

From the American Baptist.
**A VISIT TO THE SLAVE MOTHER WHO KILLED
HER CHILD.**

Last Sabbath, after preaching in the city prison, Cincinnati, through the kindness of the Deputy Sheriff, I was permitted to visit the apartment of that unfortunate woman, concerning whom there has been so much excitement during the last two weeks.

I found her with an infant in her arms only a few months old, and observed that it had a large bump on its forehead. I inquired the cause of the injury. She then proceeded to give a detailed account of her attempt to kill her children.

She said, that when the officers and slave-hunters came to the house in which they were concealed, she caught a shovel and struck two of her children on the head, and then took a knife and cut the throat of the third, and tried to kill the other,—that if they had given her time, she would have killed them all—that with regard to herself, she cared but little; but she was unwilling to have her children suffer as she had done.

I inquired if she was not excited almost to madness when she committed the act. No, she replied, I was as cool as I now am; and would much rather kill them at once, and thus end their sufferings, than have them taken back to slavery, and be murdered by piece-meal.

She then told the story of her wrongs. She spoke of her days of suffering, of her nights of unmitigated toil, while the bitter tears coursed their way down her cheeks, and fell in the face of the innocent child as it looked smiling up, little conscious of the danger and probable suffering that awaited it.

As I listened to the facts, and witnessed the agony depicted in her countenance, I could not but exclaim, Oh, how terrible is irresponsible power, when exercised over intelligent beings! She alludes to the child that she killed as being free from all trouble and sorrow, with a degree of satisfaction that almost chills the blood in one's veins; yet she evidently possesses all the passionate tenderness of a mother's love. She is about twenty-five years of age, and apparently possesses an average amount of kindness, with a vigorous intellect, and much energy of character.

The two men and the two other children were in another apartment, but her mother-in-law was in the same room. She says she is the mother of eight children, most of whom have been separated from her; that her husband was once separated from her twenty-five years, during which time she did not see him; that could she have prevented it, she would never have permitted him to return, as she did not wish him to witness her sufferings, or be exposed to the brutal treatment that he would receive.

She states that she has been a faithful servant, and in her old age she would not have attempted to obtain her liberty; but as she became feeble, and less capable of performing labor, her master became more and more exacting and brutal in his treatment, until she could stand it no longer; that the effort could result only in death, at most—she therefore made the attempt.

She witnessed the killing of the child, but said she neither encouraged nor discouraged her daughter-in-law,—for under similar circumstances she should probably have done the same. The old woman is from sixty to seventy years of age, has been a professor of religion about twenty years, and speaks with much feeling of the time when she shall be delivered from the power of the oppressor, and dwell with the Savior, 'where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest.'

These slaves (as far as I am informed) have resided all their lives within sixteen miles of Cincinnati. We are frequently told that Kentucky slavery is very innocent. If these are its fruits, where it exists in a mild form, will some one tell us what we may expect from its more objectionable features? But comments are unnecessary.

P. S. BASSETT.
Fairmount Theological Seminary,
Cincinnati, (Ohio,) Feb. 12, 1856. }

Below is a screen capture of a newspaper article from The Cincinnati Gazette on January 29th, 1856.

From the Cincinnati Gazette, Jan. 29.

ARREST OF FUGITIVE SLAVES.

A SLAVE MOTHER MURDERS HER CHILD RATHER THAN SEE IT RETURNED TO SLAVERY.

Great excitement existed throughout the city the whole of yesterday, in consequence of the arrest of a party of slaves, and the murder of her child by a slave mother, while the officers were in the act of making the arrest. A party of seventeen slaves escaped from Boone and Kenton counties, in Kentucky, (about sixteen miles from the Ohio,) on Sunday night last, and taking with them two horses and a sled, drove that night to the Ohio river, opposite to Western Row, in this city. Leaving the horses and sled standing there, they crossed the river on foot on the ice.

Five of them were the slaves of Archibald K. Gaines, three of John Marshall, both living in Boone county, a short distance beyond Florence, and six of Levi F. Daugherty, of Kenton county. We have not learned who claims the other three.

About 7 o'clock this morning the masters and their agents arrived in pursuit of their property. They swore out a warrant before J. L. Pendery, Esq., U. S. Commissioner, which was put into the hands of Deputy U. S. Marshal, Geo. S. Bennet, who obtained information that they were in a house belonging to a son of Jo. Kite, the third house beyond Millcreek. The son was formerly owned in the neighborhood from which they had escaped and was bought from slavery by his father.

