

custody, and being brought by force within our jurisdiction, the federal laws made for recapture of fugitives from justice, or from labour, were alike inoperative, inasmuch as they require voluntary residence as the ground of jurisdiction. On consultation, we deemed it improper to interfere. Great Britain had taken the lead in the assertion of human rights; she had struck the fetters from her own slaves, and was pioneer among the nations of the world in abolishing slavery. She had formally thought proper to surrender an alleged criminal; she had deemed the offence so serious as to justify the exercise of that prerogative about which nations are so jealous that they have oft refused the surrender of even murderers. She had done so on mature deliberation. Would it become us to assume a standard higher than hers? to become the patrons of a crime she had thus markedly denounced as atrocious? We thought not: we were trustees seeking to carry out a great and sacred principle confided to us, and were bound to do so wisely and discreetly. Had we interfered in this case, we would have fought the battle of liberty, not on its own sacred principles, but as protectors of crime; for the prisoner was in custody as a criminal, not as a slave; and that he was an aggravated criminal, Britain's unusual surrender nationally avowed. To fight this contest, then, would but have weakened us for those that await us on the broad platform of man's inalienable rights; have added to existing prejudices that which would have arisen from our asserting a standard of morals higher than that of Great Britain. In Detroit we had begun to turn public sympathy in favour of the fugitive slave, and we dared not to weaken that sympathy for the many unfortunates who need it, by an exertion in behalf of a single individual.

We therefore reluctantly and with grief crushed down our own feelings, and sorrowing committed the hapless Hackett to the dire fate that awaited him—a fate, not as Sir Charles Bagot doubtless anticipated to be measured by the impartial majesty of law—but to be doomed by an incensed master, an infuriated overseer, and the vindictive passion of a slave-ocracy, daily smarting under the assertion of their captive's right to freedom. What that fate was we shuddered to think. May humanity never learn it; but let ignorance shroud it, along with many a deed of kindred horror, beneath its impenetrable veil.

I only add, that the project of recovering fugitive slaves, even from within the heretofore sacred palladium of British protection, by the cunning device of alleged crime, is becoming a matter of frequent occurrence, and is stimulated to increasing perfection by every successful issue. It is the duty of Great Britain, if she desires the protection of her national honour, to refuse the surrender, even of the petty foreign criminal, to that country which has denied to her the British murderer; and if she seeks consistency in her anti-slavery principles, she should avoid being deluded by a pretence of the slave interest that can procure larceny indictments for each fugitive, who, as a piece of locomotive property, commits a high theft in the eye of the slave-holding law, the moment he dares to steal himself from the tender mercies of avaricious power.

When Hackett was, as mentioned, rushed across the Detroit river under secret haste, and amid the darkness of a winter's night, the Canadian court which had cognizance of his offence was near at hand. What return was made of the informations, or what by the jailor of his charge, is not known. It will be recollected that Hackett was not at large, the legal subject of surrender by British authorities, but a prisoner under British law, for an offence it claimed to be in its jurisdiction, and the person of the alleged criminal was at the control only of that law. The justice who arrested Hackett was bound to have returned the informations to the court, and the jailor who had his custody was responsible for his person. The governor's warrant was controlled by the higher power of the law, and could have taken effect only when that law had performed its duty.

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New York, August 9th, 1842.

REMARKS.

The writer of the above has carefully restricted his allegations within the bounds of stern fact, and excluded surmises, or aught that on inquiry might prove a mis-statement. There are however, we are assured, matters connected with the case, that aggravate its dark features. It is feared that Hackett was a victim of conspiracy among the Canadians and his pursuers. His restoration to captivity, and the recovery of the horse, watch and coat, were alone sufficient to stimulate cupidity, but the advantage of his capture from the very clutches of England was invaluable to men so affected by the escape of slaves, and who would thus be enabled to exhibit their power at overreaching even British protection. Their poor victims are too ignorant to understand the "modus operandi"—it is sufficient that they see within their masters' power one of themselves taken from soil heretofore deemed inaccessible to the slave-holder. This, of course, paralyzes all effort at escape, as proving that there is safety in no place. Thus the captors had every inducement to great exertion and pecuniary sacrifice. There is reason to fear that the whole proceeding was a concerted movement between the pursuers and the Canadian authorities, that the plan was arranged between them, that Hackett was to be arrested and held to bail until an indictment was found in Arkansas—a demand made, and the prisoner surrendered—that there never was any intention of trying the man in Canada—that the contrary was alleged only to deceive his

friends, and blind them as to the movement in Toronto—that the frontier authorities were to use, and did use their influence with Sir Charles Bagot—that they were to be well paid provided the surrender was made. The names of several official and private individuals, who it is confidently believed were engaged in this dark plot, have been given to us. Of course, much that then took place sleeps in the parties own bosoms, and, however plausible or strong conjectures may bear to their guilt, it would be improper to make it a matter of direct charge. The jailor undoubtedly required the sanction of the crown presiding officer before he gave up a prisoner for whom he was responsible, and some curious considerations must have governed that officer in departing so very far from his duty, and the law of the British empire. If the governor be properly applied to on this subject, he will, we presume, disclose the representations made to him, and bring to light the amount of fees paid to subordinate officers in the matter. We trust that the never tiring vigilance of the Committee in London will so conduct the inquiry, that the British governor and all his subordinates will be made to feel their responsibility, and that quietude may be given to the thousands of coloured American citizens who have sought an asylum in her Britannic Majesty's dominions.

