

## ANNALS OF KIDNAPPING.

## AN EXHIBITION OF SLAVERY IN NEW JERSEY.

We copy the following account of the inhuman arrest of a company of blacks claimed as fugitive Slaves, near Salem N. J., from the 'Freeman's Banner,' of 7th inst.

About 4 o'clock on Monday morning last, the quiet slumbers of our peaceful town were disturbed by the cries of fire or murder. Those who understood the noise to be that of persons crying fire, proceeded forthwith to the house of the Reliance fire engine, and rang the bell violently, which soon drew a number of citizens from their beds into the street to ascertain the situation of the fire; but no light could be seen nor fire found raging. It was not the calamities of a fire that caused the noise, but the screams and heart-rending cries of eight miserable beings bound in chains, being conveyed through the town in a wagon, to the hotel under the custody of a constable and persons who claim to be their owners. They were taken from their beds, at a house four or five miles from this town--their own homes, thus *naked*, with but their scanty bed clothes to wrap around them, to screen them from the piercing winds and falling snow; and brought here to be sworn to and identified by those who claim them as their slaves.

From an early hour in the morning throughout the whole day, an excited and sympathizing community thronged the hotel to hear the proceedings and catch a glimpse of the miserable wretches. At 10 o'clock, A. M. one of them (a negress) was summoned before the Hon. George Bush, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, for this county, to undergo the proof and identification necessary from her claimant, previous to being taken away. Several counsel appeared in behalf of the poor negro, and one on the part of the claimant: and after lengthy arguments from both sides, upon the previous proceedings of the justice who granted the warrant, the Judge dismissed the prisoner, upon the ground that the proceedings were not legal--agreeably to law.

Now a still more serious aspect was given to the affair. After the Judge had dismissed the poor negress from the proceedings of the Justice and 'quashed' the power of warrant, and while she sat in the room where the Court was held, with her infant in her arms, a Mr. Donaho, of Philadelphia, and who it is said is an agent of the slave claimant, and acting under the power of an authorized Attorney, drew a pistol, cocked it, and stated he was going to hold and protect the property under his charge.

The community heretofore excited, at once became exasperated; seize him, was the cry from every direction, and the pistol was wrenched from his grasp by a constable; when sufficient opportunity was allowed, he drew a dirk, which he stated he would use in self-defence; at that moment, the sheriff arrived, who immediately forced his way through the crowd in the room, seized the arm of Mr. Donaho in which he held the dagger, and so held it as to prevent his doing any injury, when it was forced from his hand, and he carried by the sheriff and constables to jail; and after having remained there for four hours, gave bail to keep the peace and for his appearance at the next term of Court. During the scuffle in the room, at the lot, the reputed slave made her escape out of the window.

The other blacks were delivered into the custody of the Sheriff on Monday evening, with a charge that they should be furnished with comfortable lodgings in the county jail. Yesterday the further investigation of the claims of slaveholders, was under discussion, when, after a number of preliminary motions and arguments, the examination was further adjourned to the first Friday in March.