the time but could not find them. The slaves were ahead of the dogs and slave-catchers. When the scent became warmer, the cry of the dogs became louder indicating that the enemies were not very far. When the slaves were found, one of them climbed the tree but the other's leg was seized by the catch-dog and brought him on the ground. After this, the slave was captured but the other one in the tree was ordered to come down. When he refused, a gun was pointed towards him as a warning which caused him to obey the order. When he came down on the ground, he tried to make another escape but failed. While being tied, the slave resisted which was an unpardonable offence. A mob was collected together and a lynch court was held to determine the justice. The

lynch court decided that the Negro should be burnt at stake. The boy was taken and chained at the Union Point i.e. on the banks of the Mississippi. Nearly four thousand slaves were collected from the plantations to witness the scene. Faggots were collected and piled around him. When he was asked to say his last words, he warned everyone to take an example from him and asked for the prayers all around. Then the torches were lighted, placed in a pile which ignited. The curling flame grew, began to intertwine itself and feed upon his body. He sent forth cries of agony and begged someone to blow his brains out. When the staple with which the chain was fastened to the tree drew out, he leaped from the burning pile. Several bullets were shot from many rifles and he died. He was picked up by two to three men and again threw him into the fire. Numerous speeches were made by the magistrates and ministers of religion to the long concourse of slaves, warning and telling them that the same fate awaited them if they rebelled against their owners.

In the chapter 'The Poor Whites, South' of 'Clotel', Carlton and Synder were sitting down to dinner in the overseer Ned Huckelby's dwelling. The preacher Synder talked about the case of one of their neighbours- Mr J. Higgerson. When the master was flogging the wife of his slave, the slave resisted, drew a knife and stabbed his master in several places. Mr. Hobbs stopped to pick up a stick to strike the Negro but the Negro rushed upon him and caused his immediate death. The Negro fled to the woods but was chased by the dogs and slave-catchers. He stopped in the swamps to fight the dogs but he was ordered to give up when the party of slave-catchers came upon him. The slave made several attempts to stab them. Mr. Roberson gave him several blows on the head with a rifle gun in order to injure him so that he could not fight back. This is the practice known as mayhem. Later, he discharged his gun at the Negro. The bullets struck Mr Boon in the face and fall on the ground. The Negro attempted to rush up and stab him but was prevented by the interference of someone from the party. He was shot three times with a revolving pistol and his throat was cut and was thus murdered.

Similarly in 'Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass', Douglass described a scene wherein a slave named James was murdered in the plantation. When he was resold to his second master he was threatened that he would be lashed if he did not go to the woods. He was "cut by the cow skin, half-naked, half-starved and without the means of procuring a crust of bread." (Jacobs 43) When he tried to escape, he was captured, tied and carried back on his master's plantation. After he received many lashes in 'his jail', the master decided to place James between the screws of the cotton gin. He was cut with the whip from his head to his feet. After they washed his wounds with strong brine so that he could not heal sooner and suffer more pain, he was again placed into the cotton gin. James was sent into a small cell on the plantation. Every morning a slave was sent to James to give bread and water but he soon died. The overseers killed and murdered African-Americans mercilessly. They were so inhumane that they glorified and boasted of their killing of Negroes.

In 'Clotel', Brown mentioned that Harry was a slave of Mr. Peck and lived in the farm. His wife lived in his town. One day he went to see his wife. When he did not return in time, overseer Huckelby flogged him and he returned to Mr. Peck. Georgiana wanted her father Mr. Peck to keep Harry in town so that he could see his wife but her father replied that he could not spare him from the farm. Then, Mr. Peck flogged him and ordered him to go back to his place of work. Since Harry knew that he would be punished again by Huckelby, he went to the woods to hide himself and then later swam across the river. Mr. Peck went with some slave-catchers and a pack of 'Negro-dogs' to hunt his slave Harry. He was soon caught by the dogs but Harry fought them with great courage. Mr. Peck feared that he would escape from the dogs and thus, shot at him 'only to would him' but he was killed and murdered.

