
THE LAW MAINTAINED.—In rendering a decision in the case of the fugitive slaves recently arrested at Cincinnati, which resulted in remanding them to their owners, Mr. Commissioner Pendery, after congratulating the citizens upon their good behavior, remarked:

“The first legal question raised by the counsel for the defence is that, sitting as a judicial officer, and believing conscientiously that slavery is a sin, I cannot decide the law to be constitutional. We will briefly say in reply to this question, we, in our private opinions, do conscientiously believe that slavery is a sin; but at the same time we believe as well might a criminal judge who believed that capital punishment was wrong, refuse to pass sentence upon a man condemned for a capital offence, as for me to refuse to execute what I know to be the established law of the land. We believe our private and conscientious opinions have nothing to do in administering the law of the land, acting officially, as I now do.”
