

Great Fugitive Slave Excitement—A Colored Girl Rescued.

South Clark street and vicinity were thrown into an unusual state of excitement last night by an attempt on the part of a slave owner from Nebraska City, assisted by a Deputy U. S. Marshal, to seize a colored girl and carry her back to slavery.

The alleged owner of the girl is named Stephen F. Nuckles. He claims that on the 25th of November, 1858, the girl, Eliza alias Lottie Grayson, ran away from him. She came to this city and has been living in the capacity of a servant with one Mary Beebe, who keeps a house of ill fame at No. 315 South Clark street.

While thus engaged, it became known to certain runners about the house, that she was a slave and by dint of questioning and threats, they ascertained her master's name and residence. They at once opened a correspondence with him, informing him of her whereabouts and offering to deliver her up for a certain sum. The plan, as at first concocted, was to go to the house in the night time, knock her down and render her senseless and then put her in the box of a pedler's wagon and carry her out of the State in this manner. Uneasy about the working of this plot, the owner himself determined to come here and obtain her.

He procured a warrant for her arrest under the Fugitive Slave Act, from Commissioner Corneau, at Springfield, and arrived in this city on Saturday night. Yesterday, U. S. Commissioner Hoynes in vain tried to find a Deputy Marshal who would serve the warrant, and appointed Jake Newsome a Deputy for that purpose.

Armed with the warrant, Newsome and Nuckles went to the house above mentioned. There was no one present but a girl named Mattie and the colored girl, Eliza. The latter at once recognized Nuckles, and pitifully begged of him that he would not carry her away. The other girl joined in her entreaties, but was silenced by a drawn revolver. In spite of her cries and implorings, she was dragged into a hack, stationed outside.

The colored population in the mean time had got wind of the affair and followed the hack down Clark street, wrought up to a terrible pitch of madness, by the screams and cries of the girl. For their own safety, the hack was driven to the Armory and the girl placed in one of the cells. The news spread like wild fire, and in a few moments, a large mob of colored men, armed with clubs and knives, surrounded the Armory, demanding her release.

In the meantime, a warrant had been taken out before Justice DeWolf against the girl, Eliza, for disorderly conduct, and Deputy Sheriff Geo. Anderson, attempted to remove her from the lock-up to the jail. He had hardly got out of the door with his charge, however, before she was wrenched from his grasp and with the rapidity of lightning hurried down Adams street by the agents of the U. G. R. R., and removed to a place of safety.

In the meantime, George was left sprawling in the mud, his new election hat battered out of shape, and an infuriated crowd of negroes with clubs, threatening his life. He at last managed to make his escape, and was last seen making two-forty tracks for home.

After the armory *commotion*, the mob went up South Clark street, and for a time threatened to tear down the house from which the girl had been taken, and do personal violence to Mr. A. J. Sink, proprietor of the Stanwix Hall, whom they suspected of being concerned in the seizure. About midnight, however, after several yells of triumph, they dispersed to their respective homes.

The owner of the slave was only saved from violence by placing a policeman's badge upon him and marching him under escort of a strong police force to the Briggs House.