Similarly, in 'Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass' Douglass mentioned there was a cruel overseer Mr. Severe. Douglass wrote, "the field was the place to witness his cruelty and profanity. His presence made it both the field of blood and of blasphemy." (Douglass 11)

In the novel 'Garies and Their Friends', Mr. Garie asked for the applications for the selection of a proper overseer of his plantations when he decided to go to North with his family. He mentioned that even the overseers who were so cruel applied for the job. He mentioned that 'traitors', 'mean', 'weasen-faced' had put their claims for consideration. "Shot, thick-set men with fierce faces who glorified in the fact that they had at various times killed refractory Negroes who presented themselves to undergo the necessary examinations." (Webb 86)

There were small pens and prisons on the plantations to keep the slaves imprisoned. In her father's office, Jane was strongly attached to Volney Lapuc, a young Frenchman. When her master got to know about this, he termed 'obstinacy' on her part and placed her in in a 'forest prison' situated near the junction of the Mississippi River with the sea in a dense forest. There were only Negroes around her. He called the upper chamber of prison as her 'home' until she yielded to his wishes. When her master was on a hunting excursion, he saw Jane descending from her chamber with the help of her lover. The owner was so enraged and he shot him from the rifle. The man had fallen at the feet of his mistress and the blood was flowing on the ground. After the murder of her lover, Jane died after some days.

Similarly, in 'In Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl' by Harriet A. Jacobs, there was a planter – Mr. Litch. He owned six hundred slaves and his plantation were managed by 'well-paid overseers'. Jacobs wrote that "there was a jail and whipping post on his grounds; and whatever cruelties were perpetrated there, they passed without comment." (Jacobs 41)

When Brown was writing the novel there were 'four million of bond slaves in the United States'. Brown wrote "the infusion of Anglo- Saxon with African blood had created an

insurrection feeling among the slaves of America.”(Brown 179) Nat Turner was a preacher amongst the Negroes and was loved by them. He was also respected by the Whites. He was born and brought up as a slave. He had heard the sound of a whip, saw the warm blood streaming from the Negro’s body , witnessed separation and saw so much violence that he thought that ‘the slave could expect no justice at the hand of the slave owner’. In 1831, he led a slave insurrection in Southampton, Virginia. He thought that it was his duty to lead his people out of bondage. There were around hundred revolted Negroes and was joined by Picquilo who hid in the Dismal Swamps.

The Dismal Swamps covered many thousand acres of land. This was the hiding place for many runaway slaves and some resided there for many years. Picquilo was kidnapped from the coast of Africa and was smuggled to Cuba and Virginia. He had built a cave in the swamp with his wife. All the Negroes were arrested and put into prisons. When the arrest of Clotel was announced in all the newspapers, there was violence and bloodshed. The Blacks and coloured people started revolting but the revolt was brought to an end. The Whites massacred blacks without pity. No graves were dug for the Negroes and their dead bodies became the food for animals like dogs and vultures. The Whites and slave-catchers had put bloodhounds in the dismal swamps to hunt the remaining revolters. Most of the insurgents were either put to death or sent out of the state but George was imprisoned.

He was the slave of Horatio Green and his father was an American statesman. He was white as most white persons and was often taken for a free white coloured man. George had set fire in the court and was put on trial for participating in the revolt. The city judges and lawyers were pleased to term this as a ‘meritorious act’. His trial was pulled off continuously and imprisoned him for more than a year. At last, he was sentenced to be hanged within ten days’ time. When the judged asked him to say anything before death, he told him that when he heard his master read the Declaration of Independence “that all men are created free and equal”, and “all wars and fighting for freedom were just and right”, he thought that he was not wrong in participating in insurrection. (Brown 190)George also said, “We are kept in heathenish darkness by laws expressly enacted to make our insurrection a criminal offence.” (Brown 191) Since George was a slave and example must be made of him for other slaves, he was sentenced and imprisoned again. Mary was also the slave of Mr. Green where George worked. With the help of Mary, George reached the Free States and travelled on his way to Canada. The court compelled Mr. Green to sell her out of state and she was sold to a Negro trader who took her in New Orleans market. She was put in the ‘Negro Pen’ along with others to await the close of Sabbath.

