

The Eliza Grayson Case.

Messrs. Editors:—The recent attempt to capture the alleged fugitive Eliza Grayson by one Jake Newsome, a pretended Deputy U. S. Marshal, has opened up a number of new features in the Fugitive Slave Law.

The warrant, it is said, was sworn out at Springfield in this State. The Commissioner there directs that the fugitive shall be brought before him. Said fugitive is to be taken by force away from all possible chance for defence—away from every person who could possibly render her friendship or assistance,—and this is to be done, not by any Marshal or United States officer, but by the notorious Jake Newsome, who pretends to act under authority from Nuekolls the claimant. Of course he claims to have legal papers from officers in Chicago, but these officers deny any responsibility in the matter, and it is finally ascertained that said Newsome was not sworn into office. And to make the case still more clear, it is conceded on all hands that said fugitive ran away from the free Territory of Nebraska where it is not pretended there was any law for slavery.

Now would it not be well to know for once what can be done under that Law. If free persons of color in this city are liable at any moment to be secretly torn away from their homes, and carried hundreds of miles away from all witnesses who can prove their freedom, by any irresponsible, unsworn vagabond that may be found, how can it be expected that our colored population will remain quiet and unconcerned? Can it be expected that they will not arm [themselves, and some slave catcher or hunter should lose his life, who would be to blame? Now I am one who has believed in obeying the Fugitive Slave Law, but if that law is really capable of such infinite expansion as this case indicates, then I must be allowed to question its justice as well as its humanity.

J. L. B.