

to those who conceal their condition from the dying, whatever may be the danger of revealing it!

A great deal of excitement existed at this time in Buffalo, not only amongst what is called "the coloured population", but also amongst the "whites"; and, from Buffalo, extended through the length and breadth of the United States. New York is a free state—that is to say, it permits not its citizens to possess slaves within its boundaries; nor could any fugitive slave be pursued and recovered in it until a general law, passed in the preceding year, authorised slave owners from slave states, not only to follow and seize their runaways in the territory of free states, but, also, compelled all private citizens and authorities in free states to assist in capturing and reconducting them to their owners when called upon to do so. A fugitive slave, in fact, was looked upon in the same light as a thief who had run away with his master's property, and all the confederation of friendly states constituting the Union, were called upon to aid in arresting the robber. It was in vain that

citizens of free states declared that slavery was as repugnant to them as to the feelings of Englishmen, and protested against being made to do violence to those feelings by aiding in re-enslaving a fellow creature who had fled amongst them for protection. They were reminded that, by the very first principles of the federative union, every state was independent as to its own internal legislation, and that the rules of goodfellowship required that each should assist the other in carrying out that legislation, and in the restoration of "lost, strayed, or stolen" property. I myself could not quite see how one position necessarily followed from the other: obligations exist, by treaty, between England and the United States, but England does not therefore surrender all slaves who may have escaped to Canada. However, I confine myself now to facts, and return to the cause of the excitement at Buffalo.

A man named Rust had been just sent there by Mr. George H. Moore of Louisville, Kentucky, in search of a slave named Daniels, whom the said Mr. Moore claimed as his property. Rust, having found out that Daniels

was living as cook on board one of the Erie steam-boats, went on deck and had him called up from below. Daniels, suspecting no harm, was ascending the ladder to come on deck, when Rust caught up a billet of wood that lay ready for the furnace, struck him with it on the back of his head just as it emerged from below, and knocked him down the ladder. He fell upon the hot stove in the cook's room, where he lay senseless, bleeding and burning, until he was taken off, "badly fried, and with the blood running from his nose, mouth and ears." Thus helpless and stupified, he was carried before Mr. Commissioner Henry K. Smith, before whom it was proved, even by the witnesses for the claimant, that Daniels had been repeatedly sent by said claimant on his own business into the free state of Ohio, and that he had come away from Ohio, and not from Kentucky, to Buffalo; so that, it was asserted, he could not be said to have escaped from a slave state. It was declared that this interpretation of the wording of the law had been sanctioned by the highest tribunals. Mr. Commissioner Smith, however,

chose to read it differently, and decided against the black. But his owner had no predilection for Daniels: he only wished for the value of his property: and when lawyer Talcroft, on the part of the claimant, suggested that the condemned slave should be sent to prison while a telegraphic message was forwarded to Kentucky to inquire at what price Mr. Moore would sell him, in case white sympathisers and free blacks in Buffalo should be able and willing to ransom him, and when he had advised free negroes in the court to go quietly home and wait for the reply, Mr. Commissioner Smith had backed the advice in these words:

“ And I also have a few words to say to the coloured people here. If there is no telegraph sent at all, that slave shall go back to his master, according to my decision; and if you dare to oppose that decision by force, *you will be SHOT DOWN.*”

It may readily be supposed that great irritation and excitement prevailed at Buffalo amongst all classes while this was going on. Another magistrate was appealed to, and the slave-catcher, Rust, was bound over for trial,

in the sum of one thousand dollars, to answer a charge of assault and battery, for having stricken down the slave with a piece of wood. Daniels, however, still lay in jail.

On Monday morning, we started in railway cars, from the centre of one of the busiest streets in the town, to go to Niagara Falls, distant twenty-two miles. The road skirts the shore of Niagara river, which here is about three miles broad, winding slowly on through unpicturesque scenery, and amongst several uninteresting islands. Be it remembered, that this river is the outlet towards the sea of all the waters of Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, and Lake Superior, which cover about one hundred and fifty thousand square miles, and are supposed to contain nearly one half of the fresh water on the surface of the globe. Lazily it went along, between its low and rather marshy banks. We neared Niagara.

Boys and waiters passed through the cars recommending different hotels; for Niagara Falls is a holiday place for the Buffaloes, as, I presume, the inhabitants of the city call themselves: handbills, like those which Messrs.