In ‘Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave’ Douglass mentioned that “killing a slave or a coloured person was not considered a crime either by the courts or the community in Maryland.” (Douglas 24) There was a character in the novel named

Mr. Austin Gore. He was the cruel overseer and was most dreaded by the slaves. He whipped Colonel Lloyd's slave who was called Demby. Demby ran and plunged himself into a creek and refused to come out even after overseer gave three calls. Mr. Gore was so enraged that he killed him from his musket in his plantation. He thought that to set an example among slaves, he had to be killed. He argued that "if one slave refused to be corrected and escaped with his life the other slaves would soon copy the example; the result of which would be the freedom of the slaves and the enslavement of the whites." (Douglass 23) The crime was not submitted to judicial investigation as blacks or coloured people could neither institute a suit nor testify against whites.

Thus, during the nineteenth century countless African-Americans were killed. They were forced to slavery and to live in harsh conditions. They were tied up in chains, handcuffed, whipped regularly and not given sufficient food to eat. They were not considered as human beings and treated even worse than the 'Negro-dogs' of slave-catchers.

Initially, sheriffs, constables and citizen-based watch groups were responsible for policing in the colonies. Sheriffs were responsible for catching criminals, working with the courts and collecting taxes. In Colonial America, day and night watch groups were largely ineffective. Instead of controlling crime, some members of the group would sleep or socialize while they were on duty. They patrolled the streets in an unorganized and erratic manner. In the early 1800s, publically funded police departments began to emerge across both England and Colonial America. In 1829, Sir Robert Peel introduced the Bill for Improving the Police in and Near the Metropolis to Parliament with the goal of creating a police force to manage the social conflict resulting from urbanization and industrialization that was taking place in London.

He is often referred to as the Father of Modern Policing as due to his efforts the first modern police department known as London Metropolitan Police was established. He played an integral role in the creation of police department as well as gave several basic principles that guided the formation of different police departments in the United States. He thought that police must be under government control. Moreover, police should have a military-like organizational structure and a central headquarters that was located in an area that was easily accessible to the public. Police officers should wear proper police forms and badge numbers so that citizens could identify them.

This idea was adopted by different American police agencies during the nineteenth century. During this time, first preventive patrol emerged as a way to deter criminal activity. "The idea was that citizens would think twice about committing crimes if they noticed a strong police presence in their community." In the early nineteenth century, modern law enforcement were centralized municipal police departments that first established in Boston and later in New York, Philadelphia and other parts of America. In the novel 'Clotel', William Wells Brown

through the character of William wrote, "Liberty in the so-called Free States was more a name than a reality; that prejudice followed the coloured man into every place that he might enter." (Brown 150)

Similarly, Frank J. Webb through the character of Winston wrote, "from all I can learn, the free coloured people in the Northern cities are very badly off. I've been frequently told that they suffer dreadfully from want and privations of various kinds." (Webb 72)

In the nineteenth century, Northern States of America were industrially advanced and boasted on being cosmopolitan place. Though they were considered as Free States, African-Americans were discriminated and dehumanized. Many blacks and coloured people were the servants and labour for the Whites. Moreover, they were considered as 'second-class citizens'. The government did not provide protection for Blacks and in some situations they created a non-protective environment by passing the law of segregation i.e. Jim Crow that economically and socially marginalized Blacks. The police did not take any efforts to protect African Americans and sometimes murdered them as they gave no importance to their lives. During nineteenth century, incidents of police corruption and misconduct were very common. Corrupt activities were often related to politics. These included rigging elections and make those people as leaders who could help them in committing illegal activities like lynching of African-Americans at night. If police officers thought that people misbehaved in a certain way or acted in an unlawful manner, they used violence. If any African-American filed a complaint against any White, police officers did not take any interest. Police supervisors and local courts usually sided with police officers.

In 'The Garies and Their Friends', Mr. Thomas Stevens was the neighbour of Mr Garie and his family. He was a pettifogging attorney who earned income from a disreputable legal practice picked up by the courts that held their sessions in the different halls of State Houses. He helped out the murderers and thieves from getting arrested, threatened and bribed the people who had evidences against a person who committed crime.

