

THE LATE SLAVE CASE.

The case of George Smith, *alias* Bill Fisher, has resulted in the rendition of the man to his claimant. The success of these kidnappers, official and unofficial—Alberti, Ingraham, Wynkoop & Co.—suggests the suspicion that an organized gang of man-stealers exists in this city, to whom extraordinary facilities are afforded by sympathizing officials. The ‘alacrity’ of Marshal Wynkoop in this case indicates something other than the performance of a “disagreeable duty.” His efforts to deny the slave the right of habeas corpus; his eagerness to send a carriage to the prison in which to place the slave, that the keeper of the prison should not answer the writ with the body of Fisher; his subsequent escape from court with his victim before a bail-piece could be issued; the celerity and secrecy with which Fisher was hurried away—all looks more like the haste of an accomplice, than the dignified action of an officer of the law awaiting legal investigation:

The Evening Bulletin, Daily Register, and Sun, the first two edited by lawyers, denounced the Marshal as unfit for his office; but we fear he is but too well qualified for it, and was probably selected with a view to his special fitness. From Ingraham and Alberti we expect nothing; they must long ago have passed that point of transgression indicated by the Scriptures; “where the spirit shall not strive with man,” and appeal to them is useless; but we hoped from Marshal Wynkoop at least a recognition of the low defences which the law allows the slave.

We are assured that the Marshal is a dutiful son and an affectionate brother, and if his manhood fulfils the promise of his boyhood, we can believe he is so; but yet with his own heart filled with filial and fraternal

feeling, he displays unusual activity in his effort to break up the home of the poor black man, whose very weakness would be his best appeal to a magnanimous nature. He uses extraordinary means to separate the wife from her husband, the children from their father, to return the man to hopeless slavery and perpetual separation from the same affections in his humble home, which Marshal Wynkoop cherishes in his own house as the holiest possession. The Marshal will allow us to suggest that there are higher associations in life than Alberti, and better purposes than slave-catching, more worthy the ambition of his youth and strength, and not so certain to cover his name and memory with infamy and execration.