THE RIOT IN PHILADELPHIA.

From the American and Foreign Anti-slavery Reporter.

On the 1st of August this city was disgraced by one of the most unprovoked and cruel outbreaks against the people of colour that has ever occurred in this country. The facts are substantially as follows:

The people of colour, especially the members of the coloured temperance societies, had made arrangements for the celebration of the 1st of August, the day when the shackles of slavery fell from 800,000 of their fellow men in the British West Indies, by a public procession. &c. We take the following account from the Philadelphia Daily Chronicle of August 2nd. After the procession had moved through several of the principal streets, and when it had reached Fourth and Plumb streets, in the district of Southwark, it was attacked by a volley of stones, thrown by the whites, and a white boy brutally attacked a coloured lad who was in the procession. A black man then struck the white boy over the head, when a general fight, in which thousands took part, ensued, and continued during the whole day. The blacks were seriously beaten at the onset, but rallied and thrashed the whites.

From Fourth and Plumb streets, the crowd of both colours ran to Fifth and Shippen, then up to Sixth and South, fighting with clubs, sticks, stones, brickbats, and whatever missiles they could obtain, until they reached the corner of Sixth and Lombard streets, within the precincts of the city. Some of the blacks took refuge in their own meeting houses in that neighbourhood, and their procession having been dispersed, the whites went to work and destroyed houses and property indiscriminately, so that they belonged to or were occupied by blacks.

During the fight we have attempted to describe, several persons engaged in it were very seriously hurt. One white man had his arm broken from a blow inflicted by a huge club in the hands of a black; another white man was stabbed with a knife or dirk in the eye: a black man named Metcalf had his right eye laid open by a blow from the weapon of a white, and some fifteen or twenty others were more or less seriously injured. The most desperate of the blacks was a deaf and dumb man, who did much mischief, and seriously injured several whites ere he was arrested by the police. The destruction of property was serious in several parts. In Lombard street below Sixth, a small court adjoining the African Wesleyan meeting house was filled with whites, who dashed bricks through the windows, smashing the glass, frame, and sashes of all in three or four houses. Other buildings in the same neighbourhood were treated in like manner. The frame house on the corner of South and Hirst-streets, presented the appearance of a fort after a fight with musketry; pieces of brick were sticking in the boards where they had been thrown by the whites, two of the window shutters were smashed in, the door broken, and windows shattered to atoms. In Mary-street, from Sixth to Eighth, a similar state of things was visible, as it was in most of the alleys and by-ways, in that section; so also in Bedford (Small) street. The police arrived on the ground during the skirmish, arrested several, and succeeded in restoring something like order, although thousands still remained standing about discussing the propriety of the farther destruction of property. All remained apparently quiet for two or three hours, the police having perfect mastery over the mob. About three o'clock, some few of the ringleaders (whites) had a skirmish with a small party of blacks, and the interference of the police was found necessary. One of the special constables in an attempt to arrest a lad, was mobbed, and a beautiful black cloth coat torn from his back. All this time there were several thousand people in Lombard-street, below Sixth, looking at the Wesleyan meeting house.

Being on the ground about four o'clock, we noticed the movements of some who appeared to be acting as ring-leaders, when a boy, certainly not over sixteen years old, set up a screeching howl, with waving of his hands to follow. In "less than no time" one-half the large crowd were imitating him, and off they started, running and howling like mad Indians, down Sixth to Mary street, discharging missiles at every house that had been inhabited by blacks (at this time most of them had moved off); through Mary street to Eighth, the mob continued their work of destruction, not increasing the damage much, however, as they had been all injured previously. The crowd now proceeded down Eighth to the county; they entered Bedford street, where all halted before some small frame houses, and shower upon shower of destructive missiles were hurled at them; the attention of the mob was then directed to a one-story meeting-house or school-room in the rear, the doors and windows of which were soon demolished; just at this moment, and when we were standing directly opposite the meeting house, a black discharged a loaded gun from one of the windows at the crowd, but did no damage. This added fuel to the flame, fences were torn down, the boards broken into strips, and a regular onslaught was made. A portion of the mob seeing the black who fired the