

ed, I must here take occasion to say, that so far as my observation went, a large majority of the citizens of Philadelphia desired to see the laws faithfully and fairly executed, and that the parties, if guilty, should suffer the highest penalty of the laws; but unfortunately the faction before alluded to, is so active, so artful and so unscrupulous, and possessing withal, as I am informed, such large means—so fatally bent on rescuing every one of the accused parties from the grasp of the law, that I had but little hope, from the beginning, of a favorable result, if it was in their power by any means to turn aside the Sword of Justice. Still my colleague and myself determined at all events, to do our duty, and believing the party on trial to be guilty of treason, we relaxed no fair or honorable effort to convict him, until the end was reached by the ruling of the Court; unexpected as it was to us and I believe to the majority of the citizens of Philadelphia.

I have sent your Excellency full and authentic printed copies of the evidence, which will save me the trouble of a more detailed report. I do not deem it at all necessary to review this evidence, but will content myself with drawing your attention to the principal rulings of the court, which cut up this prosecution by the roots.

In the first place, the defence in order to get rid of the prima facie case, made out by the United States, offered evidence to show that, as far back as January, 1851, a negro man, said to have come from Maryland, had been siezed at the house of one Chamberlyn, his employer, by white individuals living in that neighborhood, and that he had never returned, and it was said by counsel for the defence, that this and other acts (not given in evidence) had caused an organization of colored persons in that neighborhood, to prevent the kidnapping of free negroes, and that this was the organization which had so suddenly brought such large numbers to the attack of the Gorsuch party.

To rebut this sort of defence, and to show that the organization thus confessed, did not originate at the time and for the purpose alleged by the defence, the United States then offered to show that both before and after the transaction at Chamberlyn's, there were armed bands of negroes in great numbers marching on the public roads in that neighborhood, encouraged by white men, for the avowed purpose of shooting and resisting all persons who might come armed with legal process for the arrest of fugitive slaves, and that these bands did, before and after the transaction at Chamberlyn's, successfully resist with force and arms, various attempts made by masters to arrest fugitive slaves in that neighborhood, in the manner and with the process as directed in the Act of Congress passed in September, 1850.

The United States, further to repel and rebut the evidence thus given by the defence, offered to show that prior to the transaction at Chamberlyn's, public meetings of white citizens were held in