



Truth, crushed to earth, will rise again.  
The eternal years of God are hers;  
But Error, wounded, writhes in pain,  
And dies amid her worshippers.

E. EASTMAN, EDITOR.

TERMS.

\$2.00 a year in advance.

OFFICE, 69 Clark Street, opposite the Court House.

CHICAGO:

TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 1851.

## SLAVE HUNT IN CHICAGO!

Arrest of an alleged Fugitive by the UNITED STATES MARSHAL!

EXAMINATION BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER!

THE MILITIA CALLED OUT!

Contemplated Rescue! Final Discharge!

LAW, ORDER AND LIBERTY TRIUMPHANT IN CHICAGO!!

Our postscript of last week, announced the arrest of a Fugitive, and the expectation of interesting times to follow, in the trial of the question of human freedom in Chicago.

Four days of the past week have been fruitful of incident and interest. A person who has been a resident of Chicago, for several months past, has been arrested by the United States Marshal, charged with no crime, but that of being born contrary to the Declaration of Independence. The arrest was made—the criminal brought before the Commissioner—the loudest appeals were made to the rowdiness of the city, and men of the most despicable character, were selected as the police force, to preserve order—counsel volunteered in behalf of, and against the Fugitive—as the trial progressed, excitement increased, the public were insulted, by the calling out of the militia, but the man was at length discharged—a collision was thus avoided, and the character of Chicago saved, as the city of refuge for the oppressed. We will recapitulate the order of the events, of the five days of interest.

The arrest was made in the afternoon of Monday, the 24 inst., by the United States Marshal, assisted by three or four constables, and agents, persons of most despicable characters as might be inferred from the business. The arrest was made in a quiet part of the city, on State Street. The victim was walking by himself, upon the sidewalk, when he was seized by two men. He made an effort to escape, and threw the assailants from him, screamed for help, and ran, and stumbled, fell to the ground, when he was seized by the legs, by his pursuers, dragged and thrown into a wagon.— Marshal Barker in the meantime, no doubt feeling much above that mean business, walked back and forth upon the sidewalk, leaving the work to men who had characters, hearts, or inclination, not above the act of seizing and treating a human being as they would a pig. His cries aroused the attention of the women of the neighborhood, no men not interested in the business seem to have been witnesses of the transaction. It is reported that he was gagged, but this is denied. But the women report that when he had been thrown into the wagon, his loud and piercing outcries, suddenly ceased, as if gagged or smothered.— The indignation of these ladies, as with every true woman, was unbounded, and from them the alarm was spread. He was driven rapidly to Lake Street, to the Marshal's Office, a room adjoining the United States Court Room, where he was soon brought before the Commissioner; and counsel appearing in his defense, he was treated more like a human being, and in accordance with the usages of human

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treated more like a human being, and in accordance with the usages of humane legal proceedings.

We ask the public to note the *modus operandi* of this arrest—how different from the usual practice in all civil and criminal cases! Was ever thief or murderer arrested in this way! Do the officers in such cases, lying in wait, pounce upon the victim, as the tiger does upon his prey, or the butcher with bloody knife in hand, seize the pig by his limbs and drag him to the slaughter pen? We do not mention this particularly to criticise the manner of *this* arrest. They are always done in the same way.—No murderer of his fellow man is treated with that contempt of the privileges of humanity. But these proceedings are all designed to unhumanise humanity. In the first place, the occasion of the arrest, slavery and is annihilat of humanity. No idea of manhood, and not reatment belonging to men, as men, goes along with the practice. The officers do not seek their culprit, in the public streets, in open day, and by the usual frank and dignified way of taking an honorable criminal of a horse thief or murder. They ever skulk about some bye place, where only women may offer resistance, with ropes in their hands, and gags in their pockets, and with some temptation ~~into a snare~~. It is inhuman and mean business, whether sanctified by law or not; and the officials in the business confess it to be so, in the manner in which they proceed about the business, and the agents they employ. It is inhuman business, and the tools selected are inhuman men. Look at the names of the men who assisted the marshal in this case, and aided him through the trial. State prison convicts, and most of the others no better. And this is all in harmony with the law itself. And it is what the friends of the law would have us believe is constitutional, and in accordance with the genius of our institutions. The grip upon the neck of the victim is a constitutional grip—the rope that binds the limbs and twists the gag into the mouth has a constitutional twist, and the grab at the legs, and the drag in the dirt, are constitutional *grabs* and *drags*—and the victim finally secured and delivered up as a human sacrifice, it is a constitutional human sacrifice. So some men would have us believe, who claim for their share all the love of law, Constitution and Union which exists in the community.

