

(ENDORSED.)

Judgment on this matter being suspended, the prisoner in the meantime is committed to the custody of the keeper of the City prison, to be again brought before me on the 23d of December, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

J. W. EDMONDS.

December, 22, 1848.

I hereby return the within writ, duly executed, with the prisoner as within named in custody.

R. F. HULSE, Special Dep.

December 22, 1848.

I, John Lee, of the county of Frederick, in the State of Maryland, do return to the annexed writ, that a colored boy named Joseph Belt, the person now present, at the time of the service of said writ, was under my restraint, and that I claim to hold him under my restraint, as a person held to labor and service due to me as a citizen of the State of Maryland, that said Belt is a fugitive from said State, and from my service in the said State of Maryland, under and by virtue of the laws of which State he is held to labor and service as a slave to me.

And I do further return, that said Joseph Belt run away from me in the month of November, one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven—that at that time he was in Baltimore, in the said State of Maryland, in my service, and he privately against my knowledge and consent, with a view to effect his escape from my service to which he was lawfully held, (and as I believe,) proceeded to Lynn, in the State of Massachusetts, and from thence to the City of New York.

That on Wednesday last, the twentieth of December instant, I caused the said Belt to be arrested and brought to me, from which time, and until the service of the annexed writ; he was in my custody and control as his master and owner, and I claim it to be the duty of your Honor to restore the said Belt to my custody, from whence he has been taken by the annexed writ, together with a certificate sufficient to warrant me in removing said slave and fugitive from labor to the State of Maryland aforesaid, from which he fled, without any further molestation or interruption.

JOHN LEE.

Sworn this 23d day of December, 1848.

J. W. EDMONDS.

In Re. Belt.

I, Joseph Belt, not admitting that at any time I have been legally held to service or labor to John Lee, but insisting that I am a free citizen of the United States, and not legally held to service or labor, do allege that whilst passing through Duane street, in the City of New York, in the State of New York, on the 20th day of December, 1848, in company with Thomas Peck, about