

they intend to resist, shall be read to the rebel army as the "Lord Mayor of London" would read the riot act to a mob. The Judge Chew proceeds to assert that "Previous to this transaction no attempt had been made to arrest fugitives under the new Act of Congress by a public officer - heretofore arrests had been made not by the owner in person or his agent properly authorized or by an officer of the law. Individuals without any authority, but incited by cupidity & the hope of obtaining the reward offered for the return of a fugitive, had heretofore under colour to seize them by force & violence, to invade the sanctity of private dwellings at night, & insult the feelings & prejudices of the people."

Several of the transactions offered in evidence by the United States & ruled inadmissible by the Court, as before stated, were cases where the master had gone into that very neighbourhood armed with process, ~~of law~~ in the hands of a public officer, according to the terms of the fugitive Slave Act, & yet found himself successfully resisted & compelled to retreat, by an overwhelming display of force. We could in all succeeding cases have introduced this evidence in chief & thus have avoided the difficulty of the Court; but, it would have availed us nothing after the Court had proclaimed that the conspirators were acting for "private & local, not general or public purposes" and, especially, that "the parties must be acquitted, because there was no evidence that they knew, there were such Acts of Congress, as they were charged with conspiring to resist."

Let the proof have been plenary & conclusive as to the preconcert & intentions of the parties, it would have been useless & idle to prosecute any more of these cases, unless the parties would admit, or we could prove, that they had read the Act of Congress.

But Judge Tier complains, in the above extract from his charge, that "Individuals without any authority, but incited by cupidity & the hope of obtaining the reward so had invaded the sanctity of private dwellings at night" & "had thus insulted the feelings & prejudices of the people."

This doctrine stripped of the words in which it is clothed means simply that there was something culpable in men going at night to houses, where runaway slaves were harboured, & arresting them to secure the reward advertised by the owner, & that the people who were