Further details of the events will be found in the articles which we copy from the *Chicago Democrat*, which were made up day by day. We state such facts as are not particularly noticed there.

As soon as it was known that the arrest had been made, Mr. FREER went immediately to the Court Room and volunteered as the counsel for the prisoner. Messrs. LARNED and MANIERE also came forward immediately as volunteer counsel, and most admirably managed the case to its final successful issue, assisted by those whose names are also mentioned. Lasting honor, love and gratitude are due these gentlemen for their defense of the helpless Fugitive.

Five hundred copies of the following Handbill was issued on Monday night, and scattered throughout the city, and no doubt contributed much to arouse the citizens :

### KIDNAPPERS !!

Citizen arrested under the Fugitive Slave Law!

ALL Citizens who feel interested in the Liberties of our country, are invited to meet at the United States Court Room, Saloon Buildings, corner of Lake and Clarke Streets, to-morrow morning, at 10 o'clock. Citizens! VIOLENCE IS THE PRICE OF LIBERTY!!

It was the design of those who made the arrest, to hurry the matter through the first day, and get the victim off before the public should be aroused.

The next morning (Tuesday) we found the militia tramping about the streets, and learned that three companies had been called by the Marshal. Then for the first time did we fear a mob, and a serious disturbance of the peace. We know as much about the under current of popular sentiment on this subject, as any man in the city, and we know that there was no serious intention of forcible resistance until the Militia were called out. It was one of the greatest outrages upon the peace of the city ever perpetrated in Chicago.

The next day the *Democrat* came out with a most powerful article, condemning the whole proceeding, calling upon the people of Chicago to be vigilant, orderly, and maintain the character of Chicago as a city of humanity, as well as a city of law. It was the influence of the *Democrat*, if any outward influence, that saved the Fugitive, and preserved the peace.

The news had spread into the country. Many old friends of the Slave came in from the neighboring counties—from St. Charles, Elgin and Dundee. Among the number, was J. F. Farnsworth Esq., of St. Charles, and the indefatigable Allen Pinkerton of Dundee.

On Thursday the examination before the Commissioner closed, and on Friday at two o'clock, the decision was given. At the appointed time the Court room was filled to a perfect jam, and the stairways and passages to the room filled up by a mass of quiet, but deeply interested and determined men. Nine-tenths of them were the friends of the slave. They were men of conscience and principle, generally the mechanics of Chicago, many of them Scotch and English, and the intelligent German, who had left the old country for a land of freedom, and cherished it here, not alone,—for the share which they, as individuals, were permitted to have of it. The Commissioner occupied about one hour in giving his decision; the substance of which will be found below. When the word discharged was uttered, the freed man was sent over the heads of the crowd, and in a moment was out of the hall, and down the stairs into the street, followed by shouts and cheers, and driven off on a drag by a few colored friends to a place of safety.

