

GREAT EXCITEMENT.

SLAVE-CATCHERS AGAIN DEFEATED

Our article in yesterday's Democrat stirred up the slave catchers and their aiders and abettors in this city to some purpose. Soon after the appearance of the Democrat, yesterday morning, the whole body of the Missouri blood-hounds who were here on their miserable errands, rushed up to the U. S. Marshall's Office and with oaths and threats accused him of betraying them. Now the fact is we never saw Mr. Wilton and our information that the slave catchers were in town, was received from an entirely different source. We published it as an item of news, as we do other matters of interest in the city.

The slave-catchers having accused the U. S. Marshal of betraying them, they next demanded of him, that he should call out the military, while they proceeded to arrest the negroes for whom they had warrants, saying they could not execute the warrants unless they were protected. The Marshal objected, that he had not the power to call out the military. To satisfy them, however, that he was perfectly willing to do his duty in the premises, he said he would call on the officers of the military and request that they would be in readiness in case their services should be required. Accordingly Mr. Wilton did so. Only a portion of two military companies, however, would answer the call: these were the Light Guards, under *Lieut. Hardin*, and the National Guards under *Capt. Shirley*.

The Montgomery Guards refused to turn out. Their officers said it would be time enough for them to perform a very odious service when they were called on by the proper authorities. They should not respond until it was impossible for them to refuse. But as to slave catching, they could not take any part in it.

The portions of the two companies above named, remained in their armories under the pay of Uncle Sam, and merely, it will thus be seen, to dance attendance upon a few Negroes from Missouri, who no doubt wished to see to what extent they might claim the services of our citizen soldiers, and how great the degree of humiliation they could be made to stand. In fact the whole affair, from first to last, was a most perfect farce. For certainly if the slave catchers wished to arrest the slaves, they went the worst possible way about it.

Large numbers of persons were gathered in the streets in various places when it was announced that the military were called out, but the people retired to their business when it was discovered that the whole was but a flash in the pan, and that even our "pretty young dancers" had not a chance to exhibit their white coats and bear-skins to the admiring young ladies.

The U. S. Commissioner, John A. Bross, Esq. brother to Deacon Bross of the Press, had his room "swept and garnished," ready for the trial. We regret, on his account, however, that he will not pocket the customary fee, on this occasion, as, no doubt the underground railroad is by this time making its usual dividends in the shape sixteen freemen safely landed on the "other side of Jordan."