

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

**THE FUGITIVE SLAVE CASE.**—The hearing in the case of Wm. Fisher, an alleged fugitive from labor, was continued before E. D. Ingraham, U. S. Commissioner, up to 7 o'clock, on Friday evening, and then adjourned until 9 A. M. on Saturday. At 9 o'clock the hearing was commenced:

Lieut. John McGary of the Marshal's Police, sworn.—I am lieutenant of police of Moyamensing; never saw Bill before to my knowledge; I was sick on Wednesday last, and left a man in my stead at the station house; did not get there until noon of the next day; was not there on the day of arrest; we keep a register of the persons committed to this station house, when they can tell their names; sometimes they are too drunk; in all the cases are not reported to me; this case was never reported to me. Robt. Hill is an officer at our station house; he did not report that he had arrested Bill Fisher until yesterday; the officers are not bound to take prisoners before the police magistrate; it is their duty to take them to the nearest magistrate; I had a conversation with officer Hill, Alberti, George Fields, or Ald. Dallas, about the matter.

The question whether Alderman McGary had not been at the Hall on the morning the prisoner was at the Hall, and whether the prisoner was still there? was overruled by the Commissioner.

Mr. Pierce asked for an adjournment until he could send for Ald. McGary, the Police Magistrate of Moyamensing, who would testify that he was at the Hall for the purpose of hearing the cases there, when the prisoner Bill was spirited away to Alderman Dallas' office; that he saw the prisoner there, asked what he was there for, and was ready to give him a hearing.

The Commissioner decided that it would not be evidence in the case, and refused the adjournment.

The testimony for the defence here closed.

Commissioner Ingraham notified counsel that he would give the master a certificate, as the case had been clearly made out.

Mr. Pierce asked the Commissioner if he would not wait until the habeas corpus sued out should be heard in the State Court?

The Commissioner replied that the habeas corpus was not directed to him, and he could therefore take no notice of it. If it had been so directed, he would know what answer to make to it.

The owner, Mr. Howard, then made oath that he was afraid of a rescue, and the Commissioner gave him a certificate requiring the U. S. Marshal to safely and securely convey the prisoner to Maryland.

As soon as Mr. Howard had received the certificate, Mr. Pierce, counsel for the prisoner, served another habeas corpus upon him, directing him to bring the body of Bill before the Court of Quarter Sessions at 10 o'clock.

Mr. Howard said he would comply with the directions, and so the matter ended before the U. S. Commissioner.

**Another Phase of the same Case—Prospect of Trouble—Conflict of Jurisdiction.**

At 10 o'clock, J. W. Ashmead, counsel for U. S. Marshal Wynkoop, asked for an hour's time to enable the Marshal to prepare a return to the writ of habeas corpus, requiring him to bring the body of Wm. Fisher, the alleged fugitive from labor, before the Court of Quarter Sessions. Judges Thompson, Kelley and Allison were present. The two writs of habeas corpus had been granted by Judge Allison, the first one was served on U. S. Marshal Wynkoop, and the second on the owner, J. C. Howard.

Mr. Pierce, for the prisoner Bill, said that if the prisoner was to be brought before the Court, he would not object to an hour's delay, but if it was to give time to enable the Marshal to evade bringing the body of Bill before the Court, he would object. For some reason best known to themselves, the parties here interested had not taken the prisoner to prison, to avoid, he believed, having the writ of habeas corpus answered by Mr. Freed, the keeper of the prison, in whose custody the prisoner ought to have been. He held in his hand the petition of Littleton Hubert, the bail of Fisher, setting forth that Fisher had been taken forcibly from his custody, he being his bail to answer the charge of assault and battery in the Quarter Sessions.

This statement was positively denied by the Marshal, through his counsel, Mr. Ashmead, who said, that all the Marshal asked for was time to prepare his return. Whether the Marshal would bring the body of the fugitive before this Court or not, his answer would disclose. It was his right to have time to enable him to make his return, and he was now in the midst of it. He [Mr. A.] was free to say, that this Court had no jurisdiction of the matter now before it, the prisoner being in the hands of the U. S. Marshal. If the Marshal should act, incorrectly he could be punished by a fine of one hundred pounds, Pennsylvania currency, for disobeying the writ of habeas corpus. To that remedy should the prisoner's counsel resort.

Mr. Pierce asked that the Court direct that the body of the fugitive be brought before it by the U. S. Marshal, who was now present.

Judge Thompson replied, that no action could be taken in the matter, until the body of the man was before them. It had been so decided many times.

Mr. Pierce asked that an attachment be directed against the U. S. Marshal, Wynkoop, for the non-production of the body.

Judge Thompson said, that he was entitled to his attachment, and directed it to be issued.

Mr. Ashmead replied, that he would direct the U. S. Marshal to go up into his office, and there await the service of the attachment.

