Those on the land had mats, of which they made tents, some in the shape of little houses. In these we slept; and after the morning meal we embarked again, and proceeded as before. I was often very much astonished to see some of the women, as well as the men, jump into the water, dive to the bottom, come up again, and swim about. Thus I continued to travel, sometimes by land, sometimes by water, through different countries, and various nations, till, at the end of six or seven months after I had been kidnapped, I arrived at the sea coast.

2. Six Advertisements for Virginia Slave Runaways, 1736, 1767

Virginia Gazette (Parks), October 29 to November 5, 1736.

RAN away Two Negro Men Slaves; One of them called Poplar, from my House in King William County, some Time in June last; He is a lusty well-set likely Fellow, of a middle Stature, upwards of 30 Years old, and talks pretty good English: The other called Planter, from my Plantation in Roy's Neck, in the County of King and Queen, about the Month of August following. He is a young Angola Negro, very black, and his Lips are remarkably red. He is supposed to be in Company with an old Negro Fellow belonging to Col. Corbin, of a yellowish Hue, his Hair is like a Madagascar's, and to be gone towards Spotsylvania. Whoever brings the said Negroes, or either of them to my House aforesaid, shall be paid a Pistole Reward for each: Or if already apprehended, any Person giving Notice thereof, so as they, or either of them, may be had again, shall be reasonably rewarded by

Benjamin Needler.

N.B. the Negroe Poplar is Outlaw'd.

Virginia Gazette (Purdie & Dixon), April 16, 1767.

RUN AWAY from the subscriber in Norfolk, about the 20th of October last, two young Negro fellows, viz. WILL, about 5 feet 8 inches high, middling black, well made, is an outlandish fellow, and when he is surprised the white of his eyes turns red; I bought him of Mr. Moss, about 8 miles below York, and imagine he is that way, or some where between York and Williamsburg. PETER, about 5 feet 9 inches high, a very black slim fellow, has a wife at Little Town, and a father at Mr. Philip Burt's quarter, near the half-way house between Williamsburg and York; he formerly belonged to Parson Fontaine, and I bought him of Doctor James Carter. They are both outlawed; and TEN POUNDS a piece offered to any person that will kill the said Negroes, and bring me their heads, or THIRTY SHILLINGS for each if bought home alive.

JOHN BROWN.
Virginia Gazette (Purdie & Dixon), May 7, 1767.

KING WILLIAM, April 29, 1767.

RUN away from the subscriber, on Monday the 20th of this Instant, a Mulatto slave, named DAVID GRATENREAD: he is an arch fellow, very well known by most people, plays the fiddle extremely well, has a wide mouth, a little piece bit out of one of his ears, has a large bump upon one of his shins, about 37 years of age, 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high, and may perhaps change his name, and pretend to pass as a free man; he carried with him a new brown cloth waistcoat, lappelled, lined with white taminy, and yellow gilt buttons, a new pair of buckskin breeches, gold laced hat, a fine Holland shirt, brown cut wig, and several old clothes that I cannot remember, except an old lappelled kersey waistcoat. I believe he has carried his fiddle with him. He may endeavour to get on board some vessel, and make his escape out of the colony; I therefore forewarn all masters of vessels, or others, from harbouring him. Whoever apprehends the said runaway, and brings him to me, or commit him to any goal, so that I get him again, shall have FIVE POUNDS reward if taken in this colony, if out thereof TEN POUNDS.

RICHARD KING.

Virginia Gazette (Purdie & Dixon), December 17, 1767.

RUN away from the subscriber, a Mulatto fellow named AARON, about 5 feet 10 inches high, about 19 years old, and marked on each cheek IR. Whoever brings the said fellow to the subscriber, in Chesterfield, shall have Forty Shillings reward, besides what the law allows.

HENRY RANDOLPH.

Virginia Gazette (Purdie & Dixon), January 28, 1768.

NORTHAMPTON, Dec. 14, 1767.

RUN away from the subscriber, a very white Mulatto wench, named ANNAS. She is thick, well made, about 5 feet high, and had on when she went away a country cloth jacket, black with white stripes, branded on the right cheek E, and on the left R, but cannot be discerned except near to her; and observing her nicely there are several cuts on the back part of her neck, and a scar upon her left side. I expect she will try to get on board some vessel, therefore forewarn all Captains from receiving her on board. Whoever takes her up, and brings her to me in Northampton county, shall have Forty Shillings reward, besides what the law allows.

EDWARD RUTLAND.

Virginia Gazette (Purdie & Dixon), October 1, 1767.

RUN AWAY from the subscriber, the 22nd of this instant, three slaves, viz. JUPITER, alias GIBB, a Negro fellow, about 35 years of age, about 6 feet high, knock kneed, flat footed, the right knee bent in more than the left, has several scars on his back from a severe whipping he lately had at Sussex court-house, having been tried there for stirring up the Negroes to an insurrection, being a great Newlight preacher. ROBIN, about 25 years of age, a stout fellow, about 6 feet high, has a film over one of his eyes, a sore on one of his shins, and is brother to Gibb. DINAH, an old wench, very large, near 6 feet high; she has a remarkable stump of a thumb, occasioned by a whitlow, by which the bones of the first joint came out, and is mother to the two fellows. They carried with them a variety of clothes, among the rest an old blue duffil great coat, one bearskin do, a scarlet jacket, and a fine new linen shirt. It is supposed they will endeavour to make their escape to the Southward. Whoever takes up, and conveys to me the above slaves, shall have a reward of 50 s. for each of the fellows and 20 s. for the wench, if taken in Virginia; if in any other government, 5 l. for each of the fellows, and 40 s. for the wench, paid by GEORGE NOBLE.

3. Early Slave Conversion Attempts of Francis Le Jau, an Anglican Minister, 1706–1717

As for the Spiritual State of my Parish this is the Account I can give of it for the present.

The extent of it is 20 Miles in length, and from 7 to 14 in breadth. Number of families 80, of the Church of England. Dissenting families 7, if so many, I find but 4 very strict. Baptised this half year past a Married Woman and 17 Children. Actual Communicants in all about 50; Constant Communicants every two Months near 30, among whom are two Negroes.

Since I came I baptised in all 2 Adults & 47 Children. Our Congregation is generally of about 100 Persons, sometimes more, several that were inclinable to some of the dissenting parties shew themselves pretty constant among us, and I do what possible to edify them and give them satisfaction in their doubts. On Sunday next I design God willing to baptise two, very sensible and honest Negro Men whom I have kept upon trial these two Years. Several others have spoken to me also; I do nothing too hastily in that respect. I instruct them and must have the consent of their Masters with a good Testimony and proof of their honest life and sober Conversation: Some Masters in my parish are very well satisfied with my Proceedings in that respect: others do not seem to be so; yet they have given over opposing my design openly; it is to be hoped the good Example of the one will have an influence over the others. I must do the Justice to my Parishioners that the many Young Gentlemen are Masters of Great Estates, they and almost all the heads of all our Neighbouring families are an Example of Sobriety, honest & Zeal for the Service of the Church to all the province.

To remove all pretence from the Adult Slaves I shall baptise of their being free upon that Account, I have thought fit to require first their consent to this following declaration You declare in the Presence of God and before this Congregation that you do not ask for the holy baptism out of any design to free yourself from the Duty and Obedience you owe to your Master while you live, but merely for the good of Your Soul and to partake of the Graces and Blessings promised to the Members of the Church of Jesus Christ. One of the most Scandalous and common Crimes of