OPERATION OF THE FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW OF THE UNITED STATES.

Our readers will not fail to have observed, from the record we have made of the various cases which have arisen under this obnoxious enactment, that each successive case has either brought out some new enormity, or has been accompanied by circumstances tending to show that it can only be carried into execution at the sacrifice of law and order, and even of life itself. The people of the free States feel deeply the injury which has been inflicted upon them, by making them parties to the execution of the law, and are general in its denunciation. In one case which we have recorded, it will be seen they looked coolly on as spectators, whilst an alarming affray was proceeding, without evincing the least disposition to maintain order. But a more serious feature, in the character of the opposition offered, appears in a late case at Syracuse, where not only did the people assemble by hundreds, but the bells of the various churches were tolled, in order to spread the alarm. In addition, and above all, the military companies, which were ordered out by the sheriff to get under arms, when they learnt the object for which their services were required, refused to lend their aid. Where all this is to end, it is difficult to say—there exists a large amount of anxiety on the subject. But in the midst of this excitement, several Conventions have been held in various States, at which the most determined opposition has been offered to the Bill; and it is certain, that the forthcoming elections of the high officers of State will be greatly influenced thereby.

SLAVE-CATCHING IN SYRACUSE—INTENSE EXCITEMENT—REFRAIN OF THE MILITARY TO INTERFERE.

Syracuse, October 1st, 1851.

Our city (says the correspondent of the New York Tribune) is perfectly wild with excitement. A negro man named Jerry was arrested here to-day, claimed by a man named McHenry, of Missouri, as a fugitive slave. The United States Marshal with aids from the neighbouring cities congregated here, arrested Jerry, and brought him before United States Commissioner Sabine. The news spread over the city, the bells in the various churches were tolled, and the people assembled in knots at the corners of the streets. One general feeling pervaded every breast, that of disgust and abhorrence at the Fugitive Slave Law, and this its first foul offense in our city. The commissioner adjourned the court for half an hour, at about half-past 2 o'clock p.m. The adjournment had no sooner been made than a band of negroes and others crowded the alleged fugitive, rescued him from the custody of the officers, and rushed down Water and Genesee Streets, through Market-square, and down Water-street to Lock-street, over Lock-street bridge, where he was captured by the officers and taken back to the police-office of Justice House. Jerry was heavily handuffed, which prevented his successful escape at this time.

In the meantime the crowd and excitement became intense; and the feeling gained on the people that the Fugitive Slave Law must not be executed in Syracuse. The military companies were ordered out by the sheriff of the county, and got under arms, and prepared for action. Only one company, however, would leave their arms, and finally they went back, and the whole military of the city refused to aid and abet in carrying Jerry back into slavery. The commissioner resumed the examination at about 5 p.m., at the police-office of Justice House. The crowd outside, unable to gain admittance, became more and more excited, and the "noise and confusion" frequently prevented the prosecution of the examination. The windows of the room were shot through the windows of the room, and the crowd exhibited other unmistakable signs that they were decidedly hostile to the Fugitive Slave Law. About 7 p.m., the crowd outside became more and more clamorous, and the stones, &c., becoming more and more frequent, the commissioner decided to adjourn the examination until to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock.

This was announced to the crowd by Mr. Hillis, counsel for the prisoner, but the excitement could not be allayed. The officers in charge of the fugitive soon found it necessary to board up the windows, and in so doing they got pretty well pelleted. They next tried the effect of a few stones fired over the heads of the people, but it only increased the excitement. About 9 p.m., a desperate onslaught was made, and the doors and windows of the office broken in. The lights extinguished, and the fugitive taken from the custody of his officers, and carried away to breathe freedom and liberty in the "ural districts" of our delightful country. So Mr. Webster's prophecy proves false, and the Fugitive Slave Law cannot be executed in Syracuse. The agent of the claimant at the final rescue jumped from the window of the police-office, on the housetop of the canal (or into the canal, I don't know which), where he was caught by the crowd; but the claimant to be a line-bait passenger, and the crowd cordially wished him to go on his way. A box of newspapers and a bag of feathers had been provided for his accommodation, and were within convenient distance, but he escaped them by his dexterous subterfuge. I understand the Marshal from Rochester had his arm broken in the melee at the last escape, and rumour is busy reporting other injuries, none, however, of a serious nature, and I have no faith in any of the reports. Some two or three persons fell from an awning into a cellar-stair, and were somewhat injured. The appearance of the police-office is rather deserted, and looks as if it had stood a pretty hard fire. The general sentiment was and is against the law and its execution; and one general congratulation is passing round the streets, and from mouth to mouth, at this final issue of the attempt to kidnap a human being in the "Central City" of the Empire State.

SYRACUSE, Oct. 2.

