

The Case of the Negro Man Dick.

The case of the supposed fugitive "Dick," turned out very differently from what was expected. He was taken to Jail on Saturday, on the affidavit of a man who professed to be the son-in-law of the owner—who claimed that Dick was at work for him at the time he left, and that the horse he rode to Burlington was his horse.

Dick was committed to Jail to await further examination on Tuesday. In the meantime, excitement was high. It was the first arrest that had ever taken place in Burlington under the fugitive act. A certain portion of our citizens were proud to know they were above the petty weakness, incident to women and abolitionists, of believing that a negro was a human, or had any right or title to life and liberty. Such were very anxious to have it distinctly understood that they were sound—and in order to make it clear, a few such were willing to do for this slave owner and breeder what no Southern gentleman ever does for himself, i. e. they were willing to engage personally in the business of restoring this negro man to Missouri servitude, and so very anxious were they for a smile from the supposed owner of Dick, that they were willing to fight, without compensation and without solicitation.

On the other side were a very large majority, whose hearts beat in sympathy with the negro, for the world will always sympathise with the bled or quadruped, that is struggling for the inalienable rights of "life" and "liberty." But there was no one willing to resort to violence—there was no one desirous of making open resistance to the execution of the law—or if there was, "I would" was left to wait on "I dare not."

But Tuesday came. Mr. Commissioner Frazer and his court assembled at Marion Hall. Messrs. United States Marshal Funk and City Marshal Endsley were engaged in seating the crowd and keeping out those who could not find seats. After some preliminary arrangements had been made, the first witness, the son of the claimant was called, and at once declared that the negro there present WAS NOT the slave Dick, was not the property of his father. Thereupon one tremendous shout went up from the crowd, much to the horror of our worthy Commissioner and against the dignity of his court.

The claimant's lawyer then attempted to retain the negro for horse-stealing, but could prove nothing.

The termination of this affair places the chivalrous gentleman who swore to the identity of this negro, and his associates who voluntarily or for pay, with arms in their hands and threats, without color of law or right, arrested Dr. James and kept him in the street in the manner represented, in a very awkward position. Suppose the negro or the Dr. had resisted this summary and illegal way of depriving them of their liberty, and taken the life of some gentleman? Is there any law that would condemn them? And when they engage in another piratical expedition, in violation of all law, State and National, they had better be sure they have got the right negro. Or at any rate one that will not shoot.