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## St. Malo on the Gallows

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## FRENCH NEGRO FOLK POEMS

## ST. MALO ON THE GALLOWES

Ah! young folk, come to mourn  
 For poor St. Malo on the gallows.  
 They hunted him with their dogs  
 And shot him down with a gun.  
 They hauled him from the cypress swamp,  
 His arms tied behind him  
 And his hands bound in front.  
 They tied him to a horse's tail  
 And dragged him right on off.  
 Before those gentlemen in the Cabildo  
 He was accused of making a plot  
 To cut the heads off all the whites.  
 They asked him who his comrades were,  
 And poor St. Malo said nothing at all.  
 The judge read out his sentence,  
 And ordered a gallows built.  
 They pulled the horse, the cart moved on  
 And poor St. Malo was left hanging alone!

The sun was already an hour up  
 While he was hanging on the levee.  
 They left his body swinging there  
 To feed the buzzards from the air.

## P O E M

Get ribbon cane.  
 Yes sir, I say,  
 Try all you can  
 To buy a steam engine.

Madame went to the store  
 To take her case to a lawyer.  
 Mr. O. J. Momette is trying  
 To get a steam engine.

Translated by CALVIN CLAUDEL