

## The Premium to Kidnappers.

We have referred to a law of Kentucky which compels a master to pay seventy-five dollars to *any* person who may take up and return a runaway slave. We were not aware of the existence of such a law, till it was brought to light by the proceedings in the Vanzant case. We now can understand why our borders are infested by such hordes of kidnappers and slave-catchers. They are pursuing a profession, under pay from the sovereign state of Kentucky. The law is not, that the *authorized* agent or attorney of the slave-holder shall receive seventy-five dollars, as a reward, but that *any* person, who may volunteer to arrest a runaway and return him, shall be entitled to it. It was evidently designed to operate upon a certain class of the people of Ohio, and by the certainty of a large reward, secure them as sentinels over the slaves of Kentucky. No regard in its passage was had to the existence of laws in this state, which make it felony to remove a colored person out of its limits without proper authority. No matter whether a citizen of Ohio violate the law of his state or not, he is sure of his reward from "the sovereign state of Kentucky," as Mr. Southgate emphatically styled her. Aye, said he, such is her intention; and he "wished to God that all those glorious citizens of Ohio, who were not identified with these abolitionists, would act under this law, and catch the slaves of Kentucky. The Sovereign state of Kentucky would cheerfully execute power of attorney to every citizen of Ohio who would act as her agent in the arrest of her slaves!" This was said in open court, to a great concourse of the citizens of Cincinnati, who had thus held out to them a new trade for the hard times. Seventy-five dollars to any of them for every runaway slave arrested and returned to Kentucky! Just think of it—in the course of the year, by careful watching, and little labor, a man might return, say 20 fugitives, for which he would receive in all, \$1500!! Ye "glorious men of Ohio," do you hear this? Up! up! "the game's a foot."

"Hold hard the breath, and bend up every spirit  
To its full height! On, on, ye noblest Buckeyes,  
Whose blood is fet from fathers of war-proof!  
Fathers that like so many Alexanders,  
Have in these diggings chased the slave till even.  
Dishonor not your mothers: now attest,  
That those, whom you called fathers, did beget you!  
Be copy now to men of grosser blood,  
And teach them how to hunt! and you, good constables,  
Whose limbs were made to catch rogues, show us here,  
The mettle of your pasture—let us swear  
That you are worth your breeding, which I doubt not,  
For there is none of you so mean and base,  
That hat's not noble lustre in your eyes.  
I see you stand like blood hounds, in the slips,  
Straining upon the start. The game's a foot:  
Follow your spirit—and upon this charge,  
Cry—Hurrah for Kentuck! Death, death, to the slave!

What a pity Mr. Southgate did not think of the charge of King Henry, when he made his beautiful appeal to the noble feelings of the glorious men of Ohio, inviting them to rally as slave-catchers under the banners of the sovereign state of Kentucky!

But in all sobriety, what kind of a law is this? Has Kentucky a right to pass laws to tempt to the commission of crime in Ohio? Is it decent for her to offer a premium to every person in this state, wicked and base enough to violate its laws? Is it neighborly—is it fraternal? People of Ohio! you are a very enduring people: you have forborne long, and will doubtless still forbear—but, can you tolerate, that a sister state shall offer a premium for the violation of the laws of your own state?

We shall see.