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## Entry Nr. 029 Démocrite

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*Text of Account:*

Original French –

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[Interrogation of Démocrate, July 29, 1766]

“Interrogé sil connoit un negre nommé francisco

A Dit qu’un samedi au soir Ce negre francisco fut danser ches eux qui ne Le Connoissoit pas pour Marron, quil payoit Grossement Le tambour et fezoit La cour aux Negresses, que tous dizoient voila un negre bien Riche, quil Dansa et s’en fut ensuite quun autre Jour en plen Midy il Retourna chez eux, avec un panier dizant que son maitre Lanvoÿoit chercher des oeufs qu’on Luy rempli son panier et quil avoir tiré de sa poche un gros Billet qu’on ne peu changer que nonobstant il emporta Les oeufs avec promesse de venir payer aussitôt quil auroit changé qu’une autre fois il fut encore danser, mais quil fezoit Limpertinent et insultoit Les negresses ce quil fit que Le negre hector luy dit voila un b. qui vient icy faire Le fanfaron que nous ne Connoissons point, Retire toi, va ten, nous n’avons pas bezoin que tu paye le tambour garde ton argent et Retire toi Surquoy francisco luy dit si tu etoy à la levée je te ventreray alors hector luy arracha un batton qu’il avoit et luy en donna une bonne volée, luy dizant que la premiere fois qu’il reviendrait chez eux il le ferait amarrer pour luy donner le fouet à quatre piquet, que depuis ce tems la il ne l’avoient pas vu jusqu’a un jour qu’il le recontra pres de chez mr. La

houssaÿe que luy deposant étant avec un autre negre l’entendirent qu’il babilloit avec une negresse et qu’il dit alors, voila le negre qui fezoit tant le fanfaron chez nous, il est

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marron il faut l’arreter qu’aussitot il luy sauta dessus, et l’accuzé luy dit attends et mettant la main à sa poche luy dit laisse moy tiens voila six piastres gourdes qu’il luy repondit je ne veux point tes piastres et le tenant il ne put empecher qu’il ne sortit un grand couteau boucheron et voulant luy en porter un coup, il se saizit de sa main et tenoit le couteau empoigné, que francisco voulant toujours le poignarder, il tira de force Le couteau de la main du deposant qui luy coupa la main le deposant n’oza pas le tenir davantage dautant que l’autre negre n’avoit pas voulu l’aÿder pour l’ammarrer, que luy deposant fut chercher du monde au camp, et sonnerent et l’ayant joint l’accuzé s’arreta et metant son couteau à la main il leur cria de ne pas approcher, que celui qui voudroit metre la main sur luy il luy ouvreroit le ventre à grands coups de couteau, et aucun deux n’oza s’approcher, que luy deposant fut l’attendre jusqu’au jour dans le moulin de Mr. Le Breton et qu’il ne le vit point et ne la plus vu

Interrogé si lorsqu’il le recontra il avoit un paquet de Linge

A Dit qu’il ne luy avoit vu aucun paquet rien qu’une tabatiere grande Garnie en argent que lorsqu’il alloit danser il estoit Comme un Monsieur, chemise Garnie une veste bleue, un chapeau Blanc, et trois ou quatre mouchoirs à son Col, et autour de luy, adjutte qu’il payoit Le tambour avec de l’argent blanc et qu’il avoit des Gros Billets, que Cependant il n’avoit pas encore payé Les oeufs qu’il avoit pris...”

English translation –

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“Interrogation of Démocrite, July 29, 1766

Interrogated if he knows a *negre* named Francisco?

Said that on Saturday night this *negre* Francisco came dancing at their place, that he did not know he was a runaway, that he paid richly for the drum and courted the *negresses*, that everyone said, “There is a very rich *negre*.” That he danced and then went off. That another day at noon he returned to their place with a basket, saying that his master had sent him to fetch eggs. That we filled his basket and he took a large note from his pocket that we could not change but nonetheless he took the eggs, promising he would come and pay for them as soon as he had changed the note. That another time he came dancing again but that he was impertinent and insulted the *negresses*, which led the *negre* Hector to say to him, “There is a b. [bugger] who we do not know who comes here to be a show-off, leave, go away, we do not need you to pay the drum, keep your money and leave.” Whereupon Francisco told him, “If you were at the levee I would eviscerate you,” so Hector grabbed the stick that [Francisco] was holding and gave him a good blow, telling him that “the next time he came back to their place he would have him tied up to four posts to have him whipped.” That since that time they had not seen him until one day when he met him near where Mr. La Houssaÿe lives, that he, the deponent, being with another *negre*, heard [Francisco] chatting with a *negresse*, and he said, “Well, there is the *negre* who was being such a show-off at our place, he is a runaway we must stop him,”

and he immediately jumped on him, and the accused put his hand in his pocket and said, “Leave me, here are six piastres.” That he [Démocrite] answered him, “I do not want your piastres” and held him down. But he could not stop [Francisco] from pulling out a large *bucheron* knife [a type of French trade knife with a

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fixed blade] and trying to stab him. [Démocrite] grabbed his hand and kept the knife in his grip, even though Francisco still wanted to stab him, he used force to get the knife out of the deponent’s hand, which cut him. The deponent did not dare hold him any more, especially since the other *negre* had not wanted to help him tie him up, that he deponent went to get help from the camp and rang the bell, and, when they reached him, the accused stopped and, putting his knife in his hand, shouted at them not to approach, that anyone who tried to lay his hand on him, he would slit his stomach with his knife, and no one dared approach him, that he deponent waited for him until daybreak in Mr. Le Breton’s mill, but he did not see him and has not seen him since. Asked if when he met him he was carrying a bundle of laundry? Said that he did not see any bundle on him, only a large tobacco box trimmed in silver, that when he went dancing he was like a gentleman, with a ruffled shirt, a blue waistcoat, a white hat, and three or four handkerchiefs around his neck, and elsewhere on his body. Added that he paid for the drum with coins and that he had large bills, that however he had not yet paid for the eggs that he had taken.”

*Sophie White Comments:* (p. 140)

“Démocrite went on to describe one final showdown. He spotted Francisque some time after while out with another (unnamed) slave. On overhearing him “chatting with”—and chatting up—an unnamed enslaved woman, Démocrite said to his companion...”

*Text of Account:*

p. 140:

English translation – (no original French available)

“There is the *negre* who was being such a show-off at our place, he is a runaway we must stop him...”

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