

"Fugitive Slave Case in one Chapter,"  
Ravenna (OH) *Ohio Star*, December 1, 1852  
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**Fugitive Slave Case in one Chapter,**  
We take the following account from the last  
Ohio Torchlight.  
Some days since the Cincinnati Gazette, notice  
a stampede among Kentucky slaves in which  
number succeeded in effecting their escape.—  
Some of them (two men and a woman) got  
on the cars of M. R. & L. E. road south of  
West Liberty. On the cars they were met by  
Donn Piatt, an ex-judge of the Hamilton  
Common Pleas Court. He recognized them as  
the property of a relative of his. He approach

ed them, made himself known to them, told them  
that his father who resides near West Liberty,  
was in want of laborers, and he assured them  
that if they would stop with him, that he (Donn)  
and his friend would purchase them and give  
them their freedom. The fugitives confided in  
him—left the cars at West Liberty and took up  
quarters with old Piatt. After they had been  
here a few days, the arrangement between  
Donn and the fugitives leaked out and the  
result was that the friends of the fugitives, who  
understood the character of the Piatts, sued out  
a writ or *habeas corpus* requiring old Piatt to  
bring them before a judge at Bellfontaine, and to  
show by what authority he held them. Piatt  
brought them before the court but being unable  
to show any authority for detaining them, the  
negroes were declared to be free to go where  
they pleased. They were immediately taken  
in charge by some abolitionists and started on  
their way for Canada. Within two hours  
after, the Kentucky claimants arrived in hot  
pursuit of their "property." But they found no  
body there willing to promote their object.  
The lawyers declined their fees, and the  
owners of horses declined to hire to them.  
After much difficulty they succeeded in getting  
under way in the chase; but they had not been  
long in pursuit before they were met by a  
young Quaker who under pretence of aiding  
them, led them so far off in the wrong direction,  
as to put all hope of recovery out of the question.  
The fugitives are doubtless by this time safe in  
Canada; whilst the Kentuckians have returned  
to their homes to meditate upon the advantages  
and "finality" of the modern fugitive slave  
law.

We have our information in relation to the  
chase from a gentleman of Bellfontaine.