

### Which Section Observes Law ?

The story ran like wildfire among those who sought to frighten the slaveholders of the Union, that the moment Mr. LINCOLN took the Presidential chair, and the Republican Party came into power, there would be a concerted attempt to crush out the peculiar institution from among the communities which legalize it. How far this was a just estimate of the good faith and respect for law prevailing among us, may be shown from the late occurrences at Chicago. There, under the much-feared LINCOLN, in the State of his abode, and in a community most strongly enthusiastic in favor of Republicanism, five negroes were a few days since reclaimed by their owners, and remanded to the South. So strongly impressed are those interested with the fact, that in that region, which has heretofore been regarded as an abolitionist pandemonium, the fugitive slave law, with all other laws, will be observed, that at this moment there is a perfect stampede for Canada of the runaway slaves who felt themselves perfectly secure against recapture when the Executive power was in Democratic hands, in and about Chicago.

This would never be but for the certainty that the rendition of fugitives will be as faithfully carried out under the present Administration as under any other. And it is a tremendous thought that after all provocations, and when, if ever, the breach of compromises on the one side might excuse their evasion on

the other—when possessing all the power and opportunity, a northern region filled with the dominant party, that has been made a political scarecrow, should exhibit such good faith in the execution of a locally obnoxious statute, that the runaways, hitherto confident of security, now fly the country in terror. Those whom the South would not trust under officers and laws of its appointing, may be safely relied upon with their own rulers, and the might in their own hands, and thus this chief of Secession's flimsy excuses is utterly demolished.

One great reason of the distrust of the North felt by Southerners, is that the latter cannot imagine such a thing as acting upon upright principles against selfish wilfulness or passion. They have, therefore, consistently treated us as they expected, in their ignorance of right, they would be treated by us, and history will record the distinction. We cannot help it if, like all the civilized world, we have strong prejudices against slavery, but we are ready to make sacrifices of feeling to duty and law, while the Seceders have sacrificed every law and all obligations to fancied expediency and wilful domination. That the slaves escaped is the affair of the South. We have shown that, if properly reclaimed, we would, however against our local feelings, remand them. Let the treason-mongers show a single similar sacrifice, or a pretended observance of unpopular law on their side, and let the civilized world judge between us.

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