

id. it is not a private or individual enterprise and that the State of Missouri will own the whole road. If it is rushed into headlong and without due reflection. And that the Counties and individuals may lose the whole of their stocks. We desire our readers to read the act of the legislature passing the road, to the amount of 1,500,000 to the road, before our next appears. Now, we do not know precisely who "Another Citizen" is and in this, he possesses an advantage of us, if he wishes to deal in personalities; but we are still of the opinion he is an Editor and, that his communications are fathered by a farmer who is an aspirant for Circuit Clerk. And it so happens that he resides in that portion of the Co. where certain bridges have been built of which Hannibal complains so much. Love of office accounts very much for "Another Citizen's" zeal in favor of Hannibal's darling measure; (if the public have fixed upon the right individual) But we would say to "Another Citizen" in all kindness that "honesty is the best of all policies." More when we get our corn clean.

CITIZEN.
Palmyra, June 10th, 1851.

The Fugitive Slave Case at Chicago.
The Republican, yesterday, published extracts from two of the Chicago papers, showing the final disposition of this case. First, from the Argus:
The counsel for the fugitive presented every possible objection, at every step in the proceedings, and manifested the most commendable zeal and ability in securing to the arrested a full and fair hearing. The counsel for the claimant insisted upon the right to proceed under the 6th and 10th sections of the law at the same time; this right was resisted by the counsel for the fugitive, and their objection sustained by the commissioner.
Proof was then made of the identity of the arrested, which was full and complete. The counsel for the fugitive objected to the right of the claimant to make any other proof of identity than that contained in the record, which described the fugitive as being of copper color, and about five feet eight inches in height. The commissioner permitted the proof of identity to be entered upon independent of the record.
The fugitive is very dark—by many of the witnesses declared to be a full blooded negro. Several specimens of copper, of different hues, were presented as a test of the propriety of the description in the record as to color, and almost as much proof in the same connection, as of accuracy. It was also proved that the party arrested was but five feet three and one-half inches in height.
The arrangements of the Marshal were most judicious, and in case of his being remanded, would have completely prevented a rescue.
The only outrages which have been perpetrated are the ill-advised and innocent articles in one of our city papers, which bear the marks of malicious wickedness and deplorable depravity. Such efforts at vice, such stimulants and incentives to wrong, mark the authors as this degraded, delinquent and vile. It is deplorable that such influences are exerted, and it is for our citizens to apply the corrective.
We had progressed thus far with our article, when we were informed that the negro had been discharged by the commissioner. At this we are rejoiced, and we are also glad that thus far Chicago has proved a law-abiding city, not an outbreak having occurred, in despite of the frantic efforts of that vile sheet, the Democrat, to get up a mob, and induce the citizens to cut each other's throats.
The laws have been sustained by the people in a manner worthy of all praise.
Now, for the Chicago Journal:
The Fugitive Slave Case.—As the public are aware, was decided by Mr. Meeker, the U. S. Commissioner, yesterday afternoon, and the prisoner set at liberty.
Long before the appointed hour, the sidewalks on both sides of Lake street, and the street itself in the vicinity of the Saloon Buildings was thronged, and when the doors were opened, an unbroken tide of humanity poured up the stairs, until the Saloon was closely packed, and the hall, the stairs, the sidewalk, were still apparently as before.
The Saloon was completely inland with its faces, all bearing a common and a legible expression.
The Court being opened, Mr. Commissioner Meeker proceeded to give the reasons for his decision, the outline of which is as follows:
That the record introduced to prove the escape and servitude, was invalid, because the evidence upon which it was made, was not set forth. In his opinion it was the intent of the law, not so much to authorize the State Courts to sit judicially in making the record, as ministerially in the taking of a deposition; and the proceeding was to be likened to that of taking testimony *de bene esse*, that is, to be suppressed or disallowed on a further examination, more than to the making of a judicial record of a State Court.
That the record was defective, in not expressly showing on its face that the negro described in it was a slave and owed service at the time it was made.
The record states that the negro escaped on the 4th July, 1850, but that he may have returned to Missouri before this record was made, and been afterwards voluntarily brought into Illinois, in which case he would have been free; the record must negative every intention of this kind, or will not be sufficient.
That the record describes the man under arrest as copper colored; in the view of the Court, he is black; and although testimony has been adduced to show that certain shades of black are denominated copper colored in Missouri; yet that, as in making his certificate, if he were to grant one, he would be obliged to follow the description in the record, the man under arrest, on *habeas corpus*, would be entitled to a discharge by any judge before whom he might be taken, as not the person described in the certificate.
The commissioner, having concluded, declared the defendant discharged.
The long-suppressed feeling found utterance in a cheer that jured the very building, and the poor fellow who had been the topic of all talkers in the city for a week past, was hurried out of the court room, and down the stairs, and