About 10 o'clock the Deputy U. S. Marshal proceeded there with his posse, including the slave owners and their agent and Major Murphy, a Kentuckian, and a large slave holder. Kite was called out and agreed to open the door, but afterwards refused, when two Kentucky officers, assisted by some of the Deputy Marshals forced it, whereupon the young negro man Simon, the father of the children, fired a revolver three times before he was overpowered. By one of these shots special Marshal John Patterson, who raised his arm to reach the pistol, had two of his fingers of his right hand shot off, the ball afterwards striking his lip.

In the house were found four adults, viz: old Simon and his wife, and young Simon and his wife and four children of the latter, the oldest near six years and the youngest a babe of about nine months. One of these, however, was lying on the floor dying, its head cut almost entirely off. There was also a gash about four inches long in the throat of the eldest, and a wound on the head of the other boy.

The officers state that when they questioned the boys about their wounds they said the folks threw them down and tried to kill them.

The young woman, Peggy, and her four children belonged to Marshall, and her husband and the old man Simon and the old woman Mary to Gaines. Old Simon and Mary are the parents of young Simon.

or Farran, came and agreed to compromise by permitting them to be lodged for safe keeping in the county jail. During this debate, Lieut. Hazen who has charge of Hammond street Station House refused to admit the gentleman who swore out the habeas corpus. When Gaines, the master, came along he was freely admitted, and this gentleman walked in behind him, but was seized by Lieut. Hazen and put out.

Deputy Sheriff Buckingham having put the fugitives in a 'bus, got in himself, and directed it to be driven to the jail, but Mr. Bennet jumped on the box and ordered the driver to drive to the U. S. Court Rooms. Here another fuss ensued, and Bennet by the assistance of special Marshals, run the fugitives up into his office. But Buckingham sent for Sheriff Brashears and a large force, and by these they were re-taken and finally lodged in the county jail about 8 o'clock last evening.

They are now in the custody of the Sheriff, and it is said will not be forthcoming to attend Commissioner Pendery's Court this morning.

Judge Burgoyne, after issuing the writ, started to Columbus. It is presumed he will be back at 11 o'clock this morning, the hour at which the writ is returnable.

THE INQUEST ON THE DEAD CHILD.

Coroner Menzies held an inquest yesterday afternoon on the body of the murdered slave child. Its throat appeared to have been cut by a single stroke of a knife, and it died a few minutes after.

The other nine of the party, we were informed, were put upon the cars yesterday, by a director of the underground railway, and furnished with three tickets.

Those arrested in Kite's house, were taken to the U. S. Court Rooms about 12 o'clock, and guarded there until 3 o'clock, when Commissioner Pendery came and opened his Court.

Gaines appeared to claim his negroes. Marshall was represented by his son, but as he has no power of attorney from his father, the case was postponed until 9 o'clock this morning, in order to give him time to supply this omission.

The fugitives were then taken to the Hammond street station house to be kept over night. The Marshal attempted to get a hack to carry them there, but the crowd frightened all the hackmen that were called so that they declined. They were afraid their carriages would be broken by the mob.

About an hour after they were taken there, Mr. Gaines came along with the dead body of the murdered child. He was taking it to Covington for interment that it might rest in ground consecrated to slavery.

About 3 o'clock a habeas corpus was issued by Judge Burgoyne, and put into the hands of Deputy Sheriff Jeff. Buckingham. He went down to the Hammond street Station House, accompanied by a posse, and took possession of the fugitives.— Deputy Marshal Bennet refused at first to give them up, but at length, after consulting with May, the arrest. Mr. Sutton, who lives next door to Kite's, testified that after the other slaves were arrested by the officers, Mr. Gaines, the master, took this child and was in the act of carrying it off, when objections were made to it being removed before an inquest was held. He at length surrendered it to Mr. Sutton, in whose arms it died.

The inquest was not concluded, but will be resumed at 9 o'clock this morning, at the Coroner's office.

THE OBJECT OF THE HABEAS CORPUS.

It is said that it can be proven that these slaves have frequently been in Ohio in company with their masters, and the question will be raised before Judge Burgoyne on the trial of the Habeas Corpus, whether such bringing them into a free State has not rendered them free.