White police arrested African-Americans even if they did not commit any crime. They found pleasure in torturing and humiliating them. Also, the crimes that were committed by Whites were put on African-Americans and the lawyers deleted all the evidences in order to save their own race and people.

In 'The Garies and Their Friends' One day when Stevens' children George and Lizzy were sitting opposite to each other, the boy George was playing with a small fly trap, wherein he had 'imprisoned a vast number of buzzing sufferers'. When Lizzy asked him to free the insects, he "brought the lid down upon them with a force that completely demolished them." (Webb 173) Metaphorically, this meant that a large number of innocent African-Americans

were imprisoned and trapped by the White police. Moreover, he said that he went to the jail with his father where people were locked up. He said, "I mean to be a jailer some of these days." (Webb 174) This incident shows that racial prejudice was carried from generation to generation by parents. Even the children like George wanted to treat the innocent Blacks and coloured people cruelly and without any human feeling or emotion.

There was lynching not only in Slave States but also in Free States. African-Americans were massacred and killed brutally by the hands of Whites. Whites did not give any value to their lives and thought they were meant to be insulted.

In the novel 'The Garies and Their Friends', Mr. Morton went to Mr. Thomas Stevens' office. Mr. Morton wanted to purchase property at low price in order to sell them at higher prices for greater profits. He told Mr. Morton that a strong feeling existed in the society against Abolitionists and that feeling should be guided in a way that serve their purposes and beneficial to them. Mr. Stevens made a scheme to get hands on a large piece of property at low prices in the lower part of the city that was owned by 'niggers'. Mr. Stevens told him if 'they could 'create a mob and direct it against them', they would leave the quarter for protection and run away to save themselves. Once the mob was aroused and leaders were under control, they could direct the energies against any parties they desire and render the district so unsafe, the property would be lessened in value, the houses would rent properly and many proprietors would be happy to sell at reduced prices.

He also told that he could control the elections in the district and place those people in the office that could benefit them. Mr. Morton told him that he would discuss the plan with one of his friends Carson who would also be interested. Mr. Stevens soliloquized, "I look like a murderer already. I must plot, watch and wait." (Webb 232) Later, he was engaged in promoting his riot scheme and already "several disturbances had occurred, in which a number of offensive coloured people had been injured in their persons and property." (Webb 241) In the public journals, many articles were written by Mr. Stevens, Mr. Morton and his friends. In the journals, coloured people were denounced and it was averred that their insolence had become unbearable since the commencement of the abolition agitation. Thus, they thought that in order to teach them a lesson that 'they were still Negroes' and 'to remain in their proper place in the body politic' it was necessary to inflict violence.

When Mr. Stevens asked McCloskey about the progress, the latter replied that one or two Blacks were half killed and one house was set on fire which was later burnt up completely. Mr Stevens was not happy with the very less damage done and told him that he should have beaten 'every darky out'. McCloskey told him that that it was difficult to kill African-Americans as there was a fear of being arrested to which Mr. Stevens replied that he had

everything under control. Mr. Stevens ordered him to attack a coloured man's house with a mob and shoot him. McCloskey said, "You talk of murder as it was a mere play." (Webb 246)

Mr. Stevens made a list of places to be attacked by the mob on a piece of paper which he dropped by mistake. When Mr. Walter read the places to be attacked, he saw that many coloured people's addresses were enlisted including the nigger church. Mr. Walter identified the handwriting and went to the mayor's office to seek protection. He went to the private office of the Chief- magistrate of the city and told him that a thoroughly- concerted plan was afoot for the destruction of the property of a large number of our coloured citizens including his house. He also mentioned that the mayor would be aware of the disturbances in the city. The mayor replied, "But I believed they were nothing more than the trifling combats between the African-Americans and the whites in that vicinity." Mr. Walter told him that there was an 'organized gang of villains' to mob the coloured citizens and deserve protection. When he showed the list of places to be attacked, the mayor replied that he could not prevent it and could only offer two to three policemen for his protection and said, "Perhaps it is only rumour after all." (Webb 279)