Marshal Wynkoop then left the Court to await the service of the writ.

The attachment was given into the hands of Deputy Sheriff, Wm. Billmeyer, who waited upon the Marshal, and was informed by Mr. Ashmead that the Marshal was at present engaged in his official duties, but would be at his service as soon as he had gone through with his business.

Notified Deputy Sheriff returned to Court and received the writ of attachment, and asked for instructions.

Judge Thompson informed him that the Sheriff must serve the attachment, or make a return showing why he could not do so.

The Sheriff again departed on his admission.

The Deputy Sheriff returned to the Marshal, but up to 12 o'clock, the latter had not been produced in Court.

We understood that Judge Grier, of the United States Circuit Court, had been sent for, in consequence of the service of the attachment upon the Marshal.

In the meantime, a bench warrant was issued out of the Quarter Sessions, against J. C. Howard, the owner of the slave, and he was taken into custody by one of the officers of the Court, and brought before the Judges.

At about 12 o'clock Marshal Wynkoop was brought into Court by the Deputy Sheriff. The Marshal swore to his answer to the writ of habeas corpus, when his counsel asked to present the return. It was the first time, he said, that he had ever known an attachment to issue, without a rule to show cause first being had.

Mr. Pierce asked that the Marshal be directed to purge himself of the contempt, before his answer was received.

Mr. Ashmead replied that no contempt had been intended to the Court or any body else.

Judge Thompson called up Marshal Wynkoop, and said, that this Court, exercising the power given it, had issued an attachment against him for contempt. He desired the Marshal to explain why he had not obeyed the writ of habeas corpus served upon him.

Marshal Wynkoop replied that he only wanted sufficient time to prepare his return to the writ, and disclaimed entirely any intention to offer contempt to the Court.

Judge Thompson said, that as the Marshal had disclaimed intended contempt, he could not now file his answer, which avowed that the Marshal held the slave by direction of the United States Commissioner, and that he was directed to take sufficient force to convey the prisoner into Maryland, and deliver him to his master.

Mr. Ashmead further said—that every body who knows Marshal Wynkoop will feel satisfied that his not bringing the body of the prisoner before the Court, was not intended to evade the writ of the Court; but where the questions to be decided are very grave ones, they should not be decided without grave argument and reflection. If the prisoner should be taken from the Marshal, with or without his consent, for so the law reads, he would be liable, not only to an indictment, but to a fine of \$1000 under the Act of Congress. He held the prisoner by the certificate given to him by the United States Commissioner, whose power, by the Act of Congress, in such matters, is equal to that of a Judge of the U. S. Circuit Court.

Judge Thompson replied, that this Court has a right to know who takes away our citizens. We do not know that the U. S. Marshal holds the body, or that Mr. Wynkoop is the Marshal. There is no clash of jurisdiction here. We desire to know whether any offence has been committed by the alleged slave against the laws of our State. We don't intend to take him out of the custody of the Marshal.

D. P. Brown said—The simple question was, whether they had a right to hold the relator, this Court having issued a writ of habeas corpus for his body; and has he committed any offence against the laws of Pennsylvania? Is the wanjesty of the laws of this State nothing? Where is the man? Let his body be brought in, and if he has committed an offence against our laws, let him be tried for it. It will then be time to ask to take him to Maryland.

What is the reason he is not discharged? His not being here is a contempt, but probably not in a strict sense. Let there be a practical compliance with the writ. How can the Marshal be subject to a fine or indictment, if the man should be taken from his custody by a proper tribunal. They say he shall go back as a slave. We say he shall answer as a felon here first. Is a reason of the Marshal to be given, instead of a production of the body? If you decide in favor of the Marshal, the man is off; if against him, still he is off.

Judge Thompson remarked, that the simple question is, whether the return is sufficient.

Mr. Ashmead replied—that though the question was a simple one, it was very grave in its consequences, and if an adjournment was had until Monday morning, he would demonstrate by authorities that this Court had no jurisdiction in the case. It had already been decided in Massachusetts. If postponed, the man should not be removed, before the question should be decided.

Mr. Pierce asked that the body of Fisher be produced before a postponement was determined.

Judge Thompson said, the law commands the Court to grant a writ of habeas corpus to any person making the proper petition for it. They had no discretion in the matter. The custody of the man was admitted by the Marshal, and to take his word that he should not be removed, would be to place the liberty of the man upon the simple word of the Marshal in direct violation of the rights of the prisoner. If the return had been, that the Marshal had not the man in his custody, that would have been a sufficient return. No other return will answer. The English Courts make but one exception

to such a return, and that is in the case of impressed seamen. The case has been sufficiently argued to satisfy us, and we cannot adjourn the case over. The answer is sufficient, and the body of Fisher must be brought into Court by the Marshal.

