

might have something to do with determining the Condition of the Child and the guilt of the defendants. If the Child was free and the defendants guilty, Pennsylvania could only hold the defendants as fugitives from justice from the State of New Jersey by enticing his mother in another State.

When Mr Tener, made this suggestion, Mr Alberti requested the Woman, in the most urgent and encouraging terms, to leave the child behind representing that he would see that he was returned to his father, and gave her earnest of the fulfilment of his promise by various kindnesses which he offered to the child. In this request he was repeatedly seconded by Mr Tener, by Alderman Allen, a Mr. Hetty Moore & Mr. George St. Price, but the woman was determined to take the child back with her, to her master, that he might be with her other children. It was impossible to separate the two, and the woman was taken back, carrying her child in her arms, and both were delivered to Mr Mitchell.

(You may have observed, that the certificate given by Ald: Allen to Mr Alberti, only authorizes him to take back the Woman, He declined to remove the child. Whether the Child was sold into servitude and whether George St. Alberti and J. Frisby Price received any reward for taking the child back, I am unable to say, that is whether they received pay specially for this service or whether Mr Mitchell resumed the responsibility of holding the Child as a slave when he reclaimed the mother.

I am now conceding that the child was free. My private opinion is that the Condition of the Child was determined by the law of Maryland.

Well, Sir, on the 13th of January 1851, the Grand Jury of our County, found a true bill against James Frisby Price, George St. Alberti and J. J. Mitchell for Kidnapping Soel Henry Thompson.

The Indictment contains a number of Counts, which, when divested of their technicalities, charge the defendants with enticing, or taking by violence, or conspiring so to do, one Soel Henry Thompson, from the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania into Maryland, to make him a slave.

The cause came on for trial, in our Court of Quarter Sessions, during February Term 1851, before Judge Anson V. Parsons.

The principal witness against the defendants was Thomas Richardson, a bad character, who has been twice convicted of felony, and who was pardoned by Governor Johnston to make him a competent witness in this case. He was convicted in our court October 19th 1835 and sentenced to two years nine months & also in March Term 1847 and sentenced to fifteen months. Besides which, his character for truth and veracity was proven to be notoriously bad, and he was further shewn to have a strong bias against Alberti.

But what Thomas Richardson swore to was substantially correct except that he grossly exaggerated certain matters, and said that "the Woman wished to leave her child behind and that Alberti would not let her" and that "Alberti had told him that Mitchell had given him as a reward \$500, being half the profits of the sale of the Woman and the boy Soel."

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