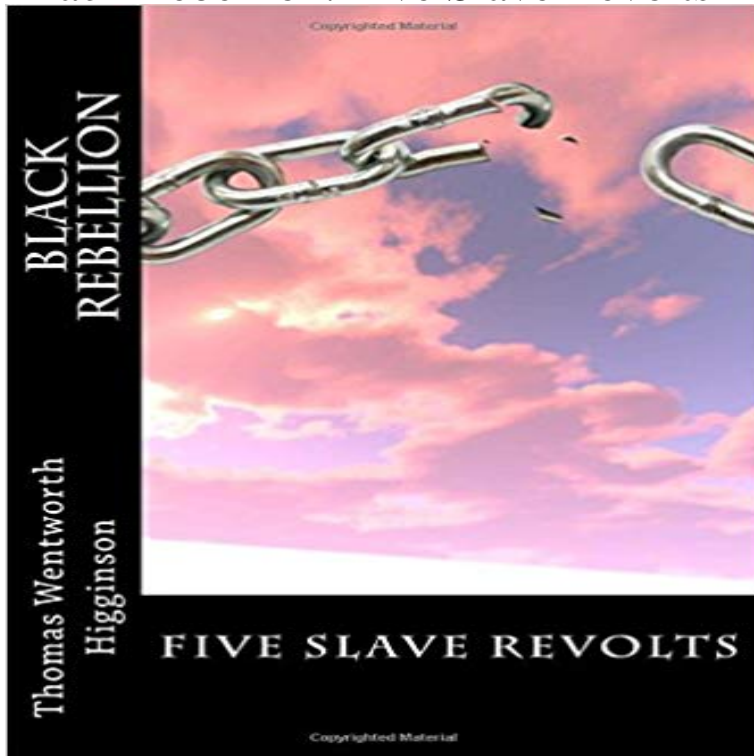


Black Rebellion: Five Slave Revolts



Black Rebellion, a fascinating account of five slave insurrections, among them the story of the Maroons, escaped slaves in the West Indies and South America who successfully resisted larger British armies while living an independent existence for generations in the mountains and jungles of Jamaica and Surinam; of Gabriel Prosser, who recruited about 1,000 fellow slaves in 1800 to launch a rebellion throughout Virginia; of Denmark Vesey, an ex-slave, seaman, and artisan, fluent in several languages, who conspired in 1822 to kill the white citizens of Charleston, South Carolina, and take over the city; and of the revolutionary mystic Nat Turner, who in 1831 organized and led the most successful and dramatic slave revolt in North America. The author also describes how whites responded with panic, sweeping arrests, mass executions, and more repressive laws in a futile effort to crush the slaves insatiable desire to be free. The truth is, it was a Reign of Terror. Volunteer patrols rode in all directions, visiting plantations. It was with the greatest difficulty, said Gen. Brodnax before the House of Delegates, and at the hazard of personal popularity and esteem, that the coolest and most judicious among us could exert an influence sufficient to restrain an indiscriminate slaughter of the blacks who were suspected. A letter from the Rev. G. W. Powell declares, There are thousands of troops searching in every direction, and many negroes are killed every day: the exact number will never be ascertained. Petition after petition was subsequently presented to the Legislature, asking compensation for slaves thus assassinated without trial. Men were tortured to death, burned, maimed, and subjected to nameless atrocities. The overseers were called on to point out any slaves whom they distrusted, and if any tried to escape they were shot down. Nay, worse than this. A party of horsemen started from Richmond with the

intention of killing every colored person they saw in Southampton County. They stopped opposite the cabin of a free colored man, who was hoeing in his little field. They called out, Is this Southampton County? He replied, Yes, sir, you have just crossed the line, by yonder tree. They shot him dead, and rode on. This is from the narrative of the editor of the Richmond Whig, who was then on duty in the militia, and protested manfully against these outrages. Some of these scenes, he adds, are hardly inferior in barbarity to the atrocities of the insurgents. These were the masters stories. If even these conceded so much, it would be interesting to hear what the slaves had to report. -The Author CONTENTS. THE MAROONS OF JAMAICA THE MAROONS OF SURINAM GABRIELS DEFEAT DENMARK VESEY NAT TURNERS INSURRECTION APPENDIX

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