Mr. Ashmead replied, after consultation with the Marshal, that the Marshal declined bringing the body of Fisher into Court, and that he stands upon his return.

Mr. Pierce then asked for an attachment against the Marshal, for contempt.

Judge Thompson said—that it was always to be regretted, when the acts of an officer was calculated to bring the jurisdiction of the State and the United States into conflict. The States are sovereign, and their laws must be enforced, wherever it may lead us. The attachment is ordered to be issued.

The U. S. Marshal was then taken into custody by the Sheriff.

The owner, J. C. Howard, was discharged from custody, he not having the body of Fisher in his custody.

The answer of Mr. Freed, the keeper of the prison, that he had not the body of Fisher in his custody, was deemed sufficient by the Court.

Thus ends the case for the present.

**A SKILFUL FORGER.**—A young man of genteel appearance, named Thomas J. Dowden, was taken before Ald. Ogle on Saturday morning, on the charge of forgery. It appears that early on Friday evening, Dowden obtained the services of a colored boy named Jesso Glasco, and requested him to take a sealed letter to Mr. Robert Harmer, corner of Broad and Chestnut streets, to await an answer; and for performing the service he would give him a "quarter to go to the Hippodrome." This meeting took place at Eleventh and Walnut streets. The lad took the note to Mr. Harmer.

Attached to this letter was a check on the Philadelphia Bank for the sum of \$50. It was signed Wm. C. White. Mr. Harmer returned word that he had not the change,—all that he had on hand being reserved for marketing purposes in the morning.

The forger then gave the lad another check, signed by Mr. White, for the same amount of money, and sent him to Mr. John Guy, on Seventh st. above Chestnut. On presenting the letter, Mr. G. replied that he had not the change ready, but would give it to him by 9 o'clock, at which time he requested the lad to call again.

PHILADELPHIA, Friday evening.

**FRIEND GUY**—A circumstance, of which I was not aware until a few moments since, has occurred, which renders it necessary for me to have a small sum of money more than I have in my pocket. Will you do me the favor to cash the enclosed, which you will find good upon presentation. You can enclose by the bearer, who is trusty, and oblige

Yours truly, Wm. C. WHITE.

The unsuspecting boy proceeded to Eleventh and Walnut, and reported to Dowden. Between this time and the hour of nine, one of the Marshal's police, happened to stop in at Guy's, and on hearing of the circumstance awaited the arrival of the lad. At the appointed hour the little fellow returned, and the officer took him into custody on suspicion that all was not right. The boy told a plain story, and conducted the officer and several citizens to Eleventh and Walnut streets, where Mr. Dowden was still standing. He was taken into custody and conducted to the Adolphi street lock up.

In the meantime the accomplished forger obtained the services of another colored boy named Robert Barton Holland, and gave him a letter to Mr. James Kelly, residing on Walnut street above Tenth. It reads as follows:

FRIDAY EVENING—7 o'clock.

**FRIEND KELLY**—A circumstance has occurred in my wife's family which requires her immediate presence in the State of Maine, and she is going to leave to-night. I only came to the knowledge of this after my arrival at home in Gormantown, as I carried her letter out, apprising her of the event, and I am unprepared in funds. Will you do me the favor to cash the enclosed check for \$100, which you will find good upon presenting it to the Philadelphia Bank.

I would have come up myself, but my family are in town with me and I cannot leave them. You can enclose me two fifties in an envelope by the bearer, and you will much oblige.

Yours truly CHARLES P. RELF.

Accompanying this letter was a check on the Philadelphia Bank for the sum or one hundred dollars, signed by Charles P. Relf.

Mr. Kelly suspected the lad at once, and wished to see Mr. Relf. The boy said he was standing at the corner of Eleventh and Walnut streets. Kelly went with the lad, but the bird had flown. It was subsequently ascertained that a moment or two before this period he was arrested by the officer, as already stated.

Kelly returned to his house, but a short distance off, with the lad. The latter upon being interrogated, became agitated, and made his escape through the front doorway. Mr. K. ran after him, and, on gaining the street, fell, by which he bruised his face badly, cut one of his knees, and sprained both wrists. The boy escaped. Mr. Kelly returned to the house, and sent after Lieut. Ellis, and detailed to him an account of the affair. The lieutenant set a watch, and this morning the boy was caught. He fully identified Dowden as the man who sent the letter to Mr. Kelly.

The prisoner was sent below in default of \$1,500 bail.

On the person of Dowden, a number of pawnbroker's tickets were found, certifying to the depositing of a quantity of harness, and other articles of value, which will be secured by the officers in a day or two.

