

THE CASE OF PALMER.

The arrest at Memphis, Tennessee, of Dr. William R. Palmer, and his commitment to prison on the charge of plotting a general stampede of the slaves in that vicinity, has, we have very little question, been brought about by private malice, taking advantage of the excitement produced by the Harper's Ferry affair, and making tools of Gov. Wise, Gov. Harris, and of Mr. Josiah Horne, Acting Justice of the Peace for Shelby County, for the accomplishment of its purposes.

The whole proceedings were based on an anonymous

letter containing certain inclosures, dated at this city the 23d of October, and addressed to Gov. Wise. The writer alleges that being on his passage that day from Philadelphia to New-York, he observed some papers drop from the pocket of an overcoat which a young man who left the cars at one of the way stations held on his arm. He picked up these papers, but too late to hand them to the young man, as the cars were, again in motion. Upon examining them, one proved to be a sealed letter addressed to Capt. J. Brown, Harper's Ferry; another an open letter, addressed to Wm. Horner; and the third a memorandum of expenses, &c., all which papers the writer, after reading the open note, concluded to transmit to Gov. Wise.

The open note, dated Chambersburg, Oct. 20, four days after the Harper's Ferry outbreak, and signed "Your loving wife, Mary Horne;" dissuaded William Horner from going to Harper's Ferry at this time, anticipating danger—expressing alarm, and suggesting that he could keep the letter for Capt. Brown till all was safe. The letter to Brown is quite a long document, dated Memphis, Oct. 3, and signed Lawrence Thatcher. The writer represents himself as having just completed his tour through the Southern States, and as then on his way to Kentucky. The implication is that he had been traveling as Brown's agent, to discover the chances of getting up slave insurrections. The letter, however, is chiefly devoted to an account of Dr. Palmer, to whom, the writer says, he obtained a letter of introduction from a school teacher, Mr. H—, and whom he speaks of as Brown's friend. Beside implicating Palmer as a plotter of slave insurrections, it goes into details on the subject of his private relations, which seem to throw a pretty clear light on the origin of this letter, and of all the

has been a resident in the vicinity of Memphis for several years past, having married a widow who had a plantation and a number of slaves. But a quarrel had arisen between himself and his wife. Under the influence of a doctor in the neighborhood, she had ejected him from the place, the doctor having got himself appointed receiver of the property pending a suit for a divorce. The Supreme Court, however, had made a decree in Palmer's favor, and he would soon be again in possession of the property, after which he intended, on the first favorable opportunity, to arm the slaves and make a start in the night time, taking along four or five hundred other slaves, and, by means of a steamboat, to be furnished by friends of his in Cincinnati, to escape up the river. The letter then states that the writer showed Palmer Brown's constitution for a provisional government, and advised him to delay his stampede, in order to cooperate with Brown, which he promised to do, desiring that Brown should write him often, and for that purpose sending his address at length. The writer finally congratulates himself that he can write fully and confidentially, because, fortunately, William Horner had just arrived from New-Orleans, on his way to Harper's Ferry, and he had sworn to deliver the letter in person or die trying.

We have very little doubt that these letters, signed Mary Horner and Lawrence Thatcher, instead of being genuine documents have been manufactured by some of the parties concerned in the law suit and domestic quarrel in which it appears that Palmer is involved. Whether the person who wrote the anonymous letter to Governor Wise was the manufacturer of the other two letters, or whether he actually picked them up in the cars where they had been dropped on purpose that he might do so, may be questioned. But any person who will carefully examine the letter signed Lawrence Thatcher, will hardly fail, we think, to come to the conclusion that it is not a genuine document.

Governor Wise having received these papers by mail, transmitted them to Governor Harris of Tennessee, and on the strength of them Dr. Palmer was arrested on a charge of inciting slaves to insurrection. Though, so far as appears, not a particle of evidence was produced against him beside these papers, he was bound over to appear for trial at the District Court, and not being able to give bail in the sum of \$2,500, was committed to prison.