

The Late Slave Case.

We have already commented on the extraordinary features attending the commencement of the slave case decided 'this City on Saturday. The circumstances attending its conclusion are more remarkable.

The case was conducted before Hon. GEORGE W. MORTON, U. S. Commissioner, and we can truly say that more extraordinary legal proceedings were never held in a civilized country. The duty of the Commissioner, as he himself stated it, was to satisfy himself whether there was sufficient evidence to prove the man a slave. The process consisted simply in hearing the testimony on one side only; in allowing the other to submit affidavits the arrest of which was made to refute the evidence of the prosecution, and to withhold all facts that may have been in his knowledge bearing on the rights of the prisoner to his freedom; in declining to take any measures to compel the attendance of an important witness for the defense; in refusing to hear the evidence of witnesses in attendance on the stand, although the respectable counsel declared it to be of vital consequences; and in finally deciding the case, and hurrying the man off into slavery with that evidence unheeded and unconsidered.

The single statement he made on the matter, confirmed by the testimony of JAY and CURTIS, the Counsel for the defense, which we publish in another column, is now, we think, all the calmness possible in view of such facts, can a more outrageous violation of every legal safeguard of individual liberty be conceived than this? Is it not a gross and flagrant wrong, practiced by Mr. Commissioner Morton? Does he regard the right of a man to his own soul and body as of no little consequence that it may safely be annihilated in such a manner as this? Does he expect that he can sustain his public opinion in deciding such a case where liberty is concerned, without having the testimony in favor of liberty? Why, this principle, any obscure as it may seem, is the only one that can give firmness man to his humanity may not always have to bondage. It is the only thing in the world to tramp up and down to accomplish such a speculation.

An unscrupulous coustomer may be found to seize the victim and immure him in some obscure lock-up. A lawyer, equally unscrupulous, may be found to swear that he is a slave. Thus he is handed over into the custody of the U. S. Marshal and in

When the case was adjourned on Friday afternoon to Saturday morning, it was with the avowed understanding on the part of Preston's counsel, represented by the Commissioner that if the latter should decide against him and argued by Mr. Jay to quash or dismiss the proceedings, then the counsel should go into their defense on the merits. To that end, several witnesses were in attendance; others had process out for them, to be served as soon as the case was called on. The witnesses had known that Preston in Baltimore, and in New York, had proved the declarations of his former mistress to be true, and that she was bound by law to his freedom, and the provisions in her will to that effect. By others it was proposed to show the admission of the claimant, and others, to contradict Bostock's affidavit and prove a conspiracy.

The Commissioner, instead of deciding the preliminary motion of Mr. Jay, and then stopping, took the counsel, the prosecutor, and the

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