Webb wrote, "Although the authorities of the district had received the most positive information of the nefarious schemes of the rioters, they had not made the slightest efforts to protect the poor creatures threatened in their person and property, but let the tide of lawlessness flow on unchecked." (Webb 280)

Mr. Walters had converted his place into a 'temporary fortress' and many African-Americans took shelter at his home. Mr. Walters along with some other people made preparations to fight against the mob. Guns were stacked in corner, pistols were laid upon the mantelpiece and a pile of cartridges were heaped up beside a small keg of gun powder. Esther told Mr. Walters that they had never done any injury to 'white wretches' but still they were accused 'of nothing but being darker than themselves'. Esther learnt to load the guns from him so that she could defend against the mob and be of little help. Many of Walters' friends gave reports of the design of a mob. They told him that an attempt had been made to fire one of the coloured churches and the houses of Abolitionists were threatened. One of them also mentioned, "the authorities were not using the slightest effort to restrain them, or to protect the authorities threatened." (Webb 287) One of the members said, "the whole of the lower part of the city appears to be in a blaze." (Webb 291)

The mob was armed with 'clubs', 'guns' and 'pistols'. They had let the missiles open and threw stones that crushed the windows of the chamber of Mr. Walters's house. One person in the mob shouted, "the house is full of niggers!" Some people in the mob screamed, "Shoot them! Kill them!" (Webb 294) The mob started firing and the coloured people shot to defend themselves. Kinch and Caddy had put two or three pounds of cayenne pepper on the heads of the crowd and then threw hot water on them. When Mr. Ellis left Mr. Walter's home to make Mr. Garie aware of the mob and protect them, he found himself in the 'midst of a gang or

ruffians'. Mr. Ellis was beaten and the mob thought that he died. Then the mob went to Mr. Garies' house and killed Mr. Garie by discharging a pistol on his head. Mrs. Garie tried to rescue her children but died during child-birth.

Charlie was the son of Mr Ellis who was away from his hometown. He received a letter from his sister Caddy wherein she wrote that their home was destroyed and their father Mr. Ellis was beaten. When Charlie came back to his hometown, Cady told him that 'white devils' had done many injuries to their family and other coloured people. Charlie went to meet his father in his hospital. He heard his father muttered that the mob was coming and there were 'thousands of them'. They carried 'guns', 'sword' and 'clubs'. Then, his father told him that the mob had come and buried his face in the shawl as he trembled in an agony of fright.

To sum up, there was police brutality in both the Slave and Free States. In Slave States, there was police brutality by slave patrollers. On the other hand, in Free States, there were constables, sheriffs, and police in their formal uniforms to brutally treat African-Americans even if they did not commit any crime. 'Clotel' by William Wells Brown shows how African-Americans were treated in the Slave States. Like in prisons, African-Americans were chained, beaten, whipped and lashed in plantations by different weapons like hatchets, sticks and cow-skins. In 'Garies and Their Friends' Frank J.

Webb shows how Blacks and coloured people were discriminated and murdered even in the Free States where slavery was abolished. Though the States were named as 'Free', blacks were not allowed to vote, were considered as servants and as criminals. Though African-Americans were innocent, they were imprisoned and tortured. In both Slave and Free States, many murders took place by shooting African-Americans with rifles, pistols, missiles or muskets or by beating. There was lynching and mob violence wherein many African-Americans and Abolitionists were killed. They thought that the lives of African-Americans do not matter in the society. The judicial system was corrupted. They passed Black Codes and Jim Crow law in the United States of America to make the living conditions of African-Americans very difficult and cruel. The magistrates and judges passed their orders against the protection of African-Americans. In Free States, police, lawyers and mayors were not interested to provide any support and help to African-Americans. They thought that it was not important to save the lives of Black coloured people. Though Africans have their own culture and value system, Whites thought that they were barbaric and lack culture. Thus, African-Americans could not breathe the air of liberty, equality and fraternity in the nineteenth century in America.

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