

## **Auctions**

The slaves were not treated with respect during the auction. They were called and thought of as "cargo". Men were also called "bucks," and women were called "does" or "wenches". They were branded (a letter or symbol would be burned into their skin) to mark them as slaves. Slave traders and buyers would examine them, or look them over closely, forcing open their mouths and checking their hair and bodies.

Usually, the largest, strongest-looking slaves were bought first because they were thought to be able to do more work. Many women were sold away from their children and husbands, to buyers looking for good cooks and housekeepers.

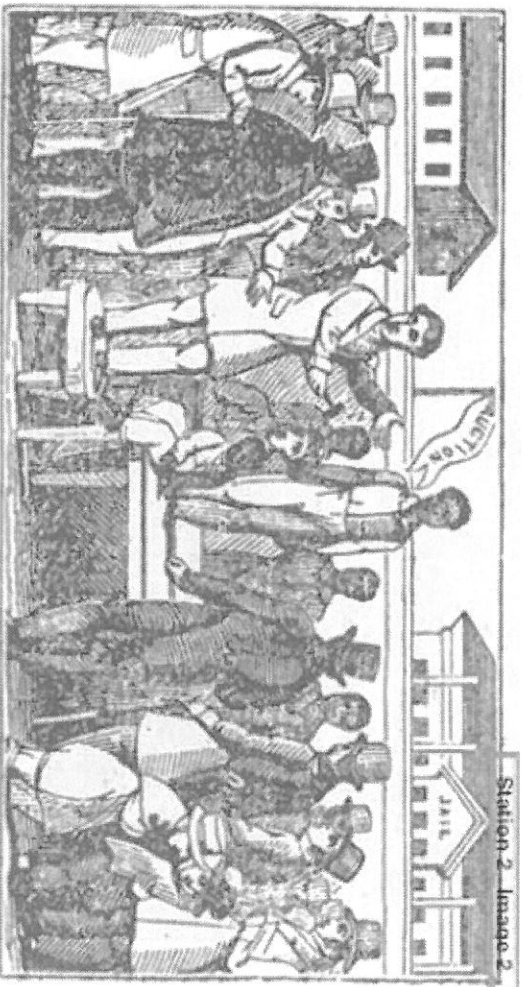
**There were two types of auctions: 'Grab and go' and 'May the highest bidder win.'**

In a 'grab and go' auction, a buyer would give the slave trader a certain amount of money and would get a ticket. When a drum roll sounded, the pen holding the slaves would open. The buyer would rush in and grab the slave or slaves that he wanted. He would then show his ticket to the slave trader before he left.

In a 'may the highest bidder win' auction, slaves would be shown to the buyers one by one. If more than one buyer wanted a particular slave, all of the buyers would have to bid on the slave (making offers for what they were willing to pay). The buyer who bid the highest would be able to buy that slave for the amount of money he bid.

Sometimes, other things, like tea, coffee, and ribbons, were also sold at slave auctions. Many auctions were social places where white people would gather and talk about the war or other things that were happening.





*The custom in Washington, Capital of U. S*

# N. B. FOREST, DEALER IN SLAVES,

No. 87 Adams-st, Memphis, Ten.



HAS just received from North Carolina, twenty-five likely young negroes, to which he desires to call the attention of purchasers. He will be in the regular receipt of negroes



from North and South Carolina every month. His Negro Depot is one of the most complete and commodious establishments of the kind in the Southern country, and his regulations exact and systematic, cleanliness, neatness and comfort being strictly observed and enforced. His aim is to furnish to customers A. 1 servants' and field hands, sound and perfect in body and mind. No gross taken on commission.

Jan 21