

"Abolition--Runaways--Public Meeting--Great Excitement--Threats of Vengeance,"

Lexington (KY) *Atlas*, August 10, 1848

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ABOLITION—RUNAWAYS—PUBLIC MEETING—GREAT EXCITEMENT—THREATS OF VENGEANCE.—News having been received in this city yesterday morning, that the runaway negroes had been overtaken near the line of Harrison and Bracken, and a white man killed in an attempt to arrest them, hand-bills were posted through the city calling a public meeting in the Court House yard at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of adopting efficient means to overtake and secure the runaways and their aiders and abettors. At the appointed hour a large crowd assembled in front of the Court House, and an informal meeting was organized, by calling H. T. DUNCAN Esq. to the chair, who read the following letter received on Tuesday night at 2 o'clock by express from Cynthia:

CYNTHIANA, Aug. 8th, 6 P. M.

DEAR SIR:—This will inform you that your negroes are now supposed to be surrounded about the County line between Harrison and Bracken, some 15 or 18 miles short of the Ohio river. They have taken some 9 or 10 of them—have had several battles, and Chas. H. Fowler mortally wounded. About one hundred of our citizens have been after them since Monday morning. They are worn down, and it is requested that you send a fresh set of men immediately say 50 100 men, well armed, for it seems they are determined to fight every inch of ground, as they are armed generally with revolvers, commanded by a white man or more. They were encamped and fortified last night, and our Cynthia Boys came upon about 40 or more, and a battle ensued, and Fowler was wounded, and the company carried him back, and then pursued, and those with Fowler heard firing for some distance. We hear that one dead negro was found to-day.

Elliot Roberts is between them and the River with a large company, and will not let them pass if it is possible to prevent. Fowler is still alive. Send all you can, and speedily, or all will be lost. Harrison will assist you to the uttermost. Come if you want any of your negroes. We have not time to say more.

P. WHERRITT,
G. REMINGTON,
BENSON ROBERTS,
W. G. HEDGES,
JOHN RIGHTER.

Fifty or sixty armed men were promptly raised and left for the scene of action, breathing vengeance on the abolitionists and a fixed resolution to bring back the negroes if they even have to follow them to the confines of Canada. Intense excitement prevailed in the city equal to that during the True American of August 1845, and we doubt not if the negroes and white men said to be with them are overtaken and arrested, fearful scenes will be witnessed and popular vengeance wreaked upon them. We are not the advocates of mob-ites or mob-law, but we do think it is high time the impertinent and thievish interference of Abolitionists was ended in a summary manner. Nothing will deter them from their infamous conduct, but the prompt and immediate execution of the first one we can lay our hands on. And whilst we would not advocate or recommend such a course of procedure, yet we stand ready to justify our fellow citizens should they hang every one they can catch to the tallest tree in the forest. An example must be made of them, that will deter these base and infamous rascals from future operations.

Slave Stampedes on the Southern Borderlands

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