to the street, with a velocity equal to the slide of Alpmach, and away they poured, white and colored, large and small, male and female, a motley crowd up Lake street into Wells, and out of sight.
The decision gave universal satisfaction—the public mind is relieved from excitement and suspense, and this morning the tide of thought has returned to its wonted channels. The Law has been honored, and yet human sympathies have not been outraged.
The self-complacency with which these journals felicitate themselves that the supremacy of the law has been maintained at Chicago, is extremely ludicrous.—The slave is described in the record as "copper colored," and thereupon the commissioner allows sundry pieces of copper to be introduced to prove the discrepancy between the color of the metal and the "darky's" skin. Sancho Panza, when Governor of Barataria, never displayed greater originality in the trial of causes, than Mr. Commissioner Meeker. He is a judicial luminary of the first water. We should have been glad to have taken a glance at his honor, whilst he was holding up a piece of copper by the side of the negro's face, to ascertain the precise shade of difference between them. It is a pity the scene was not photographed for the benefit of posterity. But his Honor is great at finding flaws in the record. He thought the record made in Missouri, proving the title of the claimant, and the fact that the slave had escaped, ought to have contained the evidence on which the Court founded its judgment. In other words, the record is not a conclusive judgment as to the title and the fact of the escape; but is only in the nature of a deposition *de bene esse*. That any man of ordinary intelligence who ever read the fugitive slave bill, could honestly arrive at such a conclusion, we do not believe. But the next difficulty of this law-finding gentleman is more extraordinary still. The record stated that the negro escaped on the 4th July, 1850. The commissioner or gravely decided, that by possibility the negro may have returned to Missouri after his escape, and may then have been taken by his owner into Illinois, and there held to involuntary servitude, in which event he would be free. So he decided, that the record ought to have shown that the negro did not return to Missouri after his escape, and was not afterwards taken by his master into Illinois and held there in involuntary servitude. In other words, the master must be held to the strict proof of a negative, before the record will be deemed sufficient. What an astonishing genius Mr. Commissioner Meeker must be, to have made the brilliant discovery, that the owner of a slave must prove a negative before he can recover his property.—But these displays of Mr. Meeker's ingenuity, are trifles compared with that which he evinced on the "copper colored" branch of this case. It was there that his genius shone resplendently. The record described the slave as "copper colored;" but, "says the commissioner, gravely putting on his spectacles, and looking intently at the prisoner, "in the view of the court, he is black;" and although it was proved that in Missouri, certain shades of black are denominated copper colored, yet, as in making his certificate he would be obliged to follow the record, the man under arrest would be entitled to a discharge on *habeas corpus*, as not being the person described in the certificate.
Ye shades of Mansfield, of Ellenborough and of Coke! did the world ever contain so profound a jurist as Mr. Commissioner Meeker, of the city of Chicago? Can it be credited that this man, decided the case upon such points as these, whilst there was full and unequivocal proof before him of the identity of the slave?
The Chicago papers may talk as they please about maintaining the supremacy of the law, but if ever the law was more grossly and shamelessly violated or evaded by more contemptible judicial pettifoggery, than was done in this case, we have not known or heard of it. This Mr. Meeker is evidently unfit for the place he holds. He has not the intellect to comprehend, or the honesty to execute the plainest injunctions of the law. But says the Chicago Journal, "The decision gave universal satisfaction." No doubt of it! and thus perhaps may account for its having been given as it was. Mr. Meeker was too good natured to decide against the wishes of the crowd; he couldn't possibly do it. His nerves were too weak for such an effort. But we have not the patience to pursue the subject further.—[Intelligencer.]

GEN. FOOTE IN MISSISSIPPI.—It would appear from the following, that the Mississippi disunionists are much less in numbers than in noise, and that the diminutive Senator is pretty sure of becoming a Governor:
A friend, and a citizen of Florence, who was recently in Tishamingo county, Mississippi, in writing to us from Eastport, Miss., says—"I am informed by men of standing that Gen. Foote will not lose in this county over one hundred votes out of about twenty-five hundred.—Union is the watchword here with all parties." This is indeed good news.—Gen. Foote's majority, from present indications, will not be less than fifteen or twenty thousand in the whole State.—What a stinging rebuke will this be to the Legislature which censured him, and to those disunion intriguers who are endeavoring to crush him.—[Florence (Ala.) Gazette.]

HEMP.—It is computed that over three thousand bales have gone into store within the past few days, besides a large amount has been re-shipped. All the regular hemp warehouses in the city are full or nearly so, and the stock now in store will not fall much short of 5000 bales. The steamer Sultana was taking a very large lot on board, this morning, and it is thought she will carry to New Orleans at least 1,500 or 1,800 bales.—[Intell., 11th.]

Census Returns.—The Washington papers publish corrected census returns. The total amount of population was 23,398,000.