

RENDITION OF A FUGITIVE SLAVE.—A fugitive slave case was tried in this city, before U. S. Commissioner Corneau, on Saturday afternoon. At the opening of the case, W. H. Herndon, Esq., one of the counsel for the fugitive, moved for a postponement till next Thursday, and gave as a reason for the motion, that he expected papers from Quincy that would prove the negro to be a free man. He advocated the motion with eloquence, and made an affidavit setting forth the facts that he expected to prove. He also offered the negro's affidavit, but the Commissioner refused to receive it, and overruled the motion for a postponement.

The counsel for the claimant of the slave called two witnesses, both of whom swore positively that the smiling African before them was the property of George M. Dickinson, of Shelby, Shelby county, Missouri, and that he ran away sometime during the fall of 1857. Their testimony was very direct, and the cross examination did not tend to weaken it. Their names are Elihu Painter and Crosby Dickinson—the latter a brother of the claimant. He said the negro had a slight defect in one of his legs, and the counsel for the claimant thereupon asked the negro to take a short walk. Chairs were accordingly set aside, and a clear way made for the negro, but when he was told by one of his counsel that he could walk or sit still, just as he pleased, he said he would rather remain in his seat!

The defense called several witnesses, but the evidence did not go to prove that the negro had lived here prior to the time of his alleged departure from Missouri. At the conclusion of the testimony, the counsel for the claimant asked that the negro be delivered by the Commissioner to the custody of Mr. Dickinson.

Mr. Herndon rose and said that no proof had been offered of the existence of slavery in Missouri, and he thought the Commissioner had no right to presume from historical knowledge that Missouri was a slave State. He spoke at considerable length, and his remarks in favor of the poor outcast, for whom as he bitterly said he was only allowed to appear by courtesy, touched the hearts of a large majority of his hearers.

John H. Rosette, Esq., followed in behalf of the slave. He took the same ground as Mr. Herndon, that clear proof was necessary that Missouri was a slaveholding State, and quoted from the Fugitive Slave Law to make his position good. We only heard the beginning of his remarks.

George T. Pearson, Esq., counsel for the claimant, followed Mr. Rosette, and at the conclusion of his speech the Commissioner decided to deliver the negro to Mr. Dickinson.

The negro, whose name is said to be Edgar Canton, is not far from thirty-five years of age. He is rather bright looking. During the trial on Saturday afternoon he appeared quite indifferent as to the termination; and no one would have supposed from his smiling countenance that he fully appreciated his position—that of an early candidate for the toil and suffering incident to a life of slavery. We believe he has a wife and two children in this place.