

FUGITIVE SLAVE CASE.—On Tuesday last, a colored man, named George Bordley, was arrested in this city as the fugitive slave of Andrew Pearce, of Cecil county, Maryland. In the course of last week there were several hearings in the case. The final examination was had on Saturday, before Commissioner Ingraham, and resulted in the remanding of the prisoner into the custody of his master. There was a good deal of testimony produced and offered.

A witness named John Reed, testified as follows:

I know the person sitting there, (pointing to Bordley,) claimed as the slave of Mr. Pearce; I live in Cecil County, Maryland; I live about ten miles from Pearce, the claimant; may be more; I have known him almost ever since I have known myself; nineteen or twenty years; in Cecil County I have seen him at work; I have known him as the slave of Mr. Pearce; he ran away between "'46" and "'47;" I don't know the time exactly; it was about then; he went by the name of George Bordley; I have no doubt that this is the man George Bordley, who left Mr. Pearce; that is the man.

This witness underwent a searching cross-examination by Mr. David Paul Brown. It was elicited during the examination that George Alberti was the agent employed to track and secure the fugitive.

Several other witnesses were examined, who swore positively to the identity of the slave. No defence whatever was made.

Mr. Brown, at the close of the evidence, said, in substance, as follows:

A person named Andrew Pearce, from Maryland, claims George Bordley as his slave. You (addressing the Commissioner) have afforded every fair and reasonable opportunity to do the fugitive justice. I represent the Abolition Society, being myself an Abolitionist. I might avoid saying any thing, but in the position of the General Government, I choose to define my position. Dr. Franklin, in 1780, with others, were the founders of the Abolition Society. They confederated to abolish slavery, to ameliorate the condition of the blacks, and to protect those unlawfully held in bondage against unjust claims.

"I am not here to say that the law shall not have its way. The society which I represent do not deserve the reproach that they are hostile to the South. Nor do the people of Pennsylvania. The agent employed in such cases (meaning Alberti) may generate opposition. It may also arise from the persons mixed with the case. But where a claimant produces five or six respectable witnesses to prove the identity of the fugitive, the society will not throw further obstacles in the way of the claimant. Much as we are opposed to the Fugitive Slave Law, and to the institution it is designed to protect, we know our duty as citizens, and will bow in submission to the laws of the land.

Mr. Brown said, finally, that the weight of the evidence was with the claimants, and it only remained for the defence to "ground arms" with the best grace they could.

At the conclusion of Mr. Brown's remarks, the fugitive was remanded to the custody of the claimant, and a certificate was granted. The Commissioner's office, and the passage leading to it, were crowded throughout the examination by great numbers of both sexes and colors. Among the crowd we noticed several members of the Abolition Society. The spectators conducted themselves with the utmost decorum, and offered abundant evidence that, unpalatable as the Fugitive Slave Law is to many of our people, they are too good citizens to interpose any obstacle in the way of its execution.

The scene presented when the decision of the Commissioner was rendered, was of the most painful character. The fugitive was accompanied by his wife, who burst into tears when her last hope was taken from her, and it became certain that she was to be separated from her husband. A proposition was set on foot to purchase the slave, but the owner refused to negotiate a sale until he had returned his slave to Maryland. He intimated that he would there be willing to dispose of him on easy terms. He was desirous, he said, of setting an example to his other slaves, by compelling his runaway to return home.