

From the Saturday Visitor.

The case of Alexander Hendrickure a free subject of Great Britain, kidnapped from Jamaica, and brought to the United States.

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE MORNING JOURNAL,
KINGSTON, JAMAICA—

Sir: On Saturday afternoon, of May 28th, a telegraphic dispatch was received from Philadelphia, in this city, to the effect that one *Thomas J. Adams*, of Nashville, Tennessee—a slaveholding State—had brought from Kingston, Jamaica, W. I., with him, a colored youth, then en route for the South, by the name of Alexander Hendrickure—*Hendrickson* was the name given in the dispatch.

On the receipt of which intelligence, the undersigned, with three other friends, repaired immediately to the depot, located on Eighth and Liberty streets, just as the train of cars from the East reached its terminus. From the hindmost car, among the last of the passengers who got out, was a handsome, well-dressed mulatto youth, called in Jamaica a *brown* in complexion.

On approaching him and demanding his name, a finely dressed white man came forward, ordering the youth away, answering in a manner peculiar to the upstart American *slave trader*: "*That boy belongs to me!*" His assumption was at once denied, and the youth taken hold of by one of us and placed in the charge of a faithful officer, Mr. John Fox, the policeman of the depot, who took him, in company with the kidnapper, to the St. Clair hotel, corner of St. Clair and Penn streets, to await the proceeding of a legal issue.

An application was immediately made to the Hon. Judge Williams, one of the Justices of the Bench of the District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania; but owing to the lateness of the hour at which the intelligence was received, and the day being Saturday, business was closed in the public offices, and the officers generally scattered about and difficult to find. The Judge also resided some way out of the city, and it was therefore full half past ten o'clock in the evening before a writ of *habeas corpus* was sued out.

Officer Fox having the youth in custody at the hotel, the writ was placed in the hands of Robert Hague, Esq., High Constable of Pittsburgh, an excellent and efficient officer, who delivered Alexander into the hands of his friends who awaited the issue at the hotel door. The purport of the writ was to bring the kidnapper, Thomas J. Adams, before the Hon. Judge Williams at ten of the clock on Monday morning the 30th. The youth being delivered up, Adams, consequently fled the same evening, and has

not since been seen nor heard from. We have placed Alexander, the youth, in the family of one of the undersigned, Mr. John Peck, where he will be provided for and comfortably faring as a member of the family, and shall remain, awaiting the requisition of the British Consul at Philadelphia or his friends at Jamaica.—Alexander is decidedly a youth of great promise.

We have closely and carefully conversed with Alexander Hendrickure, and making all due allowance for his age—which is fourteen—qualifications, opportunities, inaccuracies, and discrepancies; yet the facts which he has imparted to us, told in his simple, boyish, and peculiarly native manner, developed to us the key to important and startling truths, as connected with the American steamers touching Jamaica, and probably other British West India Islands.

In the winter of 1851-2, this same youth was decoyed by an American, and induced to leave Jamaica for the United States, the vessel in this instance touching at Norfolk, Virginia, where the man with whom he embarked from Jamaica went ashore on business (it may have been to make arrangement to sell him) and overstaying his time, was left, Alexander being taken to New York on board of the steamer, where, on application, he was provided for by the British Consul for the port of New York, and sent back to Jamaica. The truth of this last statement may be easily ascertained.

The inducements which led him from home each time, he says, was a desire to make money, which are generally held out by the Americans on board of the steamers, in such a manner as to prove entirely successful. He was promised by the kidnapper, Thomas J. Adams, to be taken to Tennessee, where he had a large quantity of cattle, to go from thence by the overland route to California, where he should become wealthy by his industry. He seemed not to have been aware, of the existence of Slavery and the inequality between the white and colored people of the United States. There were three other youths beside himself, called Brown, John, and the other not recollected, all of whom were induced by Americans to leave Jamaica for this country, who came on the American Steamer Uncle Sam, on her last homeward trip from California. And these youths are now in different parts of the United States, having seperated at New York, Alexander being destined for Tennessee.

He informs us that this is no uncommon occurrence, almost every American steamer which touches the island, bringing away some colored youths to the United States, always predicated upon great promises of doing great things for them. In proof of this, the kidnapper Adams replied to us, when finding there was no alternative, that he had found the boy in Kingston,

half-naked and half-starved, and brought him away to *provide* for him, and give him a *good home* in Cincinnati, Ohio. This was a sheer fabrication.

In addition to, and corroborative of these facts Mr. S. L. C., a returned Californian, and respectable citizen of Pittsburgh, asserts that in his late passage from Jamaica, in the last trip of the Illinois, there were to his knowledge some two or three colored girls—two he is certain of—brought by American ladies, who purported that, after sojourning in the United States they were to be taken to California. These Jamaica girls landed at New York in this month, and no doubt are still in the United States, and probably in slavery.

These fact appear, to us, to present startling disclosures, sufficient to induce the most thorough investigation; and to our minds there is no doubt but there is now being carried on by unprincipled Americans, citizens of the United States—Southerners it may be—a regular system of *decoying, kidnapping and selling into hopeless bondage, in the United States, the free subjects of Great Britain*. This is a new and alarming species of the slave trade, without precedent in the annals of history. A new feature in the foreign trade, carried on in the face of law and religion, without risk, danger or capital, where the victims are obtained for the mere expense of their passage. Nothing seems clearer to our minds than these facts.

Were these white children, the case would be different; but we can place no confidence in the pretensions of these Americans while they are studiously devising every mode of oppressing and getting rid of the native free colored people of their own country. And we now most earnestly call on the colored people of the

West Indies, and all others out of the United States, to be cautious, and never under any pretext whatever permit their children nor themselves to leave their native places to reside in the United States; as it is better to live on one banana or yam, and a cup of water a day, and be free, than to be a slave anywhere, especially in this country, which is the worst and meanest upon which Heaven's sun ever shone. No colored person in the United States is really free; all are virtually and legally, if not abjectly slaves. Bury your bones in the sunny clime of your own beautiful isles, rather than come to this *slaveholding, oppressing country*.

All of which we respectfully submit for your consideration. Subjoined are the notices of the leading daily journals, many of which contain sentiments which we cannot endorse; yet all give some of the main facts, and show the spirit of the Pittsburgh press concerning such high handed acts of infamy.

We cannot too highly commend the course of the counsel in the case, Messrs. J. M. Kirkpatrick and D. Reed, for their untiring and faithful zeal in the case.

M. R. DELANY,
JOHN PECK,
WILLIAM WEBB,
THOMAS BURROWS.

Committee.

PITTSBURGH, May 31st, 1853.