That part of our city immediately surrounding the police-office appears as if it had just been evacuated by a retreating army. The building itself bears unmistakable evidence of the fury and sincerity of those who were engaged in the rescue of the fugitive slave, Jerry, last evening. I wrote to you, and sent by the night express train, as good an account of the conflict as I could gather amid the intense excitement and uproar. The particulars, as I sent them to you then, do not vary at all from the facts as they were. The Deputy-Marshall Fitch, from Rochester, had his arm broken in jumping from the police-office to the ground. Some of the accounts have it, that he received a blow from some of the assailants, by which his arm was broken. This is an entire mistake. He broke his arm himself, in his endeavour to get out of the way of the crowd. One other man, a citizen of Syracuse, named Woodruff, who had been employed to assist in securing the prisoner, received a blow on the head, which did some damage. No violence was used by the crowd. It had none of the characteristics of a mob. It was one universal, unfeeling current against the Fugitive Slave Law, and in favour of the poor man claimed as a fugitive. The feeling could not be resisted. The crowd, so far moved by one impulse, effected the rescue of Jerry, as completely, and as successfully, as it could be done. A heavy plank was brought against the doors of the police-office, which, bolted, barred and secured as they were, soon yielded to the tremendous pressure. The crowd then flocked into the office, extinguished the lights, and with the same plank battered down an inside partition, which let them into the rooms where sat the poor fugitive, heavily chained and handcuffed, and surrounded by officers and Deputy Marshals. He was taken up on the shoulders of the crowd, and, amid the most desolating hurrahs and shouts, was borne along Water Street to Salina, and down Salina to the Railroad depot, through the depot to Warren, down Warren to Bunnell's Hotel, where he was placed in a carriage and driven rapidly away.
The chief movers in the crowd appeared to be negroes, although no one could be recognised in the darkness of the night, and amid the excite- ment. No one was hurt, and no one did it, and I have seen no one of our citizens this morning so unfortu- nate in his opinions as to condemn the act. Indeed, congratulatory remarks and smiles prevailed on every countenance. No sooner do two persons meet than one begins to grin, and the other to say, "Where's Jerry?" The one strong sentiment in the heart of the whole city is, that the law-abiding people are to be left alone. Who wants a negro to guard the city? He wants the legal officers to have still more unfortunate in their attempt to carry it out, at this time. It is doubtful if they will not always be alike unfortunate to do the same thing in this city. The little paper printed here, called the Star, is farous upon the occasion, but its voice is like unto that of the dog barking at the moon. There is not a corporal's guard in the whole city taking sides with it. The agent of the claimant (whose name is James Lear) was arrested on a warrant issued by Justice House, on the charge of attempting to kidnap a citizen. He was held to bail. He will (if he can be found, which is doubtful) be arrested again this afternoon for carrying arms concealed upon his person. The name of the advocate of poor Jerry is John McReynolds, of Marion County, Mo. With regard to the firing, some conflicting statements have appeared. The first firing was by the officers from the police-office, and was without doubt intended to intimidate the crowd. It, however, had the contrary effect, and was answered by a renewed and more extensive volley of brickbats, and the crowd only became more furious. After this some more firing was done from the office, and returned by some member of the crowd.

The President of the United States has issued a proclamation in reference to the affray, asserting in the strongest terms the intention of the Government to pursue those who took a prominent part in the rescue. It is said that some arrests have taken place, but it will be difficult, where so large a number of the resident population openly sympathise with the fugitive, to obtain a conviction.

The number of arrests which continues to be made is not at all dissimilated; whilst the circumstances attendant thereupon, are of the most exciting character. The following amongst other cases appears in our current files:

**FUGITIVE SLAVE ARREST AT BUFFALO.**

Buffalo, Oct. 1st.—Deputy Marshal George B. Gates, of the Northern District, arrested a negro but near Jamestown, in Chautauqua county, an alleged fugitive slave named Harrison, and brought him to this city this morning. Mr. Dicke, under a strong guard and handcuffed, to Constable Harrison, so as to make a rescue the more difficult. The coloured population were a good deal excited, and followed the officers with their victory, in great crowds, from the boat to the goal, where he now is. The claimant's name is Dr. Payson, of Hardy county, Va. Harrison left there, with seven other fugitives, in January last. Two of the party returned about a month since, and were arrested, and there lived near the whereabouts of their companions. This information resulted in Harrison's arrest. The officers had warrants for three other fugitives who were in Jamestown, but they escaped into Canada. Messrs. Talbot and Lorrain appear as counsel for the fugitives, and Haines and Smith for the claimant's.

A later account says—Harrison, the fugitive slave claimed by N. D. Payson, of Va., was, after a brief examination before Commissioner Smith, remanded to his owner.—Warrants have been issued for several other fugi- tives, but they have not been, nor are they likely to be arrested.

