

near Boston, in the State of Massachusetts—that he had been in the City of New York about three months. He did not name his master to deponent, nor say who had arrested him.

his
WILLIAM X HUNKEY.
mark.

Sworn to before me this 23d day of December, 1848.

J. W. EDMONDS.

State of New York, and county of New York.

Herman R. Howlett, of the town of Gravesend, in the county of Kings, being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that he has seen the colored boy now here in court, called Joseph Belt—that said Belt voluntarily and of his own accord stated to deponent that he was the slave of Mr. Lee, in the State of Maryland—that he had runaway from him from said State of Maryland, and had gone to Massachusetts, and deponent understood him to say Boston—that his master had arrested him, and was going to take him back.

H. R. HOWLETT.

Sworn to before me this 23d day of December, 1848.

J. W. EDMONDS.

Thomas Lee, sworn as a witness for the claimant, resides in Frederick county, Maryland, and have all my life. I am twenty-nine years old. Is nephew to claimant. Know Belt perfectly. This is him. Have known him as long as I can recollect upon the estate of the claimant, in Frederick county, Maryland, where he resides. Always on that estate when I knew him. He was born the slave of John Lee, and was always in his service. I know his mother, who was also in his service, she was a slave also. I knew his grand-mother, she was on the same estate, and is still living. She also was a slave.

Belt is about twenty-two years old.

I saw him last until yesterday, on the Rail Road cars going to Baltimore. Lee was with him. I am pretty well acquainted with the Laws of Maryland in relation to slavery.

Do those laws authorise slavery?

[Objected to. Allowed.]

Yes sir, they do.

Do you hold slaves under those laws?

[Excluded.]

The boy is a mulatto. Mr. Lee sold Belt's mother as a slave. My estate joins that of Mr. Lee.

I know the boy was not born in New York or Pennsylvania, but I was not present at his birth.

[Re-examined.]

Belt went to Baltimore as a house servant. I never heard of his claiming to be a free man.

Allowed to prove the contemporaneous acts of the parties.

[Excluded.]