

Novel Case—Alleged Breach of Contract with a Cuban Slave.

In the case of **MORALES vs. MORALES**, in which a colored woman sues the son of the Marquis of **MORALES** for breach of contract, Justice **LANE**, at the Civil Court, corner of Fourth-avenue and Nineteenth-street, delivered judgment yesterday. He said: The plaintiff alleges that defendant made a contract with her to come from Havana to this City, and nurse his infant child as long as it required it at \$40 a month and her board, and other allowances. The answer alleges that plaintiff was a slave and liberated by her owner, together with her child, on consideration of her coming to New-York to nurse his child, and it sets up a general denial; denies that any contract was made, except her manumission, and denies that she rendered any services, having been dismissed here for negligence. I must take it for granted that a contract of some kind was made. There is now an application to me for a commission to examine the Marquis and other parties in Havana. I know the laws of Havana are favorable to the slave, and if they authorize a contract with a slave, the *lex loci* must control, and under the general denial in the answer many things may be proved which I cannot conceive. Whatever the Spanish laws may be, this is a novel case, and under the circumstances I should be wrong in refusing this commission. On its return I shall have all the facts before me. I decide that the commission must be allowed.