We have not room for all that we have in our hearts to say upon this subject. The result is a triumph for Chicago, a triumph of principle. The character of this freedom city is commended. The arrest was a part of a game of politicians to degrade Chicago, and elevate a certain man to the Presidency, and a few other worthless scamps to office. The commerce and the wealth of Chicago had been appealed to; a human sacrifice was demanded. But conscience triumphed over commerce, money and politics. Chicago is still secure in her course of temporal prosperity. It is always safe to do right. Alton basely suffered Lovejoy to be killed in the defense of freedom and the press, and Alton for years was a ruined city. Chicago has never been disgraced by pro-slavery mobs, or successful slave hunts; she has been blessed by a free press, and men of conscience and men of talent, with free hearts of

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men of talent, with free hearts of humanity, and she has flourished as no city in the Union has flourished—grown more rapidly than any other, notwithstanding she has been stigmatized as a rotten abolition hole. Her principles have never injured her, and though she has pledged herself, by a vote of her citizens assembled at the call of her Mayor, to protect the fugitive, yet she has found no obstacles to her prosperity, and to the railroads which shall bring wealth to her lap. We say, for the encouragement of the timid, *it is safe to do right.*

All honor to the volunteer Attornies, and all the friends who came forward to defend this fugitive.

Respect and confidence to the Commissioner who dared to do his duty against the power of a corrupt administration, and powerful corrupt influences, that demanded a human sacrifice on the altar of union, to a false philosophy of law and order, and for self-political aggrandisement.

Eternal disgrace, contempt and infamy, to all volunteer attornies, assistants, sympathizers, and blood-hounds in all shapes.

#### Decision of the Commissioner.

Upon the opening of the court, the Commissioner gave the following, as the grounds for his decision.

1st. That the record introduced under the 10th Sec., of the law, to prove the escape and servitude, was invalid, because the evidence upon which it was made was not set forth. In the commissioner's opinion it was the intention 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 commissioner thought that the proceeding was to be likened to that of taking testimony *as bene esse*, with the further power in the court of expressing an opinion on such evidence, than to the making of a judicial record of a State Court.

2d. 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 of July, 1850, *non constant* 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 intendment of this kind, or will not be sufficient.

3d. That the record describes the man under arrest as copper colored; to the view of the court he is black and although testi-

mony 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 the arrest on habeas corpus would be entitled to a discharge on view, by any judge before whom he might be taken, as not the person described in the certificate.

The commissioner declined expressing any opinion on the other questions raised by the council for the prisoner; observed that they were grave in their character, but that the conclusion to which he had arrived, rendered it necessary for him to decide them. He seemed to lean to the unconstitutionality of the 10th Sec., of the act in reference to the making of a record.

### People's Meeting.

On Friday night, a meeting of the citizens was held in Warner's Hall, to rejoice over the triumph of freedom in Chicago, in the discharge of the alledged Fugitive, Moses Johnson. B. F. Barrett was called to the Chair, and G. W. Ingalls appointed Secretary.

The meeting was eloquently addressed by Messrs Larned, Manniere, Farnsworth, Collins, Dyer and Freer. The meeting was enthusiastic. Due credit was given to all true laborers and sympathizers in the deliverance of the slave. Just condemnation was poured out upon the heads of kidnappers and blood-hounds. The marks laid on are such as we hope may be remembered in this community. This hunting men is awfully wicked, and despicably mean business. There are but few men in this world, but would be heartily ashamed of any participation in such business. Haynau would blush to fellowship such men, because there is a kind of savage dignity in his character that would despise hunting a poor black fugitive, without friends. Men in Chicago have fixed their characters in these proceedings, and let them be remembered.

### George W. Meeker.

This gentleman did his duty yesterday, and here is the paper that gives him credit therefor. He saved a human being from the clutches of the kidnappers, whom the law placed entirely in his power. By doing differently, he might have won plaudits from the immense slave holding aristocracy of the South, and from the corrupt politicians of the north, who like Peck, would sell it for a mid-shipman.

The poor negro had nothing to give in return, and yet Mr. Meeker gave him that priceless jewel, that inalienable right, his liberty. He met the crisis like a philanthropist, and thousands upon thousands of the oppressed and their friends invoke blessings upon his head. — *Democrat*.