

## CIRCULAR.

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**N[e]w Iberia, La., April 24, 1863**

The generally received impression, that the slaves of this Parish, are free, by the presence of the Union army, *is erroneous*.

This Parish, (St. Marin) is excepted by name in the Emancipation Proclamation, of President Lincoln, issued at Washington, D.C., January 1, 1863.

No farther interference, with the institution of slavery will be allowed by the Army Authorities, than may necessarily result from the police regulations.

United States Army Officers, are forbidden, by law of Congress, to use force in the restoration of slaves to masters.

If slaves flee from their masters, they must work in Government works, receiving therefor, full rations, for a full day's work.

If slaves voluntarily return to their masters, they will not be molested.

If masters use force, in abducting run-away slaves, the masters will be arrested.

If masters inhumanly punish or whip their slaves, they must be arrested.

No punishment of laves, will be permitted, except such as are practiced in the Army.

A. B. Long

Capt., & Provost Marshal,

Commanding Post,