

**NEGRO CITIZENSHIP.**—In the Constitution of Pennsylvania, in force in 1835, it was provided that:

“In elections by the citizens, every *free man* of the age of twenty-one years, having resided in the State two years before the election, and having that time paid a State or county tax, shall enjoy the right of an elector.”

In the year 1835, a negro who was a *free man*, offered his vote at an election, and it was refused by the inspectors. He brought suit against them, placing his right to vote upon the above constitutional provision. The case was elaborately argued, and Chief Justice Gibson delivered the opinion of the Court, and decided that even under the provision giving to every “free man” a right to vote, a negro, though not a slave, was not a free man in the legal meaning of those words. The convention which formed the new Constitution of Pennsylvania had also, while this suit was pending, decided by a very large majority, that negroes were not entitled to vote, but to make the matter doubly sure, they inserted in the new Constitution a provision confining the right of suffrage to “white” persons.