

Kentucky and other papers have lately published what purported to be an order from Gen. Palmer, or by his authority, granting passes to all negroes who desired to leave the State—an expeditious method of ratifying the Constitutional Amendment. *The Western Citizen* of Paris, Ky., says the stampede of negroes is enormous, and gives particulars of their thronging about headquarters. It alleges that in five days 1,300 passes averaging four persons to each pass had been issued. So at Lexington and other points, and it was estimated that 25,000 negroes left Kentucky last week.

But now comes *The Cincinnati Enquirer* of August 1, with this statement:

When Gen. Palmer's recent order to furnish passes to negroes to leave Kentucky was promulgated, Mr. D. L. Price of Lexington telegraphed the President on the subject and received the following reply:

"[By telegraph from Washington]

"JULY 28 1865

"To D. L. PRICE: Your dispatch of the 27th was sent to Gen. Palmer, who replies. No free papers are issued to any negroes within my department, by any officers, by my authority, or within my knowledge.

"JOHN M. PALMER, Major-General

"By order of the President.

"R. D. MICHENER, Military Secretary"

If there is a way out of the seeming contradiction, it may lie in Gen. Palmer's use of the term "free papers." *The Citizen* gives the form of the pass:

"HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES

"PARIS, KY. — 1865

"To all whom it may concern:

"In pursuance of General Orders No. 49, Headquarters Department of Kentucky, July 10, 1865, _____ (colored), is authorized to pass at will in search of employment.

"All public carriers will respect this pass.

"Commanding United States forces at Paris, Ky."

That was indorsed "To go to Cincinnati, Ohio." It may not be a "free paper," but we don't think the slave whom it emancipated would find out the difference. But why should there be any question about it, and why should Gen. Palmer, if he has issued the order attributed to him, take refuge in a verbal nuance? *The Cincinnati Enquirer* would hardly go the length of inventing the above dispatch. Who will explain?