

There have been demonstrations in the last two weeks of the rampant power of slavery in Pennsylvania, which have covered us with shame and a sense of disgrace. The papers during this time have seemed to teem with reports of negro catching and cases of kidnapping. Our last week's number contained an account of an instance of kidnapping in Lancaster County, and of the arrest and partial trial before the slave commissioner of this city, of an alleged fugitive from Delaware. This week we have the details of another case of kidnapping which occurred also in Lancaster County, and the facts of an outrage perpetrated in this city, which is marked by some features of meanness which are without a precedent in the history of the many similar transactions which have disgraced this State since the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law. We allude to the case of Richard Neal.

One of the circumstances which distinguishes this case from others of a like nature that have gone before it, is the high position of the person who was the principal actor in it. The man at whose instance Richard was carried away, and who aided, in person, the constables employed for the purpose, prowling around the stables of our citizens to decoy his victim into his toils, was no less a personage than a Commodore in the United States Navy! What an honor he must be to the nation's service, and how proud should we be of the "gallant navy" in which such a man holds so conspicuous a position! We have often heard of the esteem in which our naval officers are held by their brethren of the same profession in foreign ports, but never before have we so vividly appreciated the reasons for it as we are made to do by this circumstance.

Disgusting, however, as is the conduct of this man, Mayo, that of our own Executive has not been less offensive. It was with his aid that this outrage upon decency and humanity was perpetrated. Why did he lend this aid? Did he do so ignorantly, without inquiring into the nature of the affair? Or did he act intelligently? In either case he was equally censurable. The whole matter was perfectly plain, and not to be misunderstood. The requisition from Governor Lowe called for the arrest of a "negro man," and distinctly stated that the offence alleged against him was that of "enticing and persuading to run away," certain slaves, (his own wife and children) whose names were therein mentioned. Governor Bigler responded to this requisition, and granted a warrant for the arrest of the alleged offender, thus recognizing a crime not known to the laws of this State, and establishing a precedent which puts in jeopardy the liberty and safety of thousands of our innocent and unoffending citizens.

Governor Bigler's behaviour in this matter, though outrageous, has been consistent. It is in keeping with his course from the beginning. He was elected to the office he holds on pro-slavery grounds, the grossest and most palpable. Citizens of Maryland aided in the canvass. His friends pledged him to certain measures desired by the slave holders. The repeal of the anti-kidnapping law of 1847, and the prohibition of colored people from emigrating into the State, were promised in case of his election. He was chosen, and measures were forthwith taken to make good these promises. Governor Bigler himself, in his inaugural message, recommended the repeal of "the greater part" of the law of 1847; and among the first acts of his administration was the pardon of the infamous George F. Alberti. One of his political friends about the same time introduced into the Legislature a bill to prevent the migration into the State of people of color. "So much for last winter." This winter his message recommended a re-enactment of the six months county law, giving the right to

slaveholders to bring their slaves into the state, and hold them here for the space of six months; thus making Pennsylvania in fact, a slave state. One of his political friends has introduced a bill to this effect into the Senate, and it is now in the hands of a committee to be reported upon. The last official act of Governor Bigler, in reference to this subject was the warrant under the requisition of his friend, Governor Lowe, for the apprehension of an innocent free man of color, falsely charged with having persuaded his wife and children more than three years ago to run away from slavery.

Such has been the course of Governor Bigler from the time of his nomination to the present, on all questions relating to the matter of slavery. His conduct has been equally consistent and disgraceful. As a Pennsylvanian we feel ashamed and mortified that the state should be represented in its Executive by a man so deficient in self-respect, and right principle, and that the honor and interest of the commonwealth should be entrusted to such custody.