**IMPROVEMENTS IN PENN DISTRICT.**—Penn District is improving rapidly, and will soon rank with the most favored portions of the city. Mr. George L. Nagle is about making an extensive improvement, which, when completed, will add greatly to the appearance of the District. That gentleman is about erecting no less than forty-two handsome dwellings in the neighborhood of Eleventh and Master streets. Twenty-four of these houses will be upon Eleventh street, above Thompson. They will be three stories in height, with double back buildings. The remaining eighteen are also to be three stories high, with single back buildings. The last named are to be built on Eleventh street, above Master. These dwellings have already been commenced, they will all be furnished with the modern means and appliances for comfort and convenience, and cannot fail to give a healthy impetus to improvement in that growing neighborhood.

**FIREMEN'S FIGHT.**—During the fire in Robertson street, on Saturday morning, a fracas took place between the Hibernia and Carroll Hose Companies. One of the combatants received a severe wound in the head from a fire-horn. Officer Jones arrested one of the participants, and a director of the Hibernia, was also taken in custody for interfering with the officers. The Hibernia, while on her way from the fire, was attacked by a gang of ruffians, at Third street and Franklin avenue. Officer Blackburn, who was escorting the former company to its quarters, succeeded in arresting a young man named Joseph Jackson, one of the assailants. The officer then scattered the ruffians by firing five barrels of his revolver among them. Jackson was taken before Ald. Ogle, who held him in \$500 bail, to answer the charge of riot. The defendant is an Irishman, and has been about ten months in the country.

**ANOTHER FIRE.**—About three o'clock on Saturday morning, the carpenter shop of Mastor & Tomlinson, in Robertson street, Spring Garden, was set on fire, the flames speedily communicated to the brick stables of Lippincott & Haines, which adjoined on the north. These buildings were soon completely on fire, and the flames spread to the carpenter shops of Z. S. Tompkins and J. R. Conover, which were all involved in a general conflagration, and were, together with most of their contents, destroyed. The lower part of the shop of Mr. Conover escaped total destruction. The third story of this building was occupied by Lewis Thomas, as a manufactory of segar boxes. The buildings burnt were all of brick. The loss of some of the sufferers is partially covered by insurance. A large quantity of made up work was destroyed, and most of the journeymen lost their tools.

**NARROW ESCAPE.**—On Friday afternoon, two lads undertook to navigate a small sail-boat on the Delaware, near Florence Heights. Though the wind was light, the little craft was soon capsized. They clung with a firm grasp to the wreck, until a boat put out from the shore to rescue them. Though they suffered only from fright and a complete ducking, their misfortune should be a warning to all who are tempted to brave the dangers of the water in such a craft.

**DEATH OF A BRITISH SEA CAPTAIN.**—Yesterday the flags of the shipping port were at half-mast, in respect to the memory of Captain Robinson, of the British brig "Effort," who died after an illness of only three days. He arrived here only a few days ago. The captain died at the house of C. A. Koehler, on the wharf, above South street, where he was kindly attended by Mr. K. and family. The deceased leaves a wife and family in London.

**ARRESTED.**—A man who gave the name of Frederick Eshorick, was arrested yesterday morning upon the charge of having committed the robbery at the St. Charles Hotel last week, and locked up at the City Hall. The gold watch, breastpin and cross, were recovered by officer Mirkel. The prisoner gave the name of Edwards at the hotel.

**ALARM OF FIRE.**—Yesterday morning about 1 o'clock, a hoghead filled with combustible materials, was set on fire at Dilwyn and Green streets, and occasioned a general alarm. Nearly all the firemen were attracted to the spot, and manifestations of a riotous disposition were checked by the early appearance of the police.

**A LUNATIC.**—A German, evidently crazy, was taken up by the Marshal's Police of Spring Garden, on Friday evening, and locked up. He gave his name as August Zange, and says that he belongs to Hollidaysburg, Pa. He was evidently crazy, and was sent to the Almshouse at Blockley.

**BURGLARY.**—Early on Saturday morning, a daring attempt at house-breaking was made in Erie street, south of Fitzwater. The door was bored, but the burglars were frustrated by a small dog on the premises. Officers Kneass and Neff of the Marshal's Police, heard the alarm, but were not in time to make an arrest.

**SUPPOSED LARCENY.**—A man was taken before Ald. McGarry, on Friday, on suspicion of having stolen a diamond ring valued at \$60. He was committed to await a further hearing. Any person having lost such an article would do well to call on the Alderman.

**INCITING TO RIOT.**—Joseph Lefever was arrested at 12 o'clock on Friday night, in Spring Garden, for inciting to riot. He was taken before Ald. Buckman, and ordered to find bail in the sum of \$300.

**ROBBED.**—A house in Carlton street was robbed of six dresses and a port monnaie, containing a small sum of money, on Saturday night. The thief entered through a back window.

**SMALL POX.**—It is rumored that the small pox prevails to an alarming extent in Moyamensing, among the blacks of that district.