**THE PHILADELPHIA CASE.**

In our last we gave an account of the tragic circumstances connected with this case. Since then, several additional statements have appeared, which go to show that the coloured people received the news of their friends' escape from them with a very forcible resemblance. The Boston Conventicle has the following pertinent remarks on the case:

"The horrible event of the killing of Gorinch and his son, while pursuing their slaves under the cover of this odious and abominable bill, is one of the legitimate and expected fruits to be reaped by those who recommended, and those who assisted in forcing so monstrous a measure upon an unwilling people. It will never be forgotten that this bill established courts as unconstitutional as any court of High Commissary, or of Star Chamber in England, and as cruel and inhuman in their action as any Inquisition in Spain. Not all the conservative clausue in the world can overcome the recollection, that this bill was passed by a log-rolling coalition of office-seekers and office-holders, cheered on by men whose only wish was to cultivate private interest for that object, and set aside, and hurried through the forms of legislation a measure abolishing the trial by jury, without either allowing any time for discussion in Congress, or for the voice of the people without the walls of the Capitol to the claimant's representation within it.

"That such kidnacies as that of Gorinch and his son would be, and must be committed under the working of this Fugitive Slave Bill, was foreseen from the very beginning, and they must inevitably occur, so long as more bills of slavery are introduced. We shall not attempt to justify them. We lament and deplore, as much as any one can, this unlawful-for-loss of human life. But we declare that those who are responsible for it are Webster and Fillmore, and Mason and Clay, and Poote and Samuel A. Elliott, and the others that voted for this abominable bill. Upon their heads lies the blood of the Gorinchs. How can it be otherwise, in a system of legislation which makes it a crime to rescue a slave, and so encourage slavery in the free States, without the charge of any crime? Every case of interference of any jury, should be resisted unto the death? Every boy, in every public school, and even coloured boys, from early infancy, are taught to denounce in favour of liberty, and to love it and respect it, as their dearest possession. The intervention of any jury, should be resisted unto the death? Boy, every Deit, in every public school, and even coloured boys, from early infancy, are taught to denounce in favour of liberty, and to love it and respect it, as their dearest possession. The intervention of any jury, should be resisted unto the death?

"This terrible tragedy in Pennsylvania ought to restore to his son every man so misused as ever to have justified, as constitutional and lawful, this most fatal enactment. What has happened in Pennsylvania, may happen at our own doors—now. Indeed, it must in time occur in every free State in the Union, if this Fugitive Slave Bill be not repealed.

The Grand Jury of the United States Circuit Court have found true bills for high treason against four white men and twenty-seven of the coloured men brought down from Christians. Only one sued by an ignorant of the bill—George Wells, a coloured man.

**TRIAL OF BENJAMIN RUST FOR ASSAULTING THE FUGITIVE DAVIES.**

Our readers will remember the circumstances connected with the arrest of this unfortunate man. The following are the particu- lars of the trial for the assault, from which it will be seen that, although the blow inflicted was of the most serious character, the most trifling punishment was inflicted:

The trial—so called—of Benjamin Rust, the slave-atcher, for striking down an unarmed man, with a blow that rendered him senseless and caused him to fall into a fire by which he was severely burned, has just been concluded before Justice Gold, at Buffalo. It was clearly proved on the trial, that Rust, went to the wood chest, from which he selected, according to the witnesses, "a large stick " of cloth wood, which he weighed in his hand, and finding it not deadly enough for a coward's weapon, threw it away, and selected a larger and heavier one. He then went to the chimney leading to the kitchen, from which he expected Davis to emerge, and there knocked down on one knee, over the hatch, in such a position, that his victim's back should be towards him as he came up. Here, heising the weapon in both hands, and measuring its sweep so as to give effect to the blow, the bastard waited until poor Daniel's head appeared above deck, when (a witness testifies) "the defendant raised his stick in both hands, thus, [raising his hands above his head] and struck him with all his force. He struck him once and Daniel fell, falling down on the hot stove, where he lay as dead." After being "dragged off the stove," he came too little and lay "squaking and breathing hard," until handcuffed and taken into custody.

A large number of witnesses testified to every detail of this sickening scene. The prosecution, there was put in no danger of the slightest incident—the evidence was all admissible unblushingly—and attempted to be justified on the ground, that "Cost was acting under a legal power of attorney!"

In course of arguing the point, whether the State seal of Kentucky stamped, instead of being affixed in wax, rendered the documents illegal, the Court (meaning Police-Justice Gold) said, that "in an examination of this case, where the object is to see if any crime has been committed, the utmost latitude should be allowed. Had he been sitting as commis- sioner, his opinion would have been very different, but for the pur- pose of this examination he ruled that the papers might be admitted."

The trial concluded, there was put in no denial of the slightest incident—the evidence was all admissible unblushingly—and attempted to be justified on the ground, that "Cost was acting under a legal power of attorney!"

The Court thought that as a Police-Judge he ought not to overturn the decision of a United States officer.

The Court pronounced that the defendant was guilty of assault and battery, without intent to kill, and fined him in the sum of fifty dollars! The Buffalo Express, in which we find these particulars, says justly, in view of the enormity of the offence, and the circumstances attending it:  "this sentence is trifling with the laws and the rights of the people." The Voice of the Fugitive, published in Canada West, gives the following interesting item:

Daniel applyed at the Toronto Convention. He did not show any symptoms of a wish to return to a slave State. His hardened head and general appearance gave sufficient evidence of the ill-treatment to which he had been subjected; and we are glad that he is now beyond the reach of slave-hunting inhumanity."